



**Nunavut Canada**

**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NUNAVUT**

**Nunavut Leadership Forum**

Official Report

**Wednesday, November 3, 2010**

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**Members Present:**

Honourable Eva Aariak, Honourable James Arreak, Mr. Moses Aupaluktuq, Honourable Tagak Curley, Mr. Ron Elliot, Mr. Adamee Komoartok, Honourable Lorne Kusugak, Mr. Johnny Ningeongan, Mr. Paul Okalik, Honourable Keith Peterson, Mr. Allan Rumbolt, Mr. Fred Schell, Honourable Daniel Shewchuk, Honourable Peter Taptuna, Honourable Hunter Tootoo, Ms. Jeannie Ugyuk.

**Prayer**

**Chairman** (Mr. Arreak)(interpretation): Thank you for coming. Before we proceed with today's agenda, I will call upon Mr. Ningeongan to deliver the prayer. Mr. Ningeongan.

>>Prayer

**Adoption of Agenda**

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. Additionally, I thank all members. I can really hear myself talk. Okay. Do members agree to the agenda in front of them?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Also, with respect to the procedures to be followed for the Nunavut Leadership Forum, do members agree with these procedures and can we proceed with this forum?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. As Chairperson of the Nunavut Leadership Forum, I wish to take this opportunity to make some opening

remarks that I trust will set the tone for these proceedings.

These proceedings are being viewed by Nunavummiut across the territory. As their elected representatives, it is our responsibility to demonstrate the highest standards of conduct and decorum.

(interpretation ends) It is also our responsibility to focus these deliberations on Nunavut-wide priorities and issues of ministerial leadership, performance, and accountability. This is not the appropriate forum to discuss constituency specific grievances, minor matters of departmental administration, or the status of complaints raised by individual residents. I would encourage all members to focus their attention on matters of performance and not personality.

Every one of us took a solemn oath of office when we assumed our positions as Members of the Legislative Assembly and we need to demonstrate that our constituents' trust has been well placed.

All members have been provided with a copy of the detailed procedures for the conduct of the Nunavut Leadership Review. These procedures have been agreed to at Caucus.

Following the Premier's opening statement, members will have the opportunity to question the Premier.

At the conclusion of the Premier's appearance, we will proceed to ministers' statements. Ministers will make their statements in alphabetical order. Members will then have the opportunity to ask questions of the ministers.

Following the conclusion of members' questions, we will proceed to balloting. All members will have the opportunity to express confidence or non-confidence in each Member of the Executive Council.

As members are aware, this is the first time that the forum has decided to undertake a formal balloting process. As members are aware, although the results of this secret ballot will provide an expression of the will of the Assembly, they are not legally binding and it may be necessary for the House to consider formal motions.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind all members that I will be enforcing the rules of order and decorum that members have agreed to follow for this process.

I will now invite the Premier to make her opening statement. I now call upon the Premier to deliver her statements. I remind the Premier that she has up to 20 minutes to deliver her opening statements. If you choose, you may stand or stay in your seat while you are making your statement. Madam Premier.

### **Premier's Opening Statement**

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation):  
Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good morning, my colleagues and our visitors. Thank you.

We have been waiting for quite some time and it seems like the snow was even waiting for the Nunavut Leadership Forum. This review is a tradition in Nunavut and one in which I willingly participate. It is an excellent opportunity to take the time for clear-headed

appraisal of how far we have come both as individuals and as a government.

I would like to begin today by thanking all of the leaders who have come before me. This includes not only political leaders but leaders in communities in Nunavut, in businesses, in homes, and in families. There are so many who have helped to build Nunavut in which we can all be so very proud.

I am honoured to work side by side with someone who helped to create Nunavut, Tagak Curley. Tagak is one of the leaders who inspire me every day as I work to represent the people of Nunavut. Nunavut is still very young and our past government provided us with a great start. I have been honoured to continue the efforts of our previous governments. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the previous Assemblies for their hard work. We have come such a long way.

(interpretation ends) *Iksivautaaq*, under a public and consensus style government, we are all leaders. I truly feel that I was chosen from among my equals and that every member and every role in our government is essential if we are going to achieve our ambitious goals for this wonderful territory.

I became Premier of this great territory without a lot of political experience, but this is not a weakness. Let's be honest. This is a reality for many of us. What I have brought to this role is an equal or even more value than political experience. I bring a strong moral compass, firmly rooted in Inuit culture and values. By keeping one side firmly rooted in Inuit culture and values, I believe that the judgement and wisdom

required for a political role comes more naturally. The day-to-day skills of a politician can be learned by anyone, but a strong moral compass is not a learned skill and it is what takes and makes me a strong and capable leader.

You chose me as a Premier based on my promise to return to the roots of good government. Good government requires a willingness to establish an open dialogue to ensure that the priorities of all Nunavummiut are reflected in the work that we do. My first act as a Premier was to establish this open dialogue with the people of Nunavut and with you and the Members of this House.

I initiated a process to speak to the people of Nunavut to find what was working, what needed improvement, and what was not working at all. This input led to the *Qanukkanniq* Report Card, which formed the basis of our next steps in our administration. This next step was to invite all Members of the House to develop this government's mandate together. Our focus included:

- Building government capacity to do its work;
- Helping empower individuals and communities to do their work;
- Creating sustainable economies focusing on the connection between health and social development
- Ensuring government can communicate with the public;

- Strengthening our educational system;
- Providing continuity between education and the labour market;
- Reducing issues that cause people to harm themselves or others; and
- Supporting environmental stewardship.

Our dialogue with Nunavummiut and with the Members of this House continues. We are partners in building Nunavut's future. It is our responsibility. As I have said so many times before, all members know that our doors are open, that we strongly value your input and your input affects how government implements its mandate.

In 2008, I pledged in my leadership speech to put an end to a top-down style of governing and within this administration, we continue to deliver on the pledge.

Good government is committed to responsible change or, in other words, to progress. As you will see throughout this review, we are working to bring the Government of Nunavut closer to the will of the Nunavummiut in a responsible and orderly fashion. This change started on day 1 and it will continue throughout this term.

The best hunter is not the one who wins the race. He is the one who makes it home no matter what the conditions are. Good government is the same. We have faced significant challenges in trying to achieve our goals, but we continue our efforts to build a Nunavut of the future.

Good government emphasizes the need and to work in partnerships with the public and the organizations that share a stake in the work that we do. As your Premier, I promise to establish a spirit of collaboration both within the civil service, within our partners in Inuit organizations and the federal government. I believe these partnerships are essential to achieve our goals and they have never been stronger.

Good government governs for the future. It has been proven time and again that the best investments will have impact years down the road. For instance, it is important that we make investments early in childhood education today even if it will take 20 years to fully demonstrate their benefit for the territory. We know it is of utmost importance that we govern for our grandchildren. This long-term approach extends to everything that we do. This includes investments in education and training, in infrastructure, and in legislation that will lay the foundation for tomorrow's prosperity.

I would like to take this opportunity to go into a bit of detail about the work that has been done by this government. First, in response to an enormous demand, we are putting GLOs, government liaison officers, back into the community. Starting with the non-decentralized communities first, the GN will be able to mobilize this network quickly so that information can be disseminated to and collected from all 25 communities instantaneously. At the same time, we are creating jobs in each community. These positions will be the lifelines to our communities and to the government as well.

While on the subject of communication, I would like to say how proud I am of the significant progress that has been made in this area. Hopefully by now, you have all had a chance to browse the new GN website that we announced earlier and make use of the new online phone directory. Regular visits to the communities, community radio interviews with ministers, and the Premier's e-newsletter are all examples of our commitment to open and ongoing communication. It's the small things like these that make a big difference, which will lead to greater accomplishments in the days ahead.

In order to answer to the overwhelming request for change to certain programs and Acts, we are undertaking a number of important reviews. For instance, a review of Health and Social Services programs, decentralization, the *Liquor Act*, and public forum on uranium mining in Nunavut. As always, in this government, what Nunavummiut have to say will directly contribute to the changes made. Although there is more to be done, we are, I think, on the right path.

Next, I am not afraid to say is the rate of suicide in our territory. It is absolutely unacceptable. For that reason, we have tabled a Suicide Prevention Strategy. This strategy is the result of cooperation and very hard work from all partners. Let me take this opportunity to thank everyone who contributed. The implementation of this strategy cannot start soon enough and I am resolved to make this happen. This government also realizes that suicide prevention is more than a single strategy. It is addressed throughout our *Tamapta* priorities,

whether it is education and skills training or cultural initiatives that provide pride in who we are.

Poverty needs to be eliminated, and this is not and cannot happen overnight, but the sooner we start, the sooner all Nunavummiut will be able to enjoy health and prosperity they deserve. With that in mind, we have joined forces with our partners at NTI and the private and voluntary sector to undertake a public engagement process. Our goal is to have our action plan in place in one year's time and to immediately begin implementation. I am very excited to see this work through its completion.

I recently saw a population graph for Nunavut. The graph shows an incredible spike in the number young people in our territory.

All of the research and traditional knowledge suggest that giving young people a head start will pay out dividends down the road. For that reason, we are making equally childhood education and health a priority. Every new educational facility in Nunavut will be built with a daycare. We continue to support school breakfast programs, develop early childhood programs, subsidize daycare at the schools, and increase training opportunities for early childhood education and development, and this government is committed to providing a child and youth representative. At the very least, by the end of this term, because we all know our children are our greatest assets.

As I indicated in this legislature, my government has invested significant effort in moving devolution from the backburner to the front. I have

developed a good working relationship with the Prime Minister, and recently, Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs, Minister Duncan, and our own MP, Leona Aglukkaq. They have agreed that a phased approach is an appropriate way to proceed with the negotiations. A communication strategy will be launched next week. Progress has been made on the devolution file and I am confident it will continue.

Finally, we should also recognize the amount of cross-departmental collaboration undertaken by this government in order to ensure that our commitments to Nunavummiut are implemented. I asked ministers to take an additional role as champion for *Tamapta*. This consists of chairing committees, such as quality of life, building capacity, sustainable development, and central accountability. On many projects, departments are now working together to reduce barriers and find efficient ways of accomplishing our goals during these tight fiscal times.

As you can see, we are in the middle of implementing important initiatives that flow directly from the mandate that we all agreed on. This brings me to my last reflection on good government that I wanted to share with you today. A good government builds upon strong momentum to ensure we accomplish what we set out to achieve. I have been working very hard since becoming Premier to ensure that we are in a position to finish the work that we started when we were first elected to the office. I am looking forward to your continued input, the work that we are doing, and to the renewed confidence that will come from this leadership review.

Ten years ago, we made a commitment to our future when we created Nunavut. Two years ago, we renewed this commitment to our future through the development of the *Tamapta* Mandate. Today, I am asking that once again we renew this House's commitment to the future that we will build together. We started this project together and I am very much looking forward to finishing it together.

(interpretation) We have a lot to do and even though there has always been a lot of work to do, we all have the responsibility as elected members to make some accomplishments to the end of our term on behalf of the people of Nunavut, our children, our grandchildren, and our future generations. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

>> *Applause*

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Premier. All regular members have a total of five questions each that they can ask the Premier. Regular members are not required to ask their questions consecutively. Are there any questions from the regular members? Mr. Aupaluktuq.

### **Questioning of the Premier**

**Mr. Aupaluktuq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We all know that there are a lot of issues that have to be addressed. The government as a whole must identify clear priorities and balance competing public interests. Sometimes different interests may not be entirely compatible, such as natural resource development and environmental protection. I wanted to ask the Premier:

how have you approached this issue?  
Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. Madam Premier.

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Thank you, my colleague, for that question. The people of Nunavut are working very hard on this issue, especially with the importance of mining and mineral development. It's very important to make sure that these issues are communicated to the people of Nunavut. As Nunavut Tunngavik has the mandate through NIRB to deal with those issues and through the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement, they are mandated to deal with those issues.

I feel strongly to get feedback from the people of Nunavut on those issues. I have initiated getting some feedback on what the people of Nunavut think about mineral development and we want to get the perspective of all Nunavummiut. Further, this group will be touring the communities to consult with the residents specifically on the issue of uranium in all three regions, the Baffin region, the Kivalliq region, as well as in Cambridge Bay in the Kitikmeot region.

I have continued to make it a high priority to include Inuit meaningfully, especially when dealing with weighty matters that may impact our residents. As a government, we have to be in touch with Nunavummiut and this includes consultations, communications, and providing information to the people of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Premier. Prior to moving on to another question, I wish to remind members that



I will leave it at your discretion as to whether you wish to stand or not when asking your questions. Will you be asking your second question? Mr. Aupaluktuq.

**Mr. Aupaluktuq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to ask: what would you consider your top three priorities before the end of term of office? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Madam Premier.

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Thank you for that question with respect to priorities. Personally, I could list numerous priorities that I would want to accomplish during this term of this government. However, with respect to my top priorities, I want to state these in particular, but bear in mind that just recently, we renewed our mandate for this government specific to the next two years to the end of our terms in the legislature. These are identified government priorities.

I have some personal priorities that I am pushing for, such as the recent strategy on poverty reduction. This strategy outlines the initiative, the preparations required, as well as the implementation of the initiative. We have to ensure that all of these action items are completed.

Many Inuit in Nunavut live on the cusp of poverty, with some families facing food shortages or where they cannot put food on the table. This impacts many people's lives in Nunavut and that is why I have identified the Poverty Reduction Strategy as one of my priorities. Furthermore, I am pleased that I will be able to work with various departments on this issue, particularly

my colleague, Mr. Taptuna, and his department on mitigating poverty.

Another high priority for me is the work towards self-determination as a territory. Devolution is the term in English. The transferral of powers between governments was a past priority for our past governments which we inherited, but we still have a lot of work to complete on this matter. I want to ensure that this work on devolution is continued and to be an ongoing process until we complete the negotiations on this matter with the federal government.

Our neighbour, the NWT, has now completed their work on devolution and it has already improved their government's mandate. It is also obvious that, although it may not manifest itself in the short term, once we complete the negotiations, Nunavut will also benefit from the completion of this file.

This is a very important priority for our government since Nunavut would be better able to operate and fulfill its mandate. We envision that Nunavut would be able to start funding more of its priorities when we are able to garner our share of the revenues that accrue from natural resources of the land or waters within Nunavut. The revenues will enable this government and its people to be more self-sufficient.

Additionally, I am pleased that we have made some progress on this file and our counterparts in Ottawa have stated that they wish to pursue this issue in stages. We are awaiting a position outlining the matters for negotiation. However, the federal government still has to appoint a chief negotiator and I will be lobbying

the federal government to finalize their selection.

Our government is ready, willing, and able to commence negotiations. So too is NTI ready for this process to proceed. Unfortunately, it is the federal government that we are now waiting on. We also have to know that devolution and the issue of devolution is going to be a long process, and it's not going to be completed overnight. We have to work closely together and we have to wait for the federal government to appoint their negotiator in order for things to get started.

One other thing that I'm very concerned about that the Department of Finance is also working hard on is the operation of the government to be financially efficient and responsible and to make sure that programs and services are provided to the people of Nunavut, while being fiscally responsible at the same time.

For infrastructure and capital items, included in there is working together between the Government of Nunavut and other organizations. Because of our financial restraints, we have to work with different organizations on large infrastructure projects like ports, housing, and other things like that. We have to work together with the private organizations for these infrastructures to become a reality. We have to work together in order to implement the plans once they become a reality, by all means, by working together with the department and as a government.

There are a lot of issues that we would like to deal with, but my top priorities

are included in the *Tamapta* pamphlet. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Premier. Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. Do you have any further questions to the Premier? Mr. Ningark.

**Mr. Ningark** (interpretation): I don't have to stand up if I don't want to? (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the Hon. Premier for making a statement before the leadership, Mr. Chairman.

I think many people have trouble understanding the things between surplus and deficit. Having a surplus in the system is a good idea, I think. We all understood that, but when there is surplus in the system, one wonders, in the previous year, that programs and services have been delivered. When there is deficit, many people think that's a bad idea, but we must always do the programs and services regardless of when, Mr. Chairman, there has to be a deficit.

Mr. Chairman, we live and work in a land where there is a tremendous opportunity for tourism, arts and crafts, hunting and trapping, and we have mineral wealth where the major league, world industry in the mining sector is lining up in our backyard to look for and find minerals. I remember, it seemed like only yesterday, Mr. Chairman, that this, Madam, Nunavut used to be called a desolate, barren, empty, God forsaken country.

Today, we have a tremendous opportunity up here to make it work for us. Yet our children here and now go to school without breakfast, hungry. We

know we have the wealth, we know we have the education out there in our population, we know there are people and parents willing to work, but we cannot find a job for them.

Mr. Chairman, I know the Premier has started the framework called *Tamapta*. I grew up understanding that when there is a credit due, we have to give that credit and I give the Premier that credit for starting *Tamapta*. I think, honestly, I have not heard any complaints from my community of Kugaaruk or Naujaat (Repulse Bay).

Mr. Chairman, I know that the Premier has started the devolution in this jurisdiction and that is a good idea. Unless we can start to reap the wealth of this jurisdiction, then we can't start to scratch the surface of poverty. That is what the people want. It is not uncommon for me, Mr. Chairman, early in the morning in going to work or going to a meeting, having seen the young children rushing to school to learn or to eat. In many cases, you have to eat to learn.

So unless we begin to see less and less young children going to school for breakfast but going to school to learn, then we know that leadership is there to ensure that we want to educate our young people. In order to educate our young people, we must ensure that their parents are proud, make sure that we bring back their pride, where they can feed their kids in the morning or pretty well three meals a day. So education is number one.

We also know that we have a tremendous problem with housing in a

country where housing or shelter is the right of every Canadian in the country.

So what is Madam Premier doing in all of these regards that I have just outlined for the government? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Premier Aariak.

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There were a fair number of issues raised by the member, but I will try to respond to them all.

Yes, I completely believe in the observations you made, especially regarding opportunities that we can create for our people here in Nunavut. If this is done properly, we can open many opportunities.

Just to envision the tourism opportunities that you alluded to, this is one sector where we could conceivably garner more revenue, especially in the communities. Additionally, my genuine belief is that this sector has a lot of room to grow, but we have to develop the infrastructure. Although this sector was initiated a while ago, we still have many opportunities to develop this sector to ensure that our residents benefit from this sector's growth.

In particular, residents who can benefit from the tourism sector can be quite numerous. Some of the areas include outfitting, arts and crafts, such as carving or sewing, and in other fields as well. Additionally, one source of pride for Nunavut is that many of our residents are renowned carvers and we have many great seamstresses. With respect to arts

and crafts, I believe that Nunavut has the highest per capita artists, carvers, and seamstresses.

If you look at the provinces, Nunavut is near or at the top of the regions where residents are involved in the arts and crafts sector and the market is still growing. Furthermore, programs that are offered by the Nunavut Arctic College are expanding, such as the seal product course, where the students are taught to handle sealskins, to work with skins, and to offer products for sale. This course will greatly benefit our residents.

We are also blessed with other opportunities, such as in the mining sector, where we are starting to see more development. We now have one mine operating in Nunavut, specifically the gold mine near Baker Lake, where quite a few of our residents are employed. It has already increased household income revenue by virtue of their employment.

In the private sector, we have many opportunities for small businesses. This sector opens many opportunities for Nunavummiut to create small businesses, but as a government, we have to provide the proper services and programs for them, especially in the start-up stages of opening a business. I have personal experience in creating a small business, so I am quite intimate with the need for proper support for business start-up, mentoring, and other programs that can determine the difference between failure and long-term success. It also allows you to operate your business in a more professional manner.

Additionally, we have more opportunities related to revenue growth

that can be opened by other means, such as your reference to devolution and self-sufficiency. With the revenue related to mining, the Nunavut government would be able to raise revenue that they could use for programs if devolution occurred. My assessment of this issue is that this sector could conceivably raise a lot of revenue for the Nunavut government in our future.

Another important issue which I place great priority on is having the proper caretakers in one's home. Child rearing practices and traditional child rearing practices should be taught to our young parents. In our communities, especially the smaller communities, we have many elders who can provide training in child rearing practices.

