



**Nunavut Canada**

**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NUNAVUT**

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**3rd Assembly**

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Official Report

**DAY 3**

**Tuesday, March 17, 2009**

**Pages 75 – 110**

**Iqaluit**

**Speaker: The Honourable James Arreak, M.L.A.**

## Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

### *Speaker*

**Hon. James Arreak**

(Uqqummiut)

**Hon. Eva Ariak**

(Iqaluit East)

*Premier; Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs; Minister responsible for the Status of Women; Minister responsible for Immigration*

**James Arvaluk**

(Tununiq)

**Moses Aupaluktuq**

(Baker Lake)

**Hon. Tagak Curley**

(Rankin Inlet North)

*Minister of Health and Social Services; Minister responsible for the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission; Minister responsible for the Utility Rates Review Council*

**Ron Elliott**

(Quttiktuq)

**Adamee Komoartok**

(Pangnirtung)

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak**

(Rankin Inlet South – Whale Cove)

*Minister of Community and Government Services; Minister of Energy*

**John Ningark**

(Akulliq)

**Johnny Ningeongan**

(Nanulik)

*Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole*

**Paul Okalik**

(Iqaluit West)

*Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole*

**Enuk Pauloosie**

(Nattilik)

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

**Hon. Keith Peterson**

(Cambridge Bay)

*Minister of Finance, Chair, Financial Management Board; Minister of Justice*

**Allan Rumbolt**

(Hudson Bay)

**Fred Schell**

(South Baffin)

**Hon. Daniel Shewchuk**

(Arviat)

*Minister of Environment; Minister of Human Resources; Minister responsible for the Nunavut Arctic College*

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk**

(Amittuq)

*Government House Leader; Minister of Education; Minister of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth; Minister of Languages; Minister of Aboriginal Affairs*

**Hon. Peter Taptuna**

(Kugluktuk)

*Deputy Premier; Minister of Economic Development and Transportation*

**Hon. Hunter Tootoo**

(Iqaluit Centre)

*Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation; Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation; Minister responsible for Homelessness*

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John Quirke

Deputy Clerk

Nancy Tupik

Clerk Assistant

Stephen Innuksuk

Law Clerk

Susan Cooper

Sergeant-at-Arms

Simanek Kilabuk

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](http://www.assembly.nu.ca)**

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**Iqaluit, Nunavut  
Tuesday, March 17, 2009**

**Members Present:**

Honourable Eva Aariak, Honourable James Arreak, Mr. James Arvaluk, Mr. Moses Aupaluktuq, Honourable Tagak Curley, Mr. Ron Elliot, Mr. Adamee Komoartok, Honourable Lorne Kusugak, Mr. John Ningark, Mr. Johnny Ningeongan, Mr. Paul Okalik, Mr. Enuq Pauloosie, Honourable Keith Peterson, Mr. Allan Rumbolt, Mr. Fred Schell, Honourable Daniel Shewchuk, Honourable Louis Tapardjuk, Honourable Peter Taptuna, Honourable Hunter Tootoo.

**Item 1: Opening Prayer**

**Speaker** (Hon. James Arreak) (interpretation): Good afternoon. At this time I would like to ask Mr. Curley to say the opening prayer. Mr. Curley.

>>Prayer

**Speaker** (interpretation): Good afternoon, Premier, Ministers, Members. Good afternoon, people of Nunavut. Before we proceed with the Orders of the Day, I will read a letter from the commissioner.

**Money Message**

March 12, 2009

Mr. James Arreak, Speaker of the House  
Legislative Assembly of Nunavut  
Iqaluit, Nunavut  
X0A 0H0

Mr. Speaker,

I wish to advise that I recommend to the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut the passage of the following bills during the First Session of the Third Legislative Assembly:

- Bill 1, *Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2009-2010*
- Bill 2, *Interim Appropriation Act, April 1 – July 31, 2009*
- Bill 3, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 3, 2008-2009*
- Bill 4, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 3, 2008-2009*

Sincerely, Ann Meekitjuk-Hanson C.M.,  
Commissioner of Nunavut.

(interpretation ends) Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Minister Tootoo.

**Item 2: Ministers' Statements****Minister's Statement 009 – 3(1): New President for Qulliq Energy Corporation**

**Hon. Hunter Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to inform, I guess this is the first time I say it, all of my esteemed colleagues, as we have a full house now, of the appointment of the new President for the Qulliq Energy Corporation. On March 13, 2009, our Premier announced that Mr. Peter Mackey of Iqaluit will be the new President for the Qulliq Energy Corporation effective April 1 of this year.

Mr. Mackey brings a wealth of knowledge and experience in the power generation and the utility fields, covering almost two decades. Mr. Mackey has been with the corporation for many years, and prior to division, he worked for the NWT Power Corporation as well, and has gone through the various stages of its growth from the days when it was called the Northwest Territories Power Corporation, to the Nunavut Power Corporation, and now to the Qulliq Energy Corporation.

Mr. Speaker, in addition to his experience with the corporation, Mr. Mackey has been actively involved in many aspects of our community, including working with Skills Canada, the Nunavut Apprenticeship and Trades Board, and I must say he's also a very avid and good curler having curled against him.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would like to thank Mr. Bruce Rigby, who has served as the Interim President and CEO during the transition period. I believe he was brought on last June and I think he has done a great job in keeping things going and things moving within the corporation. So I would like to ask all members to please join me in congratulating Mr. Peter Mackey on his appointment. And I'm sure we all look forward to working closely with Peter, who is also here with management, I welcome him. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Ministers' Statements. Premier of Nunavut, (interpretation ends) Hon. Eva Aariak.

### **Minister's Statement 010 – 3(1): Arctic Stewardship**

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will be making a statement on arctic stewardship. Before I proceed with my statement, I rise to welcome our newly-elected member, John Ningark. I am grateful that we now have a full membership.

Mr. Speaker, members will remember from the November Leadership Forum that I view arctic sovereignty as one of three serious challenges we will be engaged in over the next decade. At that time, I committed to leading Nunavut and asserting the role of Inuit as guardians of the Arctic. Our focus is on the people who live here in the North and our communities.

The visit of United States President Obama to Canada last month was an important signal that his administration recognizes that Canada is a close friend and ally for the United States. For Nunavut and for Canada, I believe that it also put a spotlight on the Arctic and the issue of the Northwest Passage.

Nunavummiut support Canada's position on the status of the passage as a key component of our exercise of Canadian sovereignty and security in the Arctic. Inuit use and occupancy of the waters, ice and shoreline of that passage over centuries continue to provide a basis for Canada's historic title over these waters.

More than about sovereignty, the issue with the United States and other nations is whether the waters of the Northwest Passage constitute an international strait or internal Canadian waters.



