



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NUNAVUT

4th Session

2nd Assembly

HANSARD

Official Report

DAY 65

Friday, May 30, 2008

Pages 4340 – 4372

Iqaluit

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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Speaker

Hon. Peter Kilabuk

(Pangnirtung)

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq

(Nattilik)

Minister of Health and Social Services; Minister responsible for Status of Women Council

Hon. Levinia Brown

(Rankin Inlet South – Whale Cove)

Deputy Premier; Minister of Community and Government Services

Hon. Paul Okalik

(Iqaluit West)

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk

(South Baffin)

Minister of Environment

Tagak Curley

(Rankin Inlet North)

Keith Peterson

(Cambridge Bay)

David Alagalak

(Arviat)

Joe Allen Evyagotailak

(Kugluktuk)

Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole

Hon. Ed. Picco

(Iqaluit East)

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

James Arreak

(Uqqummiut)

Deputy Speaker; Chair of the Committee of the Whole

Peter Kattuk

(Hudson Bay)

Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole

David Simailak

(Baker Lake)

James Arvaluk

(Tunnunuiq)

Steve Mapsalak

(Akulliq)

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk

(Amittuq)

Minister of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth; Minister of Finance; Chairman, Financial Management Board

Hon. Levi Barnabas

(Quttiktuq)

Minister of Human Resources; Minister responsible for the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission

Hon. Patterk Netser

(Nanulik)

Minister of Economic Development and Transportation; Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation

Officers

Clerk

John Quirke

Deputy Clerk
Nancy Tupik

Clerk Assistant
Stephen Innuksuk

Law Clerk
Susan Cooper

Sergeant-at-Arms
John Avaala

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

Table of Contents

Opening Prayer.....	4340
Members' Statements	4340
Revert to Item 2: Ministers' Statements.....	4344
Oral Questions.....	4346
Tabling of Documents	4368
Notices of Motions	4370
First Reading of Bills	4370
Orders of the Day	4371

A.

Daily References

Friday, May 30, 2008 4340

B.

Ministers' Statements

190 – 2(4): Prime Minister's Award for Teaching Excellence (Picco) 4344
191 – 2(4): Development of Turbot Fishery in Clyde River 4345
192 – 2(4): Long Term Employee, Brent Boddy Retiring (Brown) 4345

C.

Members' Statements

464 – 2(4): Congratulations to Cambridge Bay Grade 12 Graduates (Peterson) 4340
465 – 2(4): Pending Increase in Cost of Fuel to Nunavummiut (Curley) 4341
466 – 2(4): Have a Good Summer Break to Students and Staff in Constituency (Aglukkaq) .. 4342
467 – 2(4): Youth in Nunavut in Spring (Picco) 4343

D.

Oral Questions

578 – 2(4): Attendance and Drop-out Rates in Schools (Evyagotailak) 4346
579 – 2(4): Conservation Officer Needed in Kugaaruk (Mapsalak) 4349
580 – 2(4): Medical Travel in the Kivalliq (Curley) 4350
581 – 2(4): Government Job Vacancies in Baker Lake (Simailak) 4354
582 – 2(4): Fuel Delivery Contract in Sanikiluaq (Kattuk) 4356
583 – 2(4): Handling of the Resignation of the Qullit Status of Women Council President
(Tootoo) 4358
584 – 2(4): Narwhal Quota for Arviat (Alagalak) 4360

585 – 2(4): Additional Assistance for Turbot Fishery in Clyde River (Arreak)	4362
586 – 2(4): Suspension of a GN Employee for Pre-employment Criminal Charge (Peterson). 4364	
587 – 2(4): Pending Fuel Cost Increase (Tootoo)	4366

E.

Tabling of Documents

243 – 2(4): Transportation of Dangerous Goods Annual Report 2004-2005 (Netser)	4368
244 – 2(4): Transportation of Dangerous Goods Annual Report 2005-2006 (Netser)	4368
245 – 2(4): Transportation of Dangerous Goods Annual Report 2006-2007 (Netser)	4368
246 – 2(4): Transportation of Dangerous Goods Annual Report 2007-2008 (Netser)	4368
247 – 2(4): Financial Assistance for Nunavut Students (FANS) Goals and Objectives (Picco)	4369
248 – 2(4): Children’s Advocate – Letter to Premier from Canadian Pediatric Society Calling for Appointment in Nunavut (Peterson)	4369
249 – 2(4): Food Price Comparison between Taloyoak and Yellowknife - Photos (Aglukkaq)	4369
250 – 2(4): Canada Elections Act Changes: Impact on Nunavut Voters – Letter to Premier (Aglukkaq)	4369
251 – 2(4): Elections Nunavut - Annual Report 2007-2008 to the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut by the Chief Electoral Officer (Speaker)	4370

F.

Motions

039 – 2(4): Reappointment of the Chief Electoral Officer of Nunavut – Notice (Peterson)	4370
040 – 2(4): Adjournment for the Day (Picco)	4371

G.

Bills

Bill 35 – Energy Efficiency Act – First Reading..... 4370

**Iqaluit, Nunavut
Friday, May 30, 2008**

Members Present:

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

Item 1: Opening Prayer

Speaker (Hon. Peter Kilabuk)(interpretation): Good morning, Members. I would like to ask Mr. Curley to say the opening prayer. Mr. Curley.

>>*Prayer*

Speaker (interpretation): Good morning, Ministers and Members. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. If there are none, Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Cambridge Bay, Mr. Peterson.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Minister's Statement 464 – 2(4): Congratulations to Cambridge Bay Grade 12 Graduates

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to inform the House about six grade 12 students in Cambridge Bay who are graduating on June 7.

Mr. Speaker, their families and the entire community of Cambridge Bay are very proud of our grade 12 students for their personal achievement. They have worked very hard from kindergarten to grade 12 to realize their dreams.

Seeing them graduate reminds us all that they're embarking on a great journey that everyone begins after high school.

Mr. Speaker, the six grade 12 students are:

Cassandra Evaloakjuk;
Ovi-Olsen Hakongak;
Jaynine McCrae;
Dedre Maksagak;
Peter Ohokannoak; and
Denise Peterson.

Mr. Speaker, it is impossible to know where they will go from here. We hope that they will pursue higher education and become doctors, scientists, tradespersons, community leaders, or whatever career they choose.

Our fervent hope is that they succeed in everything they choose to do and that they live fulfilling lives filled with joy and accomplishment.

Mr. Speaker, at the age of 17, or 18, or 20, they have long lives ahead of them that will be full of many exciting and enriching experiences. Wherever life leads them, they can be confident that we are all behind them, supporting them.

Mr. Speaker, as parents ourselves, we must give a pat on the back to the parents of these students for a job well-done. We must also pay tribute to the many educators who have taught them during the 13 years that most of them have attended school. In Cambridge Bay, we have many teachers who have helped to make June 7 possible.

