



**Nunavut Canada**

**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NUNAVUT**

**3rd Session**

**2nd Assembly**

**HANSARD**

Official Report

**DAY 1**

**Tuesday November 15, 2005**

**Pages 1 – 45**

**Iqaluit**

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

## Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

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*Minister of Health and Social Services; Minister Responsible for Status of Women's Council*

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*Chair, Standing Committee on Infrastructure, housing and Economic Development*

**Hon. Paul Okalik**  
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*Premier; Minister of Justice; Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs*

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk**  
(South Baffin)  
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**Joe Allen Evyagotailak**  
(Kugluktuk)  
*Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole; Chair, Regular Members' Caucus*

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(Iqaluit East)  
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**David Alagalak**  
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*Minister of Economic Development and Transportation; Government House Leader; Management and Services Board*

**Hon. David Simailak**  
(Baker Lake)  
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**Iqaluit, Nunavut  
Tuesday November 15, 2005**

**Members Present:**

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

**Item 1: Opening Prayer**

**Speaker** (interpretation): Welcome to the Third Session of the Legislative Assembly. I call upon Reverend Mike Gardener to say the opening prayer.

>>*Prayer*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Please be seated. Now I would like to ask Iqaluk Juralak to light the *Qulliq*.

**Lighting of Qulliq**

**Speaker** (interpretation): I would now ask all of you to please stand for the singing of *O Canada* by June Shappa.

>>*Anthem*

**Speaker** (interpretation): I call upon Celestine Erkidjuk, Jeff Tabvatah, and June Shappa who has two songs to sing that are traditional and the other one is by my grandmother. She made a song out of it. It is a happy song. I know that you have a lot of work to do and we would like to do a happy song.

>>*Song*

>>*Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Just before we go to the orders of the day Mr. Clerk, can you ascertain if the Commissioner of Nunavut is prepared to enter the chamber to address the Assembly? Thank you.

**Item 2: Opening Address - Throne Speech**

**Commissioner Hanson** (interpretation): Please be seated. Welcome Inuit, Mr. Speaker, the Premier, Members of the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut, the people of Nunavut, and especially to my husband Bob Hanson.

I am honoured to serve Nunavummiut and it is with great pride that I deliver the Commissioner's Address for the Third Session of the Second Legislative Assembly of Nunavut.

Before and since being appointed on April 21, 2005 as the third Commissioner of Nunavut I have traveled throughout our territory and have been struck by both the optimism and the realism of Nunavummiut.

There is an optimism about who we are as Nunavummiut living in Canada's newest territory. We are justifiably proud of what we have achieved. There is also a realism based on the fact that much more needs to be done before Nunavut can take its full and rightful place in our Canadian federation, and before Nunavummiut have a standard of living, services, and opportunities that most other Canadians take for granted.

When it comes to closing this gap the government is both optimistic and realistic about the outcome of the First Ministers and national aboriginal leaders meeting in Kelowna on November 25. The upcoming meeting will consider new initiatives for aboriginal peoples in key areas of health, education, housing, and economic development; all areas where many of the people of Nunavut live with the reality that we have some way to go.

We welcome the Prime Minister's commitment to begin closing the gap that exists between aboriginal peoples and other Canadians. The strength, determination, independence, and creativity of our people made Nunavut a reality. It is these attributes that will carry us into the future.

Today Nunavummiut are building their Territory while preserving a unique culture, language, and connections to the land.

Having spent the first 11 years of my life living in Qakutut and Kimmirut and speaking only Inuktitut I am particularly aware of the relevance of our culture, language, and our connection to the land.

As Members of this Assembly you reflect Nunavummiut and their aspirations and hopes.

In meeting your objectives as representatives of Nunavummiut I know that you are committed to Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit guiding principles such as Aajiiqatigiinni.

These principles are outlined in *Pinasuaqtavut 2004 to 2009*, the Government's guide that you helped create for its second mandate. The goals and objectives guide your effort to not only strengthen our public government and emerging economy but to ensure that Inuit benefit as a result.

We respect the accumulated wisdom of our elders and they help us combine traditional ways with modern knowledge.

Elders provide an inspirational and cultural link from one generation to the next. And the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth is proposing to strengthen that link. It will implement a pilot project in two Nunavut communities.

This project is geared toward strengthening the role of elders in the community wellness process and addressing social wellness issues based on Inuit societal values.

(interpretation ends) A public government, however, faces many issues within the wider context. For example, we need to solve the deficits that we have inherited in housing, infrastructure and training.

For this a government needs skills and it needs funding.

However, budget restraints are one of the most urgent issues facing the Government of Nunavut today. The fiscal situation facing the territory is serious and cannot be ignored.

In the spirit of Qanuqturniq (being innovative and resourceful), the government is seeking new ways to develop integrated approaches to public services. We need to avoid duplication and optimize available resources.

During this sitting of the Legislature you will be asked to make decisions about expenditures on building and infrastructure projects.

The government is working hard to ensure the Nunavummiut benefit as much as possible from this spending. For example, it is devising approaches that will result in project schedules being set so that training, hiring, and sub-contract opportunities can be maximized

Four money bills will be tabled for your consideration during this sitting.

They are the Appropriation Act 2006-2007, to authorize the Government of Nunavut to make capital expenditures for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2007.

You will also receive the Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act #2 2005-2006, to authorize the Government of Nunavut to make additional capital expenditures for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2006.

In addition, you will be asked to consider the Supplementary Appropriation Act #2 2005-2006, to authorize the Government of Nunavut to make additional operations and maintenance expenditures for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2006.

Finally, there will be the Supplementary Appropriation Act #4 2004-2005. The purpose of this bill is to provide additional appropriations resulting from the impact of year-end accounting adjustments



These bills are being introduced at a time when the world price for crude oil is 50 per cent higher than the year before. This year, Nunavut paid about \$30 million more for fuel than it did last year.

In contrast, federal transfers under the territorial formula financing arrangement will grow annually by only 3.5 percent. This will require us as a territory to restrain expenditures to ensure that we live within our means.

The Government of Nunavut is making its case to the federal government for a fiscal framework that recognizes the needs of Nunavummiut and the unique environment we live in.

Nunavut requires a territorial financing arrangement that ensures our annual grant will grow at a rate that not only allows the territorial government to deliver programs and services comparable to other jurisdictions in Canada, but also ensures that the territory can take advantage of future economic development opportunities.

Nunavummiut are eager to become more self-reliant and make a greater contribution to the rest of Canada.

This is why Nunavut is seeking a devolution agreement. In that agreement Nunavut will be seeking a revenue sharing arrangement that is comparable to the resource sharing arrangements recently achieved by the Maritime Provinces.

Devolution for Nunavut will be part of an historical process of nation building for Canada and empowerment for Nunavummiut, especially for the Inuit majority.

Our approach to devolution will be based on the premise that Nunavummiut should be the principal beneficiaries of Nunavut's natural resources.

We will ensure that terms for that transfer do not adversely affect Nunavut's formula financing arrangement. In other words, there has to be a real net fiscal benefit for Nunavut, otherwise devolution will not make sense.

Nunavut is a part of Canada that is rich in natural resources, including gold and diamonds, as well as large reserves of as-yet-untapped oil and gas.

Our territory is being seen as an increasingly attractive location for mineral investment. Investment in mineral exploration and development is expected to exceed \$150 million in Nunavut for the second straight year. Our goal will be to maximize the economic benefit of that investment for all Nunavummiut.

(interpretation) The first mine in the new era of mining in our territory is presently under construction. The Jericho Diamond mine is expected to begin official production of Nunavut diamonds this coming March.

The territory's relationship with the federal government is as complex as it is important. Part of that relationship includes the implementation of the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement*.

The Government of Nunavut is committed to meeting all its obligations under the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement*, but it cannot do so in isolation.

That is why the government is focusing a considerable amount of energy to reach an agreement with the federal Department of Indian and Northern Affairs for an implementation contract for the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement*.

On May 26, 2005 former Supreme Court of B.C. Justice Thomas Berger was appointed as conciliator for the implementation contract negotiations.

The territorial government looks forward to his final report and his advice on how to resolve outstanding issues.

The lack of an implementation contract has adversely affected Inuit training, institutions of public government and Inuit organizations.

(interpretation ends) The government is also looking forward to concluding the Northern Strategy.

When it was announced almost a year ago the federal government agreed to invest \$40 million in Nunavut over three years.

The government has proposed the following approach to investing the Northern Strategy Trust funds: \$20 million is to be spent on developing and expanding our economy and \$20 million is to be invested in initiatives building a stronger cultural foundation. These are the two priorities agreed on at the Full Caucus meeting in Arviat and are set out in our mandate - *Pinasuaqtavut*.

For developing and expanding our economy \$5 million is to be invested in community economic development with an emphasis on supporting non-decentralized communities.

>>Applause

The strength of non-decentralized communities is critical to our growth, sustainability, and lifestyle. The government understands that some communities of the territory have not shared equally in our growth and prosperity. In response it will continue to support and emphasize economic development in non-decentralized communities.

In addition \$5 million is to be spent promoting environmental stewardship and protection with an emphasis on those initiatives that also contribute to the economy.

And finally, the government is proposing to invest \$10 million in the new trades training school.