Nunavut is concerned that there is a real liability for us - for our internal waters, the ice over it and the seabed below it, and our shorelines - to have the Northwest Passage as an international transit with an unregulated right of passage through Canada's internal waters. Those waters are significant areas where Inuit have traditionally travelled and harvested, and Nunavummiut continue to do so today, and for the marine mammals that are so important to our culture.

Nunavut is concerned that there is a real liability for us - for our internal waters... I'm just reiterating that.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage Canada to collaborate with the United States and other members of the Arctic Council on environmental stewardship and governance in the Arctic region. I welcome federal Foreign Affairs Minister Cannon's address last week on Canada's Arctic Foreign Policy, and his diplomatic efforts next month in Washington and at the Arctic Council meeting in Tromso, Norway. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Premier. Ministers' Statements. (interpretation ends) Hon. Louis Tapardjuk.

**Minister's Statement 011 – 3(1):  
National Aboriginal Awards**

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I forget who submitted the Inuksuk that is pointing the way for us, but I imagine that some of us will still lose the direction that it is

pointing to even though it's quite clear which direction it is pointing at. I thank whoever submitted the Inuksuk.

I also wish to state my greetings to my constituents in Igloolik and Hall Beach. I believe they are watching these proceedings, so I say "hello" to them.

Mr. Speaker, I stand today to congratulate one of our colleagues in receiving an award at the 16th Annual National Aboriginal Awards.

My colleague, who received this award in the area of politics, has had an inspirational journey. As a mature student, he endeavoured to better his personal situation, eventually becoming the first Inuk lawyer in Nunavut. This gentleman also had a vital role in negotiating the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement*. There is no need to summarize those negotiations as we sit in a legislature as a direct result of *Article 4* in the NLCA.

Mr. Speaker, Nunavut came into existence on April 1, 1999. We will be celebrating the 10th anniversary in only a few short weeks; it is only fitting my colleague received this award coinciding with the anniversary.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House to join me in congratulating Mr. Paul Okalik, former Premier of Nunavut and MLA for Iqaluit West. Let us acknowledge the member for winning an award. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tapardjuk. We are very proud of you, Mr. Okalik. Ministers' Statements.

If there are no more, Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Akulliq, Mr. Ningark.

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

#### **Member's Statement 026 – 3(1): Thanks to Constituents, Family, MLAs**

**Mr. Ningark** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, I wish to thank my colleagues for their warm welcome upon my arrival to the Legislative Assembly this morning. I also wish to thank the Premier for her welcome via telephone. Further, I would like to thank the Speaker for his welcome through the telephone as well just prior to my arrival in Iqaluit. So "thank you" to all of you.

I would be remiss without thanking my constituency communities of Akulliq, Repulse Bay and Kugaaruk, so Mr. Speaker, I thank them all.

Especially since I was elected, it seems twice, but we have to adhere to the letter of the law as members of a legislature. As an MLA, you have to ensure that adherence to the law is your first priority and this is something I have learned from experience.

Although we were subjected to a recount and I didn't come out on top at that time, I didn't mind since we have to follow legislation pertaining to elections in our territory. It made it all the sweeter when I was finally elected in the second round of voting. I thank all the people for their continued support.

In representing the people of Akulliq, both the residents of Repulse Bay and

Kugaaruk, I wish to state, Mr. Speaker, that we endorsed the selection of the Premier in our riding and this also applies to the hon. members in Cabinet. On behalf of my constituents of Akulliq, I support the selections made prior to my arrival and I also feel welcomed by them.

Mr. Speaker, you are elected to represent the people, so you have to voice the wishes of the people whom elected you and serve them first and foremost. Sometimes members will revert to personal agendas, but that's something that is a part of all politics.

With respect to Repulse Bay, it's in the Kivalliq region and Kugaaruk is not part of that region. This is something that may not have been debated vigorously enough in the Nunavut Electoral Boundary Commission report findings. It was brought up as an issue, but there were no details about this in the Electoral Boundaries Commission report.

I will be canvassing the people of Repulse Bay and Kugaaruk to find out what their feelings on this matter are and I will...

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

**Mr. Ningark** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement. Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): The member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Are there any nays? There

are no nays. Please conclude your statement, Mr. Ningark.

**Mr. Ningark** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's obvious that a lot of time has passed since I last made a Member's Statement and I will try to keep it short. As we deal with issues over the next four years as a government, I will be raising this issue after I have heard from my constituents as to what their wishes are.

I wish to mention some names in Repulse Bay. Cecilia Angotialok, whom I thank profusely, assisted me in my campaign as well as, Mr. Speaker, the oldest resident of Kugaaruk, Jose Angutingornik. I will be writing them a "thank you" letter soon, but it will take time as I wish to ensure that there are no mistakes in it. These two residents are the oldest people in their respective communities and I thank them both from the bottom of my heart.

As well, my wife, Celine, who was unable to attend to this inaugural meeting due to other commitments and I regret her not being here for this, Mr. Speaker, I thank her immensely as I have put her in a difficult situation as a mother, but she supported me wholeheartedly in my quest to return to politics.

The role of mothers in Nunavut is to support their relatives and as families undergo stress, the mother is always the bedrock or foundation upon which the family stands upon. I thank my wife with all my heart. I also wish to thank my grandchildren and all my relatives.

At this time, I don't have a whole lot to say other than my gratitude to my

constituents. Mr. Speaker, I will be here for four years, God willing, and I wish to reiterate that legislation is not always a barrier. Sometimes you have to adhere to the law, although it can result in a long process such as what happened in our riding. That was an unfortunate situation, but we have to follow the law if we are to provide good governance to our people.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I wish to thank you and all of my colleagues here in this House.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Welcome to the House. (interpretation ends) Members' Statements. Member for South Baffin, Mr. Schell.

#### **Member's Statement 027 – 3(1): Inuksuit from Cape Dorset**

**Mr. Schell:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, I would like to congratulate John Ningark for being the newest 19th member here and hopefully your battle won't be as hard this time around as it was to get here.

Secondly, Mr. Speaker, I brought these Inuksuit here today as a symbol of friendship and direction for the new legislature. These are Inuksuit that were made in Cape Dorset by Inuit carvers and they are also the official symbol of the Vancouver 2010 Olympics.

Also, I would like to thank the Premier and all the ministers for choosing Cape Dorset as their Cabinet retreat. I hope you guys enjoyed it and had a good time

and won't forget Cape Dorset, I won't forget you guys.

Third of all, I would like to say that it's nice to see everybody here, all 19 members, and hopefully it will be a good session. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. Elliott.

**Member's Statement 028 – 3(1):  
Establishment of the High Arctic  
Council**

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to thank John Ningark. He makes it look very easy, we have been around since October and I know I'm nervous, and he's just standing there and he talks so very eloquently to us, so I'll try and catch up with him.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to inform the House about the successful and historic meeting that the High Arctic Council held here in Iqaluit on February 26. This meeting brought together the mayors and SAOs of the three communities which I represent, being Arctic Bay, Grise Fiord, and Resolute Bay.