Wherever a person has a solid foundation, whether it is at one's home, in one's community, or even within the government, the operations will be geared towards our common objectives. This allows us to operate in a less difficult manner and the task is easier to move forward towards these objectives. With respect to caretakers in the home, this is very important for our children.

As you mentioned earlier, children should have breakfast at home before they attend classes. This is another priority we have identified in our government, to provide proper nutrition and especially the breakfast program in our schools. We want to see this grow. The communities have to be more involved in the operation of these programs, especially the breakfast programs. Some schools may not have this program available and if they wish to provide this service, we want to assist them to do so.

We feel that this is a high priority because if a child is reared properly, such as having the proper nutrition, the proper emotional upbringing, then the child will become part of the community as a fully functional adult. Within their chosen field, whether that is land-based, wage-based, or in other avenues, if that person has a solid base, then that person will be a strong person. That is how we want to see our children grow up to become here in Nunavut.

We want Nunavummiut to be as strong as possible so that the parents are strong and the children they are rearing can be strong since they have proper caretakers and proper nutrition. This issue is central to poverty reduction and we need to focus on these issues to ensure we provide the proper support. Furthermore, one of the most important matters in this field is proper shelter for our children.

Housing will continue to be a high priority for this government. When you look at the statistics that were just released, it shows the number of housing units that need to be built to meet this need and the numbers are staggering. We need to build numerous more units just to meet our present requirements. Part of our mandate within these last two years has been accomplished through various initiatives, but it is quite obvious that housing will continue to be a challenge faced by our government.

Our children should be provided the proper housing. Our children who are attending classes should not be in overcrowded classrooms so that they can be provided with a good education. When students are not overcrowded at home or at school, they can take instructions more readily. This also

applies to all residents of Nunavut, whether they are young adults, adults, or elders. It is only when they are properly housed without overcrowding that a person's mental well-being and quality of life can be improved. This is another of our highest priorities as a government.

In conclusion, with the *Tamapta* Mandate which we produced, I was happy to hear that you were satisfied with the framework provided and I thank you for providing me with that credit. I ask my colleagues to work with us, to provide recommendations and remind our government to achieve the goals set out in *Tamapta*. Only in partnership can we achieve our goals as a legislature. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Premier. Prior to moving to another question, I wish to remind the members that we came to an understanding where members will keep their questions to the point and ensure that their preambles are not lengthy. Additionally, with respect to the members who are answering these questions, I caution them to keep their responses short, to the point, and to the issues raised. Furthermore, another reminder to the members raising questions, please ensure that you do not ask multiple questions, especially if you want a proper answer. Please ensure that you ask one question at a time and to the point.

Do you have any other questions? Mr. Ningark.

**Mr. Ningark:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For the record, on behalf of the parents, communities, and my family, I wanted to thank the system for

the breakfast program for school children.

The final question for the Hon. Premier is in this Assembly, we call ourselves a consensus government, but we have trouble getting along together in this Third Assembly. I would like to ask the Premier: why do you think that we are having trouble getting along together under this Third Assembly as leaders? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningark. At this time, I am only acting in the role of the Chairperson. Premier Aariak.

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When I'm visiting the communities, especially the southern jurisdictions, I tell them that we have a consensus government where there are no party politics. We are a consensus style government and some of them are very envious of that fact. Through *Tamapta*, the regular members and the cabinet agreed to work together and to have one goal as a government. That is what a consensus government means, to work together as one with one goal. One of the other important things of a consensus government is because there is more possibility of working together and reaching an agreement.

The people out there probably think that, during question period especially, there is opposition between the regular and the cabinet members, but those oral questions are very beneficial to the people of Nunavut because it is disseminating the information out there and it also focuses the government on what they should be focusing on by way of benefits and programs. We usually get

back to being one afterwards. That, to me, means consensus government and I think it is the right style of government for the people of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Premier. Mr. Komoartok has a question as well.

**Mr. Komoartok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My first question is (interpretation ends) it is important that ministers recognize when they should have done something differently or better. What is the one thing that you would have done differently as a minister since you took office in 2008? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Komoartok. (interpretation ends) Madam Premier.

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can be thankful and happy for a lot of things since we became a government, especially since we work together to create the *Tamapta* Mandate which gave us the focus on our goal as a government, "What will benefit most to the people of Nunavut?" We agreed on those and that is very important to me.

The cabinet individually works hard on their roles and responsibilities on their department, our databases, and through our meetings and through their Ministers' Statements. There is a lot of paperwork that we accumulate, especially with the Ministers' Statements and the accumulation of those documents.

Working together through our mandate is very important and I am very proud that we are achieving it or it is developing. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Premier. Do you have any further questions? Mr. Komoartok.

**Mr. Komoartok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the Premier for her response. Just recently, the Suicide Prevention Strategy was tabled in the House. In Nunavut, the educators came to Iqaluit for a conference and a resolution was passed that urged the education staff or the teachers and the Department of Education to recognize suicidal tendencies among the students and to conduct prevention measures. Does the Premier support such initiatives? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Komoartok. Premier Aariak.

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One of the most difficult issues to combat within is the suicide prevention field here in Nunavut. I believe that everyone here has been personally impacted by suicide in our lives. Additionally, this matter is being recognized as an urgent priority by agencies on a seemingly daily basis.

I was quite pleased when the strategy, which was dealt with for many months by our partners, was released. The Suicide Prevention Strategy was just recently tabled, but it was only through partnership with organizations, such as Nunavut Tunngavik, the Embrace Life Council, the RCMP, as well as several departments of the Government of Nunavut. It showed us how by working

together, we can accomplish great things. I look forward to the implementation of that strategy.

To reiterate, only by partnering with organizations and residents can the implementation of this strategy be successful. We have to work with the communities, parents, and relatives to resolve this issue, as well as to hear their points of view. We need to include the people in the communities because they can provide traditional counselling. Even though they don't have paperwork to show for it, they are tremendous supporters of people in their communities.

In the school system, the educators have been taught on this issue. To date, over 200 teachers have taken this training to be able to recognize suicidal tendencies. It is called ASIST in English. This has provided a lot of benefits which are already visible and many more teachers have requested this training. Many community residents have also requested this training. Several Members of this House have taken this training as well. This really assists a person to recognize these tendencies.

I fully support the initiatives that can provide progress for this government, especially where we can make progress through various avenues. We will place high priority on these matters as a government. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Premier. Thank you, Mr. Komoartok. Mr. Okalik would now like to ask a question.

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for being

here. Again, we have to use different examples. With the *Tamapta* Mandate, which I'm very happy about as I was involved when that was being created, we have set goals on prioritizing, including education. No matter where I sat, I have always supported and looked after the issue of education because of the issue of education and because of the importance of education.

We now hear today that the teachers are going to get salary cutbacks or rollbacks, especially the bilingual bonuses that are going to be cut, which is very shocking to me. We hear about the *Tamapta* Mandate, but we have to implement it. With the discontent of the teachers, it seems like we are going the other way around. So I would like to ask the Premier what action will be taken in regard to the teachers and their agreement. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Okalik. (interpretation ends) Madam Premier.

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank my colleague for his support of the *Tamapta* Mandate and his involvement in the process. Furthermore, my expectations are that the member will continue to be involved as we try to implement the *Tamapta* Mandate.

With respect to the issue the member mentioned, this matter is still under negotiation. Currently, with the negotiation process still underway, we cannot really speak to the issues since these items are still under negotiation.

However, one point that I want to highlight with respect to teachers is that

teachers work extremely hard. I was an educator in the past myself and have taught children at schools. I know from first-hand experience just how difficult it can be to work as a teacher. Further, I am also quite aware of the difficulties placed on teachers who have to develop their own curriculum or lessons, particularly those related to the Inuktitut curriculum. I am extremely grateful and appreciative of all teachers currently teaching in Nunavut and those who are taking courses to become teachers. I further encourage residents to take the teacher education program in the future.

However, with respect to the matter he raised which is currently at the negotiating table and with this process starting just several days ago, the issue he wants information on is still under discussion. I wanted the member to know that, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Premier. Mr. Okalik has another question.

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One of the reports which we reviewed was the Inuit employment figures within the Nunavut government. Based on the figures, the numbers of Inuit employees had drastically dropped, especially at the senior management level.

I was just recently blamed since I was questioning the capabilities of some of the senior managers in the House, but I wanted to note on the public record that I am extremely proud of my fellow Inuit who are in these positions because most of them have been promoted due to their capabilities, skills, and experience. With that being that case, I am also very



protective of these Inuit, especially when their capabilities are questioned by outsiders. I totally believe in their skills since I have also appointed Inuit in the past to these positions.

With that being the case, what actions is the government taking to increase the numbers of Inuit in the senior management level of our public service? I would like to know some of the details that have been planned to meet this need. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Madam Premier.

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the member for raising that very important question. Since I have been in this position, it has been one of our biggest challenges which I now recognize since we need capable employees everywhere.

Additionally, since we became the government, we have been faced with vacancies. It is not as if we have lost employees in droves and are suffering from a shortage. I believe that this issue has been a challenge since the inception of Nunavut and it will continue to be a priority. Furthermore, our government is working to meet this challenge, especially since this is a legislated requirement imposed by the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement whereby Inuit are to comprise a representative level within the public service.

Just to go back a bit, I have deliberated upon this issue. When it was being negotiated, they agreed to these figures. It states that the representative level of Inuit was set at 85 percent, which has to be implemented by the year 2020.

During the planning stages, what was the vision that these negotiators envisioned? At that time, the factors they faced were the high number of students dropping out of school, although this has become less of an issue lately with the increasing number of graduates. We have to return to the visioning that was used to create the plan, such as the number of graduates per annum.

If you look at the 20-year period, we can expect that there will be this number of graduates available in the workforce. We have to also include the students who do not graduate since it was quite obvious that we would have difficulty meeting this challenge and that we would have to place a high priority on this challenge. In light of our government's stated priorities, which have been voiced on numerous occasions, education is a high priority. To date, we continue to prioritize education in our territory.

We have to hire the most capable people to work in our public service. I am extremely satisfied and proud of our existing public service, our Inuit employees, and those who are in senior management positions. Their numbers are increasing slowly. We have to keep in mind that some of our very capable Inuit employees also move to other positions outside of the public service. Every individual has the freedom to choose their place of work and they can choose to get another position.

Although we want to retain all of our Inuit employees, we cannot retain them all, especially with the creation of new positions in organizations and with new business opportunities that present themselves. Many of our most capable employees have shifted over to the

private sector. Further, with the mining sector increasing, there are positions that other Inuit have taken that could have applied for our government positions. Additionally, the hamlets require capable staff at the local level, so we have lost some good people to the municipalities. There are more employment opportunities being created, so we have lost a fair number to these new positions.

However, with education being a very important priority to our government, especially schooling from kindergarten to grade 12, training on the job is important to us too. In the Sivuliqtiksat education, it identifies that they are being taught to be a leader in Nunavut. We see graduating students from there annually, which is good to see.

Arctic College is now coming up with programs that enable the students to be hired by NTI, hamlet councils, teachers; they are coming up with those programs so that they are career oriented. I was very pleased to hear that this current year, we have seen the highest number of interested students attending Arctic College. With the interest arising through training, we can increase the number of our employees.

I hear from the elders that the children, when they graduate grade 12, don't need to just stop their education there. They need to go college and university. We need to plan for them to enter the colleges and universities. I am very pleased to hear that from the elders because we need to start hiring professionals, such as teachers, nurses, and people who work in the technical areas. Further, we need to hire more Inuit in the senior management levels.

I am gratified with the many Inuit who are undertaking more courses to increase their capabilities. In conclusion, that is why education is a high priority for our government. I am also very hopeful that Inuit numbers within the public service will slowly increase. Since this government has started, as a matter of fact, the number of Inuit employees has slowly increased. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Premier. Mr. Ningeongan will now ask questions.

**Mr. Ningeongan** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wanted to raise this question first of all. I wasn't told to direct this question to some people. Madam Premier, do you also believe, irrespective of the gender of the Premier, that their ability to lead is more important than the gender of the leader of the House? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. (interpretation ends) Madam Premier.

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With respect to the member's question, I am quite pleased that he raised that matter in his question.

When I was first elected, I stated that the reason why I ran was not because I wanted to represent women. I ran simply because I felt I was capable of handling the position. I felt that I was ready personally to contend for this position. Nonetheless, when I was the minister responsible for the women's secretariat and, in particular, after the women's

conference, I saw that women were ready for more leadership positions.

I also had my eyes opened that yes, when men and women work in tandem and in balance, they can work towards the same goals. Women tend to be more focused on household issues, relationships, and social issues, although some men are also focused on these issues. On the other hand, men are more focused on hunting and outside jobs. However, both men and women place great emphasis on these issues, but we need balance in our perspective.

Also, with respect to the issue of the gender, do we need a Premier to be female? Absolutely not. No matter what gender the Premier is, they have to be capable, dedicated to their position, and committed to their duties. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Premier. Your second question, Mr. Ningeongan.

**Mr. Ningeongan** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the Premier for her response. I want to raise another question. With your position as Premier and the head of the House, you are the head of the government and you are responsible for the government's mandate. Can you provide a quick report as to how you meet all of these issues and challenges when you are in that position? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. (interpretation ends) Madam Premier.

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank

the member for that question. Ever since we were selected as ministers, we have had to work with our senior management officials on a daily basis. Further, I believe that a common understanding and communication is very important, especially when dealing with substantial matters. If our staff misunderstood or we, as ministers, did not properly convey our instructions, then it sometimes leads to different perspectives that can result in a totally different outcome than what we wanted.

I consider it very important to discuss and negotiate and to ensure that you keep the lines of communication open to ensure that you have no misunderstandings. This has to be an ongoing and daily occurrence between the deputy and the minister. In particular, part of the ongoing dialogue includes updates on the department's direction, human resource issues, as well as what has to be brought up as issues from that department. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Premier. Your third question, Mr. Ningeongan.

**Mr. Ningeongan** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the Premier for responding to that question. In thinking back to your response, I want to now ask this question with respect to your executive colleagues in cabinet. Since you are the leader of this group, would you describe your working relationship in the same manner as per your previous response with respect to communications with your officials? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. (interpretation ends) Madam Premier.

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is also the same in this case. However, there is room for movement in this aspect, as I have always believed that good communications is the backbone to a good working relationship.

With respect to the individual ministers, we also have to know what other departmental issues are, as well as what is occurring. Only in that manner can our working relationship manifest itself in a visible manner. Additionally, we have to work in partnership to meet the objectives laid out in our *Tamapta* Mandate. In order to meet the objectives, all departments have to be aware of how other departments are working towards those objectives.

I would wish to make this addition to that principle, Mr. Chairman, that as the Premier, I work closely with the ministers, especially with respect to their needs. In particular, when we are in session, I look for their opinions on issues and try to find a common ground that the majority of the Executive Council can agree to. I try to build a common ground that the majority can agree with. Once the majority of the cabinet members agree on a direction, as the Premier, I have to move that forward. That is another reason why communication is so vital to a good working relationship.

If I were to express it in English, I would say “majority decision.” That is the way I run our executive meetings. It is exactly in that same manner that good

communication entails, including discussions, debates, and visiting our colleagues at their office. Sometimes we shuffle between offices to deal with issues. The open door policy applies at all times, especially to my ministers. I keep them informed and remind them that if one of my colleagues requires my time, my office door is always open. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Premier. Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. At this time, I have no more names on my list. Ms. Ugyuk.

**Ms. Ugyuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. After the 2008 elections when you were selected as the Premier, many women in Nunavut celebrated that milestone. Women were ecstatic that we now had a female Premier and lots of women were thankful on that occasion.

When you assumed your premiership, the public was informed that Inuit would be consulted by our government on the *Qanukkanniq* GN Report Card. Many people are of the feeling that there are too many consultations but not very many decisions based on these consultations.

When the government officials were trying to consult on this *Qanukkanniq* GN Report Card, it seemed that they were in a big rush as if they were impatient. When they arrived in the community, it seemed that they only set enough time to land, set up the meeting and present their report. It seemed that they did not even want to hear the views from the community members. In some cases, they did not even note the concerns.

With this type of hurried consultation, the result was the *Tamapta* Mandate. That is what I want to ask about. What exactly comprises the *Tamapta* Mandate? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. (interpretation ends) Madam Premier.

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With respect to that issue, ever since we were elected, the *Qanukkanniq* Report Card was the biggest exercise in trying to involve Inuit with respect to government operations.

All communities were visited and we hired an independent consultant to do the visits. In different communities, we hired Inuktitut-speaking people who visited communities, held meetings, had a survey done by the website, and went on the radio. There was an ample opportunity if anybody wanted to make a comment. We gave them ample opportunity and factored in the problems like weather and so on.

We wanted to get feedback from Inuit and from the people of Nunavut on what they would like to see, especially in these three areas in regard to the Government of Nunavut: is the Government of Nunavut functioning properly, is there a way to improve the system, and what is redundant in the Government of Nunavut. Those were the main areas.

The report that came back was very thick with the comments we got from the people. A lot of them were thankful that they were given an opportunity to be asked about what they think of the

Nunavut government. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Premier. Your second question, Ms. Ugyuk.

**Ms. Ugyuk** (interpretation): What the Premier stated has been touching up on the issue of devolution and that there are negotiations with the federal government. Are there other issues that you are in dialogue with the federal government? I would like to hear about dialogues that you have with the federal government, either three or four examples other than devolution. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. (interpretation ends) Madam Premier.

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for asking that question. Devolution is very important and we are working on other issues with the federal government, especially when something comes up that has to be discussed between our government and the federal government. For example, we had to make sure that the federal government knew where we stood on the issue of housing. I also try to educate the federal government on Nunavut and its issues, especially training and skills development.

I talk to the federal government occasionally and when I go down to Ottawa, I usually schedule meetings with federal ministers, depending on their availability. Open communication is very important to me, especially with the federal government and in particular,

with our Nunavut MP, Leona. I communicate with her on a monthly basis and if I were to state it in English, “regularly.” We usually call her and I am appreciative of the fact that the federal government officials are always receptive. They always maintain that if I want to speak to them on issues, they are only a phone call away.

We also correspond because the federal government is involved. That also includes open communication with the land claims organizations to keep them abreast on what this government is doing. So there has to be an exchange of information, especially with this government. On a continual basis, we meet with the Nunavut Tunngavik president and the Department of EIA officials also have monthly meetings with NTI staff. Again, on the same basis, the staff at the Department of EIA is in continuous contact with their federal government counterparts, particularly when they need more information on certain issues.

I hope I responded adequately to her question. If I did not respond properly, she can request clarification. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Your third question, Ms. Ugyuk.

**Ms. Ugyuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As we were informed that we can only ask five questions to the Premier, I do not like to revisit these issues given our limited number of questions.

My third question that I want to raise is in respect to the Inuit organizations and their development corporations that want

to develop infrastructure, such as highways to Nunavut and ports to offload ships. There have been several proposals to date. With respect to infrastructure project proposals, if you were to look at it in today’s fiscal environment, where are these projects now in terms of the government? That is my question to the Premier. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Madam Premier.

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Thank you. After the ministers’ meeting which I believe was last month, we focused on the *Tamapta* Mandate and the need and importance for this government to work on infrastructure issues, such as wharfs, ports, breakwaters, highways or roads, airports, which are very important to our Nunavut communities.

I think it has been a few months that the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation showed us and the City of Iqaluit the architectural drawing of the Iqaluit terminal building. It is very busy on any given day in the week. That is especially important, as well as other large infrastructure like docks which can be economically beneficial to the people of Nunavut. In the area of fisheries, the ships or the fishing vessels fish in Nunavut and because we don’t have docks or ports, they go to Greenland to offload.

As a government alone, because of financial restraints, we cannot build all of those items. Of course, there is a ceiling or a cap to the amount of money we have. Under the renewed or refined direction, we found it was very important to work with other organizations, especially privately

owned companies, for-profit companies, the federal government, and private-public partnerships where the government works with private organizations to build large projects.