>>*Applause*

Out of \$20 million for culture \$10 million is to be invested in a cultural school and \$10 million is to be set aside for a Heritage Centre.

>>*Applause*

In the near future Nunavut will enter into a trust agreement with Canada in order to access the Nunavut Strategy funds over a three-year period.

Nunavut's focus is squarely on expanding our economy.

Building a competitive economy driven by private sector development in our targeted strategic sectors is a priority of this government.

The government wants to boost our economy by modernizing the regulatory process in a manner that is consistent with the priorities set out in the Nunavut Economic Development Strategy and *Pinasuaqtavut*.

>>*Applause*

The government will remove unnecessary regulations that impede business development. It is seeking input from the business community, Inuit organizations, and other stakeholders to find the right balance between the public interest and business interests.

Poor access to capital is well documented as a hurdle for businesses in many jurisdictions, and Nunavut is no different. The government is addressing this specifically with the introduction during this fiscal year of the Strategic Investments Program.

The Government of Nunavut will invest \$4 million under this program. This funding will support implementation of the Nunavut Economic Development Strategy.

The Strategic Investments Program has three different program streams:

- Support for private sector strategic economic infrastructure;
- Knowledge and innovation; and
- Strategic projects.

Projects worth \$3.6 million were approved in early October and the Department of Economic Development and Transportation will enter contribution agreements with the successful applicants.

The Strategic Investments Program will also be available during the fiscal year and a call for the submission of proposals will be made in February 2006.

This program will help businesses to grow, diversify, and prosper. Additionally, it will aid in the strong role and success that entrepreneurs play in many sectors of our developing economy.

An important element for economic expansion is education. We want future generations to be able to benefit fully from our expanding economy.

The Department of Education has begun a fundamental shift in the way education is delivered across Nunavut. This includes kindergarten to grade 12, post-secondary, career counselling, and new strategies to develop an emerging workforce.

(interpretation) A change to the school funding formula has increased the amount of money going to our schools and increased the number of positions, for both teachers and support staff.

The Department of Education is committed to working with District Education Authorities and school staff to maximize our commitment to changing how Nunavut schools are funded.

New school construction or major renovation to our schools will encompass dedicated daycare space, which will open up more daycare across Nunavut.

With more than a 30 percent increase in our graduates this past spring we should celebrate the increase in the number of Grade 12 graduates over the past few years.

(interpretation ends) Our optimism for the future is justified by the success of our young graduates. Success will lead to even more success. That is why we need to continue looking for more ways to provide meaningful and appropriate opportunities for our children to succeed in school.

(interpretation) The working draft of the Nunavut Adult Learning Strategy will be tabled during this sitting.

It suggests approaches to address the educational and training needs of youth and adults in Nunavut. It brings to the forefront not only the challenges we face, but provides thoughtful and prudent ways of attaining them. We encourage the public and those interested to provide comments and input.

The Department of Education, in partnership with Nunavut Arctic College and Inuit organizations, is proposing an intensive teacher recruitment and training strategy for Nunavut. This effort will concentrate on recruiting Inuktitut-speaking teachers.

In a potential labour market brimming with opportunity in the next decades, in areas such as mining, fishing, tourism, and construction, we must prepare our youth for these employment opportunities.

(interpretation ends) In a wider sense, Nunavut education is more than just being taught working-related skills. It is also about the enhancement of Inuit languages as living, working languages of choice in all spheres of life in Nunavut.

(interpretation) I will emphasize that again. As I said earlier, Nunavut education is more than being taught work related skills. It is also about the enhancement of Inuit languages as living, working languages of choice in all spheres of life in Nunavut.

Culture and language of instruction are issues being raised in the consultations for the new *Education Act*. These consultations will be completed in the coming months.

(interpretation ends) Education and training are also one of the key components of the Department of Health and Social Services' Closer to Home strategy, which will create a reformed health and social services system.

Learning closer to home is a key component of the strategy and will provide the next generation of health care providers. This will help us avoid a shortage of doctors, nurses and other health care providers. Shortages of health care professionals are already evident in Canada and abroad.

Nunavut's health system currently relies on the south for staff and services. Professionals from southern Canada move here and provide us with good services, but only a few choose to stay and make Nunavut their home.

Nunavut's goal of healthy communities demands that we equip Inuit to become the health care providers for the next generation at all levels of the system.

>> *Applause*

An ambitious Health Human Resources Strategy will help the government make significant progress over the next five years.

As we graduate Inuit nurses, mental healthcare workers, and other health care specialists in the coming years, Nunavummiut will benefit in many ways. We will receive care from people who understand our language and culture. And, we will receive continuity of care from a team of community-based professionals.

From health care, to the public service, to technical jobs, we need more training and education.

Education is important within Nunavut. It is also important to look outside our territory because we have a pivotal role to play in educating Canadians and others about what we as a people are learning about and experiencing with climate change.

Nunavut has a unique opportunity to raise global awareness about how the effects of climate change are altering our socio-economical, traditional, and cultural ways of life in the Arctic.

That is why Nunavut will be represented at the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual United Nations Climate Change Conference in Montréal from November 28 to December 9, 2005. It will be the first meeting of the signatories to the Kyoto Protocol, which came into effect in February 2005, and discussions will take place on long-term measures to address climate change on a global scale.

These discussions are significant for Nunavut as decisions made during this time will have an impact on the lives of Nunavummiut for years to come.

During this session, the government is going to be tabling legislative amendments for your consideration. These are changes to legislation that we inherited from the Northwest Territories and will result in laws that better meet the needs of Nunavummiut and more accurately reflect practices in Nunavut.

Proposed amendments to the *Liquor Act* will regularize current practices regarding the importation of liquor and the purchase of liquor from government liquor warehouses.

Amendments to the *Financial Administration Act* and *Conflict of Interest Act* will also be tabled. They are intended to strengthen the accountability and management of Nunavut's public agencies.

An Act to amend the *Fire Protection Act* will also be put before you for your consideration.

Our justice system is also adapting to meet the needs of Nunavummiut. We are now seeing the results of changes we have made. It has become a system that more readily incorporates Inuit societal values.

The Department of Justice is shifting its focus more towards community-based healing initiatives and victim services. There has been an expansion in healing for victims, offenders, and their communities.

The number of outpost camps that provide justice healing services in Nunavut communities has increased and the Kugluktuk Ilavut Centre has opened. All have community-based healing programs.

The Department of Justice is continuing consultations on proposed family abuse prevention legislation with the hope that the legislation will reflect and enable traditional

healing methods. The legislation will also focus on providing safety for victims so that they can pursue healing in their community. It has the potential to provide greater stability for families, and in particular for children, who so often are the innocent victims of domestic violence in their homes.

By building a criminal justice system that responds to the needs of Nunavummiut, more matters will be referred to community justice committees, where the communities can use Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit by increasing their involvement in dispute resolution. The goal of this is to heal broken relationships and restore individuals' roles in their community.

(interpretation) In my address I have touched on only some of the successes and on some of the challenges that we face. More needs to be done.

As we move forward we will continue to work with our land claims partners so that we can continue to achieve the objectives and goals in *Pinasuaqtavut 2004-2009*, which is your plan and your government's plan for improving the lives of all Nunavummiut.

The path is clear and I wish you continuing success. Thank you.

>>*Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): We will take a 30-minute break to participate in the Commissioner's reception.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House recessed at 14:32 and resumed at 15:05*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Before proceeding in the Orders of the Day, I wish to make two statements.

I would like to take this opportunity to apologize to our members today for my conduct earlier this year during an official event at which I was in attendance. I can assure members that I have fully accepted their comments to me on this matter.

My second statement concerns the issue of televising the Legislative Assembly's proceedings. Members will have noted in our news release of November 8 a recent policy change on part of the Aboriginal Peoples Television Network has resulted in a proceeding being bumped from the previous time slot.

Regrettably, this will result in being unable to provide a nightly televised synopsis of the day's proceedings in the House as it has been done since April 1, 1999.

We fully appreciate the impact that this will have on Nunavummiut, and are working with the Northwest Territories and Yukon legislatures on this issue.

I will keep all members regularly informed of developments. Thank you.

Orders of the Day. Item 3. Ministers' Statements. Item 4. Members' Statements. Premier.

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

#### **Member's Statement 001 – 2(3): Recognition of Previous Sir Martin Frobisher School Students**

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I stand today to welcome my colleagues to the capital city of Iqaluit.

I rise today to recognize the people of Iqaluit who had their graduation between 1955 and 1963. I'd like to recognize the people who went to school here in Iqaluit and attended Sir Martin Frobisher School. They were recognized recently and the Commissioner was also one of the students who were recognized as was the Sergeant-at-Arms.

The Minister of Education recognized those previous students. They also talked about what they used to do when they attended the school. We didn't know anything in English and we talked about all of the difficulties that we encountered during that time.

It was a very happy event for those students that attended the school years ago and I would like to thank the Department of Education and the students that invited me to witness their recognition. I would like them as our role models for the younger people in Nunavut and I would like to encourage students to continue with their education. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Member's Statement 002 – 2(3): Successful Bowhead Whale Hunt in Repulse Bay**

**Mr. Mapsalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to be back in the House today and I would like to welcome back my colleagues as well. I rise today to share the good news of the successful bowhead whale hunt that was hosted by the community of Repulse Bay this summer.