Mr. Speaker, I would like the House to join me in congratulating these six young people, and wish them all the very best in their future lives, studies, and travels. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask for unanimous consent to return to Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. I would like to remind you that we are still on Item 3. Members' Statements. Once we are done with Members' Statements, you may ask to return to Ministers' Statements.

Members' Statements. Member for Rankin Inlet North, Mr. Curley.

Member's Statement 465 – 2(4): Pending Increase in Cost of Fuel to Nunavummiut

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to voice concerns and our residents in Nunavut would like to hear that we share their concerns about the issues revolving around energy production, especially where it involves energy and petroleum. It raises the question of how Nunavut will be able to provide energy to its residents if we are still going to depend on our current system.

Mr. Speaker, the reason why I voice this concern is because we are not the only region to be apprehensive about the skyrocketing costs of fuel, especially for areas completely dependent on fuel for energy production. The whole world is being affected by the unprecedented rise in fuel costs. The increases and continuous rising of fuel prices has

reached levels never before seen in the developed world to the tune of \$135 per barrel of oil. We are not the only concerned region impacted by this issue.

However, Mr. Speaker, I wish to raise this point. The developed countries of this world, especially our fellow southern Canadians, are not solely dependent on fuel for their energy needs. They have alternative options, as well as cheaper alternatives, should they choose, and they also have options to purchase more energy efficient products.

Here in Nunavut, we are on the opposite end of the spectrum, Mr. Speaker. We, in Nunavut, still depend on the annual re-supply of petroleum products. The products are bought in bulk, shipped up once a year to the communities and it has to last the entire year, and we have no other options. For these reasons, the Nunavut Government has to expend a ton of money just to supply its communities for that one year.

Mr. Speaker, I raise this issue that is causing consternation amongst our constituents. I believe that the Nunavut Government has to develop an Alternative Energy Strategy, brainstorm on a different method of electrical energy production, and see what options we have in Nunavut.

Last year, I was at a conference in Tuktoyaktok where I happened to listen to a presentation from the GNWT, the government in the Northwest Territories. They made a presentation on what types of energy options they had to meet the increased demands. They spoke of wind turbines as a viable option in their area and that they wanted to use wind power alternatives where they could.

Today, we also take notice of news stemming from Russia about their proposed solutions to provide cheaper energy for their northern regions. Their chosen method to meet their challenges is to construct nuclear energy reactors to provide cheaper energy to their northern territories. This is also a cheaper option, as well as providing less emissions and pollution than producing energy via fuel.

Due to this reason, we can state unequivocally that the Nunavut Government's plan is just to hold out their hands, waiting for assistance. Yet, there are many experts who have knowledge of the alternative energy option whom we never invite to Nunavut, neither do we request factfinding meetings with them. We have to start preparing for our future now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

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

Member's Statement 466 – 2(4): Have a Good Summer Break to Students and Staff in Constituency

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq (interpretation): Good morning. Greetings to my constituents in the Natilik riding, although it is only 8 a.m. in the morning. However, today is the last day of school for students both in Taloyoak and Gjoa Haven. I wish the young people a very good spring and summer break.

(interpretation ends) I would also like to wish the staff at the schools in both Taloyoak and Gjoa Haven a very good summer. I know, over the years, they worked really hard to teach our children in our schools. So today is their last day and I would like to wish them a safe and happy summer, and to get as much rest and enjoy the nice weather, hopefully we will have this summer, with their families.

So for both Taloyoak and Gjoa Haven students and staff, thank you as well as a well deserved and happy summer. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Aglukkaq. Members' Statements. Member for Iqaluit East and Niaqunnguq, Mr. Picco.

Member's Statement 467 – 2(4): Youth in Nunavut in Spring

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and good morning. Good morning, my colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to speak a little about our youth here in Nunavut. What a great time it is for our children in Nunavut. It's spring and in many of our communities, it's daylight now all the time. With this time of year, many people go out fishing and now geese hunting have begun.

Mr. Speaker, last week in Kugluktuk, it was very exciting to see so many families headed out to their camps on the spring ice. Here at home in Iqaluit, the melting has happened again early this year. Still, many people are heading out geese hunting and for ice fishing. There are so many things to do outside when the darkness of night is gone.

Mr. Speaker, two young boys I know have been very busy hunting right around here in the City of Iqaluit. Every night after school and on the weekends, they are out scouring the tundra for their prey. Mr. Speaker, they have not used a hakapik, a rifle, a harpoon, or even a bow and arrow. They have been catching their prey by hand and using their baseball caps.

Mr. Speaker, catching lemmings is a great pastime for many Nunavut children. Many times, Mr. Speaker, we hear about all the negatives and the social issues we have. But Mr. Speaker, to see the sparkle in a young child's eyes and see our young people having fun outside where they can play safely is certainly a blessing in Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, we do live in a beautiful place and sometimes we need to be reminded of that. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

An Hon. Member: Hear, hear.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Picco. Members' Statements. If there are no more... I apologize. Minister of Education and Energy, Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek the consent of the House to go back to Item 2. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. The member is seeking consent to return to Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Please proceed, Minister.

Revert to Item 2: Ministers' Statements

Minister's Statement 190 – 2(4): Prime Minister's Award for Teaching Excellence

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am very pleased to announce a Nunavut educator as one of the 2007-08 Prime Minister's Award for Teaching Excellence and Excellence in Early Childhood Education. Earlier this week, Mr. Simailak also paid gratitude to the following teacher.

Mr. Speaker, a little bit about this, every year, the Prime Minister chooses outstanding educators who exhibit innovative ways to teach to provide outstanding learning opportunities for their students.

Mr. Speaker, as noted by Mr. Simailak, Shannon McCarthy, a kindergarten teacher from Baker Lake, received a certificate in excellence for KinderAtii, a program she developed to prepare preschoolers and their parents for success in kindergarten and beyond.

Mr. Speaker, this award is a wonderful acknowledgement of the work that Nunavut's educators do each and every day. Mr. Speaker, the success of our schools and students is dependant on the leadership and guidance of their educators.

Teachers represent the strength and support role in our schools, Mr. Speaker. The direction they provide to students is invaluable in our communities.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of Nunavut's teachers and the exceptional work they do on behalf and for our youth across Nunavut. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Environment, Minister Akesuk.

Minister's Statement 191 – 2(4): Development of Turbot Fishery in Clyde River

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning, my colleagues and the public.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce the development of an inshore turbot fishery in the community of Clyde River. This inshore fisheries development project was supported financially by GN Fisheries Development and the Diversification program.

The community of Clyde River took the initiative to explore the commercial viability of their winter turbot fishery with positive results. They conducted test fisheries and held courses to help them develop this local resource.

