



**Nunavut Canada**

**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NUNAVUT**

**4th Session**

**2nd Assembly**

**HANSARD**

Official Report

**DAY 1**

**Tuesday, March 6, 2007**

**Pages 1 – 34**

**Iqaluit**

**Speaker: The Honourable Peter Kilabuk, M.L.A.**

## Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

### *Speaker*

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*Chair, Management and Services Board*

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(Rankin Inlet North)

*Striking Committee*

**Keith Peterson**

(Cambridge Bay)

*Striking Committee*

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(Nattilik)

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**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk**

(South Baffin)

*Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation*

**Joe Allen Evyagotailak**

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(Iqaluit East)

*Government House Leader; Minister of Education; Minister of Energy; Minister responsible for Multiculturalism, Homelessness and Immigration*

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(Hudson Bay)

**Hon. David Simailak**

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*Deputy Speaker; Chair of the Committee of the Whole*

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**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk**

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*Minister of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth; Minister of Human Resources*

**James Arvaluk**

(Tunnuniq)

**Levi Barnabas**

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**Hon. Paul Okalik**

(Iqaluit West)

*Premier; Minister of Justice; Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs*

**Hunter Tootoo**

(Iqaluit Centre)

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(Rankin Inlet South – Whale Cove)

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**Iqaluit, Nunavut  
Tuesday, March 6, 2007**

**Members Present:**

Honourable Leona Aglukkaq, Honourable Olayuk Akesuk, Mr. James Arreak, Mr. James Arvaluk, Mr. Levi Barnabas, Honourable Levinia Brown, Honourable Peter Kilabuk, Honourable Paul Okalik, Honourable Louis Tapardjuk, Mr. Hunter Tootoo.

**Item 1: Opening Prayer**

**Speaker** (Hon. Peter Kilabuk)(interpretation): Welcome elders, ladies and gentlemen and visitors. At this time I would ask Mike Gardener to say the opening prayer.

>>*Prayer*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Everyone, I would like to congratulate Reverend Mike Gardener on his recent appointment to the Order of Canada. Reverend Gardner had his calling at the young age of 12 years to share his faith with northerners.

Mike and his wife moved up here and he has made the north his permanent home. Mike and his wife moved up here in 1955 from England, and ever since, he has made the north his permanent home. Thank you, Reverend Gardener.

Thank you. Welcome. I would like to welcome everyone to the Legislative Assembly. I would like to thank everyone for coming.

Thank you for being able to join with us today for the opening of the Fourth Session of the Second Assembly. We will begin our ceremonies with the lighting of the *Qulliq* by locally respected elder Iqaluk Juraluk. Please go ahead.

**Lighting of Qulliq**

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Before we proceed, I would like to send our deepest sympathy on behalf of all the members to the Member for Hudson Bay, Peter Kattuk, on the loss of his sister. I would also like to advise the members that Mr. Curley, Mr. Mapsalak, Mr. Alagalak, Mr. Peterson, and Mr. Evyagotailak are not here today due to the weather conditions.

I would now like you to stand and join me in inviting Mika Inutiq to sing *O Canada*. Mika is 12 years old and attends Aqsarniit Middle School.

>>*Anthem*

>>*Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mika. Please join me in welcoming our traditional performers, for some Inuktitut songs and throat singing.

>>*Song*

>>*Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mika Inutiq, Celena Kalluk, June Shappa, Siobhan Arnatsiaq-Murphy, Jeff Maurice, and Aulajaaq Romeeku-Kalluk. Thank you.

So that concludes our opening ceremony. I would like to thank all of you for taking the time to join us today. We will now proceed with the business of the House.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Clerk, will you ascertain if the Commissioner of Nunavut is prepared to enter the Chambers to address the House.

### **Commissioner's Address**

**Commissioner Hanson** (interpretation): Please be seated. Good afternoon, elders, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Premier, Members of the Legislative Assembly, and Nunavummiut. Welcome to the fourth session of the second Legislative Assembly of Nunavut.

It is a great privilege for me to once again preside over the opening of a new session.

As we start this session, it is with great pride that I would like to acknowledge our 60 Team Nunavut members who have been participating in the Canada Winter Games. I look forward to traveling to Whitehorse, Yukon to join Team Nunavut for the closing ceremonies next Saturday, March 10.

Another 80 Nunavummiut, including youth ambassadors, visual artists, and performing artists are also at the games.

This is the largest contingent Nunavut has sent to a Canada Winter Games. From myself personally, I hope they are doing well. We have heard that there are medals given out to the Nunavut athletes. They have done well and I wish them all a safe journey home.

I would also like to recognize Sheila Watt-Cloutier, the former head of the Inuit Circumpolar Conference, who was nominated for a Nobel Prize for her work highlighting how climate change is affecting Nunavut, and the arctic circumpolar regions.

Another person I would like to mention is retired Anglican Minister Mike Gardner who was recently appointed by the Governor General as a Member of the Order of Canada. The appointment recognizes his decades of service in the Eastern Arctic.

These are all dedicated individuals who have worked very hard to get to where they are.

I admire their commitment to our culture, our people, and our territory. Nunavut has been in existence for eight years. This is but a blink of an eye in the history of the Inuit. In those eight short years we have had many successes, but many challenges remain.

### **Prevention of Violence**

One such challenge is the high rate of family violence.

All families deserve to live free of violence. Making our communities safe requires the commitment of everyone. We need Nunavummiut and communities to work together because caring communities are healthy communities.

It is in this spirit that the Legislature passed the *Family Abuse Intervention Act*. This year the government will focus on its implementation. The Implementation Strategy will include community training for elders, frontline workers, Justices of the Peace, police officers, and counsellors.

One of the goals of the Act is to address the high level of family violence by providing the legal tools and resources to prevent all types of abuse, including financial and mental abuse of elders.

The legislation includes provisions for traditional counselling of all parties involved. There are also provisions for emergency protection orders and community intervention orders. The Act supports solutions to violence, based on the values of the community and includes an active role for elders.

The government will also rely on community resources for the delivery of programs to residents of the new correctional facility to be built in Rankin Inlet. Programming will be provided closer to home, including an outpost camp that will be established in the Kivalliq. Counsellors already working in their communities will be able to assist offenders in an effort to heal Nunavut families.

### **Building Nunavut**

At times the challenges seem large but so is our resolve.

The first Government of Nunavut set out goals for the development of the territory. The government imagined what life in Nunavut would be like in the year 2020. It outlined four goals – healthy communities, simplicity and unity, self-reliance, and continuing learning.

As Members of the Second Legislature, you reviewed the goals and evaluated progress achieved between 1999 and 2004. This work resulted in *Pinasuaqtavut* 2004-09, which is the current mandate document. I will speak in English and we will have our interpreters do the Inuktitut. (interpretation ends) In addition to the four goals, *Pinasuaqtavut* sets out two priorities for your term:



- Building a stronger culture, based on Inuit societal values, and;
- Developing and expanding our economy.

(interpretation) More than half of your term has been completed, and in the months ahead, the government will continue to focus on culture, language, education, and the economy.

### **Culture and Language**

This government is proceeding with plans to build and develop the curriculum for *Piqqusilirivvik*; the cultural school to be located in Clyde River, with satellite campuses and programs in Igloolik and Baker Lake.

The cultural school will help us teach and pass on Inuit traditional skills and knowledge. It takes special skills and knowledge to be able to maintain a connection to the land as vast as Nunavut. Use of the land by Inuit helps assert Canada's sovereignty over the Arctic.

The underpinning of traditional values and knowledge is the history of a people. That is why Nunavummiut want to return their cultural treasures and the heritage collections from storage in the Prince of Wales Centre in Yellowknife as well as other places.

Working in partnership with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, the government is proceeding with the design of a Nunavut Heritage Centre, which will be built here in Iqaluit. \$10 million has already been set aside for the centre.

The government is seeking additional funding to make the Heritage Centre a reality. We look forward to the day when we can bring part of our history home.

Inuit are proud of their culture and their language and recognize the importance of keeping both alive.

Since the creation of Nunavut, language legislation has been one of the most anticipated legislative initiatives. The Government of Nunavut has made it a top priority to develop language legislation that will recognize the importance of Inuit languages in all aspects of our daily life. At the same time, the government will ensure that all Nunavummiut can receive basic services from their government in English and French as well.

85 percent of Nunavummiut are Inuit and most speak Inuktitut. There are Inuit who want to re-learn or learn their language. The government wants to recognize and support this reality with a legal foundation.

Two bills will be presented to the Legislative Assembly for your consideration. One bill will be for the *Official Languages Act* and the other for the *Inuit Language Protection Act*.

## **Education**

Another important aspect for strong language and culture is an education system. As we move forward as a relatively new government, the time has come to create a made-in-Nunavut education system. One of the steps to achieving this is to have our own *Education Act*.

Ensuring that Inuit languages remain strong today and in the future is the key objective of a new *Education Act*. A solid bilingual education approach will be an essential element for stronger communities and our expanding economy.