As the members are aware, the issue of transportation in the High Arctic is a major concern for my constituents. The meeting of the High Arctic Council in Iqaluit provided an excellent opportunity to speak directly with representatives from our major airlines and other stakeholders.

I am pleased to take this opportunity to formally thank Minister of Economic

Development and Transportation Peter Taptuna for being able to attend this meeting. His willingness to listen to our concerns and ideas has been very much appreciated.

I would also like to thank Senator Willie Adams for his participation and support, as well as the Baffin Regional Chamber of Commerce in assisting in organizing the event.

Mr. Speaker, it is this type of collegial, cooperative and collaborative teamwork that will help our communities to achieve progress and reach solutions.

Mr. Speaker, a number of excellent initiatives and ideas were discussed at this meeting.

Firstly, the meeting provided the occasion for the formal establishment of the High Arctic Council. I look forward to keeping this House informed on an ongoing basis of the council's activities and initiatives.

The status of the Government of Nunavut's development of a new Transportation Strategy for the territory was reviewed by participants. I look forward to this important document being tabled in the Legislative Assembly. I also look forward to supporting the GN's efforts to obtain much needed federal investments in airport infrastructure improvements in our territory.

Representatives from First Air, Kenn Borek Air and Unaalik Air briefed participants on their plans to develop scheduling solutions that will better serve and connect our communities.

Mr. Speaker, we were also pleased that Senator Adams indicated that he will continue to raise issues of concern in his role as one of Nunavut's two federal Parliamentarians.

Mr. Speaker, as I noted in my Member's Statement of January 26, recent federal announcements and initiatives concerning the High Arctic are of tremendous importance to my constituents. I see a need for federal, territorial, and local leaders to work closely together on such issues as infrastructure development and use.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you. I would like request unanimous consent to continue with my Member's Statement.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I also urge appropriate parties to work together to address the need for access to affordable airline services. I continue to believe that the legacy of the High Arctic relocations means that the federal government has a responsibility in this matter.

The establishment of the High Arctic Council will help us to move forward together on these issues and I ask all members to join me in paying tribute to

the determination of my communities to achieve progress. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. I would like to remind all members to slow down when they're speaking so that the interpreters can keep up.

Members' Statements. Member for Nanulik, Johnny Ningeongan.

**Member's Statement 029 – 3(1): The Chesterfield Inlet Development Corporation: A Nunavut Success Story**

**Mr. Ningeongan** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, I would like to thank my constituents in Coral Harbour and Chesterfield Inlet for welcoming me into the community when I came home from my travel.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Chesterfield Inlet Development Corporation for being one of Nunavut's success stories.

Mr. Speaker, as members know, our small, non-decentralized communities are faced with the challenge of creating employment and economic opportunities for our residents.

The mandate of the Chesterfield Inlet Development Corporation is to promote economic development in the community and to develop training and employment opportunities.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud of the people who have put so much work into creating this development corporation. It

is owned by the residents of Chesterfield Inlet and accountable to the residents of Chesterfield Inlet.

I would like to pay tribute to the members of its board of directors: Marc Ippiak, President; George Tanuyak, Vice-President; Arthur Kattagatsiak, Director; Roy Mullins, Director; and Patrick Putulik, Director.

Mr. Speaker, the corporation and its subsidiaries are involved in a number of initiatives, including the operation of the Naja Isabelle Home. It is also involved in joint ventures that do major construction contracting work.

Mr. Speaker, the Chesterfield Inlet Development Corporation was awarded the Kivalliq Chamber of Commerce's Business of the Year Award in 2006. This award was well-deserved and reflects the corporation's commitment to employment and training for Inuit and local residents.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage our government to pursue policies that support local initiatives and seek to build a strong economic future for Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. (interpretation ends) Members' Statements. Mr. Arvaluk.

**Member's Statement 030 – 3(1):  
Narwhal Cull in Pond Inlet This  
Winter**

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to speak to a situation that occurred in our

community this winter, more specifically with respect to the harvesting of entrapped narwhal which was in the national news in November.

First of all, I wish to welcome Mr. Ningark to the legislature as we were previously colleagues in the NWT legislature in Yellowknife. Mr. Ningark is a very talented and capable politician, so please extend your congratulations to him.

With respect to the issue I wanted to raise, specifically with regard to the narwhal that were culled due to their entrapment in the sea ice in our community, the total number of narwhal trapped by the thickening ice was over 600.

Throughout this entire process, the matter was expertly handled by the board of the Mittimatalik Hunters and Trappers Association. They initiated the discussions with the appropriate federal and territorial departments, and came to an agreement with the Nunavut Department of Environment, the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans, and the membership of the HTO on the leftover carcasses.

The agreement was that the remaining carcasses would be sunk into the sea and this particular spot is extremely deep. They completed this laborious exercise and on top of that, the HTO also set aside 25 narwhal carcasses as a memorial to be placed on Inuit owned lands across from the community of Pond Inlet. These bones will serve as a reminder of the unfortunate situation that transpired outside of our community.

Additionally, I would like to express my gratitude to Nunavummiut as most of the people I have met expressed their thanks to the Inuit of Pond Inlet for their generosity and because they were able to have some of the prized delicacy from the residents of Pond Inlet. On behalf of my constituents of Pond Inlet, I wish to thank each and every community in Nunavut for their gratitude, and people were only too happy to share in the wealth.

Lastly, I wish to express my immense pride in the abilities of the HTO board for their hard work, which started immediately upon the spotting of the *Savvassat* up to today. They have ensured that this entire process was handled carefully and efficiently. When they started to butcher the *Mattaaq* for distribution, they had upwards of 86 Inuit working for them during the two weeks that they undertook the cull. This was all to ensure that there was no wastage of edible parts, to ensure that there was nothing left behind, and to ensure that Inuit conducted themselves professionally.

The last of the work has been completed to date and all of the remaining carcasses have been sunk. As well, 25 skeletons have been placed on Inuit owned lands. All of the carcasses were checked prior to being sunk to ensure that there was no wastage.

Finally, I would like to notify all of the participants of the upcoming Nunavut Quest from Arctic Bay to Pond Inlet that they will be warmly welcomed and offered *Mattaaq* and their dogs will also have leftover meat to eat. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Members' Statements. If there are no more, (interpretation ends) Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Deputy Premier, Hon. Peter Taptuna.

#### **Item 4: Returns to Oral Questions**

##### **Return to Oral Question 005 – 3(1): Emergency Contingency Plan for the High Arctic**

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On January 26, 2009, the Hon. Member for Quttiktuq expressed his concern that the single airline with service into Grise Fiord could potentially stop service to that community altogether. The member asked if the Government of Nunavut has an emergency plan in place to deal with this situation, whether it arose in Grise Fiord or any other community in Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, I can advise all the members that their communities will continue to receive air services. The Government of Nunavut and the federal government both have contracts in place which obligate the carriers to maintain a certain level of service, and we will ensure that the obligations under these contracts are met.