Mr. Speaker, in April I invited all members of this House to join me in Repulse Bay for the harvest. I would like to thank the members that attended, Tagak Curley and Mr. Netser. And for those who couldn't make it, you missed an excellent day of hunting and a week long celebration.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate all the people who worked hard to make the hunt a success. I would especially like to congratulate Marcel Mapsalak who led the fifth legal bowhead whale hunt since the signing of the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement*.



After less than four hours on the water, a good clean kill was made. The whale was 54 feet long and it took the better part of the week to finish cutting it up. I am very proud of the people of Repulse Bay and I would like to congratulate them for this volunteer work and they worked very hard to the very end of the hunt.

On behalf of the members of this House I would like to suggest that we have another one of those hunts. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

### **Member's Statement 003 – 2(3): Concerns of Constituents**

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to welcome everyone to the House. Mr. Speaker, I would like to begin by congratulating Helen Maksagak in her appointment as Deputy Commissioner. I look forward to seeing her in this House again.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to report to the House on the results of my recent community consultations. Since our last sitting, I have had the opportunity to listen in person to the concerns of my constituents in Arctic Bay, Resolute Bay and Grise Fiord.

Mr. Speaker, the three High Arctic communities that I represent all expressed concerns regarding the high cost of living in Canada's most northerly settlements. Earlier this summer, I was pleased that the Auditor General of Canada took the time to visit Arctic Bay.

This trip was undertaken to assist her office in gaining a greater understanding of the issues and conditions in the North. Her office audits such federal programs as food mail, which has a direct impact in the lives of our constituents.

Mr. Speaker, one of the things that the Auditor General would have seen with her own eyes is the high costs of food and other necessities in our stores.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to have unanimous consent to conclude my member's statement.

**Speaker** (interpretation): The member is asking for unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Mr. Barnabas, continue.

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker and my colleagues. Not too long ago, I was told that one of my constituent's parents could not afford to buy a turkey for their Thanksgiving dinner. This was the first time in their lives that they could not do so.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, we need to look closely at federal and territorial programs to ensure that we are meeting the needs of our constituents. We need to work with retailers to make sure that healthy foods are accessible and affordable for our residents.

Mr. Speaker, housing is an ongoing issue for my communities. The recent staff housing changes announced by the government have caused concerns. While I recognize that it is unrealistic for GN employees in staff housing to expect their rents will always stay the same and never increase, we must be careful that policy changes do not negatively impact the delivery of necessary health and education services in our schools and health centres. We already face significant challenges in recruiting and retaining nurses and teachers.

Mr. Speaker, in my communities the existing staff housing is often old and in poor shape. I understand why people may feel that they are being treated unfairly in being told that they must pay more.

Mr. Speaker, I will be raising other issues of concern during our sitting. I look forward to working with the members in helping to make Nunavut a better place for all our residents. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

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

#### **Member's Statement 004 – 2(3): Achievement Awards for Hamish Tatty**

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to pay tribute to a resident of Rankin Inlet who recently received a prestigious national award. The Business Development Bank of Canada is a federal institution that delivers financial investment and consulting services to Canadian small businesses. Each year during Small Business Week the Business Development Bank of Canada's Young Entrepreneur Award recognizes achievements of Canadian businesspeople between the ages of 19 and 35. One recipient from each province and territory is selected.

Last month at a presentation ceremony held in Calgary, Hamish Tatty of Rankin Inlet received the BDC's Young Entrepreneur Award for Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, Rankin Inlet and the Kivalliq as a whole are well known for the entrepreneurial spirit of its residents. Our small and medium-sized businesses create local jobs, provide training to our residents, and help to drive our economy.

I have known Hamish and his family for many years. Hamish's hard work with a local company, M&T Enterprises, show what drive and determination can achieve. Hamish is also a well-known and well-respected community leader and volunteer.

Mr. Speaker, I have consistently spoken out on the need for a strong, dynamic business sector in Nunavut. Government alone cannot create the jobs and prosperity that our communities and residents deserve.

We need to do our part in ensuring that Nunavut is open for business. Mr. Speaker, I would like to have unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

**Speaker** (interpretation): The member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Mr. Curley.

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I ask all members to join me in congratulating Hamish Tatty for making us proud. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Member's Statement 005 – 2(3): Issues from the Communities that the Members will Raise**

**Mr. Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When Celestine Erkidjuk was here, he said that he was nervous. I guess that the members are not the only people that get nervous here.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to be here.

(interpretation ends) I am pleased to rise today on behalf of my constituents in Coral Harbour and Chesterfield Inlet. Like other members of this House, I look forward to vocally representing my constituents during our session and holding the government accountable for its actions and decisions.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to begin on a positive note by saying that the residents of Coral Harbour are very pleased with the new school bus service in the community. It is making a big difference for our children and I would like to thank the minister for his support in this matter.

>> *Applause*

It's very quiet over there.

>> *Laughter*

Mr. Speaker, I will be raising a number of issues of concern during our session. These include the Government of Nunavut staff housing policy and its impact on our ability to hire and keep health and education staff in our smaller communities.

Mr. Speaker, I recognize that it is not realistic for Government of Nunavut employees to pay the same amount forever for their units; however, we need to make our health and

education staff feel welcome and not feel like they are being punished for coming up to our communities to serve our people.

I also believe, Mr. Speaker, that our public housing rent scale should not be a disincentive for people seeking employment. The quality of public housing in my communities is often very poor due to the age of the units. I can understand why people feel that it is unfair to be asked to pay significantly higher rent for poor quality housing when they manage to get jobs.

Mr. Speaker, members know that I am concerned about drug and alcohol abuse in our communities and I have always advocated a strong stance on this issue. I was very pleased to see the residents of Gjoa Haven recently voted to keep the community alcohol free.

>> *Applause*

(interpretation) I am very proud of the people of Gjoa Haven for having an alcohol-free community because the people who use drugs and alcohol do things that they don't expect to do.

(interpretation ends) I noted that the recent meeting of federal, provincial and territorial Ministers of Justice, the issue of mandatory minimum sentences was discussed. When it comes to drug pushers and bootleggers, I would like to see tougher penalties.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to a productive sitting this month. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Members' Statements. Mr. Evyagotailak.

**Member's Statement 006 – 2(3): Community Concerns to be Raised During Session**

**Mr. Evyagotailak** (interpretation): Koana, Uqaqti.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to report to the House on the recent constituency meeting that I held in Kugluktuk.

Earlier this month, a number of my constituents attended a meeting to share their concerns with me in advance of our sitting this month. I want to thank everyone who took the time to come out and speak.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, a lot of very important issues were brought to my attention and I made a commitment to bring those issues to the floor of the House. Mr. Speaker, I would like to highlight those issues today. I will be following up on a number of them during our sitting.

Mr. Speaker, I recently had an opportunity to welcome the Legislative Assembly's Standing Committee on Health and Education to Kugluktuk. Education is the key priority for Kugluktuk.

Issues that were raised with me include: the need to provide healthcare service as close to Kugluktuk as possible and to address the issue of medical escorts; the need to address domestic violence and to find ways to support our local shelter; the need to provide on-the-land programming for young offenders close to the community; the need to expand 24-hour care for our elders; and, the need for us to get the procedures working in relation to the boards which help regulate mining development.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, I am pleased with the appointment of Helen Mapsagak as the Deputy Commissioner and would like to congratulate her. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Member's Statement 007 – 2(3): Concerns to be Raised During Session**

**Mr. Peterson:** Koana, Uqaqti. I am pleased to rise today to welcome all members back to the House; it's good to be back despite the weather.

I am especially pleased to be able to extend congratulations on behalf of the entire community of Cambridge Bay to Helen Maksagak on a recent appointment of our Deputy Commissioner. Helen is one of my constituents and neighbours. As members know, she has a long and distinguished background in public service and community work.

Mr. Speaker, the last six months have been very busy for all of us in our communities. I'm sure that our constituents are looking forward to us rolling up our sleeves and getting some work accomplished during this session and in the upcoming months.

Mr. Speaker, there are all sort of issues to consider during this sitting and in the upcoming budget session early next year. Some of the issues that people from Cambridge Bay have talked to me about include the state of economic development and mine training programs in the territory, the Government of Nunavut's staff housing policy, the ongoing tragedy of domestic violence, the need to identify better ways to speak for and protect children, the status of devolution (especially where we allocate Nunavut's \$40 million share of the Nunavut Strategy funding), the delivery of health and social services programs to our communities, the urgent need to address the infrastructure deficit facing Nunavut, the urgent need to address the literacy deficit facing Nunavut, and the state of our territory's finances, which remain a bit of a mystery to me having not yet seen the public accounts for 2003-2004 or 2004-2005.

Mr. Speaker, during the past six months that MLAs were in their ridings, much has happened at the cabinet level. I for one remain just a bit curious about the fact of the cabinet shuffle following our last sitting in the spring, given that most ministers had less than a year and a half as heads of their departments.

Mr. Speaker, the ministers attended many important federal and provincial-territorial meetings on behalf of Nunavut. The Premier also attended the Western Premiers' Conference during the summer.