Inshore fishery development is an objective of the Nunavut Fishery Strategy. The department has provided financial support to a number of other communities as well in efforts to determine the extent of local resources and the viability of developing them.

Projects like this, with support from the Government of Nunavut and other partner organizations, and driven by the local initiative, hold great promise for local economies.

We will continue to support inshore community fishery development and continue to deliver our programs in a manner that provides the most effective support in the fishing industry. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Community and Government Services, Minister Brown.

Minister's Statement 192 – 2(4): Long Term Employee, Brent Boddy Retiring

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I rise today with mixed feelings and a heavy heart to announce that after 31 years of dedicated public service to this territory, Brent Boddy is planning to leave the Government of Nunavut on June 25, 2008. I am happy for him but at the same time, we are going to miss his great corporate knowledge and advice he has provided to our government on many, many issues.

Brent started his public service life in the territorial government on September 26, 1977 and has contributed tremendously to the development of policies and programs related to the project and assets management field.

Mr. Speaker, Brent has been stationed in the Cambridge Bay Regional Office since 1995 and has worked tirelessly delivering programs and services for the Kitikmeot and has been successful in training and retraining Inuit beneficiaries to the regional operations by giving them the tools to becoming managers and senior managers.

Over this past year, he has assumed the role of the Assistant Deputy Minister responsible for Capital Planning and Technical Services for the department and has provided invaluable expertise to my office, the Legislative Assembly, the department and throughout the government.

Mr. Speaker, Brent is a recipient of the Order of Canada in 1987 for his participation on the Steger Expedition to the North Pole. He has sailed the Northwest Passage and travelled to Resolute Bay from Cambridge Bay by snowmobile. As an avid outdoors adventurer, he has plans to travel to various parts of the world as well as continue his passion for kite skiing.

Brent has no plans in leaving Nunavut and will still call Cambridge Bay home. Mr. Speaker, I wish him all the best in his retirement from civil service and thank him for 31 years of government service. (interpretation) Thank you, Brent. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Boddy. (interpretation ends) Best of luck in the future. (interpretation) Thank you. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. If there are no more, Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. If there are none, welcome to the Gallery. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Kugluktuk, Mr. Evyagotailak.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 578 – 2(4): Attendance and Drop-out Rates in Schools

Mr. Evyagotailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Education.

A few days ago, I made a statement in the Legislative Assembly congratulating this year's graduates from Kugluktuk high school. I was very pleased that the minister was able to attend the graduation ceremony.

This year, 15 students graduated. This was the largest number ever.

However, the community is concerned about attendance problems and drop-out rates.

Can the minister indicate to me what steps his department is taking to address the issue of high drop-out rates in our schools? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

An Hon. Member: Hear, hear.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The issue of attendance and drop-out rates has been one that has been raised many times not only in the Assembly but in the public at large.

And when we talk about drop-out rates, for every 100 children who enter kindergarten, at the present time, only about 28 will graduate to grade 12, and so that means the drop-out rate is about 78 percent and the reasons for that are many, Mr. Speaker. There are issues not only within the home with socio-economic issues, there are also some issues with bullying, for example, where some kids might say that they're being bullied and they don't feel comfortable coming to school.

What the government has done and what the Department of Education has done over the last four years is we have introduced a new skill set and programs at the school level to make school more interesting, we have *Nunavutized* the curriculum, we have put a multifaceted program in place for multi option graduations, meaning more shop programs that interest kids, more computer programming programs in the school, all of our schools are now fully wired, giving the kids and students an opportunity to use the internet, and so on.

So there has been a range of things done over the past several years to try to stem that tide. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Evyagotailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Minister. Some students do very well in school. However, others face problems and need extra help. Can the minister indicate to me what support is available for things like on-the-land programs to help motivate students? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

An Hon. Member: Hear, hear.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's great the member has raised the question. When we were in Kugluktuk, we saw, as the member has indicated, probably the largest class we have seen graduate in Nunavut. Twenty years ago, there were only 25 graduates

of grade 12 in the whole territory. This year, we will graduate over a 190 and in the member's community, there are over 15, so there are successes.

Some of the issues that cause the drop-out rate are the socio-economic conditions at our homes and the support between the DEA and the parents, and I don't think we can understate those. Part of the program that the school runs, as the member has indicated, through the auspices of the DEA is more land programs and culturally relevant programs that will help attract and keep our kids in school. But today, in the year 2008, a lot of kids don't want to do the camping type of programs and the outdoor programs, and so we have other programs that are in place to support that, and we just talked about some of those. For example, we have the Nunavut Youth Abroad Program that we are helping to support and other programs.

So, Mr. Speaker, there are monies within the department and the DEAs to support cultural and land based programs, but we need to also enhance some of the other offerings in school to keep our kids there. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Evyagotailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thanks again, Minister. Attendance is always an issue in our schools. In a situation when a student is not attending school on a regular basis, how does the department work with teachers, parents and the DEAs to address the situation? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

An Hon. Member: Good question.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The member raises a good point and the point is this: when we look at the tracking of students in school, our kids, when they go to school from K-6 and attendance is 70 to 80 percent, when we track our kids through the school system, they are graduating.

What happens, Mr. Speaker, is when our children get to grade seven, grade eight, grade nine, and they start showing up on Monday mornings, Wednesday afternoons, Fridays, and they're not attending a full week in school, then they fall behind and then they basically have to drop out or fail. What we need to do as parents and as teachers in the school and the DEA is to help ensure that our kids are able to attend school.

There are individual education programs and plans in place to help students, as the member has indicated, there are student support services within the school itself, but at the end of the day, Mr. Speaker, the school only has a student for five hours a day, five days a week, and we need to be able to put more resources into the school. Yes, Mr. Curley, more resources, I think that's what you mean. Thank you. That's what we're

trying to do and with the support of the Members of the House, like the member, I'm sure we can do that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Evyagotailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thanks again, Minister for Education. Kugluktuk is very proud of our Grizzly Program. Can the minister indicate to me what support his department provides to the Grizzlies to help them organize events and activities for students? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Here is a good example of a program that's community-based, that has had a lot of success over the past several years. The Grizzly Program in Kugluktuk involves the students at the high school level, and indeed, in some cases, in the middle school level, and the program involves the youth in a wide range of activities. They even sell their own Grizzly sports wear, hoodies, sweaters, and sweatshirts, and so on, and they use that money to be able to provide some of the promotional activities that they're doing in the community.

The Department of Education and the local DEA supports that program. We provide logistic as well as administrative support. For example, some of the leaders of the Grizzly Program are teachers who do extracurricular work outside the regular work hours and we should say, Mr. Speaker, for the record, that the majority of our teachers support and spend a lot of time outside the regular nine to five classroom time, in-school time, providing sports instruction and volunteering in our communities, and that's well welcomed by all of our communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Oral Questions. Member for Akulliq, Mr. Mapsalak.