These contracts are for delivery of mail, delivery of food mail, and medical travel on a scheduled airline form the basis of the air carrier's viability. Any withdrawal of service we have seen has been by a company that does not have any of these contracts in place, where the carrier's revenues are dependent on discretionary travel by people and businesses.

Mr. Speaker, other than the medical travel contract, these arrangements are between federal agencies and the air carriers. My officials have been in contact with Canada Post, who administers the federal contracts, and they have assured us that they would spare no expense getting other arrangements in place immediately in the unlikely event that a carrier defaults on one of these contracts for essential services.

Mr. Speaker, the government does not have an emergency plan; however, I hope the information provided fully addresses the member from Quttiktuq's concerns, and that he and the other members are assured that essential transportation services will remain in all communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Taptuna. Returns to Oral Questions. (interpretation) If there are no more, Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Pauloosie.

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

**Mr. Pauloosie:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize my wife, Celine, and my grandson, my *Tiguaq* from my eldest son, Devon Pauloosie, at the back there. Thank you.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome to the Gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. There are no more. (interpretation ends) Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit West, Mr. Okalik.

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

##### **Question 011 – 3(1): Government of Nunavut's Response to EU Sealing Ban**

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to extend a warm welcome to my colleagues and Mr. Ningark. Welcome and thank you.

My question is directed to the Premier, whom I wish to welcome to her role. My question is with respect to the seal fur industry. In particular, this issue is dear to the hearts of Nunavummiut and they are very concerned about the antics of the European Union, who are trying to ban sealskin sales in their economic zone.

They announced their intentions to implement the ban of trading sealskins on March 2, but our government was ominously silent on this issue and what their position was with respect to this proposed ban. It was not until March 10 that our government provided their response, which was, to me, inadequate as it only stated their disagreement with this decision.

Why did it take over a week to provide a response paper to the issue which is of utmost importance to our people? Why did Nunavummiut have to wait a whole week to hear from their government? All Inuit residents oppose this ban, so why did it take a week to produce a single page? Why did we have to wait so long for a response on such an important matter? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Okalik. Premier of Nunavut, (interpretation ends) Hon. Eva Ariak.



**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm glad that he raised the question with respect to this issue. The sealskin issue is a very important matter. Indeed, it is one of the most important issues facing Nunavummiut and the Inuit homelands. This is due to the fact that seals provide sustenance, warm clothing, and it allowed Inuit to survive, and that's how important this issue is to Inuit.

Furthermore, as a Premier, along with the Executive Council members, I know that this matter is our most trying issue. That page was sent out prior to it being publicized, and I commit to further positions on this matter in the future as I consider this a very important issue for Nunavummiut and I will continue to do so. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we are on the same page in that regard as it is extremely important to Nunavummiut.

I believe that she didn't reply to my original question. My question again is: why did Nunavummiut have to wait over a week to hear the response from our government to these animal rights activists? We all know that this ban will take effect on April 1 of this year, which is less than a month away already. What will our government do to try and stop this ban that will adversely affect us? Thank you, Mr. Speaker

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Hon. Eva Aariak.

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Thank you. As per my previous statement, this is an extremely important issue for Inuit and all Nunavummiut as sealskin is still an important material.

We work with the various departments, namely the Department of the Environment, and through this collaboration, we were able to provide a response and this is what we produced. As I stated earlier, I will continue to work on this file and provide more responses as needed down the road. This is what I'm saying. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Although the Premier is talking about this issue, she seems to be ducking the question that I'm raising. When a question is not answered directly, it casts doubt on the veracity of the importance placed on the issue.

If it was indeed a very important matter for our government, our Premier ought to answer the question immediately as to why our government didn't prepare a position on the issue and raise their strenuous objections and their plan of action to try and stop the ban prior to the vote on the matter in April.

How will our government try to stop this ban? Will you be requesting assistance from the federal government? What will our government do? Examples include action items by our government to try to influence the vote prior to April. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Okalik. We're experiencing

technical difficulties with our audio.  
Premier Eva Aariak.

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have been working very closely with the Minister of Environment, who may be better able to provide more details and a better response. We have both responded to this question and it's quite obvious that this is a very important matter for Nunavummiut.

Mr. Speaker, my question to you is if you would allow the Minister of Environment to respond to the member's question should he wish to do so. Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Premier. Mr. Shewchuk, the Premier asked if you would like to provide a response.

**Hon. Daniel Shewchuk**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I would like to advise the member from Iqaluit West that we have been heavily involved in dealing with the sealing issue in Nunavut and in Canada.

We have been part of a delegation of Canada to attend two meetings in Europe - one in Brussels and one in Prague - that my deputy minister attended, in cohesion with Canada, to explain and educate the European Union on how important the sealing industry is in Canada. So we have played a very heavy part and we will continue to do that.

We will wait until this decision comes out from the European nations to see what happens finally but after that, we will take further action, in conjunction

with Canada, to proceed with this matter. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It seems that our government is unwilling to provide a response to my question and I'm running out of time in trying to get a proper response, so let me try again. Why did it take our government over a week to provide a response to this proposed ban?

We have known about this matter and yet, that day is fast approaching. April 1 is just a couple of weeks away and the best our government can do is send staff to Europe to defend our interests? We have elected representatives who are appointed to represent us on issues such as this and to defend our interests.

Why is this government treating this issue as a trivial matter? It seems that our government is avoiding the issue. What will be the actions it takes to defend its constituents? Why are you taking this so lightly? April 1 is approaching for this proposed ban and it seems like there's no plan of action.

Our government seems to be playing games on a matter that affects the majority of Nunavummiut and this seems to not overly concern them as all they have done is send staff to defend our interests on a very important and serious matter. I find it unbelievable as it reveals a lack of credibility on our government's part. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Okalik. Premier of Nunavut, Eva Aariak.

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Thank you. We are not playing at all. This matter affects all Nunavummiut as our food, clothing, and livelihood will be affected. So when we talk about these issues, we are not treating it like a game.

My colleague, the Minister of Environment, stated quite succinctly that we are working on this issue, we are taking action, and we will continue to work on addressing this issue now and in the future. Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Premier. Oral Questions. (interpretation ends) Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Rumbolt.

### **Question 012 – 3(1): Harvesters' Concerns in Sanikiluaq**

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question today is for the Minister responsible for the Environment.

Mr. Speaker, the Department of Environment administers the government's fur pricing program, which is very important to hunters in our communities. The department describes the program as a "service the government provides to assist harvesters with selling their furs for competitive prices and provides quick upfront payments for their skins."