An *Education Act* will also enable the government to create a system that is better at providing Nunavummiut with the knowledge and skills they will need to qualify for the increasing number of jobs that are being created by an expanding economy.

To this end, the government is making important progress with the creation of a trade's school in Rankin Inlet. This school will serve as the primary location for trades training in Nunavut.

Funding has also been set aside to renovate and expand existing training facilities in Cambridge Bay and Iqaluit. The government looks forward to the day where significantly more Nunavummiut have the skills to enable them to be full participants in a regular wage economy.

The money they earn will have positive effects on a range of other sectors, such as the retail sector, and will assist with establishing a housing market for private home buyers.

## **Economic Development**

Nearly all key indicators point to the fact that Nunavut is experiencing more economic activity. The economy is growing with the development of mining, fisheries, tourism, and cultural sectors, with new growth in energy and transportation on the horizon.

The mineral exploration expenditure in 2006 approached \$200 million, with spending from over 60 on-going exploration projects. Nunavut today ranks in the top five of Canadian provinces and territories in exploration expenditures and is the highest North of 60. Diamonds, gold, uranium, and base metals are the main exploration targets.

The Jericho Mine, the territory's first diamond mine, opened in August 2006. Construction of two new gold mines, Meadowbank and Doris North, is scheduled to begin this summer.

Another base metal project, High Lake, and a major iron ore project, Mary River, are in advanced planning stages. Wolfden Resources have signed a Lands Access Agreement

with the Kitikmeot Inuit Association, which moves forward Wolfden's High Lake Project.

The release of the Nunavut Mineral Exploration and Mining Strategy is an important step in providing support for mining activity across the territory. The strategy will help guide the development of a strong and sustainable sector, while ensuring that the environment is protected.

Important development and advances are also evident in our tourism, outfitting sectors, and our fishery industry. The government has allocated \$5 million from the Northern Strategy Trust Fund for community economic development, with an emphasis on supporting non-decentralized communities. The *Small Communities Initiative Program Policy* has been developed and this year, communities will receive funding for community-based economic initiatives.

In addition, the government has allocated \$5 million from the trust fund to be spent promoting environmental stewardship and protection, with an emphasis on those initiatives that also contribute to the economy. This year, the Department of Environment will start developing a Recycling Program, which will include some early pilot projects, and in order to start reducing the number of old vehicles that end up in our landfill site the department will develop and implement pilot projects for the 2007 sealift season, targeting those communities with completed inventories.

### **Transportation**

Economic Development is dependent on strengthening our transportation links to Canada and the rest of the world. Increasing demand for our goods and services requires growth and improvement of our infrastructure to keep pace.

The Nunavut Transportation Strategy is being updated and this key document will help guide us and our partners in making decisions on improving the system. Our aim, through those improvements, is to decrease costs to businesses and Nunavummiut, while making our exports competitive with the rest of the world.

All of these developments indicate that Nunavut's small private sector will play a more prominent role in the territory's economy.

### **Devolution**

As Nunavut's economy grows over the coming years, we need to ensure that Nunavummiut will benefit directly from development of our natural resources.

(interpretation ends) Today, the federal government still owns and controls our non-renewable resources. For Nunavut, that represents lost royalty and tax benefits in the hundreds of millions of dollars each year.

Devolution will make Nunavummiut the principal beneficiaries of their natural resources and allow them to become stronger contributors to Canada.

It will reduce Nunavut's dependency on federal transfers and help Nunavummiut achieve a standard of living comparable to that of our fellow Canadians.

Devolution is also important to Canada. It is a major step along Canada's own path of nation building. Most importantly, devolving control over the oil and gas resources beneath Nunavut's internal waters will strengthen Canada's Arctic sovereignty.

The territorial government is ready to start negotiations. The Government of Nunavut urges the federal government to establish a devolution mandate that includes our internal waters, so that we can move ahead quickly on this very important initiative.

### **Fiscal Framework**

In the meantime, Nunavut will also continue to make 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 allows the territorial government to deliver programs and services comparable to other jurisdictions in Canada. So we look forward to good news regarding the territorial funding formula in the federal budget on March 19.

Nunavut is also looking for recognition from the federal government that the territories require predictable long-term funding to ensure that basic infrastructure needs can be addressed so that our infrastructure meets Canadian standards.

The territorial government is already making significant capital investments to improve our infrastructure. It is working with the federal government through the Municipal Infrastructure Fund, as well as with the Nunavut Association of Municipalities.

This partnership resulted in the Department of Community and Government Services recently announcing that more than \$130 million will be allocated over the next five years for infrastructure projects. This includes the construction of new community centres, sports arenas, and road upgrading.

But we will not be able to close the infrastructure gap with an incremental approach within the territorial funding formula and various targeted federal funding programs. Nunavut will continue to work with the other territories to seek establishment of a Strategic Northern Infrastructure Fund to jointly achieve infrastructure objectives across the north.

We want the federal government to join us to finish the job of building Canada.

## **Housing**

(interpretation) One model for such a partnership is housing, where the federal government has contributed \$200 million to the Housing Trust.

Over time this funding will result in the construction of 725 much needed housing units.

The Nunavut Housing Corporation is planning to spend \$74.4 million of this money to commence construction of 236 units during the 2007-08 fiscal year and to complete the construction of 96 units that were started during the last construction season.

>>Applause

## **Government Business**

During this session, the Government of Nunavut will be introducing the following bills entitled:

Bill 1, *Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, 2007-08*

Bill 2, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act #3, 2006-07*

Bill 3, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act #3, 2006-07*

...for consideration by the House. The government considers these bills essential to the good conduct of government business and, as such, I recommend this passage.

## **Energy**

One of the realities of living in Nunavut is the high cost of energy, which restricts the government's ability to invest in priority programs and services such as education and health care.

It is vital that Nunavut develop an Energy Strategy to lessen our dependence upon non-renewable energy resources, such as oil, and plan for our future.

Members of this House, as well as other Nunavummiut, will soon receive a discussion paper that is the first step in developing an Energy Strategy. It proposes energy saving and conservation measures, as well as the development of alternative energy sources.

## **Health Care**

Health care is one of those areas in which the government has worked hard to improve and expand services so that Nunavummiut are able to receive the care they need as close to home as possible.

As part of this, the Department of Health and Social Services opened a new health facility in Igloolik just over a month ago. This \$8.8 million facility will serve 1,400 residents by providing acute care services, home and community care, social services, public health and emergency services.

And other new community centres are under construction in Pangnirtung and Pond Inlet.

In June of this year, health services are scheduled to begin moving into the new Qikiqtani General Hospital in Iqaluit.

The government is also addressing health care staffing and program needs. Recruitment is underway in all areas with a focus on training Nunavummiut and new program development is focused on a Public Health Strategy – developing healthy communities.

This commitment to the health care needs of Nunavummiut will always be front and centre for the territorial government.

### **Suicide Prevention**

However, government isn't the only place for answers or for solutions to some of our challenges. The government believes that suicide prevention and developing healthy lifestyles is one of those areas. Government doesn't have all the answers, but it can and will work in partnership with others to reduce the number of suicides in Nunavut.

The government's approach to suicide prevention will be influenced by *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit* principles that focus on embracing life. The government will continue to actively support community-based approaches involving elders and families in suicide prevention and intervention and its efforts to build healthy communities.

The government welcomes the contributions and good work by the *Isaksimagit Inuusirmi Katujjiqatigiit*, the Embrace Life Council, which is working with communities to ensure a wide range of suicide prevention responses.

### **Nunavut's Increasing Role**

As I said before, Nunavut has moved forward during the past eight years, building and expanding partnerships with people and groups from outside the territory.

It is partnerships such as this that enable us to learn from the best practices being used elsewhere. And it enables people outside Nunavut to gain an appreciation of our people, our land, our language, and our culture.

As I stated earlier on, our record presence at the Canada Winter Games is but one example of our increasing role in Canada and the world.

This summer, Nunavut will host the Western Premiers' Conference for the first time in our history, providing an opportunity for us to showcase our progress and beautiful land to the Premiers of Canada's northern territories and four western provinces.

A few days later in July the Minister responsible for the Status of Women will be hosting a meeting in Nunavut of her federal/provincial/territorial colleagues.

We are also adding our voice on the international stage.

The Minister of Environment is in Washington this week at a hearing to make our case against a proposal by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service to list polar bears as a threatened species under its *Endangered Species Act*.

Key decision makers in Washington need to know that polar bears are not a threatened species. Nunavut's polar bear management regime is the very model of how a conservation program should be run.

Our minister emphasized that countries should target climate change – not polar bears. Such a move would not help polar bears and hurts Inuit – the very people who are part of the fight against climate change and who are supportive of efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Also on the international stage, the territorial government is involved in planning for International Polar Year activities.

International Polar Year underlines the increasing interest by the international scientists in Nunavut and we commend the federal government for its commitment of \$150 million for a Canadian International Polar Year Program.