I look forward to the ministers taking the time during this session to formally update the Legislative Assembly and the voting public on their actual activities and accomplishments at these national meetings.

Mr. Speaker, I request unanimous consent to complete my statement.

**Speaker** (interpretation): The Member is asking consent to conclude his statement. Are there any nays? There are no nays, Mr. Peterson please proceed.

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank my colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, we often find out about what goes on in these important gatherings by piecing together clues from reading things from elsewhere. For example, we hear the three northern Territories are working together to get a better deal from Ottawa on childcare funding.

However, I haven't heard a formal statement from our minister on this issue and we need to know where we stand today. It is important that ministers use their time in the House and to speak candidly to the public and with all members about these important developments that have an impact on our residents.

Mr. Speaker, although the prospect of a federal election in early 2006 has created some uncertainty for us, we must not lose sight of the pressing issues facing us today. Our constituents send us to Iqaluit to get things done on their behalf and I therefore look forward to working with all members in doing so. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

### **Member's Statement 008 – 2(3): St. Jude's Cathedral Fire**

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker and welcome to all my colleagues. Mr. Speaker, I am sure Mr. Peterson will find out in the next week and half about the update on the LCC from the minister that he was speaking about.

Mr. Speaker, our community suffered a grievous loss. A grievous loss, when St. Jude's Anglican Cathedral experienced a fire almost two weeks ago. Mr. Speaker, the historic cathedral has been and is the focal point for many of our residents.

Since the fire, the support of the congregation from Iqaluit, in Nunavut, and across the country has been overwhelming and we want to take this opportunity Mr. Speaker, to thank all the people who have sent kind words, e-mails, faxes and letters of encouragement as well as in some cases, Mr. Speaker, substantial cash donations.

Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to thank Captain Ron McLean, Reverend Methusalah Kunuk, our many leaders, and the people of Iqaluit who have remained strong and are committed to moving ahead in a very positive light.

Mr. Speaker, in the next few weeks, we, as a congregation, hope to be in a position to confirm the next steps in the process of dealing with the loss as a community and as a congregation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 009 – 2(3): Charitable Donations Highest in the Country**

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to first off, take this opportunity to extend my congratulations and I am sure on behalf of all members, to our new Commissioner who delivered her first throne speech this afternoon and also, like a couple of my colleagues, warmly congratulate Mrs. Helen Maksagak on her appointment as Deputy Commissioner. As most members know she was our first Commissioner.

I am very pleased to welcome back all members to our capital city of Iqaluit and, as has been said before, we look toward a very productive sitting.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today and offer some thought on connections between two announcements that have recently come to our attention.

As you may have recalled, I had the pleasure to rise on several occasions in this House to express my appreciation to all Nunavummiut for their generosity in making charitable donations to worthy causes.

Once again, Mr. Speaker, Statistics Canada has confirmed that Nunavummiut lead the country when it comes to opening their hearts and their wallets. For the fifth year in a row, the donations from our territory were the highest in the country. In 2004, a total of 1,690 tax filers made charitable donations. I would like all members to join me in expressing our appreciation of these efforts.

>> *Applause*

Mr. Speaker, it should be noted that a relatively small percentage of our population was in a position to make a donation last year. While those who are fortunate enough to have

the means to help others do so with commitment and generosity; too many of our residents cannot.

Mr. Speaker, every member of this House knows that strong literacy and numeracy skills are absolutely essential for people in order to take advantage of education and employment opportunities. Without these skills young people simply have less chance of succeeding in today's world.

Without these skills they will not be in the position to successfully compete in jobs that will in turn put them in positions to help and support others. That is the hard truth, Mr. Speaker, but it is something that we must face head-on.

Mr. Speaker, at this time I would like to ask unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

**Speaker** (interpretation): The member is asking for consent to conclude his statement. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Mr. Tootoo continue.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker and fellow colleagues. Last week Statistics Canada also revealed some very disturbing figures. Nunavut's performance in a recent international adult literacy and skills survey exposed our weakness in the areas of literacy and numeracy.

Mr. Speaker, I would not be surprised to hear the same old excuses being offered to explain why we are not measuring up. However, I firmly believe that when it comes to performance in these areas we need fewer excuses and more investments and action.

Mr. Speaker, the Yukon Territory did very well in this survey. I do not think that it is a coincidence that they invest significantly more than we do in literacy initiatives and programs. It is a disgrace that literacy is not more of a priority for us.

Mr. Speaker, we have a choice. When it comes to poor performance in standardized tests in our schools we can go on making excuses and trying to discredit the tests themselves, or we can take action to improve the situation.

In the recent public hearings of the Standing Committee on Health and Education, witnesses told us over and over again that literacy skills were much stronger in the past. We need to face this issue directly and not be satisfied until we see real improvement.

We need action to ensure that our kids grow up with strong literacy and numeracy skills in both English and Inuktitut. We cannot bow our heads and pretend that this problem will go away if we simply avoid any kind of standardized test.

Mr. Speaker, national figures on charitable donations confirm once that Nunavummiut are second to none when it comes to caring for their neighbours, their communities, and their country. We must not rest until we are second to none in helping our people gain the



skills that will allow them to seize the opportunities that they deserve. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Please stick to one subject if you are making a statement. Members' Statements. Mr. Alagalak.

**Member's Statement 010 – 2(3): Concerns for Hunters and Trappers**

**Mr. Alagalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to touch on an issue of concern, but first of all I would like to thank Mr. Ed Picco, who went to Arviat to open the new school. It's fully utilized and I think the floor is just about done right now. Because it is being used so much it will probably have to be renovated pretty soon.

I was a little out of place a little earlier. I wanted to look at Peter Kilabuk but he was sitting at the wrong place. I then looked for Louis and he was sitting at another place. I saw Leona instead, sitting on his chair.

(interpretation ends): I rise this afternoon to raise the concerns of our hunters and trappers. This is a concern that I have. The elders know Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit but today what they are saying is that there are no animal tracks at all in our area. There are no fox tracks around our community and they are not sure if they are going to be making any money this coming winter. Even though that is the case the elders never give up but at times they do look for some type of support from the government.

I would like to say that the Government of Nunavut should consider solutions.

The population has grown tremendously in Arviat. We have a large number of hunters and I'm not sure exactly how they're going to survive if there are no foxes around our community.

The Government of the Northwest Territories used to set up programs for hunters. I think we, as the Government of Nunavut... Mr. Speaker, I apologize. I would like unanimous consent to conclude my statement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): The member is seeking unanimous to conclude his statement. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Mr. Alagalak.

**Mr. Alagalak** (interpretation): I apologize, Mr. Speaker. I would like the Government of Nunavut departments, possibly Economic Development, to set up some programs for our hunters.

I think this is a unique situation for Arviat. We all know that the price of gasoline has increased and that is going to add additional hardship for the hunters. There is not only

the increase to the price of gasoline; there are no animals around so I would suggest that the government look around for programs to help the hunters. Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Ms. Aglukkaq.

**Member's Statement 011 – 2(3): Liquor Plebiscite in Gjoa Haven**

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to welcome everyone back as well to the House.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to draw attention to the recent liquor plebiscite held in Gjoa Haven. As we are all aware, the issue of alcohol is a major concern to most Nunavummiut due to the inherent problems associated with its use.

In the case of Gjoa Haven, the community recently held a plebiscite to determine whether or not they would like to make adjustments to the liquor restrictions in that community. Mr. Speaker, I am happy to say that after much debate and informed discussion on the issue, the community voted 72.5 percent in favour of keeping restrictions in place.

>>Applause

I would like to highlight the fact that the community debated the issue extensively and I would like to commend the students of Gjoa Haven for getting involved in the process of making their thoughts known.

Mr. Speaker, the recent plebiscite sent a very strong message to all the residents of Gjoa Haven. People want to have the community free of alcohol and the problems associated with its use. I am happy to say that the residents of Gjoa Haven conducted a healthy debate in reaching their decision on the use of liquor in the community and I want to congratulate all the individuals that participated in the plebiscite. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 012 – 2(3): Congratulate Students of Sanikiluaq on their Construction Project**

**Mr. Kattuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate some individuals from my community. The ministers were able to come to our community and I can tell the others that the lakes aren't even frozen yet. I would like to invite the ministers again and to possibly bring the winter down there with them.

Mr. Speaker, this past winter we heard about construction going on in our community. A number of students participated in building a house and it was completed in June. It was very well built and is completely finished.

It is now able to be used and since we're in a bay and the house is facing the sea, it's got a very good view. I'm very proud and I congratulate the students who built that house.

Today, there is another group that are constructing a house and they started the construction last month. We look forward to the completion of this housing project. Again, I can tell you that the outside is finished and the roof has been completed.

This is the second housing project that is being built in Sanikiluaq and the students are involved and making an income. On behalf of all of my colleagues here, I would like to congratulate those students who participated in the housing project in Sanikiluaq. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Members' Statements.Mr. Arreak.

### **Member's Statement 013 – 2(3): Concerns over the Gun Legislation Issue**

**Mr. Arreak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the people of Iqaluit for welcoming us too.

I would also like to thank the people of Nunavut for the support they have given us over the years. I would like to touch on the issue of gun legislation. When we were visiting the communities there were a lot of concerns brought up on the issue of the gun legislation.