We are looking at the shrinking dollars and the cap, which is way too low for the amount we needed. So we have to be open to the private sector out there to help us build large facilities in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Premier. Your fourth question, Ms. Ugyuk.

**Ms. Ugyuk** (interpretation): Yes, I would like to ask my fourth question on this subject. During this summer's *Arnait Nipingit* summit on leadership, what recommendations came out of that meeting? What about the Qullit Status of Women Council? Are they shared recommendations with respect to leadership? Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. (interpretation ends) Madam Premier.

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Since that time I made a presentation to the delegation of the *Arnait Nipingit* summit, it was quite evident that there was a shared sense of pride amongst the delegates. I believe that you also witnessed this when you attended that meeting as a delegate. My colleague was one of the invited delegates and she attended that meeting. They knew that they had the opportunity.

Women from different communities in Nunavut and from outside of Nunavut

like Labrador, Northern Quebec, and federal government representatives were here to attend the summit. Leona Aglukkaq was also there, who is our federal representative. There were women from all jurisdictions and countries attending that meeting.

One of the most important issues under discussion was with respect to women in leadership roles. Women are always in leadership roles at home and very competent at it. There are women in leadership roles in their communities, and then over and above that, that was one of the most important findings at that meeting.

One delegate stated that she was too intimidated or not confident enough to take on a leadership role. However, at that summit, with all of the presentations and further encouragement from their fellow delegates, with stories from other women in leadership roles explaining their experiences and discussions about what they wanted to see in their communities and in Nunavut, and with consensus on these types of leadership roles, it really encouraged women to go for these positions. Women attending this meeting felt they were more confident to take on leadership roles. Some of them said that when they go back to their communities, they will take on new initiatives. We look forward to the next general election where we will hopefully see more women elected to the seats.

They also showcased arts and crafts made by women, exchanging of ideas, and networking. So it was very helpful in those areas during the *Arnait Nipingit* summit. They are being proud of being an Inuk, being a woman, and being able

to flense skins. Sewing was showcased and some of them even tried flensing sealskins for the first time, which gave them more confidence in taking on additional roles. They would like to see more of these types of summits held in Nunavut.

Mr. Chairman, once available, I will table the *Arnait Nipingit* summit report. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Premier. Your last question, Ms. Ugyuk.

**Ms. Ugyuk** (interpretation): My fifth question: when I first sat in the House the spring, one issue that I tried to speak to was the Akitsiraq Law Program. Unfortunately the funding wasn't approved. This was going to be the second program geared to training the next generation of lawyers for Nunavut.

My question is: why wasn't the funding for the Akitsiraq Law Program approved? We all saw the benefits. It's an opportunity for the Inuit to move to professional levels. What we heard was that the federal government did not approve the funding for this program. My question is: why is the Nunavut government not funding this program? Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. (interpretation ends) Madam Premier.

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's quite obvious, as I stated earlier, when I was speaking about women and the fact that they are building up their pride. A lot of the graduates of the Akitsiraq Law Program were women. It has enhanced

their careers and their lives. It provided a tremendous benefit to these graduates. This was a high priority for the government.

Sometimes, as a government, we have to deal with very challenging and complex issues, and we have to make very hard decisions. This was one of those very hard decisions that we had to face. Our government does identify that education is a high priority and this caused a lot of angst when we were deliberating on this matter, particularly my colleague, the Minister of Finance. We had a hard time dealing with this because we knew that education was a priority.

However, the first Akitsiraq Law Program was only a success because many departments submitted standalone funding. It was more standalone at that point. However, after the next election, we basically walked into a crash that had far-reaching repercussions, especially when looking at finances. We had to carefully review all priorities identified in *Tamapta* in light of the fact that funding was becoming an issue.

Our current Nunavut government is very focused on the youth, when they start kindergarten up to grade 12, because this is very important for the government operations. As we all know, students in kindergarten to grade 12 can go to the Akitsiraq Law Program or to any university of their choice. We want Inuit to choose furthering their careers anywhere.

We have to ensure that our students have a very solid educational foundation, especially if we want to see them continue their education so they can become legislators, lawyers, doctors, and



other professionals that require extensive education in order to commit to a career. Furthermore, we have not forgotten that it is a priority of the Nunavut government.

My fellow Premiers from the NWT and the Yukon have dealt with these issues because we have no universities anywhere in the three northern territories. We are discussing and negotiating this matter. My departmental officials and senior management officials from the Nunavut Arctic College as well as the Department of Education are still negotiating on how to best move forward on the idea of a university for the North.

A lot of the programs and services currently available in the Nunavut Arctic College are good stepping stones to move towards often better programs in the future, such as the Nursing Program. We have started to create accounting programs and we have the teacher education program in the Nunavut Arctic College. These are our foundation to try and grow the number of programs and educational courses we offer. We know for a fact that this is not the end but rather just the beginning. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. The next member on my list is Mr. Elliott.

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to ask an additional question to what the hon. member from Baker Lake had asked. He had asked the Premier about her top three priorities and she provided an answer. She had mentioned about the cabinet's new direction until 2013. I believe one of the key features that were expressed in that was the idea

of community freezers and I haven't heard her mention that. I was wondering if she could expand on the idea of community freezers for all of Nunavut and when we can expect to see those coming. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Madam Premier.

**Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation):** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This issue has been brought up by people very proudly because it is part of our anti-poverty strategy. Currently many communities have community freezers, but they are outdated and are very old. They recognize the fact that the community freezers are old and when they are old, they use a lot of electricity.

Within our plan, we are now working on the refined direction plan and once everything has been written down, you will be provided with that information regularly. I will keep you posted on the progression of the community freezers. In looking at that, we have to work with third parties and this was discussed. I believe and expect that we will continue our negotiations in this regard. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Madam Premier. Your second question, Mr. Elliott.

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My understanding is that part of what we are doing with the leadership review is just to get an idea of where we have gone for the past two years and where we are looking to go over the next two years.

In terms of the *Child and Family Services Act*, which is being reviewed

right now, the Premier had committed to and spoke in her opening comments about the child and youth representative and how that will happen in 2013. I'm just wondering if the Premier could sort of outline in terms of how that will happen in the life of this Legislative Assembly. Is the Premier looking at going the full five-year term to be able to get these pieces of legislation and offices established?

When I do the math, we are in [2010-11] and then there is 2011-12 and then there is 2012-13. That is three more years that we will have been in our positions for a five-year term. Is that the direction that cabinet and the Premier is going? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Madam Premier.

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am very proud of the Department of Health and Social Services attempts to consult with the people of Nunavut with respect to the *Child and Family Services Act*. It is very important because it contains a lot of programs and services for social issues, and it deals with many matters that are close to the hearts of Inuit and their homes.

I am also quite satisfied and proud of this department since they are using various media to canvass Nunavummiut. They are using meetings, electronic surveys, email questionnaires, written surveys, and through all avenues, such as interviews on the telephone. This is very important because it may have a tremendous impact on the lives of Nunavummiut.

Sometimes we have been subjected to legislation in the past with a real impact on our lives that really have no purpose or to restate it, legislation that is alien to Inuit. When legislation has that impact on our lives and it is alien to our people, this government does not want to establish legislation for the sake of passing laws. We wish to enact legislation that is specific to the Inuit and residents of Nunavut, to northerners' customs and practices. We also must keep in consideration the language of the majority as well as their culture. This is extremely important to our government.

The Department of Health and Social Services is now looking at the *Child and Family Services Act* and it contains exactly those types of issues I mentioned. Additionally, with respect to her question about the child and youth representative, it forms part of this process. I envision that this legislation impacts the lives of Nunavummiut and in this case, the legislation will impact our children when we are implementing the *Child and Family Services Act*.

Therefore, due to the impacts, we want to consult with the residents of Nunavut as to what they want to see in the legislation. We can completely eviscerate the issues contained in this legislation. By first consulting our residents about their concerns and after implementing these changes, we can determine what the role of the child and youth representative will be under the *Child and Family Services Act*. I want to also note that this is an issue that my colleague totally concurs with, that we have to continue to consult on issues that impact the lives of Nunavummiut.

I have been deliberating up to today as to how we can best make progress on this issue so that we do not make our residents await this decision. However, it is also important to have a proper plan and to incorporate the recommendations expressed by our residents respecting this position of the child and youth representative as it is laid out in the legislation. Further, I want it understood that this position would not be within the public service but will be an arm's-length position from the government.

We also need to allocate the resources, such as funding, office space, and so on, in a proper manner. That is why we have not created this position immediately. We have to be well prepared ahead of time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Your third question, Mr. Elliott.

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One of the criticisms I have heard from constituents in regard to the Premier's style of leadership is that it seems the Premier is not forceful enough in making decisions.

In discussions with constituents, this was shown when the first \$50 million of the Nunavut Housing Trust over-commitment was announced, where a lot of constituents felt that perhaps, and this would be a judgment call on the constituents' behalf, that the minister of the day should have been removed from the portfolio and the Premier should have taken on the responsibility of the portfolio at that time. Could the Premier explain her leadership style in the handling of decisions such as this? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Madam Premier.

**Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation):** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With respect to his assessment of my leadership style as not being forceful enough, which is perhaps what the member insinuated, I would coin my leadership style as having a very strong and solid foundation. Here is what I believe are my strengths: as a leader, when a problem arises, I will not deal with it arbitrarily. I have to deliberate with my cabinet members because they give me strength. We constantly believe that one Inuk has the power, but many people have strengths when they work together and they can generate more power that way.

As a leader, my most important issue is to include all cabinet members. When we first heard about the \$50 million shortfall, we held a special emergency meeting at the cabinet level to discuss this matter. I would also like to thank them for providing assistance and support within the discussions. Within our plan, this is where our position is, so let us start moving. They discussed this matter in that way, especially the Minister of Finance.

I probably lost sleep over this and I am sure cabinet members, when they first heard that, lost sleep over this because it is very important. We worked together on this and made the plans. To date, we are still working together and making plans. If we do not give proper consideration to the issues being raised, such as forensic audits and other audits, and if we worked on them without having well prepared plans, then we would be rushing around. We wanted to

have it well planned. To date, this is not completed yet.

There are many more questions being posed by the members because of the Nunavut Housing Corporation's shortfall. I am very pleased that they are able to ask that many questions because we are very concerned about it and I believe that you are concerned about it because it is an issue of concern. We have to work hard to deal with that to make sure we don't see this occur again in the future. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Premier. At this time, it is almost lunch. We have to go home for lunch today, so we will break for lunch and resume at one o'clock.

*>>Meeting recessed at 11:54 and resumed at 13:04*

**Chairman:** Thank you. We have quorum now. We had Premier on the hot seat and Mr. Elliott asking questions. We will continue. Your fourth question, Mr. Elliott.

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Before lunch, when the Premier was answering some of the questions, she talked about working together and the open communication within cabinet and also open communication within the departments.

I know in the past during oral question period, I would ask questions both to the Minister responsible for Human Resources and the Premier about how freely employees within the government can speak their mind without fear of retribution. I guess I would believe in speaking in the House that the Premier

believes this and is passing this on, but somewhere within the bureaucracy, that's being overlooked.

The reason I say that is because I've had frontline workers come to me, and I won't mention the departments, being told by their supervisors and directors not to speak to me about issues relating to their department. I'm just wondering what the Premier would do to rectify this situation in terms of having employees scared to speak to their elected officials within their community, even about constituency issues. How she would go about rectifying that, like she said, not from the top down but... . Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Madam Premier.

**Hon. Eva Aariak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think it's very important for everybody to know that we are trying to eliminate the atmosphere of fear, so to speak. It is important for our own employees to be satisfied in their workplace. We try to offer training programs and other incentives to keep them on because I think it's very important for our employees to be enticed to be working for the government. If they are not happy with certain issues, then I would strongly suggest that they speak to their supervisor and then take it from there.

Of course, the ministers here fully understand the importance of addressing something that needs to be fixed within the system. (interpretation) Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Premier. Your fifth and final question, Mr. Elliott.

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My next question is in regard to the issue of seismic testing that happened this summer and the court injunction that ensued with the Qikiqtani Inuit Association getting involved. Another issue that Mr. Okalik has brought up was the idea of the teachers' negotiations going through the court system to have decisions within the court to force the government to act on certain issues. In terms of the Inuit associations, what type of activities will the Premier do to sort of build on, possibly, the relationship or the partnership that has kind of been deteriorated over these types of activities? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Madam Premier.

**Hon. Eva Aariak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think the relationships between Inuit organizations and the Nunavut government are pretty strong and increasing to be so.

The GN acted in compliance with the provisions set out in the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement. This project was vetted through the Nunavut Impact Review Board under the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement. If I may reiterate, this process is co-managed by Inuit. NTI has four members within the Nunavut Impact Review Board, there are two members from the Government of Canada, and there are two members from the Government of Nunavut. So, obviously, we have to be cognizant of the decisions that are made by Inuit organizations.

It's important to help the public understand where we are coming from

and how the process came. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman (interpretation):** Thank you, Premier. The next member who would like to ask questions is Mr. Okalik. Your third question, Mr. Okalik.

**Mr. Okalik (interpretation):** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have started to see different kinds of consultants coming from the south. Looking at last year's figures, it outlines who were awarded contracts by the Nunavut government. On one of the pages, there is approximately \$2 million that were awarded to consultants coming in from the south that were paid for by the government.

Our government tells us how we are short of money. Yet, there are a lot of services and programs that Nunavummiut demand that the government cannot bring forward, such as the Akitsiraq Law Program that my colleague asked earlier. Even the Akitsiraq program would cost less than \$1 million annually and we would have more than 20 students in the Akitsiraq program.

My question is: what is the Premier's plan on decreasing the number of southern consultants coming up here doing contract work for the Nunavut government? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman (interpretation):** Thank you, Mr. Okalik. (interpretation ends) Madam Premier.

**Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation):** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When I first came into the government, I looked at how much was being contracted out by

the Nunavut government. I still see the need to use southern consultants because we don't have very many staff.

We especially award contracts to southern firms when there is no company up here nor the staff that can do the work required. I still look forward to seeing training being developed so that we can decrease the amount of southern contractors we hire as the government. If we look at the contracting services, we wanted to get arm's-length consulting firms to work for us so that their opinion would be unbiased.

Our employees are increasing in numbers and looking at the number of graduates, there are still potential employees out there, but we still need more. We hire consultants for a short-term basis. We are looking at decreasing the number of consultants but, at times, we have no other alternatives except to hire southern contractors. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Premier. Your fourth question, Mr. Okalik.

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We do see different activities going on, especially this year, some of the people of Nunavut went through very challenging times. We have seen murders and other social dysfunctions in our communities.

We want to provide support to the Nunavut communities, not only in the immediate day but we have to a long-term plan to make changes in our society. There are communities that are going through very challenging times. I

think it's up to this government to look at how the communities can become stronger and more self-sufficient. We have to look at those issues and see what we can do to help that become a reality in our communities. That is my question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Okalik. Premier Aariak.

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is a very excellent question and I thank the member for posing it. In regard to social issues, it is very important to our communities and to our people. Looking at suicides, criminal activities and other dysfunctions that break up a family, we have to do a lot of things to fix these. I am very pleased that the Department of Health and Social Services is looking at the *Child and Family Services Act* because it affects it in some ways.

We have programs within the Nunavut government, for example, and there are some in the planning stages. The government is working on the poverty reduction plan, suicide prevention, and other social problems. I know that if we can decrease the amount of social problems, it will be obvious that the government is doing something about it and is effective.

The member also stated that the communities have to strengthen themselves and I believe in that. For social issues in the communities, we know that there are a lot of people who work on a volunteer basis and I hear about the men's healing circles that are working on their social issues. There are auxiliary women's organizations that are working on social issues to become

better and stronger. Through the Arctic College, there are also training programs on psychology and other social-related programs available.

We are seeing an increase in the number of students through education and training and through the communities taking their own initiatives. Those are avenues that we can work on because the communities are very strong once they work together. We have seen that if communities take the initiative and if they feel strong enough about an issue, they will work on it and we have to realize that. We have to get them the support they need as a government through our programs and through lobbying the educational institutions to have more programs such as that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Premier. Your fifth and final question, Mr. Okalik.

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) During the last Assembly, I had submitted a legislative proposal to introduce whistle-blower legislation to protect those employees that may experience or witness wrongdoing within the government or in its agencies, and unfortunately it died with the government.

I am hoping that during this session, we can introduce legislation to protect those who may witness unfortunate incidents within our government and be protected by legislation. I ask the government again: will this government consider whistle-blower legislation and pass it during the remainder of our term?

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman**: Thank you, Mr. Okalik. Madam Premier.

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Whistle-blower legislation is very important because I used to be a government employee with the human resources department. That department used to get complaints about work-related issues.

If you can recall, last year, the women's organization was thinking about setting up a complaint department. We have an opportunity, especially through the *Public Service Act*, to protect people who witness unfortunate incidents. It's already in place. It's already under the *Public Service Act*. Maybe what we should do is make sure that piece of legislation is known by employees. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Premier. Mr. Ningark will now be asking his third question.

**Mr. Ningark** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The third question I would like to ask the Premier, and it is up to her whether to answer it or not, if she could say yes, no, or maybe to my question. You stated that you are working with the cabinet members even though you are spearheading the cabinet members. Under your leadership, how do you work closely with the cabinet? For example, do they tell you if you should be lobbying more, if you should be more vocal, or if you should be more aggressive in doing your roles and responsibilities? I'll leave it at her

discretion to respond. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningark. (interpretation ends) Madam Premier.

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want very much to respond to your question because it's very important to me. I have been told by some of my ministerial colleagues on how I can improve because we have to work together. As the Premier especially and looking at the responsibilities, you don't see the whole picture. Due to that, I look forward and I want to keep going about the ministers telling me how to make improvements, and that may be more vocal after the leadership review to me and to their colleagues. I support that, and I want to see it keep going. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Premier. Your fourth question, Mr. Ningark.

**Mr. Ningark** (interpretation): My fourth question, Mr. Chairman, is I would like to know what the Premier thinks about the Premier being selected by their peers and the ministers being selected by their peers. Do you think it would be better if we elected a Premier from out there and the Premier was able to select his or her own cabinet? Have you ever considered this during your term? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningark. (interpretation ends) Madam Premier.

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for asking that question. I think this is not the first time that this issue has been brought up and it's very interesting. We have to look at various options, different options, and we also look at the number of cabinet members, if that's a good number or if we need more. Those would be good questions to ask during the Electoral Boundaries Commission tour. It is something that would be best if it was considered by the people of Nunavut. Thank you.

**Chairman**: Thank you. I have no more names on my list. (interpretation) I think we have concluded with the Premier. Do you agree?

**Some Members**: Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Thank you very much, Premier. We will then move on to the ministers. I will call on the Hon. Tagak Curley to deliver his statements and I remind the minister that you have up to 10 minutes to deliver your statement. Once that is concluded, I will give the regular members an opportunity to ask questions to Mr. Curley.

### **Ministers' Opening Statements**

**Hon. Tagak Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased that we have come to this point.

First of all, I would like to thank the Premier and my colleagues for entrusting me with the portfolio of Health and Social Services. My colleagues selected me to become a member of the cabinet and I would like to thank them. I especially would like to



thank the people of Nunavut and the people of Rankin Inlet, who are listening to the proceedings. I received a call earlier saying that they are listening to the proceedings.

I will briefly summarize what we have done within our cabinet. Yes, we debate the matters amongst ourselves within the cabinet and we do not always agree with each other. I am very proud of my colleagues for the way they are forthright and fearless in our work together, and I wanted you to know that.

When I took on the ministerial duties and despite the fact that the department is quite difficult to take on, I am very pleased to have taken on this portfolio in January 2009, which at the time we had to wait for the election of John Ningark in the by-election. Since his arrival in the House, I was very proud of my staff under our department. I would also like to thank my Deputy Minister, Alex Campbell, because he has a very difficult task to work on. One of the reasons why it made it more difficult is because some of our positions were vacant for a long time.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to say, first of all, and we can say that no matter how well educated we are, whether we are hunters or a family living at home, we all do get sick. For that reason, no matter what culture we live in, whether we are Inuit or non-Inuit, we provide these programs and services to the public. They have to be open to everyone.