Question 579 – 2(4): Conservation Officer Needed in Kugaaruk

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister for Environment.

I'm aware that in Nunavut, there are several communities without conservation officers, as is the case with the other community in my constituency, Kugaaruk, and they have been devoid of a conservation officer for quite some time. They are also experiencing problems, especially more so when they wish to submit their furs for sale. Without anyone to look after the furs, they just end up sitting around and waiting. Can the minister advise me as to when his department expects to have a conservation officer in Kugaaruk? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Mapsalak. Minister of Environment, Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you. I'm not certain when they will get a conservation officer, but I can probably let the member know today because that process is handled by the Department of Human Resources.

As with other staff, our conservation officers also resign due to various reasons, but this is one of our priorities and we are training new Inuit conservation officers. I expect to add three more trainees for this year's conservation officer training. Thank you.

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

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Is the minister aware whether or not this position has been opened in Kugaaruk? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Mapsalak. Minister of Environment, Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will check to see which positions are open for competition. Thank you.

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

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister get back to me on this issue prior to the end of the session? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Mapsalak. Minister of Environment, Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you. Yes, I will look into this immediately. I will have my officials check into this and I will inform the member as soon as that information is made available. Thank you.

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

Question 580 – 2(4): Medical Travel in the Kivalliq

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Health and Social Services.

Mr. Speaker, recently, we heard that the government's medical travel contract for the Kivalliq region for medical travel to Churchill and/or Winnipeg was awarded. As a result of these contractual arrangements, concerns have been brought to my attention by

medical travel clients, especially elders, who have been downgraded to travelling on long and uncomfortable milk run flights between Rankin Inlet and Winnipeg. This roundabout flight can last up to six or seven hours.

Mr. Speaker, the elders are not pleased that they are required to travel on the milk run service, despite having serious illnesses and occasionally needing to use oxygen on the flight. This is a step backwards to the level of service we had 20 or more years ago, based on this contract. The minister has the authority to insert conditions or to amend the contract, especially with respect to shortening the flight times for patients that require intensive care.

Will the minister agree to doing a review of the contract and amend it as necessary to ensure that elderly medical travel clients can travel on direct service jet airplanes, which only last two hours between Rankin Inlet and Winnipeg, and to include the patients who are travelling from further north? (interpretation ends) Thank you.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The routes that the member refers to, from what I understand, most of those routes have been existing routes in the region that were used by the department in the past.

In cases where the member said, in Rankin Inlet and so on, from what I understand, the majority of the routes that were used in the companies going forward with their biddings, most were already in place to provide services from Rankin Inlet down to Churchill and Winnipeg is what I understand. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It does not take a whole lot of evaluation to figure out which route I'm talking about as they don't have an alternative transportation route. The actual contractual arrangements for medical travel were awarded to two smaller airlines and it has created problems for those seriously ill and elderly who are wishing to travel not by the milk run service.

I'm asking the minister to consider and amend the contract, not necessarily amending it but extending it to allow those elders who wish to travel on a shorter route by jet service to Winnipeg. And she certainly has that authority and she has exercised a number of authorities that she holds as the Minister responsible for Medical Travel. The elders are wondering why you cannot serve them right now and allow them to travel on the jet service to and from Winnipeg or Churchill. Thank you.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With the RFP process, the airline companies that wanted to bid on the contract put forth their submissions. Each submission was reviewed on its own merits and decisions were made, as shared with the Member of the House.

Before the RFP process, there was never a contract in the Keewatin. So for the very first time in the last five years, there is a contract in place in the Keewatin for medical travel. From what I understand of the established routes, most of those routes were existing routes already in place that were already being used by citizens in that region is what I understand.

If there are specific concerns related to seriously ill elders, most of those individuals are medevaced to Winnipeg and so on. If the member has specifics, I can try and address that, but in going through the file of the new scheduled medical travel contracts in the Keewatin, the information I had shared with the members as to which airline has been awarded the contract, based on the submissions that we had received from the airline companies in that region, prior to that, there were no contracts in place to have made any changes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the information but I'm not challenging or dealing with the routes at all because these routes are in place and they are still being served by a number of airlines.

What the minister is not specifically referring to is that, with the open market we had earlier, there were mainly three airlines that were participating in medical travel from Kivalliq communities, including jet service from Rankin Inlet to Winnipeg. Now, with the new arrangement, the jet service is not allowed and that's why I'm saying it's a step backwards from 20 years ago.

The jet service is no longer enjoyed by elders and those seriously ill people. The minister had the ability to bring that service back to allow elders and seriously ill people with the oxygen availability. Where the smaller airlines don't provide that oxygen service, you have to carry your own in your pocket. Why is the minister not willing to improve and provide a modern service, instead of awarding a monopoly that existed 20 years ago? Thank you.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The RFP process again allowed us to receive proposals from airlines. All the proposals that were received were examined by a committee through CG&S and the decision was made that that was the best option for the regions to provide this service.

There were no contracts before in place in that region. This allows us to use airlines that had submitted proposals to send our patients to Winnipeg or Churchill. Elders, young people, whatever, no age is an issue, but rather every patient will be sent to Winnipeg and to Churchill based on the decision made today. The contract for us is a good contract in that as a territory, it's a cost saving measure for us and it allows us options in airlines that we can use in the regions as well as in the other two regions as well.

So if there are specific concerns related to an elder and a medical condition, those are issues and decisions made by the medical practitioner how best to get that patient to Winnipeg or Churchill based on their medical condition. In some cases, those individuals are sent through medevacs because a scheduled aircraft would not be able to provide the care and attention that the patient may need on a scheduled aircraft. So every case is examined as well based on the condition of the elder or the seriously ill individual, whether they will take a scheduled flight or a medevac flight. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the information, but I'm surprised that the minister is not fully aware of the impact that the contract has created in the region.

As indicated by the First Air spokesperson last night, the level of service provided directly to Manitoba through Winnipeg and Thompson is now going to decrease as a result of the action taken by the Department of Health. And I cautioned the minister, in my statement the other day, about three months ago.

So what's happening, Mr. Speaker, is that the open market was able to provide competitive service when all three major airlines were participating. Now, with the new medical contract, the jet service is not being used by the government and this is wrong; it's wrong not only for the patient but for the economy of the region.

Why does the minister prefer to choose to award a contract and not willing to at least provide that option to fly directly to Winnipeg for seriously ill people and those needing serious services, like oxygen service, which are not provided for in the contract with the current carriers? Why is the minister not willing to look at that and improve that service, instead of awarding the 20-year-old service that we enjoyed that time ago? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I disagree with the member in his analysis that the contracts that we awarded through this RFP process is a decrease in service for Nunavummiut. It is not.

