

# Iqaluit

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

#### Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

## *Speaker* Hon. Peter Kilabuk

(Pangnirtung) Chair, Management and Services Board **Tagak Curley** (Rankin Inlet North)

ul Striking Committee for Joe Allen Evyagotailak (Kugluktuk)

Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole; Chair, Regular Members' Caucus

> Peter Kattuk (Hudson Bay)

Steve Mapsalak (Akulliq) Co-Chair, Full Caucus

Hon. Patterk Netser (Nanulik) Minister of Environment; Minister responsible for the Workers' Compensation Board

#### Hon. Paul Okalik (Iqaluit West) Premier; Minister of Justice; Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs

Keith Peterson (Cambridge Bay) Striking Committee

Hon. Ed. Picco (Iqaluit East) Government House Leader; Minister of Education; Minister of Energy; Minister responsible for Multiculturalism, Homelessness and Immigration

Hon. David Simailak (Baker Lake) Minister of Finance; Chair of the Financial Management Board; Minister of Economic Development and Transportation

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk

(Amittuq) Minister of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth; Minister of Human Resources

> Hunter Tootoo (Iqaluit Centre) Striking Committee

**Officers** 

# Clerk John Quirke

Deputy Clerk Nancy Tupik Clerk Assistant Kooyoo Nooshoota Law Clerk Susan Cooper Sergeant-at-Arms Simon Nattaq Hansard Production Innirvik Support Services

Box 1200

*Iqaluit, Nunavut, X0A 0H0 Tel (867) 975-5000 Fax (867) 975-5190 Toll-Free (877) 334-7266* Website: www.assembly.nu.ca

#### Hon. Leona Aglukkaq (Nattilik) Minister of Health and Social Services; Minister responsible for Status of Women Council

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (South Baffin) Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation

> David Alagalak (Arviat)

#### James Arreak (Uqqummiut) Deputy Speaker; Chair of the Committee of the Whole

James Arvaluk (Tununiq)

# Levi Barnabas

(Quttiktuq) Chair, Full Caucus; Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole

Hon. Levinia Brown (Rankin Inlet South – Whale Cove) Deputy Premier; Minister of Community and Government Services

# **Table of Contents**

Opening Prayer	428
Ministers' Statements 1-	428
Members' Statements 1-	431
Oral Questions1	440
Tabled Documents	460
Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills 1	461
Motions1	462
Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters	470
Report of the Committee of the Whole 1	476
Orders of the Day 1	476

# **Daily References**

Friday, June 1, 2007		28
----------------------	--	----

# В.

# **Ministers' Statements**

062 – 2(4): Land Titles Modernization (Okalik)	1428
063 – 2(4): Directors of Income Support Annual Meeting (Picco)	1429
064 – 2(4): Inuit Societal Values Pilot Project (Tapardjuk)	1429
065 – 2(4): Update on Sivuliqtiksat Internship Program (Tapardjuk)	1430

# С.

# Members' Statements

141 – 2(4): Recognition at Maani Uluyuk School in Rankin Inlet – Steve Faulkner (Brown).	1431
142 – 2(4): Chief Coroner's Office (Curley)	1432
143 – 2(4): Sanikiluaq School Success Stories (Kattuk)	1433
144 – 2(4): Apprenticeship Success in Kugaaruk (Mapsalak)	1434
145 – 2(4): Kugluktuk Roads (Evyagotailak)	1434
146 – 2(4): Thanks to Kublu Taqtu (Aglukkaq)	1435
147 – 2(4): Global Warming 101 Visit to Clyde River (Arreak)	1436
148 – 2(4): Sod Turning for the New Cathedral (Picco)	1437
149 – 2(4): Prize Event for Master Card (Okalik)	1437
150 – 2(4): Recognition of Jordin Tootoo (Arvaluk)	1438
151 – 2(4): Assisting People to Obtain Mining Jobs (Alagalak)	1438
152 – 2(4): Incandescent Light Bulbs (Barnabas)	1440

# **Oral Questions**

186 – 2(4): Support for the Development of Nunavut Health Professionals (Arvaluk) 144	0
187 – 2(4): Heat Problems at Nuiyak School (Kattuk) 144	13
188 – 2(4): Kugluktuk Road Problems (Evyagotailak) 144	4
189 – (4): Funding From the Federal Government for Search and Rescue (Curley) 144	15
190 – 2(4): Incandescent Light Bulbs (Barnabas)	17
191 – 2(4): Recognizing DEA's Hardwork (Peterson) 144	9
192 – 2(4): Contractors Using Public Housing Power Outlet (Curley)	52
193 – 2(4): Tabling of the 2005-2006 Public Accounts (Tootoo) 145	;3
194 – 2(4): Local Contractor Denied Contract (Barnabas) 145	6
195 – 2(4): Health Risk of Black Mold (Peterson)	58

# Ε.

# **Tabling of Documents**

091 - 2(4): Letter to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service re. Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and
Plants; 12-month Petition Finding and Proposed Rule to List the Polar Bear (Ursus
maritimus) as Threatened Throughout its Range (Netser)
092 - 2(4): Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act 2006/07 GN Annual Report on
the Administration of the Act (Okalik)
093 - 2(4): Letter to Nunavut Employees Union on Centralization of Payment Processing -
Department of Health and Social Services (Okalik) 1460
094 – 2(4): Kivalliq Chamber of Commerce Annual General Meeting Resolutions 2007 (Curley)

# F.

# Motions

014 – 2(4): Listing of Polar Bears as a Threatened Species (Netser)
---

# Bills

Bill 06 – Official Languages Act – Notice	1461
Bill 07 – Inuit Language Protection Act – Notice	1461
Bill 12 – Emergency Measures Act – Notice	1461
Bill 10 – Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 1, 2007-2008 – Consideration in	
Committee	1470

#### 1428

## Iqaluit, Nunavut Friday, June 1, 2007

#### **Members Present:**

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

# **Item 1: Opening Prayer**

**Speaker** (Hon. Peter Kilabuk)(interpretation): Thank you. I would like to ask Mr. Netser to say the prayer.

>>Prayer

**Speaker** (interpretation): Good morning, Premier, Ministers, and Members. Orders of the Day. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Mr. Premier.

#### Item 2: Ministers' Statements

## Minister's Statement 062 – 2(4): Land Titles Modernization

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Good morning, it's Friday, Members. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, since 1999 the Legal Registries Division has operated in a manual, paper-based environment. However, due to our geographic location and the complexity of our land titles system, real estate transactions have taken longer than in many jurisdictions.

I am pleased to report today that the first phase of modernization of the Land Titles Office has been completed. All Nunavut certificates of titles have been scanned and security of those records is now assured. The Land Titles Office has also captured in its sophisticated database all of the entries associated with certificates of titles, with links to all the survey plans associated with each parcel of land.

In phase two, Mr. Speaker, which will take place this fiscal year, the Land Titles Office will provide its clients with electronic access to this database and allow electronic submission of registration documentation. This will greatly reduce the time necessary to affect any land-based transaction in Nunavut and make us competitive with all Canadian jurisdictions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

#### >>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Premier. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Education, Minister Picco.

# Minister's Statement 063 – 2(4): Directors of Income Support Annual Meeting

**Hon. Ed. Picco**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am very pleased to inform the House that Nunavut will be hosting the Directors of Income Support Annual Meeting in Iqaluit later this month. Every year Canadian jurisdictions take turn in hosting the directors annual meeting and this year it is Nunavut's opportunity.

Directors from every provincial and the territorial jurisdiction in Canada, and the federal representative from HRSDC are going to be arriving in Iqaluit on Tuesday, June 19 for the meeting, which begins on Wednesday, June the 20 and ends at 12 noon on Friday, June 22.

Mr. Speaker, the Directors of Income Support work cooperatively throughout the year to produce research reports and program and policy documents on issues that affect social assistance here in Canada. Recent work includes employment programs, significant barriers to employment, aboriginal issues, low income initiatives, and research on social assistance reforms.

At their annual meeting the directors will be discussing these and other initiatives to improve the delivery of social assistance here in Canada. The directors' annual meeting will give us an opportunity to showcase our work on the new Income Support Electronic Case Management System, as well as the Nunavut Adult Learning Strategy, and the Nunavut Community Skills Information System.

The annual meeting will also provide an opportunity to showcase our beautiful territory. At the end of the day of meetings, directors will be treated to unique opportunities to explore our wonderful outdoors, and to sample some of our delicious northern foods.

Mr. Speaker, I understand that some staff and many directors that are coming here and visitors are looking forward to the meeting, as most have never before travelled here to our wonderful home.

Mr. Speaker, very soon we look forward to welcoming the directors of income support to Nunavut's capital. We will extend them a very hearty northern welcome. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

#### >>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth, Mr. Tapardjuk.

# Minister's Statement 064 – 2(4): Inuit Societal Values Pilot Project

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We always try to work and we try to make healthy communities, and to have a better community in the Nunavut

region. As the Nunavut Government, that's what we do. I know that we will be strengthening our communities and we have to use the Inuit culture in our workplace.

People in Cambridge Bay and in Clyde River, we have tried to make healthy living for those communities, to make sure that our elders could be responsible, or to be able to work with the elders in a way of a better living for all of our communities.

I know that it has benefited the Nunavut Government to have the knowledge of the Inuit. It has given us strength as elders to have a better living and a healthy living in the communities because we want to be able to make peaceful, healthy living within the communities.

The elders were left behind for a long time and not getting any help and we left our elders behind. These kinds of assistance will be available to those two communities to make sure that the elders are involved and to follow the *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit*; they have assistance through funding to make sure the Inuit culture is taught and used in the communities.

Mr. Speaker, the job that we are trying to do is going to be very good for the smaller communities in accordance with the *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* and to be able to be in a comfortable living environment. I know that it will benefit the communities and other communities, and we would like it to be used.

Our goal is to expand this pilot into a full program to be offered in other communities. And, the Inuit society values will be used in those communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

# >>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Minister Statements. Minister for Culture, Language Elders and Youth, Mr. Tapardjuk.

# Minister's Statement 065 – 2(4): Update on Sivuliqtiksat Internship Program

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to provide my colleagues with an update on one of my department's most successful training and development initiatives - the Sivuliqtiksat Internship Program.

Sivuliqtiksat is on-the-job training program that is designed to provide professional development opportunities to Inuit at the director, manager, and specialist level within our public service. Positions for the program identified by our departments and agencies based on their Inuit employiment plans.

Mr. Speaker, those selected for the program complete a one to three-year internship under the guidance and direction of an experienced Government of Nunavut employee. The program also provides additional training support to interns. For example, each intern follows a customized learning plan that was developed at the start of the internship, and is reviewed and updated regularly.