In regard to finances, Mr. Chairman, it is often a tough issue and which my colleagues know. I thank them for making the necessary approvals on behalf of Nunavutmiut. No matter where

you are in the world, including North America and not just in Nunavut, we are all having difficulties trying to budget for health programs. Even in all Canadian provinces, they are experiencing difficulty in paying for their health services.

Mr. Chairman, I can tell you that we have initiated programs that can be envisioned by the people of Nunavut so that they can be assisted or be treated in Nunavut because we receive funding from the federal government and the public health agencies provide support for our services.

Let us remember that we should take care of ourselves so that we can live a healthier life and that way, there will be fewer ailments. It translates in English, (interpretation ends) promoting wellness and preventing illness. (interpretation) Although it is going to take a while to implement this, we will not stop working on it.

Mr. Chairman, just last year, I wanted to make a comment in regard to this issue because we faced difficult issues when the H1N1 sickness came. We dealt with that illness for six months, especially the people who work under the health department in the communities, but, Mr. Chairman, in spite of that, we overcame the sickness and I would like to thank the people of Nunavut for being patient.

I would like to touch up on a few issues because many people have asked many questions in regard to the *Child and Family Services Act* that needs to be amended and updated. It places too much authority with the government and changes are necessary. It has been delayed by approximately three months,

partly due to bad weather when travelling into the communities, but we will catch up. Prior to the term being completed, we would like to table that legislation, and we will provide it to you and ask you for support on the *Child and Family Services Act* review.

In regard to the Public Health Strategy, I would like to thank my colleague, Mr. Ron Elliott, for bringing this up. Leona Aglukkaq was the minister back in 2007 when she initiated the Public Health Strategy. Quite a few communities were under community wellness programs. For example, if we all quit smoking in Nunavut, it would be very positive and we are working on some programs such as that.

Mr. Chairman, one thing that I am very proud to talk about, and I know that someone is going to ask a question, is nurses. Our department has set up the Nursing Recruitment and Retention Strategy. We opened the door to request for nurses and we made their pay scales more consistent, and we helped develop further on this. Inuit have gone through the Nursing Program and have graduated.

We still have a lot to do, Mr. Chairman. We are now working on the terms of references for health committees in the communities and will not stop working on that. We are still going to continue our work on how we can work closely with the municipalities.

In regard to boarding homes for out-of-territory patient services in Yellowknife, Ottawa, Edmonton, and patient homes, there is one in Rankin Inlet and we need to consider at least Cambridge Bay if we are able to get some funding from the

federal government, and we won't stop working on that.

Lastly, the issue I want to bring up and one that we worked hard on is in regard to the Suicide Prevention Strategy. Many people worked on that and cabinet approved the strategy so that that funding can be provided. The people in the communities who deliver healing programs need to provide support and assistance to young people so that young people will not just be depressed. Those strategies need to reach into the homes of our people.

Mr. Chairman, one thing that I am very proud of too is the Midwifery Program which started in Rankin Inlet. We have Inuit midwife programs that have reached all the way to Cambridge Bay. That program will reach more communities, although we will not likely reach all communities, and we will keep pushing that.

Mr. Chairman, I can talk about a lot of issues, but since I'm running out of time, I would like to thank my colleagues.

When I took on the portfolio of the Nunavut Housing Corporation, which everyone is concerned about, I can tell you briefly that we're working on it and we're going to improve it. I believe that no matter who is going to take on that portfolio, we need to have a solid foundation for that department.

I'll conclude with that, and I thank the people of Nunavut when we go out visiting to the communities and I thank them for their good reception. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>>Applause

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. I would like to recognize Hon. Lorne Kusugak. I remind the members that you have 10 minutes to deliver your statement. Mr. Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to make my statement. I would also like to thank my colleagues for selecting me into the cabinet, and I promised that I would work to the best of my ability and contribute towards Nunavut moving forward.

We had many issues to deal with within the Government of Nunavut. One thing that we need to remember is that one individual, no matter who it is, has no strength to make a decision on his or her own. We have to work as a unified group under consensus government. Whether it is one individual or two individuals, they cannot make a decision to move that school into that community or to move this community hall into that community. The majority of the members here at the legislature always make the decisions.

Sometimes people forget that we work very closely together under the consensus government. We agree amongst each other, and there are regular members and cabinet members that say that... as if we're opposition. The way I view it is it's not that way. I don't see it as our opposition when you are a regular member because we work closely together and we have accomplished huge issues together by working together, even though we can never agree with each other.

Likewise with the regular members and cabinet members, we can never agree

with each other, but we have to work together and we can accomplish a lot by working together. In view of that, when we have to make decisions on huge infrastructure, it's very difficult to agree with each other.

As a Minister of Community and Government Services, one of my important priorities is to make sure that the municipalities have the proper equipment and tools so that the community can function properly. We rely on the regular members to help us to make those decisions.

Before I took on the portfolio of Community and Government Services, I worked as a mayor, along with some members sitting here who have also been mayors of their communities. We worked hard and we work together when the municipality meets together and try to change the mind of the government so that we can fulfill the hamlet councils' priorities. As a minister, now I see the questions that we used to pose. It wakes you up and makes you realize where the problem areas were or where the stumbling blocks were to learn all of these things.

By looking at everything, you can move forward, but everything is not that easy. We have to make difficult decisions. Sometimes when we say something, other people misunderstand it and make those things very heavy issues. When we have financial constraints, even though we want to provide funding to the municipalities, we have to provide funding to their health and education. They all want the funding for their programs and services. Even though we say yes, it's impossible to provide the

entire funding. The decisions are not always easy.

As the minister for this department, I believe our department is moving forward because we have done infrastructure surveys within the communities. Once we get the results, we will have a better idea on what needs to be changed because this is going to be very helpful for the hamlets in the future when they plan for it.

I have lobbied my cabinet colleagues to make sure that the hamlet councils receive proper funding for snow removal and heavy equipment so that the municipalities can purchase their own heavy equipment, even though that was not the usual practice in the past. If we need to increase, yes, and if we need that amended, yes. At least the communities can purchase their heavy equipment on their own. I believe that's a good goal.

One of my goals for buildings that are underused... and my colleagues hear from the athletes who play hockey complaining about the lack of ice forming in the arenas. Sometimes they only use the arena for one month even though they are very expensive to build. Last summer, there were three communities that were given equipment to make artificial ice. There are four now. After two years, there will be more communities receiving artificial ice surfacing equipment. I would like to see that continue to the communities.

(interpretation ends) As a Member of the Executive Council, one of my main preoccupations has been to try and bring some semblance of order to the many areas that our department covers. We have very many good employees.

However, they need to know exactly what is required of them in order to succeed. They often face pressures directly as a result of some of our decisions, and I think it is important to help them understand why certain decisions are made. I try to ensure that this information is passed down through my senior staff.

I think you will agree that you may continue to hear a lot about various studies going on through CGS. Areas, such as utilidor replacement, waste management, granular, and on, and on, and on, and on, that factors that too many times action is taken without knowing all of the needs of or preparing for all of the costs, then we end up with a patchwork of programs and an inefficient use of resources, which we are unable to sustain. While I have been frustrated at times with these studies, just like you, I have come to realize that when done properly, we all benefit.

We need to think longer term, we need to plan well, and then we can benefit from sustainable programming. I believe that we are now beginning to fully recognize all of this and are moving in the right direction. This will benefit Nunavummiut in the future and not just address current needs.

Current needs are always important and when trying to address these, I encourage staff at CGS, Energy, and now Qulliq Energy Corporation to think outside the box. Tried and true methods are obviously good. However, it doesn't hurt to explore whether there is a better way. As I continue to discuss issues with the staff within my portfolios, I always tend to discuss alternate points of view

or methods and intend to continue encouraging this.

At this point in time, I would also like to think that I have been responsive to your requests as well. I know how important it is to provide information to members in response to community concerns. Unfortunately, not all responses could be positive. There are tough choices at times.

(interpretation) I want to work really hard on behalf of Nunavummiut to assist them because that is what I promised when I was elected. Before I finish, I would especially like to thank my constituents of Whale Cove and Rankin Inlet. I want to be able to visit them more often and they know that we work hard on their behalf.

Lastly, my two daughters are in living in Rankin Inlet and I hardly see them or my grandchild. I would like to thank them greatly because they have a clear understanding that I am here for the benefit of Nunavummiut.

Thank you, and if there are any questions, I will try my best to answer. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>> *Applause*

**Chairman:** Thank you. I will now call on Minister Peterson to deliver his statement. You have 10 minutes to deliver your statement, Hon. Keith Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just before I begin, I would like to thank Premier Aariak for giving me the confidence to be the Minister of Justice and the Minister of Finance.

Mr. Chairman, I want to thank all of my colleagues for this opportunity to be here today. I was honoured when you selected me. As a Member of the Executive Council, I am thankful to share some experiences from the last two years. I am sure that we all agree that this is an important process for a consensus government. In fact, I have experienced both sides now because I was on that side in the Second Assembly, so I get the benefits of your experience on this side.

Mr. Chairman, when I became a minister, I knew it required hard work and long hours, and that would mean more time away from my family and my constituency of Cambridge Bay. I also recognized that I would be accepting the duty to represent Nunavummiut across all regions and to make tough decisions on their behalf. I didn't realize how tough those decisions would be until I went to a Christmas party here in December 2008 and the people who organized the Christmas party gave me a set of all-purpose business cards to help me make my decisions. The cards were like little business cards that said, "No," "Maybe," "I'll think about it," "Never." I couldn't find one card that said, "Yes." That gave me a pretty good hint of what was coming.

Mr. Chairman, I can still recall that one of my first duties as the Minister of Finance was to attend the finance ministers' meeting in Saskatoon in December 2008. I recall the mood was very gloomy; I have never been to a gloomier meeting. The global economy was in its worst shape since the Great Depression. By the end of the meeting, however, all of Canada's finance ministers had unanimously agreed to put

aside their differences and work together to find solutions, and I am thankful that we did.

We are starting to see increased investment across our country and a more stable economy, and we are still working together, Mr. Chairman. We recognize that health care costs are escalating across Canada, and my experience for two months of Minister Curley's portfolio of Health has given me a great insight into the challenges facing the health department.

This year, in particular, has been a difficult one for our government. We had to address \$60 million in over-expenditures from the Nunavut Housing Trust. I've had many sleepless nights since the first phone call I got early April from my colleague, Mr. Tootoo, early this year. Working together, however, Mr. Chairman, we approved a four-point fiscal action plan to address the shortfall. Our plan required prudence and sacrifice on behalf of all of my colleagues in cabinet and their departments. I was very heartened by the effort to pull together to address that issue.

Today, we have another challenge caused by the shortfall within the Affordable Housing Initiative of up to \$50 million. My colleague, again, Minister Curley, who's got that portfolio, and I are working very hard on finalizing a delivery strategy and implantation plan to complete the housing units. We recognize, all of us here, I think everybody understands that building houses for people across Nunavut is our top priority. We have so many people on a waiting list for houses. This plan may have implications on our main estimates and our capital plan this

winter. In the winter session, I will bring forward our fiscal plan to tackle this challenge. We are learning from what has occurred, I can assure you of that, and I am confident that the future mega-scale housing projects will be better managed and delivered in Nunavut.

Basically we are facing many challenges, but we are also making significant progress. Our finance department is working to strengthen financial management across government. The Auditor General and the standing committee have made their recommendations and we take them seriously. We are moving forward and this year, we are on track to table the public accounts during the winter sitting.

Mr. Chairman, the Minister's Task Force on the Review of the *Liquor Act* is visiting all communities in Nunavut. I am very pleased to acknowledge two colleagues on the other side of the House for their participation in that important task force. They began their work earlier this year and their visits to two communities have been well received. I am hoping that I'll see the task force in Cambridge Bay later this month.

Nunavummiut are eager to share their thoughts and their concerns on this important review. I am looking forward to their report and recommendations next year. I think we can all agree that alcohol is hurting our communities and is the root of a lot of our violence. I'm working with Mr. Schell to help his community overcome their recent tragedies.

As Minister of Justice, I focus a significant amount of time working towards strengthening our territorial

justice system. Corrections, community justice programs, policing, and legal aid are all pivotal to the future success of our territory. Last June, we opened a women's healing facility here in Iqaluit. This facility helps alleviate some of the overcrowding issues at the Baffin Correctional Centre and provides specialized rehabilitation programs for our female offenders. The Rankin Inlet Men's Healing Centre is on schedule to open next fall and will help alleviate overcrowding at the Baffin Correctional Centre and provide rehabilitation programs to offenders closer to home. We are also working very hard to encourage outpost camp operators to contact us to enable better access to our on-the-land programs, which we feel are very important to the communities.

Mr. Chairman, the RCMP recognizes the need for a more representational police force. We have heard this for many years at the Nunavut Association of Municipalities from all of the mayors and from MLAs and ministers. Some plans are in place and a number of beneficiaries will soon commence training at depot in Regina, Saskatchewan later this month in order to become RCMP Inuit Special Constables. We are shooting for five recruits. The RCMP have also extended their posting time from two to four years so that members can better integrate into our communities and get to know the people better.

I think we can take a moment to reflect and appreciate the tremendous responsibilities that the RCMP have in our communities and making them safe for people to live their lives.

The Department of Justice and the RCMP recently worked with six communities on a pilot crime prevention and reduction planning initiative. Action plans for each community were developed with input by community members, with town hall meetings, meetings with hamlet councils, and other individuals. The action plans have been submitted back to the communities and the department and the RCMP will work closely with the communities to implement and monitor these plans. We're hopeful that they will be successful and we can implement what we learned from those action plans in those communities and other communities in Nunavut.

In closing, Mr. Chairman, I want to acknowledge all of my employees for their hard work and dedicated services. It's been a long, hard, tough two years in many fronts. Without the advice, hard work, experience, knowledge, and support of all our employees, any minister will tell you that we wouldn't be able to deliver all of the programs and services to Nunavummiut that we have, so I would like to acknowledge their significant contributions. They make the ministers look good, they make the entire government and they make all of us look good when they deliver our programs.

Mr. Chairman, as ministers and MLAs in civil service, we will continue to face many challenges and opportunities ahead as we strive to make Nunavut a safer and better place to live for all of us. This House, all of us, MLAs and ministers need to work together on realistic and practical solutions in order to obtain our overall long-term stability as we outline in our *Tamapta* plan of last October.

With that, Mr. Chairman, I'll conclude my comments. I'll be pleased to take questions at the appropriate time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>>Applause

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister. I'll now call on Minister Shewchuk to deliver his statement. You have up to 10 minutes to deliver your statement. Hon. Daniel Shewchuk.

**Hon. Daniel Shewchuk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Madam Premier, Members of the Legislative Assembly, fellow cabinet ministers, ladies and gentlemen, and the constituents of Arviat, I am extremely pleased to be here today to address the Premier and my colleagues and tell you a bit of some of the achievements that I have been able to accomplish with the support of all of you the last two years.

Firstly, Mr. Chairman, I must thank my constituency, the people of Arviat, for electing me to represent them. I have been thrilled ever since the day I was elected, realizing the trust and the confidence they have placed in me to be our community's representative and the one responsible for our community and the Government of Nunavut.

Secondly, I would like to thank all of the Regular Members of the Nunavut Legislative Assembly. I am truly honoured to have been elected by my esteemed colleagues to the position of a cabinet minister in this third government of the Territory of Nunavut. Since starting this role, I have been determined to reflect the qualities that you have considered necessary requirements for the job of a leader and a minister. Thank

you for your faith and confidence in me. I hope you will agree that I have been trustworthy, honest, a good listener, a strong supporter and promoter for the concerns of my constituency, and a loyal minister and a member of the Government of Nunavut.

As the Minister responsible for Human Resources, the Nunavut Arctic College, and Environment, and as a Member for Arviat, I have ensured that all priorities for Nunavut that fall under my responsibilities have been addressed thoroughly and with integrity. My main focus has been to promote the highest level of good for Nunavut, its people, its land, and its renewable resources in a manner that will ensure a sustainable Nunavut now and for generations to come. I have continually worked with all of the Inuit organizations of all of our communities, ensuring that Nunavut priorities and concerns are dealt with in a manner that promotes our government's vision, mission, and mandate.

In the last two years I was elected, I have taken the vision set out in *Tamapta* and ran with it. I would like to take a few moments to share a few of the accomplishments I have been able to achieve over the past two years representing my riding in the Territory of Nunavut.

Mr. Chairman, receiving 1,350 tonnes of a 1,500-tonne quota in the NAFO 0B Division, allowing Nunavut to hold 41 percent of the turbot quota in that management area, my department also provided industry with an opportunity to obtain five fixed gear licences, giving Nunavut access to an additional 900 tonnes of turbot. Without this



opportunity, we would have been locked out of the fishery indefinitely. I must emphasize that this was accomplished only through face-to-face meetings with federal government ministers and involving our partners, NTI, and the fishing industry. On behalf of the Department of Environment, I have come a long way in improving Nunavut's turbot fishery. However, this work is yet not complete. I will continue to seek a fair and equitable share for all of Nunavut's adjacent fishery resources.

Mr. Chairman, to our sealing industry, we are in unanimous support of the Fur Institute of Canada and the Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami on their position against the European Court's decision and European seal ban. Please note, however, we will continue to promote our sealskins and continue to support our seal harvesters territorially, nationally, and internationally while, at the same time, maintain our fight against the EU seal ban.

Mr. Chairman, we held a prominent wildlife symposium in Rankin Inlet in the winter of 2009. It was an outstanding example of working together for the future of wildlife management. The Nunavut Inuit Secretariat, the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, and the Department of Environment came together in the spirit of IQ principle *Piliriqatigiinni* to improve communication and working relationships of all those involved in wildlife management in Nunavut. Scientists, elders, co-management partners, and community members worked together to strengthen the foundation of our cooperative work in wildlife co-management in this territory.

We are continuing to build on the very positive outcomes of this symposium, and you will continue to see many examples of this across Nunavut.

Mr. Chairman, I have contributed to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, bringing Nunavut issues to the table and ensuring that the concerns of the North are included in international negotiations. Additionally, we are in the final stages of completing a climate change adaptation plan for Nunavut. This will be finished before the end of this year.

Hon. Chairman, we have changed the structure of our human resources department to better serve Nunavutmiut. We listened to the Office of the Auditor General and followed with an organizational review, which strengthens Nunavut's public services and provides better and more efficient frontline delivery. We are lessening our hiring times by altering our staffing procedures to better track the competition process, thus reducing delays. We have also changed our staffing procedures to better train all government employees, enabling them to achieve the skill levels necessary to carry out their jobs. All of these benefits occur as a result of the cooperation from all departments in the government and with training provided by the Nunavut Arctic College.

We are also very focused on Article 23 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement, targeting Inuit employment within the Government of Nunavut and even ensuring that training for specialized positions in the private sector are filled by Inuit. This has been a top priority, as evidenced in the training programs facilitated in partnership with the Arctic

College, the Nunavut Fisheries Training Consortium, and with industry. My department has also been actively promoting on-the-job training to Inuit on board vessels operating in the fisheries industry in Nunavut. Additionally, we have been tirelessly working with our GN departments towards better staffing, recruitment, and retention so everyone understands their role in accomplishing these goals.

Throughout Nunavut Arctic College and its partners, we have increased post-secondary opportunities in all occupational categories from training to professional education, and this falls directly under *Tamapta: Building Our Future Together*, Nunavut Arctic College has broadened its programs and strengthened its community presence through community learning centres in every community. Each community learning centre is staffed by a full-time adult educator and these community learning centres have contributed significantly and progressively to the college enrolment growth from 1,061 in 2008 to 1,333 in 2010.

Nunavut Arctic College programs are now more accessible both regionally and in the communities. The trades training centre, which is open, provides training to apprentices in the fields of electricity, plumbing, housing maintenance, and oil burners. Mine training is being offered in a number of Kivalliq and Kitikmeot communities. Teacher education is available in Iqaluit and nine other communities in Nunavut. The Arctic Nursing Degree is being offered in Iqaluit and practical nurse diplomas are planned for delivery in Cambridge Bay and Rankin Inlet.