The contract awarded by the government, based on submissions received, allows more opportunities, not just for the Government of Nunavut patient travel but for any

consumers in Nunavut, to have a choice of airline to use. For example, the new routes with Canadian North in the Baffin, the communities where the new routes come, people and consumers now have a choice. In the Keewatin, we have the choice as well between three or four airlines. There's a very competitive market in that region.

And if you look at how the contracts were awarded, it's not 100 percent one airline, whereas before, it was. In the Kitikmeot, for example, it was one airline. This contract award allows a more fair equitable distribution of the government contracts to allow a market to develop in the regions, in my opinion, it also allows citizens that are going on medical travel a choice in airlines.

So in that respect the government made, I believe, a great decision for the north in developing a distribution of a market in the north. In the region of Keewatin, there are a number of airlines that are there and this process of an RFP was fair, it was transparent, it was evaluated, airlines had an opportunity to put forth their submissions, those were evaluated by a committee, and a decision was made.

So in that respect, I disagree with the member that we're going back 20 years because this decision, I think, has created a market that every citizen in Nunavut now has a choice in additional airline usage. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Members, I wish to remind you that we have only a certain amount of time for Question Period, both question and answer period, and at the rate we're going, we may not again complete the list. So I remind you to keep your questions to the point and responses to the point as presented. (interpretation) Thank you.

Oral Questions. Member for Baker Lake, Mr. Simailak.

Question 581 – 2(4): Government Job Vacancies in Baker Lake

Mr. Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Human Resources. He is just sitting there comfortably and not being posed any questions, so he seems to be just acting as a minister in name only. He also just started his portfolio and he is the only one continually sitting on that side.

Since Nunavut was created, Mr. Speaker, there have been a lot of new job opportunities in Baker Lake for the government departments based there. The reason why I state this is because some positions have been advertised for a period of one year and still, they are vacant. Some positions haven't ever been filled and some were not put out for competition by these various departments.

Therefore, my question to the minister is this: has the situation improved or are we still experiencing these issues? How many positions slotted for Baker Lake have yet to be filled? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Simailak. Minister of Human Resources, Minister Barnabas.

Hon. Levi Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm not well versed with the circumstances surrounding the Baker Lake offices, but I do know that we are trying to resolve this problem and we are trying to fill the positions based there. I cannot respond to the question at this time, other than to state that we are working on the matter. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Minister. We are all aware here in this House that the government sets aside funds to advertise for those positions annually and this has been the case since 1999. It is difficult to find out exactly where these funds were expended and when they should have been used in Baker Lake.

Can the minister collaborate with his colleagues to work on filling the positions based in Baker Lake as expeditiously as possible? There are still many constituents in my riding who are looking for jobs and who would like to work for the government, not for the mining companies. There are still many people who would like to apply for government positions and they are still waiting, so it seems prudent to deal with this as speedily as possible. Can the minister discuss the issue with his colleagues to remedy this matter? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Simailak. Minister of Human Resources, Minister Barnabas.

Hon. Levi Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I'm working with my Cabinet colleagues and we are working with various departments on the issue. We are working on the challenges we face in trying to fill positions and in trying to find a more expeditious manner to fill more positions in his community. This is to let the member know we are working on this issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Minister. (interpretation) I would like to make sure that you fill these positions as this is becoming a critical issue. It would be preferable to make this an expedited process.

Has the minister or his officials researched the issue as to whether there is capacity in the GN offices in Baker Lake for these positions? We know that the GN offices in Baker Lake are already close to being filled to capacity and office space is at a premium. I would like to know what has been planned to meet this challenge. Could the minister inform the House about the issues I'm raising? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Simailak. Minister of Human Resources, Minister Barnabas.

Hon. Levi Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The member has raised the issues we are facing in Baker Lake, but this is an issue throughout Nunavut, and we are facing the challenge of locating adequate office space in a lot of communities. Wherever we have the office space for positions, we have tried to fill the positions and this is ongoing. I will look into the matter the member has raised and I will direct my officials to see how we can resolve this problem. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are many young people originating out of Baker Lake who are taking courses at Arctic College, at universities, and elsewhere, including students in the Rankin Inlet as well as Iqaluit campuses, and in the south.

Has the department conducted surveys of students to find out what positions they would be interested in filling once they have completed their studies? It is obvious that mining companies have already canvassed some of the students about careers in the mining field and some have committed to taking positions upon completion of their courses. Has the government taken this course of action to try and encourage students to look at government positions? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Simailak. Minister of Human Resources, Minister Barnabas.

Hon. Levi Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, my colleagues, along with the Members of the Legislative Assembly, have asked me to deliberate on how we can assist more students in filling positions in the various departments throughout Nunavut. We are still working out the details involved with this issue. Perhaps we will be able to initiate new programs to assist our students currently taking courses. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Oral Questions. Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Kattuk.

Question 582 – 2(4): Fuel Delivery Contract in Sanikiluaq

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I raised this issue previously in a Member's Statement and I would like to raise questions surrounding this matter to the Minister responsible for Community Government and Services. This is in relation to local fuel providers and how this service is provided in the local communities, especially as it relates to hardships private homeowners face when they have to get fuel either when the fuel truck has broken down or after hours.

The fuel truck broke down and while it was down, many private homeowners had to get their own heating fuel with their jerry cans, sometimes in inclement weather. In my last Member's Statement, I alluded to the last time we were struck by a blizzard where a woman, who is the daughter-in-law of the elders, is only about 20-something years old, she was accompanied by her young daughter and she had to fill up her in-laws' tank. This is not an acceptable situation when you witness it first-hand. It does not look good when you see people in that situation.

Can the minister inform this House as to what corrections have been made in order to remedy this situation that I'm continually concerned about and voice in the House?
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the member for his questions. In regard to this issue, my officials have looked into this and they have discussed the matter with the local contractor providing fuel delivery services in Sanikiluaq. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister tell me what kinds of recommendations to improve the services were discussed with our local contractor? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Of course, I can tell you the issues that we discussed along with recommendations to improve the services that we dealt with. In looking at the short-term future, my officials from PPD will have to return to Sanikiluaq. This is just for the member's information. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I really didn't hear what issues were discussed at that time. However, can the minister at least provide assurances that private homeowners in Sanikiluaq will not have to fuel up their homes? Is this what the minister is saying? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My officials at PPD headquarters spoke to the fuel delivery contractor and that was in May. Again, they will be going down to address the issues in the member's riding.

What was revealed to me was not a normal practice, as we all heard what the member was indicating. Furthermore, the fuel delivery contractor indicated that he is not aware of any recent use of that type of practice. However, some homeowners who are not on an automatic fuel delivery cycle, which is the people that pay cash for their fuel oil, they purchase diesel in jerry cans to avoid run outs. There is no need for it but it's a choice the homeowner makes.