The polar bear hunting season in Sanikiluaq recently ended and hunters in my community have encountered problems in selling their hides. I have been informed by hunters that the

ongoing lack of a conservation officer in the community has contributed to this situation.

Can the minister tell me today what actions his department will take to ensure that Sanikiluaq hunters can sell their harvest in the near future? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Minister of the Environment, Hon. Daniel Shewchuk.

**Hon. Daniel Shewchuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to advise the hon. member that yes, a job offer has been made and a conservation officer will be in the community I believe on April 6. Thank you.

**Speaker:** Thank you. (interpretation) Are you done? (interpretation ends) Your first supplementary, Mr. Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt:** I thank the minister for his response and I'm very happy that somebody is going there soon. April 6 is another three weeks away and there are many hunters who are ready to sell their hides now. Is there anything that can be done so that people can sell their hides in the very near future? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you. Minister Shewchuk.

**Hon. Daniel Shewchuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I'll take that request back to my department and there may be a possibility of sending somebody in relief there to deal with the situation. Thank you.

**Speaker:** Thank you. Your second supplementary, Mr. Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Again, I thank the minister for his response. My final question will be: if we can't get somebody to the community fairly quickly, can it be arranged that the local hunters and trappers organization can assist in purchasing the furs for the time being? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you. Minister Shewchuk.

**Hon. Daniel Shewchuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That could be an option. We would prefer that we send one of our staff in because it takes some time to train people to deal with the process of buying and receiving furs. It is an option but we will try and send somebody in there if we can. Thank you.

**Speaker:** Thank you. (interpretation) Oral Questions. Member for Akulliq, Mr. Ningark.

### **Question 013 – 3(1): Electoral Boundaries Commission**

**Mr. Ningark:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Hon. Premier of this government.

My question is: would it be possible to revisit the Report of the Nunavut Electoral Boundaries Commission that was done in the previous government? For one thing, the people of Akulliq may have some very fundamental issues to talk about in the report. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningark. This is an issue that is dealt

with by the Management and Services Board. However, the question was directed to the Premier, so I will allow her to respond if she wishes to do so. Premier of Nunavut, Eva Aariak.

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This matter is indeed an important issue clearly because the riding had to undergo an electoral winding process in the last election. This government doesn't deal with this matter and I return it to you. Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Premier. I also wish to thank you for directing this question to me. I will be putting forward a report regarding the question you have just raised and you will be able to receive that report in writing.

Oral Questions. Mr. Elliott.

### **Question 014 – 3(1): Federal Initiatives in the High Arctic**

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wholeheartedly believe in what our newest member, Mr. Ningark, was saying in terms of his Member's Statement. We are here to push for our communities and for our constituents and it's for this reason I ask this question to our Premier.

On February 20 of this year, the federal Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs announced that three Nunavut communities are on Ottawa's short list for the location of Canada's new High Arctic Research Station. One of these communities is Resolute Bay.

As the Premier is aware, Resolute Bay already hosts some significant infrastructure that, in my view, makes the community the ideal location for this new facility.

Can the Premier indicate to the House today whether the GN has made a formal recommendation to Ottawa concerning this issue? Thank you.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Premier of Nunavut, Hon. Eva Aariak.

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am grateful for his factual line of questioning and I commit to responding to the member as soon as I have the appropriate information. Thank you.

**Speaker:** Thank you. Your question is taken as notice. (interpretation) Oral Questions. Member for South Baffin, Mr. Schell.

**Question 015 – 3(1): NWT Rates Compared to Nunavut Energy Rates**

**Mr. Schell:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Hon. Hunter Tootoo for Qulliq Energy. He keeps on saying that Qulliq Energy is running smoothly, which I hope it is, but my question is: why are our rates here so much higher than in the NWT?

**Speaker:** Thank you. Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation, Hon. Hunter Tootoo.

**Hon. Hunter Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for my first question. It will go down in my logbook as, “My good friend and colleague from

South Baffin asked me my first question,” and I appreciate it.

Mr. Speaker, I think it’s very simple. If you look at part of the rates in the Northwest Territories, they do have some communities that are on the hydro system and also the transportation costs and fuel costs are lower in the NWT than they are here in Nunavut. And I would venture to guess that that would be a very good rationale as to why it costs more to produce and supply energy in Nunavut than it does in the NWT. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister. Your first supplementary, Mr. Schell.

**Mr. Schell:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In that case, I would also like to ask: when is the Power Corporation, with the price of fuel going down in future years, going to take that 12.5 percent rider and reduce it or to help all the consumers now with the high power rates?

We know that the prices are going to be down in the fall. Are they going to wait until fall or are they going to do it a little earlier? Thank you.

**Speaker:** Thank you. Minister Tootoo.

**Hon. Hunter Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It’s my understanding that when we set the Fuel Stabilization Rider, I believe that’s the FSR that the member asked about, it is set in place by the corporation to cover off the cost of the purchase of fuel for that year and that rate is set based on the cost for this past year when we unfortunately got our fuel at around \$140 per barrel. We have to recuperate those costs and that’s what the Fuel Stabilization Rider is there for.

If our costs come in lower next year, then I would say that that may not be the case of having to keep the FSR in place. My understanding right now is that it is in place until I believe June of this year and then it will be re-looked at again at that time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister.  
(interpretation) Are you done?  
(interpretation ends) Oral Questions.  
Member for Iqaluit West, Mr. Okalik.

**Question 016 – 3(1): Inuit  
Representation in the Public  
Service of Nunavut**

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Human Resources.

As the minister will be aware, between the 2004-05 and 2006-07 fiscal years, the government made a total of 268 direct appointments to the public service. Over 98 percent of the people who received direct appointments were qualified Inuit beneficiaries of the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement*.

The approach taken by our government during this time was to use the direct appointment process as an important tool to help increase Inuit representation in our public service. However, I heard that that process has been suspended. So why has there been a decision to suspend or end the use of direct appointments?  
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Daniel Shewchuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We did suspend direct appointments for a period of time but we

have initiated that program again and we are doing direct appointments. We did that so we could review the process of how direct appointments are done and be transparent and open to all people, and we want to have open and fair competitions for all Nunavummiut to apply for positions.

Where there are qualified people in positions to be directly appointed under certain criteria they will continue to do so. Thank you.

**Speaker:** Thank you. Your first supplementary, Mr. Okalik.

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Looking at the process that we used, in January of the year 2000, there were only 888 Inuit beneficiaries employed by the government. By using the direct appointment process, the government had been able to increase that number to over 1,500 employees. We achieved an increase of over 70 percent in less than 10 years as a government. Why are you rescinding this program that provided such benefits to our government and the Inuit? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Shewchuk.

**Hon. Daniel Shewchuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the member knows, that is the target and the goal of this government is to increase Inuit employment across the territory.