The Nunavut Arctic College capital projects support regional community programs. Some of these include a new community learning centre in Pond Inlet and another being completed in Qikiqtarjuaq. There are also plans for centres in Grise Fiord, Whale Cove, and Iqaluit. We are presently finishing our new trades training centre and the Nunavut Research Institute, which supports units in Igloolik, Arviat, Cambridge Bay, and Rankin Inlet. We also have underway a new Kitikmeot campus and mine training centre. Additionally, our cyber infrastructure project will provide community-based access to distant learning throughout Nunavut.

Mr. Chairman, I have omitted many accomplishments, too numerous to mention with the allotted time. I would like to say, however, that being a minister is extremely challenging, particularly when you are striving towards making a significant contribution to both Nunavut and your community. As ministers, we must keep up to date on the issues, sacrifice significant time, and expend long, hard days carrying out our ministerial duties. We must be responsible to the territory and a credible politician not only nationally but also with our international stakeholders.

In summary, Mr. Chairman, I would like to state that all of these great successes we have been able to accomplish in the last two years energized and inspired me to do even more. Therefore, if I am granted the confidence of this House to carry on as a minister, you can rest assured that I will continue to perform with the passion and dedication I have demonstrated to all members to date.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I would like to answer any questions the members may have after we're done here. Thank you very much.

>>Applause

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. I'll now call on Minister Taptuna to deliver his statement. You have up to 10 minutes to deliver your statement. (interpretation ends) Hon. Peter Taptuna.

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good afternoon, colleagues, Nunavummiut, and especially the people of Kugluktuk.

I would like to thank the Hon. Members of this Assembly for the trust they showed for me two years ago when they elected me as a Member of the Executive Council. I would like to thank the Premier for showing trust in me in assigning me the Economic Development and Transportation portfolio. Two years have already gone by and the months have been filled with productive, exciting, and sometimes not so exciting challenges.

I would like to outline some of the accomplishments that I feel my department has made using the government's *Tamapta* Mandate as our foundation and guideline. I have been honoured to work on some important files that I feel have brought results and had an impact on the lives of Nunavummiut. Examples of such work include reducing poverty, supporting sustainable community-based economies, and increasing support for culture and the arts. I will go into further details in regard to this important work.

The economic outlook for Nunavut is optimistic. Nunavut is currently enjoying a strong economic growth. The growth is coming from an area that I'm passionate about, and that's mining and mineral development. This sector is important to Nunavut. As an example, the Meadowbank gold mine is expected to contribute at least \$300 million to Nunavut's gross domestic product annually. There is also another new mine that is getting close to production in the Kitikmeot region. Newmont Mining is continuing pre-development and exploration activity this year on the Hope Bay gold project near Cambridge Bay. These kinds of mining developments allow Nunavummiut to participate in employment and training opportunities.

Mr. Chairman, it is important to recognize the economic spinoffs of these activities because they have a direct impact on small communities, especially in the communities that are located adjacent to the mines. There has been an increase in such communities as Baker Lake in the purchase of new snow machines, snowmobiles, hunting equipment, ATVs, cars, and bigger items that would not have been possible had the mining company not taken any interest in Nunavut.

At different times over the last three years, I have represented Nunavut at mining industry events, all the way from Halifax and across to Vancouver. I believe that, through these events, I have helped inspire investor confidence in Nunavut. Mining is an important driver of our economy and the economic growth that we are seeing in Nunavut is predominantly coming from the rebound

of mineral exploration activity within Nunavut.

We have worked to support the implementation of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement dealing with resource development. We are also active in this area by providing input into the environmental assessment process and the development of the land use planning framework.

Mr. Chairman and colleagues, I have faith in the regulatory process as set out by the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement. I am confident that by working within the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement, we can develop Nunavut's resources and achieve a high standard and sustainable quality of life for our people in Nunavut.

Mr. Chairman, our fishery continues to enjoy steady growth. With access to more quotas this year, we have made investments in our fishing fleet to make sure that the quota translates into more economic benefits for Nunavummiut. In fact, I am very pleased to say that my department provided funds to six HTOs in order for them to exercise an opportunity to buy an equity position in fishing boats over the next several years.

My department recently paid for the most comprehensive economic impact study ever compiled on the arts and crafts sector in Nunavut. I was pleasantly surprised to find out that the overall value of the arts and crafts sector is \$52 million and it creates over 1,000 full-time equivalent jobs for Nunavut. This sector is very important to Nunavut and my department will continue to support this sector through the programs and services that it offers.

We are supporting the tourism sector by working on a comprehensive tourism strategy aimed at increasing investment, marketing, and training. We have reorganized the department and created a new division within our department so that it has the capacity to take on leadership in the tourism sector.

I have committed to working on the government's Poverty Reduction Action Plan and to reducing poverty and its effects on Nunavummiut. I feel really strongly that a prosperous economy is no great achievement if many of our citizens in Nunavut live in poverty and hopelessness. Poverty is a complex problem that cannot be addressed effectively by government alone or by any one organization. With this in mind, I cannot help but think that in trying to reduce poverty, one must look at him or herself and make the conscious decision to do something about it.

Standing up on your own feet and becoming self-sufficient starts at home, it starts by the dream of wanting to go to school or back to school, if you have left school before, finishing your education, or wanting to go to work and learn new skills. These are all part of the picture that leads to an individual deciding what kind of life he or she is going to have. So we all need to work together to complete the picture of creating healthy and vibrant communities.

With this in mind, I was honoured to be named the Government of Nunavut's representative on the important work through my role as co-chair and I look forward to working with our partners within the Inuit organizations, non-profit organizations, and the business community. Of course, to be successful

in this, we have to work together to develop the Poverty Reduction Action Plan for all Nunavummiut.

Infrastructure development is a critical need in Nunavut and the lack of transportation infrastructure stands as one of the greatest barriers to economic development. Although we don't have much funds to implement and complete all of the transportation infrastructure requirements for Nunavut, we have been able to address some challenges.

For example, access to affordable transportation is a challenge to many Nunavummiut. I have made addressing the cost of transportation in the High Arctic as one of my priorities. At the moment, we are waiting to hear back from the communities of Grise Fiord, Resolute Bay, and Arctic Bay to gather their views on a study on the high cost of transportation to remote communities. Once the direction is received from the High Arctic communities, we will finalize their recommendations and find ways to implement them because without action, recommendations are really nothing but words on paper.

Last year, we had a breakthrough with our development of marine infrastructure in Nunavut with the construction of a small craft harbour in Pangnirtung funded by the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans. I know that there are many Nunavummiut who still want small craft harbours within their communities. My department has been striving to achieve this. There is still a lot of work to be done in this area, and we must continue to lobby the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans to deliver such needed marine

infrastructure into Nunavut over the next several years.

Our infrastructure deficit includes roads, or a lack of. As we all know, Nunavut is the only jurisdiction in Canada without a land link to the rest of Canada. Projects like the Nunavut-Manitoba Road and the Bathurst Inlet Port and Road have potential to open vast resource development opportunities for our people in Nunavut. They are ambitious projects, but we have been making progress.

It's easy to think about all of the things that we don't have in Nunavut when it comes to infrastructure, but I would like to say that we also have had a lot of great things happen over last two years in regard to infrastructure and transportation development. Completion of the Arctic Bay Airport, the Pangnirtung Harbour project, installation of floating docks, completion of the Iqaluit Airport Master Plan, and the Iqaluit marine study come to mind. These are examples of work that have been completed and will be used to further our lobbying efforts for more funds to address our infrastructure requirements in Nunavut.

Mr. Chairman... .

**Chairman:** Thank you. Thank you, Minister Taptuna.

>> *Applause*

**Chairman:** I will now call on Minister Tootoo to deliver his statements. I remind you that you have up to 10 minutes to make your statement. Hon. Hunter Tootoo.

**Hon. Hunter Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I could have lent some of my time out because I don't think I'll use it all.

Mr. Chairman, I am very pleased to be here today. This process is something that I have been through twice already in the past in the first two Assemblies, and I welcome this opportunity to be able to put information out there, put accomplishments out there, and also to be questioned on the work that not only I have done but also all the rest of us has done in cabinet.

Mr. Chairman, when I started, I remember back during our leadership forum when I was selected to the Executive Council, I said that my door is always open and I'll be willing to discuss any issues that any members bring forward, and I like to believe that that is something that I have done. Any members that have brought issues to my attention and provided me with information, I was always more than happy to follow up on them with them.

I said back then too that, based on my experience, I know that regular members can and do bring forward many valuable ideas that can contribute to the direction of the government's going and the progress of the government. There's something again that I believe that over the last couple of years, I have, through my portfolio of the Housing Corporation, an idea was brought forward by a regular member. It was something that was a good idea and it was implemented.

Mr. Chairman, when we first started, one of the things that this government did was the report card. In that report card,

Nunavummiut told us that there are things that aren't working and that we weren't helping those that need help the most. So with the *Tamapta* document, I think that was one of the priorities that I took as saying, "Okay, what can I do to address some of these issues and concerns?" And that's something that I bought into, whether it was with the Housing Corporation or the Power Corporation, a direction to move forward.

I think under both the Crown corporations that I was responsible for over the last two years, when I took on the portfolios, the Power Corporation was going through the recruitment process of a new president. The whole new senior management team was being put together at that time. Within a few months of becoming the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation, we had to go out and look for a whole new senior management team there as well. That presented a lot of challenges.

I would just like to take this opportunity now to go over... I think it's quite evident that over the last number of months, there have been some challenges with the Housing Corporation and with the Power Corporation. It's always very easy to look at the negative things that have happened and highlight those, Mr. Chairman. As my colleague, Mr. Peterson, pointed out, during my tenure in those portfolios, I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to the dedication and hard work of the employees within both corporations and also to the board of directors for the Power Corporation for their work and made my job a lot easier.

Mr. Chairman, with the Housing Corporation, people told us that we are not helping those who need help the most. One of the things that we were able to do is, for the first time in the history of Nunavut, the homeless person has a home. In previous Assemblies that portfolio responsibility just floated around with the minister; it didn't have an actual home. I felt it was important that it have a place to be so that it actually exists and it didn't just float around with whoever the minister of the day was, so that was set up within the Housing Corporation.

We set up and created a position for homelessness within the corporation. We also ensured the continued operation of the men's shelter here upon the Salvation Army pulling out, again a very needed service to those in need, and also worked on assisting the Sivummut House open its doors as well and provide a service to women who are homeless as well.

Some of the other things that we were able to accomplish, we secured the affordable housing funding, the \$100 million, I think, in total. All of the programs announced in the last federal government were just over \$107 million. I did attend the F/P/T meeting. It was actually the first time, I believe, in about five years that the federal government was at the table at these meetings. I lobbied very hard at that meeting with my colleagues to support us in our need for additional resources for housing. I've had meetings with Minister Finley, our MP, Ms. Aglukkaq, and even our Senator, Mr. Patterson, to try and get additional support for our desperate housing need here in Nunavut.

Some of the other program highlights that we were able to accomplish: we introduced a new homeowner oil tank replacement program this spring in 2010; we extended the HERP program; the Homeowner Energy Efficiency Rebate Program was extended; we have reviewed the grants and contribution policy and funding for homeless shelters; we developed an implementation of a new LHO board of directors manual; we developed a new Nunavut Housing Corporation strategy as a basis of moving forward.

In light of some of the concerns that have been raised over the last couple of years, there have been a number of things, like I ensured that disclosure forms were included in all contracts with the corporation and with the staff to fill out. We initiated, and it was now just completed, the Nunavut Housing Needs Survey.

As far as financial accountability within the corporation, there have been significant improvements since last year. They are implementing now monthly CCSR and O&M and payroll reporting. There has been a successful completion of the 2008-09 audit. The annual report was recently tabled and issued. The fact that I wanted the contracting reports tabled, prepared, and provided in a timely manner, that is happening. The 2008-09 one was just tabled recently.

There are numerous areas where there have been improvements. In line of looking at the trust and some of the challenges that led us there, I had sought cabinet approval and got an additional 14 PYs to assist the corporation in continuing its work to complete the Nunavut Housing Trust projects and the

Affordable Housing program. The detailed budgets are in place now for both programs and are being monitored on a regular basis. My information is that, in our current audit right now, the cut off has been clean. It is the best ever, so there have been significant improvements there.

It is the same thing with the Power Corporation and the Qulliq Energy Corporation. They initiated and it's their first time that they have developed a five-year corporate plan, a five-year capital plan, and developed a strategic corporate plan that focuses on the corporation's core business of generating and distributing electricity to all Nunavummiut.

The IEP numbers within the Qulliq Energy Corporation continue to be some of the highest within the whole government. They have initiated individualized Inuit development programs for beneficiaries geared towards promotion and succession of Inuit employees to middle and senior management positions. There has been significant progress in both Crown corporations, not only in a management system but also in the financial accountability as well.

With that, Mr. Chairman, I see my time is running out, so I will leave it at that and I very much look forward to answering questions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>> *Applause*

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. We are done with the ministers. We will take a break. When we get back after the break, make sure

any electronics are turned off. Thank you. (interpretation ends) Twenty minutes.

>> *Meeting recessed at 14:27 and resumed at 14:59*

### Questioning of the Ministers

**Chairman** (interpretation): We can resume our meeting. As a reminder, all regular members each have a total of 10 questions that they can ask the remaining members of cabinet as a whole. Please note that a regular member may choose to ask all of their questions to one minister or divide their questions amongst a number of ministers. Regular members are not required to ask all of their questions consecutively. Are there any questions? Mr. Ningark.

**Mr. Ningark:** Yes, I was looking for the other members to indicate whether they were asking questions or not. I don't think we wanted to waste this part. At least I'll do my two cents worth, Mr. Chairman. I have perhaps one question to every minister across the room. If you want to answer, that's your prerogative.

Mr. Chairman, we all know that our government has what we know as separation of powers between Legislative Assembly members, cabinet ministers, and the Department of Justice. The cabinet members, Mr. Chairman, are part of the Executive Branch. Their role is to propose laws and budgets and to deliver programs and services to the residents of Nunavut through the departments, Crown agencies, and other bodies in the system. They have a very important role, and I respect that very much, Mr. Chairman. They also have to follow the directives of the government



and look after the interests of the public monies that come from the public purse.

My question to each and every one of them is: what is the most important role in your responsibilities as a minister? You cannot be at every juncture in the government system. What is your priority? Is it to ensure that the departmental budget is scrutinized by you as the head of the department? What is important to you as a minister of the Crown? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I want to start off with the Minister of Justice, I think. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningark. The question was for all cabinet members. We will start off with the (interpretation ends) Deputy Premier, Hon. Peter Taptuna.

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is a fairly tough question. As the Minister responsible for Economic Development and Transportation, I see our services within that department as a priority. There are also other priorities, which, of course, is the budget. That is key within the organization that we work within the budget that is allotted to us.

Other priorities include the way we deliver our programs. It has to be done efficiently. Once the program is out there for the Nunavut residents to use, it has to make an impact. It does have to benefit the users out there. Whoever may be using the programs or services of our department, it does have to have an impact.

For other priorities, you can say that in just about every working function, including our personnel, we have to maintain that high morale of work right from supervisors on down. The employees have to be treated with respect. Without that, for the most part, your staff is more or less in a dysfunctional stage where things are not done efficiently. That is one of my priorities within the department. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Hon. Taptuna. I would like to call upon Hon. Tagak Curley to respond to the question.

**Hon. Tagak Curley:** Thank you. I appreciate the question. I said to myself, you practically have to be a constitutional expert to reply to the hon. member's question.

Yes, there are priorities set not only by cabinet but FMB as well with respect to the spending limits mainly because the revenues that we have are limited to carry out all of the functions and services that are crucial to Nunavutmiut. So, in some cases, we know that the obligations of the department and some essential services are ones that can't really have too much freedom to move around. Therefore, with the other less urgent, or crucial, or less emergency type of nature program, you have better flexibility. So that is where the department and the deputy ministers work together to try and see whether or not they have room to offer new programs. That is the kind of approach that I have.

It is normally about a six-month process in order to arrive at the final budgets

because there is a process within the cabinet, the executive. We establish a target within a department. Just so I let you in a bit, we don't always, at most times, get 100 percent of what we ask for, but we try to do the best and hope that the extra programs that we are offering are funded, particularly the essential services like health and social services.

I know my colleagues have similar challenges, but by and large, the checks and balances that the Department of Finance established for the minister to work with, I think, is fairly good because it is a six-month process from the call letter issued by the Minister of Finance for the departments and then the first process is the departmental officials who really dig quite deep to try and find what is affordable and what the priorities might be with the minister responsible. (interpretation) I will leave it at that. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister. (interpretation) I would like to call upon Hon. Lorne Kusugak to respond.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Your first question is a little hard, but I am glad that you ask this very excellent question. Once again I, too, can only repeat the same answers, but we have to keep in mind, myself anyways, how we can better use our money responsibly and not to go over budget, which is one of the most important things to me, and how it could be used most efficiently.

In my ministerial portfolio, I work with the municipal governments to see what is considered an emergency or a priority, and I try to use our services and

programs in the most efficient way. We have to work with the municipal government to make priorities because we would like to provide programs and services that would benefit as many Nunavummiut as possible. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Next on my list is Hon. Keith Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank my colleague for asking that question. It is a very complex question to answer. In my role as the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Justice, those two departments are central agency departments to the overall government operations. In other words, we advise the other departments and work with them. We advise the cabinet as a whole.

For example, under the Department of Finance's *Financial Administration Act*, I'm responsible for ensuring that all of the departments know that officials in the Government of Nunavut adhere to the *Financial Administration Act* and *Financial Administration Manual* directives. Not only the Department of Justice, I'm responsible to ensure that the government follows the laws, but having said that, I have a responsibility to the departments that I oversee.

As a minister, I have to provide the leadership and direction to my officials. I have to be well versed in the daily work and how they deliver programs and services to the Nunavummiut. I am responsible as well for the budgets for each of these departments, so I'm not exempt from ensuring that we live within our appropriated budget. I'm responsible for that and ultimately

responsible back to the Legislative Assembly here, the House, to all MLAs to account for our budgets and the success or no success of some our programs and products and policies that we deliver across Nunavut.

It's really much more complex than that. It took me a long time to tie it all together, and I'm still learning every day as I go, but it is complex, and I'll leave it at that, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister. Next on my list to answer the question is Hon. Daniel Shewchuk.

**Hon. Daniel Shewchuk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the member for that question too.

I think it's very important as a minister to represent your community and represent Nunavut in every way that you can. Again I would say that me, minister of three departments, I have to ensure that our programs are delivered on time, on timelines and within our budgets that we have to us. I think the role of the minister includes knowing the files and portfolios you're responsible for and having all of the information to make wise decisions that you need to make along with cabinet. I think it's important all of us ministers. The role of the minister is to all work together to deliver the mandate that's outlined under *Tamapta*.

I also think that it's important as a minister to listen to all of the Members of the Legislative Assembly to come up with resolutions and resolves to the problems and challenges that we face. I think that you need to be an effective communicator too with face-to-face

meetings with federal counterparts, ministers, and other jurisdictions, and I think you need the integrity and credibility to do that to voice the pains of all of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister. Next on my list to answer the question is Hon. Hunter Tootoo.

**Hon. Hunter Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank John for the question. As everyone knows, our budgets are approved here in the House. As far as other priorities that I have, one of the things that I try to do is I don't get in and I don't see my role as to go in and micromanage the department. That's what deputy ministers and our staff in the departments are paid to run those organizations. I think, as Dan pointed out, my job is to oversee and get information, know what issues are out there, and how to deal with them.

Also, I challenge my staff, I have challenged my staff, given the resources that we have to work with or given any situations that come up, "How can we improve better delivery of programs and services?" I mean that's part of my role. I look at it as not just taking the status quo but how can we better improve service delivery to the people that we provide services to throughout Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister. Mr. Ningark, you got six answers to your question. You have only four questions left for all of the ministers. Are there any more questions from regular members? Mr. Aupaluktuq.