The fuel delivery vehicle is owned by the Government of Nunavut; however, it is leased to the contractor. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Kattuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll use an example. If the fuel truck is broken or if there's bad weather, I know that people have gone to the gas station and bought fuel with their jerry cans, and then have taken them home and put it in their fuel tanks. That's the concern that I have been having. It's not good practice. It's dangerous. The fuel tanks are very high and the ladders are very narrow. So I think the government is supposed to support whoever and whenever. So my question is: will this concern be resolved? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I concur with the member's concern and it is a safety risk. I agree with the member totally and I am very disappointed to hear that the member raises that it might be happening again but I thought it had stopped. The situation will be looked at again and furthermore, I will direct the department to be in touch with the contractor in the member's riding and hopefully this issue will be resolved. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit Centre, Member Tootoo.

Question 583 – 2(4): Handling of the Resignation of the Qullit Status of Women Council President

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister responsible for Human Resources.

I'm asking this question, I know the minister responded to my colleague from Cambridge Bay earlier this week in the House with some questions that were posed to him. He had indicated, I think on two occasions, that he was not the minister at the time when the

incident took place, dealing with the warnings and stuff, dealing with the President of the Qullit Status of Women. Well, I thought, that didn't seem quite right.

According to our *Nunavut Gazette*, he was appointed to the Cabinet on March 13, he was appointed Minister responsible of Human Resources on March 17, the appointment of the President of the Status of Women Council was done March 20, and the warning that was sent to the president was sent a month after her appointment. So I was hoping that the minister would clarify somehow, this week, his comments. He hasn't, so I would like to ask him to clarify if, in fact, he was a minister at the time this incident took place. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Minister of Human Resources, Minister Barnabas.

Hon. Levi Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I had only been appointed as minister for three days when this occurred. Yes, at that time, I was indeed the minister, but I know that the president's appointment was for two years. Yes, I can agree to his request. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understand, but again, if one looked at what was said here in this House, it would indicate that the minister had said he wasn't the minister at the time. The incident that we're dealing with happened a month after that appointment on March 20, so it was in April, and the minister was the minister at the time. So maybe I will just ask him why he would inform this House and the public watching earlier this week that he wasn't the minister at the time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker ((interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Minister of Human Resources, Minister Barnabas.

Hon. Levi Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This was never brought to the Cabinet's attention. We didn't deal with it at that time and that is why I stated what I said. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Would the minister agree then that the comments that he made earlier this week in the House saying that he wasn't the minister at the time are, in fact, inaccurate? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Minister of Human Resources, Minister Barnabas.

Hon. Levi Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I agree. During the time when this situation occurred, this was under review in the Cabinet. That is all I can say at this time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Would the minister apologize to the House for providing false information? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Minister of Human Resources, Minister Barnabas.

Hon. Levi Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I see no reason for an apology as far as I can understand. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Oral Questions. Member for Arviat, Mr. Alagalak.

Question 584 – 2(4): Narwhal Quota for Arviat

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, my grandchild, Leo Kaludjak, caught a walrus yesterday and I am extremely delighted with that news. I'm so happy about it.

>> *Applause*

My question is directed to the Minister of Environment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

During the previous session, I raised questions to the minister in regard to the issue of narwhal tags, and apprised him of the fact that Arviat has no narwhal tags and is the only community in our region that is not allocated narwhal tags. The minister stated that he would collaborate with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans and conduct research into the request as I laid it out.

Due to the information he provided previously, I'm wondering if he has heard back and what actions have been undertaken in this regard. I would really appreciate getting an update from the minister. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Alagalak. Minister of Environment, Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you. My officials have not reported back on this matter. As well, the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board has to be involved because our department and government do not have the jurisdiction over marine mammals. The federal government has the jurisdiction over the marine areas of Nunavut and marine matters. Thank you.

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

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can never get the meaning behind the words you use to explain yourself. It states that the Government of Nunavut is a party to the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement* and appoints members to the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board. Therefore, your department also works with the DFO. As the Government of Nunavut, we have to voice the issues of our people.

However, in regard to the issue revolving around Arviat and narwhal tags, the western Hudson Bay communities are all allocated narwhal tags, with the exception of Arviat. And it causes consternation amongst our residents, especially in the spring when those Inuit who grew up eating Narwhal *Mattaaq* and meat would love to rekindle their taste buds with narwhal *Mattaaq* or meat. Although some of these Inuit want to order *Mattaaq* from those communities that have resident narwhal populations, it is extremely expensive to ship these items from the faraway communities to Arviat. These are Inuit who recall the taste of *Mattaaq* every spring.

For that reason, minister, I know you keep reiterating the fact that the GN has no jurisdiction over these matters, but everyone knows that you are the Minister of Environment and our people know that you are the minister. Our people are proud of the fact that you are the minister and you are well-known for being involved with wildlife. Therefore, our people have expectations that you should be dealing with all the animals in Nunavut, from the smallest to the largest, from lemmings to beetles, with all species that reside in Nunavut.

Can the minister assuage my concerns by working harder, to fast track this issue with DFO, as well as NWMB, and their staff to ensure that they are not just sitting on this issue? It would be good news for people in Arviat to even be given one, two, or even three narwhal tags. There are many narwhal and we know that they are in no danger of being depleted. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Alagalak. Minister of Environment, Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I will work on this issue. The Department of Environment has funding available for people who are craving certain species and perhaps Arviat can access those funds to assist the HTO for this narwhal request. The HTOs can complete the application on behalf of the community by providing subsidies or assistance so the people from Arviat can order *Mattaaq*.

However, in regard to the issue of the appointments, the GN appoints a representative to the NWMB. We will ensure that we discuss this issue with our representatives to see how we can deal with this issue and try to meet the request of the people in Arviat. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 585 – 2(4): Additional Assistance for Turbot Fishery in Clyde River

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

I was exhilarated, Mr. Speaker, when the minister provided notice about the inshore turbot commercial fishery near Clyde River. I was grateful to hear his statement and I enjoyed hearing the facts of the matter. He also stated that the community had undertaken this initiative and that there were plans to develop it further.

I would like to ask the minister what kind of assistance programs his department will be providing to the people of Clyde River with respect to the developing inshore fisheries. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arreak. Minister of Environment, Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We would really like to help the community of Clyde River in developing its local resources.

Perhaps we can enlist the Speaker's constituents because they have the experience with developing a local inshore fishery. It took quite a while to develop the industry, so that is a valuable resource we can access that is present in the Speaker's riding. This industry has developed and our department would like to see that same kind of success in the future being developed in Clyde River.

We will continue to work on the development issues. My staff is continuing to work with the people in Clyde River to get a turbot fishery industry started and we would love to see it become successful. Turbot are shipped to the south, to Newfoundland, and exported outside of Canada.

