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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

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**Iqaluit, Nunavut
Friday, March 10, 2006**

Members Present:

Honourable Leona Aglukkaq, Honourable Olayuk Akesuk, Mr. David Alagalak, Mr. James Arreak, Mr. Levi Barnabas, Honourable Levinia Brown, Mr. Peter Kattuk, Mr. Peter Kilabuk, Honourable Patterk Netser, Honourable Jobie Nutarak, Honourable Paul Okalik, Mr. Keith Peterson, Honourable Edward Picco, Honourable David Smailak, Mr. Hunter Tootoo.

Item 1: Opening Prayer

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

>>*Prayer*

Speaker (interpretation): Good morning. Premier, Cabinet Members, Members of the Legislature and the staff. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Ms. Aglukkaq.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

Minister's Statement 083 – 2(3): Social Work Week 2006

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today, I want to speak about a helping profession that sometimes is overshadowed by stories about nurses and physicians. That profession is social work; one practised by people in all our communities.

We ask our social workers to work in sometimes very emotionally charged circumstances involving children, patients and families. They respond on our behalf at any hour of the day when needed and sometimes are put at great personal risk.

Mr. Speaker, I know people often think that the job of a social worker is only child protection and corrections activities, but that is not true. Social workers often support people in crisis, counsel new parents, and care for people in times when they are vulnerable and in need of support.

Social Work Week will be celebrated in Nunavut from March 19 to 25. Mr. Speaker, as part of those celebrations, my department will personally recognize each of the 60 people who contribute to our society's wellbeing and I invite the hamlet mayors and councillors to do the same.

Mr. Speaker, I feel that we should not wait for a special week to come along once a year to take the time to reflect on the contributions that social workers, and in fact, all of our Social Services and Health staff make to the quality and safety of the lives of Nunavummiut; our community, regional and territorial staff are compassionate, caring, skilled and committed to their work to support people who need help.

In my work as minister, I have met many of the staff and have come to understand that they are prepared to be challenged about the quality of their work. They challenge themselves each and every day to make sure they are practising to the best of their abilities, and to the standards demanded by their profession.

However, Mr. Speaker, it is also fair to say that they are hurt and demoralized when the papers or radio convey mean-spirited, broad attacks that feel aimed at each and every one of them. Much of this criticism has more to do with the size of the budget that our staff work with, or the rules and policies they are obligated to uphold.

As minister I expect to be held to account for the Department of Health and Social Service's budget, rules and policies. I in turn expect each and every one of our front line and professional staff to be held to account for the quality of their work.

Mr. Speaker, let me end my remarks by urging all Nunavummiut, to support and value the front line workers who contribute so much to our well-being. Let us end the negativity and focus on the solutions that will make Nunavut and our people strong and well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Minister's Statement 084 – 2(3): 2006 Arctic Winter Games – Day Four

Hon. Patterk Netser: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Team Nunavut has been winning on average nine medals per competitive day. Yesterday alone, Mr. Speaker, Team Nunavut won 22 medals.

>> *Applause*

They are starting to play like the Montreal Canadians. Total medal standing is now at 50 with another day left at competitions. Our congratulations go to the following athletes: Manasie Kendall will be bringing home his third gold in the speed skating competition, while Andy Taqqataaq-Kattaluk of Coral Harbour in my community was the top wrestler in his category.

Adrian Angnaujimajuq won silver in open male finger pull. Team Nunavut also won silver in the hand games. Sam Nipisaq of Whale Cove won silver in the one-foot high kick, with a height of eight feet and 10 inches, even taller than me.

Philip Keenainak-Verrault won silver and David Calome and Isabel Martel won bronze in their categories at speed skating. Wrestlers Aaron Tulugarjuk of Igloolik and Troy Aqaak-Netser, my nephew from Coral Harbour, won silver for their individual weight

categories, and the bronze medal standing goes to Susie Pearce for her 6 foot 8 inch 1-foot high kick.

Andrew Atagatak for his knuckle jump competition, and Pia Tikivik and Tony Naulalaik for their table tennis singles, and last but certainly not least our six Team Nunavut wrestlers. Roxy Irniq, from Arviat, Odelia Imiqtaut, my little niece from Coral Harbour, Lynn Imiqtaut, my niece also from Coral Harbour, and Arsie Tootoo-Angutialuq, from Coral Harbour as well. Ryan Paunngaq and Cory Paniaq, from Whale Cove, who is my niece as well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. Item 3. Members' Statements. Mr. Peterson.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 210 – 2(3): Wellness Treatment Program Graduates in Cambridge Bay

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to rise today to inform the House about a good news story in Cambridge Bay. Mr. Speaker, later today, eight men will be graduating from a three-week out-patient alcohol treatment program that the wellness centre is putting on for men in my community.

Mr. Speaker, the program started with ten participants. The fact that 80 percent completed the program is impressive. In residential treatment programs elsewhere, the completion rate is only 50 to 60 percent.

Mr. Speaker, this success of the out-patient treatment is due largely to the commitment of the men who have made the courageous decision to improve their lives. They are receiving tremendous support from their families, friends and counsellors.

Mr. Speaker, since the beginning of the year, the wellness centre has delivered two successful three-week out-patient treatment programs. The first of the programs for women was held in January and February. The wellness centre is planning another three-week program for men in May, and a two-week program for women is beginning later this month.

Mr. Speaker, the wellness centre matches the Treatment Program into the needs of our clients and it appears that the men are really motivated this year. The wellness centre is responding quickly and positively to their client's needs.

Mr. Speaker, I previously informed the House about the wellness centre's successful treatment programs. However, the wellness centre has run out of available human and financial resources. They can only do so much for their clients when they do not have all

the program funds, staff, and work facilities needed to offer a full range of programs to their clients.

Mr. Speaker, the evidence from Cambridge Bay successfully highlights that we do not need to send people out of territory for treatment programs. We can help them and support them in our communities.

I urge the Government of Nunavut to work with the wellness centre and help them with the resources and facilities they require to continue to offer treatment program to clients from Cambridge Bay and the Kitikmeot.

Mr. Speaker, the men who are graduating today invited me to say a few words to them at the graduation ceremony. I am very honoured and privileged that they had asked me to do so.

Mr. Speaker, I would like the House to join me in congratulating the men who are graduating from the three-week out patient program later today in Cambridge Bay. Furthermore, I would like the House to join me in wishing all the graduates from the wellness centre's treatment program a happy life with their families and friends. They are role models and leaders for others in our communities.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

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

Member's Statement 211 – 2(3): Grise Fiord Community Hall

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to talk about one of my constituencies. In one of the communities, the community hall is too small. Last year, the Cabinet Members had a retreat in Resolute Bay and they were able to attend the NTI meeting in Grise Fiord where they were able to see the community hall up there.

The municipality had already stated that their community hall is too small. They say in English, (interpretation ends) there's no full size courts, except for badminton, no spectator room, the spectator room is extremely limited.

The hamlet has outgrown the facility and the hamlet needs a bigger community hall and gymnasium. The hamlet is unable to host sports from other communities because of the size of it. It is used extensively by the youth in the evenings; it is used by the community extensively all year round. The hamlet needs a bigger gymnasium.

This will be assessed as one of the priorities in the capital plan this council will emphasize. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 212 – 2(3): Social Work Week

Mr. Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I feel today is the right time that the Minister of Health and Social Services for Social Work Week, she made a minister's statement on Social Work Week and I also rise, too, to state to them that I'm in support of social workers.

Many of us, as we are aware, if there weren't any social workers, we would have had a lot more work to do because the social workers, they are the frontline workers. That's why we have to rise up and give support to the social workers because they work with families, Inuit entities, and boards and agencies. Sometimes, their work impacts everybody, not just for the social workers, but also, it has an impact for the families.

I feel today is the right time, Mr. Speaker, to rise up and give support to the Social Work Week and I also would like to ask my colleagues to support this Social Work Week in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 213 – 2(3): Minister of Energy – Picco

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to just start off my member's statement by saying hello to my daughter Oseanne who is in my office watching me on TV, I say hi to her. I thank my constituency assistant, Amanda, for keeping an eye on her while I'm in here.

Mr. Speaker yesterday was a rather electrifying day as some members will know here in the Assembly. I think Minister Picco, our Minister of Energy was sending around a sample of a new pen that he was looking to get as Minister of Energy. It went over quite well with some members and it really electrified some of the members and they were excited to see Mr. Picco's new energy pen.

Mr. Speaker, the minister also noted that he is the Minister of Energy, Mr. Picco, and as he had indicated that there were severe problems due to severe weather with the power over the last few weeks.

When the power went out in my area of town, it fried my DVD/VCR player. If it costs too much to fix I will bring it down to Mr. Picco. Lo and behold, I took it down to Baffin Electronics to ask the man there who fixes things like that and as soon as I told him what happened he said, "I know what is wrong." And I said, "Oh, what is that?" And he said,

“Your Pico fuse is gone.” Mr. Speaker, that is the actual name of the fuse in these machines and I think that it is rather appropriate given that it is a Pico fuse that we have a Picco as the minister responsible for blowing Pico fuses.

I thank the Premier for appropriately putting Mr. Picco in charge of energy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members’ Statements. Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Tootoo.

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, I would like to recognize my daughter Oceana watching and I never waved to her last time, so I will wave to her this time.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to take this opportunity to recognize in the Gallery a constituent of mine. She is a well-known individual here in Iqaluit and throughout the territory, Ms. Eva Onalik, she is the Manager for Canadian North here in Iqaluit. Also sitting with her, Mr. Speaker, is Wanda Norwegian she is the Director of Human Resources for Norterra and also on the other side, we are continuing on down the line, we have Annie Stein, she is the Manager of Training and Development for NTCL.

Mr. Speaker, they are here in Iqaluit meeting with the federal government and Nunavut Community Economic Development Organization regarding Nunavut youth employment initiatives, seeking to increase Nunavut employment opportunities for Nunavut youth.

I would like to take this opportunity and ask all members to join me in welcoming them to the Gallery. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 249 – 2(3): Power Corporation Collective Agreement

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Along with my Member’s Statement, I guess I will have to ask the Minister of Energy, Mr. Picco, a question and also note that I forgot to mention that is the first time I have ever seen Mr. Picco blow a fuse.

Mr. Speaker, my question to the minister is this: ten months ago the employees of the Power Corporation ratified their collective agreement, I think it was June 16th and to this

date they have still not been signed off. I was just wondering if the minister could explain to the Members of this House what the delay in having it signed off by the government is. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, I would like to thank the member for his very kind remarks during his Member's Statement. As we know, Mr. Tootoo is finding out some new things every day and if he went on to a Google search, he would find out about the Picco Engine, Picco's Pizza in Boston, the wonderful Ed Picco, and so on. So I thank him for addressing that issue.

Mr. Speaker, quickly, there is really no mystery with the process that's involved in the collective agreement negotiations and then the sign off. Once the package has been passed back and forth through the table process, it goes back to the members for ratification. The ratification process has gone forward, and once that approval has gone forward, then it comes back for final signing by the minister responsible.

In this case, we're looking at the Minister of Energy. In the last several days, that authorization has been given, and the minister now will be in a position with the right documentation to sign off on the agreement. Nothing has changed with the collective agreement. All the members have been paid based on what was negotiated, so on and so forth. So the delay is an administrative one. It is not a financial one or a logistical one. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wonder if I went on a Google search if I would find a Picco bobble head. I'm sure that would be quite popular.

Mr. Speaker, the minister indicated that it was an administrative delay in signing that. Is it the fact that he couldn't find the appropriate pen to sign off on the paperwork for it? I'm just wondering if he could elaborate more.

Like I said, it's been 10 months since it has been ratified. Why is it taking 10 months to go through whatever administrative process it takes for him to sign off on it? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I get him. I didn't understand him.

>> *Laughter*

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, very quickly, again, there is no real mystery here. What has occurred on the file is that, again, as the ratification package went through, and so on, and so forth, it has come back to the Financial Management Board.

As I just explained, authorization has been given now, duly, for the Minister of Energy to sign off on behalf and for the government.

That documentation is being prepared. Again, this is just an administrative exercise. The main point here is what was negotiated at the bargaining table is being paid out to the employees. There has been no delay in that process. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I never made any suggestions that the government wasn't living up to its obligations under the new collective agreement that was ratified to the employees, but I'd like to thank the minister for clarifying that for everybody.

He'd indicated that the Financial Management Board has now given him the authority or the authorization to sign off on that. Can he be a little bit more specific as to when he plans on signing that off and delivering it to the Nunavut Employees Union? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In these types of processes, there are protocols in place and so on, and I've had an opportunity to have been in communication with the President of the Nunavut Employees Union concerning this issue.

I would hope to be in position in the next several days to be able to sign off officially on the collective agreement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 250 – 2(3): Medical Transportation Office in Pangnirtung – Cost

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

Mr. Speaker, I sometimes visit the Tammaativvik Boarding Home, and I talk to the boarders while they're here in Iqaluit, and I have witnessed, I have seen that since transportation office was moved to Pangnirtung from here, that even though their travel arrangements have been made, they have been left behind. For my constituents, the flight goes up four times, but there are only eight seats. In the other communities, I have heard that people are getting left behind because it was moved to Pangnirtung.

It is clear now that when this keeps happening, the Nunavut Government will be spending a lot more money because the people who are on medical travel are being left behind. I wonder if the minister can state as to how much more it will cost because of this hiccup. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister responsible for Health, Ms. Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. February 16, so it has been less than a month since we transferred that function to Pangnirtung as part of the decentralization plan. In terms of the cost of having it there, I can look into that. It will involve positions being moved to Pangnirtung to meet our targets under the Department of Health Decentralization Plan. At the same time, we have the office in the hospital that provides that service. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Since the transportation office was transferred to Pangnirtung, if it will cost more for the Nunavut Government, I wonder if the minister can reconsider bringing that Transportation Office back to Iqaluit. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Ms. Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There is an office in Iqaluit that provides transportation coordination for patients traveling from Iqaluit to the south. So there's still an office here.