Initially when you apply you have to wait for many months and you have to take safety training, or take a safety course. There are some people who can't go out hunting because they don't have the permit. We definitely need to make a change on the firearms legislation. I would also like to say that it's especially hard on the unilingual Inuit.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Member's Statement 014 – 2(3): On his Son Catching his First Beluga Whale**

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker and my colleagues. You probably all know my son Joseph. He is 11 years old now. Of course I have to leave a lot of the time to come to meetings here but this spring and summer we went boating. This summer he caught his first beluga whale at 10 years of age.

Mr. Speaker, I think I was 14 when I got my first beluga whale, quite by accident. At that time when I caught my first beluga at 14 years old, they had surfaced quite far away and I fired to make them go down again but I accidentally shot one. That was my first beluga.

Mr. Speaker, I stood up today to congratulate my son on his first beluga catch. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Going back to Orders of the Day. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Barnabas.

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

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Bear with me, Mr. Speaker; I have a whole lot of names to recognize. The Third Annual Youth Revival Conference began in November 9-13. I have here (interpretation) Mr. Speaker, from Arctic Bay from the Arsarniit Choir, some of the students aren't here but I will recognize them anyway. I would like to recognize at this time Tina Attagutaaluk, if you could stand up, please. Iga Iqaqrialu, David Uyukuluk, Inga Muckpah, Katie Kalluk, Evelyn Kalluk, Debbie Oyukuluk, Jeremy Tuurngaaluk, Jennifer Isigaitok, Maxine Uyukuluk, Mavis Barnabas, Amy Barnabas, Amanda Barnabas, Valerie Taqtu, Margaret Audlakiak, Lila Qaqqasiq, Janice Joseph, who is the daughter of our mayor, Vickie May, Anita Olayuk, Denita Ijjangiaq, Lena Qaunaq, and Bruce Pauloosie. The escorts are Leah Qaqqasiq-May and the guitarist, my uncle, Piugaattuq Etuk.

I would like to also recognize the Adult Educator of Nunavut Arctic College, Ron Elliot.

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

**Mr. Mapsalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to take this opportunity to recognize some individuals. I believe we all know him, Donat Milortok, who is the Mayor of Repulse Bay and his Senior Administrative Officer, Imelda Angootealuk, and the Deputy Mayor of Repulse Bay, Helena Malliki. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Tootoo**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize some constituents that are in the Gallery here today. Rachel and Shaun, sitting back here. Betty, no stranger to this House, is sitting right over here. Jocelyn is here covering the Assembly for the local francophone radio station. He shares the same disposition as a couple of members on the other side of this House, as far as who he cheers for in hockey. I think those two members know who they are over there. He is still a good constituent of mine.

Mr. Speaker, also, I would like to recognize Rick Lefebvre, from First Air. A good friend of Mr. Picco, a great friend of mine, and a great supporter, Mr. Brian Twerdin, is here from the Grind and Brew here in Iqaluit; a great place to go down and have a cup of coffee and catch up on what's going on in the community.

I would like to welcome them all to the Gallery. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Mr. Evyagotailak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize an individual from Kugluktuk who is working for the Department of Community and Government Services. Steve Barnable is the manager of lands administration in Kugluktuk. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Welcome to the Gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Premier Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Although they were recognized I would like to recognize them again, especially Donat Milortok. Over 20 years ago I started working with him when it was Tungavik Federation of Nunavut and we were still pushing forward for Nunavut. Also Betty Brewster who has been recognized, she has been interpreting since the land claim negotiation days. I would like to send condolences to her family and we love them.

Also, I would like to recognize a fan of the Boston Bruins and also my constituent, Brian Twerdin. I apologize that my team always wins. I am sure your team will win again. I don't have many relatives that come in here to the gallery; my cousin, Qaqqasiq, from Arctic Bay. He is my relative. I would like to welcome him and also the rest of the people that are sitting in the Gallery. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Welcome to the Gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery, Mr. Alagalak.

**Mr. Alagalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize two individuals. Piugatuk lived in Arviat for quite some time and all the dog team races are missing you because you also developed the dog teams and enhanced them in our community. As well, Donat Milortok who is my first cousin and I have known him for many years. He started working for the land claim negotiations and we recognize him for his hard work. I would like to recognize Rachel in the gallery. I would like to thank them for coming. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I tried to stand up so quickly I almost hit my knee. When you talked about hockey Mr. Speaker, first of all, I would like to recognize a big fan of the Montreal Canadiens and remind him who won last Saturday's overtime hockey game. Mr. Speaker, I would like to welcome all the people who are visiting here and I would like to acknowledge them also.

During the session, I will be making a members' statement in regards to a golf tournament in Pangnirtung and I would like to acknowledge Rick Lefebvre for giving us support for the tournament. I will be making a statement under members' statement. I will recognize them as well at that time. Thank you.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Welcome to the Gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Ms. Brown.

**Hon. Levinia Brown** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't want to be left out in recognizing visitors here. I would like to recognize and welcome everyone who helped in opening the session today and I was very proud of them for opening the ceremonies here.

I would like to welcome Betty Brewster who is my relative, Donat Milortuk and his family who live in the Kivalliq region and whom I have known for many years, and also Imelda Angootealuk. Welcome. My mother was your step-mother and I thank you Helen Malliki. It is really good to recognize an individual in the House.

Also, Sean <indecipherable> and his wife Rachel Qitsualik, and also Rick Lefebvre, welcome. I also would like to welcome Brian from the Grind and Brew.

I apologize if I don't really know your name, but I would like to acknowledge everyone here although I'm not going to mention their names. I've known Ron Illiam for many years; I think he's the President for Canada Day and he's been a member of that board for quite some time; planning for Nunavut during the NWT days. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Going back to Orders of the Day, Item number 6. Oral Questions. Mr. Peterson.

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

#### **Oral Question 001 – 2(3): Tabling of Public Accounts**

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Finance.

Mr. Speaker, as the minister knows, the government is required by law to table the public accounts each year in the Legislative Assembly. This critical document is required by our tax paying constituents so they have confidence that the government's finances are in order.

As of today, the Government of Nunavut has not tabled the 2003-2004 or the 2004-2005 public accounts. By contrast, the governments of both the Northwest Territories and Yukon have recently tabled the 2004-2005 public accounts. We are now seriously behind and I understand that the Auditor General's report has been impacted by the government's delay in producing its financial statements.

Mr. Speaker, the Northwest Territory's public accounts were tabled in October. My question for the speaker, or for the minister, Mr. Speaker is: what is the minister doing to address this situation so that the government obeys the law and meets its legal tabling requirements in this area? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Minister for Finance, Mr. Simailak.

**Hon. David Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes we've been working on the public accounts. The 2003-2004 public accounts have just recently been signed off by the Auditor General this year, on May 24, but we couldn't find translators in Inuktitut and Inuinnaqtun so we're now concluding the report fully translated into Inuktitut. Today we just received the translated document.

The Auditor General had to review the report and before it could be translated into Inuktitut. So it will take approximately a month for the Auditor General to make sure that it has been translated. We expect the 2003-2004 report to be tabled on December 9. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Peterson**: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the minister for that response. I believe the statutory filing requirements are December 31 following the year-end of the year for which they are reporting.

I'm looking forward to seeing those tabled accounts. I'm not sure if we'll be sitting on December 9, but perhaps we could get them sooner. Mr. Speaker it's been seven and a half months since the end of the 2004-2005 fiscal year of March 31. When will the government table the 2004-2005 public accounts? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I cannot really say when we will be tabling the report. I can say that they have been deferred for 2004-2005. The main reason is that the territorial funding from the feds is being reviewed. Once that review has been completed, then we will be able to deal with them and the Auditor

General, who is in support of the new funding formula, at the same time. It is going to have an impact on Nunavummiut. I cannot really tell you when we will be able to table those reports. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last year the former Minister of Finance was telling us that the delays were due to a year-end of one of our crown agencies. This year we are told that they were doing the translations. The fact remains, Mr. Speaker, that there is a statutory time requirement, December 31. I just asked the minister when we would expect the 2004-2005 Public Accounts. The statutory requirement is December 31 of this year. I think it is very important that we get these things on time. It is a bit of an embarrassment if the other northern territories are filing theirs. Even the federal government has a 180 billion dollar budget and managed to file theirs for the 2004-2005 year.

My question again to the minister is can he tell us when we will get the 2004-2005 public accounts? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. No, I cannot say definitively on what date the 2004-2005 public accounts will be available. This is ongoing work. The member is absolutely correct that we have a deadline of December 31. I don't know if we will be able to meet that this time around. We haven't in the past but we are continually working on those issues to bring it to where it should be. I cannot say at this point exactly when those public accounts for 2004-2005 would be available. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions, Mr. Tootoo.

### **Oral Question 002 – 2(3): Literacy Programs and Initiatives**

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. My question is for the minister responsible for education and literacy, or illiteracy, it sure looks that way. As I indicated in my member's statement there are some disturbing revelations from Statistics Canada in their survey. Also, the fact that when the Standing Committee on Education was doing its community consultations around the communities some of the biggest factors and problems that they were running into were the literacy levels that were very, very low for most of the people trying to take the programs. This results in a lot of the adults dropping out of the programs and maybe not having the success that we would like to see out there.