The interns' second group learning sessions are facilitated in both English and Inuktitut to develop management and leadership skills. Interns also have mentors attend specialized training that is related to their positions and some take on special assignments or work placements.

To date, Mr. Speaker, seven interns have successfully graduated from the program, and there are currently 16 interns participating in the program. Since internship is such an effective means of increasing Inuit employment in our work place, I am pleased to announce today that the department of human resources has recently expanded the Sivuliqtiksat Program, from 14 to 16 positions.

A job competition was held to fill the remaining three vacant positions in the program. The successful candidates' positions are located in: Cape Dorset, Kugluktuk, and Arviat, and will focus on the key areas of land, community, economic development, and mining respectively.

Mr. Speaker, the Sivuliqtiksat Program demonstrates our commitment to developing a workforce that is representative of the people it serves and to the IQ principles of *Pilimmaksarniq* and *Pijitsirarniq*.

I commend the commitment and hard work of our interns, both past and present, and those employees throughout the Government of Nunavut who have trained, mentored, and supported the interns' learning and development. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Ministers' Statements. Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Rankin Inlet South and Whale Cove, Ms. Brown.

# Item 3: Members' Statements

# Member's Statement 141 – 2(4): Recognition at Maani Uluyuk School in Rankin Inlet – Steve Faulkner

**Hon. Levinia Brown** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I am pleased to inform my colleagues that a teacher was recently honoured by the Canadian Association of Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance.

Mr. Speaker, Steve Faulkner teaches physical education for students in grades seven to 12 at Maani Uluyuk High School in Rankin Inlet. He is an influential member of the community.

Furthermore, Mr. Speaker, he is a coach and mentor for students and a founding member of the Kivalliq Physical Education and Health Panel. He also teaches *Aulajjattut*, a youth leadership and peer support program.

Mr. Speaker, Steve has shown excellent leadership skills on working with KPEHP. He has co-developed and facilitated two K to 12 teacher and service workshops on the topics of structure and balance in the physical education classes and after the school beyond the gym classes.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Faulkner has been asked three times to coach the Team Nunavut hockey team. He not only excels in teaching physical education but his lessons are about life, teamwork, self discipline, hard work, and fair play.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in extending our congratulations to Steve Faulkner in receiving his important national recognition which serves as a model for service to other Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

#### >>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Brown. Members' Statements. Member for Rankin Inlet North, Mr. Curley.

#### Member's Statement 142 – 2(4): Chief Coroner's Office

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today, I think all of the members are aware and Nunavummiut that annually, or every year Inuit people die in Nunavut. Although they shouldn't, some of them have different reasons, they die due to exposure outside, whether it be winter or summer because sometimes some of them don't have survival skills.

Some of our residents die from old sicknesses that have never been diagnosed. Some people live a long time that have never been diagnosed by a medical institution and many Nunavummiut are waiting to get diagnosed.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that Nunavummiut are looking, searching, and asking for help to alleviate the causes of death. Mr. Speaker, I truly believe that we can be assisted. There's an office here and it is titled, 'Chief Coroner of Nunavut.'

Perhaps, the government should ask the coroner to look into the causes of death and make a report. After the report has been made, we will have a better idea of what the causes of death are so that we can try and prevent them. Mr. Speaker, if that is not going to occur, then we could be pointed at for not helping them. The government should be utilizing the Chief Coroner and I would like to ask unanimous consent to conclude my statement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are many causes like during the summer time when they use inappropriate boats, or perhaps if the individual was too young and did not bring proper equipment. We need to look into these things with the assistance of the Chief Coroner. I believe that the Chief Coroner's Report could be of help on the preventable deaths. We have to identify all these.

At this time, I'm asking the government perhaps you should start utilizing the Chief Coroner's Office and make sure that we ask the Chief Coroner to do his report and to do his findings. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Kattuk.

## Member's Statement 143 – 2(4): Sanikiluaq School Success Stories

**Mr. Kattuk**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to share with the House some success stories from Sanikiluaq's Nuiyak School. I am very proud of everything that they have accomplished this year.

Mr. Speaker, first of all, I would like to congratulate the Nuiyak School Volleyball Team for winning the gold medal at the recent Regional Volleyball Tournament in Iqaluit. The team will be going on to the Territorial Volleyball Tournament in Rankin Inlet in October.

Mr. Speaker, if the team wins gold again, they may represent Nunavummiut at the Arctic Winter Games in Yellowknife next year. I hope they win so that I can cheer them on at the Arctic Winter Games.

Mr. Speaker, our Sanikiluaq students are a very motivated group. As they have done in the past, one of their next projects will be to build two buildings for the community. The girls will work with a woman carpentry trainer to build a women's shelter. The boys will work with a male carpenter and build a single-family dwelling for the housing association.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I wish to congratulate our four high school graduates who will be receiving their high school diplomas on June 15 this year. The graduates are: Jessie Fraser, Katie Thomas, Jennifer Meeko, and Minnie Novalinga.

Mr. Speaker, these graduates have passed an important milestone. They are role models and examples for the other youth in Sanikiluaq. In the fall, one of these students will be going to the University of Trent in Ontario. I ask my fellow members to join me in congratulating the students, the graduates, the teachers, and the principals of Sanikiluaq's Nuiyak School on their many successes this year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

# >>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Kattuk. Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Akulliq, Mr. Mapsalak.

# Member's Statement 144 – 2(4): Apprenticeship Success in Kugaaruk

**Mr. Mapsalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I rise today to express my support to the Nunavut Housing Corporation training program and apprenticeship program in Kugaaruk.

The Nunavut Housing Corporation has entered into an agreement with the Hamlet of Kugaaruk for the construction of three five-plexes under the Canada-Nunavut Infrastructure Agreement. These projects were started last fall and they are the final units to be constructed under this agreement.

Nine workers started on the Kugaaruk site last fall. Five enrolled in pre-trades training, and one took an exam and passed, making a total of six apprentices; three have returned as workers.

Mr. Speaker, I have spoken often in this House about the need of training and employment opportunities in our small non-decentralized communities. I want to express my appreciation to the Housing Corporation for its commitment to Kugaaruk and I look forward to more opportunities being provided in the future to residents in Repulse Bay and other communities across the territory. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

# >>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Mapsalak. Members' Statements. Member for Kugluktuk, Mr. Evyagotailak.

# Member's Statement 145 – 2(4): Kugluktuk Roads

**Mr. Evyagotailak**: Good morning, Mr. Speaker. I rise on this spring morning to share a common experience with my colleagues. In the springtime I know that many Nunavut communities experience trouble with their roads. Potholes are the problem that I have noticed here in Iqaluit. Kugluktuk has had a problem with potholes but our roads are wearing thin.

Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Community and Government Services visited my community in the fall before the snow fell. I showed her and her officials how thin the roads are becoming.

The hamlet workers do a good job maintaining the roads but there is only so much they can do with the materials they have. High traffic areas are frightening. In some areas the roads are actually washing out. I have watched heavy equipment actually squeeze water out of the clay. One day I am sure that one of those vehicles will sink right in the road.

Mr. Speaker, when the roads are out and the summer comes the community will have dust to be concerned with. I know that my colleagues have stood in this House to ask for help to reduce dust in their communities.

Mr. Speaker, the dust in Kugluktuk results from the drying of the exposed clay, the community can no longer simply maintain the road infrastructure. It is time for projects that will build up the road's surface. This will protect the permafrost, increase safety for drivers, and minimize the dust.

At the appropriate time I will be asking the minister questions on this issue. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

# >>Applause

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

# Member's Statement 146 – 2(4): Thanks to Kublu Taqtu

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and good morning.

This morning I want to acknowledge a number of individuals, but first I want to thank you, Mr. Speaker, for agreeing to do the presentations on my behalf yesterday afternoon outside of Nakasuk. (interpretation) I thank you, very much.

(interpretation ends) First, I would like to take this opportunity to thank one of my constituents, Kublu Taqtu, for her 30 years of services as a teacher to Talurjuarmiut. And in fact, Kublu was my kindergarten and grade one teacher and to this date I've had many fond memories of her in her time.

Mr. Speaker, Kublu will be missed in a classroom; she has a special gift of capturing and holding attention of her students. In addition, her experience in working with the youth will be hard to replace. On behalf of the Talurjuarmiut and this government, I would like to thank her for her contribution to educating Nunavummiut, and wish her the very best in the new chapter in her life.

I would also like to mention this morning, the departure of another individual that I had to pleasure to work with in the past; some of you know him as a school teacher in Coral Harbour and a school teacher in Yellowknife, or his contribution with the Education, Financial Management Board, or HR.

I want to express my appreciation to Mr. Tom Thompson, Assistant Deputy Minister currently for Human Resources who is retiring today and getting on the aircraft seven o'clock this evening to start a new chapter in his life and with his family in Alberta. I think many of you know who he is and I'd like to wish him well and again, thank him for his many years of contribution to the development of Nunavut.

And lastly, Mr. Speaker, I want to wish my good friend, my girlfriend, from Rankin Inlet, a happy birthday, her birthday is tomorrow, Jean Kusugak if you're listening *Nagligivagit* and I hope you have a good day tomorrow. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

# >>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Aglukkaq. Member Statements. Member for Uqqurmiut, Mr. Arreak.

## Member's Statement 147 – 2(4): Global Warming 101 Visit to Clyde River

**Mr. Arreak**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to inform the House about a recent visit of the Global Warming 101 Baffin Island Expedition in Clyde River. As members may be aware this American group recently undertook a four-month expedition across Baffin Island to collect information on the impact of global warming on our part of the planet.

I'd like to share its findings with a worldwide audience. The public's awareness of issues of global warming and its impact on the Arctic is growing day by day. I was pleased that the expedition worked closely with Inuit hunters and elders in this project. All members of the team have much to learn from each other.

During their visit to Clyde River, the group saw that we are working hard to maintain our traditional values while adapting to the modern world. We want our youth to be as proficient in surviving on the land as they are surfing the internet. We want them to have educational and economic opportunities while respecting their language and heritage.

Mr. Speaker, during their visit, I did tell our guests the importance to us of one specific issue. As we are aware, the U.S. Government is presently considering a proposal to list polar bears as being threatened under American Endangered Species legislation. I told our American visitors that our Environment Minister recently travelled to Washington to deliver a clear message.

Our management practices are based on conservation according to best information. Listing polar bears will seriously harm Inuit hunters and communities that depend on sport hunting opportunities. Our community of Clyde River is one of these communities. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the residence of Clyde River and Qikiqtarjuaq, for extending a traditional warm welcome to our international visitors. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arreak. Member for Iqaluit East, Mr. Picco.

#### Member's Statement 148 – 2(4): Sod Turning for the New Cathedral

**Hon. Ed. Picco**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to take this opportunity to update the House on an exciting event that will be occurring in Iqaluit on Sunday.