The Pangnirtung office is keeping in line with the decentralization plan. I will have to review that. If there's any change to moving positions back to Iqaluit from Pangnirtung from the decentralization framework, then I would have to seek consent of Cabinet to make those changes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It doesn't affect only the Tammaativvik patients; it also affects the government because their employees stay in the hotels. If they are going to be constantly left behind, it's obvious that it will cost more for that individual and for the government. What are the minister's plans in regard to this? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Ms. Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We will continue to monitor the change and improve services as we go along. Yes, there have been hiccups, the word hiccups being a popular word this past week.

We have been trying to address some of those concerns as they arise and I mentioned before that with any change, there are bound to be some errors made or mistakes made along the way and we are trying to address those.

I do appreciate the member raising the information or the individuals' concerns and we are following those on a case-by-case basis and we will continue to monitor the services. At the same time, the member has asked us to look into the cost. Of course, that will be part of the overall budget management of that division. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I stated, there are only eight seats that go up to my constituents. It goes up four times, but there are a growing number of patients who can't get on, who are left behind.

Mr. Speaker, if that is the case; what is going to happen? Most likely that trend will continue because maybe the planes will be too full. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to spend some time with the member and speak to him about the eight seats he's referring to.

I don't know if the concern here is related to the travel arrangements that we're making or the actual airline capacity to fly patients in and out of whichever community. So I would like an opportunity to sit down with the member for that.

The airline capacity and scheduled flights, we work with the system, and we work with the service providers in Nunavut for First Air, or Canadian, or Kenn Borek, and so on. So I will want an opportunity to sit down with the member and discuss the whole issue around the eight seats he makes reference to.

I don't know what community that is, so that would be helpful in trying to address some of his concerns. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Uqurmiut, Mr. Arreak.

Question 251 – 2(3): Update Cape Christian Site Clean-up

Mr. Arreak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On April 29, 2005, I asked questions on environmental issues and the status of the Cape Christian and Old Clyde River site cleanups. The Minister of Environment responded to my questions by indicating that discussions were ongoing with respect to land ownership issues in relation to the Cape Christian site.

He also told the House that the status of the Old Clyde River site cleanup was under review and that the community was holding discussions with the federal government.

At that time, there was uncertainty as to which level of government had overall responsibility for these issues, but I am sure that the GN is closely monitoring the situation. It has now been 11 months since I asked my questions. I would like to follow up on them today.

If the Minister of Environment is not the appropriate minister, perhaps he can indicate which minister can respond to me. Mr. Speaker, what is the status of the Old Clyde River and Cape Christian cleanups?

Speaker (interpretation): Minister responsible for Environment, Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Good morning colleagues. In regard to the cleanup, we have been working on the cleanup of DEW Line Sites in Nunavut, even though we're not the actual staff doing the cleaning up.

We do the checking over of the cleanup that has been done by the federal government. The federal government Crown lands, as well as Nunavut Land Claim lands are being monitored mostly by people from the Nunavut area. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understand that the actual cleanup staff here for cleaning up the DEW line site, I do believe that the funding application process is being handled by the Government of Nunavut, that's the reason I was asking him for clarification as to how the cleanup process is going. It's also included under their business plan, but they would like to work a lot better with their partners.

(interpretation ends) "Collaborate with Inuit organizations on strategic ways to address general monitoring programs and contaminated sites." (interpretation) I would like the minister to clarify and consult me on the cleaning process. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Up to this date, since we have been working on the clean-up process, the Department of Indian Affairs, DIAND are the ones that are responsible for the operation of the clean-up process under the Crown lands, as well as the Nunavut lands.

The ones that provide the funding for the actual clean-up, if they can give us the money, then we would be doing the job that the federal government is doing. They are the ones that are cleaning using the Qikiqtani Corporation as well as the Nunavut Tunngavik and the federal government are in partnership to do that particular job. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Minister. Since December 2004, we received \$3,000 set aside for Christian clean-up around the environment of that area. They were deferred to the following year to be used; how is that being used Mr. Speaker?

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know that the responsible department is doing their job properly and within our own government, we are responsible in Nunavut to monitor the actual clean-up so that we can see whether people are doing their job or not. Also, we use the municipality and staff as well on monitoring the clean-up process and to see if there is any clean-up to be made.

Speaker (interpretation): Your final supplementary, Mr. Arreak.

Mr. Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to thank the minister. I hope that the municipality is working well with the clean-up group. I was going to ask exactly which minister was to be asked questions too on. So if the ministers have been changed around so, it is getting quite difficult to know which of the ministers are responsible for which project. Since we are just ordinary members, maybe the ministers should give us an understanding as to which of the ministers are responsible for which project. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 252 – 2(3): Health and Welfare of Inmates

Mr. Peterson: My question is for the Minister of Justice. Mr. Speaker, Nunavut residents that are charged with crimes are convicted and incarcerated to the Baffin Correctional Centre, Yellowknife Correctional Centre, or other out of territory correctional services, but they are still Nunavut residents.

My question for the minister is: what agreements does the Department of Justice have in place with territorial/provincial correctional facilities to ensure that the health and welfare of incarcerated Nunavut residents is a priority? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I apologize; I did not understand exactly what the question was. Can you restate it? Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Can you restate your question please, Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thought I was fairly clear, but I will try to restate it.

We have residents incarcerated or remanded in correctional facilities in Nunavut, Yellowknife, or in the provinces. I want to know: does the Department of Justice have agreements with the correctional facilities of other provinces and territories to ensure that the health and welfare of our Nunavut residents who are incarcerated or remanded are being treated as a high priority? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister responsible for Justice, Mr. Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Each facility is heavily regulated and we make sure they are up to standard before we send any inmates to any of the facilities and that they meet our standards. So that's how we make sure that our inmates are looked after properly and their rights are respected. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that information. Can the minister confirm for me that prior to incarceration, and then during incarceration, or when they are remanded waiting for trial, that Nunavut residents are given full physical medical checkups to ensure they are in good health? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm not 100 percent sure on it because in some cases, they may be remanded for a very short period of time and in other cases, they may be awaiting trial for an extended period of time. So it may vary on the situation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister. I'm aware of some residents who were remanded for a few weeks and some residents have been remanded for 15 months. It could be a considerably long time. Sometimes after they are remanded to go to trial, they are acquitted or charges are dropped.

Mr. Speaker, one of my constituents recently contacted and told me about the experience he had in the Yellowknife Correctional Centre. Apparently, they denied his request to see a doctor. He was suffering from abdominal pains since January and then developed a golf ball sized lump on his back. The correctional centre nurses in Yellowknife apparently treated him with painkillers and told him he was not allowed to go see a doctor.

A question for the minister: under what conditions can correctional facility health officials deny a patient's request to see a doctor? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will have to look into this matter. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for making that commitment that he will look into the matter for my constituent.

Can the minister commit to the House that he will follow up with all correctional facilities in Nunavut and wherever Nunavut residents are incarcerated to ensure that the correctional health staff in those facilities are treating Nunavut inmates' health concerns with priority? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will make sure that we investigate this matter and see what is taking place in this area. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Pangnirtung, Mr. Kilabuk.

Question 253 – 2(3): Pilot Project Training Medical Escorts

Mr. Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I stand today to pose a question that has not been dealt with at the Legislative Assembly. I know that people are here that are dealing with this particular subject.

I said yesterday, in Pangnirtung, there are some people who have completed their high school are looking for employment, but they can't seem to find any employment. There seems to be an opening now for places where they can have employment. The fact that we are responsible for patients being in transit and when the patients are being in transit and they need someone who has to be escorted and some of their relatives cannot go with them for any reason.

First of all, I would like to direct my question to Health and Social Services to ask if they can try and start a project, use the students and teach them so that they can escort patients to Iqaluit or to Ottawa so that they can get the experience and knowledge of looking after people and if Pangnirtung can be the pilot project to try this out. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the member's suggestion, I can look into that. One of the things I committed to doing in this House was once the

client travel policy has been finalized after April, that there will be a communication strategy also established to inform Nunavummiut what the policy means.

In that policy will be the role of the escorts also. So perhaps part of that whole initiative I can look into providing an information session for people that escort patients and the roles and responsibilities imposed on those individuals when escorting patients, so I can look into that and commit to working with the Pangnirtung community on that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The reason I am asking this question is because the escorts are not taught how to care for the patient that they are escorting and it is obvious that the personnel have a lot more to do than to take care of the patient who is being transferred from point A to point B. They have other duties to attend to and my question is are you going to be reviewing this idea, is it possible to do it as soon as possible and look at the different options to make sure that these escorts are taught emergency first aid and other things they have to know? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Ms. Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. They are very good recommendations and suggestions and I will look into that, there is no harm in promoting or advising or teaching the roles and responsibilities of escorts in providing assistance to patients and of course that role would also vary depending on the situation of the patient and the condition of the patient and so on. I will commit to that and see what we can work with or how we can come up with working with the community on information items or some form of workshop or training for patient escorts. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Kilabuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do know that the stewards and stewardesses will have to make sure that we use the appropriate regulations and rules that we have to abide by. I want to make sure that this goes off the ground as soon as possible and also include the suggestions that the minister made. So this individual would work from point A to point B and I would like to urge the minister to make sure that this is looked into as soon as possible because it is going to help a lot of patients, not only to the patients but also to the community and to the stewards and stewardesses that work in the airlines. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Ms. Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) I will commit myself to looking into this matter and we'll have to look and see who will be doing the training. I will commit to the member, and we should start from Pangnirtung. Thank you.

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

Question 254 – 2(3): Health and Social Services Staff Concerns

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister responsible for Health and Social Services. As I'm sure the minister will recall earlier this sitting, I asked her some questions about positions being blocked by the Department of Health for international nurses when we have Canadian nurses wishing to go into those that are being turned away.

At that time, the minister indicated that if she had more information she'd be willing to follow up on that, and I appreciate that gesture. In the Minister's Statement today, she indicated that she wanted to urge all Nunavummiut to support and value our frontline workers, which I would assume is our nurses included in there.

I tried to find out if those individuals would be willing to let me know what their names were or even what community they were from to be able to provide that information to the minister. Much to my dismay they were all afraid to have their names mentioned, or even the community that they worked in mentioned for fear of reprisal from the administration within the Department of Health.

I'd like to ask the minister if her department is open to hearing concerns that her staff may have with issues that are going on in the field and if they welcome those concerns being brought forward by their staff? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I absolutely welcome any comment from citizens or any staff to come forward with concerns they may have. I have no issues around that. I would encourage them and I would welcome that opportunity. Part of doing this job and part of trying to address how we better serve our communities is to use feedback directly from our professionals, at the same time from our communities.

Members well know in this House whenever I receive comments or issues related to constituency, I follow those up immediately and respond to the members one-on-one. I welcome any staff, or any citizen to come forward. I'm open. I have an open door policy on anyone who wants to come down and sit down and meet with me. I've never turned away individuals that have concerns related to health. I welcome the opportunity for anyone to come forward with their concerns. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am very pleased to hear the minister's response from that. Obviously, that's not the same feeling that some of her staff feel that her officials in the department have.

Would the minister commit to corresponding or informing her staff in the department that they are welcome to raise issue or concerns that they have over potential, or problems that they see in the field without worrying about their supervisors reprimanding them for doing so? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. No one should be reprimanded for bringing forward any concerns they have related to how we can better improve the services and quality of service that we provide to Nunavummiut.

I have an open door policy, if there are staff out there that are afraid to come forward because they are afraid of being reprimanded, that's unacceptable. In my opinion, I have an open door policy and any of my staff or any citizen can come forward at any time to speak to me in regard to some concerns they have related to how we are doing and the quality of the services that we provide.

So I would encourage the members to come forward and then I will deal with those situations as they come up. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, I acknowledge the minister's response and that, but as I had indicated earlier, it was felt by some of the staff in the field that their supervisors, whether they are in a community or within a regional centre, may not share the same feeling and as a result of past practices they are afraid to come forward.

Can the minister, as I asked earlier, commit to informing her staff that if individuals do come forward with concerns or raise concerns to be brought forward that they are not to be reprimanded by their supervisors. I am not speaking particularly about the minister's office, but just the supervisors that they deal with at the regional level. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the member bringing this issue forward. I can't speak to past practices of the organization, but no one should be reprimanded for speaking to their minister in this system. That's unacceptable in this system if there are people that are being reprimanded for coming forward to the minister.

If there are individuals in my organization that fear that for various reasons, I will look into it. It is unacceptable that in this day and age our employees would be afraid to speak to the ministers. I find that very disturbing. I can't speak to what happened in the past, but I want to reassure the member as well as this House, that I have an open door policy and I

will listen to any members or any employee's concerns and address them accordingly. Thank you.

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

Question 255 – 2(3): Potential Mine Training Site

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will direct my question to the Minister of Health, or the Minister of Education, I am sorry. I apologize, it is Friday.

Mr. Speaker, we both know that near Pond Inlet has been in the exploration stage for the last couple of years and they say that there are very good ore deposits up there at Mary River, (interpretation ends) over a thousand people on construction and later at the mine site. Has the Minister of Education been made aware of this training opportunity? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am aware of the potential for the project near Mary River. I believe it is Baffinland Iron Ore and I believe Mr. Peterson had an opportunity to speak to some of the executives from that company during the trade show that he was able to attend this week.

There is a huge potential there, I have seen projections where the mine could be from 50 to 75 to 100 years in life of that mine. There is a huge upside to the mine itself in that the iron ore grade is supposed to be very high and so on. Once this project moves forward, we would be involved with Baffinland or whoever the proponent is, to look at opportunities for training as well as looking at whatever the conditions of an IIBA would be in place. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the minister for responding to my question.

The people of Arctic Bay and the High Arctic communities, for example, Pond Inlet, Clyde River, Igloolik, Grise Fiord, and Resolute Bay could all benefit with this mine opening up.

Could the minister speak to the companies to make sure that they utilize the human resources that are available from these communities and also to train them? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The member makes a good point that communities adjacent to the potential mining sites should have first access to any potential opportunities that exist.