We are trying to see how we can increase the side benefits by looking at options on how our communities can be involved with processing, but this will take some time. However, we will explore our options to help the member's community to start the fishery project. Thank you.

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

Mr. Arreak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Minister. Mr. Speaker, there have been a lot of discussions in this House about the need for economic development opportunities in Nunavut. Words are not enough, Mr. Speaker. We need real support and investment. Will the minister commit to providing support to the community of Clyde River to develop other fishery projects? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arreak. Minister of Environment, Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe that we are doing our very best to assist the community of Clyde River. As the government said before, we have to work with the non-decentralized communities for more economic opportunities.

I think this is one of the areas where Clyde River could benefit from economic development with turbot fisheries. So we're going to work very closely with Clyde River to come up with ideas of how we could succeed in fisheries in that community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Arreak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you very much, Mr. Minister. Can the minister clarify exactly how many communities are currently being supported by the GN's Fisheries Development and Diversification program? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arreak. Minister of Environment, Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: (interpretation): Thank you. I will look into the numbers, which I currently don't have, as to how many we have assisted to date.

In regard to this issue, our department is committed to assisting community fisheries and this program is utilized quite well. We are starting to cooperate with the more northerly communities with respect to the fisheries. We are looking into how we can get more communities involved with the fisheries in the High Arctic.

We are trying to use the funds appropriately and we also use the funds to leverage more money from other departments, funding agencies, and economic development organizations to ensure that we are supporting the local fisheries. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Arreak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Minister. Can the minister describe what kinds of projects are considered priority projects under the Fishery Development and Diversification program? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arreak. Minister for Environment, Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On the Fishery Development and Diversification Fund, we looked at projects, such as test fisheries, technology transfer,

fishery science, product marketing development, feasibility studies, and others. So we do our very best to deliver those programs that we want to see and the test fisheries that we are trying to do in our territory to make sure that we maximize the economic benefits from fisheries in our territory. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 586 – 2(4): Suspension of a GN Employee for Pre-employment Criminal Charge

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

Mr. Speaker, recently, a constituent of mine, a Government of Nunavut employee, who worked for the Department of Human Resources, was charged by the RCMP for something that allegedly occurred with a former employer, in other words, pre-Government of Nunavut employment. The Department of Human Resources subsequently suspended the employee without pay until further notice. This occurred after the CBC reported the charges on the radio.

My question for the minister: can the minister table the Government of Nunavut policy or guidelines and criteria on Monday that the Government of Nunavut follows to arrive at decisions like this? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Minister of Human Resources, Minister Barnabas.

Hon. Levi Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Employees start out with a probationary period and during their probation, we can release the employee or retain them depending on their performance. Yes, if the member would like the information tabled, I can table the information to the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The employee had only worked at the department for three weeks and you have a probationary period of six months to 12 months.

Mr. Speaker, in Canada, there's a presumption of innocence until proven guilty of charges. Last December of 2007, it was revealed that the former Acting CEO and the Comptroller of the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation were charged with fraud by the RCMP arising from his former employment. The NBCC Board, who follows the Government of Nunavut's Human Resources' policies and guidelines, suspended him with pay until further notice. They did not prejudge the outcome of the trial.

My question for the minister: can the minister tell the House what criteria the Government of Nunavut uses to make decisions of whether to suspend employees with pay, as in the case of the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation, versus without pay, as in the case of their own Human Resources employee? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Minister of Human Resources, Minister Barnabas.

Hon. Levi Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I could provide to the members the information that the member is requesting. 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 response, but I'm not sure he's answering my question.

Mr. Speaker, in the case in question, the minister said that this individual is on probation or was on probation. In fact, she's suspended without pay, so she's still technically an employee of the Government of Nunavut, and that's sending inconsistent messages to me and to other people who work for the Government of Nunavut.

Can the minister tell the House if his department, or indeed, all Nunavut departments and Crown agencies follow the same policies and guidelines in the treatment of their employees? In other words, can he state, for the record, that Human Resources oversees and monitors consistent and fair application of all Government of Nunavut employment policies, including those that deal with suspensions? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Minister of Human Resources, Minister Barnabas.

Hon. Levi Barnabas (interpretation): I can't talk about a specific individual, Mr. Speaker. If any candidate applying for a position does not include this information, we cannot know their background. We do have a policy which applies to all GN employees. However, if the employee does not furnish the information after being employed, it is impossible to find out these issues. I do not wish to discuss specific individuals. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It seems that this department has a problem with their policies and criteria and guidelines, as in the case of the former President of the Qullit Status of Women, it's very inconsistent in the application of the interpretation of their information.

I read through the Human Resources' manual on employee discipline, suspension pending investigations, and other kinds of information, and I cannot find any criteria that would give cause to suspend an employee without pay until further notice.

So my question to the minister: can the minister tell the House if the Government of Nunavut's departments and agencies can apply subjective opinions and thoughts into decisions to suspend employees with or without pay? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Minister of Human Resources, Minister Barnabas.

Hon. Levi Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Let me clarify the issue for the member. The President for the Qullit Status of Women Council submitted her resignation herself based on personal reasons and we did not force her out. We continue to use our policies to deal with our employees and we have to follow our government policies. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 587 – 2(4): Pending Fuel Cost Increase

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister responsible for Finance.

Mr. Speaker, I know that over the last number of days, we have been given information on the increased costs of fuel. I think that the minister had indicated in the House here that it's close to probably \$85 million with the cap. I think we all know that, as a result of that increased cost, there will be increases in rates and the biggest consumer, as we know, is the government. We're potentially looking at over \$100 million shortfall.

I'm just wondering if the Minister of Finance could give us some information on what, if any, plans his department is looking into to find where that money will come from. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With regards to his question, when we sell petroleum products in the communities, the revenue is deposited into the Petroleum Products Revolving Fund. The funds from the sale of these products are deposited into this fund and we use these funds to purchase more fuel. This fund is like our insurance money for when we have to purchase our fuel.

With respect to the member's question on what our future plans are, we know for a fact that there's a great deal of concern out there, but I can state, Mr. Speaker, that the Cabinet

and the FMB will have to discuss this issue as to what we have to do to prepare. At this time, I can state that it will be dealt with shortly. That's all I can say right now, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that response. I certainly hope that this is something that is very urgent and needs to be looked at quite quickly. I think finding \$100 million is a big challenge and I wish him the best of luck in doing that.

Mr. Speaker, given the fact, I know the fuel isn't purchased yet and all that, would the Minister of Finance bring forward to his Cabinet colleagues and say, "As a responsible government, we need to deal with this issue as soon as possible," and not saddle the next Assembly with a huge deficit as a result of inaction from this government? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Absolutely, we have to deliberate on this issue as a government. As well, the Department of Community and Government Services is involved with fuel purchases and I can look into this issue with the department whether they have purchased their fuel or are planning to purchase it in the short-term.