Another area where we have worked cooperatively with the federal government is in the profiling of the unique contributions of Nunavut to Canada and to the world.

A Tourism Cooperation Accord will be signed next month with the Government of France.

And through the Association des Francophones du Nunavut our vibrant French-speaking community has partnered with the Government of Nunavut and the Hamlet of Kimmirut in developing cultural tourism training and products.

### **Conclusion**

We are privileged that we live in a territory that is unique and that has self confidence to look beyond its borders.

People from beyond our borders look to us – to see how Nunavummiut are going about building a new territory that has a distinctive culture, that has an abundance of natural resources, and a large store of optimism in a dynamic population.

The creation of a new territory came with great optimism. At the same time we recognized much work needed to be done.

We have the strength from our history, culture, and the optimism to do that work and celebrate our successes. Our success – culturally and economically – will help make a stronger Canada.

May Divine Providence guide your deliberations. Thank you.

>>*Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Orders of the Day. Item 3. Ministers' Statements. Mr. Premier.

### **Item 3: Ministers' Statements**

#### **Minister's Statement 001 – 2(4): Minister Picco Absent from the House**

#### **Minister's Statement 002 – 2(4): Notice of Budget Address**

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Elders, I would like to thank you very much for making it to the Legislative Assembly.

I was extremely pleased with the entertainment that was provided to us at the opening of our session. It made my day. I was extremely proud of the entertainers; I would like to thank them very much.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to advise the members that the Honourable Ed. Picco will be absent from the House from March 6 to 10, 2007.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to inform the House that the Honourable David Simailak and the Honourable Patterk Netser will be absent from the House for today due to weather that we can't control.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Secondly, Minister Simailak will not be able to be here today but tomorrow on March 7, we will be introducing the budget of 2007-08 on behalf of the Government of Nunavut. This budget will outline our government's financial priorities for the fiscal year 2007-08.

And for the information of the members here, it's Mr. Olayuk Akesuk's birthday today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.



**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Members. (interpretation ends) Members, at this time I wish to take a short break for 30 minutes, and I ask members and the public to join me in the foyer with the Commissioner of Nunavut. Thank you.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House recessed at 14:54 and resumed at 15:37*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Members of the Legislative Assembly, this is our very first day. Going back to the Orders of the Day. Item 5. I apologize. Item 4. Members' Statements. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. Barnabas.

#### **Item 4: Members' Statements**

##### **Member's Statement 001 – 2(4): Concerns Raised During Member's Community Tour**

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon. Mr. Speaker, I would first of all like to send my condolences to Mr. Kattuk and his family, and also for a healthy recovery for Mr. Picco.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about the results of my recent community tour to the High Arctic.

In the past week, I had the opportunity to meet with constituents and community leaders in Grise Fiord, Resolute Bay, and Arctic Bay. There are a number of issues of concern to my communities that I will be raising during this sitting.

As the House will recall, the Legislative Assembly approved the motion of the Member for Kugluktuk, and I moved in the last sitting concerning the need for the GN to develop an action plan to improve the availability of affordable airline service to our smaller communities.

I look forward to asking the responsible minister what action the GN has taken in response to the motion.

Providing quality medical care and services to our constituents is a key priority. I will be raising concerns with respect to such issues as medical travel in the Baffin and the need to make sure that we are successful in recruiting and retaining nurses for our communities.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Mr. Barnabas, your time is up. You may ask for unanimous consent to conclude your statement. Mr. Barnabas.

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like unanimous consent to conclude my statement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to thank the members.

The high cost of living is a concern for my constituents, especially homeowners who are faced with rising costs for fuel and power. I do not want to see our constituents in a position where they have to choose between buying groceries and paying the power bill.

The infrastructure needs of my constituency are significant. In addition to the need for new facilities, be it recreational facilities or others, I want the government to be aware of the importance of making sure that our existing facilities, such as schools and health centres, are well-maintained and safe.

I look forward to a productive session with all of my colleagues. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. Members' Statements. Member for Iqaluit Centre, Mr. Tootoo.

#### **Member's Statement 002 – 2(4): Congratulations to New Canadian**

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I would like to rise and congratulate a resident of Iqaluit who has recently joined the Canadian family.

An historic ceremony took place in Ottawa a few weeks ago to commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our national *Citizenship Act*. A swearing-in ceremony took place at the Supreme Court where new Canadians from every territory and province swore their oaths as new citizens.

Iqaluit resident Vincent Dobson was one of the participants. Vincent arrived in Canada over 35 years ago from Trinidad, and has been living here in Iqaluit now for a number of years. I think it's long enough that he's actually getting used to our winters, other than today maybe, which I hear are somewhat colder than those in the Caribbean.

Vincent and his family are active in the community. Like a lot of new Canadians, they don't take their citizenship for granted.

Iqaluit is a diverse and dynamic community. Our population has grown significantly over the past several years. At least once a week, you can take part in an activity or attend a cultural event that reflects our increasingly cosmopolitan character.

I believe that diversity is a source of strength for a community. The coming together of different cultures and traditions in an atmosphere of mutual respect and tolerance is what Canada is all about. In Iqaluit, our cultural foundation is the Inuit way. Our strong and resilient culture provides a basis of strength for us.

I am proud that my children are growing up in this diverse community, and I ask all members to join me in congratulating Vincent and the other new Canadians that were sworn-in in a ceremony in Ottawa, all across the country from land to sea to sea to sea. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Members' Statements. Member for Tununig, Mr. Arvaluk.

**Member's Statement 003 – 2(4): Congratulations to Canada Winter Games Medal Winner**

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Kooneelusie Nutarak Senior passed away at the beginning of 2007 and he is also a recipient of the Order of Canada. I would like to thank the Commissioner for participating there. (interpretation ends)

Congratulations to Canada Winter Games Medal Winner. Mr. Speaker, the games have begun and medals have been won.

I am very pleased to share with the House today the accomplishments of one of my young constituents in Pond Inlet.

Christian Merkosak, who is the son of the well-known community leader Simon Merkosak, has brought home not one, not two, but three medals from the Canada Winter Games that are presently being held in Whitehorse.

>>Applause

Christian won a bronze medal in the one-foot high kick event; a silver medal in the knuckle hop event; and a silver medal in the Alaskan high kick event. (interpretation) Mr. Speaker, all Nunavummiut are proud of the accomplishments of our athletes, performers and volunteers at the games.

We are especially proud at the recognition that traditional Inuit and Dene games have received at this year's games. Our traditional events are being showcased on the national stage. They are a source of pride for our youth, who are demonstrating every day that our culture is thriving.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, providing opportunities for youth to take part in major sporting and cultural events is an important component for building a healthy community.

I ask all members to join me in congratulating Christian Merkosak and all of his teammates. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Members' Statements. Member for Nattilik, Ms. Aglukkaq.

#### **Member's Statement 004 – 2(4): Kitikmeot Cup – Hockey Tournament**

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Welcome back to the folks that are here today. Hopefully the rest will arrive tomorrow and happy birthday to my colleague, Mr. Akesuk.

Mr. Speaker, the Kitikmeot Cup Hockey Tournament was held in Gjoa Haven from February 22 to 26. This is an annual event, which allows the best players in the Kitikmeot to compete in one of our favorite pastimes, and also allows our families and friends to gather in the community to cheer on their favorite teams. This year, the communities of Cambridge Bay, Kugaaruk, Taloyoak, and Gjoa Haven were represented by one or more teams.

Mr. Speaker, I am happy to report that Gjoa Haven repeated last year's feat by becoming Kitikmeot Cup champions once again. To add to the good news, Taloyoak's Team #1 came in second and Gjoa Haven's Team #2 came in third.

I would like to congratulate the award winners. First of all, I would like to congratulate everyone who participated in the event but give special recognition to award winners: Darryl Kogvik for best goalie, Kirby Tungilik for best defensive player, Peter Aqqaq for top scorer, Ernie Lyall for best forward, Simon Tucktoo for most sportsmanlike, and for most valuable player, my nephew Corey Aglukkaq.

Mr. Speaker, I think it is important to recognize the volunteers without whom none of these important events would be possible. I want to congratulate and recognize the organizing committee for 2007: Geordie Pauloosie, Warren Rudolph, Eric Porter, Brandon Okpik, and Paul Puqiqnak, and a big thank you to all the volunteers as well as the visiting teams which made the tournament a special occasion for the communities involved. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Aglukkaq. Members' Statements. Member for Amittuq, Mr. Tapardjuk.

#### **Member's Statement 005 – 2(4): Opening of Canada Winter Games**

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I might be a little late but my wife celebrated her birthday yesterday, and we have been married for 37 years. Yesterday was her birthday, and she is going on a little over 50 years old, almost reaching the 100-mark.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the Premier for being able to participate at the opening of the Canada Winter Games in Whitehorse and this was the first time that the Canada Winter Games were held above the 60th parallel.