I have not spoken with any official from Baffinland Iron Ore Mining Company, but I believe, like many members, that this is a project that is really below the radar screen right now and it has the potential to be a huge employer that the member has talked about; a thousand positions. I know that construction needs to be done to create a port facility. There's talk about the construction site camp and so on.

So once this project moves forward, yes, we would be involved with working with the member and the communities in question to make sure that any training opportunities that are available on this huge potential project would come forward. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When the Nanisivik Mine was opened, there were less women working in that field, but the women were able to work in the offices if they were fully trained or the only jobs available for females were janitorial services and also interpreter/translator for the health centre. Does this government, especially your department, what kind of training programs would there be made available for that? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In questioning on the Department of Education's budget over the last couple of days, I think it has been pointed out and rightfully so that we need to be ahead of the curve as it were, especially with these types of mining developments.

So I directed the President of Nunavut Arctic College to contact Miramar as well as Jericho, where we are seeing the diamond play move forward and Miramar was very successful in the regulatory approval for their mine. To meet with these people and to start the process of training, again, they are getting ahead of that curve.

I would be very pleased to try to facilitate a meeting with the member and the Baffinland Iron Ore Company to see exactly where they are going with this type of project to see what types of training opportunities we can do, again, to get ahead of the curve. I think in the past, we waited until mines actually started to see where the training was needed. Under the Adult Learning Strategy that we have tabled in the House, we are looking at opportunities to get ahead of that and I think the member is making a good point.

On female occupations, non-traditional occupations within the mining sector, as I said earlier in the House Mr. Speaker, mines today are not just the pick and shovel jobs that we used to envision. They include the whole range and gamut from administration,

senior positions, you have a camp site where you might have anywhere between 150 to 400 people living so you need all the types of logistics and administrative support to do that, which includes running the facility, cleaning, cooking, keeping the runway open because it's fly-in, fly-out, roads, and heavy equipment and so on. A lot of these positions, the majority of these positions, all of these positions can be filled with women also. And these are not traditional occupations; we need to be able to step up to the plate.

So I would make a commitment to the member to follow up on this Baffinland Iron Ore Company to see exactly what those plans are because I haven't seen them and to see where we are to try to get ahead of that curve that we have been talking about. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I talked about Nanisivik when the mine was open for 26 years. There was an employee there who had an Inuit employee counsellor and that individual would counsel the Inuit employees between the Union and the senior staff. Also, every time this individual would look into why Inuit are not attending work.

If there was a request for such a counsellor, can your department train more than one individual who can be the Inuit employment counsellor? Since this is my last question, does the Department of Education have the capacity to train these people? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Two questions, Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have, as I indicated earlier, through the Mine Training Focus Group as well as the Adult Learning Strategy, have put out different plans. At the same time, we have talked about how we get ahead of that curve. Do we want to wait until the mine opens to find out how to train them or should we be going back into the process in saying you have met the regulatory requirements; you are going to be opening up in 14 months, what do you need? That is trying to get ahead of the curve.

So, if we know what is needed by individual corporations and companies, and we have people who are willing and have the ability to have the training to do those positions, then yes, the Department of Education has the ability to train those people.

For example, Mr. Speaker, if it was some kind of specialized heavy equipment training we would purchase seats, if we do not have it available right now in Nunavut, we would purchase seats at one of these training centers such as in Ontario or Alberta and actually have our people trained there so that we could expedite that matter.

What we are trying to do is develop that capacity in Nunavut. That is why we announced the recent trades school that the members have been very supportive of. So, Mr. Speaker,

in the short-term and in the long-term we were able to do that as long as we know what those skills sets are needed by individual Nunavummiut.

I have committed with the member to meet with the Baffinland people and I will invite the member to come with me to see what their range of progress is. We know that it's a huge project, some talk about over 1,000 jobs alone and it is one project, so, that is huge.

At the same time, I have instructed Mr. Clendenning, the President of the college to meet Miramar and the Jericho people, to see what type of training they need, in the next several weeks and to try again to get ahead of the curve. The quick answer is yes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 256 – 2(3): Health Specialist Visits

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister responsible for Health and Social Services. Mr. Speaker, I am just wondering if the minister, for clarification, for me and other individuals out there, could outline the timeframes, like for a specialist because I know that we do not have a lot of specialists up here and they come up from Ottawa to the hospital here.

Just how often do they come up? Is it every month, every two months, or every six months because I know there is always a long waiting list for people to see specialists when they come to town. If she could just give us an idea of how often they come up. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, within the department itself, we have 11 physicians that travel to various communities throughout the Baffin region, as well as in the Kivalliq and Kitikmeot regions. The specialists, again, come from Ottawa, Montreal, or surrounding areas.

I do not have the exact timeline and schedule for those individuals, but those are booked through the hospital and sometimes they travel to the communities as well, or provide the services here where we have the patients come down for them to see these specialists in Iqaluit. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister indicate whether or not the accreditation problem at the hospital has caused any disruption in the scheduling of specialists that come to Iqaluit? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Ms. Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As far as I know, that has not been a concern. Of course, accreditation is a project with the recommendations there that there is a senior management team that is looking into all of that, but in terms of the services provided by the physicians and the specialists, those are being carried out as planned. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was discussing a case where an individual just recently went to see a specialist and the specialist told them that they would be back to see them again in October next fall. The individual asked why it would take until next fall before they came back and the specialist had indicated that because of some kind of confusion over the accreditation of the hospital led the officials to cancel those specialist trips that were scheduled for May.

I was just wondering if the minister could confirm whether or not this is actually what happened that specialist trips that were scheduled for May have been cancelled. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Ms. Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The accreditation process is a voluntary process. It should not affect the services provided by the physicians and the specialists. I am not aware of anything being cancelled for providing services because of the accreditation report. As far as I know, the services have been carried out by staff at the hospital, but I will look into the member's concerns and confirm or verify or respond back to where we are with that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The minister is looking into that. I understand, too, that there were some appointments, some trips scheduled for May that were cancelled for a specialist to come up. If she is looking into that, they apparently were cancelled. Could she inform me and the Members of this House exactly why they were cancelled? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Ms. Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will commit to providing that information to the member for the May cancellation that the member refers to. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 257 – 2(3): Lobbying in Nunavut

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Premier of Nunavut. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take the opportunity to invite the Premier this morning to clarify to the House what he has been quoted in the media saying on the issue of lobbyist registration. In a CBC report, he apparently said he does not think this should be a priority. A question for the Premier: would the Premier explain to the House why he does not think this should be a priority? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What I said to the media is that I don't see a lot of lobbyists lobbying our government. So that's an issue of do we need it or not. I am sure that we are all bound by the conflict of interest guidelines where we can't benefit from any activity before the government. So those things cover us for the time being and quite frankly, I don't see a lot of lobbyists representing their interests onto our government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Premier for clarifying that. To clarify my point, sometimes you do not know who the lobbyists are or whether they are paid or not, but they are out there.

My question for the Premier: would the Premier agree with me that the best way to dispel rumours and misconceptions is to have a simple publicly accessible registry so that we knew which paid lobbyists were lobbying ministers, Members of the Legislative Assembly, and senior public servants in order to achieve a benefit for the interests that they represent? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Premier Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, it's okay if that was requested, but as I stated before, because we have a lot of other various issues to deal with, if this was requested by our colleagues to look into it, yes, we can try and look into it, but it will cost money, and we'll have to look into the cost of it too, and they'll need offices too.

We'll have to look at various aspects of the costs. We would have to set aside some funds for it to be reviewed further. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Premier for that information or answer. I'm not sure about costs. I'm not sure about how complex a system we want, but I think, and many of my colleagues think that there is a definite need for a registry.

So can the Premier indicate: does he support a system to formally regulate and register the activities of paid lobbyists who are acting on behalf of companies or other private interests that want to do business in some way with the Government of Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Premier Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm not opposed to a registry; it's just a matter of the numbers and how much it would cost. It would have to be administered, so we'd have to look at it carefully before making a decision on the matter. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Premier. The Premier says he hasn't seen many lobbyists, but that's just him. There are eight minister, eight deputy ministers, and numerous assistant deputy ministers. So we don't know who is talking to whom, but you see them in the stores, in the restaurants, and around Iqaluit when we are here.

My final question for the Premier: what guidelines does the Premier put in place when it comes to the ministers and their departments dealing with paid lobbyists who are acting on behalf of private companies? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Premier Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What we do as a government is we look at each situation and look at the benefits for the people of Nunavut. So that's our number one issue: how is this going to benefit our constituents and what will be the cost, and can we afford it? Those things we've always looked at through our deliberations. Anything before Cabinet is analyzed to see what benefit will flow to our constituents and to our communities.

So those, I must say, are the primary reasons before we make any decisions as a Cabinet and Financial Management Board. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Uqqurmiut, Mr. Arreak.

Question 258 – 2(3): Medical Transportation Office in Iqaluit

Mr. Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister responsible for Health, the Hiccup Minister.

I've asked her before quite a while back. I'm sure we're more mature now, but as to what my colleague was posing questions on, and then the answer he received; Mr. Barnabas; when he asked, the response he got in regard to that was there was a transportation office here.

The patients who are traveling from here, to my community, sometimes they have to wait a day or two, up to a week. I'm pretty sure that's not the only community who is seeing that effect. Who is the person who is working here in Iqaluit, who is he and where is his office? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): There were two questions. Ms. Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I mentioned earlier when I responded to Mr. Barnabas' question that there is a transportation office in Iqaluit for transportation assistance and travel arrangements from Iqaluit to Ottawa return, and the services for any other community are handled out of the Pangnirtung office.

The individual that carries out that work, I don't have the name of that person. I provided the contact number in the House this week and this change has been in effect since February 16. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm not just asking about the patients having to go down to Ottawa because what we are seeing is that the patients who have seen physicians, who are stuck in Iqaluit.

You gave us the contact numbers if we get stuck or if we want to go back home. This was running very smoothly before and it had to be changed. So that's how it should be. What the minister mentioned, it's not true that there is an office here and also staff in Iqaluit who are handling medical travels to the communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Ms. Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The information that I tabled in terms of the contact number, I tabled that information based on a request that was made in the House. That same information sheet is given to every patient that is traveling for medical to Iqaluit.

There is an office in the hospital for transportation; there is also an office in Pangnirtung. The office for transportation coordination at the hospital here is to provide services to the patients at the Baffin hospital who are traveling from Iqaluit to Ottawa and return.

The other service is provided, again, by the Pangnirtung office and part of the reason why we transferred that function is to keep in line with the decentralization plan. The services

provided by the Baffin Regional Health and Social Services, one of those services is to provide travel coordination for Baffin patients.

The same thing would be for Kivalliq. Rankin Inlet handles all the travel for the patients traveling throughout Kivalliq out of the Rankin Inlet office. For Kitikmeot, that travel arrangement is done by the Regional Office of the Health and Social Services in Cambridge Bay. In the Baffin, it's no different. That service is now being provided by the Baffin Regional Health and Social Services Office located in Pangnirtung. This has been in place for the last two and a half weeks.

We are ironing out the situations and if there are people that are staying here longer than normal; I want to hear about those. Provide me the names and I will follow up. We have no way of knowing right now, based on the comments, of whether the individuals are staying in Iqaluit longer than normal because of weather or whatnot. So we can look into it.

If it is something that we can improve internally for coordinating, I will also look into that, but I would like specific individuals' names and I will ensure I follow up with my staff and to try and work out the glitches in the system. I appreciate the members raising the concerns and I will continue to try and address them, but I would prefer to have individual names, specific names so that I can follow up with those cases and find out exactly why there was a delay, if there was a delay whether it was because of our staff or because of weather. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for her response, for giving me free information, and if I go to Rankin I will know.

There must be problems that are arising. That is why we are hearing these complaints because before it was transferred, we never heard any complaints before. So what I would like to ask the minister is that for her to write to all the communities to inform the communities, all the communities to get more information if there was any delays in their travels and the names and if it was because of the staff or from the weather, because if they can't write to her, then I am urging all the communities to write letters to me or to their MLAs about their problems. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Ms. Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The member's question was to address individuals that are being left behind and so on. I asked the member to provide me with the information so that I can follow up on those individuals. I am aware of a couple that we have dealt with a week and a half ago and we addressed those situations.

Since that time, if there are more, if the member can give me names, then I can look into that. If he gives me specific individuals, his constituents, and so on, I will follow up to

see what the reasons were, as committed to, and I can provide that information to the member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Your final supplementary, Mr. Arreak.

Mr. Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Okay, I will do that and I will write letters to the communities as to who was left behind because I am pretty sure it was not just in our community. Yes, I approve of what I will be doing.

Speaker (interpretation): Ms. Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for agreeing to do that. I will look into it. I will ask my staff again to see how we are doing and whether there have been any more concerns raised by patients in the boarding homes and report back if the member asks us. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Question Period is now over. Mr. Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to go back to Item 5. I am requesting consent from my colleagues.

Speaker (interpretation): The member wishes to return to Item 5, Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Proceed, Hon. Patterk Netser.

Revert to Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleagues. It gets stressful sometimes when we are sitting in the House. We need all kinds of support and I would like to welcome my wife and our children who are here with her. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Welcome to the Gallery. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. To go back to the Orders of the Day. 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. Item 12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Mr. Akasuk.

Item 13: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 098 – 2(3): F/P/T Joint Ministers' Meeting – Ministers Responsible for Forests, Wildlife, Endangered Species, Fisheries and Aquaculture – October 2005

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the following document: Federal/Provincial/Territorial Joint Ministers Meeting - Ministers Responsible for Forest, Wildlife, Endangered Species, and Fisheries and Aquaculture - October 2005. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): 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. Mr. Simailak.

Item 17: First Reading of Bills

Hon. David Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I request consent of this Assembly to waive the two-day notice requirement to allow for first reading of Bill 15, *An Act to Amend the Senior Citizens and Disabled Persons Property Tax Relief Act*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): The minister is requesting to waive Rule 62(2) for Bill 15 to be read for the first time. Are there any nays? There are no nays, Mr. Simailak.