Mr. Speaker, our bishop Andrew Ataguttaaluk, along with various congregation members and invited guests will be on hand to officially break ground for our new cathedral.

Mr. Speaker, the ceremony will include an outdoor service and blessing. After the service, a fundraiser will be held featuring caribou stew and bannock at the parish hall for \$10.

Mr. Speaker, I would like take this opportunity to thank the residents of Iqaluit and the people all across the north and the south, who are supporting the rebuilding of beloved cathedral here in Iqaluit.

To date, we have raised over \$100,000 alone, locally here in Iqaluit. In total, we have approximately \$1.4 million in funds received across Nunavut and Canada. The sod turning will be for the installation of thermal siphons. The thermal siphons, as you know, are to help freeze the lot site for the new cathedral and then construction on the cathedral should begin after the lot is frozen properly within 12 to 18 months.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to invite all the members and the listening public to join us at 11:00 a.m. at the old church site Sunday morning for the ground breaking and then join us for the fundraiser Caribou stew and bannock at the Parish Hall at 12:00 after the service. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

#### >>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Picco. Members' Statements. Member for Iqaluit West, Mr. Premier.

#### Member's Statement 149 – 2(4): Prize Event for Master Card

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) This being a funny Friday, I thought I would share a story with my colleagues.

There was a recent prize event for a MasterCard not too long ago and they would pick a winner from each jurisdiction. I was using my MasterCard maybe four or five times a day to try and increase my chances of winning a trip to the Stanley Cup finals.

I was deeply disappointed to learn that my colleague for Iqaluit East won it after using it just once during the period. So I was flabbergasted and I am going to wait until the last possible day to pay off this huge MasterCard bill that I incurred during this period.

As the commercial says, my colleague can't make it to the finals. So you will know he won it. It's priceless that he can't go and I will get to be in. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

# >>Laughter

>>Applause

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

## Member's Statement 150 – 2(4): Recognition of Jordin Tootoo

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank Jordin Tootoo and his members who were up in Pond Inlet. People immensely enjoyed them, particularly the youth that play hockey.

We would like to get an arena in Pond Inlet. People immensely enjoyed them and I know that they are going to try harder to cry out for a hockey arena in Pond Inlet if the minister comes up, maybe this fall or here.

Particularly, what I am talking about is when we see, for those that watch television, watching the Nashville Predators, when they see the people that are role models as Inuit, they will not forget them throughout the year.

He also signs and his signature is immensely wanted. We welcome them so much and want the people to know that young people don't forget when those kinds of famous people come up to their communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

# Member's Statement 151 – 2(4): Assisting People to Obtain Mining Jobs

**Mr. Alagalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, thank you so much. What I am going to bring to you is a concern to me, particularly, for those Inuit that are able to work that have no disabilities. Sometimes they are able to work and sometimes they are not able to be hired. Some of them do not even hunt.

For those that like to come to work, they will come to my office; they have no telephones or faxes, and they're not able to make phone calls when it's important, so they come to my office. When the employment division calls them from mining companies in Iqaluit and they have no telephones to call them back in Rankin Inlet for job opportunities.

In Ferguson Lake, when you phone those people, they don't answer back and they're not able to even contact them for three months.

I rise today because our government has not done a lot for those people, and I think we really need to assist and help them. We say we have mining in our areas and that there will be many job opportunities, although we say those things, we just sit back and not help, although we can help. We are not showing anything. (interpretation ends) Absolutely nothing to show what we do to help those who are looking for jobs in the mining field.

(interpretation) For this reason, I stand here today, they need assistance; even the hamlet council could work with the Government of Nunavut to progress in this area.

There are lots of opportunities financially for the people and we are hiring people from outside of Nunavut. The mining companies have no choice except to hire people from the south because they can't find those people that have no telephones in the communities, and the smaller communities have no resources.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Mr. Alagalak, your time is up. You need to seek unanimous consent from the floor.

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): My fellow members, if you could extend my time.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Mr. Alagalak is seeking unanimous consent to extend his time. Go ahead, Mr. Alagalak, nobody opposed.

**Mr. Alagalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This has never been exposed through the media or on local radio in the communities, or there are no pamphlets or news letters that are coming into the communities that the mining is going to be open in a certain area or a certain jurisdiction.

If you could maybe contact this person because there's no such thing written in the communities or in the regions. There's no contact person from the government if you have any experience or if you have concerns. We need to assist those people that are seeking jobs in the communities. If we don't do something about it, it will not stop, and they will never be able to have experience in the communities.

Although we say these mining opportunities are open, and if we don't do anything about it... if you have a portfolio in these types of mines in the communities, please help your people in your jurisdictions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

# Member's Statement 152 – 2(4): Incandescent Light Bulbs

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is one of the best statements from Arviat.

I rise today, Mr. Speaker, because our government states that the energy in Nunavut... concerning the change in the weather as well in the arctic; climate change and for those that are not using more of the energy-efficient appliances in the communities.

Up in the High Arctic we have no sunlight for almost four months, and we use up more energy but it's cheaper to use those incandescent light bulbs that want to be banned by the new government. You were saying that they will no longer be in effect in 2012 and those new energy efficient light bulbs will be used, and I think all Nunavut and Canadian people will be affected by this.

I think we use the most light bulbs in the High Arctic, so I would like to find out if these light bulbs are banned up to now. Our power bill is the highest in the High Arctic. For this reason, I stand, Mr. Speaker... maybe I can ask this again when we get to Oral Questions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. Members' Statements. Back to our Orders of the Day. Returns to Oral Questions. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Tununiq, Mr. Arvaluk.

# **Item 6: Oral Questions**

# **Question 186 – 2(4): Support for the Development of Nunavut Health Professionals**

**Mr. Arvaluk**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Health and Social Services.

Mr. Speaker, first of all, I would like the minister to know that I support every and all efforts in the training and developing our team of Nunavut health professionals. I was pleased to hear last month's announcement of the federal program aimed at establishing patient wait-time guarantees.

I know that the Northwest Territories will be using some of their share of this funding to implement training programs for community health nurses.

Can the minister clarify how much additional funding has been provided to Nunavut, and how it will be spent? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. After the session in March/April, the three Health Ministers signed an agreement with Minister Clement in Yellowknife in regard to reducing wait-time initiatives. The new funding that was announced was \$4.5 million over the course of three years. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Arvaluk**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister clarify whether any of these funding will be specifically directed towards training Nunavut health workers, and if not, why not? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. His question beat my Minister's Statement, I was going to do announcement on this.

The wait-time initiative that was announced for the three territories was the federal government's recognition that the wait time challenges that we have in the north was very different in that what was agreed to three years ago as initiatives to reduce wait time were services that we could not provide in our territories.

Recognizing that, the three territories put forth a proposal to address wait time initiatives specific to the north. And those categories include training of our nurse practitioners, and secondly, is to invest in more equipment so that we are able to do diagnoses in our territory. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Arvaluk**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am sure that the minister will recall that at our last sitting I tabled a press release announcing an Aboriginal Health Human Resource Initiative in partnership with the Métis Nation.

Can the minister update this House on what steps have been made by her department to access funds from the federal Aboriginal Health Human Resources Initiative to support the development of Nunavut health professionals? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In addition to the funding that we have received from the federal government due to wait time initiative to train our existing

nurse practitioners, the Department of Health has received territorial funding from the Territorial Health Access Fund.

Later this coming week I'll be doing an announcement on how that funding has been allocated in the north and how that's being spent in the north in training Nunavummiut for various, different levels of healthcare profession. One example I will give is the whole Mental Health Training Program that's being offered here in Iqaluit; development of our Community Health Therapy Assistance Program, as another example.

There are a number of training programs that we are delivering in the north, through Nunavut Arctic College, to train Nunavummiut for health professions with funding from the federal government, which I will go into further detail on Monday or Tuesday's statement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Madame Minister. Your final supplementary, Mr. Arvaluk.

**Mr. Arvaluk**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I hope that she will also explain when she makes a statement my next and final question, that I note from the government's Return to Written Questions that a total of \$2,576,000 was spent on agency nurses to support those nurses who were hired internationally but were unable to work independently.

At the same time I note, also from the Return to Written Questions that the government's investment in the Akitsiraq Law School Program was \$3,041,680. In my view, our limited resources are better spent on developing home-grown professionals of throwing good money after bad.

Can the minister update this House on what efforts, if any, has been made to secure sponsorship for an Akitsiraq-type of program for nurses? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For the record, and just to correct the member's comment: agency nurses are required whether we have training programs or not when we're dealing with a number of vacancies. At this point in time we're looking at trying to reduce the dependency on agency nurses. A request for proposal has been put forward to narrow our usage of agency nurses in the north, along with the Northwest Territories.

We need to fill positions whether we're training individuals or not when there's a vacancy because of essential services. It's essential that we do not disrupt the level of services for providing healthcare services in our communities. And due to the national shortage of nurses, we are dependent on short-term and usage of agency nurses or casuals.

The efforts that we have put in, in terms of developing a Recruitment Strategy, I had hoped to table that information in the House this session but that will not happen until some time over the summer or the early fall and that's the Nunavut Strategy for Nursing Recruitment.

Unfortunately, I don't have that information to table today, but steps are being taken to look at how we can recruit nurses, not just at the tail end of filling a job, but at the very beginning of recruiting students graduating and promoting them to go to college, and so on, and various, different levels of incentives.

We're also looking at putting in place how we can keep our nurses and some of the challenges that nurses face in the communities, in the delivery. One of those things that we've heard from our nurses in the communities is that they want to develop their skills further, which the wait- time initiative funding will go towards professional development of our nurses at the community level. So those are some examples.

In the Nursing Recruitment Strategy I hope to pull all that information together and table it in the House hopefully early this fall. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Madame Minister. Please make your questions and responses as brief as possible. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Kattuk.

## Question 187 – 2(4): Heat Problems at Nuiyak School

**Mr. Kattuk**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Education.

Mr. Speaker, the Sanikiluaq District Education Authority has raised a concern about the extreme heat in the school. This school has no air circulation due to the lack of funding. It is very hard for the teachers to work in this condition. The students have no cold air to breathe, or often get sick. Is the minister aware of this situation? If so, what has he done to address it? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Ed. Picco**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the member is aware, we are in the process of developing a capital plan and moving forward with the construction of a new building in Sanikiluaq.

I am not aware of the particular concern that the member has raised. Now, that the member has raised it we will be able to follow it up. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Kattuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the minister for his response. I would like to ask the minister when he's going to be able to do any follow up on this concern. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Ed. Picco**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just heard about it now, so I would commit to the member to have more information on what we can do to rectify the situation. Again, it's very important to have a safe and a good work environment.