A while ago, literacy levels were high and now they're low. My question to the minister is, and I had also indicated that the Yukon has done very well in literacy and we know that they spend almost \$1 million a year on literacy initiatives and programs: can the minister tell us if he is proud of the fact that we invest significantly less than they do in literacy programs and initiatives in our territory? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.



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

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to start off the session in a good light and I would like to stand up and say that what Mr. Tootoo has said is wrong. Let me explain it this way. Almost 42 percent of Canadians who took that same literacy test were below potential literacy levels, meaning that they did not have a standard literacy level. That test was done for ages 16 to 65.

The majority of our people in Nunavut, 85 percent of our population are Inuit; English is a second language, not a first language, so right away we would expect the numbers to be wrong. To use a correlation of the Yukon which is the closest thing we have in Canada to a city state where 85 percent of the population is located in Whitehorse, which is urban, and to try to say that that's some kind of comparison to Nunavut where 70 percent of our population is actually rural, it begs the question of why it would be raised.

Mr. Speaker this government has moved very aggressively in the last year in the way of adult literacy. We have just tabled, Mr. Speaker, to the public with NTI, the Adult Learning Strategy, which I will table in this House in the next few days. In May of this year we hired for the first time ever, an adult literacy coordinator to coordinate our literacy programs across the territory.

And Mr. Speaker, I think this is a good news story. This year in 2005 we had the highest graduate levels ever in Nunavut. Grade 12 graduates, which means they had to pass through grade 12 of their exams. Of 173 students 156 of them were Inuit, up from 128 in 1999. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I said in my member's statement, we need to quit looking at excuses and ways of discrediting these kinds of tests. They are disturbing.

Mr. Speaker, people that the standing committee met with told us that 10, 15 or 20 years ago, literacy levels were not a problem in Nunavut, but now they are. What's going on? That's my point, Mr. Speaker. There is always an excuse that they are not relevant. We've got these great statistics, look how high, by how much our numbers are going up, but as far as the population, Mr. Speaker, we had a lot more people going through the system and maybe we need to look at the quality of the system. What are they graduating with?

So Mr. Speaker, in light of this dismal performance and I'm not saying that it's Nunavut alone; we are in there with provinces like New Brunswick, Newfoundland, and Labrador, that's right, the three jurisdictions in Canada that scored significantly below the national average, Mr. Speaker: is the minister, despite of what he said earlier and had already announced what they are working on, going to be looking at committing to pursuing new

investments in literacy programming to try to recognize it head on and deal with this terrible situation that we find ourselves in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Mr. Speaker, let's look at where the facts are. Eighty-five percent of our population has English as a second language. It was only 10 years ago that a lot of our communities had grade 12. That's subjective. Mr. Tootoo, anyone can stand up and say that. Forty-two percent of Canadians with English or French as their first language fall below that literacy number. That's a fact.

Mr. Speaker, the Government of Nunavut has moved forward; we have tabled an adult learning strategy; we have hired, for the first time ever, a literacy coordinator; and, we take the issue seriously.

Mr. Speaker, we should be celebrating the successes that we have in Nunavut. We have over 300 students right now who went through the school system in Nunavut in post-secondary education whether in Nunavut or in the South.

Mr. Speaker, we have seen students who have graduated from K-12, all of their schooling from K-12 in Nunavut, who have gone on to win scholarships, prizes, and so on. Mr. Speaker, we had the first Inuk graduate from Harvard University, probably one of the best schools in the world.

So Mr. Speaker, let's start celebrating our successes. As I said earlier, very quickly to the answer to Mr. Tootoo's question, a lot has been done. We have a literacy coordinator in place, with 42 percent of Canadians with first language of English and/or French and that's what they are tested in. Of course you expect the literacy rate to be higher.

In Nunavut, maybe if they tested the Inuktitut literacy, what would their mark be then? I think we would probably be a little bit higher. Mr. Speaker, the facts speak for themselves. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm glad that the minister himself raised the point that if it was done in Inuktitut they would probably do better.

Mr. Speaker, again in our consultations, another comment that we heard from presenters was that people were not literate in English or Inuktitut. Mr. Speaker let's get the facts straight here and I won't make them up, baffle, and dance around on the issue.

Maybe Mr. Speaker I could ask the minister if he could report for the record: what will his department spend on literacy programs and initiatives this year? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. You approved the main's Mr. Tootoo you should know what the amount is, \$230 million, that's the budget of the Department of Education. How much is spent on education programs; \$16 million for the college and base funds for adult literacy in all of our communities.

Mr. Speaker, the short answer to the Member's question is this. Even up to ten years ago, we didn't have grade 9 in most of our communities so how could the literacy rates be as high? Mr. Speaker, if you look at where we were and now look at where we are going I think this is a good news story yet we have a long ways to go. That's why the literacy coordinator was hired for the first time in May. That is why we just tabled the adult learning strategy.

Mr. Speaker, when you look at the 42 percent of Canadians who had an opportunity to go to grade 12 and have had for the last 50 years in the country of Canada, they fell below the literacy number. Almost 25 percent of all university entrants for university or colleges across the country have to do basic remedial programs in some cases to get acceptance to a university. So, Mr. Speaker, in that light, why are we trying to put down Nunavut?

Mr. Speaker, we are doing a lot better than 10 years ago and we continue to improve. Mr. Speaker, the current concerns and comments heard by the Standing Committee are legitimate and Mr. Speaker that is why we are trying to address them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. I am not trying to put down Nunavut as the minister is implying. I am trying to identify an issue to get the government and the Department of Education to pull its head out of the tundra, as I have said earlier, quit acting like an Arctic ostrich, and address the problem.

Mr. Speaker, again I ask the minister as I did in my previous question. I'd like to ask him if he could specifically tell us this year what his department is spending, specifically on literacy programs and initiatives this year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Does he know?

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

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The member refers to ostriches which I believe are found in sub-tropical areas. I believe Mr. Speaker, that is where the line of thought and questioning of the member is coming from. Mr. Speaker, we have moved forward, we have hired a literacy coordinator, and we have an adult learning strategy. We are trying to address the issue of literacy. It is an on-going issue.

As the numbers the member keeps pointing out, it is a national issue when you have 42 percent of Canadians that fall below the number. Mr. Speaker, the amount of money that

is being spent on the total literacy in Nunavut includes adult basic education programming that falls under Arctic College's budget and was voted on in the mains of the House. Mr. Speaker, I will have that exact number for him tomorrow so that Mr. Tootoo will be able to go to sleep with it and feel comfortable. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. There are only 60 minutes allotted for oral questions. I would like to tell the members to rephrase your questions and to rephrase your replies. Thank you. Mr. Evyagotailak.

### **Oral Question 003 – 2(3): Kugluktuk Women's Shelter**

**Mr. Evyagotailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister for the Status of Women.

(interpretation ends) Yesterday the minister made an announcement regarding the needs of reducing the violence against women. The minister stated that all women deserve to live free from violence and I completely agree with the minister. However, we need to make sure that our actions match our words. At my community meeting earlier this month residents spoke of the need to help the Kugluktuk shelter to stay open.

I understand that the department is aware of the situation. The shelter continues to face challenges in meeting the government's financial reporting requirements.

I have raised this issue before. The staff at the shelter are focused on helping women and children in need and they don't always have the financial background to do bookkeeping. My question to the minister is: does she agree that it is important to keep the Kugluktuk Women's Shelter open? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Minister Responsible for Status of Women, Ms. Aglukkaq.

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and yes, I agree with the member that it is important to keep the shelter open in Kugluktuk. In fact, I met with my staff in Cambridge Bay in regards to the women's shelter in Kugluktuk and we have also had discussions with the Municipality of Kugluktuk to see if they could take on the responsibility to deal with the problems he has identified.

Those discussions, as far as I'm concerned, are ongoing. We understand there have been some changes as well in staffing and that they were not able to continue to operate the shelter but the discussions are now with the hamlet to see if we can come up with additional options to manage that facility. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Evyagotailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Minister. (interpretation ends) What is the department doing to help the shelter staff meet the government's financial reporting requirements? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think it's important to also note that many community shelters operate on a contribution agreement from the government and each agency that signs off the contribution must meet the requirements of providing financial reports to the government before funding is dispersed to agencies.

As I mentioned earlier, the department's officials in the Kitikmeot are meeting with the hamlet councils to try and address those concerns and those discussions are ongoing. We presented the idea to the Hamlet of Kugluktuk and to date we have not received a response back from them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Final supplementary, Mr. Evyagotailak.

**Mr. Evyagotailak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank you Madame Minister. (interpretation ends) Can you commit to getting back to me before the end of our sitting on the action plan to keep the shelter open? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. Absolutely, I will commit to having that hopefully by tomorrow, in terms of whether we received a response back from the hamlet to address that concern. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Mr. Mapsalak.