Bill 15 – An Act to Amend the Senior Citizens & Disabled Persons Property Tax Relief Act – First Reading

Hon. David Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and my colleagues. I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Iqaluit West, that Bill 15, *An Act to Amend the Senior Citizens and Disabled Persons Property Tax Relief Act*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): The Motion is in order. All those in favour. Opposed. Motion is carried. Bill 15 has had its first reading.

First Reading of Bills. Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Mr. Simailak.

Item 18: Second Reading of Bills

Hon David Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I request consent of this Assembly to waive the one-day notice requirement to allow for second reading of Bill 15, *An Act to Amend the Senior Citizens and Disabled Persons Property Tax Relief Act*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): The minister is requesting to waive Rule 62(2) to have Bill 15 be read for the second time. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Mr. Simailak

Bill 15 – An Act to Amend the Senior Citizens & Disabled Persons Property Tax Relief Act – Second Reading

Hon. David Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and my colleagues. I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Iqaluit East, that Bill 15, *An Act to Amend the Senior Citizens and Disabled Persons Property Tax Relief Act*, be read for the second time.

This bill amends the *Senior Citizens and Disabled Persons Property Tax Relief Act* to increase the taxes that may be exempted by a municipal taxing authority and to clarify how exemptions are to be made under the Act. The bill also changes the reference from the NWT to Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): The motion is in order. To the motion. Question is being called. All those in favour. Opposed. Abstentions. Motion is carried. Bills 15 has had its second reading and is referred to Standing Committee.

Second Reading of Bills. Item 19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bill 5, Bill 6, Bill 9, Bill 12, Bill 13, and Bill 14 with Mr. Kilabuk in the Chair.

We will go until 12:00. We will take a break at 12:00. I forgot something to read. In accordance with the authority vested in me by Motion 12 – 2(3), the Committee of the Whole will stay in session until it reports itself out. Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like unanimous consent to return to Members' Statements, I think it is item number three on the order paper. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): The Member for Iqaluit East would like to return to Item 3, are there any nays? Mr. Kilabuk.

Mr. Kilabuk (interpretation): Mr. Speaker, you asked whether there were any nays, I said no.

Speaker (interpretation): There's one nay. I'm sorry, we can't return back to Item 3; there's a nay. Going back to the Orders of the Day. Item 19. We will continue on our session until noon hour.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

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

Chairman (Mr. Kilabuk) (interpretation): Thank you. I would like to call the meeting to order. In Committee of the Whole, we will be dealing with...I'm sorry. (interpretation ends) Order, please. Thank you. In Committee of the Whole, we have the following items to deal with: Bill 5, Bill 6, Bill 9, Bill 12, Bill 13, and Bill 14. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I must comment on your attire today. It looks very nice. Mr. Chairman, we wish to continue with the review of Bill 12 and continue

with the Department of Community and Government Services, followed by the Department of Economic Development and Transportation and the Nunavut Housing Corporation as time permits. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Bill 12 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance), Act 2006-07 – Review in Committee – Community and Government Services

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Bill 12. Minister Brown, do you have witnesses you would like to bring to the table?

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I do.

Chairman: Thank you, Madame Minister. Does the committee agree to bring in the witnesses?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Sergeant-At-Arms, can you please escort the witnesses in.

Thank you, Madame Minister. Minister, for the record, please introduce your witnesses.

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On my immediate left is Deputy Minister Tom Rich, and on my immediate right is Mike Rafter, Director of Finance. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Members, we are dealing with Community and Government Services. Branch Summary. Protection Services. J-12, which includes J-13. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$5,433,000.

Before I recognize our first member, I want to remind members of the following; according to Rule 77(1) you have ten minutes to speak. Or rather, excuse me, where is that other one? My apologies, members. I believe most members got to ask their questions on this page yesterday, however, I remind you that members are permitted to ask more questions at the discretion of the Chair.

So, members. Mr. Arreak.

Mr. Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Minister, please feel welcome. Under J-13, Protection Services, are the only ones that are eligible to apply for this funding have to be registered as a society?

Chairman: Minister Brown.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is exactly true, my colleague what has just been stated. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Arreak.

Mr. Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and Ms. Minister. When funds are just going to be used to have meetings transportation, as well as the accommodations will have to be paid for. Are there going to be meetings held for the rescue organizations? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like my Deputy Minister to answer, Mr. Tom Rich.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Rich.

Mr. Rich: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have had so far one meeting, which happened in December, which was a territorial meeting. For that meeting, the transportation and accommodations were paid for one representative from each community.

The plans are to have regional meetings in the coming year, and if that's done, the same process would be followed for providing for transportation and accommodation to come to regional meetings. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I understand. For going to meetings, I know they are beneficial to the organizations.

Can we clarify as to what they will be doing? Will that be a workshop or will that be a working meeting? Looking at the \$500,000 for search and rescue organizations, I think this should be used more in the communities, not so much on the administration part. Thank you.

Chairman: Minister.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, the question of my colleague is for workshops in preparation for and having exercises and in regard to the funding that was used to have this meeting it was used also for capital projects also, \$325,000 has been under 2005-06 are also included.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Arreak.

Mr. Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to know how much it costs to have the actual meeting and how much each community applied for, for funding from the organizations. How many people participated? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There were participants in December 2005 in Iqaluit; each of the 25 or 26 communities had participants. One participant each, but one could not make it from Broughton Island. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Arreak.

Mr. Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was not asking who attended, but how much money did they spend to go to this meeting, and how much money was used to be spent for equipment, the actual amount for search and rescue in the communities?

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Arreak. Minister.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The delegates to Iqaluit used \$125,000 for the workshop and \$325,000 was used for capital funding. Each community was given a certain amount for capital projects. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Arreak.

Mr. Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Minister. They acquired some capital funding for each of the communities, that's good to see. If it is just going to be used for meetings, that means that they have used all that money for so much. The amount of money that was used for meetings is quite a lot. Is that going to be done annually to go to a large conference like that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Arreak. Minister.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. They will be having an annual meeting only in the regions, the Baffin region, as well as the Kitikmeot by themselves, as well as the Kivalliq by themselves. And there will be funding for their annual meeting, approximately \$2,500, when they have established society status.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Thank you, Mr. Arreak. Next we go to Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister and her officials for coming in this morning.

My question is on page J-28 of the business plan under Priorities for 2006-07. One of the priorities is a revised Nunavut Emergency Preparedness Plan will be developed and implemented. I wonder if the minister could provide a brief overview to the House on what they are doing with respect to preparing the plan. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would also like to thank the member.

In regard to your question, the government, we work with the federal government, and we're looking at getting the emergency preparedness ready. We also have meetings with the FPT, and that's in regard to public safety. We deal with that as a territorial government. As the Department of Community and Government Services, we also try and work with different entities in the private sector, and corporate sectors.

(interpretation ends) The Government of Nunavut is committed to ensuring that residents are educated and trained to know and understand the types of emergencies they may face and to the extent practicable to be prepared to meet them. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister. Minister, in this plan, will it include emergency procedures for dealing with pandemics such as influenzas, avian bird flu? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Minister.

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The committee is presently working with the Department of Health towards ensuring a coordinated territorial response to a potential pandemic flu. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that answer.

Can the minister clarify for me: in the event of a pandemic, which department would take the lead in dealing with it? Would it be your department or the Department of Health and Social Services? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I feel and I understand that it would be a combined effort between the Department of Health and our department, Community and Government Services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister. On page J-27 of the business plan is the Fire Marshall's Office. Can the minister clarify for me what the relation is between the territorial Fire Marshall's Office and the fire chiefs in the various Nunavut communities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Minister.

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I thank the member for that question. Yes, the fire chiefs are independent and I would like to inform that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Could the minister clarify for me the relationship of fire chiefs to the hamlet councils? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. May I have the deputy minister to respond to that please? Thank you.

Chairman: Most definitely, Minister. Mr. Rich.

Mr. Rich: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In circumstances where there are employed fire chiefs by councils, which is, in some cases, true in some of the communities, they are direct employees of the council, the same with other employees. In other cases where there are volunteer fire chief situations, the council designates them officially. So in either case, they report directly to the council in communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister and Mr. Rich. Could the minister or Mr. Rich clarify for me who would conduct inspections of buildings and any other facilities in a community where you have a fire chief in a fire department and you have an assistant regional fire marshal or fire marshal? Who would take the lead in doing those inspections? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Minister.

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Normally, the fire chief can inspect as a local assistant in the communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister. As the minister is well aware, earlier this week, there was a news story in News North called, 'Fire Feud.'

We have a fire department there where they are all volunteers, the fire chief is appointed by the hamlet council and the gist of the story is that the fire chief had asked the hamlet council to correct a number of deficiencies in buildings, fuel tanks, and other things

around the community. He alleges that the hamlet didn't do that and that it's not a part of a recent issue, it's something that he says that has been going on for three to four to five years and even longer.

I'm wondering if the fire chief, and I'm not saying he's right or wrong, or if the hamlet is right or wrong, I'm just trying to clarify it in my mind for the interest of viewers and readers of *Hansard*. When a fire department or the fire chief inspects hamlet facilities and finds the deficiency and he or she writes a letter to the hamlet council or the senior administrative officer, the fact that he or she still works with the hamlet or reports to the hamlet, do the fire regulations take precedent over the relationship between the fire department and the hamlet council in these matters? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Minister.

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, for the member. The Fire Marshal's Office normally inspects each community a minimum of twice a year of facilities. Deficiencies' reports are sent to responsible agencies and a follow-up is conducted during subsequent visits.

Where there are cases where actions have not been taken, a fire marshal's order is issued to correct the deficiencies. Yes, they take precedent. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Before we proceed, we find you in this predicament a number of times, Mr. Peterson. However, because of lunch break and the time you have left to your 10 minutes, we will break for 45 minutes and be back at 12:45. Thank you.

>>*Committee recessed at 11:59 and resumed at 13:02*

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you members for coming back to our meeting. Community and Government Services. Branch Summary. Protection Services. On page J-12. \$5,433,000. Total Operations and Maintenance. Any questions?

Just to remind the members we are on page J-12 and J-13. I would like to remind the members that I will give the members an opportunity to make a comment after everyone has had a turn. We went for lunch. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: I welcome the minister and officials back from lunch. I had a line of questions regarding the relationship between the fire department, fire chief, the fire marshal, and the Hamlet of Cambridge Bay.

The headlines in News North, in Cambridge Bay, the fire chief accuses the hamlet of negligence. I do not know how true that is, but I wanted to know, in terms of the authority, if the fire chief reports to the hamlet, he also works for the fire marshal, and he has a duty under the *Fire Prevention Act* to inform the individual organization of infractions under the *Fire Prevention Act* and has the duty to follow-up and correct them.

So if he works as the volunteer fire chief and he works for the hamlet, and he gives them notice and the hamlet does not comply, what are the options available to the fire chief? They can be anywhere in Nunavut, and not just Cambridge Bay. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Office of the Fire Marshall is investigating the comments made by the Cambridge Bay Fire Chief and the print media regarding neglected fire safety concerns within the community.

The fire chief is a local assistant under the *Fire Prevention Act* and he is under the provisions of the Act and municipality under the direction of the fire marshal. Also, he can inspect buildings and can issue orders under the direction of the fire marshal, but cannot simply issue orders on his own. He may not have training and knowledge of codes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister. I suppose the minister can appreciate it is a concern to myself and to the hamlet council when you have a fire chief who takes it upon himself to approach a newspaper and make these allegations and he does say that he went to the hamlet council several times over the years.

The minister said before lunch that copies of all of the fire chief's reports are filed with the Fire Marshal's Office. She also mentioned that he inspects buildings and communities twice a year. There should be checks and balances and all that somewhere.

I am wondering if the fire chief is correct with his allegations. Is there a check and balance somewhere in the Fire Marshall's Office? Can he come along and follow-up on the letters the fire chief sends to people who may be violating or are in violation of the *Fire Prevention Act*? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Minister.

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like Mr. Rich to respond to that because it is a little bit technical for me. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Rich.

Mr. Rich: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just to clarify one thing, the minister, when she talks about reports, was not referring directly to each Fire Chief's Report being filed with the Office of the Fire Marshal.

I think it is too broad to say that. We don't have that sort of a formal reporting structure. If they issue or if they feel it's important that an order be issued, then they in fact have to

communicate with the fire marshal's office through the assistant fire marshal. There is no particular obligation, for instance an Annual Fire Chief's Report, let's say that way, to be done.

We are in the process of checking this in the same way that others were caught a bit by surprise by the allegations that were in the newspaper. They caught us a bit by surprise too. There are from time to time in many hamlets issues with whether it be lights in buildings or whatever that are corrected through the normal course of time.

So what we did is instruct our regional office to immediately consult with the hamlet, which they are in the process of doing to find out, first of all, whether or not there had been directions given by the fire chief that we were not aware of; to make sure that every safety provision was in place in public buildings, particularly because there were allegations about schools and other public buildings.

So, obviously, those have to be safe. We have had staff in those buildings immediately to check the buildings and make sure that there are no immediate risks to fire safety or to people in the building. Then I would anticipate in a week or so time, we will have a report back from our regional office that will give us an update on exactly what the fire chief had done when, what communications he had with our regional office and what follow up the hamlet had done on this particular case. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister and Mr. Rich. Could Mr. Rich or the minister commit to keeping me informed and give me a copy of that report when it's available? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Minister.

Hon. Levinia Brown: We will definitely do that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Thank you, Mr. Peterson for your questions. Mr. Alagalak.

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask further question on page J-13...no, I believe it's part of J-12, in regard to the community search and rescue organizations, we tried to increase the amount for that line item and there's quite a lot of money that seems it will be used for workshops and so on and for training.