**Mr. Aupaluktuq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the

Premier and the cabinet for their statements and openness to questions.

In Minister Curley's response to the Hon. Member Ningark, the minister mentioned the Constitution. My question is directed to the Hon. Keith Peterson, the Minister of the Department of Justice.

As Nunavummiut, we are also Canadians. We are fighting for all of Nunavut to be recognized as Canadians systematically. We are also fighting for more resources, as the Minister of Finance is quite aware. With that, we are also looking to bring and implementing basic and fundamental needs.

I want to ask the hon. minister: do you feel Nunavut and the Department of Justice are doing enough to implement and protect Nunavummiut in terms of basic fundamental rights, such as human rights, the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, as well as the Constitution? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. Minister of Justice, Minister of Finance, Hon. Keith Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Aupaluktuq for that question. It's a very difficult question. I think the simple answer is always that the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms governs all Canadians, regardless of who you are or where you live. It provides numerous civil and political rights. If any Canadian who feels that those rights are infringed upon, they certainly have the opportunity to challenge those in a court and have their day.

As far as the Government of Nunavut and the Department of Justice, we do have the Nunavut Human Rights Tribunal. The legislation was passed in the First Assembly. The operation is established in Coral Harbour and they are available to help Nunavummiut wherever they are, if they have any concerns or issues, or feel they are being discriminated against, or they have difficulties with jobs.

We did have those people in the Legislative Assembly earlier this year where they were trying to promote themselves. I have had this conversation with my deputy minister about doing more to help the Human Rights Tribunal promote their services and activities throughout Nunavut so that more people can take advantage if they feel that they need help. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister. Question no. 2, Mr. Aupaluktuq.

**Mr. Aupaluktuq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My question is directed to the Hon. Minister Tagak Curley. This is a similar question I asked the Premier this morning. I want to ask Mr. Curley. The same question applies. The government as a whole must identify clear priorities and balance competing public interests. Sometimes different interests may not entirely be compatible, such as natural resource development, environmental protection, and public health. How have you approached this issue as a minister? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. Hon. Tagak Curley.

**Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation):** Thank you. First of all, if I understood

your question, I believe you asked: what are your departmental priorities? Within the health department, there can be many priorities that crop up, but we try to deal more with the broader priorities. There are three main priorities, at least from my perspective. These are also our most challenging priorities and we do not want to get away from them.

With respect to employees, the retention and training of nurses is a top priority. We want to decrease the amount of expenditures related to agency nurses. This was one of our most expensive budget items. Therefore, the nurses in the communities are our top priority. That is why I stated that we have finally started to fill many positions and we are catching up slowly.

The second one is very difficult to deal with, which is mental health, and where patients are sent out of the territory when they are too mentally ill. We need to work on prevention programs and we are still working on that.

The third one is the department uses huge sums of money to send patients out of the territory. We should be treating the patients in Nunavut and provide more treatment services. We now have the Qikiqtani General Hospital and some of the specialized services can now be provided here in Iqaluit. There is also a day program in the Rankin Inlet Regional Hospital. Patients who used to go to Churchill are now being serviced at the Rankin Inlet Regional Hospital. We can keep the money in Nunavut that way and that is our objective.

Although we have many other priorities, those are my top priorities, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Your third question, Mr. Aupaluktuq.

**Mr. Aupaluktuq**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to thank the hon. minister for sharing that. My question, again, I'll use this opportunity as public health versus resource development. I want to ask the hon. minister's position on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Tagak Curley**: I'm going to ask for clarification on that so I can answer without taking up an additional question from him.

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

**Mr. Aupaluktuq**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My question was: I want to ask the minister on his views of public health position versus environmental and possibly resource development and what his position is on public health for all of Nunavut. Thank you.

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

**Hon. Tagak Curley** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Obviously I am the Minister of Health and I consider the department to be one of the most important departments. Public health service is really quite critical; it ensures that we have a healthy population, healthy communities. We can certainly do a lot more with protecting Nunavutmiut.

In terms of the resource development, I really have no day-to-day responsibility

for that. As a member of the cabinet, I fully support the importance of job creation. Mainly the one area of the potential that we have to creating employment and jobs and security for Nunavut, even as well as revenue for the Nunavut government, and the future of Nunavut is through mineral and resource development. So I think we can find ways to improve access to the resources.

My colleagues and I have considered many ways to try and reduce, even supplying logistics services to make it easier for the exploration companies. We would certainly improve the revenue base for the Nunavut government. From that perspective of this government, I think it has continued to try and balance what is best for Nunavutmiut by not a lopsided approach to one major initiative or not. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister. (interpretation) Ms. Ugyuk will now ask questions.

**Ms. Ugyuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Health and Social Services, Hon. Tagak Curley.

For two years, if not three, we have seen correspondence in our community from the Department of Health and Social Services that states that if you have any problems with your health professionals or social services, there is a phone number there and there is a name there also whom you can contact. If any individual has any concerns or problems, they can call that phone line and the Department of Health and Social Services has that telephone line.

The Department of Education should provide that kind of service. What do you think of that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Hon. Tagak Curley.

**Hon. Tagak Curley** (interpretation): Thank you. We know that the individual who works in that community is very busy. I can tell you that we do want those kinds of services to start reaching the communities.

One of the concerns I have is if they can call without a long-distance fee. As the Premier stated, that is why we have government liaison officers included in the *Tamapta* Mandate and that is why we're working on that. I believe that's going to benefit the communities. Rather than making a long-distance call, the community members can go talk to their GLOs so that the ministers can get information sooner. Once this is functioning, I believe that other departments should have that. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Your second question, Ms. Ugyuk.

**Ms. Ugyuk** (interpretation): I would like to ask the Minister of Health, Tagak Curley, again that we hear that the *Family Abuse Intervention Act* was made hastily. It's not benefiting the communities and it's only used for some of the communities in Nunavut. Do you believe the Act should be amended or how can you improve it? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Curley.

**Hon. Tagak Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is a very good question, although it's not under my responsibility; the Minister of Justice is responsible for that *Family Abuse Intervention Act*.

If there is a problem in the family and the family needs to go through the court, I know that they use the assistance of community justice committees. They can ask the social workers to get more help. There are different services and they can set up intervention orders, and then the court can say that this individual needs help and they are given authority.

The social workers are asked to work with the individuals if there was an alcohol abuse problem with an individual in any case. Sometimes the social workers are asked to go help this individual, but the Department of Justice is responsible for that, so I cannot respond to you personally. For other individuals who are at a safety risk, I believe support is given for the homes. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Your third question, Ms. Ugyuk.

**Ms. Ugyuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I apologize that I directed the question to the wrong minister, but I know that social service workers are the frontline workers and they are usually the first ones to be called in a time of crisis.

My third question is in regard to foster children who are sent down south where

their environment is strange and foreign. They are unhappy because they are in a foreign environment and I imagine it costs the government a lot to house them. When do you visualize having them back in Nunavut, like in 20 or 25 years? Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. Minister Curley.

**Hon. Tagak Curley** (interpretation): Thank you. That is a very poignant question. I believe there was a report released last year from Social Services tabled in the House that outlined the numbers of Nunavutmiut in the south. There were over 300 Nunavutmiut who were either adopted, or who had been sent down to foster parents or for a short-term foster care program. Others had been sent out to institutions.

We expect that in the future, if the numbers of children at risk increase, then there will have to be a greater emphasis on training local people to undertake foster care. We should be identifying foster parents in each community who could look after the children and thereby decrease the number of children who need to be sent out for foster care outside of the communities. We are working on this issue as a top priority.

Furthermore, with respect to the legislation currently under review, which is being discussed in the communities, once it has been passed, we can look at repatriating some of our clients back to Nunavut. We have informed the departmental officials about what we are trying to accomplish. We have directed all staff that wherever possible not to send Inuit children to non-Inuit

communities. Where possible, they should not send them out of Nunavut, even if that means sending them to another community. This directive was agreed to while we work at improving the dysfunctional homes that currently exist in Nunavut.

We know that many homes will not remain dysfunctional, but where children are at risk, they are sometimes taken from the family to ensure that they are not placed at risk. I am looking at less than 10 years to improve our fostering system and hopefully make a system that is more Nunavut oriented and Inuit-friendly. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Your fourth question, Ms. Ugyuk.

**Ms. Ugyuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to direct another question to the Minister of Health and Social Services.

In particular, it is the social workers that deal with these cases involving children and women. I wanted to ask the minister if he has had an opportunity to meet with the Qullit Status of Women Council that is under his department. Has the minister received recommendations to improve the plight of women in Nunavut from that organization? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Tagak Curley:** Thank you. (interpretation) I have not personally had the opportunity to meet with the organization that the member mentioned. Our Premier has responsibility for the Status of Women Council to date, I believe. However, we get updates and

reports of their recommendations if they are geared towards a specific department. However, during my tenure as the minister of this department, I have been open to receiving their comments and concerns.

While the *Child and Family Services Act* is being reviewed, we would like to consult them about their concerns or issues related to child issues. This review is set to end in January 2011 and I believe that they are set to complete their review this winter. If the membership of that organization is listening to these proceedings, I hope that they can convey their concerns and issues with respect to these issues. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Your fifth question, Ms. Ugyuk.

**Ms. Ugyuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This will be my secondary question to the minister.

With respect to the Coral Harbour men's association, we were told that they conduct men's healing sessions. With respect to this issue, has the department considered this approach for all of Nunavut? Has the department reviewed this practice to see if they can export it to other communities? We have heard about this occurring in the Kivalliq region, but we have not been informed as to whether this group has offered any programs in the Kitikmeot or in the other regions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. Minister Curley.



**Hon. Tagak Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is a good question to ask. I had referred to this issue in my opening comments, but I did not have a chance to speak to the issue since I ran out of my allotted time.

We are in the initial stages of planning the healing circle initiative and this includes healing for addictions. I believe if we had a healing centre in Cambridge Bay geared towards alcohol and addictions, then it would alleviate some of the challenges faced in the region.

We want to establish centres in the regions and we are expecting the establishment of these centres in the short term. I believe that they will not be established over the course of this winter since we do not currently have any funding allocated towards that.

However, we are in the initial stages of planning the establishment of these centres in the regions. We also need a treatment centre in the Baffin region and in the Kivalliq region.

However, we will be supporting that group through operational funding for that Coral Harbour men's centre. We want that to continue since it allows men to open up with their issues and things that have caused dysfunction amongst relatives. We support this initiative and we also met with this group in Coral Harbour. If we can support them in their efforts to expand their program, they will have that flexibility.

If they are willing and they are invited, the government would try to assist by financing these trips. We want the residents of Kitikmeot to know that. There is some urgency since the program that they offer is run for a two- to three-

week period, and this program seems to have the capacity to be exported to other communities. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. The next name on my list is Mr. Ningeongan.

**Mr. Ningeongan** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My question will be directed to Minister Lorne Kusugak. He mentioned something about the hamlets. In our previous iterations as mayors representing our communities, we used to voice municipal concerns to the government, especially in past years. Even since 2008, when he became a minister, I imagine he has been exposed to ways to make improvements to the way hamlets are dealt with by this government.

My question is: since you became the Minister of Community and Government Services in 2008, what have been your two or three most important accomplishments for the hamlets? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman**: Thank you. Minister of Community and Government Services, Hon. Lorne Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you. I thank the member for raising that question. I recall that it was an exciting time when we were compatriots, dealing with government issues during our mayors' forums.

Yes, there are quite a few ways to make improvements. Perhaps I would first like to note that I used to observe, which the member may also recall, when we were mayors, the ministers were not always able to attend our mayoral forums at the

regional level. Further, even when we extended invitations to the Minister of CGS, where I am now sitting, sometimes it would become an unpleasant issue when they were unable to attend.

Since I assumed this portfolio, I've had the pleasure of attending all of the invitations extended to me by mayors to their forums. I am happy to state that this is a source of pleasure and accomplishment. I believe that this has led to improvements in the way we interact. When my colleagues or a mayor of a community extends an invitation and I attend those meetings, the fact that I am there to hear their concerns and issues has really improved our relationship.

The second area where we have made progress is, and which is currently in development and which I referred to earlier, the hamlet councils in the communities want to gain more responsibilities that they can use to further develop their communities. This initiative was important since my belief was that this would assist the communities.

Our department now funds each community over \$66,000 annually, irrespective of the size of the community. The funding can be accrued over time or they can use it as leverage for financing the purchase of equipment, such as front-end loaders, graders, bulldozers, and so on. I think that is helpful to the hamlets and I wanted to make sure that this moves expeditiously. I think that it's going to benefit the communities as a whole.

Another item for many years and an ongoing concern to all of the hamlets is

this summer, all hamlet employees were able to go to a training program on dust reduction because this was identified as a priority by the hamlets. It is an ongoing project. I know that it is going to make improvements to the communities.

There was also a needs assessment done on all Nunavut communities looking at the infrastructure in the communities, the age of the facilities, and so on. Those are going to help us tremendously in the coming months and years. We are doing that so we can identify what should be prioritized. Again, the dumps in the communities; the fire at the Iqaluit dump is finally out. It is a hazard to our communities.

Those are just some of the issues where we made progress at the hamlet level. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Ningeongan** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, I would like to ask a question to the same minister. In regard to the accomplishments that you have identified, have you noticed that your department is working more closely together with the hamlet councils now? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Yes. There is a lot more that we can do, but due to lack of resources, we haven't been able to do so. I know and we would like to work closer with the hamlets. At CGS, we deal with some issues just to help the hamlets that we are not directly

responsible for, but we do our utmost to see where we can make improvements at the hamlet level. One thing that I would like to see is for the hamlets to have discretionary funds that they can use in their communities. That is one thing that I would hope to achieve. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Your third question, Mr. Ningeongan.

**Mr. Ningeongan** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My last question is directed to the Minister of CGS. For the past two years, it has become evident that the federal government has been providing funds for recreation services. Would you work more on recreational issues? In Nunavut, there are different problems in many communities in regard to recreational facilities. That is my question to the minister. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you for asking that question. Today and during this session, we keep hearing about the Suicide Prevention Strategy and that has the greatest impact on the youth.

We hear that we need to exercise in order to be healthy. We keep hearing that we need to exercise. Exercising in the North especially, we need recreational facilities. That is in great need. We can't walk around like the people in the south because climate up here is too cold. Having a place to go for recreation is most important to your health and for suicide prevention. I believe all of us know that and as I have

stated many times, I spoke to many people in this House in regard to these issues that they need to be moved forward.

In the past, before I became a minister, recreation and sports was under another minister's portfolio. After working together since that was separated, I heard people mention that there were fewer problems if that portfolio went back to the CLEY department. I have spoken to the Minister of CLEY and to the cabinet members. I do want to look into it and review it to see where we can make improvements in regard to sports and recreation as well as recreational facilities. Perhaps if they are merged, it would move forward. That's one of my priorities.

I hope I responded to your question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. The next member on my list is Mr. Elliott.

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For my first six questions, I was going to ask a question similar to the way that the Hon. John Ningark asked his question. It's a question to all of the ministers. I'll give them a fair warning so that they can listen to the question.

Since this is a leadership review or since we are reviewing how things work within cabinet, one of the questions or concerns that regular members have sometimes is how things work within cabinet when you are having cabinet meetings and discussions that go on. Earlier when the Premier spoke, she talked about teamwork. She mentioned that ministers are free to communicate their views. As well, she mentioned that

the majority decision rules in terms of when decisions are made.

Possibly, the Premier doesn't share the same opinion as one of the ministers, but you guys work within a democracy, not a dictatorship, according to what she had been saying, and the majority decision rules. I was wondering if that is the understanding of the minister of how your meetings are run and how cabinet decisions occur, and possibly provide us with an example of how it works within cabinet. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Elliott. I will let the ministers answer in alphabetical order. The first minister will be Hon. Tagak Curley.

**Hon. Tagak Curley:** Thank you. This is a consensus government, not so much a political party, similar to the cabinets or legislatures down south. In view of that, the Premier obviously is our leader. She indicated very correctly that she is very democratic with her approach and, if you want my opinion, in some cases, very democratic. In some cases, there have been some projects that don't necessarily have to go through the cabinet, but she always felt that it's important to consult with the members.

On very substantive issues, I alluded to the fact that we debate it vigorously in the cabinet. The debate does take place with this cabinet. In the end, we come out as one unit. It is a solidarity cabinet and that is what we abide by and we come out a single cabinet. That is all I can say, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister. The next minister will be Hon. Lorne Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** I think you are just going to see more repetitions of the same answer. It always is, as the Premier said, the majority decision rules. You may or not be necessarily happy with the decision, depending on which side you are at, of whatever the topic of the day may be, but as a cabinet, we live by it and support it when we leave the room. I will leave it at that. I do not think I could or it would not be fair to get into any details other than that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister. The next minister is Hon. Keith Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Elliott for that question. Yes, I do not know if I can add much to the answer.

I know that early on, the Premier at the cabinet level, we had a discussion and it was agreed that each cabinet minister had one vote. They counted and it is the majority rules. There have been many vigorous discussions and debates. We also established the rule early on that regardless of what the decision is, if you are on the wrong side of the decision, that when you leave the cabinet room, you are still the government and you respect the decision of the government and your cabinet colleagues. You still have to get along.

If I go to the Financial Management Board side, I chair that part, I apply the same rules. You have to be a very good chairperson, and I can say that for the Premier and myself, I hope we are good chairs because we know that people are not always happy with the outcomes of the decisions, but they respect the

decisions because we have to make tough decisions for all of Nunavut.

You are not going to get the decision you want every time or you may get a partial decision. We try to discuss everything openly and get all of the issues out on the tables so that we can make the best possible decision for all Nunavummiut. Again, when we leave the cabinet room, we are united, the decision is made, and we move on. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister. The next minister will now be Hon. Daniel Shewchuk.

**Hon. Daniel Shewchuk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will just echo the voices of my colleagues as the process is pretty clearly outlined there.

The only thing that I would add is that when an issue does come forward, it is usually the lead minister or the minister of the file that brings that issue forward and explains that issue, and then, as everybody has indicated, there is an open and frank discussion. The majority decision is made and everybody respects that decision, and it is left at the cabinet room. We are all solidarity agreement together like that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister. The next minister is Hon. Peter Taptuna.

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, there are rules within cabinet meetings and FMB meetings. We do need quorum to make a decision. That is one of the things that I wanted to add. Yes, it is done democratically, in a

civilized manner. We have not replaced any furniture yet, so . . . .

>>*Laughter*

We have been making some tough decisions, and I echo the same things that my colleagues have been saying. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. The next minister will be Hon. Hunter Tootoo.

**Hon. Hunter Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I agree with everything that my colleagues have said.

Over the last two years, there have been some very heated debates on issues, but at the end of the day, everybody has had an opportunity, as Mr. Ningark put it, to put their two cents worth in and have their say. I think that at the end of the day, it is a very healthy thing to do. There have been times when different things have been identified that weren't caught because of those deliberations. I think it's an important part of any decision-making process that everybody has some input into it.

At the end of the day, whatever we decide upon, we decide upon as a government. Nobody is told that they have to do anything one way or the other. Everyone is free to express their own views and everyone respects the vote. It's a democratic process, so I think it's a very healthy way to work. I can say that it has helped alleviate what could be some potential problems if that didn't happen. So I think it's great and I hope it continues to stay like that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister. Your seventh question, Mr. Elliott.

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My next question is directed to the Minister of Finance. If Nunavut wants to really tackle the problem of alcohol abuse, perhaps drastic action needs to be taken, even if it means sort of trampling on the rights of some of the citizens.

With the introduction of the new *Liquor Act*, the Government of Nunavut could use the notwithstanding clause to allow possible searches of luggage at different entry points when packages or materials are coming into the territory. Is this possibly something that the government could do? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Hon. Keith Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Elliott for the question. As I mentioned in my opening comments, the Minister's Task Force on the Review of the *Liquor Act* is travelling around all Nunavut communities getting input from all communities. I understand that the meetings are going well.