#### **Oral Question 004 – 2(3): Medical Travel Escorts**

**Mr. Mapsalak:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Health and Social Services. This is an on-going question that I have asked of the government in regards to medical travel escorts. There has always been an on-going problem with this issue and I know that my community is not the only community to have problems with medical escorts.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the minister what kinds of problems there are with the medical escort policy.

**Speaker** (interpretation): The Minister for Health and Social Services, Ms. Aglukkaq.

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. I made a commitment to the members that I would be showing them a draft copy of the medical travel escort policy and I hope to have that distributed to the members during this sitting for their information as well as to receive their feedback. It is near completion.

The process that we follow internally is that the draft policy has to go to the policy officials group to get feedback from the regional operations. I did commit to the members that I would have that draft to them during this sitting. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Mapsalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am sure that it is going to take a long time to do this but I have been talking about this issue for a while and I would like to get feedback from the communities and try to make sure that my community is well informed about the travel policy.

When do you think that it is going to be finalized? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I mentioned that I will be sharing a draft copy of the medical travel escort policy with members of this House during the sitting of this House. Once I receive feedback from members on that, I hope to have the policy approved for implementation in the New Year.

I am also prepared to sit down with all regular members to brief them on the proposed changes to the escort policy during this sitting if there is time. If not, I will also be seeking their feedback on the draft policy in written format. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Mapsalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to thank the minister for her response. We definitely need to make changes to the travel policy. Usually the patients that require escorts are denied a lot of the time. We will keep seeing those problems if there is no change to the policy.

So is the minister saying that she will be showing us the draft policy at this sitting? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is very important to our department. I know and I have heard about the escort policy for people that don't speak English going to the hospitals and requiring assistance from interpreters. The main concern is that we have to look at the policy. I will pass out the policies for that program to the members before December. And then around 2006 maybe we will finish the policy.

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

**Mr. Mapsalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The minister stated, I think it was before the draft, that they would provide the information to the communities prior to

the approval of this draft policy. She stated that they would consult with the Nunavut communities and have a consultation tour prior to getting final approval. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My plan is to introduce a draft and share the draft copy of the Medical Travel Escort Policy with the members of the Legislative Assembly to seek their feed-back and I'm also prepared to meet with all the regular members to explain the draft Medical Travel Escort Policy and also to seek their feed-back.

Once I have that finalized and receive the feed-back from the members here, a communications strategy will be developed by the department to inform Nunavummiut of the new and revised policy.

That information will be shared through the regional offices of Health and Social Services in the Kivalliq, Kitikmeot and Qikiqtaaluk, once it is available. I will also share the communications strategy with the members of the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Mr. Curley.

#### **Oral Question 005 – 2(3): Health Issues with Rankin School**

**Mr. Curley:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My first question is to the Minister of Education. The elementary school is closed today in Rankin Inlet due to fumes associated with the mechanical system.

I would like to first of all thank the school officials for their actions as the health and safety of our kids is fundamental. I would like to ask the minister exactly what the problem is and when will the school reopen at Rankin Inlet?

**Speaker** (interpretation): Minister Responsible for Education, Mr. Picco.

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the member raising the issue and the question. First of all, as the member indicated this morning, there were some fumes located in the Leo Ussak School, and indeed the principal and staff decided to close the school.

Community & Government Services staff proceeded to the school where they were able to ascertain that the fumes in the school were actually not from, or not solely from the school themselves, indeed they came from an external source. The external source seems to have been snow clearing equipment which was working around the school. The air intake vents for the school were in line with the snow clearing equipment and it would seem that the fumes from the equipment entered the school.

The Community and Government Services staff immediately set about, after closing the school, to vent the school, and it was my understanding Mr. Speaker, it was hoped for, that the school would open up again this afternoon. I haven't been able to confirm that as of sitting time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Curley:** I appreciate the answer. Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is: will the minister work with the local District Education Authority to ensure that; perhaps the snow clearing if that was actually the case, they time it so that the school kids will not have to be ushered out of the building with the temperatures dropping quite rapidly at Rankin Inlet?

I would like the minister to ensure that this kind of thing will not continue to disrupt school activities because for the size of the community, it's really quite something else, trying to transport kids around and bring them back home while the parents are working. I would like the minister to see if he can work with the local officials to try and ensure that kind of thing does not happen.

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

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, the department and I will work very closely with the District Education Authority and the officials in Rankin Inlet.

Again, the concerns seem to have been where the air intake for the school was located and the wind direction, so the fumes from the snow clearing equipment entered. I'm surprised that this is the first time that we've heard of this because we know that during the winter there is a lot of activity with snow clearing equipment around the schools. That's something we need to be able to follow up on.

Mr. Speaker, I would hope to have a full report within the next couple of days and then be able to inform the member, as well as Minister Brown, on the status of the situation with the school and indeed some of the proactive work that can be done between us and Community & Government Services. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Mr. Arreak.

### **Oral Question 006 – 2(3): Federal Gun Legislation**

**Mr. Arreak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Justice. In regards to the gun legislation, we have had a lot of problems in Nunavut. Is there going to be training provided to the people of Nunavut either here in Iqaluit or in the other communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.



**Speaker** (interpretation): Premier.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. They now have an office open here in Iqaluit. The federal government has opened the office again but I don't know if they are going to close it again. I hope that they keep it open.

The staff at the Department of Environment are providing training on a volunteer basis and they are looking at how they can provide more services to the people of Nunavut. We are doing all we can to provide support and we are grateful. We have been opposed to this gun legislation since it was created.

I had a meeting with my counterparts and told them to just scrap this and put the money where it's more useful. We have been working extremely hard to get that out of the way. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Your first supplementary. Mr. Arreak.

**Mr. Arreak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to thank the Premier for his response.

While it's still in use by the federal government, is it possible to urge your federal counterparts to go to the communities so that they can help the people of Nunavut to fill out those applications? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's not only for Inuit and it also affects when you are trying to buy ammunition and guns.

We are trying to deal with this through the courts; it does create a lot of problems for the people of Nunavut. We are working with the Department of Environment to find out how we can provide more services to the people of Nunavut. I could give you further details afterwards, once we get that all compiled. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Arreak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are a part of Canada, and of course, we have to abide by the legislation because it's for the whole nation.

I would like the Minister of Justice to respond to my question: is it possible for you to talk to your federal counterparts and ask them to come up to the communities to help the people of Nunavut to fill out those applications? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As you are all probably aware, the elections are coming up; we are going to be voting for our government, maybe the first question we should ask is if they are going to repeal that piece of legislation, if there are talks on this piece of legislation, or if we are just going to be using money on this legislation that we are concerned about. We are working with the Department of Environment to see what we can do to provide services as long as this piece of legislation is enforced. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Arreak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't know whether he said yes or no about asking the federal government to go to the Nunavut communities. What we can say is we cannot really see that we won't be voting for the government. We will only have one representative down in Parliament.

People cannot buy guns and people can't buy ammunition because of this piece of legislation. Is it possible for the minister to urge the federal government to go to the communities because it is their legislation and it is a federal piece of legislation? I think it is their responsibility to go to the communities to make sure that applications and everything else is completed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Premier Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This past week we had a meeting on this piece of legislation and I had a meeting with my federal counterparts. I told them that this legislation is creating a lot of problems for the people of Nunavut.

I told them to enact a piece of legislation that only applies to certain parts of Canada. I told the federal government that we use these guns to hunt for food. We are urging the government and we are working with our western counterparts. It is something that we are not going to put on the back burner. We are going to keep working on it. We are going to see what we can do to further lobby the federal government to have this piece of legislation repealed. We will work closely on it as long it is enforced. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Mr. Netser.

### **Oral Question 007 – 2(3): Docking Facility for Chesterfield Inlet**

**Mr. Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't know when legislation does not apply to Inuit and only applies to non-natives. I can not really understand (inaudible) I will be directing my question to the Minister for Transportation.

The Chesterfield Inlet residents have been requesting a dock facility for quite some time. What is the status of it? Could you update us? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Minister responsible for Transportation, Mr. Kilabuk.

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We announced seven docking facilities and we will be giving this responsibility to the deputy minister of Transportation. The last report has already been submitted to the deputy minister and the report has been given to the minister. I've asked my staff today if they can set up a meeting for me with the federal minister about the applications and proposals.

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

**Mr. Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When did they give the applications to the federal government? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we submitted the report more than a year ago to the Department of Fisheries and Oceans during their consultation tour. After their tour they reviewed our proposal and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans staff worked with our staff to come up with a final report. The minister now has the report. To support them and to encourage them, I have requested a meeting with the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Your second supplementary. Mr. Netser.

**Mr. Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As you have stated, the federal government were doing their consultation tours, I would like to know when they are going to Chesterfield Inlet or have they already gone there? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can't tell him right now of whether the consultation tour visited Chesterfield Inlet when they were reviewing the docking facilities. We are still waiting for a response from them and once I get that information I will look for that information. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Oral Questions. Mr. Barnabas.

### **Oral Question 008 – 2(3): Nanisivik Airport Problems**

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister responsible for Transportation.

The minister received a letter from our mayor about our problems with the Nanisivik airstrip. I know that the beacon is the responsibility of NAV Canada but we are having problems with the beacon. The staff at the airport can't even purchase any parts for the equipment that they are supposed to use in order to maintain the airport.