There are communities out there, there has to be some training involved to teach the volunteers how to do proper searches, is this money going to be used for just training or workshops, or how is it going to be used? Thank you.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I touched on this issue this morning. We set up that \$500,000 and 75 percent of it has been used already for equipment and for workshops. It was approximately \$300,000 for equipment and \$100,000 for workshops. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you. I just started talking and now my minutes are just flying away. What about the previous minister, there has to be some funds for youth that were going to be taken out on the land by veterans to get them prepared on what to do in case they get lost out on the land. If we are talking about those types of programs, where do they get the money?

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Alagalak. We respond quickly to your concerns at times. Minister Brown.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is something that is very important and it is something that we would want to add our support to. But I believe that it's the responsibility of the other government departments. If it's for the youth it could either be the Department of Education or the Department of CLEY. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Alagalak.

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): I think I only have seven minutes now. I don't think you understood my question. We are talking about the tracking system that's...(interpretation ends)...in Nunavut we are referring to which the previous minister pursued very strongly to see if they would be available for Nunavummiut for search and rescue to monitor and look after and assign these equipments to younger people and whoever might have problems with their snow machine or they might get lost in the land.

So those are the ones I am referring to, have you thought of obtaining some of those since they are readily available for purchase and it just needs to be activated for the monitor to monitor them on a regular computer screen. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I apologize for my misunderstanding. In September 2004, the Department of Community and Government Services looked into the issue of the tracking systems under a test pilot system and it would be used by the search and rescue parties.

We are talking about different tracking. The search and rescue organizations were going to be using the system in locating the individuals who are lost out on the land. The Community and Government Services looked into the system and the testing done in the fall by Community and Government Services identified some performance issues for the

technology in the north, which were communicated to the manufacturer and further testing commenced in January 2005 with improved performance.

The department is currently proceeding with the testing of alternative technology called NW-Tracker while continuing with the testing of the Sentinel product. A complete analysis of both the products is expected in the spring of 2006. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, minister. Mr. Alagalak.

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We know that, especially for those of us who go hunting, we usually purchase something that is not fully adequate, could the minister tell me, or at least I think a complete unit costs about \$1,500.

(interpretation ends) To purchase complete units of those tracking equipment are worth about, to buy them, about \$1,500, not much more. I am wondering if the minister could, on government expense, to purchase some of those and have some of these available in a community just to prove that they would work. Like I said in my previous statement a couple weeks ago, that if we had this equipment, we would not have lost two people in Arviat.

This is a truth because these being the people being asked in our community if these equipments are available we had to answer them no, because we have nobody to make them available in our community. I wonder if the minister could tell me if she would take a risk of trying out a few of those, of the ones available to date to place them in a couple of communities in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we have purchased five of those units, Sentinel, I guess that's what they are called, and they cost around \$2,000 each plus \$20 a month airtime fee.

Also looking at that cheaper alternative, the location device only, but the device is used by the searchers. We have five, but I can't tell you where they are, I apologize, but I couldn't say where they are. But I'm interested in looking at that program. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Alagalak.

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you very much for being able to help. (interpretation ends) I wonder if the minister could provide me with...it seems to me in the past hearings that I had with the government's intent, there seems to be more than one equipment that are available in Nunavut. I wonder if the minister could provide me, later or while I'm here in Iqaluit, a copy of those brochures that indicate of this equipment. (interpretation) Thank you. That was my last question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, most definitely I could do that, I could provide that and my staff are here, in person, who are listening and they would be able to assist you. I will make sure that the member receives what he wants. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister and Mr. Alagalak. We are going to Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I need clarification on page J-13 in regard to the inspectors, especially with the public inspectors such as electrical inspectors and the cost of inspectors and the report. We rarely see the report and I think they only make their report available to the municipalities. How do you use the inspectors with infrastructure aging in the smaller communities' public places? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The inspectors, they have a fund for \$100 million and I will ask Mr. Tom Rich to respond to the question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Rich.

Mr. Rich: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The electrical, mechanical, boiler and gas inspectors report to the Director of Protection Services; their work is coordinated both from the regional aspect because some of the staff is placed at the regional office level and some at the Iqaluit level.

The member is certainly right that the demand on inspection services is increasing over the years as we get more infrastructures and also as the infrastructure ages. So they are very busy individuals. They don't do sort of an overall report because their inspection is done primarily of buildings under construction and as a result, they put in individual reports on the particular buildings that they do, the public buildings in particular, they do inspect and also private buildings that are used for commercial purposes; for public purposes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm just seeking clarification, Mr. Chairman. How many times in a year do inspectors arrive to our communities because some people who are constructing a unit have to wait for the inspector to come in to get their building inspected; how often do you send these inspectors out to the communities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Madam Minister.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I stated this morning, it varies with inspectors. The inspectors try to go to the communities twice a year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank your department for providing a new fire extinguisher.

Even though we have good fire prevention protection, the firefighters' uniforms are aging and deteriorating. The oxygen tanks for going into the burning house are deteriorating due to being old. There has been an increase from 2004-05 by approximately \$4,000 for this line item.

Could the municipalities apply for funding through this program? I know that this \$54,000 equipment line item is insufficient for 23 communities. I would like to get clarification on how you're going to distribute these funds to the communities.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The communities are now developing their applications for fire equipment and the majority of their equipment is being renewed and they're using \$700,000 for firefighter's equipment.

From this \$700,000, they will be able to get some funding from this for their equipment. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. You just made the member very happy. Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In regard to the \$500,000, Community Search and Rescue Organization Program, line item, I would like to thank your department for providing these funds to search and rescue because they got more equipment after they had their workshop, especially our search and rescue team from Arctic Bay.

But some of the global satellite telephones can't be used in the High Arctic. For example Global Star you can hardly use them because you have to be standing up or pointing at a certain area.

The other one is useful, but the one that my colleague talked about is very useful with the tracking system. We had seen the tracking system here in the Legislative Assembly, and with that tracking system you are able to find anybody who is lost out there.

Looking at the testing of the tracking system, they can tell where the individual had gone to. I know that this tracking system will not break right away in the north. They've done some testing in the north.

This tracking system can be used for accidents. If the hunters could use or bring the tracking system... has your department considered including the tracking system for search and rescue teams.

Chairman: Thank you. Just for clarification, you didn't say what that specific item was. Are you referring to tracking system our colleague was talking about earlier? Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Yes, the one my colleague Mr. Alagalak alluded to. That's what I'm talking about. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. Minister.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I agree with my colleague because we have to try anything up here. So if we do not try anything we will not know if they are effective or not. I will ask Mr. Rich to do a supplementary response. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. We seem to be having a lot of planes fly over us. We'll just give it a minute to quiet down a little bit. Mr. Rich.

Mr. Rich: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I could, I would like to clarify something about the locators a little bit because I think there may be some misunderstanding on the locators that are being tested and what their primary purpose is.

As the minister has said, and as members have said, this is an extremely important subject and one that is crucial to lives.

We are talking about saving lives and rescuing people and trying to do things that are better. The two types of equipment that the minister has been asked about that we are testing are in fact not used by individuals who are out on their own on the land. They are used by the searcher. What they do is they allow a search team to link back to a computer that plots the search grid that those individuals use.

They are very expensive pieces of equipment as the minister mentioned the price range is from \$1,500 to \$2,000 apiece and there is a \$20/month fee to keep them going. So, they do have some use when you are doing searches and trying to coordinate searches.

There is another type of technology, which is also used, which are emergency locators. The emergency locators are a smaller piece of technology that normally is not activated. You carry it with you and when there is an emergency and you need assistance, you trigger it and then it sends a locating signal up to the satellite, which comes back.

Those devices are much less expensive and some communities have those now, for instance in the community of Iqaluit, the Fire Department has them. If you are going out on the land, you can go to the community Fire Department here in Iqaluit and you can borrow one of those to take with you out on the land.

There is no subscription fee because they do not have the same sort of issue associated with them. Frankly, one of the difficulties we have is that a number of the individuals who have become lost on the land, not only do they not have that sort of device with them, they do not have a satellite radio with them or a VHS radio with them. So, they do not have anything.

If there was a way to convince individuals to carry those locators with them, then you are quite right, there is a real potential for saving lives. We certainly would be anxious to work out some deals, even some purchase deals to purchase those emergency locators if people would use them in communities.

One of the things that our report will deal with that the minister mentioned coming out in the spring is those alternatives, not only the tracking systems, but also the emergency locators and then suggest some ways that they might be purchased. I hope that clarifies what might be some confusion about the two different types of devices. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Rich for clarifying that. I am wondering if the minister can work with the Minister of Environment so that the search and rescues will have access to those because the Inuit can usually purchase through hunter support programs.

Even radios and if they are able to put a bit of money down through the Department of Environment, I am sure those can be covered and if the government assisted they would be cheaper because I am pretty sure that the hunters would be very interested about those radios.

When they get the radios in the communities there are never enough and I think they would come out cheaper if the government assisted. I wonder if the minister can commit to working with the Minister of Environment to see if the locators can be purchased through the government. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Brown.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is very interesting to hear what my colleague is saying. The Minister of Environment is nodding his head so we will definitely check into this because that's what we like to see; ministers working together. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The locator, it's called *Siarnaq*, named after my mother, that's what I'm referring to.

I just wanted to point that out. I don't have any further questions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Barnabas, no wonder you like this product. Thank you. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to welcome the minister and her officials.

I just have hopefully one question. It has to deal with the talked about different inspectors; the electrical inspector and all the other inspectors that are out there.

I'm just wondering if there is a mechanism in place if a contractor or someone that is working on a building doesn't agree with the inspector and there is an order to stop, or to change something, is there a mechanism to appeal that. Is there an appeal process, or are they just stuck with doing whatever that inspector dictates to them? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for raising that.

They can request a review by the Department of Community and Government Services, and come to some conclusion. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know the Act of the past left a lot of authority in the hands of inspectors and I just wanted to find out if there was a mechanism in there if a contractor felt that they weren't being treated fairly by one of these contractors.

If a contractor had a concern with the report, what would be the process that they would follow in order to request the department to undertake to review an order made by one of the inspectors? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, that is possible, and there could be a review done by our Director of Protective Services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Who would the contractor have to get in touch with in order to ask for that review to take place?

Would they just directly contact the Director of Protection Services? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, the member is correct. That would be the protocol. Thank you, Minister.

Chairman: We are on Community and Government Services. Branch Summary. Protection Services. J-12, and J-13. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$5,433,000. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Community and Government Services. Branch Summary. Capital Planning and Technical Services. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$21,293,000. (interpretation) Are there any questions? Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On page J-14, J-31 of the business plan, there is a priority for 2006-07 to develop a long term office space plan; assist Nunavut clients, departments, boards, and agencies with capital program planning and coordinating needs analysis.

Can the minister or her officials update the House on the progress of that long-term office plan, space plan that they are working on? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Iqaluit draft plan is done and also, we are still working on the Cambridge Bay one. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Sorry about that, Mr. Peterson. I don't know if we interrupted you too much. Did you get that response yourself? Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think I got the gist of the answer there. The Hamlet of Cambridge Bay is aware that the old health centre is vacant now after the transfer of the health centre staff and services over to the new health facility. They have expressed an interest in acquiring that building for their wellness centre there to deliver their programs and services.

They have asked me to ask the minister about the availability of that facility for them at some point. I was aware that you were conducting office space planning in Cambridge Bay, but I'm not 100 percent sure that you would want to use that building for your staff. The building probably needs a lot of upgrading.

So I'm wondering if the minister could explain, to me, the process that the government undertakes to surplus buildings to make them available to hamlets for their use at some point. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I experienced exactly the same situation that the member is speaking about a few years ago with Rankin Inlet and the old health centre there being vacant and the community wanted to change it into a hamlet in those days, but the Health Department wanted to still use the old building because there was still a lot of use to it for many years.

So we did have some discussion with that with the Minister of Health and Social Services. I do understand that the community of Cambridge Bay would like to use it for some other purposes.

We review the needs of the GN departments first and also look at the needs expressed by the community, which is your community expressing it, and normally, the process is to take the proposal to the Cabinet. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that answer. So you are aware that the hamlet is interested in that facility and you will keep them in mind at some point. That's good to know. I'm not sure if this is the section to ask this question, but I will ask it anyway.

Last May, we brought up an issue of leases, the government leases, and there was some concern at that time that the long-term leases were expiring and put into over hold position and the Government of Nunavut hadn't undertaken analysis of the leases two to four years in advance of them expiring.

I think the concern then was that the government was forced into a position where they had to renegotiate or renew leases when they expired. And part of the concern there, again, was that the department, the division that was responsible for leasing was understaffed and couldn't stay on top of all the leases that the government has under their direction.

I wonder if the minister could comment on what the government is doing with respect to increasing the staff in the leasing division and monitoring all the leases that they have and that are expiring.

Is the new process being put in place to ensure that leases that are expiring within two to four years, that they're being reviewed so that perhaps other contractors in the communities can have an opportunity to build and supply commercial space to the government? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In regard to leasing in Nunavut, it has its pros and cons.

If we're going to give up the lease, then sometimes we're short of office space and whatnot, but we are constantly reviewing leases on a regular basis. The good news is that we added 10 more staff including one to track leases.

I think there has been a big improvement in this area. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that information.

Can the minister tell us, if she has that information available in front of her, how many leases are currently in an over hold position across Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe it's here, but while he's looking, I think we'll be able to find how many leases there are and it would be very interesting to hear. I'll let Mr. Rich respond to that.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. So we will make another attempt, Mr. Peterson, bear with us. Mr. Rich.

Mr. Rich: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, I don't have that up to date information with me. Also, one should be aware that over hold can mean a month because we're still negotiating a lease which is an annual renewal, and over hold could be something much longer.

We can certainly get that information. I'm sorry I don't have it with me today.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister and Mr. Rich.

Can the minister commit to providing the House with that information, say by Monday? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown: Yes, we can honour that request by Monday. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Fast moving department. Thank you. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that commitment. A couple of weeks ago Mr. Chairman, I was enquiring about the Kitikmeot Lena Pederson Boarding Home, as far as the Kitikmeot, is based in Yellowknife, and their lease expires in two years.