I am hopeful that early next year, we will get a report with all of the recommendations from the task force that the cabinet will be able to sit down and discuss, and look at how we can review and update the *Liquor Act* and incorporate some clauses in there or some sections in there that would help us address the alcohol issue in Nunavut.

I have talked openly since last March, when I was over at the Government of Canada building when the RCMP had

their media scrum where I saw a couple hundred thousand dollars worth of illegal booze piled up against a wall and \$100,000 worth of cash. It's a quite serious issue with bootlegging in Nunavut.

So I talked openly about introducing civil forfeiture legislation that would allow the RCMP, if they identify persons who have no visible means of support, for example, they don't have a job and yet they are living in a \$400,000 or \$500,000 house, then possibly they are bootleggers and they can seize the assets of those persons. We are still in discussion stages on that; we have a lot of work to do there.

But with respect to the question about the notwithstanding clause, I'll have to take a pass on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My next question is for the Minister of Finance. In regard to the spending of the government and the budgeting, it has been brought up many times, the word "prudence" in terms of spending. One of the discussions we ended up having within the House was the idea of the number of vacant positions there are within the Government of Nunavut and how we never fill those positions. Yet, at the end of the year, we end up spending that money.

I believe the minister was talking about trying to persuade and have each department within the Government of Nunavut budget to actual, instead of doing it the way that they have been

doing it. What are you doing within your department to make sure that the budgets will be coming out? As we come in the winter, we will be coming back to review the O&M budgets. Will they be budgeting to actual or will they be the way that they have been? Maybe explain how you are going to guarantee that this will end up happening. Thank you.

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

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Elliott for that question. Mr. Chairman, I can't guarantee that anything will or will not happen.

We have sent out the call letters to all of the departments. The deputy ministers have been meeting. My Deputy Minister of Finance is the lead on discussions with respect to developing the main estimates. The departments are all aware of our push toward budgeting to actual, they are well aware of it, and it's a credit of several departments that they have done that. I know our own Department of Finance did that last year. The money we saved there, we allocated to another department to train people.

With respect to his comment about the funds from non-staffed positions, the government does have to deliver programs and services and how they do that is they use some of those funds to hire casual employees, pay overtime, and hire contractors. The funds are used to deliver programs for us. For example, in the Department of Health, it is very difficult for them to hire indeterminate nurses, so they will use agency nurses. The funds that they have available will be used for that purpose.

Again we are stressing in the Government of Nunavut that we have to move towards budgeting to actual. It is happening; it's not happening overnight. That is why it could take you three or four years to change that whole mindset, but I am thankful that the government officials are doing that. We saw through the budget deficit exercise that officials in the departments can make those tough decisions when they have to. So we will continue to encourage the officials to do that.

When it moves up through the budgeting process to FMB, as we discussed earlier, we will be taking a very close look at departmental budgets. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My next question is for the Minister of Health and Social Services.

In his speech, he had mentioned the *Child and Family Services Act* and, I believe, possible delays that were with it. I was just wondering if he could possibly provide us with a bit of a timeline in terms of when the community consultations will be completed, when the legislation would be completed, and at what point would we expect to see it brought into the Legislative Assembly for discussion or in Committee of the Whole. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Hon. Tagak Curley.

**Hon. Tagak Curley:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to respond to that important question. The weather

patterns that we have throughout the fall and so on had slightly delayed the completion of the community consultations, which we had expected originally by the end of last month., but they will be completed this month, weather permitting.

And then on top of the consultation group that travels around, the deputy minister also has a technical committee which involves NTI, the regional organizations, as well as the other departments. I believe Justice, probably... well, I'm not sure. So he has that technical committee as well which oversees all of the departments that would have some role in shaping up the new Act.

By the New Year, the drafting of some possible changes will begin. Providing that we have access to a whole time slot for the legislative team, we could foresee, I think, without guaranteeing my word here, that it will likely take about six months for the legal drafting to occur. At the same time, the question is, "Do we need more consultation once that process is underway or should it go directly to the enacting legislation process?"

So I think if it's not done by the end of next year, it will surely be done before the term of this Assembly. I don't have the actual timeframe with me. They have pretty well a very good charted process that they have worked out. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister. Your tenth and final question, Mr. Elliott.

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll ask my last question to the Hon. Hunter Tootoo in regard to his past role

as Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

As you were watching the proceedings go on, I'm sure you, at many times, wanted to jump in and explain some of the things that were going on and some of the inside knowledge that you had as to why the over-commitment happened, what types of things could have been done differently, what some of the problems were, and maybe you didn't get your chance to make those things known.

I was just wondering if you could comment and add some insight. After you watched the proceedings over the last couple of days, we still have more questions and obviously we will be reviewing and trying to find \$50 million more. So if you could provide some insight on that. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Hon. Hunter Tootoo.

**Hon. Hunter Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's certainly difficult, and I'm sure the member can appreciate, when a file like the housing trust that I have been involved in for so long and so intimately acquainted with is something I can no longer publicly talk about in the House during question period and that. It is difficult to do that and the member is right. I am very well versed in what the issues were and how things came to be.

I think, as I pointed out last spring when this was first brought to our attention, it was very clear that there were significant errors and flaws in the initial budget and the forecasting right from 2006. I think it was pointed out that the initial amount that they had used in their budget and in



the forecast for the number of units was set in 2006 and that same number was carried forward right through over the last four years.

One of the other things that went wrong there too was the fact that the corporation wasn't adequately tracking expenditures. They discovered that the information that was being provided was just being done on the current expenditure basis. It wasn't being done cumulative or forecasted to completion. So I think those were two of the main issues that came to light there.

What led to that, as I pointed out last spring when I brought this out, was that there was a severe shortage in staff and even the Auditor General pointed out that the corporation did not have the capacity to take on such a project. It is my understanding and in the past, there were requests by the corporation, I believe anywhere from 14 to 16 additional PYs, to administer this program that never got approved. Having said that and as I pointed out in my comments earlier, when I became the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation, I got approval for 14 additional positions.

One of the other factors too, I think, is just, and I pointed that out again in the springtime and that is why I made a point of not wanting to blame anybody for it. If you look at the circumstances of how this whole... Really, considered a mega project, it was \$200 million announced and the government of the day had a very short time period in which to develop a plan, approve, and have stuff ordered to have it on the boat. I can understand that whenever anything

is done that quickly, there is something that is always going to be missed.

As I pointed out earlier, I know that there has been, as a result of that... To me, the important thing was never mind how we got there. The fact is we realize now, "This is where we are. What are we doing? Let's take measures, identify everything that went wrong, and put measures in place to ensure that that kind of thing doesn't happen again." To me, that was my priority and the direction I gave to staff at the Housing Corporation is, "Let's fix this and let's make sure it doesn't happen again because we can't afford mistakes like that."

Unfortunately, those same numbers, the same flawed forecast and budgeting numbers were used when we developed the numbers for the Affordable Housing Initiative with the \$100 million. By the time we discovered the errors in the budgeting and the forecasting, the number of units under the Affordable Housing Initiative had already been publicly announced and the material was already ordered. We knew we were going to have issues with that. To the extent of what the amount would be, we weren't in a position to say at that time as all of the labour tenders were yet to be issued and awarded.

Again, I think that is where, as a corporation at the time, the direction I gave them is, "We do not want to end up in the same situation in the trust where dollars are committed without approval." That is why the corporation came back and got approval from cabinet and the FMB to be able to move forward and complete the units under the trust. If that wasn't done, the other option would

have been just freeze work on them. This government and this cabinet said, “Housing is our top priority. We want to make sure we get these houses built and on the ground.” I thank my colleagues in cabinet for that support. It is the same thing.

Once the labour tenders and everything came in for the Affordable Housing Fund, it is where now we have been able to identify what the number was nailed down fairly closely. It is never a perfect science. There are always things that happen, and that is why they have contingencies in anything. If you look in some communities and you look at a house that is halfway under construction and it burns down, or if you look in some communities, last year, where they had to deliver freight to a different community and then haul it over land there, and those kinds of things... . You can't foresee everything.

But I really do believe that the corporation has taken and has made substantial gains in putting measures in place to ensure that something like that does not happen again. It's also something that I and my staff at the time worked very closely with the Minister of Finance and his officials to ensure that adequate measures were put in place to ensure that something like that wouldn't happen again. Hopefully that explains it.

If you go through a complete list of the types of things that have been put in place, one example I'll use is in the past, the district offices were authorizing and awarding contracts and there was no real central monitoring going on. That has been changed now. Now any change orders that come through have to go

through centrally first before they are approved so that they can better monitor.

These are the kinds of things that weren't being tracked and monitored in the past by the management, so that's one of the reasons why it never got caught at that time. Once those measures were put in place by the new administration, it is when these things came to light and things started changing. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister. The next member on my list is Mr. Komoartok.

**Mr. Komoartok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My first question is directed to the Minister of Health and Social Services.

Just last week, the Suicide Prevention Strategy was tabled in the House and it was accepted by this government. I want to ask this question. I believe that his department is the lead on this initiative. Did the department allocate funding specific to this program so that it can be successful? The report outlines many items that I want to see move forward and we see that occur too often here in Nunavut. Has the funding for this initiative been discussed at the executive level so that it can proceed effectively? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Tagak Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I thank my colleague for raising that issue. What I can tell the member is that we have funding set aside for this initiative.

We also provided funding for the consultation tour and this was referenced in those consultations. In our strategy, we are going to continue to provide that funding. Even though they are currently visiting the communities, the action plans are being amended based on their findings, but there will be further opportunities to make improvements by the committee. I can tell you that in total, we have set aside \$800,000 for that.

Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Your second question, Mr. Komoartok.

**Mr. Komoartok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wish to thank the minister for providing that information, and we wish this strategy all the success in the future.

With respect to my second question, it seems to be a similar issue and I wish to direct to the Minister of Education. There was a resolution passed that I would like to see implemented. This dealt with teachers and school staff training so that they can recognize and intervene in those cases that they recognize.

The DEA coalition made a motion so that the teachers and school staff can take training on suicide prevention and not just on a single training module. I want to see this training continue to try and decrease the number of cases we face here in Nunavut. Does the minister agree with that and will these things go through? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Hunter Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Adamee, for that question.

I would just like to inform, I don't know if the member is aware, when I met with the Coalition of Nunavut DEAs and all of the DEA chairs that were in town a couple of weeks ago for their annual meeting, I was asked that question there. I did commit to them at the time, I recognized the importance and the value, and I believe it's the ASIST program. My colleague, Mr. Peterson, took that program and he went on for quite a length of time to say how wonderful and how good that program was. I did indicate to them at that time that there are professional development days that could be used for something like that.

However, right now, the PD days, there is a structured plan in place right now. The priority of the department is to utilize those days right now to ensure the staff in the schools are trained and brought up to date on some of the newer roles and responsibilities under the new *Education Act*. It is a priority. If they can find other ways and means to include it in there, if they want it sooner... . Once our training is done to all the staff as far as implementation of the new *Education Act* and their new roles and responsibilities, I would be more than happy to move forward with that. It's just a matter of conflicting priorities.

If any school can find other ways outside of their professional development to include taking training like that, I would be fully supportive of it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Komoartok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the minister for his response.

I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Human Resources. Just recently, there was an announcement that Inuit employees in the GN had dropped from 52 percent to 51 percent, and we're not happy to hear that. There are many Inuit who go to further their education. It's very difficult to obtain Inuit employees perhaps within the governments. So therefore, I would like to ask the minister, after we heard those reports, how his department is planning to increase the number of Inuit employees within the GN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Komoartok. Hon. Daniel Shewchuk.

**Hon Daniel Shewchuk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank Adamee for that question too. First of all, I would like to say, as Minister responsible for Human Resources, that Inuit employment and Article 23 of the land claims is a very important to us and is a priority for me and the Government of Nunavut. Mr. Komoartok points out that we do have challenges in this regard.

However, I do have some statistics here that show that there are more beneficiaries getting jobs and working with the Government of Nunavut. One statistic is as of March 31, 2001, there were 943 beneficiary employees with the Government of Nunavut. Today, there are 1,512 beneficiaries. Over that time period, there was a 60 percent increase in beneficiary hires.

However, that being said, the challenge is still there. Through the new organizational structure we have at HR, we are going to have representation of Inuit employment and planning across the whole division of HR and not just one separate division. It's going to be implemented across all departments.

There is going to be an Inuit Employment Planning Committee set up with the Department of HR represented by all divisions again to look at different means and ways that we can strengthen our Inuit workforce in Nunavut. Part of that will be increased training to existing staff and new staff, and training to entry level staff that can move forward into more medium management or senior management positions.

Also with that, we have increased, as the House knows, our summer student program and encourage young Inuit people to get involved in different government careers through the summer student program and experience that, and encourage them go through that way too and experience what jobs are out there.

Also, we are decreasing our casual hires and we want and our goal is to direct appoint beneficiaries into jobs that they have been doing for long-term casual positions. I think the key here, Mr. Chairman, is that education is the key. Working together with high schools, working together with the Arctic College on educating young Inuit people to get into the workforce and have the skills that they need to do that is very important.

That is our plan going ahead, and it is our dream by the end of the term of this government that we see a measurable

increase in Inuit employment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Komoartok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would also like to thank the minister. The people out there have told us that they are getting impatient when a job opportunity is posted and it almost takes a year to fill that position. Some people who had applied for that job got tired of waiting and ended up going after another job. Isn't there some way to shorten the length of time it takes to fill vacant positions? Are you going to review it? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Daniel Shewchuk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank you for the question too. Yes, you outline another very big priority in the Department HR is to lessen the hiring time and the process and the time it takes to fill vacant positions and through the competition process. This has started already. We are going to implement a tracking program so that we know exactly where the competitions are, but with the cooperation of the departments and the instruction of Department of Human Resources, we have initiated this.

I think, all of us, if we look into the government website, you will be many more positions being advertised. The times are being lessened and they will be more so once we have our new structure in place that we can track these competitions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister. Thank you, Mr. Komoartok. The next member on my list is Mr. Okalik.

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to direct my question to Minister Tootoo.

We both represent Iqaluit and I usually stay here in Iqaluit after the end of each session because my constituency office is here. A majority of his cabinet colleagues stay in Iqaluit more than the minister even though they are not from here. It seems like this minister sometimes cannot keep up to his work. What are you going to improve this situation?

Since he seems to have been promoted and is now the Minister of Education, I will always fight for our students because I believe they deserve to have a good minister. What are you going to do to improve your working relationship and take care of your responsibilities and spend more time at the office? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Okalik. (interpretation ends) Hon. Hunter Tootoo.

**Hon. Hunter Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I looked forward, when we went through the last sitting, I wish I would have got some questions on education. The member would have been able to find out how abreast I am of the issues and the stuff.

That is one thing that I take pride in, not only in the staff that I have worked with in the last two years but I am working now as well with the Department of Education, is quality of information that

they provide to me for review. The way I look at it is I owe it to them for all of the hard work that they do to make sure I do my homework. On top of the issues, we go through the briefing books, sit down and have meetings with them.

I have regular meetings with the staff; I'm over at the office quite regularly. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I did not hear a response. I asked the minister that I have observed that many ministers who do not live in Iqaluit spend more time at the office because I occasionally meet with the ministers when they are here for the sessions. The minister's attendance at the office has to be improved. I wanted to know if he will be visiting his office more often. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Hunter Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do live here in Iqaluit. Iqaluit is my home. So I have never received a request from the member for a meeting, but I'm sure that if I did, I would be more than happy to accommodate it with him. So I don't know what else I can say to the member. If he wants a meeting, all he's got to do is ask. Thanks.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Your third question, Mr. Okalik.

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): I still haven't received a response. I note that the minister is not always in his office,

especially when I try to visit him in his office. Sometimes his constituents come to my office where they request support, especially if the minister is not readily available. Now, this has caused some problems for some of his constituents. I asked the question to the minister: will he improve his attendance at his ministerial office? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Hunter Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Now the member knows what I went through for the last ten years.

I think I spend a lot of time in my office here. If you go through the staff up there, I am here quite a bit. So, sorry, I don't understand what the member is getting at, but I am available, I am in my office, and I am sure, as he is aware from his experience, as a minister, you have a lot of duties and different things to attend to where you have to travel for work, and you are not always here. I remember walking through the second floor in the last two Assemblies and it seemed like a ghost town most of the time.

But in between sittings, I do try to take every opportunity I can. I have been coming to my office in my work clothes if I'm working on something in my shed. On my days off, I come in and see how things are going.

I know the member indicates that he is not getting or I think he's just not getting the response he wants, but that's his choice. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister. (interpretation) Mr. Okalik, is that all? No? Are you done? Mr. Okalik.

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): I'm done for now. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. The next member on my list is Ms. Ugyuk.

**Ms. Ugyuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to direct my question to the Deputy Premier, Hon. Peter Taptuna.

Ever since the Nunavut government was created, we have been told about the Bathurst Mandate and that it was the foundation for the previous governments and that we would try to implement the mandate that was created in Bathurst Inlet. The government employees would follow that Bathurst Mandate.

With the new government, they created a new mandate which is now called *Tamapta*. I did not get a response on my earlier question about *Tamapta*. What is inside that *Tamapta* Mandate? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Hon. Peter Taptuna.

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wasn't here in 1999, but I'm aware of the Bathurst Mandate. It was the government's first mandate that they put together. In the *Tamapta* Mandate that this government put together and, in fact, in Cape Dorset in one of our retreats, that's the guideline and priorities that we put forth for this government to do in this term, but the vision goes all the way to 2030. Most of the priorities are adopted from the Bathurst Mandate, including footsteps 1 and 2 that the previous government had done.

So it's very similar, but as you know, every government that comes into power does create its own priorities and mandate to do that, and *Tamapta* is the one we created for this government. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister. Your seventh question, Ms. Ugyuk.

**Ms. Ugyuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will ask the same minister in regard to mining.

We talk about the Bathurst Inlet Port and Road and it's very expensive to bring in goods through the plane. Through the Bathurst Inlet Port and Road, it will be cheaper for Nunavummiut to bring in goods from the south. We receive ships; one from Montreal to this area and one from the Northwest Territories to our area.

Even though we're the Nunavut government, how do you envision the future for the Bathurst Inlet Port and Road? I understand that there is a winter road that is not quite close to our community, but the road would be in Nunavut. I would like to get an understanding on that. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Taptuna.

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that. I really appreciate that question. The Bathurst Inlet Port and Road has been a vision of Inuit organizations, especially the Kitikmeot Inuit Association and its birthright development arm, the Kitikmeot Corporation.

My department contributed this year and over the year to help update the baseline studies. There is work that has been ongoing and we're expecting a report from the proponent. Kitikmeot knows for a fact that if this development does go ahead, it will bring the costs down for commodities, goods, and fuel for the communities, not only that, there is also the possibility of roads that come off of there to this potential resource development that's already in its early stages of exploration. There are a couple that are in the later phases of exploration and doing some feasibility studies on their properties in mining.

For the most part, we know for a fact that with climate change, these winter roads that are coming from down south are very feasible. So with a permanent road coming from the North, it may be able to supply all of these sites and communities in the Kitikmeot. Not only the Kitikmeot, it is going to be a huge benefit for the communities and bringing the costs down not only for the Kitikmeot, for Nunavut, in fact, and the whole nation. We do pay close attention to that.

But at the end of the day, the major developer has to decide to put in major influx of funds to build it. Of course, the major proponent there, the MMG out of China, they do have a Canadian subsidiary that's Ming Metals of China. They are the main proponent of that road and port with the help of Nuna Logistics, KIA, and the Kitikmeot Corporation. We hope to see this project go forth to benefit the communities of the Kitikmeot, not only the Kitikmeot but it could benefit Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister. Ms. Ugyuk.

**Ms. Ugyuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for responding to me. In regard to adult instructors, I would like to ask the Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College.

We see in Nunavut that the NTEP students are very interested in taking the NTEP program, but the social workers can only be trained up to a certain level. When can we expect to see social workers being trained in Nunavut and get a higher level of degree so that the social workers can have higher paying jobs? Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. (interpretation) Hon. Daniel Shewchuk.