Our grandchild, who's named after my mother, lit the torch at the Canada Winter Games. I know that he is going to be watching the proceedings, so I would like to say congratulations and I'm very proud of him. Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tapardjuk. Members' Statements. Member for Baffin South, Mr. Akesuk.

#### **Member's Statement 006 – 2(4): Thank Constituents for Support**

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk** (interpretation): Thank you. My youngest daughter, Okalik, had her birthday yesterday and today is my wife's birthday.

I would also like to thank the communities of Cape Dorset and Kimmirut for the support they have shown me during my tenure here. I didn't have a CA for a long time in Cape Dorset but the position is now filled. Even while we're here at this session, I would like to urge the people of Cape Dorset and Kimmirut to call anytime they need help. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Happy birthday, Akesuk. (interpretation) Thank you. Members' Statements. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery.

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

I would like to be given the opportunity at this time to recognize Bobby Inuktituusuuq-Williamson. He was in Pangnirtung in 1952 up to 1955, and he worked at the Anglican Missionary Church: Bobby Inuktituusuuq-Williamson.

Thank you. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to welcome all of the people in the Gallery. I also have some of my constituents here. First of all, to the elder who is sitting at the Elders' Gallery, Mr. Celestine Erkidjuk. And right over there, we have Mike Gardener. Welcome to the Gallery. Right beside him is Sammie Peter, who calls occasionally. Thank you, and welcome to the Gallery.

I think you all know my relative and also a part of my constituency, a very excellent cook and very well-known outside of Iqaluit, a lot of people approach her, encouraging her to keep her cooking show going: Oleepeeka Veevee. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wanted to recognize a person you already recognized. I don't think we're allowed to recognize a person more than once.

Bobby Williamson, I would like to recognize him. I've known him for a number of years and he used to live in Rankin Inlet. His wife used to be my teacher and we used to go visit them when I was younger. It was very nice to see him again; it's as if we see our parents.

There's a lake in Rankin Inlet that's called Williamson Lake. It was named after that family, and we used to skate on that lake. Since then, it's used in the winter for snowmobile races, and in the summertime, they use the lake for holding different kinds of races, especially in the month of July.

I just wanted to recognize him because he has helped so many people in Nunavut. They're well known in Nunavut. I'm very grateful that I saw him. Thank you.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome to the Gallery. (interpretation ends) Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Iqaluit Centre, Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Quickly, I would like to recognize Mr. Williamson, too. I think when I first came to this world, his household was disturbed, and I don't know if it was my dad or someone else went up to wake them up to let them know that I had arrived a little early. Sorry to disturb your sleep that night, Bob.

I would like to take this opportunity, Mr. Speaker, to recognize some individuals that were here earlier, some of the elders that were here. I will just go through with their first names because they're not here. There was Gord; Rebecca is still here, Inuapik, Neevee Akulukjuk, Annie, Pauline, Mary, Annie, Annie Natsiapik, Annie Tiglik, Martha, Shawnee, Maine, and Jeanie.

I would like to just let them know that it was great to see the elders here in this Assembly. If it wasn't for them we wouldn't be here, and I thank them for that, and for being here. Hopefully they're not strangers; I would like to see them here more often. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Clyde River, Mr. Arreak.

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

#### **Question 001 – 2(4): Hiring Agency Nurses**

**Mr. Arreak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. During the Fourth Session, I am very happy to be here. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Health.

In Nunavut, in my community, also in Qikiqtarjuaq, we notice now there is a high turnover of nurses in the communities. The nurses are in the communities for a very short time. Most people don't like this practice.

Are we going to deal with the agency nurses? Will they stay on? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arreak. Ms. Aglukkaq, Minister of Health.

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have our share of challenges in filling nursing positions in Nunavut and in the past I have indicated some of the initiatives that we are trying to take as a department in filling those jobs.

Some initiatives are training our own nurses, developing mentorship programs so that graduates of Nunavut Arctic College can take on the jobs in the communities. Sometimes we hire those positions through casual and in other cases we have to use agency nurses because we have no other alternatives.

So until such time we have the positions all filled we won't be using agency nurses. But until such time, while we deal with some of our highest vacancies we'll continue to use agency nurses. Other initiatives such as recruitment will still be initiatives undertaken in parallel to the hiring of agency nurses. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Arreak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Minister for her response. The full time nurses, in the past, used to be in our communities for quite a long time. The elders would get used to the nurses and feel not so intimidated when they got used to them.

There was more trust and confidence with the full-time nurses but with the agency nurses coming and going, there are less permanent nurses now. How much money have they saved or how much more have they spent on agency nurses in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arreak. Minister of Health, Ms. Aglukkaq.

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I recognize the Member's concerns.

As I mentioned earlier, we continue to try and fill our vacancies. The solution won't be overnight. We are trying to train our own so that we have a more stable environment of nurses in our communities.

The recruitment strategy planning has been started and we are looking at developing and reviewing working conditions and compensation and so on of our nurses. At the same time, we are also looking into developing the RFP to have a contract with one or two agency companies to provide nurses for us to reduce the cost of agency nurses.

It has been an expensive process for us but it is one area that we continue to try our best. In terms of the exact dollars of how much we have spent, I don't have that information with me but can provide it to the member. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Arreak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you Minister. Can the Department of Health figure out how many agency nurses there will be or will this be just another hiccup? Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Health, Ms. Aglukkaq.

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Currently within Nunavut, we have a vacancy of approximately 70 positions in Nunavut for nurses are vacant of the 170 positions. So we need to continue to try to address those vacancies through agency nurses and casuals and whatnot. At the end of the day, we have to ensure that the positions are filled whether on the short term or long term to continue the delivery of services in our communities.

We will not leave those positions vacant. We are doing all that we can to fill the positions whether it is on a casual basis or through agency nurses.

At this point in time we'll continue to address the vacancies in a number of ways, but one of the ways we are dealing with the vacancies is the hiring of agency nurses. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Arreak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Minister. They should be looking for full-time nurses and try to attract more nurses to those positions.

Can the Department of Health do that? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.



**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arreak. Minister of Health, Ms. Aglukkaq.

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just to clarify for the record I mentioned of the 182 nursing positions in Nunavut 54 positions are vacant. I wanted to correct that statement.

In terms of looking at a recruitment strategy, we're looking to look at ways to try and keep our nurses; whether it is through compensation or professional development opportunities for our long time nurses in the communities some flexibility around training and development.

Those are areas that we're looking at. I'm not sure what the individual means by more attractive positions but internally our recruitment strategy will factor in ways to keep our nurses in our communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Question 002 – 2(4): RFP Award Process on Medivac Contract**

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question too is for the Minister responsible for Health and Social Services.

In our last sitting on December 4, I asked the minister if she would, in regards to the medivac contract that was issued, the RFP contract that was issued and awarded. I asked the minister at the time, and I would like to ask her again, is the minister aware, or does she know what the contributing factors in deciding and looking at who had the best proposals, and also as part of that, how much weight was actually given to investment, and infrastructure, and ownership here in Nunavut, rather than companies based outside of Nunavut.

Just following up on if she had that information now on the weighting of how those proposals were looked at. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Minister of Health and Social Services, Ms. Aglukkaq.

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thought I provided that information to the member in the House in December in terms of I believe there were ten categories that were used of categories to evaluate each proposal. If I hadn't provided that to the member I will be sure to provide it to him tomorrow. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Madame Minister. Your first supplementary, Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To clarify for the record I never received anything. I know that the minister had committed on two or three occasions to provide me with that information which I still am not in receipt of.

I have been anxiously awaiting it and it's funny that now I get back in here and ask the question and all of a sudden it is going to show up tomorrow. I'm glad I am finally getting it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. I didn't hear any question. Oral Questions. Member for the High Arctic, Mr. Barnabas.

### **Question 003 – 2(4): Vital Statistics Contact Information**

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Health and Social Services, who is responsible for vital statistic services for Nunavut, like for example, to get IDs, and also the vital statistics through the coroners in Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, ever since September 11 the need for identification has become more of an issue for our residents. We used to be able to visit our neighbours in Greenland and the United States with ease but now we need passports. My constituents have been saying in order to get a passport you need a birth certificate.

When Nunavummiut call the government's Vital Statistics office in Rankin Inlet to find out about getting a birth certificate, they can run into problems. Can the minister tell me what assistance her department provides to people who are trying to get a copy of their birth certificate? How can the department provide for my constituents? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. Minister of Health and Social Services, Minister Aglukkaq.

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In response to that concern, I had sent a letter and correspondence to all of my colleagues explaining to the members the process, contact numbers, as well as the information for other jurisdictions where the child may have, or the individual may have been born. Only the province where the individual is born can issue birth certificates.

So in Nunavut, after 1999, we started managing that process; prior to that it was the Northwest Territories. So anyone born prior to 1999 must go to Inuvik. If you're born in Ottawa, then there's a contact in Ottawa, or if you're born in Winnipeg, you go to Winnipeg.