I get a lot of concerns from my constituents about that facility that it is 20 years old, and it's not modern and up to date. Some of my constituents actually have accidents in the building, and some of the elders have difficulty manoeuvring in the building.

I guess they compare it to the Larga Home in Edmonton, and a lot of them have been there and it's a very modern facility. My question to the minister; is the minister's department currently in a position where they're looking at what to do once that lease expires?

I'm thinking in terms of, is the department looking at renewing the lease, or looking at buying another facility? Is that the kind of analyses that would be going on right now? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The member is correct. Yes, we would do that and we will work with the Department of Health and Social Services since it's under their mandate as well. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Thank you, Mr. Peterson. (interpretation) There are no more names on my list.

(interpretation ends) Community and Government Services. Branch Summary. Capital Planning and Technical Services. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$21,293,000. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To go along with Mr. Peterson's request of the leases that are in over hold right now, could the minister also provide a list of leases that they are reviewing right now like the boarding home that they indicated and where they are at with those leases that are going to be expiring soon? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will have Mr. Rich answer this question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Rich.

Mr. Rich: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I assume, to clarify the question, I assume you are talking about leases that are within one or two years of their normal termination and what sort of review we are doing. And we can certainly give a status report of where we are on leases like the leases that are currently being reviewed.

I do want to caution one thing. Leases are commercial transactions where we have an agreement with tenants and we would not want to give any information out that might prejudice our negotiations with tenants, and I'm sure the member will understand that. So there's a certain caution, but a general update, absolutely. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Rich and Mr. Tootoo. Back to J-14. Community and Government Services. Branch Summary. Capital Planning and Technical Services. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$21,293,000. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Pages J-15, J-16, and J-17 (interpretation ends) are just information items, (interpretation) but if there are any questions on those pages, then members are free to ask. I have just asked if there are any questions on J-13, I'm sorry, J-15, J-16, and J-17. Mr. Alagalak.

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): I must apologize, I have a narrow throat.

>>*Laughter*

Under the Petroleum Products Division, under the other O&M, it states \$14,887,000. Are we on that page, Mr. Chairman? They had borrowed some money to do their job under the \$14 million under O&M, \$14,887,000, what was that used for? It's stated every year under that division. What is it used for exactly? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What the member is asking about, I will try and answer that. From the information that I'm receiving, it is used for salaries and travel. That's why you see the difference in there. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Alagalak.

Mr. Alagalak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Its \$14 million worth of travel is quite expensive, but are you saying that...looking at the projected deficit 2006-07 of \$17,369,000, of course, previous year's had \$4.5 million and so on, and surplus of

\$2,081,000 in 2004-05. I just wondered: how are we going to deal with this \$17 million deficit projected for 2006-07? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The government does recognize the impact of fuel price increases on individuals, business, and the public sector, and tries to keep the increase as low as possible.

We did this by providing additional appropriations for the Petroleum Products Revolving Fund. This has the same impact as providing a general subsidy for fuel costs to all consumers.

In 2005-06 the Government of Nunavut will contribute \$50 million to the Petroleum Products Revolving Fund. This will be done through a supplementary appropriation to be introduced in this session. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Alagalak.

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think we're going to continue. (interpretation ends) It stated that the revolving \$110 million authorized by the House, and looking at the actual expenditures, the cost of goods sold at \$133,139,000.

This is \$23 million more than the revolving fund can hold. I wonder minister, are you proposing to get further authorization from the House to increase the revolving fund for 2007-08, because it's kind of late now to try and get approval from the House. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And I thank the member for asking that. Yes, we will likely require an increase over the next year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. (interpretation) My apologies, I have to make some arrangements here. Thank you, Mr. Alagalak. We're still under questions. Mr. Peterson was next on the list.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just wanted to follow up on my colleagues question on the Petroleum Products Revolving Fund.

Does the minister plan to introduce legislation to increase the authorized limit for the fund? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Not until we know for the coming year. We don't know the costs, so we'll have to wait until all the information has been gathered. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister. Can the minister indicate whether or not Nunavummiut will be looking at paying for another increase in fuel costs this year? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As we had increased the fuel prices in the fall, we don't know until the next purchase. We just don't seem to have control over the high cost of fuel, especially crude oil.

In 2003, for example, it was \$26 U.S. a barrel. Crude prices have steadily increased to an average of \$40 U.S. per barrel in 2004 to \$60 U.S. per barrel in 2005 due to inclement weather in the Gulf of Mexico and the continuation of the armed conflict in the Middle East, the price of crude oil is just going up. So there are things that we don't have control over. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. (interpretation) Now, where was I? Mr. Peterson, I'm sorry. Are you finished? Thank you. I don't think there are any more questions on that page. Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to make a motion.

Chairman (interpretation): Go ahead, Mr. Barnabas.

Committee Motion 06 – 2(3): Fair Allocation of New Deal for Cities and Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund to Non-Decentralized Communities

Mr. Barnabas: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move that this committee recommend that the Government of Nunavut's process for determining projects that will be funded under the New Deal for Cities and Communities and the Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund be developed in a manner that recognizes that 14 out of 25, or 56 percent, of Nunavut's communities are non-decentralized; and that less than 25 percent of the GN's 2006-07 capital budget is allocated specifically to projects in non-decentralized communities; and that a fair allocation means that at least 50 cents of every dollar allocated under these initiatives be used for projects in non-decentralized communities.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. The motion is in order. Before I proceed with debate on the motion, I have a few comments to make as to procedures.

Every member has the right to speak once to the motion for a total of 20 minutes. The mover of the motion speaks first. The mover of the motion has the right to the last reply, which closes the debate. To the motion, Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This government has constantly voiced its support for non-decentralized communities. However, the perception exists that the government is not doing enough to support those communities.

Mr. Chairman, non-decentralized communities are the backbone of Nunavut. For example, my High Arctic constituency is essential to supporting Canada's arctic sovereignty. Many of my constituents' ancestors were forcibly relocated there for that very purpose. More than half of our communities are non-decentralized. However, less than 23 percent of the capital budget for 2006-07 is allocated specifically to projects in those communities.

Mr. Chairman, in negotiations with the federal government for funding under various programs, the GN is always vocal about the need to move beyond per capita funding to a system where base needs are recognized. I believe that the GN should determine its priorities using the same philosophy and allocate sufficient funding for meaningful community development in non-decentralized communities.

Mr. Chairman, the Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund is a matching fund with the GN contributing 50 percent and projects will include recreation facilities, hamlet offices and halls, access roads, and tourism facilities. Many members representing non-decentralized communities have stood in this House and raised concerns with respect to the extreme lack of these facilities in their communities.

Mr. Chairman, the New Deal for Cities and Communities, or the Gas Tax Initiative, requires non-tax based communities to work with the GN to develop long-term plans for this funding. Iqaluit, the only tax-based community in Nunavut, will receive a percentage of the funds for use. This initiative does not require matching funds but must be used for environmentally sustainable municipal infrastructure projects.

The GN has already targeted three critical community infrastructure projects, water and sewage, and solid waste. I know that other members have voiced concerns with respect to the state of water and sewage and solid waste facilities in their communities but I would like to take this opportunity to remind members that my community of Arctic Bay has suffered many problems relating to our sewage lagoon and to date only a band-aid solution has been found. I would like this fund to find long-term solutions to infrastructure problems in non-decentralized communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. (interpretation) Are there any further comments on this motion? There are no further comments to the motion. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to call for a recorded vote.

Chairman: Thank you. Your request is granted. Do you have any closing comments, Mr. Barnabas?

Mr. Barnabas: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is fine, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Before I ask you to stand and vote, you can vote only when you are at your seat. Would you please return to your seats; the minister can sit where he is sitting. Thank you, we will have a recorded vote. All in those in favour will rise as a member has asked for a recorded vote.

We will start with the person who moved, all in favour please rise. Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. Mr. Arreak. Mr. Alagalak.

For those opposed, please rise.

Abstentions, please rise. Mr. Peterson. Mr. Tootoo. Mr. Akesuk. Minister Aglukkaq. Mr. Picco. Mr. Simailak. Mr. Okalik. Ms. Brown. Minister Netser.

Thank you. For those in favour I had three, opposed zero, abstentions nine. The motion is carried, thank you.

I have no other names on my list, we are done.

Return to J-4. Community and Government Services. Department Summary. Detailed Expenditures. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$140,542,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Do you agree that the Department of Community and Government Services is concluded?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Thank you, Minister. Do you have any closing comments? Madam.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would also like to thank the Members of the Legislative Assembly and my staff Mr. Rich and Mr. Rafter and the observers who are in the House. Thank you very much.

I feel very relieved that the department's main estimates have been approved and please keep me informed about anything that you would like dealt with in my mandate. We are more than willing to give out the information and I do know that we are going to have a very close working relationship. Those are my closing comments. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>> *Applause*

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister and your staff. I would like to ask Minister Akesuk, who is responsible for the Department of Economic Development and Transportation. Do you have any opening comments? Mr. Akesuk.

Bill 12 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2006-07 – Review in Committee – Economic Development and Transportation

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: I am glad to be here today to present to you my department's main estimates for the 2006-07 fiscal year. The department's budget we are reviewing today is an expenditure for salaries, grants, and contributions in operations totalling \$46,080,000.

The budget for Economic Development and Transportation includes additional funding approval by the Financial Management Board for the following initiatives; Funding for the Nanisivik Mine for the reclamation of Government of Nunavut infrastructure, funding for the Nanisivik airport power generator, and funding to review and recommend a new license plate for Nunavut.

The department has also reallocated monies within the budget to the following initiatives: regional Chambers of Commerce, an increase to the Nunavut Broadband Development Corporation, and the implementation of Nunavut Mineral and Exploration Strategy.

The reallocation also includes the division of the former Division of Strategic and Corporate Services into smaller division, Finance and Administration Division and Policy, Planning, and Communications division. This change will make our headquarters operate more effectively.

Also, I am pleased to say that \$4 million has been identified again this fiscal year for economic development initiatives under the Strategic Initiative Program. This was an interim program in the current fiscal year 2005-06.

The response of business and community organizations to the program was very favourable. We propose to continue the program in 2006-07. I anticipate the same positive response. We are also working with the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada through the proposed MOU to coordinate the Strategic Initiative Program with the Federal Northern Economic Development fund to create a combined investment of \$10 million per year into the economic initiatives in Nunavut in each of the next four years.

I want to highlight some of the key priorities of the department in the 2006-07 fiscal year.

We will continue to:

- work on monitoring and supporting implementation of the Nunavut Economic Development Strategy with a focus this year on the implementation of the Nunavut Mineral Exploration and Mining Strategy;
- implement the Memorandum of Understanding with Nunavut Tourism, including the research components and the initiation of a review of the *Travel and Tourism Act*;
- promote the participation of Nunavummiut in our tourism, resource and development industries and in particular mining through training in business development, export readiness and by providing aftercare support;
- complete negotiations with the federal government for the Safe Harbours Program including the completion of assessment of all marine facilities in Nunavut;
- support the Bathurst Inlet port and road projects and monitor progress in environmental assessment of the project;
- continue the public consultation process on the Manitoba-Nunavut highway route selection process;
- participate in the implementation of a National Transportation Strategy.

In addition, the department's priorities will include new initiative such as:

- the negotiation of a Memorandum of Understanding with the federal Department of Indian and Northern Development to coordinate the delivery of economic development programs and initiatives;
- the expansion of the application of the NNI policy to Crown agencies and municipal governments; work with Transport Canada on the implementation of a policy and funding mechanism to implement a strategy for long range aircraft operations in Nunavut airspace; implementation of the second phase of the new Community Aerodrome Radio Station Management Contract to include the development of training facility within Nunavut. We are anticipating the first intake of students in April 2006 in Rankin Inlet.

Mr. Chairman, my department will continue to lead on economic development and transportation issues in Nunavut. We will ensure that our programs and services respond to the needs of Nunavummiut.

That is the end of my opening comments; I welcome any questions or comments from my colleagues here in the House. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. While we get witnesses and everybody ready, we are going to take a short five-minute break.

>>Committee recessed at 14:16 and resumed at 14:30

Chairman (Mr. Arreak) (interpretation): Thank you, minister for your opening comments. Are you going to have your officials come down to the witness table?
Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Yes, Mr. Chairman, please. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Does the committee agree that the officials can go to the witness table?

Some Members: Agreed

Chairman (interpretation): Sergeant-at-Arms, if you can assist them.

(interpretation ends) For the record, minister, please introduce your witness, thank you.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my left Alex Campbell, Deputy Minister, and also to my right, Assistant Deputy Minister Rosemary Keenainak. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Does chairman of the standing committee have comments? Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I am pleased to provide you with my comments as the Chair of the Standing Committee on Infrastructure, Housing and Economic Development. The committee has reviewed the 2006-07 Main Estimates and business plan of the Department of Economic Development and Transportation and had the opportunity to meet with the minister in January.

Members are pleased that the GN is demonstrating clear support of the mining sector through the Fuel Tax Rebate initiative. Members are concerned that it is not entirely clear who will qualify for the rebate or what mechanisms will be used to deliver the rebate program. Members noted recent news reports quoting senior GN staff as saying that companies must enter a “development participation agreement” with the GN before qualifying for the rebate.

Members encourage the Department of Economic Development and Transportation to ensure that the proper support structure exists and is well advertised so that hunters, trappers, outfitters, tourism operators and other small businesses are equally able to apply for and access this rebate as large mining companies with their comparatively unlimited resources.

Members were pleased with the focus on economic development that was outlined in this year’s budget address. Members look forward to reviewing any proposed regulatory changes that may be recommended by the Barriers to Business Working Group.

Members also noted the reference in the budget address to the Northern Strategy Trust Fund and the GN’s commitment to focus on economic development in the smaller communities. The standing committee urges the GN to ensure that the Northern Strategy Trust Fund is operated with the utmost transparency and accountability. It is essential that

Nunavummiut understand the goals of the fund and are able to track the benefits arising from spending through the fund.