So I would suggest to you, as soon as Question Period is over today, we will be working on it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Kattuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The district education authorities voiced their concerns in their May 7 meeting. The teachers and the students have to work in a safe environment and I think that it's critical. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. I didn't hear a question, but Mr. Picco, if you would like to make a comment. Mr. Minister.

**Hon. Ed. Picco**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, I've checked over the information that I have with me in the House. I don't seem to have any information on the concerns that have been raised. Again, it's the first I've heard of it from the member.

I commit to the member to follow it up immediately, and I'm sure as we're speaking right now, our staff are looking over what has occurred in Sanikiluaq to see how it can be addressed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Oral Questions. Member for Kugluktuk, Mr. Evyagotailak.

#### Question 188 – 2(4): Kugluktuk Road Problems

**Mr. Evyagotailak**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Community and Government Services.

In my Member's Statement I raised the issue of the need for repairs to the roads in my community. In the fall I enjoyed the minister's visit and the opportunity for her to see firsthand the challenges facing my constituents. I showed her the thinning roads. Can the minister tell me how she will address the road problems in Kugluktuk? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Evyagotailak. Minister responsible for Community and Government Services, Minister Brown.

1445

**Hon. Levinia Brown** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I was in Kugluktuk, and it's a very beautiful community.

During that visit I learned, and I did see similar situations in lot of Nunavut communities. Kugluktuk does not have an adequate gravel supply, and there are not enough different grades to build proper roads. Kugluktuk is one of those communities, and ever since I have visited your community we have been working on it on an ongoing basis.

There is money that is being made to Nunavut communities so that they can maintain their roads. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Madame Minister. Oral Questions. Member for Rankin Inlet North, Mr. Curley.

# Question 189 – (4): Funding From the Federal Government for Search and Rescue

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the same minister with regard to search and rescue.

She made a comment about her department getting \$1 million that will be expended over a three-year period with the three territories: the Northwest Territories, the Yukon, and Nunavut. If we divvied it up over three years, there is going to be approximately \$33 million that will be expended by the Nunavut Government and I'm assuming it will be about \$10 million per year.

My question to the minister, and I support her fully about making sure the information is made available to the youth, the aboriginal communities, and also for the tourism sector; as that is the case, are these monies going to be used just by the headquarters, or is it going to be divvied among the Nunavut communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is \$1 million and it's going to be used for Nunavut, the Northwest Territories, and the Yukon.

There are more and more monies that are being made available for search and rescue. Over the winter we had very high winds here in Iqaluit, and one of the questions that were posed by the Member for Clyde River was about the possible tsunami situation.

So we're going to have to make preparations for all search and rescue operations and safety measures, and so on. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Brown. Your first supplementary, Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the minister.

We are very sure that the tourism sector is going to be involved, be it in the Northwest Territories, Yukon, or Nunavut. I'm sure that they are going to be able to access some of these monies to make sure that tourists are aware.

With regard to aboriginal youth, could the minister make sure that the elders are also informed and not just to used those monies consultants? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister of Community and Government Services, Ms. Brown.

**Hon. Levinia Brown** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Certainly, we are focussing on the youth because they are starting to go out there and they are going to have to use safe practices.

The elders will be used and I agree with you wholeheartedly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the minister.

We will be expecting that. The reason I brought it up is when we were visiting in Nunavik, this individual, an Inuk did all the work by himself and he had a little notebook as to what they should bring when they go out on the land. He hands them out to the young people.

I know the regions are different, like here in Baffin I encounter during freeze up, which is different from Kivalliq. So, if you can do that I am sure you would get a lot of appreciation from the public and we certainly can work together. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister responsible for Community and Government Services, Minister Brown.

**Hon. Levinia Brown** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we utilize the Search and Rescue Committees in the communities because they know more about their communities.

I would very briefly like to say that a person, who has passed away, was in Winnipeg. When he was in Winnipeg, he was putting little markers so that he will not get lost. That is the traditional way. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Oral Questions. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. Barnabas.

# Question 190 – 2(4): Incandescent Light Bulbs

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Under my Member's Statement in regard to the incandescent lights, I would like to ask the minister; those light bulbs that the government doesn't want to use anymore and according to the *Energy Efficiency Act* it states that the incandescent light bulbs... the government is expected to save about \$73 million.

Because of the global warming, maybe we will use less on fuel. In my constituency, as I stated earlier, it is complete darkness up to four months. What will our government be doing if they are going to ban those incandescent lights? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. Minister of Energy, Minister Picco.

**Hon. Ed. Picco**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I did notice of legislation in the House and we have not done first or second reading of the bill.

What I can say on the legislation, very quickly, Mr. Speaker, is that we believe that this is a very good move by Nunavut. We are looking at about 130,000 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions that would be cut by the introduction of the small fluorescent bulbs that we have been talking about.

I think it is important to point out that Australia, Ontario, Nova Scotia, and even the Federal Government of Canada have also announced that they will be banning the sale of incandescent light bulbs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The energy-efficient light bulbs cost a little bit more than the incandescent light bulbs. Are there any plans to reduce the prices of the energy-efficient light bulbs? Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister of Energy, Minister Picco.

**Hon. Ed. Picco**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I guess, fairly quickly, the plan is, and again, as we roll out the legislation, under the Eco Trust Funds that we have received from the federal government, the Government of Nunavut is looking at an opportunity there to provide the bulbs to householders, to people across Nunavut.

The life expectancy on one bulb is anywhere between 8,000 to 10,000 hours and we've seen the price of these bulbs coming down. So the good news is that the Government of Nunavut will be providing each individual in Nunavut with a light bulb.

We're not going to ban light bulbs, for example, incandescent oven lights, outdoor lights where you need them because of the cold. We're not banning those kinds of things.

We're mostly concerned with the indoor light bulbs and try to be efficient where we can with that type of regulation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So that my constituents and Nunavummiut will know, what kind of lights are they banning because there are different kinds, and the light bulbs were not so great. What kind of light bulbs are being banned? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. Minister of Energy, Minister Picco.

**Hon. Ed. Picco**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, I find it difficult answering the question because as the member knows I don't have the legislation in the House and we've already announced it.

So in broad-stroke terms what I would like to say that the ordinary light bulbs that we see in every house, in most cases, that's the bulb we're talking about. The ordinary one that you could buy, the 60 watts, or 80 watts, or 100 watts, that's the bulb that we're talking about; it's not energy-efficient.

The new bulb we're talking about is the small spiral bulb that people and members have seen. The Government of Nunavut will provide each household with those bulbs.

Mr. Tootoo has made a good point, and that's when you see those old cartoons where there would be a light bulb above someone's head, which doesn't happen here very often with the member, those are the type of light bulbs that we're talking about.

Again, it's important that we're not going to ban oven lights, sewing machine lights, outdoor lights, mechanic lights, medical equipment lights, night lights, those of types of incandescent bulbs. We're mostly focusing on indoor lights. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Sometimes our bulbs go out. I would like to ask the minister, this Act was introduced by the federal government. Why is the Nunavut Government duplicating it? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. Minister of Energy, Minister Picco.

**Hon. Ed. Picco**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Sometimes they're on the leading edge. We announced our plans long before the federal government announced their plan. Their plan is to ban the bulbs by the year 2012. They actually have not introduced that legislation yet. It's still an idea that they're moving forward on. Ontario and Nova Scotia, for

example, have also announced that they will be doing the same thing, and so has Australia.

We believe if we move a bit quicker we can save more energy. We all know what the cost of energy is. By reducing 130,000 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions a year, we believe, as a jurisdiction dealing with global warming and climate change which we see every day here, we need to step up to the plate as it were, and that's the reason why we decided that we would move forward.

I think it's a good initiative. When the legislation comes into the House next week, the members will have an opportunity to debate the legislation and bring it forward.

Mr. Curley is indicating that there is some money involved in it, and that's correct, Mr. Curley. That is why we're using the Federal Eco Trust Fund. Yes, thank you.

# >>Laughter

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

# Question 191 – 2(4): Recognizing DEA's Hardwork

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

Mr. Speaker, every Nunavut community has district education authorities who are democratically-elected citizens. They are elected to represent the interests of parents in local education. They play an important role in shaping the education content and programs for our children. In Cambridge Bay, we certainly appreciate our district education authority's hard work and dedication.

My question for the minister this morning: would the minister confirm to the House that his department recognizes DEA's as significant partners in education, not simply rubber stamping organizations for education policy? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Minister of Education, Minister Picco.

**Hon. Ed. Picco**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When I won the MasterCard Challenge, and then because of my dedication of having to be in the House and not attending, I felt that the Premier would not rubber stamp something for me, and I apologize for that.

The member is correct; the Government of Nunavut believes that strong DEAs mean a stronger education and stronger communities. That's why we've been instrumental in helping facilitate the DEA Coalition across Nunavut.

I did have an opportunity to meet with all DEA representatives here in Iqaluit two weeks ago on the new *Education Act* that we'll be bringing forward this fall. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Peterson**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that answer. I commend the minister for his dedication to education. I understand he's foregoing the game on Saturday in Ottawa that he won through MasterCard to attend his son's high school graduation. That's a commendable thing to do as a minister and as a parent.

Most district education authorities that I am aware of make wise and considered decisions about education issues and policies that will benefit and improve education content and programs in their respective communities.

My question for the minister: would the minister outline to the House the limit of the district education authorities' authority within their communities with respect to regional school operations, who have responsibility for all schools in a region? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Minister of Education, Minister Picco.

**Hon. Ed. Picco**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just for clarification purposes, I was actually supposed to be in Anaheim this week with tickets all paid for but the House was sitting and I wanted to be here to answer questions like that for Mr. Peterson.

# >>Laughter

Mr. Speaker, that is a very complex question. The regional operations office for the Department of Education, or regional school operations offices, or in the member's case, it's the KSO. In that case they look over the management, the personnel issues, the human resource issues, and in many cases, the overall structure of the school, monitoring, and so on.

The DEA is concerned with the local issues at the local level. That includes being involved in the hiring process, setting the time of hours of instruction, looking at the schedule for the school itself, and the day-to-day operations of the school. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that clarification.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister tell the House what recourse or avenue to appeal does a DEA have if they make a decision or a recommendation that a regional school operation opposes, or factor their decision is against the decision that the regional school operations wants or tells them to make? Should the DEA members all resign? Or, should they call the minister? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Minister of Education, Minister Picco.

**Hon. Ed. Picco**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know that Mr. Quirke, being the Table Officer, noticed that that was probably a leading and hypothetical question because that hasn't occurred.

I would suggest to you, Mr. Speaker, in answer to the members question, is that each situation is based and judged on its own merits. I can't really say what would happen or occur given the scenario that the member has outlined, well I can't...