So all of that information was outlined in the letter that I had sent to all of the MLAs. That same information also is available through the social workers in every community,

through the health centres, and every regional centre, if the members require the information. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Madame Minister. Your first supplementary, Mr. Barnabas.

**Mr. Barnabas**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I recognize that if a person was born in this territory before 1999 when we became Nunavut, then their birth records are held in the NWT Vital Statistics office in Inuvik. What specific lines of communication have been established between the Inuvik Vital Statistics Office and the Rankin Inlet Vital Statistics office to help people who were born in this territory before 1999 to get their birth certificates? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. Minister of Health and Social Services, Minister Aglukkaq.

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Firstly, the person has to apply for their certificate, and when that application is taken, if there are problems with that, Vital Statistics in Rankin Inlet will follow up with Inuvik regional office.

In some cases, they have been very, very helpful in producing birth certificates and have gone out of their way to produce birth certificates, particularly around young people going on Arctic Winter Games events or the Canada Winter Games.

So there is a very good working relationship between the two Vital Statistics office of Rankin Inlet, as well as Inuvik. If the member has any specific concerns or an individual that is waiting for their birth certificate, I would be pleased to provide that information to the staff for them to follow up.

The relationship and communication between the two offices is very good as far as I'm aware, and the working relationship is very good on both sides. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker**: Thank you, Minister. (interpretation) Your second Supplementary, Mr. Barnabas.

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The process seems to be set well but for my constituency it is not. (interpretation ends) The creation of Nunavut was historical for Canada. This territory was created by dividing an old, existing territory, the Northwest Territories, into two territories, NWT and Nunavut.

Upon division, a number of territorial assets were divided between the two territories. Will the minister commit to giving consideration to dividing up the vital statistics records so that records of all the people born in what is now Nunavut can be stored in the Nunavut Vital Statistics office in Rankin Inlet? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. Minister of Health and Social Services, Minister Aglukkaq.

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can certainly look into that. I know that prior to division, the Northwest Territories and the Office of the Interim Commissioner, at that time, negotiated the division of assets and liabilities.

As far as I know, health records of people born in the Northwest Territories are the property of that territory. I can look into it. It would be a similar concern with the people that are traveling to Ottawa and giving birth in Ottawa, that record belongs to Ottawa, or Ontario and/or Winnipeg or Yellowknife or Churchill. I can look into it and report back to the member my findings. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Madame Minister. Oral Questions. Member for Tununig, Mr. Arvaluk.

#### **Question 004 – 2(4): Funding Consideration for Nursing and NTEP Programs**

**Mr. Arvaluk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will give the Minister of Health a little bit of rest. Instead, I would like to direct my question to the Premier of the Nunavut Government. I would like to say at the outset that I am not saying that the Akitsiraq Law School is not important. I'm not saying that. I just don't believe it is as essential as health and education.

I would like to ask the Premier if there has been consideration given to nursing and EATEP programs for financial assistance similar or equal to that of Akitsiraq Law School because of the importance of those two necessities facing Nunavut. Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Mr. Premier.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) The Law School was a one-time program and it was very expensive. Those students were bound by contract to work for us, the sponsors, for a set period of time.

The teaching program and the nursing program, we provide assistance to those students but they are free to go anywhere they want once they are done. They are not bound by contract to work for any other. That is the difference right now. As I said, it was very expensive. I don't know if we could pay for it today. As it was a one-time program, it is something that would require significant investment and also if the students that are on today would like to be bound by contract to work for us for a set period of time.

It was something that we did on a one-time basis but is something I would like to see if we could partner with other partners. The law program we partnered with NTI and the federal government. It was something that allowed us to do it, but is something that would require more work and more resources if we were going to do it for other programs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Premier. (interpretation) Your first Supplementary, Mr. Arvaluk.

**Mr. Arvaluk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understand then that he has not made any consideration to agree to financial assistance for nursing and EATEP Programs and he has not spoken to NTI partnership, perhaps with the federal government, to pursue that course of training action.

I know that, I understand the Premier is stating that, yes, education training is expensive but try ignorance; it is going to be even more expensive. I think it is very important that there has to be a long-term commitment by the government, a decent plan, and decent negotiation with other partners to attract more students into this very, very essential program that the government does.

Can I ask him if he will, during his term, pursue other courses of action in order to upgrade to make the training program more attractive to potential nurses and teachers? Thank you.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Mr. Premier.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I know that Health has been looking at actually sponsoring graduates of the Nursing Program, and while they are awaiting their final exams, to be working as interns. I believe that has been happening for a number of students, so it's not something that we have ignored.

We know that we need nurses and I want to thank the member as well, for doing his part in upgrading the teaching program when he was a part of my government in the first term, so that has been ongoing and will continue. We provide the most generous allowance for all our students, anywhere in the country.

Nowhere else in the country do students get the type of assistance that they do receive from our government, in terms of teaching and nursing; all the students elsewhere in the country end up with heavy debts after graduating; I went through that myself, but through the assistance of our programs we are able to assist them further and they are not indebted as much as they would be elsewhere in the country.

So to say that we are not doing much, I think we have to look outside of the territory and see how much more difficult it is for a person to get a nursing degree or teaching degree, to realize that we are doing quite a bit already. I do hope that we will continue to see more students and they will realize that we are trying to do our part. It just doesn't take a government to educate everybody; it takes partnerships between teachers, students, and the government to be successful. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Arvaluk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think we all understand that traditionally across Canada, around the world, that teachers and nurses are the most poorly paid professions historically.

They did not get recognition because the world was a healthy, rich man society, not for children and women and sick. Today we recognize these are essential services, especially for Nunavut.

I would like to ask the Premier that if there is a possible discussion, has he at least spoken to other potential partners. You see, if we could pool our resources together to come up with a Nunavut-wide program to attract more people to get excited about education and nursing training in Nunavut, that part is in the Hansard. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Mr. Premier.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) What we can do and what we have been doing, as a government, is that we guarantee employment for Inuit, through the *Akitsijiit*, and the nursing program, or the teaching program. That's a lot more than what you would see elsewhere where once you're done with a degree you don't automatically get a job.

But in our system we have been automatically ensuring that any of our graduates are eligible for any job in the government in terms of nursing or teaching, and that will continue. I don't see that anywhere else in the country. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Premier. Oral Questions. Your final supplementary, Mr. Arvaluk.

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understand your stance. We also know that the people in Nunavut, and since the creation of this government, we know and we know that the federal government knows, exactly where the Nunavut Government is at, at this time. I think it's about time we realize what are not essential jobs for the people of Nunavut. We have to follow specifications, for example, if we're going to be building a house, and that requires a lot of money, but education and proper, adequate health services are essential to the people of Nunavut.

The Minister of Health is working as hard as she can, but her hands are tied due to the laws that she has to work by. Are you going to be having another meeting with the Departments of Education and Health, for example, through the regions that are preparing and planning for the future development? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Mr. Premier.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As Nunavummiut our population is very small. If we're going to be setting up different programs it would help very much, not only for those but also for other professional positions.

The Labrador government was also here to talk with the Nunavut Government on how they can bring down the costs of services by working together. We're going to be looking at what options we have to cut costs down, and we're going to be having discussions with other jurisdictions like Labrador, Northern Quebec, and the Northwest Territories, and Yukon.

What can we do to bring down the costs and to bring more adequate services to our jurisdictions and to properly educate our people? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Question 005 – 2(4): Teachers or Nursing Graduates Guaranteed Employment**

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just want to follow up with the Premier and ask for clarification on one of his responses to my colleague not too long ago.

He had indicated that he said that any of the teachers or nurses that graduate would be guaranteed employment with the government. He said that we guarantee employment for all our Inuit graduates. I just want to get clarification if that's what I heard.

I just want to clarify as to just guaranteed employment for Inuit graduates for those programs, or guaranteed employment for all graduates of the programs, because there are non-Inuit graduates that have lived up here all of their life that feel that they're not getting a fair shake.

I just want ask him if he can clarify that for the record, please. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know in the nursing program we guarantee employment for all graduates, but as we have a real shortage of Inuit nurses and teachers that was my reference to our Inuit students that are graduating; they'll get a job within our government, that we have a real shortage of Inuit nurses and teachers, in particular. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Is the premier indicating then that; I just want to make sure that I have it correct. As you know that there are a lot of non-Inuit residents of Nunavut that have lived up here all of their lives and have gone through our education system and this is their home. I think they want to know they have an opportunity to

contribute back to this government in the same way that it helped them over the years to get to where they are.

I am just wondering if the Premier could clearly state whether or not non-beneficiary graduates of these programs, that have lived up here all their lives would be guaranteed employment upon completion of their programs? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Mr. Premier.