We are taking steps to deal with casuals that we have hired and the majority of casuals we do have hired are Inuit people working for the GN right now. Through this direct appointment process,

we hope to initiate many direct appointments in the near future for Inuit people. Also in our recruitment campaigns, we are trying to recruit and train more Inuit in the workforce. So we are trying our best to address this problem. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I urge the minister to learn Inuktitut a little bit more and what it means to us because he said Inuit twice in English.

I strongly encourage the minister to apply the direct appointment policy again because there are still way too few beneficiaries working within government. It was a good policy to directly appoint Inuit. Inuit were training on the job as casuals.

But casual employees do not qualify for staff housing until they are appointed. I urge the minister to apply this policy again as many Inuit got tired of waiting. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Shewchuk.

**Hon. Daniel Shewchuk**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the member well knows, we are trying to address this problem with human resources and that is our intention. Our goal is to lessen our casual rate and increase our permanent employee rate in Nunavut so that people have permanent positions. This is difficult at the time. We are trying to streamline our competition process better and really take a look at our whole human resources department to deal with

this problem in the future in a better manner. Thank you.

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

### **Question 017 – 3(1): Hiring Policy of Regional and Headquarters Offices**

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to direct my question to the Minister of Human Resources, Minister Shewchuk.

This is part and parcel of the question that my colleague, Mr. Okalik, posed just now. If I use my community as an example, it's a decentralized community and the government has an office there. There's a difference between centralized and decentralized communities.

For example, if a person is working for the hamlet, or the Co-op, or a private company, it's perfectly fine, but the problem is this: when the children are coming in and they start getting in-laws, there are three employees who are now working for the government. If there were people working at the Co-op, they start asking their relatives to come in and they take the government jobs.

If we look at the Baffin region, it seems like the program directors in the communities for economic development, education, and I believe finance have more authority than human resources in Igloolik. My question is: how much support does your department give when it comes to public service? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. (interpretation ends) Minister of Human Resources, Hon. Daniel Shewchuk.

**Hon. Daniel Shewchuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for the question. Yes, the headquarters of human resources in Iqaluit gives as much support as they can. I must tell you that the competition process we have in place right now is open and transparent, and that is why individuals are encouraged to apply that have proper qualifications for positions. If they are unhappy with an outcome of a competition, they do have a process where they can grieve that process. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. He didn't respond to my question with respect to the Human Resources' regional office is in Igloolik.

Again in the past, even during the NWT days to date, an Inuk could be trained for an employment opportunity, and I believe management is included, and get paid 75 percent and then their pay gets increased to 100 percent once their training is completed. Have these types of programs been removed? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. That was your first supplementary and not your second. Minister Shewchuk.

**Hon. Daniel Shewchuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm not aware of that

program being in the government where the employee is paid 75 percent to be in a training position. However, casual employees are used a lot as training positions and that's why we still do want to keep casual employees on. But I am unaware and I can check into it for the member about the 75 percent of a training position, I'm not aware of that. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm not concerned if it was removed, but we now realize and we realized when Mr. Okalik was asking questions that we now find that there are casual positions that are overly used within the government.

If a young casual is flown in from the south and placed in a casual position, then it becomes obvious that they will be put in a permanent position. Why is it that the government is not putting a priority on, for example, Pond Inlet residents?

There are a lot of qualified people there, so why aren't they placed as priorities when hiring for casual positions? There are people who are hired from the south, I know where they're from and I won't say where, but why aren't the residents of communities placed as priorities when they're hiring employees? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Shewchuk.

**Hon. Daniel Shewchuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm unaware of the



situation in Pond Inlet where people are being flown in from the south to take casual positions. But I can tell you the case that casual people are usually hired in the local community for short-term help and then they are more qualified to apply for the position when a competition becomes open, and that's our standard process that we use. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Arvaluk**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the minister's answer. Of course, he's not aware; it's not going to be told by his own staff, "Here's what we're doing."

Can he at least undertake to investigate in Pond Inlet - I'm using this as an example, it might be some other community, a decentralized community where they might have similar practices - at least to investigate as to what kind of job placement has been practiced in that community as far as hiring from the south is concerned before hiring a casual person from within the town? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Shewchuk.

**Hon. Daniel Shewchuk**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I can commit to that, to checking into the situation in Pond Inlet about hiring from the south. I just want to add to that, though, that usually, we do not hire casuals from the south, but sometimes we do hire positions from the south that are qualified for skilled and technical positions. I think it is different, but I commit to check into that for the member. Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Akulliq, Mr. Ningark.

### **Question 018 – 3(1): Cause of Fire of New House in Kugaaruk**

**Mr. Ningark** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is in regard to the government that was in power during the Second Assembly. The government that was in power during the summer of 2008 was handling the issue of housing. As we all know, we have an acute shortage of housing in Nunavut and the waiting lists for available housing are very lengthy.

In Kugaaruk, a young person has been waiting for housing. He was on the housing list while the unit was being constructed. It was almost completed and all it required was the final inspection. It was slotted to be next on the final inspection list, but the building went up in flames. This was a new housing unit which burned down in the summer of 2008 and it provided expectations to a number of people.

I would like to raise this question to the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation since we were never apprised of the causes: why did it burn up? Was it due to faulty wiring or improper construction that this house burned up? We have never been notified as to what the cause of the fire was. Was the fire caused by vandalism? We don't know what the exact cause was.

In Kugaaruk, that unit was inside the municipality and I would like the minister or his staff to inform the residents of Kugaaruk as to what the exact cause of the fire was. Can the

minister look into this matter and provide a response to the people of Kugaaruk? We would like to find out what the cause was. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you. Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Hon. Hunter Tootoo.

**Hon. Hunter Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the member for his question. I just want to inform the member that the particular unit that he is referring to in his question was a unit that was constructed under the Material Assistance Program by the Housing Corporation. The corporation would provide the materials to the client and then the client would hire someone to build the house for them. The extent of the corporation's involvement is strictly on providing the materials to the client.

It's my understanding that the individual had a contractor build the unit and it was just a few weeks, as the member indicated, prior to the final completion of the house that it went up in flames, and I don't have a copy of the fire report on it.

I would suggest that I confer with my colleague at CG&S and the fire marshal's office, if the actual report has been completed and turned in to them, to see if that's there and provide that information to the member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Ningark:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I didn't get the last sentence of the minister. Was the minister indicating that he will provide the report to me directly? Thank you.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Member. Minister Tootoo.

**Hon. Hunter Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I apologize to the member if he didn't hear me. I was saying that I would check with my colleague with CG&S and with the fire marshal, and if there is a report that has been done on that particular fire by the fire marshal's office and if it can be shared with the member, I would be more than happy to do that, yes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for South Baffin, Mr. Schell.

#### **Question 019 – 3(1): Medical Travel for Inuit and Non-Inuit**

**Mr. Schell:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Hon. Member Tagak Curley of Health and Social Services and it's in regard to medical travel.