**Speaker**: Minister Picco, I would like to draw your attention to your comments, and I want to emphasize the fact that some comments are not appropriate in responding to some questions. Please stick to answering the question being asked, Minister Picco.

**Hon. Ed. Picco**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, the situation outlined hasn't occurred. But if such situation did occur, then you would be in a situation where you would have to look at what is outlined in the *District Education Authorities Act* and the legislation and the regulations in place.

In most cases, Mr. Speaker, when there is a dispute between the regional operations, the case of operations, or in this case the Regional Operations Office, that information can be provided logistically as well as administratively to the Minister of Education. But again, we haven't had that situation where DEAs have resigned and so on. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker**: Thank you, Minister. Just to remind members that all questions that may be deemed hypothetical are questions that I have a final say at, not my staff. So please make no comments to my staff and the questions being asked. Third and final supplementary, Mr. Peterson.

**Mr. Peterson**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for the answer. The minister is correct; the DEA has not resigned yet. But I understand that they have made the decision that the regional school operations didn't like, and now the DEA is concerned about that.

Mr. Speaker, DEA board members are elected volunteers who devote a lot of free time to education issues and concern. They are not experts on education. Regional school operations have full-time employees who are experts on the education programs and policies.

Mr. Speaker, will the minister tell the House, should a parent or parents deal directly with the district education authorities, or the regional school operations to get answers to their concerns or issues about the education policies and programs in our communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Minister of Education, Minister Picco.

**Hon. Ed. Picco**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, in this situation as the member has outlined that, I think the member has said something to the effect that the DEA has not resigned yet, the serious situation that the member is talking about. I don't want to answer in a speculative manner again because this situation hasn't occurred.

But what I can say is that any dispute resolution mechanism that we can put in place to ensure that the DEA is working cooperatively, not only with the regional services operations office but also with the parents and the staff at the school, then that's what we try to do. And, that's a process that we need to put in place. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Picco. Oral Questions. Mr. Curley.

# Question 192 – 2(4): Contractors Using Public Housing Power Outlet

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask this question to the Minister of Energy. There are things that I have mentioned to the minister that I would like to let the minister know that the contractors for the government... there are a lot of people that do contract work for the government.

When you don't have the power source to do the construction, they use the public housing tenants' power. There was somebody that, a public housing client, had to be ousted from this house because they're power bill was over \$1,000.

His power bill is over \$1,000 and he has a lot of children. He could not find his bills but he knows that it was over \$1,000 that he had to pay because the contractor was hooked up to his power.

I wonder how this can be resolved whereby those contractors that used the power from the tenant should be able to pay the tenant for using the power. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister for Energy, Mr. Picco.

**Hon. Ed. Picco**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the scenario that the member has just related, that's illegal. It is against the law. You cannot use social housing unit, for example, and then draw power as a contractor from that unit to supply whatever work that you are doing.

So if the member is aware of this incident having occurred, that is illegal. It could be considered theft. So I would suggest, Mr. Speaker, in this forum, that if the member could make that information be known to us in writing so that we could actually follow it up.

Specifically, Mr. Speaker, on a case like this, it's a very serious issue that accessing a social housing unit by a private contractor for power use is not acceptable and would be considered theft from the local housing authority. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Minister of Energy.

This is a bit complex, but I am in the process of writing him a letter. I would like to tell the minister that there is also an individual that is having a problem with the contractors plugging in to their power.

The Power Corporation has the knowledge, although the bill is not as huge as the other individual but they cannot pay for their power because it's a huge amount. There are no legal records.

Perhaps the minister, through the Power Corporation, let the public know, especially the contractors, that they are not allowed plug into the public housing electricity and they have to unplug those things that the contractor is charging from borrowing his power.

CGS usually provide contractors, so they should be watching that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister of Energy, Mr. Picco.

**Hon. Ed. Picco**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When a contractor is in a community doing work, our communities are not that big and we usually know what is occurring in the communities. So, in cases like this, that should be reported automatically to the local housing association and the Power Corporation.

In the member's case, Mr. Speaker, it is very important to point out that we do have a customer service representative in the member's community. Those types of concerns should be addressed directly to the local office in the community of Rankin Inlet, and we will be following that up to ensure that that information has come forward. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 193 – 2(4): Tabling of the 2005-2006 Public Accounts

**Mr. Tootoo**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Before I direct my question to the Minister of Finance, I would like to take the opportunity to welcome my cousin Jordin Tootoo to the Gallery.

#### >>Applause

Also, to commend him for the work he is doing with the NorTerra group touring around the communities emphasizing to the young people the importance of education and staying in school and finishing. So I would like to thank him for that and congratulate him.

The Minister of Energy indicated earlier that sometimes the light doesn't come on over here. The brown outs are much more frequent than the people's view on the other side of the House.

Mr. Speaker, my question for the Minister of Finance is; I know that every year now that the public accounts have been late. I am just wondering if you can give us an indication as to when the 2005-06 Public Accounts are going to be tabled. I think we've been asking about that for a while. I think there was an early indication that they were hoping to be able to table during this sitting. So is he expecting to do that? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Minister of Finance, Minister Simailak.

**Hon. David Simailak**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) I am sorry, I am catching a cold.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, the 2005-06 Public Accounts have been in a near final state since January of this year. Near final state since January of this year but has yet to be finalized and will be backdoor tabled as soon as they're available. The main reason for this is because of a new accounting standard for 2005-06 that requires the Nunavut Housing Corporation to include the audited financial statements of all 25 local housing organizations in its own statements.

It is very complex and difficult; much more complex and difficult than we thought, however, we're working very closely with the staff of the Office of the Auditor General, the Housing Corporation, and our own Comptrollership Branch. We're almost there. We will continue working collaboratively with the territorial corporations to further improve our accounting and reporting processes with the Office of the Auditor General to further improve the audit process. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Near final since January.

I am wondering if the minister could be more specific as to... he said as soon as possible, as soon as possible. We always hear as soon as possible. Can he give a more clear indication of... he indicated they're going to be backdoor tabled, so that indicates that they're not going to be tabled during this sitting, but is it one week away, two weeks away, six months away; if we can get a clear indication. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Minister of Finance, Minister Simailak.

**Hon. David Simailak**: The Nunavut Housing Corporation's financial statements, again, appeared close to being finalized with just a few remaining items to be reconciled with the Office of the Auditor General.

I can't give a definitely indication of which week or which date they can be backdoor tabled, but as I said we are working very closely with the Office of the Auditor General to complete this work to both their and our satisfaction. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Tootoo**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think they'd have some idea of roughly how long it's going to take to get that done. Given that, I'm very much eager looking forward to the Public Accounts being tabled, because one of the things that I enjoy every year, I know my standing committee enjoys every year is reviewing the Report of the Auditor General and other matters. That's being delayed now, too, because the Public Accounts haven't been tabled.

Again, I ask the minister is it something that he expects within a month, or within two months, this spring, or over the summer? If he can give us some kind of an idea of when then that'll give us an idea of when we can expect the report and other matters as well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Minister of Finance, Minister Simailak.

**Hon. David Simailak**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For the 2005-06 Public Accounts the un-audited, non-consolidated, or interim financial statements were completed, and tabled on time in September 2006 for the first time ever since division. This, again, was made possible by the financial reporting improvements we put in place over the last 12 months, and also due to the commendable response by all 11 government departments.

In terms of tabling the Public Accounts, again, they're very close to completion; very close to being finalized, again, with just a few items to reconcile with the Office of the Auditor General. That should be, I would assume in the very near future, but I will check with my staff and see exactly where we're on it and report back to the chair of the standing committee. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

# **Question 194 – 2(4): Local Contractor Denied Contract**

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, I would like to thank Jordan Tootoo and the Nunasi Corporation for going to my constituency. The turnout was really great in my community and my constituents have been telling that me that it was really great and the turnout has been really great.

I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Nunavut Housing Corporation. The contractors in my constituency, private companies have been trying to get contracts for the units that are coming through the federal program. They have been told that they have overbid the local contractors and they have been denied their application.

My question is: will those local contractors be subcontracted, or will they utilize the development corporations in the smaller communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. Nunavut Housing Corporation Minster Mr. Akesuk.

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) At this time, we will follow the guidelines to construct units in the communities of Nunavut. We want to use a standardized guideline and go ahead with the promises of the \$700 million funding. We will utilize the plans and work with the communities and local contractors to make sure they're involved and get opportunities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The development corporations and the local contractors when they reviewed their bids, of course, I'm sure that they went beyond the Housing Corporation's plans, but I know that the program for training that will be done by Nunavut Housing Corporation and Arctic College is now starting to work.

The two entities are now working towards training the youth on career development in constructing these units. So what is happening with the Nunavut Housing Corporation... and the contractors will be returned to the local housing association. What is Nunavut Housing Corporation going to be doing with the local contractors overbids? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. Minister responsible for Nunavut Housing Corporation. Mr. Akesuk.

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The funding has been set, \$200 million to build 725 units. The funding has been budgeted for 725 units; we have budgeted each line item.

We work closely with the Arctic College officials on the training aspect part of it, and yes, our target to construct units with the training involved in the communities, and we will continue with the plan. We want to follow through with our plans, and also to use that program to teach Inuit people for certification training. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I know that your department has made good plans. The units that will be allocated in Nunavut, which are 200 units: if the funding was inadequate, will you be cutting the units that were going to be allocated the communities? Like in my constituency, they will be constructing 26 units in Grise Fiord, Resolute Bay, and Arctic Bay.

Will they be cutting the number of units if the funding was not enough? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Minister Akesuk.

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we do not wish to see this occur and we do not wish to cut units. We are focusing more on ways of how we can construct more units in the communities and save costs. That is what we are focusing on.

If the plan does not go ahead I am not too sure exactly what would happen but we will follow through with the plans that we have already done for the communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, they will be training people during the construction of the units by the Nunavut Housing Corporation. How many units are you going to be using to train because we are in a dire shortage of our housing? How many units are you going to be using for training purposes in the community? And also, how many units will be built by contractors without any training program? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Minister Akesuk.

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The units that we will be constructing, they have certain number of hours for training programs that will be utilized. The units that will be used for training purposes, we hope to see all the units occur and the training will be to certify individuals while we are constructing 725 units for Nunavut.

I cannot really tell you how many units will be used for the training program but we will have to follow through with the time and the hours that have been scheduled. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

# Question 195 – 2(4): Health Risk of Black Mold

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

Mr. Speaker, the issue of mold in our schools and hospitals has been raised a number of times in this House. I understand, in fact, that one's schools renovation costs have nearly doubled as a result of discovering mold in the walls. The presence of mold in structures such as schools or houses has been linked to a number of health problems such as respiratory illnesses, asthma, and other infections.