**Hon. Daniel Shewchuk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that question. She brings up a very important point again and that is adult learning across the territory in every community across Nunavut.

The NTEP program is one of the programs that has been the most successful programs across Nunavut and has benefited all communities. Not only does it strive to meet Inuit employment targets, it provides Inuit teaching Inuit children in Inuit schools. It is a very good program and very successful.

Programs are designated to communities on a priority basis that is outlined by each community and then a process takes place into which communities are selected for those programs. There are only so many programs that can be



delivered in a given year, but we are always trying to increase that and increase the ways and means that we can do that too.

As far as the social workers, we would be very interested in providing upgraded and enhanced skills in the social work. In the Health and Social Services and working with my colleague, Minister Curley, we would be very interested in looking at that process. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister. Ms. Ugyuk.

**Ms. Ugyuk** (interpretation): Thank you. I would like to direct my question to the (interpretation ends) Minister of Justice, Keith Peterson.

(interpretation) My question is in regard to the federal government's gun registry which was overturned when they wanted to take it out. There is an expiry date for gun registry certificates. Where can the Inuit go to fill out the forms? I had asked the environmental officers to see if they can help the Inuit in filling out the forms. Some of them were willing. It is very hard to identify which department you go to get help with the gun registry forms, probably because it is a federal type of program. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Hon. Keith Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Ms. Ugyuk for that question. Yes, it is a federal responsibility.

What happened up in Cape Dorset in the last month has highlighted the need for some action. I have talked to my colleagues on this side and also talked to the RCMP about how we can get together and find a solution to allow people to not only register the guns but get trigger locks and gun boxes. I can't give you a clear-cut answer today, but I can ensure you that the Government of Nunavut is working on it with some of our departments and the RCMP. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister. The next member on my list is Mr. Aupaluktuq.

**Mr. Aupaluktuq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My question is for the Minister of Mines and ED&T, the Hon. Minister Peter Taptuna.

As people from Baker Lake, we are proud to contribute to Nunavut's and Canada's gross domestic product. We, as Qamani'tuarmit, anticipate returns to social development as a result of our contribution of and from our land. We also expect and demand acknowledgement of our contributions not only as a community but also with respect to the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement.

My question to the hon. member is: with Inuktitut, Inuit values, customs, and respects, as well with the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement, with mining development and economic development, what position do you stand on with respect to Inuit morale and value in the mining sector and economy? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. Hon. Peter Taptuna.

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that question. Within the department, in fact, in several departments, we do have a societal impact committee and we do have a number of directors who sit on that committee, including DPAs within several of our departments we have here in the Nunavut government, which involves the finance department, CGS, and ED&T, including EIA.

For the most part, within the DPA, it's more or less based and focused on retaining infrastructure value that may be built by the mining industry, any kind of infrastructure value that may exist close to the vicinity of a community or where it may be built right within the community. That's our focus within DPA and to determine some of these things that are negotiated within that is the committees that do travel around. We do have three committees – one in each region, one in the Qikiqtaaluk, Kivalliq, and Kitikmeot. We do use their information to negotiate whatever is in the DPA, but we have only one DPA that exists at this time and that is with Agnico-Eagle, of course.

For the most part, the developer does negotiate IIBAs with the land claims institution of NTI. They do have that right under some certain article within the land claims agreement to negotiate impact and benefits agreements. With a mine located on several parcels of subsurface lands, NTI and RIAs do have that responsibility to negotiate what the beneficiaries do want. For the most part, the mine being so close to Baker Lake, I'm sure that NTI and the RIAs do pay

close attention to the community's wishes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister. Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. The next member on my list is Mr. Ningark.

**Mr. Ningark:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wanted to say something about the sovereignty issue in the North. As we know, today, to many of us and to the Canadian government, it means more presence of the Canadian Coast Guard. For the world, it means a shortcut from east to west, like a superhighway.

I would like to ask every minister of this government what it means to the ministers in terms of economic development and infrastructure building for this jurisdiction, Mr. Chairman. I would like to look at the big picture of the economic opportunity. If you don't feel that it is within your portfolio to answer that, it's the federal government, but once in a while, the minister of the Crown has to communicate with the Canadian government.

What does it mean to you in terms of economic development opportunities and infrastructure building for the people of Nunavut, regardless of what background these people are coming from? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Ningark. You used six of your questions earlier; you only have four questions and four answers left. From which ministers do you want answers from? Mr. Ningark.

**Mr. Ningark:** I have never been given the opportunity and I thank the minister. One is the economic development minister, obviously. If it's your

prerogative, can I ask also the Premier of this government? No? Okay, I'll have to pick... the other one is...

>> *Laughter*

This is tough, very tough. Minister of Environment, the second obvious question, and the man of infrastructure, CGS. Do I have one more?

>> *Laughter*

Who is the transportation minister by the way? You are and economic development, so you have been asked already. And the Minister of Justice, why not? Thank you.

>> *Laughter*

>> *Applause*

**Chairman:** Thank you. The first minister is Hon. Peter Taptuna.

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the question from the member. Sovereignty is an ongoing issue that we all have up north here in Nunavut, not only in Nunavut but throughout Northern Canada and the other two territories, Yukon and NWT. For the most part, Mr. Chairman, in Nunavut, there is a lot of potential. There is potential for a lot of riches out here. There are a lot of mineral riches, oil and gas, and the potential to make our country rich because of its high potential of all of the minerals we have in Nunavut.

For that matter, Mr. Chairman, Canada, with a small population of 33 million, is one of the richest countries in the world. Having said that, there is no need for

poverty and homelessness, but for the most part, there is a lot of that within our nation. Nunavut is no exception.

We do have the potential for resource development and benefiting from it through devolution, of course, but the sovereignty issues have always been twofold. There are several countries that have put in arguments that the Northwest Passage is international, more than several countries. Several countries that have shown interest: Korea, China, the Americans, and the Danish government. Having said that, they do understand that there are potential riches and we know for a fact that in some areas where we had geological surveys done, it indicates that and it shows that the potential is very high.

I have always said that we do need help from Ottawa; we do need help from our federal government to get infrastructure into the North so that development could take place and bring the economy up north to alleviate poverty and sustain a good life for citizens of Nunavut up here. Ottawa built Canada from east to west, and the building is still incomplete; it still got to be built from the south to the north, and that is one of the things that I have been pushing every chance I get to meet with some federal officials.

Sovereignty, for the most part, is something that's got to be dealt with. We do not have any Coast Guard services. We do not have any search and rescue centres up north here. The closest ones are four and five hours away by Hercules aircraft, and that's way too far. I think it's time to assert sovereignty in the North.

Ottawa's got to pick up the pace and put in some search and rescue service centres for the North and start taking a good look at putting infrastructure up here to not only help Nunavut but to help the whole nation in economic development. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister. The next minister is the Minister of Environment, Hon. Daniel Shewchuk.

**Hon. Daniel Shewchuk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll echo the words of my colleagues. Sovereignty, to me, in the Arctic and Canada is sovereignty needs investment and I think the federal government needs to invest in the Arctic to have their thoughts of a sovereign nation. If they respect Nunavut to be part of Canada, then they need to invest in Nunavut. I also think that sovereignty is, in a sense, the sovereignty of Nunavut through devolution.

**An Hon. Member:** Hear, hear!

**Hon. Daniel Shewchuk:** Devolution will, no doubt, provide economic benefits to all of Nunavut and Nunavutmiut and benefits to the people who deserve to have the benefits given to them from the resources they have.

There is a balance in this too and as we all know, the environment, the wildlife, and the way of life of Inuit is very important, but development and economic benefits that are there through different exploration and mines is very important for the evolution of Nunavut and for progress to happen. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. The next minister will be Hon. Lorne Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you. Thank you for directing that question to me also. I'll take the question as notice.

>>*Laughter*

I'm kidding. Thank you. It's a very important issue. I think I will tackle it from this aspect. I don't think I am here to debate the sovereignty issue part of it, but I will tell you this: you asked about it becoming the highway of the North and freight and goods, it's being used as a highway to transport goods east to west, and when that day comes, I think the government of the day will have a lot to benefit from it. As it stands now, because of the unpredictability of the ice, we can't ship goods through it right now, but when that day comes, when it does become a transportation highway east-west, we will be saving a tremendous amount of money in transporting goods.

You have to realize that when we are shipping fuel products, let's say, to the Kitikmeot, west towards Cambridge Bay and Kugluktuk, those goods start out in places like Seattle and in some years, from China and they have to go all the way around Alaska, and then finally into Nunavut. That takes a tremendous amount of effort and dollars and different contracting companies in order to be able to achieve those tasks.

So, in the years, I see that they are coming when are able to go from the east to west. There will be tremendous savings in terms of transporting goods because they will be able to use the same fuel suppliers, and so on and so forth, and ship this way and not go all the way around Alaska.

If I could answer it that way, Mr. Chairman, I think there is potential here when it does happen that we will have savings, in particular, petroleum products and shipping of goods that we could use that money elsewhere to support other infrastructure projects. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister. The next minister will be the Minister of Justice, Hon. Keith Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank my colleague from the Kitikmeot for asking that excellent question. I was born and raised in the North. I have lived in all three territories and I get rather annoyed by people when they don't know where the North is, in particular, a lot of people don't know where Nunavut is.

I used to appear before federal standing committees when I was with the Nunavut Association of Municipalities. I had to start bringing in maps to show some Members of Parliament where Nunavut was and how the communities were all up here. I said that there are people living there in Nunavut. We didn't just suddenly appear overnight. People have been here for thousands of years.

Mr. Aupaluktuq just asked a question earlier about the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. We are all Canadians up here, so we are here already and we are using the territory. We live here. We're developing the territory. We love this territory, otherwise we wouldn't be here, wouldn't be MLAs, wouldn't be ministers, and wouldn't be fighting daily to improve the standard and quality of life for the people who we represent.

I have appeared before federal standing committees several times and it was always interesting how I had to educate them about the North. I remember one quote one time from an MP, and he said, "Never be ashamed to ask for help on behalf of the people who you represent." As ministers and MLAs, we do have to go forth and assert sovereignty in the North, and we have to encourage our government in Ottawa to continue to assert it and not just sporadically but all of the time.

I was very encouraged by the Prime Minister when he came to Cambridge Bay this summer and announced the CHARS, Canadian High Arctic Research Station, for Cambridge Bay that will be open by 2017. That will be a great boost to our territory and to our region. I know Mr. Elliott thinks we're a part of the High Arctic now, but that's a debate for another day. We're on the Northwest Passage. Countries around the world say it's an international channel. I still see it as within Canada and within Nunavut.

I know you asked me as the Minister of Justice, but it's hard to separate when you're the Minister of Finance and Minister of Justice. I see, as the Minister of Finance, how we have to strive to develop our territory through our territorial formula financing agreement. You know, 85 percent of our funding that we receive comes through that agreement and only 8 percent of it is through our own source revenues, so we're just barely getting by in my opinion.

We have deteriorating infrastructure in every community in Nunavut; it is very old. We had to invest hundreds of

millions of dollars in upgrading that infrastructure. On a ballpark, we probably need \$2 billion right now for houses, municipal infrastructure, hospitals, and schools. The only way we're going to get that is by developing our economy and it ties in with sovereignty. I know we have lobbied for many years in the Kitikmeot and I know the folks in the Kivalliq have lobbied as well for investment in our roads, ports, and infrastructure.

To me, that's the key to developing our economy in Nunavut where we have to put that infrastructure in place and that will attract outside investment up here from other sources, then part and parcel of that will come the training opportunities, the business opportunities, and we will be putting people to work, then that will increase our gross domestic product, and then our corporate and personal income taxes. That will be important in the long term for us in terms of our devolution negotiations.

Ultimately, I would like to see this all lead towards improving the economic wealth of individuals and communities. When people are working and people are having higher education, when they are doing something, I think they are happier. There will be social issues that come with that, but we have to work hard. I'm not thinking five years; I'm thinking 20 to 30 years.

It's going to take a lot of effort by a lot of people, land claims groups, the private sector, governments, municipalities, all of us working together in raising the profile of Nunavut in southern Canada and around the world, sustaining it, and then working hard, building and taking our steps, and then

the people who follow us will continue to do their part.

Eventually, it will lead to a point where we are a thriving, contributing member of Canada. We won't have to rely on territorial formula financing and the future generations will look back and appreciate all of the work that we did as MLAs and ministers. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister. The next member on my list is Mr. Ningeongan.

**Mr. Ningeongan** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask my question to the Minister of Human Resources.

Just last fall, we were informed that one of the objectives of the Nunavut government for 2020 was to have a representative level of Inuit beneficiaries comprising 85 percent of the public service. It has become unclear as to whether that objective will change, especially after the Auditor General presented her report.

I do note, however, Mr. Chairman, back in 1999 with the creation of the territory, Inuit had huge expectations about what would change, especially with our own public government, and that we would be able to make our own decisions and, in particular, deal with the issues most important and relevant to Inuit in Nunavut.

Be that as it may, from my own personal observations, when a boy or a girl turns ten years old, adults generally do not have large expectations from that child since we know that the child is entering

their growth phase and entering an age when they become more capable, and then eventually they will become physically able to undertake more work. Our expectations only develop at that age, when they are becoming adults physically. I am analogizing that phase to make a point about our current situation.

After the Auditor General's review of the Inuit employment figures, what are the Department of Human Resources' plans to address this challenge? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister of Human Resources, Hon. Daniel Shewchuk.

**Hon. Daniel Shewchuk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm not sure exactly if I understand the question, but I think it's to do with Inuit employment again and it's very similar to the question that was asked to me before by a previous member. The target he refers to of 85 percent by 2020, this target is going to be very difficult to meet. This is a huge challenge and in reality, it's going to be very difficult to meet. However, that does not mean that we are going to stop trying to meet that target.

I somewhat disagree with the member when he states that ten-year-old children shouldn't have high expectations or that we don't believe that they can move on. Well, we should because they do have high expectations, we do of them, and I'm sure that parents and their families do, and we would hope that they have the best education that is available to them.

We are going to try and meet these Inuit employment needs. As I say, we have several programs in place with our new organization structure of HR, more training, more summer students, decreased casual hiring. There are many other things that we have to look at too and the one thing is what type of workforce do we have, how many people do we have available to work, and we are in a very direct challenge with other organizations, with private industry, with NTI, with other Inuit organizations; we are all after the same people. It is very difficult.

But with programs that we have in place and more training within the GN, getting people involved in the GN and the positions that we have in the GN at a younger age, providing them with the skills, them having proper and more education capabilities and opportunities through the Arctic College, and the graduation classes are going up in high school, we hope that we can achieve this goal better into the future. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Ningeongan** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank you for your answer. I think you understood my question clearly. As I stated, when Nunavut was created, we had high expectations as if everything was going to be settled right away. It took the provinces in Canada many years to get them to where they are at today. I just wanted to state that.

Mr. Chairman, I believe I have one more question, if I am correct, to the Minister of Justice. I think it is because I didn't

quite understand why the current government discontinued the Akitsiraq Law Program. They stated that it was due to lack of funding. I think that is what I heard, but I have never really heard exactly why this program was discontinued. According to what I heard from Nunavummiut, I believe that this program was very beneficial to Nunavutmiut.

For example, our government had a shortfall of \$60 million. Why didn't this government set aside that much money towards Inuit programs and services? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. Minister of Justice, Hon. Keith Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Ningeongan for that question. Mr. Chairman, just a little history on the Akitsiraq Law Program, Akitsiraq Law School had that program in the First Assembly; I think there were 15 law students on there with 11 graduates.

It was quite expensive at that time. To the credit of the law school, they graduated the lawyers. In the Second Assembly, there was no Akitsiraq Law School, and then in the Third Assembly, we would call it Akitsiraq Law School II. I started lobbying the territorial government. I guess they just determined that the Department of Justice was the lead department on this request and they had commitments of some federal funding and from other people for the program. They were seeking several millions of dollars.

We looked at it, it was a commendable objective. They went around and had law school fairs, I believe, in a number of communities in Nunavut and then down in Ottawa, they had close to 100 people who expressed an interest in the program, you know, signing up. We just felt that there were other opportunities for law students. If they are interested in pursuing law school, I think you can get funding through FANS and through scholarships.

Also, as the Department of Justice in particular, we have our own internal priorities to deal with. I am speaking of community corrections officers, we've got to help out with the social workers to relieve them of those duties, we have to help put more funding into community justice at the community level, and we had to help out with the legal aid program across Nunavut.

We get many demands, Mr. Chairman, for funding internally just to our own departments, never mind to an organization that is commendable as is the Akitsiraq Law School II. We just, at this time, could not accommodate their request. It would be nice if we could, but the amount of money they were requesting could just not be accommodated at this time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister. Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. I have no more names on my list. Mr. Okalik.

**Mr. Okalik (interpretation):** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wasn't going to ask a question, however, in order to make this more transparent and in light of Mr. Peterson's response, I will ask this.



In reviewing the various needs of our communities and in looking at the changes that we wish to make, we know that every community has pre-existing personnel that are specific to family abuse cases. The government staff for family intervention are already located in the communities and we can utilize these workers in the near future. If we look at the future delegation of duties to include for these workers, we can add probationary duties to their work duties. We should be reversing some of these matters.

I would urge the minister to review these issues in light of what he has tabled with an amended request. It states on there that if our government is unable to fund these request due to fiscal restraints, at the very minimum, our government can readily provide a letter of support that would allow the organization to search for other funds that apply to their field. I would urge our Minister of Justice to conduct a more comprehensive review of these issues as this is something that seems to be a worthwhile addition. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister of Justice, Hon. Keith Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Okalik for that question. Mr. Chairman, the Department of Justice has an agreement with the Department of Health and Social Services, an MOU, for social workers providing correction services in the communities. I have committed to Minister Curley that we will phase corrections officers in and take over those duties that the social workers are currently doing.

I do have a business case that is going forward to get funding for additional corrections officers. It's very important in the communities because the corrections officers have to come with some very sophisticated training and knowledge of the court process and the conditions that the justice system imposes in the decisions.

We will certainly take Mr. Okalik's suggestion and look into it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister. Thank you, Mr. Okalik. I have no more names on my list. I believe that we have completed the questioning of the ministers. Do we agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

### **Vote of Confidence**

**Chairman:** Thank you. We will start balloting.

Okay, members, the ballots are being handed out. We will proceed to the voting stations in an orderly fashion. We will start on my left, Mr. Ningark, and to my right, Mr. Ningeongan. Once these members have returned to their seats, the members next to them will proceed to the voting station. Please proceed. As the Chairman, I will be the last one to vote.

All members have cast their ballots. While the votes are being counted, we will take a break and we will be summoned back to the Chambers at the ringing of the bells. Thank you.

*>>Committee recessed at 17:27 and resumed at 17:44*

**Chairman:** Thank you, members, for coming back here. I will now announce the results. Just a moment.

A majority of members voting have expressed confidence in Premier Eva Aariak. Congratulations!

>>Applause

The second minister: a majority of members voting have expressed confidence in Minister Tagak Curley.

>>Applause

No. 3: a majority of members voting have expressed confidence in Minister Lorne Kusugak.

>>Applause

A majority of members voting have expressed confidence in Minister Keith Peterson.

>>Applause

No. 5: a majority of members voting have expressed confidence in Minister Daniel Shewchuk.

>>Applause

A majority of members voting have expressed confidence in Minister Peter Taptuna.

>>Applause

No. 7: a majority of members voting have expressed confidence in Minister Hunter Tootoo.

>>Applause

Thank you, Members. These proceedings are now concluded. I will remind members that there will be a meeting of the Full Caucus tomorrow morning at 9:00 a.m. in the Nanuq Room to review the selection process for an existing vacancy in cabinet. We are now adjourned for the day.

Before you go, could you return to your seats, please. I made a mistake. No, I'm just kidding. I will need a motion to destroy the ballots. Mr. Tootoo.

**Hon. Hunter Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Chairman never makes mistakes, the Chairman is always right. I will make that motion to destroy the ballots. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Do members agree to destroy the ballots?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. We will see you in the morning.

>>Meeting adjourned at 17:47