I have concerns from my community that if a service is not offered to the community, why do non-Inuit have to pay for the travel and Inuit don't? Is it subsidized by the Government of Nunavut or some other organizations? Can you explain to me why there are two different systems there? Thank you.

**Speaker:** Thank you. Minister of Health and Social Services, Hon. Tagak Curley.

**Hon. Tagak Curley:** Thank you. (interpretation) Firstly, I would like to

thank you and welcome the member who just arrived in this House, Mr. John Ningark, as well as extend my welcome to my constituents who are watching the proceedings on television.

The member's question is an important one and first of all, this is especially so in Nunavut and in Canada. The federal government is empowered, under the Canadian Constitution, to deal with specific responsibilities of certain medical services.

And further, medical expenses that are incurred to address health issues of Nunavut Inuit are paid 100 percent by the federal government. As well, the Nunavut health department provides medical insurance through public health. There are certain medical services provided free of charge and most Canadians are in the category.

However, with respect to medical travel, where you posed your question, I will have to conduct a bit more research and I would like to ascertain what actually transpired in the circumstance that you alluded to. I would like to find out more about the matter that was raised in the member's question. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Schell:** This has to do with the medical travel. There have been times where Inuit and non-Inuit, but mainly Inuit, that have left Cape Dorset for Iqaluit to go to the hospital and there has been no room in the boarding home and apparently they have been told that they have to find their own accommodations.

In one case, of course, they didn't know anybody in Iqaluit.

So my question is: why would they send somebody here if there is no room and if there is no room, why wouldn't they make arrangements to find a spot for them to stay at? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Tagak Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to thank the member for providing more contexts to this minister and he has made it clear. If that did transpire, then we have to conduct a more thorough review and I really am interested in all of the reasons or causes that made this happen. Due to these reasons, I would like to inform the member that I will take this question as notice and provide a response after I get all of the pertinent information. Thank you.

**Speaker:** Thank you. Your question has been taken as notice. Oral Questions. Member of Iqaluit West, Mr. Okalik.

### **Question 020 – 3(1): Medical Boarding Rates for Nunavummiut**

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Darn it, I missed my opportunity again as I wanted to pose the question first to the Minister of Health and Social Services. I would like to take this opportunity to emulate what he used to do to me. He used to do this to me, so I am playfully emulating his previous posture.

>> *Laughter*

I wish to pose a question with regard to the Tammaativvik Boarding Home in Iqaluit. It's continually overbooked and the overflow of patients end up having to be billeted in private homes.

I believe that the minister remembers that the federal government cut funding for medical travel and associated expenses, and of the fact that our MP is currently the Minister of Health and Social Services. While we have that opportunity available to us, I would like to ask the minister to try and negotiate the billeting rates to better reflect the costs of billeting medical patients in private homes.

I would like to first ask the minister if he has contacted the federal Minister of Health and Social Services to ask for a meeting in regard to this issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Health and Social Services, (interpretation ends) Hon. Tagak Curley.

**Hon. Tagak Curley** (interpretation): Thank you. I wish to thank the member for raising this issue and I completely understand the situation that the member has raised. We are still using the agreement that was reached in 2004 and it's still being applied as the previous government agreed to those rates.

Particularly in regard to non-insured health benefits that were negotiated in 2004, there are three separate categories for billet rates that are applied for billeting patients. First of all, there's the young child rate, from birth up to three years of age, whereby they pay \$10 per night and from four to nine years old, the rate is increased to \$25 per night, and for

all other patients from nine onwards, it's \$50 per night.

I can tell the member from Iqaluit West that this government doesn't approve of these current rates. We have informed the managers of this program, which goes through a technical committee of the federal government that NTI is included in, that we have to change the rates to reflect the higher cost of living in Nunavut.

Yet, we have not heard any responses and they are still working on it. We are expecting a raise in the rates as our cost of living in Nunavut is the highest in the country. As an example, if we were to go out for supper, just one supper can cost upwards of \$50. For those reasons, I have informed the staff that it's inadequate to say the least. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I would like to add on to this issue to the minister. Your federal counterpart is from Nunavut and her portfolio is Health and Social Services. Can you encourage her to look into these rates and to reopen the matter of rates to better reflect the cost of living here in Nunavut so that our residents can meet their needs when they are billeting medical patients? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Tagak Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I commit to doing that. I can inform the member that we will get in contact with the

federal minister. Further, the technical committee is quite an integral part of this process, which NTI is part of, as they represent the northern aboriginal peoples.

The matter that we are dealing with is the non-insured health benefits across the board and each community is dealt with differently. We have heard of cases where certain communities have to get rides to the airport where it's further away and the taxi vouchers are required both for the outgoing and incoming portion of their travel. Certain communities are not eligible.

Some of the items have to be better negotiated and there are quite a number of them we can discuss. We will inform the minister about our concerns, but the technical committee negotiates these rates. As an example, our government is represented, along with NTI, and all of the parties have to agree on the rates and/or support the changes.

However, I can tell the member that we will be working hard to change some of these rates and I commit to dealing with this issue at a faster pace. Thank you

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

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also wish to thank the minister for his speedy response. As I stated earlier, the current boarding home is just too small as it is overbooked, especially with the increased capacity of the new hospital that can take in more patients from outlying communities.

Due to these issues you are facing, I know that the department has plans for a

new boarding home here. What is the current status of this initiative to construct a new boarding home? I ask this in the interest of lowering the costs of billeting so many patients and to raise the rate to better reflect the cost of living in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Tagak Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for raising that question. Just a short while ago, as a matter of fact, it was this fall that there was a public tender for the construction of the new boarding home with a capacity of 90 beds.

However, when the lowest bidder was awarded the contract, there was an issue that certain parties did not agree with and the matter was taken to court by the losing bidders. I believe it was as recent as last month when the case went to court and that process has been completed.

The appeal process is now over and issues were dealt with. Now that these hurdles have been overcome, we expect that the process can now commence and that they can start construction on the boarding home this coming summer. Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Pangnirtung, Mr. Komoartok.

#### **Question 021 – 3(1): Will Cost of Fuel Decrease in June**

**Mr. Komoartok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to pose my

question to the Premier of our government.

Last year, all communities in Nunavut, including all the local hunters and private homeowners, felt the additional price increase in fuel costs in June when heating fuel and gasoline prices were increased.

It seems that based on current prices, when our government is looking at the bulk fuel purchase for the territory this upcoming summer, it should be substantially lower than last year. I believe it is less than half of the amounts paid last year.

When we hit June, which is the first anniversary of that price increase, we were forced to pay for last summer. Will the prices be lowered to reflect the actual costs of fuel? I would like to get an answer on this matter. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**An Hon. Member:** Good question.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Premier of Nunavut, (interpretation ends) Hon. Eva Aariak.