Mr. Chairman, members have emphasized the importance of the arts and crafts sector to economic development across Nunavut. Concerns have been raised by internationally renowned artists that many communities do not have safe access to adequate stone for carving. Members have noted that the department's business plan makes reference to the Nunavut Carving Stone Strategy and the completion of a resource and quarry database. Members would urge the minister to table both of these documents at the earliest opportunity.

Members are concerned that the Nunavut Mineral Exploration and Mining Strategy has not yet been tabled. The strategy has been cited in support of the recently announced fuel tax rebate. However, members have not been given the opportunity to review it. Tahera's Jericho mine is now producing diamonds and the Kivalliq Inuit Association recently concluded negotiating an IIBA with Cumberland Resources for the Meadowbank development. Members encourage the minister to make the Mining Strategy public by tabling it at the earliest opportunity.

Members are excited by the possibilities of oil and gas development in the territory. Members recall that the Nunavut Economic Development Strategy voiced concerns that, to date, the Government of Canada, through the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada and the *Canadian Petroleum Resources Act*, has yet to establish work commitments for exploration in significant discovery license areas. This means that companies currently holding exploration rights in those areas are not required to actually do work in them. Given the potential that is associated with our significant reserves of oil and gas, it is important that the federal government be lobbied to establish work commitments for current permit holders.

Members recognize that large-scale infrastructure development in Nunavut will require substantial investment by the federal government. Members are encouraged by the ongoing community consultations on the Manitoba-Nunavut road link. The standing committee supports this initiative and sees the link as a vital component of economic development for not only the Kivalliq region, but for Nunavut as a whole. Because of this project's importance, the committee has invited members of the Kivalliq-Manitoba Route Section Project to present their work to date and discuss the project with members.

Members are also excited about a prospect of the construction of a deep-sea port and road infrastructure in the Kitikmeot by the private sector. Recognizing that the Government of Nunavut is already committed for us to start a feasibility of a road and port project in the Kitikmeot, members urge the minister to ensure that the Government of Nunavut interest in the project is maintained and that agreement is in place to ensure that the infrastructure is available to other users.

Members remain concerned by the lack of boat safety information that is readily available in both Inuktitut and English. The standing committee urges the department to

work with the appropriate entities to develop a boat safety program in Nunavut that includes timely boat inspections to ensure that the safety in Nunavummiut when they are on the water.

Mr. Chairman, members recognize that funding for community economic development officers is intended for salary, benefits and training. Hamlets are encouraged to use the money to access further resources for economic development and the federal government and other outside agencies.

Members encourage the minister to continue supporting CEDOs by providing training opportunities. Members are pleased by the minister's commitment to work towards strengthening aftercare for new businesses to ensure that those businesses thrive.

Members support the department's efforts to provide businesses with assistance in such areas as preparation of financial statements. Members were pleased by the minister's November 2005 announcement concerning the success of the Strategic Investment Program.

The minister has indicated to the standing committee that he would be working with the federal government to better integrate the Government of Nunavut program with federal government's Targeted Investment Program.

Members urge the minister to table details of approved projects and amounts under the program. There was a concern of a perception of abuse in the communities that eligibility criteria for applications made in the community initiatives program are not uniformly applied.

Members noted that allocations under this program are broken down by the municipality in the Government of Nunavut's 2004-05 report of general contributions. Members would like to see more detail information made public on specific projects that have improved under the CIP.

Members also urge the minister to release results of the progress review of the Community Initiatives Program. Members recognize that in communities that do not have active private sectors, the municipality has the responsibility to ensure the residents have access to certain services. However, members remain concerned that in some cases, municipalities are in direct competition with the private sector for contracts.

Members would also offer the caution that some entrepreneurs are leery about accessing services from Community Economic Development Officers because of privacy issues related to their employer, the hamlet potentially being in direct competition with their new businesses.

The standing committee strongly believe that economic development is dependent upon the growth of a strong private sector. Members remain concerned that the minister is

behind in fulfilling his statutory tabling requirements with respect to the annual reports of the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation.

Members are pleased that a trade facility will be open to train community aerodrome radio station operators in Nunavut. Many Members of this House, both during the first Assembly and the current Assembly have been vocal supporters of making this training available here. Members look forward to the minister's update after the program graduates its first students.

Member noted in the department's business plan that the NNI Policy will be applied to crown agencies and municipalities beginning 2006-07.

Members agree that it's important to support our emerging business sector by ensuring that Nunavut and Inuit businesses have a competitive advantage. However, members caution the minister that municipalities do not have the same purchasing power as the Government of Nunavut and that an increase in resources for municipalities may be necessary in order for them to apply the policy and to meet potentially increased procurement costs.

Members noted the publication in January of a request for proposals to review an update the 2001 Nunavut Transportation Strategy. Members urge the minister to ensure that the new transportation strategy identifies needs that can be addressed by the Government of Nunavut using its own resources in addition to projects that require significant federal investment.

Members were extremely pleased that Iqaluit was chosen as a location for the cold weather testing of the new Airbus. Members look forward to the minister's update on the estimated impacts that testing had on Nunavut's economy.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening comments. Individual members may have their own concerns and comments as we proceed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Before we proceed I would like to remind members of the following. According to Rule 77(1) you have 10 minutes to speak, and according to Rule 77(2), subject to the discretion of the Chair, a member may speak more than once to a matter under discussion but not until every member wishing to speak has spoken. I suggest to members that whenever possible you ask a detailed question during the page by page review of departmental estimates and be reminded that hypothetical questions and questions that are seeking opinions will not be honoured.

To members with general comments. Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do have a short question, about the ministers opening remarks. First of all, I would like to welcome the minister and his officials. In regard to Nanisivik and the cleaning up and dismantling of buildings, because these buildings are connected to each other, various departments and private

sectors are responsible. First of all, I would like to find out which one is responsible for these units. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. We are now on general comments. I will get to the questioning, but now we are on general comments. Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the minister for being very supportive to the mining sector and also the Manitoba - Nunavut highway. If it was constructed that it would also help to bring the cost of groceries and goods down and also since some of the things that we wanted to deal with are now progressing and the highway road project should continue. When the road project is developing you should inform the impacted communities and consult with the communities, especially in regard to the hunting and fishing areas. To make sure that they do not interfere with the harvesters hunting group you have to make sure that they are informed all the time. That was brief. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. We are now on general comments. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to welcome the minister and his officials to the chambers, the Committee of the Whole, the witness table, or whatever you want to call it. Some call it the hot-seat. Mr. Picco is the only one that refers to it as that. Mr. Chairman, I think this department, with the setup of this new department is a crucial department for the government right now and this mandate, as Ed indicated, one of the priorities that it wants to develop and build is the economy in Nunavut. I think we all recognize that we don't want to rely as heavily as we do on the federal government for our financial resources. We would like to try and find ways and explore ways to develop our own sources of revenue, and also even try and get away from strictly a government economy, which has been pretty much the case for some time now.

I think from that aspect, the role that this department will play in that is very crucial. The minister indicated in his opening comments that they've received another \$4 million for the Strategic Investments Initiatives Program, and I look forward to hearing from the minister on how the uptake on that program was last year, and what kinds of results were benefited from that.

Also, when they talk about the Mineral Exploration and Mining Strategy, I think that is something that is again, a sector, that is going to play a crucial role in our territory's future and urge the minister responsible to do what he can to help develop this sector. Also at the same time, do it cautiously and carefully, keeping in mind the people, the land, the animals that Inuit have survived on, and need to continue a traditional lifestyle, to maintain those cultural skills that are needed to survive in our territory.

Another area that this department has a responsibility for and I've always referred to it as the untapped resource, and that's tourism.

I would really like to see a much stronger emphasis put on tourism. The oil and gasoline sectors, those are non-renewable resources. Tourism is a renewable resource. It's something; our territory, our landscape, our wildlife, and just everything in Nunavut, it won't disappear just by people coming to see it.

I think we need to look at ways to try and make tourism more attractable and more affordable for people to participate in. Since 1999, we've seen a substantial increase in people coming to Nunavut as tourists.

I think we can try and assist Nunavut Tourism to do more to further develop that market. Again, one of the things that the minister talked about as far as economic development and it's one thing that we've seen over and over again in the past, is where individuals and corporations come looking for funding for their businesses, and a lot of people are just given money and left alone.

As he mentioned in his opening comments about an aftercare support program, I think that is something that is crucial because in most of those cases where businesses fail, that's exactly why.

They don't have the bookkeeping, or management skills to keep their idea going. I would say every business that the government provides funding for is probably a good idea otherwise they wouldn't provide funding for it.

So if they're failing, we should look at why and try and put some measures in place to help those individuals so that they can have successful businesses and contribute to pay their taxes, and contribute to employment and everything else within strengthening our private economy.

I think another area that this department also has an area of looking at and that, as the minister mentioned, is what they'll continue to do to complete Safe Harbours Program.

I know I questioned, I believe, I don't know if it was this minister or a previous minister, someone about looking at something here where there was you know an unfortunate incident here where emergency services workers had to go into the cold water up to there waist just to try and help individuals that were coming back in that needed their attention.

So I urge them to continue to push on that and like I said, not only here. I'm sure Iqaluit is not alone in that area for requiring some type of a boat launch that would provide easier access for emergency services and access in and out regardless of where the tides are at.

When you look at some of the major projects that the department is looking at on the Bathurst Inlet Road and Port Project and Manitoba Nunavut Highway route selection process, I think those concepts or those projects could be included under the National Transportation Strategy and try and feed that in there and make sure they don't forget about mentioning Mr. Harper's deep sea port here in Iqaluit as well.

I think there could be tremendous economic benefits to, not only the community of Iqaluit, but to the rest of Baffin region as well for re-supply and sea lift purposes, and also for some of the trans-fishing industries and re-supplying some of the vessels that fish in our waters between here and Denmark.

It would save them seven days shipping they can come here and re-supply their vessels and do crew changes and things like that. That saves them money and also dumps money into our economy.

Something else that I think should have a good hard look taken at, and that is the NNI Policy. I think that the concept behind the policy is great, but in practice, it's not really meeting those needs, or what it was intended to do. We have all kinds of concerns from individuals that, you know, they see NNI policies included for things like fuel re-supply or purchasing of fuel.

There's nowhere in Nunavut where they build ships to bring them in or produce fuel so things like that, people look at that and say; "why does that apply to that?" and it's not really something that is done up here, take a good hard look at that.

Also with storefront locations for people going for a northern supplier, they have a lot of concerns by business people that have spent the dollars to put up infrastructure in the communities, and are only being out bid by someone that has a fax machine in their apartment and using it as a front for places in the south to provide those materials up here and just using them as a thing or a supplier when they don't really have a store front or an investment. I know my time's up so I'll leave it at that for now. I could go on for another ten minutes, but, we'll give other members a chance. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. I have no more names on my list for general comments.

We're on page K5. Economic Development and Transportation. Branch Summary. Corporate Management. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$3,918,000. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): We will take a break for 10 minutes. I think there are snacks out there.

>>*Committee recessed at 14:56 and resumed at 15:17*

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you for coming back. We are on K-6, K-7, K-8, K-9, K-10, K-11, and K-12. (interpretation ends) Economic Development and Transportation. Economic Development. We are on page K-6. Mr. Patterson, no, Mr. Peterson.

>> *Laughter*

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I see the minister is looking awfully cheerful this afternoon, it must be a Friday, TGIF. Welcome to the minister and his officials.

On page K-7 of the main estimates, the Nunavut Geoscience Forum, it's a joint operation between the Geological Survey, DIAND, the Government of Nunavut, and NTI, and they are putting \$450,000 into it, is that a one-quarter share of the funding? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's half and half between the GN and the federal government. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister. How many staff work at the Geoscience Office? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Member. Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can get back to Mr. Peterson on how many staff there are. We don't have it off hand right now, but I'll get back to him as soon as I get the number of PYs that are under Geoscience. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What work does the Geoscience Office have planned for 2006-07? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Our goal as a territory and government is to make sure that we do our very best to come out with geoscience in our territory as we are under mapped or under surveyed.

I do believe the federal government also came up with more money that they just announced on the geoscience side. So we are also going to try and get money out of that amount announcement that was from last week.

So it's to map and to make sure that we have accurate mapping of our territory. That's the plan, to make sure that we have accurate mapping of our territory to come up with ideas where the mining potential is, or the oil and gasoline exploration.

I do believe that's what we want to do. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that information.

I had an opportunity to stop by the Nunavut Geoscience Office display booth at the Prospector Developers' Conference earlier this week. They had some very detailed maps, and it appeared to be one of the most, at least while I was there, one of the most well attended booths with a lot of people coming up. I don't know if they were all mining people but they were certainly interested in all the maps that the staff had there. I had a chance to talk to staff, and they say that Nunavut has to be mapped, as the minister said, very detailed mapping is required.

It is one thing to talk about mining and mineral development in Nunavut, but you have to have the mapping. This was very important. I'm glad the minister is going to continue in that area.

On the same page, Mr. Chairman, Prospectors Assistance Program; it was \$150,000 last year. It's decreased to \$100,000. So a \$50,000 drop and that's providing contributions to Nunavut residents holding valid prospecting licenses. They require financial assistance to carry out prospecting activities.

Is it being forecasted that there are going to be fewer people requiring assistance in 2006-07, hence the decrease in \$50,000? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Minister.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we're expecting a decrease on that.

There are a few people that got certificates on the prospectors courses that we've held since 2000 I believe. And, most of these prospectors have found jobs with the mining sector.

We also increased the contribution from \$5,000 to \$8,000 per person. I think this is something that we still continue to work closely with the people of Nunavut to make sure we have enough people that are interested in the mineral sector, or prospectors programs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you. I thank the minister for that answer.

I think it's very important that we continue to support individuals who want to get out there and kick rocks with their geology picks. Sometimes you can find interesting stuff just stumping around on the land.

On the same page, Mr. Chairman, the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation, can the minister tell us how many staff he currently has working at the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have four working right now. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If you hire a comptroller, that would make it five? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have four PYs for Nunavut Business Credit Corporation and one unfunded positions, so, I think we're at the level that we want to be at.