My question for the minister: can the minister clarify for the House whether her department works with other government departments such as Community and Government Services or the entities such as the Nunavut Housing Association to investigate and determine whether mold is a health risk in Nunavut Housing units and other structures? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Minister responsible for Health and Social Services, Minister Aglukkaq.

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Department of Health and Social Services, through the Environmental Health Office, provides that service to the communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Peterson**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that answer. Can the minister indicate whether any studies are surveys have been conducted by her department or by other research units on health outcomes in Nunavut in relation to housing conditions? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Minister Aglukkaq.

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am not aware of the Department of Health conducting a study related to housing situations. But I think it's a well-known situation in the north that overcrowding has a number of health determinates that we deal with on a regular basis.

There have been other studies around that, not just in the territory here but through other jurisdictions as well. We have worked and adapted in the north in developing strategies around prevention. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Peterson**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for the answer. When I was with the hamlet council in Cambridge Bay, we also discussed the issue of elders and infants with respiratory problems due to poor ventilations in homes; it's quite a serious issue in our community. Even earlier this year in January, it was a very serious issue.

Can the minister clarify whether this issue has been raised by her department, and if so, what measures are being taken to address it? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The issue around the respiratory illnesses in the north, we deal with that through trying to educate the parents or individuals in a community on prevention measures.

On one example in the area of respiratory illnesses is smoking in the home. The causes that are seen are in communities are young children, TB and so on. So we've tried to deal with that through public health prevention services and that's been done through each health center trough the community health representatives, as well as through the departments here in the public health work that we are trying to do that within the department. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Madame Minister. Your final supplementary, Mr. Peterson.

**Mr. Peterson**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister again for that answer; I certainly hope that the Department of Health and Social Services, the Housing Corporation, and other government departments are taking it very seriously.

To me, it is a big concern in Nunavut, and I don't think we're directing enough resources to the issue. My question for the minister: will the minister commit to directing officials to study the health risks posed to Nunavummiut as a result of mold, poor ventilation, and other substandard housing conditions? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Ms. Aglukkaq.

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Keeping people healthy and developing healthy communities is a very broad mandate that involves, not just the Department of Health officials; it involves individuals in a community and various organizations to put in place initiatives to keeping people healthy.

Through the work that we're undertaking for the Public Health Strategy, we're looking at some of the health determinants. We're also involved in a project that is studying the health of people in Nunavut starting this summer. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Aglukkaq. You will note that the Question Period is now over. Back to Orders of the Day. Item 7. Written Questions. Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. (interpretation ends) Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Item 10. Petitions. (interpretation) Item11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees. Item 12. (interpretation ends) Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Minister Netser.

# **Item 13: Tabled Documents**

## Tabled Document 091 – 2(4): Letter to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service re. Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; 12-month Petition Finding and Proposed Rule to List the Polar Bear (*Ursus maritimus*) as Threatened Throughout its Range

**Hon. Patterk Netser**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the following document: the Government of Nunavut's April 6 Submission to the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, the USFWS 3. They list of polar bears access threatened species under the U.S. *Marine Mammals Protection Act*, MMPA. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. (interpretation ends) Can we have that document brought forward to the table, please?

(interpretation) Thank you. Item 13. (interpretation ends) Tabling of Documents. Mr. Premier.

# Tabled Document 092 – 2(4): Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act 2006/07 GN Annual Report on the Administration of the Act

# Tabled Document 093 – 2(4): Letter to Nunavut Employees Union on Centralization of Payment Processing - Department of Health and Social Services

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I wish to table the following document: *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* for the Period of April 1, 2006, to March 31, 2007 Annual Report.

And also, I wish to table a letter to the Nunavut Employees Union on centralizing of Health and Social Services staff. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Premier. (interpretation ends) Can we get that document brought forward to the table, please?

(interpretation) Thank you. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Member for Rankin Inlet North, Mr. Curley.

## Tabled Document 094 – 2(4): Kivalliq Chamber of Commerce Annual General Meeting Resolutions 2007

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table a letter from the Kivalliq Chamber of Commerce President Ellie Consfield. It is dated March 28 and it is the Kivalliq Chamber of Commerce AGM Resolutions.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Please bring the tabled document to the table officers.

Item 13. Tabling of Documents. (interpretation ends) Item 14. Notices of Motions. Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. (interpretation) Sorry. Minister of CLEY, Minister Tapardjuk.

# Item 15: Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills

## Bill 06 – Official Languages Act – Notice

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Monday, June 4, I will table the following document: I move that Bill 6, *Official Languages Act*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Minister Tapardjuk.

## **Bill 07 – Inuit Language Protection Act – Notice**

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Monday, June 4, that Bill 7, *Inuit Language Protection Act*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Tapardjuk. Item 15. (interpretation ends) Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. (interpretation) Minister of Community and Government Services, Ms. Brown.

## **Bill 12 – Emergency Measures Act – Notice**

**Hon. Levinia Brown** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Monday, June 4, 2007, that Bill 12, *Emergency Measures Act*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Item 15. (interpretation ends) Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills.

We are going to adjourn for lunch, and we will be back at 1:00 p.m.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>House recessed at 11:53 and resumed at 13:07

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Members. Welcome back. Orders of the Day. Item 16. Motions. Mr. Netser.

#### **Item 16: Motions**

#### Motion 014 – 2(4): Listing of Polar Bears as a Threatened Species

Hon. Patterk Netser: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

WHEREAS the United States Fish and Wildlife Service is considering listing the polar bear as a threatened species, based on studies that are limited in scope, speculative in nature, and do not recognize the health of current polar bear populations;

AND WHEREAS Nunavut has or shares 12 of the 19 populations of polar bears and approximately 65 percent of the polar bears worldwide, and manages them successfully in a sustainable manner;

AND WHEREAS those of us who live and hunt in Nunavut know our polar bears and environment far better than southern organizations and activist groups;

AND WHEREAS Nunavut hunters, elders, and scientists confirm that our polar bears are doing well and their overall population is increasing;

AND WHEREAS listing polar bears as threatened will do nothing to improve a wildlife management system that is one of the best in the world;

AND WHEREAS listing polar bears will seriously curtail a sport hunt that does not take one extra animal out of the annual polar bear quotas;

AND WHEREAS listing polar bears as threatened has the potential to negatively impact Nunavut and Nunavummiut;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the Member for Tununiq, that the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut opposes the move of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service to list the polar bear as a threatened species under the U.S. *Endangered Species Act* of 1973. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker**: Thank you, Minister Netser. The motion is in order. To the motion. Before we proceed with the debate on the motion, I have a few comments to make as to the procedures.

Every member has the right to speak once in the motion for a total of 20 minutes. The mover of the motion speaks first and the seconder speaks second. The mover of the motion has the right to last reply, which closes the debate.

To the motion. Minister Netser.

**Hon. Patterk Netser**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There is a debate taking place in the United States on whether or not polar bears should be listed in the *Endangered Species Act* as threatened. It has been an exhaustive debate with many animal rights and environmental groups arguing that for the future health of the species, polar bears must be included in the U.S. legislation in order to be protected.

If we follow in detail the real reasoning behind the listing craze we quite literally see that it truly has nothing to do with the health of the world polar bear population. It does, however, Mr. Speaker, have to deal with the interests of certain environmentalist groups and wildlife organizations who are using the polar bears as an icon for their own special purposes; mainly to force the U.S. Government to recognize the manifestation of climate change and their urgency to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Why use the polar bear as an icon? The polar bear is perfect to be used as an icon. On one hand it depicts one of the last majestic, wild, free creatures that can survive in the most inhospitable climate. On the other hand, the polar bear has been depicted as a furry, cuddly stuffed animal that children can take to bed and snuggle while they sleep.

Mr. Speaker, the polar bear has the perfect credentials for environment and animal rights groups to spin a story in whatever direction that best suits their needs and make the sentimental, unsuspecting, uninformed animal loving population believe their story. What a shame. They are using this icon to create uproar, allowing them to gain an advantage over reality. And make no doubt about it, this ploy is literally worth millions, as in the case as the other furry, cuddly icon, the seal. We all know what happens to the sealing industry because of these groups, Mr. Speaker.

For those of us who have lived in the north for thousands of years, who hunt here, and know our polar bears and our environment far better than most southern experts, this has been a very frustrating time.

If the people trying to perpetrate their wills on the north for specific gain were to pay attention, they would realize that our elders have managed the land and its resources far better than the south with all its pollution, reaping of the land for the last few hundred years, which by the way, is only a fraction of time in comparison to the length of time we Inuit have occupied the north with its majestic polar bears.

For some time now our hunters, elders, and scientists have been saying that our polar bears are doing well and we know for a fact, the population, overall, has been increasing since the 1970s. It is a tribute to our wildlife management system that is one of the best in the world today. I believe this information to be solid, as it uses both traditional and scientific knowledge, a fact lost on the naysayer of today's society.

The people pushing the listing of our polar bears would like the general population to believe that by listing the polar bears in the U.S. will change our hunting and quota system. Let me make it clear that listing polar bears as threatened will do nothing to change our hunting and management practices. All it will do is deny the rights of U.S. citizens to avail a strictly controlled sports hunt that does not take one extra animal out of the annual polar bear quotas.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I want to summarize the United States Fish and Wildlife Service is considering listing the polar bear as a threatened species based on studies that are limited in scope, speculative in nature, and do not recognize the health of current polar bear populations in Nunavut.

I also want to clarify that Nunavut has, or shares, 12 of the 19 populations, or approximately 65 percent of the polar bears worldwide. That gives the Government of Nunavut direct management of over approximately 16,000 polar bears.

Please note we are not the only area in the arctic that opposes the listing of polar bears that the United States is considering. The U.S. State of Alaska has passed a motion opposing the listing and is asking other legislatures in the U.S. to join them in denouncing this action.

So in solidarity with our circumpolar neighbours, I now ask my colleagues to join me in passing this motion to oppose listing polar bears as threatened. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Netser. To the Motion. Mr. Arvaluk.

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm happy that I've seconded this motion and I'm going to make it brief on my statement. The U.S. debate concerning the polar bear, I'm thinking that we should not even give this to the U.S. for debate in the long run.

The people overseas did not want to buy the seal pelts any longer and this is a similar case; they're exactly doing the same thing. They haven't done any research or studies up here, and their reasoning is concerning the harp seals. We know the harp seals were

debated and discussed. They thought they were over 2 million in population, and this is the same with the polar bears.

We know, as well, the person who moved the motion, we have studied and done the research and our elders have been involved in the research on polar bears. Since the research was done in Nunavut by Nunavut people, we need to monitor them on exactly where they are in the land.