Mr. Speaker, what I can say is that this issue will be dealt with by Cabinet and the funds we require to complete this purchase will have to be submitted to the FMB for their approval. Mr. Speaker, I can state emphatically in this House that this issue concerns us greatly as well and this will be dealt with. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have to thank the minister for that response. I know that it is the decision of Cabinet and the Financial Management Board of which he is the Chairperson. But as a Chair and as the Minister of Finance, does he feel that this is something that needs to be addressed as quickly as possible to try and put measures in place soon so that all of Nunavut's not hit all at once after the next election with these increased costs? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we will deal with this as expeditiously as possible. I'm sure that all the Nunavummiut are aware that the fuel prices are going up drastically and that this is a common concern. We are all going to be affected this year when we purchase our fuel products in bulk.

We understand that to be the case, and we will continue to monitor the situation and deal with the issues. I cannot hypothesize what the Cabinet decision will be since we have to discuss the issue and deliberate the factors. Once that decision has been made by Cabinet, we can provide that information to the House and the public in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister indicate when he plans on having this issue brought before Cabinet to make a decision on? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As soon as the Premier returns to the House, we will have a better understanding as to the timelines involved. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Members, Question Period is now over. Going back to the Orders of the Day. Item 7. Written Questions. If there are none, Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Item 10. Petitions. Item 11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees. Item 12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Minister Netser.

Item 13: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 243 – 2(4): Transportation of Dangerous Goods Annual Report 2004-2005

Tabled Document 244 – 2(4): Transportation of Dangerous Goods Annual Report 2005-2006

Tabled Document 245 – 2(4): Transportation of Dangerous Goods Annual Report 2006-2007

Tabled Document 246 – 2(4): Transportation of Dangerous Goods Annual Report 2007-2008

Hon. Patterk Netser: Mr. Speaker, thank you. I am pleased to table the following document: the Transportation of Dangerous Goods Annual Report for years 2004-2005, 2005-2006, 2006-2007, and 2007-2008. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Can we have those documents brought forward to the Clerk's table, please?

Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Minister of Education and Energy, Minister Picco.

Tabled Document 247 – 2(4): Financial Assistance for Nunavut Students (FANS) Goals and Objectives

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am very pleased to table the following document:

- Financial Assistance for Nunavut Students (FANS) Goals and Objectives.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. (interpretation ends) Can we have those documents brought forward to the table, please?

(interpretation) Thank you. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Member for Cambridge Bay, Mr. Peterson.

Tabled Document 248 – 2(4): Children’s Advocate – Letter to Premier from Canadian Pediatric Society Calling for Appointment in Nunavut

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table a letter from the Canadian Pediatric Society dated April 10, 2008, to the Honourable Paul Okalik, Premier of the Government of Nunavut. In the letter they write, “We understand that Mr. Keith Peterson has called for the appointment of a Child Advocate because of a growing number of children in foster care in Nunavut. We hope your government will consider the appointment of a child and youth advocate and look forward to hearing from you.”

I have also attached excerpts from their report, ‘Are We Doing Enough?’ Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Tabling of Documents. Member for Natilik and Minister of Health and Social Services, Minister Aglukkaq.

Tabled Document 249 – 2(4): Food Price Comparison between Taloyoak and Yellowknife - Photos

Tabled Document 250 – 2(4): Canada Elections Act Changes: Impact on Nunavut Voters – Letter to Premier

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am tabling two documents as MLA for the Natilikmeot riding. First one that I would like to table is photographs that I had taken recently in Taloyoak which shows the price difference for the food between Yellowknife as well as my community. It’s to demonstrate again the difference between

cost of living between Yellowknife, the nearest centre for food shipping, and my community.

The other document I would like to table that I referenced yesterday during Committee of the Whole related to the *Elections Act*. I would like to table a copy of the letter that I wrote to our Premier and that I extend copies to all my colleagues in the House for the public record. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Aglukkaq. Can we have those documents brought forward to the table, please?

Thank you. Item 13. Tabling of Documents.

Tabled Document 251 – 2(4): Elections Nunavut - Annual Report 2007-2008 to the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut by the Chief Electoral Officer

Members, I wish to table today the 2007-2008 Annual Report of the Chief Electoral Officer of Nunavut to the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut.

Thank you. Item 14. Notices of Motions. Member for Cambridge Bay, Mr. Peterson.

Item 14: Notices of Motions

Motion 039 – 2(4): Reappointment of the Chief Electoral Officer of Nunavut – Notice

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Monday, June 2, 2008, I will move the following motion:

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the Honourable Member for Iqaluit East, that the Legislative Assembly recommend to the Commissioner of Nunavut that Ms. Sandy Kusugak be reappointed Chief Electoral Officer effective November 28, 2008. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Item 14. Notices of Motions. Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 16. Motions. Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Minister of Energy, Minister Picco.

Item 17: First Reading of Bills

Bill 35 – Energy Efficiency Act – First Reading

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Amittuq, that Bill 35, the *Energy Efficiency Act*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion carried and Bill 34 has had first reading. I apologize. Members, I would like to note that there were some errors in our papers and I mentioned Bill 34. Bill 35 has had its first reading.

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. Minister of Education and Energy, Minister Picco.

Motion 040 – 2(4): Adjournment for the Day

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Pursuant to our Rule 46, I move, seconded by the Honourable Member from Cambridge Bay, that this House adjourn for the day. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. The motion is in Order. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried and we will go to Item 22. Orders of the Day. Mr. Clerk.

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A reminder of meetings for this weekend and this afternoon. This afternoon at 1:30 there is a meeting of the Standing Committee *Ajauqtiit* and also at 1:30, the Standing Committee on Government Operations and Accountability. On Saturday a meeting of the Standing Committee *Ajauqtiit* at 1:00 p.m. in the afternoon and on Sunday, a reminder that the Management Services Board will meet at 8:30 in the morning, followed by a meeting of the Full Caucus at eleven o'clock in the morning.

Orders of the Day for June 2:

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

11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motions
15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions
 - Motion 39
17. First Reading of Bills
18. Second Reading of Bills
 - Bill 35
19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
 - Bill 26
 - Bill 27
 - Bill 30
20. Report of the Committee of the Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills
 - Bill 29
 - Bill 31
 - Bill 32
22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members, I wish to thank our four pages who were serving us this week and they are returning home to Rankin Inlet and Cambridge Bay: Jordan Lyall and Joel Imilluaq from Cambridge Bay; Jamie Maley and Annette Boucher from Rankin Inlet. I thank them for serving us. Thank you.

>>*Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): This House stands adjourned until Monday, June 2, at 1:30 in the afternoon.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 11:40*