Again, it's important that we have staff for this corporation. We do our very best to have a comptroller to make sure that the business credit corporation is doing their job as they are supposed to do for our constituents in Nunavut. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that information.

Can the minister tell us how large is the portfolio of loans under the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation in Nunavut? Thank you.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As of December 2005, the outstanding loans are totalling at \$19 million. It is a big number. That is our portfolio right now on the loaning of money. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, minister. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Business Credit Corporation is a lender of last resorts so you have to take higher risk loans. Can the minister tell us what level of risk the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation is prepared to take in approving loans? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have a very active NBCC Board that have a lot of knowledge into business on the loans. The loans have to go through the board and I do believe the board does their very best to make sure that they maximize the contribution to people that want loans from the corporation.

As a minister, I have not had a chance to meet with the NBCC Board. Once I have a chance, I will also have a meeting with them to have an idea on what we are going to do, so we have a board that thinks and looks at the applications seriously to make sure that we will be paid back in the future. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, minister. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister. I understand that when you do make loans that you hope to get repaid. The banks have typically, or organizations that have provided loans, they are very tight in terms of giving out loans and are very quick to foreclose on businesses so that is why they, in most cases, higher risk loans, they will not touch. That is why you have the Business Credit Corporation.

I am more interested in finding out from the minister if the Government of Nunavut, through the Business Credit Corporation, is prepared to take on higher risk loans and by doing so they are possibly going to experience a higher loss ratio because basically they are, the higher risk loans, and a number of other factors. Can the minister comment on it? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we are often looking to other areas how we can lend more money to our people in Nunavut. Our allowance for doubtful account continues to remain under the five percent benchmark. I think that is a very good number that we have in this corporation and I think we could improve and make it a bit more better like that, but then again, no loans corporation in the nation or in the world has high risks of losing 40 or 50 percent, so five percent is something that is very reasonable and I do believe that we can do even better in the future.

So again, once I get a chance to have a meeting with the credit corporation, I will have a better idea of how we could meet other challenges that we have in the future. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, minister. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister. I agree that under five percent is probably good, but again as the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation is not a bank so they are, in a sense, the lender of last resort to help people and entrepreneurs who can not get help from the banks because the banks, their ratios might be lower, 0.05 percent. If we want to stimulate the Nunavut economy the Department of Economic

Development and Transportation, through the various programs and entities, have to be prepared to invest in our businesses of Nunavut and take a bit more risk.

I encourage the minister when he sits down with the board of directors to discuss that. Mr. Chairman, I wonder if the minister could tell us if the Business Credit Corporation keeps track of information in terms of how many jobs are created in the contribution of the businesses to the Nunavut. Do they keep that kind of information? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can look into that for my colleague. Again, I do not know how many jobs are created within the loans that we give out to our clients in Nunavut. We do not have the number at hand right now, but once the sitting is over I will get information and pass it out to my colleagues. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for making that offer. In my mind, it is very important that we do not just give out money in loans, grants and contributions. We have to know that we are getting a return on our investment and that entails keeping track of the jobs created, the contributions to the economy and disposable income that is generated in the communities in the taxes collected.

You said that we have given out \$ 19 million, so I would hope that the investment in Nunavut businesses has generated is at least double or maybe triple the return on our investments.

My next question, Mr. Chairman is: the Business Credit Corporation's loans are approved by the board of directors; are there any loans that the minister is aware of that they are having difficulty in collecting or have gone into default? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you. I will give my deputy minister to answer that question.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Campbell.

Mr. Campbell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At the present time, we do not have the specific information on that, but when I last had discussions with the CO there were two that were on the verge of acquiring some management support, aftercare kind of support as well. We can confirm that with the rest of the reports that the minister will table in the House. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Campbell. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister and Mr. Campbell for that information. Are you planning to table the annual report in the House any time soon? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will be tabling it next week as soon as I can do it, like Monday or Tuesday. One of those two dates. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On page K8, the tourism support budget for core programming funding appears to have been decreased by \$150,000. Is there a reason why there is a decrease in their budget by that amount? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will have my deputy minister answer that question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Campbell.

Mr. Campbell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We do have a number of organizations that we provide funding for all sorts of programs. Mainly, Nunavut Tourism will get most of the funding.

Last year we provided funding to the Francophone Tourist Association for Iqaluit to do certain projects for Nunavut. That arrangement has lapsed and we're going to be reallocating that \$160,000 in other areas of our budget. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Campbell and the minister for that information. Can the minister give us an idea of how much the annual tourism revenues are in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't have the number off hand.

Again, we'll have to contact the Nunavut Tourism to get the numbers of how much is being spent in Nunavut by tourists. I do believe we have more people coming into our territory in the last five or six years to go see our territory, and we're continuing to

promote our territory even to the limit that we want to make sure that we have a lot of people here.

In New York we also had in Time Square on screen that we've also promoted Nunavut. So we're trying to promote Nunavut as much as we can so that we could benefit as much as we could from the tourism in our territory.

Again, Mr. Chairman, I'll get back to my colleague with the numbers on how much was spent in our territory that benefited both sides and all communities. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister.

Several years ago when I was a visitor to the Gallery watching the proceedings at the time, I think the budget for tourism support was around \$1 million. The minister at the time indicated that the annual tourism revenues were \$50 million.

The Member of the Legislative Assembly at the time cracked a joked saying, "Give them another million and it will double to \$100 million."

I think we shouldn't underestimate the amount of revues that tourism can generate for our territory; a lot of jobs, employment opportunities, training opportunities, are in that sector.

So when I see a decrease of \$150,000 it sends off the wrong signals. Further down on the page Mr. Chair, under Business Development Centres, its \$800,000 budgeted for three regional based not-for-profit Community Futures Organizations.

I'm aware in the Kitikmeot Region that there isn't a Community Futures Organization. Could the minister update me on the status of trying to reactivate that Community Futures? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you. The Kitikmeot Economic Development Commission has made a proposal to the department to re-establish the Kitikmeot Business Development Centre (inaudible) draft will then be reviewed, the Community Organization Business Kitikmeot in April of 2006. So, we're just around the corner with an agreement with the Kitikmeot Region on the Community Futures Organization.

As of April 2006, we'll have an idea of where we are with that. So, hopefully we'll have something running by then, in a couple of months after that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that update.

Can the minister just confirm for the record the maximum size of the loans that Community Futures can make to businesses? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: I think it's at \$75,000 per small business. So, that's where we are. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Peterson, your time has expired, so I'll move along. Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under the Commissioner's Address, she stated that...(interpretation ends)...for developing and expanding our economy, \$5 million will be invested in community economic development with emphasis on supporting non-decentralized communities. (interpretation) When will we be able to see the results of the \$5 million to be used towards economic development for non-decentralized communities?

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Is he questioning about the \$5 million that was going to be allocated? Mr. Barnabas, I don't understand your question, could you rephrase it? Thank you.

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

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Mapsalak had asked the question as to what that \$5 million was going to be used towards non-decentralized communities. What is that fund going to be used for? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are gradually finishing up the planning process and we have to submit the proposal to the ministers, to Cabinet, and we will be dealing with this subject in the near future because we don't want anybody to wait for so long and we don't want the smaller communities to wait for so long for the decentralized communities.

So we will have the funding and I will be dealing with this subject while I'm still the minister of this department. We will find out exactly where they are at and I would like to reassure my colleagues, the ones that are representing the non-decentralized communities, that we will give them an update on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Will they be able to get an update on this item before the next session? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Yes, before the next session. Some time in June we will be able to have a better idea of exactly where they are at and how they are planning to use this money. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for clarification on this matter. I just wanted to ask this question. I know that they met in Nanisivik; Nanisivik and other parties are meeting about buildings and deciding on what the buildings are going to be used for. So we are going to clean up the town-side area with this money. We are looking forward to this funding. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you. The money is going to be used for the Government of Nunavut buildings, but we can't touch any other buildings aside from the government buildings. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Barnabas. Thank you. Mr. Alagalak.

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask a question on page K-7. We had heard that the prospectors get a prospecting license, but I hear that there has been a decrease in the number of prospecting licenses that were issued. From what I know this Prospectors Assistance Program is geared mostly for Inuit. That's what I know in the Keewatin area.

Usually what they do is they start preparing to go prospecting when the snow is starting to melt. It's usually the beginning of future potential mines coming up.

In the Prospectors Assistance Program I see that there's a cut of \$50,000. Could you give us an overview on that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Alagalak. Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In 1999 or 2000 we started the Prospectors Assistance Program and it has been well utilized. There has been a decrease in the number of prospectors but I can tell you that it's very well utilized.

If we have we have a surplus in an amount and if there's an increase in the prospectors applying for prospecting licenses we could put in more money here in order to assist everyone. The reason why there's a decrease is because there is a decrease in the number of prospectors.

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

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Chairman, I'm sorry. In April the people out there will find out exactly how much is available for prospectors assistance. If they hear that there is a decrease in the number of prospectors some will just quit. In 2004-05, it was very popular and there was a lesser number prior to that.

There was a time when we heard that there were gems and valuable stone being found and then all of a sudden there was an increase. The prospectors enjoy going out on the land and prospecting. There's an excitement in the air and they're able to look. If there's an increase in the amount, they can go out prospecting, charter airlines to go to particular places. There are 26 communities and I'm sure that there are quite a number of people who don't know this assistance program.

Is it possible for the minister to increase this amount? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Alagalak. Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. An individual can access \$8,000 and we're basing this amount on last year's number of prospectors. Due to that, there is a decrease. If the \$100,000 is too small for this year we can always increase the amount if there's a surplus in other programs that are under-utilized. That's what we have planned. We're keeping it as flexible as we can. If there's an increase in prospectors then we will put in more money. It's a flexible program. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister, for that response. There are going to be some surpluses but we will probably know when all the snow is gone. We will see the remnants fallen to the ground by that time from different programs. In our review, Mr. Minister, it would increase by double, if there were some findings, I am sure that there will be an increase in the numbers so what I would suggest to increase is to double this amount. From the *Inuit Qaujimagajatuqangit* point of view, there are people who want to be looking in the banks prospecting for gold and we hear that there is lots of moisture on the ground. Is it possible to double this amount? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Alagalak. Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Well, we base this decrease on our last years interest, but I would like to assure the member that, for

example, if they used \$100,000 already in April we will have to make a decision and see where we can get some money from other programs to put in here. We will do all we can to make sure that anybody will be able to prospect, but if we can use \$150,000 last year, then the House will decrease it for this year. But if there is an increase and more demand over \$100,000, then we will look at other programs and replenish or increase the amount here. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, minister. Mr. Alagalak.

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This one is part of K-9. There is a Nunavut Arts and Crafts Association. Does this association benefit the people of Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Nunavut Arts and Crafts Association has been very supportive since it has been established and when we put in that \$200,000 it was used to provide core funding and also to lever money from the federal government. It is very beneficial to the artists and craft producers in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, minister. Mr. Alagalak.

Mr. Alagalak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am well aware of that and we are putting aside \$200,000 for NACA and it will be able to produce brochures and make sure that Nunavut goes on the world map. Could the minister tell me if there is any money for quarrying sites and also for quarrying and delivering soapstone? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have a Carving Stone Strategy and once it's completed, we will see how much money we can put aside specifically for that purpose.

Our department will, of course, have to produce a paper before it can be launched or before monies can be set aside for that specific purpose. Once it's completed, and once we have a strategy, we will know exactly what we are going to be doing.

It's in the works and once it's completed, we will produce it and make sure that there's money for quarrying soapstone. Soapstone will be readily accessible to the communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So it seems likely that there will be soapstone readily accessible to the Nunavut communities. It would be kind of embarrassing if there was no soapstone available to the Nunavut communities, but there would be a Nunavut Arts and Crafts Association. Why is it that that sort of project is not identified in these main estimates? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Alagalak. Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The government has to rely on paper before they can produce a strategy, or a plan, or identify some monies to be used for that specific purpose. We have to have a strategy in order to access or identify funds.

The Economic Development are working on the strategy and once it's completed, possibly this coming year, we will then be able to set aside some funds for that purpose, if it's approved by the Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Alagalak.

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As that's the case, that was determined; there was an agreement between the government and the hamlet councils. I don't know what happened to that agreement between the two parties. Spring is coming, summer is going to be coming around and that's the only time we can quarry the soapstone. When are you going to be producing the strategy? Could I have a month and a date, please? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, very much, Mr. Alagalak. Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It will probably be completed by the end of this month and then it will be able to be given to the Cabinet by next month. It's almost complete, but we want to have it perfect before we hand it over to the Cabinet, but we will be done by the end of the month. Thank you.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would just like to recognize the clock, I'm getting tired and I can't even talk right, and move that we report progress. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. We have a motion on the floor and the motion is not debatable. All those in favour of the motion please raise your hand: seven. All those opposed, raise your hand: one and a half.

>> *Laughter*

The motion is carried. I will now rise to report progress.

Speaker (interpretation): Orders of the day. Item 20. Report of Committee of the Whole. Mr. Arreak.

Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Mr. Arreak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Bill 12 and would like to report progress, and that one committee motion was adopted. And, Mr. Speaker, I move that the Report of the Committee of the Whole be agreed to. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): There is a motion on the floor. Is there a seconder? Mr. Okalik. The motion is in order. All those in favour. Abstentions. The motion is carried.

Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. Item 22. Orders of the Day. Mr. Quirke.

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A reminder for Monday, March 13, a meeting of the Standing Committee on Government Operations and Accountability in the Tuktu Boardroom starting at 9:00 in the morning.

Orders of the Day for Monday, March 13:

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. Notices of Motions
15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills

16. Motions

17. First Reading of Bills

18. Second Reading of Bills

19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters

- Bill 05
- Bill 06
- Bill 09
- Bill 12
- Bill 13
- Bill 14

20. Report of Committee of the Whole

21. Third Reading of Bills

22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): The House stands recessed until Monday, March 13 at 1:30 in the afternoon.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 16:04*