I know that in 2006-2007 we have a plan for the airstrip in Arctic Bay but there are people filling the planes and the planes can't even land due to bad weather because of the beacon that's not working. What is going to be happening to that airstrip before they construct ours? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Minister responsible for Transportation, Mr. Kilabuk.

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In regards to the airport, we will have to operate and maintain the airstrip in Nanisivik. Although my colleague had elaborated on it, I do want to explain further that the beacons require work.

The beacons are the responsibility of NAV Canada and they need to be repaired. We know what the problem is now. I asked my officials to look into that and to inform NAV Canada right away that the beacons require repair.

Mr. Speaker, one of the bigger problems is that the airplanes require aviation fuel.

I am going to write to the Mayor of Arctic Bay and have asked my officials to draft the letter. Then I'll be sending it to Arctic Bay and will copy it to my colleagues. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we have problems with the bad weather; we also have problems with our equipment.

In regards to the lack of aviation fuel, the planes don't even land there because there's no aviation fuel. They try to land once and then they don't even try to land a second time because they have to have enough fuel to go to another community if they need to.

Mr. Speaker, although I know that the Co-op is now trying to get the contract on delivering aviation fuel, when will you make a decision on delivering aviation fuel? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will ask my colleague to respond to the member. Contracts are not under my department. I will look into this with the appropriate minister then I will relay the information to you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank him for his response because my constituents will hear his response. I do want to ask: is it due to lack of money that they cannot buy parts for the equipment at the airport? So that is my question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I stated before about who bears responsibility, the price of repairing a beacon in Nanisivik is the responsibility of NAV Canada. We have the responsibility for the airstrip. If the airstrip requires any equipment it is paid for by the GN. If it is required as an addition to the capital plan, we'll have to provide the funding. Then it is purchased. Money is not always available even though the communities require parts for their equipment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Mr. Kattuk.

### **Oral Question 009 – 2(3): Fuel Price Increases**

**Mr. Kattuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For those of us who are elected we are given some questions and some concerns by our constituents. My constituents had concerns last summer about the government's decision to increase the price for fuel and gas. My question is why the government provided only four days of notice before they increased the price. Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Responsible for Community and Government Services, Ms. Brown.

**Hon. Levinia Brown** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, they had only given four days of notice and I will try and provide the answer according to my understanding. On September 1, there was an announcement made, but prior to that, it had to be approved by the Cabinet, and that's how it was. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Kattuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If I understood her, the Cabinet had to approve the increase first before it was made public. My question is why we were given only four days of notice. That was one of the questions that were posed. They were wondering if perhaps there could have been given a longer notice before the increase. Before they increased the price they were interested in purchasing some gasoline prior to the increase and they wanted to know why they were given only four days of notice; 29, 30, and 31. Those are the only three days that we were provided. What was the reason they gave us only three days notice before they increased the price? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank my colleague for asking me questions. There were not too many days of notice because the planners and others and FMB were also involved. I understand your question why you were given only four days of notice before increasing the price. There was hardly any

room for notice because the fuel price went up internationally. If we waited more days then the price would have been higher.

So we tried to put it at the appropriate level. I do feel for you. I know that three or four days of notice is short. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Kattuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know that when the prices go up internationally the Nunavut Government purchases fuel and gasoline once a year but elsewhere, outside of Nunavut, down south, they buy their fuel daily, literally. So that is why they had to follow the increase of the price. In Nunavut we only purchase our fuel in bulk once a year. The price would remain the same. The gasoline is already paid for.

Why do we have to get an increase too? And, we don't understand why the international prices of fuel have an impact on us. Perhaps sometime in the future if the fuel price is going to increase again, perhaps the government or the minister can provide more days of notice than what was given. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I feel your concerns. The next time we don't want to do that and perhaps can give them a full month of notice. We would like to do that but if we were late in increasing the price then it would have been more expensive. That is why we used those days. If we had given one day notice there would have been a public outcry.

I do understand your question and I feel your question. I too, would like to provide more days of notice before increasing the price because we do purchase fuel once a year. I looked into that and it is not the case because this fall we already purchased some fuel too. We tried to purchase the fuel at the lowest price but I don't know why this year seemed to be totally different from the previous years. At the end of October they said that they are still purchasing fuel. That is what was briefed to me and I understand your question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Mr. Peterson.

### **Oral Question 010 – 2(3): Violence Against Women**

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This question is to the Minister for the Status of Women. Mr. Speaker, I was pleased to hear about the campaign to reduce violence against women. The Cambridge Bay Hamlet Council and Wellness Centre also have been dealing with this for many years.

Mr. Speaker, the minister, in her CBC interview this morning, stated that 906 women sought refuge in women's shelters last year, up 50 percent from 2002. Can the minister tell the House how these numbers were calculated? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Minister responsible for the Status of Women, Ms. Aglukkaq.

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The numbers that we arrived at were from the information that we have received from the shelters that we operate in Nunavut. I believe there are six shelters and the numbers are from 2002 to today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for her answer. There are 25 communities in Nunavut. We have raised this issue in the past. What are the numbers of crisis shelters in Nunavut and can the minister clarify for the record how many crisis shelters are currently operational in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe there are six crisis shelters in Nunavut. One is in Taloyoak, one is in Cambridge Bay, and the one in Kugluktuk is not operational right now. There is also one here and I believe one in Kivalliq somewhere. So, five or six are operational. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Minister for her response. The numbers again, there are 25 communities and five or six crisis shelters. That means there are 18 or 19 communities that don't have a crisis centre. My question for the minister is: how does the government help women and their children who live in communities where crisis shelters do not exist? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In terms of the numbers that I presented in the press release for discussion yesterday, I made a statement that 906 women were in shelters in Nunavut last year, up 50 percent. That is a major concern to the government which is one of the reasons why we are looking at a symposium to be held in January to talk about the problems associated with violence against women and to come up with programs or additional resources to support the abusers as well as victims of families, the children, and the women.

How do we deal with individuals in the community who are victimized where there are no shelters? Women escape to family members' houses, to RCMP stations, to friends and families, and in most of the cases those individuals are shipped to other shelters in

Nunavut such as Iqaluit or Cambridge Bay or, to Yellowknife or Taloyoak where there is a shelter and where there is space. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Minister, for the candid answer. We do have a serious problem it seems, to me, in Nunavut. Are there any situations financial or otherwise where the government would not move quickly to provide a safe refuge to a woman or her children who are victims of violence even if means relocating to a shelter in another community or a safe jurisdiction? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am going to clarify the original question. There are currently five shelters in Nunavut with one in Kugluktuk that is closed. In total there are 43 beds for women. In situations where a woman is a victim of violence the first and foremost priority is to provide safety for women. In most cases, women escape to the detachment of RCMP stations from violent situations, and from there on, support is sought through social services to ship the woman outside of the community to escape the violent situation until such time as the social workers and individuals providing assistance to the woman are able to make an assessment of the situation.

In some cases, the woman stays in a shelter for an extended period of time until such time perhaps that the male goes through the court system and what not. So in most cases, a woman's safety is first and foremost along with the children.

Of the 906 number that I talked about yesterday, one should note that often does not include children. Children, for the most part, also escape with the woman to the shelters so the 43 beds, a lot of times, are not enough to deal with that situation. I would just like to state that the assistance is to ensure safety foremost and we look to every opportunity and option available to us to provide that shelter for the woman. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Question period is now over. Going back to the Orders of the Day. Item 7. Written Questions, Item 8. Petitions. Item 9. Reports of Standing and Special Committees. Item 10. Tabling of Documents. Mr. Curley.

### **Item 10: Tabling of Documents**

#### **Tabled Document 001 – 2(3): Photo of Boat near Whale Cove Involved in Tragic Incident and Death**

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table a document. After there was an accident in the summer there was a petition about the boat that had the accident. I would like to table that document. Thank you.



**Speaker** (interpretation): Tabling of Documents. I would like to table a document.

**Tabled Document 002 – 2(3): Statutory Requirements for Tabling of Documents**

Today, I wish to table the Statutory Requirements for Tabling of Documents. This list is regularly updated by the Legislative Assembly and tracks the status of legal tabling requirements for the government's annual reports, financial statements, and other documents.

The current version of this document indicates what documents have been tabled as of November 15, 2005. I trust that all members will find this useful in monitoring a timely production and tabling of legally required documents in this House.

**Tabled Document 003 – 2(3): 2004/05 Annual Report of the Information and Privacy Commissioner of Nunavut**

I wish to also table today the 2004/05 annual report of the Information and Privacy Commissioner of Nunavut.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Tabling of Documents. Item 11. Notices of Motions. Item 12. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 13. Motions. Item 14. First reading of Bills. Item 15. Second reading of Bills. Item 16. Orders of the day. Mr. Clerk.

**Item 16: Orders of the Day**

**Clerk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A reminder there is a meeting of the regular caucus at 11 o'clock tomorrow morning in the Tuktu Room.

Orders of the day for November 16:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions
8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to Opening Address
10. Petitions
11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees

12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motions
15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions
17. First Reading of Bills
18. Second Reading of Bills
19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
20. Report of Committee of the Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills
22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): This House stands adjourned until November 16, 2005 at 1:30 in the afternoon.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 17:12*