We need to stop, maybe, inviting those people from America and the quota for the sports hunting for polar bears in the U.S. will not change. It's a matter of earning wages for the people that don't have job opportunities and also for the young people. We also utilize the meat in the communities and are spread throughout the communities.

Mr. Speaker, I am going to support the mover of the motion. We need to really consider this because we're just going to be used again by the U.S. Government. And, also, Al Gore has been really trying to possibly give us a bad name throughout the world, and we want to consider how we are going to work with them.

I'm looking at the American Government and they are not even up in this area. They're trying to control the whole world themselves. They're trying to control and run our issues even if we don't belong to the U.S., in the same country, and for this reason I'm going to support the motion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. To the Motion. Member for Hudson Bay Mr. Kattuk.

**Mr. Kattuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will be supporting the motion. I've been making statements in the House in regard to polar bears. I make those statements with my traditional knowledge. The Inuit know and I think it's in every community; this is part of our wage economy for all the Nunavut communities.

What the United States is trying to do is not right. We conserve the harvesting of our animals; we consume what we catch and we share with our family and the community members.

Just before one of the sessions, I had caught a polar bear and we had a feast with the members here in Iqaluit. The Member for Kugluktuk also brought the meat back home, which was caught in Sanikiluaq. We manage our wildlife very well and we are not depleting the population.

As I said earlier, we don't over-harvest because we manage them well. I do know that polar bears are thriving. They can live in the water and on the land. Since I am from the Belcher Islands, we don't have polar bears year round. At times, the ice doesn't freeze over and the ice doesn't freeze around Churchill and Ontario. The polar bears go up the coast to the James Bay area.

Polar bears can live on land, ice, and water, and they are doing very well. As the mover stated earlier, the hunters in our communities know very well in what stage the polar bear population is at.

We do things that we are concerned about, but we have no concerns about the polar bear. The only thing that is of concern to us is the polar bear in the zoos. They do not belong there. We also see fish that are caught and then put back in the water, which is not hunting. It does not make any sense. It is just playing around with the wildlife. It is not something that we would begin to practice any time soon. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Kattuk. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. Barnabas.

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to thank the Minister of Environment for making the motion. I would also like to state that I will be supporting the motion.

I represent the High Arctic area of Nunavut and there is a large polar bear population up in that area. The people of the High Arctic say that they sight polar bears in open water with no land in sight. They are sighted by people in boats and the polar bears are hunted everywhere. They will hunt even if there is no more ice out there.

The Inuit take polar bears very seriously. There was one show that I was watching, America's Funniest Videos, where there was a polar bear and he was shown dancing and being made fun of.

We see polar bears that are in zoos that can no longer think for themselves, who don't know what to do with themselves because they've been in one little spot for a very long time. They are kept in jail. The Americans were laughing at things like that because they don't know anything about polar bears and what their natural environment is.

We live with the polar bear; we know a lot more about the polar bear than any American, especially. We do not want to be run by another country, like the United States for example. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. (interpretation ends) To the Motion. Mr. Curley.

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to state my support to the motion, and I would like to thank the minister for making that motion.

One comment that I wanted to make is that all Canadians do not agree all at the same time. Like the Americans, the federal government does the polar bear count and the Canadian Wildlife Service is saying that the population is depleting.

We hear that, and every year there is an increase in the Davis Strait population, and then a decrease; it's never the same. I can also say that we hear that the Hudson Bay population has decreased. A few years ago they were 1,200 and now they're under 500.

Since Rankin Inlet is in the middle of Nunavut, they say that we can only hunt in the Foxe Basin area. When you look at the passport of a polar bear it just says 'From Nunavut', it doesn't say that it's from Foxe Basin or Hudson Bay; it's a Nunavut polar bear.

Mr. Speaker, if we're going to do something about it and if we want to put the polar bear on the threatened or endangered species list, the decision will have to come from Canada first and not from an outside country.

I would like to tell the department that the Inuit are saying that there is an increase because they've known the polar bear population for about 100 years, following the information that they got from their grandfathers.

A long time ago they weren't able to put the sliders on their *Qamutiks*, so what they used in order to put the sod and ice as sliders on the *Qamutik*, they had to use polar bear skin, which is perfect for smoothing out the ice. They didn't have any of that material because there were no polar bears.

For the Canadian Wildlife Service, they don't think anything about the polar bear in the spring. The cubs and the mothers move away because they don't want to be in the moving ice. They want to look for baby seals so they move to another area. The polar bear and their cubs move from the moving ice to solid ice so they can find the baby seals. They go from one hunting area to another depending on the season.

Mr. Speaker, when the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board was having a meeting in Rankin Inlet, the CWS wanted to tag 50 in the Hudson Bay and Davis Strait area. We were telling them not to drug polar bears on the moving ice because some of them don't survive since they're on dangerous ice.

The Canadian Wildlife Service's response was that if they don't get approval, the *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* portion would not go into their report. So I'm sure they got their license at this time.

In closing I would like to say that the World Wildlife Fund, who we assume work for us, are given the license by us and they are the ones who are supporting and doing some fundraising using that dancing polar bear. So we're going to do something about that to hinder their process in order to help the people of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. To the Motion. Member for Iqaluit Centre, Mr. Tootoo.

1468

**Mr. Tootoo**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, would like to add my voice in support of this motion, and when you look at it, at what they're trying to do in the States; they're saying that the polar bears are dying, we need to save them, and so we'll put them on the endangered list.

Well who put them on that list? You go back in time, not too far back for us, when the whalers used to come up here, who killed all the whales? The Americans came up here, helped themselves, took everything they wanted, left the bones here to just be here, the carcasses were just left, and went back.

And when they got back, similar to two years back, one incident with Mary nets, they have this *Marine Mammal Protection Act* that says, "Oh, you can't bring those things into the States." They left it behind, they took all the rest of it to their country and they don't want that part of it to go there, too.

It seems like a very hypocritical thinking on their behalf in doing something like this. Even though it may be a well intentioned thing to protect and preserve polar bears, it's a very ill thought out approach to doing it, you know, "Oh yeah, why are they dying?" They are saying that the ice disappearing, their habitat is disappearing. Why is it disappearing? Global Warming.

Again, if they're so concerned down there about the polar bears and protecting them and wanting to preserve them, why the hell don't they sign onto the Kyoto Accord? That's what's killing the bears. That's what's taking away their habitat - it's all the greenhouse gases that they're pumping out into the atmosphere and we're suffering from it.

You look back, again, to these animal rights activist groups that are out there and look at what they did when they basically killed the sealing industry up here, they took a perfectly healthy people from a traditional lifestyle that had forms of making their own living through that lifestyle of harvesting seals in the harvesting season, and then they banned that, and then these groups, they killed that, and what does it do?

Again, well intentioned, but what's the effect on us? It devastated a lot of our communities, a lot our people. It took away their self reliance. It's just frustrating when you hear stuff like this come out of some people that are supposed to be, who call themselves world leaders. If they're truly a world leader, lead by example. Do something to stop what's destroying the world: the Kyoto Accord.

Their senate actually rejected that report, "We're not going to sign onto it." So maybe they feel guilty now, saying, "Well, we can try and cover up our guilt by saying, 'We're going to protect these animals and we're going to put them on the species-at-risk list." Well, that's not really doing anything. If they were serious about doing something, they shouldn't act like a bunch of hypocrites and do something; do the right thing.

That would be my message going out to them, and I'm sorry to paint the United States with one brush. Alaska, for one state, has said that this doesn't make sense. And I'm

sorry if they're getting painted with this brush. But, generally speaking, the American mentality, I don't know if they think that they can, just because they're one of the largest country's in the world, wealthiest, and that they're the world leader that they can act like bullies and just push their way onto other people and other countries.

I don't think that that's acceptable. I really think the message that's sent out to them is 'give your head a shake,' you know, 'wake up and smell the coffee,' all these different things here. If you really serious and sincere about what you're talking about, tackle the problem itself. Don't come up with these side things that say, "Oh, look, we're doing something," you know, say, "We're protecting them by putting them on this list, but we won't sign onto the Kyoto Accord, or won't do anything to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions that's causing the global warming."

I like my colleagues' comment the other day, instead of banning the hunting of polar bears, ban weapons of mass destruction. Look at what they're doing throughout the world. It's just very frustrating to just sit there and watch, and be affected by that type of thinking, and them just doing what they want anyway.

I think more people need to stand up and tell them that. I mean we're not going take that. A bully keeps being a bully as long as you let him. I think that's the message that should go down to them.

And again, I thank the minister for bringing this motion forward, I whole heartedly support it, and I'm sure all members here will. Hopefully, through some of our comments, they will get the message. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

#### >>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. At this time I don't have anybody else on the list. I will get the mover to make his final comments. Mr. Netser.

**Hon. Patterk Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the members for voicing their concerns. At this time I request that we have a recorded vote. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. The member is asking for a recorded vote. For all those members who support the motion, please stand up and stay standing up until I call your name. And we'll start with the mover.

All those in favour please stand. (interpretation ends) Mr. Netser. Mr. Mapsalak. Mr. Alagalak. Mr. Peterson. Mr. Kattuk. Mr. Tootoo. Mr. Evyagotailak. Mr. Barnabas. Mr. Curley. Mr. Arvaluk. Mr. Akesuk. Ms. Aglukkaq. Mr. Simailak. Ms. Brown. Mr. Tapardjuk.

Thank you. I would like to inform you that the motion is unanimously carried, 15 agreed. Thank you.

Back to the Orders of the Day. Item 16. Motions. Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Item 19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bills 10 and 11, and Tabled Document 49 - 2(4), with Mr. Barnabas in the Chair.

I ask that you remain seated at this time so you can proceed with the Committee of the Whole with Mr. Barnabas in the Chair.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

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

**Chairman** Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): I would like to call the committee meeting to order. In Committee of the Whole we have the following items to deal with: Bill 10, Bill 11, and Tabled Document 49 - 2(4). What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Evyagotailak.

**Mr. Evyagotailak**: Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman. We wish to continue with the review of Bill 10, and the supporting budget detail, followed by Bill 11. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Evyagotailak. Good afternoon. Does the committee agree that we will proceed with Bill 10, *Supplementary Appropriation* (*Capital*) *Act*?

Some Members: Agreed.

# Bill 10 – Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 1, 2007-2008 – Consideration in Committee

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. We were posing questions to the Minister of Finance. I would like to ask the Minister of Finance Mr. Simailak if he wishes to go to the witness table with his officials.

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

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Simailak. Sergeant-at-Arms, can you escort the witnesses to the witness table?

Thank you, Sergeant-at-Arms, for escorting the officials. For the record, Mr. Simailak, can you introduce your officials, please?