**Hon. Paul Okalik:** Thank you. I know that nurses are in severe shortage so any graduates are welcome to jobs within our government. There is a real shortage. The Minister of Health alluded to a real shortage in nursing so all of the graduates are eligible for jobs within our health facilities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What about the teaching program? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik:** What can I say? Like I said, we have a real shortage in nursing and we'll hire whoever graduates from nursing. Our priority hiring policy is Inuit, wherever we can, and northerners are also welcome to apply, and those that graduate from our schools are more than welcome to apply and we guarantee our nursing graduates employment within our health facilities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It sounds like the Premier is saying that if you're a non-beneficiary; you grew up here in Nunavut all of your life; the only way your guaranteed to get employment with this government is to go through the nursing program. It doesn't matter if you have no interest in being a nurse; if you want to be a teacher, or any other professional, that we're in dire shortage of, "Well, I'm sorry. We'll only hire you if you're a nurse."

I am not knocking, or disputing the Priority Hiring Policy, but there's something missing when we have long time northerners, who have lived up here all their lives, falling through the cracks. They're not even being looked at, unless they graduate from the nursing program.

I think for human resources they consider a northerner as someone who has been here a year. That is not a heck of a lot for people that have been here all of their lives. So I am just wondering if the Premier could direct the Cabinet to come up with some type of a



directive that addresses that issue for long-time northerners so that they too are going to have some preference over for hiring after the beneficiaries on the Priority Hiring Policy.

Right now there are beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries, and the ones that are from up here don't stand a chance because they are lumped in with the people that apply from the south and have been here just a year and may have a lot more experience and qualifications than them.

They're not even getting short-listed, not even getting looked at, and they've been here, this is their home, this is where they grew up. So I'm just wondering if the Premier could commit to directing or coming up with a solution to that problem for these individuals. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The purpose of the Priority Hiring Policy is to respond to historic and disadvantage of a set group that is permitted under the Charter and Rights and Freedoms. So that is what we're using, to allow for priority hiring of Inuit.

There is no history of any other group within Nunavut that I know of where they are in a disadvantaged position where there is a historical disadvantage of a set group. Inuit unfortunately are in that state today and our current state is that we are highly disadvantaged in terms of employment opportunities.

We make up 85 percent of the population in Nunavut and yet still unfortunately, we only make up 46 percent of our workforce within our government. That is what we're trying to change. That is what is allowed under the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. Any other way that we can accommodate other groups, yes, we will continue to do that but the purpose of the Priority Hiring Policy is to change the state that we are in today, so that Inuit will catch up to the rest of the country.

So that is why the Priority Hiring Policy is in effect. To change it would open us up for other possibilities under the Charter of Rights and Freedoms so that is where we hit the wall. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Premier. Mr. Tootoo, I wish to indicate that your last question was final supplementary. Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit Center, Mr. Tootoo.

#### **Question 006 – 2(4): Hiring Priority for Long Term Northerners**

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to clarify for the Premier that I am not in any way knocking and saying that I have an issue with the Priority Hiring Policy for beneficiaries. I know why we are doing that, I agree with that. What I don't agree with is that there are, 85 percent of the population are beneficiaries that are being addressed in

the Priority Hiring Policy. 15 percent of the population, and I would say a small portion of that 15 percent are long-time northerners that are non-beneficiaries, people that have lived here all their life, and have grown up here, in some cases are second and third generation non-beneficiaries that have been here all their lives.

Mr. Rennie was here earlier, Mr. Williamson was here, and they have lived up her for years. There is no distinction right now under our Priority Hiring to recognize long-term northerners. Like I say, one year, whoop-de-do. In the Northwest Territories, prior to division, there was a clause in there, where if you were considered a long-term northerner, it was another category; you know there was the P1, P2 whatever. P2 would be a long-term northerner, someone that had lived half their lives or twenty years or half their life in the Northwest Territories.

What I'm asking the Premier, would they look at developing another category in there to address those individuals that right now are being ignored and treated as the same as someone that gets off a plane from down south and not being looked at. And again, I'm not disagreeing with the Priority Hiring Policy for beneficiaries. I'm not.

They keep coming out and saying that's why we're doing it, I know why we are doing it and I agree with that, but there's something missing.

That's what I would like this government to look at because we all have constituents like that, and they agree, too, with the Priority Hiring Policy but they feel that they should be recognized because they belong here, too. This is their home and there are no recognitions given for that. So that's what I'm asking the Premier to commit to looking at that and then coming up with some solutions to deal with that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I represent a significant portion of those long-term northerners, so I represent everyone. My constituents have been very patient in dealing with this matter because they see that Inuit, in particular, are in need of this special assistance. They've been wonderful and accommodating to our goal of changing the status quo.

I believe my Human Resources Minister has been reviewing it for a while and I don't know where it's at today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We all know that they do support the Priority Hiring Policy to give beneficiaries the first opportunity of positions of jobs within the government. In a lot of cases where there are not...like I said, we're only 46 percent Inuit employment across the government.

The other 54 percent are non-beneficiaries, for the most part, that come from outside the territory. They have been here maybe a year, or they come here just to work. I think that those individuals that have lived here all their lives, this is their home, they're being treated the same as those folks.

They do agree to the Priority Hiring Policy, but when you don't have a suitable beneficiary for a position there should be some consideration given to those long-term northerners and not just dumped in the same category as all non-beneficiaries.

That's what I'm asking. Would the minister commit to coming up with a solution to deal with that problem? That's all I'm asking. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Mr. Premier.

**Hon. Paul Okalik:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think I have tried to answer this question. We have a Charter of Rights and Freedoms which prohibits us from discriminating against any group in terms of mobility rights, to be hired anywhere in the country, but that charter of rights provides an exemption where there is a historical record of discrimination and disadvantaged groups to be allowed to have special rights in terms of being hired by a government or other programs that the government may establish.

So that's where we have to be careful as a government. We do not want to expose ourselves to possible situations where we could be liable. So that charter protects us, and at the same time, prohibits this government from carrying out any programs that may discriminate against other Canadians, so we have to be careful. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Premier. Your second supplementary, Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the Premier is also the Minister of Justice, so I'm sure that's why he keeps referring to the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

If what he's saying is correct, then the Priority Hiring Policy that they have in the Northwest Territories is unconstitutional, if that's what he's saying. I don't know if we can look at how it was worded there and see if, in fact, it was or wasn't unconstitutional and against peoples' Charter of Rights and Freedoms. And if not, look at implementing and bringing in something like that to recognize that component of our population, and covered under I think it was as a long-term northerner.

Would the minister commit to taking a look at how it was worded in the Northwest Territories prior to division; I think it was a P2 category; a P3 whatever it was. There were different categories; the first one was aboriginal; then the next priority was a long-term northerner, and there was a description of that in there.

Would the Premier commit to taking a look at that and seeing; determining if, or not, they would be against the Charter of Rights and Freedoms? If not, would they look at directing

the Department of Human Resources to look at bringing in something like that; a category like that? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understand from my minister that this policy is going to be under review this year. As part of that review we'll look into all matters. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I want to add that we value the contribution of all of our employees and we appreciate the work they're doing for our government. To say otherwise that regardless of who you are we appreciate the work that you do for Nunavummiut, and also in particular to long-term Nunavummiut that have taken the effort of learning our language, and learning more about our culture; we appreciate that very much. They're more than welcome as Nunavummiut to be a part of our workforce and continue your contribution. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Premier. Oral Questions. Your final supplementary, Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Premier indicated that that policy was under review; it was going to be under review. Would he commit to having the question looking at the way that it was worded, if you want to call it that, that the Northwest Territories Priority Hiring Policy and getting back to me and letting me know if, or if not, that would be against someone's Charter of Rights and Freedoms if that type of clause was put into our Priority Hiring Policy? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Mr. Premier.

**Hon. Paul Okalik:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The policy, I believe is set for review this August, so as a part of that review we'll do a thorough examination of the policy and see what we can do. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Premier. Members, I remind you that today we have been very patient with your questions and the lengths of responses but tomorrow we might not have the luxury. So be reminded.

Item 6. Oral Questions. (interpretation) I don't think there are any more. Thank you. Item 7. Written Questions. Item 8. Petitions. Item 9. Reports of Standing and Special Committees. Item 10. Tabling of Documents. Member for Uqurmiut, Mr. Arreak.

### **Item 10: Tabled Documents**

**Tabled Document 001 – 2(4): Clyde River Old Town Clean-up – Letter from the Minister of Environment and Photos**

**Mr. Arreak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table today a letter from the Minister of Environment about the old Clyde River site in my constituency, as well as some photographs that I took last summer at the site. Old Clyde River is a contaminated site that is an issue that I have posed questions on in the House, and during the committee meetings.

I will be asking further questions about this site during the session. I urge the Minister of Environment and his officials to review these photographs carefully. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arreak. Item 10. Tabling of Documents. I wish to table a document.

**Tabled Document 002 – 2(4): Statutory Requirements for Tabling of Reports and Other Documents in the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut – March 2007**

**Tabled Document 003 – 2(4): Languages Commissioner of Nunavut Annual Report 2005-06**

**Speaker:** I wish to table the document *Statutory Requirements for Tabling of Reports and Other Documents* in the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut. This list is regularly updated by the Legislative Assembly and tracks the status of documents that are legally required to be tabled in the House.

The current version of the list indicates what documents have been tabled as of March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2007. I trust all members will find this document useful. Thank you.

Again, members, I wish to table today the 2005-06 Annual Report of the Languages Commissioner of Nunavut. Thank you.

Tabling of Documents. Minister responsible for Culture, Language, Elders and Youth, Mr. Tapardjuk.

**Tabled Document 004 – 2(4): Towards a Representative Public Service – Statistics as of September 30, 2006**

**Mr. Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Towards a Representative Public Service – Statistics as of September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2006. I wish to table that document, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister responsible for Human Resources. Tabling of Documents. Mr. Quirke.

**Tabled Document 005 – 2(4): Return to Written Question 020 – 2(3) Social Worker Positions in Cambridge Bay\***

**Tabled Document 006 – 2(4): Return to Written Question 021 – 2(3) Status of Decentralization\***

**Tabled Document 007 – 2(4): Return to Oral Question 379 – 2(3) Assistance for Business Community**

**Tabled Document 008 – 2(4): Return to Oral Question 399 – 2(3) Mandatory Leave Without Pay**

**Tabled Document 009 – 2(4): Return to Oral Question 400 – 2(3) CLEY Response to Elder Abuse**

**Tabled Document 010 – 2(4): Response to Petition 5 – 2(3) Rent Scale Review**

**Tabled Document 011 – 2(4): Response to Petition 6 – 2(3) Dissatisfaction with Gas Tax Rebate Program**

**Mr. Clerk** (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm tabling a number of documents that pertain to outstanding items from the Third Session of the Second Assembly that were filed by the appropriate Ministers with my office: Returns to Written Questions 20 and 21; Returns to Oral Questions 379, 399, and 400 that were taken as notice; Return to Petition 5 and 6. Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Item 10. 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. I don't think there are any. Item 15. Second Reading of Bills. Item 16. Orders of the Day. Mr. Clerk.

### **Item 16: Orders of the Day**

**Mr. Clerk** (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Orders for the Day for March 7:

1. Prayer
2. Budget Address
3. Ministers' Statements
4. Members' Statements

\*See Appendix for full text of Returns to Written Questions 20 – 2(4) and 21 – 2(4) filed with the Clerk.

5. Returns to Oral Questions
6. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
7. Oral Questions
8. Written Questions
9. Returns to Written Questions
10. Replies to Opening Address
11. Replies to Budget Address
12. Petitions
13. Reports of Standing and Special Committees.
14. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
15. Tabling of Documents
16. Notice of Motions
17. Notice of Motions for First Reading of Bills
18. Motions
19. First Reading of Bills
20. Second Reading of Bills
21. Consideration in Committee of the Whole and Bills and Other Matters
22. Report of Committee of the Whole
23. Third Reading of Bills
24. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. This House stands adjourned until Wednesday, March 7 at 1:30.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 16:53*

# **Appendix – March 6, 2007**



**Return to Written Question 020 – 2(3): Social Worker Positions in Cambridge Bay**

**Asked by:** Keith Peterson, MLA (Cambridge Bay)

**Asked of:** Hon. Leona Aglukkaq, Minister of Health and Social Services

**Date:** December 4, 2006

**Question:**

- 1) For each fiscal year from 1999-2000 to 2006-07 to date, how many certified social worker positions were allocated to Cambridge Bay?

**Response:**

In Nunavut social workers are not regulated or licensed. In some provinces social workers are required to be registered, but in Nunavut we do not have 'certified' social workers.

In 1998-1999 the Government of Northwest Territories allocated four social worker positions for the community of Cambridge Bay, and this has stayed the same since the Government of Nunavut has taken over social services for Cambridge Bay. The four positions are as follows; one regional manager position, one area supervisor position, and two community social service worker positions.

**Question:**

- 2) For each fiscal year from 1999-2000 to 2006-07 to date, how many of the certified social worker positions in Cambridge Bay were staffed and for what length of time?

**Response:**

Social worker positions were staffed for the fiscal years 1999-2000 to 2006-07 as follows:

In 1999-2000 three of the four social worker positions were filled during the fiscal year.

At the beginning of 2000-2001 all four social worker positions were filled to July, in August 2000 one social worker position became vacant.

In 2001-02 only one of the social worker positions was filled for the fiscal year.

At the beginning of 2002-03 one social worker position was filled, in October 2002 two more social worker positions were filled.

At the beginning of 2003-04 three of the social worker positions were filled, in August 2003 one of the social worker positions became vacant leaving two social worker positions filled. In March all four social worker positions were filled.

At the beginning of 2004-05 all four of the social worker positions were filled. For the majority of 2004-05 two of the social worker positions were filled and one position became vacant in May 2004, the other social worker position was sporadically filled throughout the year.

At the beginning of 2005-06 two of the four social worker positions were filled. In August 2005 another social worker position was filled, for the majority of the 2005-06 fiscal year.

In 2006-07 currently two of the four social worker positions are filled.

The Department of Health and Social Services is continuously advertising and recruiting to fill the vacancies in social worker positions.

**Question:**

- 3) For each fiscal year from 1999-2000 to 2006-07 to date, how many job openings were advertised for certified social worker positions in Cambridge Bay?

**Response:**

Advertisements for the CSSW III position in Cambridge Bay have been continuous since the vacancy of June 2005. The position of Regional Manager of Social Programs was filled in an acting capacity for 2005-06. During this period of time there have been four different unsuccessful competitions and the regional manager position is currently at the Department of Human Resources for re-advertisement.

**Question:**

- 4) What recruitment and retention efforts have been made by the Department of Health and Social Services to staff certified social worker positions in Cambridge Bay?

**Response:**

Vacant social worker positions are advertised on the Government of Nunavut website and in the two northern papers: *News/North* and *Nunatsiaq News*. We have recently started to advertise social worker vacancies on the Child Welfare League of Canada website as well. There are also efforts made by GN social workers to recruit their own network of colleagues. This is how the department has been able to fill vacant positions with casual social workers.

**Question:**

- 5) What recruitment and retention efforts have been made by the Department of Health and Social Services to staff certified social worker positions with individuals who have been trained in courses offered by Nunavut Arctic College?

**Response:**

The Nunavut Arctic College Human Services Program is a two-year program with a one-year certificate exit and two streams in the second diploma year: Social Work, Alcohol and Drug Counselling. There are currently five students in the program. Two students graduated from the program in 2005. Three students graduated in 2006. Of those 2006 graduates, one is with HSS in Taloyoak, one is working at the Cambridge Bay Wellness Centre, and one graduate is working with the Department of Education in Cambridge Bay.

**Question:**

- 6) How does the Department of Health and Social Services determine which levels of certification are required for community social worker positions?

**Response:**

Each social worker job description in Nunavut was reviewed by staff in the Department of Human Resources and the Department of Health and Social Services. A Canada-wide comparison of social work positions was also completed. Social work job descriptions were then standardized for Nunavut and four classifications of positions were approved as follows: Trainee, Community Social Services Worker (CSSW), Area Supervisor, and Regional Supervisor. Except for the trainee position, the social worker positions require a degree or diploma and equivalent experience.

**Question:**

- 7) How does the Department of Health and Social Services determine the case-per-staff ratio for certified social workers in Nunavut?

**Response:**

The staffing for social services in each community has remained the same since 1999. The department tracks caseloads per staff member; however, caseloads are not used to determine social worker staffing levels in each community.

**Question:**

- 8) For each fiscal year from 1999-2000 to 2006-07 to date, how often is the case-per-staff ratio exceeded by individual certified social workers in Cambridge Bay?

**Response:**

As noted above, Health and Social Services does not have a case-per-staff ratio for social workers in Nunavut.

**Question:**

- 9) How does the Department of Health and Social Services evaluate the success of its Social Services programs?

**Response:**

Managers evaluate the performance of social workers and then arrange training based on the needs identified so that social workers in Nunavut can maintain and enhance their competencies. This helps ensure social workers have the opportunity to continually develop their skills and provide quality social services for Nunavummiut.

The Department of Health and Social Services is also interested in exploring success indicators used by other jurisdictions that may be appropriate for Nunavut.

## **Return to Written Question 021 – 2(3): Status of Decentralization**

**Asked by:** Keith Peterson, MLA (Cambridge Bay)

**Asked of:** Hon. Paul Okalik, Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs

**Date:** December 5, 2006

### **Introduction**

Information was required from all GN departments, agencies, and Crown corporations in responding to many parts of this written question. This response could not have been prepared without the assistance and cooperation of the staff across all GN departments, agencies, and Crown corporations.

The following provision applies to all responses. The data was assessed as of September 30, 2006.

There was some reorganization of GN departments effective December 31, 2004, so the decentralization data is broken down by the current departmental structure which is different from the government structure in the response to Written Question 26 – 2(2).