**Hon. David Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Peter Ma is on my left, and to my right is Mr. Roy Green. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Simailak. (interpretation ends) Before we proceed (interpretation) I think we were on page 9 and 10. (interpretation ends) *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act #1, 2007-08.* Community and Government Services. Capital. Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm sure that the minister has an explanation for us that I would like to hear before we proceed any further on this item as far as the substantiation sheets indicated that these two particular projects did not meet financial administration manual's criteria for a carryover project.

However, in the bill, it says that these are all carryover projects. I'm just wondering if I could get an explanation from the minister on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. David Simailak**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I do have comments on that, and I actually have a copy for all members. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Simailak. We'll get the copies first.

Thank you. I believe everybody received a copy. Minister Simailak, you can proceed.

**Hon. David Simailak**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I am able, I would like to take a few minutes to clarify the issue of non-FAM compliant capital carryovers. One of the objectives of the Department of Finance is to prove disclosure practices in a manner that enhances the Legislative Assembly's ability to review and consider the government's supplementary appropriation rules.

That is why we have followed up on our commitment to provide capital projects substantiation sheets to members, as part of the capital carryover process. At this sitting you have had the opportunity for the first time to review capital projects substantiation sheets during the capital carryover process.

Mr. Chairman, to ensure that processes are transparent, the department should have provided members with a listing of non-FAM compliant capital projects that the government would like carried forward into the 2007-08 fiscal year. We have provided that information today.

The total amount of non-FAM compliant capital projects are formerly \$4,338,000, which encompasses 13 projects, ranging in value from \$56,000 to \$1.5 million. Members should note that the term "non-FAM compliant" is a misnomer. In the prolongs of the department, it means the capital project that has not started, or where no contractual or financial commitments exist, or where no funds have been expanded, then thus the capital project must be brought back to the Financial Management Board for approval again.

If the Financial Management Board approves a particular capital project again, then the associated monies from the previous fiscal year are carried forward with the capital project into the new fiscal year.

In accordance with the provisions of FAM directive 302-5, these 13 projects were presented to the Financial Management Board for approval, again, as capital carryover projects.

All of these projects are eligible for supplementary appropriation as new projects in the 2007-08 fiscal year because the project funding associated with these capital projects lapsed in the 2006-07 fiscal year and have not been used for other purposes. As such, there are no new monies, I repeat, no new monies associated with these capital projects. For the purposes of the FAM, these capital projects have been re-classified as new projects in order to fund them in the 2007-08 fiscal year.

The lapsed monies, though, need to be carried forward from the 2006-07 fiscal year. It is the belief of this government that these capital projects provide a benefit to Nunavummiut and should be carried over. These capital projects also impact a number of our smaller, non-decentralized communities.

I would like to thank members for the opportunity to clarify the events of yesterday and for your patience today, and attach the listing of the new projects brought forward for capital carryover. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that response. I still do not understand it all. I would like to ask if we would get some legal advice on that interpretation from the member.

I am not saying that the member said that there was new money. I am not saying that I do not disagree with any of the projects. My concern strictly is that these are new projects approved by FMB. It has never been before the House, and it has not been here for approval through a supplementary appropriation.

It is the listing part that concerns me. These are carryovers for the following carryovers of the project that has never been in here before. How can it be a carryover? That is the part I am having a hard time struggling with.

Maybe it should show as a separate... you know where it says on the bill itself it says that these are new projects and this money is being brought forward from other projects in the past, and to all just carry it over to the capital project, it would imply that all those projects have been approved before in the House, when actually they haven't.

It is more of a layout issue. I am still thinking that this doesn't accurately reflect what's actually there in that format. I'm not convinced that it's okay to be like that and it's fine

but I want to make sure that it's done right and that by just doing it like that, then I am saying okay to something that isn't right. So that's what I'm talking about.

I do not know if our Law Clerk can expand on that, or take a look at it and give us her interpretation of it or advice or something like that, if you can help here. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Tootoo. Let us welcome our Legal Counsel. She shall speak to the request made by Mr. Tootoo. Our Law Clerk, if you are ready.

**Ms. Cooper**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think that some of issues that the members are concerned about are really accounting issues which perhaps the Auditor General or her staff might be better positioned to comment on because they deal, to some extent, with the way in which the estimates are being presented.

I can advise the members that subject to section 34 of the *Financial Administration Act*, any appropriation that is not expended during the fiscal year for which it is approved, the authority for expending that money lapses at the end of the fiscal year, and the only exception to that are situations where the liability or the financial obligation was accrued during the fiscal year, then the ability to pay that liability would continue.

So those are the restrictions that the government is working under, and the House is working under, under the *Financial Administration Act*. How those monies are characterized as carryovers, or lapsed funds, are perhaps an accounting issue. But if the liability or the financial obligation was not accrued during the fiscal year than the ability to spend that money would require the authorization of the House and an appropriation bill.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, our Law Clerk.

Mr. Tootoo, you still have the floor. Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'd like to thank the Law Clerk for that. I'm not sure if it's any clearer.

If an appropriation is needed for any new projects, it says that there are going to be new projects, and then technically, that's never happened. I guess that's where I'm caught; projects that have never been approved by the House in any way, shape, or form.

Although, I am not disputing the Financial Management Board's and the government's ability to approve new projects and put new funding forward to new projects. You have the right to do that, and we trust you to do that.

My concern, again, here is to how it looks on here. It doesn't look like those projects have ever come here before the House for an appropriation. To just lump them as carryover capital projects, when those projects have never been before the House... I

don't know, maybe we should get a better understanding from someone from the Auditor General's Office, or something, just for accounting purposes.

My concern is I don't want to say, "Oh yeah, that's okay," and then find out after that it's okay that Ms. Fraser is going to outline in her report that that wasn't done properly. I don't want to do that to myself.

That's how I feel. I don't know how other members feel about it. Maybe if I can get a little more clarification on exactly that before I feel comfortable and know for myself before approving any of this. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. David Simailak**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Could we have Mr. Ma respond to that, please. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Simailak. Mr. Ma.

**Mr. Ma**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm going to try to explain, or answer the member's question, I guess, in non-accounting terms. It is quite right as the Law Clerk said: there's accounting terms and then there's other terms that are floating about here.

So I want to see if I can simplify it. In actual fact, the projects that are listed "new" on the list that was provided to members this morning were in fact capital projects approved by Members in this House for the 2006-07 fiscal year.

Now, what happens is, under the *Financial Administration Act*, if there wasn't a financial commitment or no funds were expended against a particular capital project, in essence, the monies for that particular project would lapse. So what we call 'lapse' is monies would not be available is basically what that means.

However, Financial Administration Manual section 302-5 also allows projects like that to be brought forward again by going forth to the Financial Management Board. The board has discretion, and the word here is discretion, to either approve or not approve that project to be brought forward again. If the board approves it to be brought forward again, then it is considered to be a new project, but we have to attach the funds that was previously approved in the last fiscal year to that project.

Now, in order for the government to actually spend money against that project, we have to come back into the Legislative Assembly, which we have done at this sitting, to get approval of the Assembly through a supplementary appropriation.

So that's as simple as I can get it without getting into accounting terms and FAM terms. So there is no question in the mind of the department that as we go through strengthening financial management and work on the rewriting of some of our FAM directives, that we have to make that part of the FAM much clearer. It is confusing, even for those of us that work day-to-day within the department. So there is no question that we have to work on that part of the FAM to make it clearer. I hope that answers the member's question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Where I'm getting confused is even Mr. Ma stated that this is termed as a new project but the way it's worded in here, it's not a new project. That's where I'm having difficulties understanding.

Maybe it shouldn't be lumped in with all those capital carryovers from previous years because they're not. There should be a separate line in there on this particular page; those two projects are new FMB-approved with old year funding brought forward for them.

It should be something that is a little more transparent than what is there. I don't know if that's how it should be. Is this correct, or is it not correct? I don't want to say yes to something that isn't if it should be the other way. I'm still not convinced yet that that's how it should be. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. David Simailak**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation) Mr. Ma will respond to that question.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Simailak. Mr. Ma.

**Mr. Ma**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the member's concern and I think he has certain grounds for his concerns.

I guess I use the word "new" because that is the actual word that is in the FAM directive, and you're right, it is confusing. We will, after this sitting I guess, review how we bring forward those types of projects.

Obviously, I can't speak for the minister. We haven't made a recommendation to him at this point, but we have thought about it this morning in terms of other ways to make it more, as you say, transparent, because that is one of the objectives of the department is to bring forward supplementary bills that are actually transparent and understandable to all members, so we don't have to go through this long-winded explanation from me. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ma. (interpretation ends) Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know we're supposed to quit at two today so I'd like recognize the clock and report progress, and then we can do some homework

over the weekend and then feel comfortable with it on Monday. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Did you move a motion, I am asking you.

Mr. Tootoo: Yes, I did.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Simailak. There is a motion on the floor and the motion is not debatable. All those in favour of the motion. Opposed. The motion is carried. I will now rise to report progress.

I would like to thank you and your officials. Sergeant-at-Arms, can you escort the minister and his officials, please.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Members. Orders of the Day. Item 20. Report of Committee of the Whole. Member for High Arctic, Mr. Barnabas.

# Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole

**Mr. Barnabas**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The committee has been considering Bill 10 and would like to report progress. I move that the Report of the Committee of the Whole be agreed to. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. The motion is in order. Is there a seconder? Thank you, Mr. Tapardjuk. Mr. Tapardjuk seconds the motion. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried.

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

## Item 22: Orders of the Day

**Clerk** (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A reminder, there's a meeting of the Management and Services Board at half past two this afternoon in the Tuktu Boardroom. And a reminder on Monday morning June 4, the Standing Committee on Infrastructure, Housing and Economic Development will be meeting at nine o'clock in the Nanuq Boardroom.

Orders for the Day for June 4:

- 1. Prayer
- 2. Ministers' Statements
- 3. Members' Statements
- 4. Returns to Oral Questions

- 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
- 6. Oral Questions
- 7. Written Questions
- 8. Returns to Written Questions
- 9. Replies to Opening Address
- 10. Petitions
- 11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees.
- 12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
- 13. Tabling of Documents
- 14. Notice of Motions
- 15. Notice of Motions for First Reading of Bills
- 16. Motions
- 17. First Reading of Bills
  - Bill 6
  - Bill 7
  - Bill 12
- 18. Second Reading of Bills
  - Bill 13
- 19. Consideration for Committee of the Whole and Bills and Other Matters
  - Bill 10
  - Bill 11
  - Tabled Document 49 2(4)
- 20. Report to Committee of the Whole
- 21. Third Reading of Bills
- 22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Our House stands until Monday June 4, starting at 1:30 pm in the afternoon.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>House adjourned at 14:07