The data includes the following GN departments, agencies, and Crown corporations:

- Community and Government Services (CGS)
- Culture, Language, Elders and Youth (CLEY)
- Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs (EIA)
- Education
- Finance (includes Nunavut Liquor Commission and Nunavut Liquor Licensing Board)
- Health and Social Services (HSS)
- Human Resources (HR)
- Justice
- Economic Development and Transportation (EDT) (includes Nunavut Business Credit Corporation)
- Environment
- Nunavut Arctic College (NAC)
- Nunavut Housing Corporation (NHC)
- Qulliq Energy Corporation (QEC)
- Nunavut Development Corporation (NDC)

### **Question 1:**

From April 1, 1999 to September 30, 2006, how many Government of Nunavut departmental, board, agency, and Crown corporation positions (broken down by entity)

were decentralized from Iqaluit, Rankin Inlet, or Cambridge Bay to another community (broken down by community)?

**Response to Question 1:**

Attached is the list of Cabinet approved decentralized positions by employing entity and community as of September 30, 2006.

Community	CGS	CLEY	EIA	ED	Fin	HSS	HR	Jus	EDT	ENV	NAC	NHC	NDC	QEC	Total
Kugluktuk	10	10				14									34
Cambridge Bay	7						5								12
Gjoa Haven	1				4			5	8						18
Arviat	1			32					2		13	18			66
Baker Lake	8	11												31	50
Rankin Inlet	7						5		15	1			4		32
Cape Dorset	22	2							7			19			50
Igloolik	1	24			17		5			22					69
Pangnirtung	1		6	23		25			10	6					71
Pond Inlet	31			17				1	8						57
<b>Total</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>459</b>

**Question 2:**

As of September 2006, how many of these positions were filled on an indeterminate or term basis with employees considered as members of the Public Service?

**Response to Question 2:**

Attached are the numbers of indeterminate versus term positions as of September 30, 2006.

Indeterminate	313
Term	<u>22</u>
Total	335

Vacant 124

**Question 3:**

As of September 30, 2006, how many of these positions were filled with beneficiaries of the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement* and how many were filled with non-beneficiaries?

**Response to Question 3:**

The response considers how the position was filled on September 30, 2006 and not as of the date of decentralization. Below are the numbers of NLCA Beneficiaries versus Non-Beneficiaries as of September 30, 2006.

	<u>NLCA Beneficiaries</u>	<u>Non-Beneficiaries</u>	<u>Total</u>
Indeterminate	187	126	313
Term	2	20	22
Total	189	146	335

**Question 4:**

As of September 30, 2006, how many of these positions were filled with persons who were previously living in the decentralized community and how many were filled with persons relocating from: Iqaluit; Rankin Inlet; Cambridge Bay; and Southern Canada?

**Response to Question 4:**

The response considers how the position was filled on September 30, 2006 and not as of the date of decentralization. It considers where the individual who filled the position came from most recently (immediately prior to occupying this position) and not where the individual originally came from when first hired by the GN.

Attached are the number of persons living in the decentralized community versus the number relocating from elsewhere to decentralized positions as of September 2006 was:

Decentralized Communities	215
Non-Decentralized Communities	0
Iqaluit	22
Rankin Inlet	2
Cambridge Bay	10
Southern Canada	86
Total	335

**Question 5:**

As of September 2006, how many of these positions were having their functions performed by persons engaged on a casual, contractual, or consultancy basis? How many of those persons were deemed to be residents of Nunavut for Federal Income Tax purposes and how many were non-residents?

**Response to Question 5:**

The first part of this response compiles the information provided by the departments regarding the number of positions within each department being performed on a casual, contractual, or consultancy basis and excludes any secondments or transfer assignments.

Attached is the number of persons in the decentralized positions engaged on a casual, contractual, or consultancy basis as of September 30, 2006.

Casuals	2
Contracts	1
Consultants	0

They were deemed residents of Nunavut as of September 30, 2006.

(Note: HR cannot yet report, through P2K, on a casual employee's relation to a position number. As of September 30, 2006, complete information on casuals is not available.)

**Question 6:**

As of September 30, 2006, how many decentralized positions were vacant (broken down by employing entity and community)?

**Question 7:**

As of September 30, 2006, how many positions had been vacant for more than six (6) months (broken down by employing entity and community)?

**Response to Questions 6 & 7:**

Positions are considered vacant until filled by an indeterminate or term employee. Positions that have been only filled on a contractual or casual basis are still deemed vacant. The response to Question 7 includes positions that were vacant as of September 30, 2006.

The vacancy by employing entity and by community as of March 31, 2006 (left hand column for each community) and September 30, 2006 (right hand column for each community) was:



Community	CGS			CLEY			EIA			ED			Fin			HSS			HR		
	30-Sep-05	31-Mar-06	30-Sep-06	30-Sep-05	31-Mar-06	30-Sep-06	30-Sep-05	31-Mar-06	30-Sep-06	30-Sep-05	31-Mar-06	30-Sep-06	30-Sep-05	31-Mar-06	30-Sep-06	30-Sep-05	31-Mar-06	30-Sep-06	30-Sep-05	31-Mar-06	30-Sep-06
Kugluktuk	3	4	4	4	1	2										4	6	6			
Cambridge Bay	2	2	2																1		
Gjoa Haven	1	1	1										1								
Arviat	1								10	8	11										
Baker Lake	2	1	1	4	3	2															
Rankin Inlet														1					2	1	
Cape Dorset	7	7	7		2	2															
Igloolik	1	1	1	15	9	10							3	3	7				1	1	2
Pangnirtung	1	1	1					1	1	4	5	7				8	5	11			
Pond Inlet	6	7	7							2	3	3									
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>

Community	30-Sep-05	31-Mar-06	30-Sep-06	30-Sep-05	31-Mar-06	30-Sep-06	30-Sep-05	31-Mar-06	30-Sep-06	30-Sep-05	31-Mar-06	30-Sep-06	30-Sep-05	31-Mar-06	30-Sep-06	30-Sep-05	31-Mar-06	30-Sep-06	30-Sep-05	31-Mar-06	30-Sep-06
Kugluktuk																					
Cambridge Bay						1															
Gjoa Haven			1		1																
Arviat									1	1	1	2	1	3							
Baker Lake																			3	5	5
Rankin Inlet				1		3	1	1	1												
Cape Dorset				2		2							4	3	1						
Igloolik							11	12	9												
Pangnirtung					6	7	3	1													
Pond Inlet				1		1															
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>

Community	TOTAL		
	30-Sep-05	31-Mar-06	30-Sep-06
Kugluktuk	11	11	12
Cambridge Bay	3	2	3
Gjoa Haven	1	3	2
Arviat	14	10	15
Baker Lake	9	9	8
Rankin Inlet	4	2	5
Cape Dorset	13	12	12

Igloodik	31	26	29
Pangnirtung	16	19	27
Pond Inlet	9	10	11
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>124</b>

**Question 8:**

As of September 30, 2006, how much has the government spent on settlements for employees who declined to accept offers of employment for decentralized positions, and who subsequently departed the Public Service?

**Clarifications for Question 8:**

This includes all individuals who selected option (c) within 90 days of receipt of their letter on the decentralization initiative and who had departed the public service as of September 30, 2006. It would not include individuals who formally declined to accept offers of employment but deferred their actual departure dates and had not departed the Public Service as of September 30, 2006. This amount also includes removal costs.

**Response to Question 8:**

The total amount spent by the GN on settlements for employees who declined to accept offers of employment for decentralized positions, and who departed the Public Service by September 30, 2006 was \$612,201.

**Question 9:**

As of September 30, 2006, what has been the total cost to the Government of Nunavut for the decentralization initiative, including, but not limited to, the following areas of expenditure:

- i. Relocation and removal costs for employees;
- ii. Settlements and other compensation for employees declining offers of employment for decentralized positions;
- iii. Advertising and recruitment;
- iv. Infrastructure, office renovations, and other capital expenditures, including all costs associated with the construction, provision, and furnishing of staff housing in decentralized communities; and
- v. Administrative and miscellaneous costs, including expenditures incurred by the Decentralization Secretariat of the EIA?

**Response to Question 9:**

Costs include all relocation expenditures for new GN employees to fill decentralized positions, relocation costs to move existing employees who moved with the decentralized position [option (a)], and all costs (including relocation and severance) for individuals

who declined the offer to continue their position in the decentralized community [option (c)].

Please also note that the Capital and Operations and Maintenance (O & M) costs do reflect the costs attributable to decentralization, however, significant expenditures under these headings would have been incurred anyways from filling the positions in Iqaluit. Therefore, the costs presented are not necessarily the incremental costs of decentralization.

The total cost to the GN for the decentralization has been:

O & M	\$12,050,145
<u>Capital</u>	<u>\$20,312,078</u>
Total (includes Capital and O & M)	\$32,362,223