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): I thank the member for asking the question. If I understood his line of questioning, I believe he is asking about the fuel costs. The division that handles the issue is under the department of CGS, I apologize; it's under the Department of Finance's portfolio. I would like to pass this question to the Minister of Finance if I may, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. I will have the Minister of Finance

respond to the question. (interpretation ends) Hon. Keith Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for asking that question. Just last year, we recognized the difficulties for the harvesters in Nunavut and the previous government developed a Fuel Tax Rebate Program which is being implemented across Nunavut.

Last year, there were 44 applications to the program and this year, there have been 67, so the harvesters are accessing this program. It's a fairly straightforward and simplified program that if they go visit their community economic development officers, they can receive assistance. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Komoartok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I asked this question for which I didn't get a response. Last June, we were inundated with a large fuel price increase on both heating fuel and gasoline. So when June rolls around again, will this government be reviewing this issue of costs? I believe the costs of fuel will be substantially lower than last year.

Nunavummiut are now expecting a price decrease or a subsidy as we were caught off guard last summer. Will the costs of fuel be revisited and revised this summer? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I again thank the member for asking the question. Harvesters are a very important part of our economy.

I have talked to my colleague, the Minister of Community and Government Services, and once all of the fuel prices were known, they were going to review the pricing possibly by mid-year. So we will explore the possibilities of offering a subsidy to the harvesters. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Question 022 – 3(1): Lower Prices for Fuel**

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With respect to this issue, I, too, wish to direct my question to (interpretation ends) the Minister of Gas.

>> *Laughter*

(interpretation) I wish to raise this question, which was partially raised by my colleague, Mr. Komoartok. You stated last January that the government doesn't believe that the price of fuel will increase substantially and that this government will not have to implement its hedging policy. It was stated that the funds currently set in reserve should suffice for our next bulk fuel purchase after April this spring.

I would like to ask; you implemented that fuel price increase in June, as per Mr. Komoartok's question, which is the prime hunting period for Inuit. Can this government reapply that practice by lowering the costs of gasoline in June

prior to Inuit going out boating? I would like to see an initiative that doesn't affect the hardest-hit section of Nunavummiut society and that is Inuit harvesters. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you. Minister of Energy, Hon. Lorne Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The fuel prices last year approached \$140 per barrel at its highest and the lowest price that year was close to \$37 per barrel.

Currently, fuel prices are lower and if we can purchase the fuel earlier on at those lower prices, we can then purchase the rest of the bulk fuel for all of Nunavut. However, it will only be after we purchase the entire amount that we will then know what the actual prices will be.

This summer, around June, it ought to be much clearer as to what the prices are and we would be better able to provide concrete figures for the members' information. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Sorry that I was chuckling, but it was due to this reason. They had no idea of the amounts that they would have to pay for the entire bulk fuel purchase once the fuel ships offloaded the fuel into the communities, but yet, they increased the fuel prices even before the ships had offloaded their liquid cargo.

They guesstimated the actual costs and some smartass bureaucrat probably didn't want to shock Inuit with the

doubling or tripling of the costs, so they implemented an incremental cost in June so that the shock would not be so great. But it was based on incomplete figures since they had no idea of the actual costs involved.

Why can't this government undertake the opposite side of that fiasco? The government knows that the fuel will be about \$40 per barrel or perhaps even \$50 per barrel because that was what the experts felt the market prices would be in June and this was the statement made by the Minister of Finance in January.

Why can't this government guesstimate its costs in June and lower the costs of fuel then to approximately half of what we are currently paying or half of \$40 per barrel? Has this government done any research or have an alternative plan so that this can be resolved prior to the boating season? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you. With respect to the issue of the bulk fuel purchase for this upcoming summer, we are making preparations as we speak for the purchase of fuel before the cost per barrel increases, so we are making plans already.

What I wanted to mention is it's quite obvious that the price per barrel will not approach the costs we were stuck with last year. However, this summer, we can guesstimate the approximate costs and make a decision pertaining to the proposed cost cuts the member is asking for.

However, I cannot state unequivocally that the price per barrel shall be such and such, but perhaps if this question was raised again in June, we can provide a firmer response as we will have a better idea of the actual costs after purchasing the fuel. They are currently still working on the purchasing of our bulk fuel for this summer. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's like this: let us return to the scenario we faced last summer. Just to look at the situation then, the Minister of Energy at the time, Mr. Picco, which most of you probably remember, started calling members in April.

At least he called me in Pond Inlet and explained the situation and what the government was considering as its options so as to limit the shock of the price increases scheduled for the fall.

The minister was calling the members to ask if they could agree to this price increase so that the price increase would not be so drastic in October. (interpretation ends) It makes sense, perfectly makes sense.

Mr. Speaker, a week ago, OPEC started cutting back their production. It already showed in the stock market that it has gone up a bit. Can the minister at least learn from last year and try to figure out approximately how much it's going to be when it's finally delivered and reduce the present prices in June rather than wait until October before the boating season starts? That's all I'm asking the



minister. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** If the prices of fuel are low enough when all of the fuel is purchased at that time, then hopefully we will be able to have lower prices than the current fuel prices.

I will assure the member that it benefits all of Nunavut if we can get fuel to be reduced and we will have a very good picture by June to see if we are able to do what the member is suggesting, which is maybe lowering the price of fuel. Thank you very much.

**Speaker:** Thank you. (interpretation) Oral Questions. Member for Akulliq, Mr. Ningark.

**Question 023 – 3(1): Money Back to Homeowners in Kugaaruk for Heating Fuel**

**Mr. Ningark** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With respect to my colleagues' line of questioning, I would like to pose this question which seems related. This winter, in the Akulliq region, it was extremely cold and was even colder than the previous year.

In Akulliq, in both Repulse Bay and Kugaaruk, there are a fair number of private homeowners. Perhaps, when the review of the fuel prices is completed, these private homeowners in the communities who have been paying this added cost for their heating fuel could be given a partial reimbursement. This is a question to the Minister of Finance. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Minister of Finance, Hon. Keith Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That question was asked in January by Mr. Okalik. We and the Department of Finance are reviewing that possibility, so I would like to assure the Member for Akulliq that we are, like him, concerned about the increased cost of fuel on homeowners. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you. Your first supplementary, Mr. Ningark.

**Mr. Ningark** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When can the Hon. Minister of Finance provide this information to me? Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can't provide it today but it is part of the main estimates process which will begin after the capital estimates process is over. We will be reviewing that and see if it should be considered in the main estimates which we will discuss in the House in May or June. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for South Baffin, Mr. Schell.

**Question 024 – 3(1): Purchasing Fuel during Low World Costs of Oil**

**Mr. Schell:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm going to attack the same two people on the fuel thing here.

I guess my question is: I know that there are a lot of companies down the road that do hedging and stuff on fuel, has the Nunavut government looked at hedging and why haven't they done it?

My understanding is that some companies have bought fuel stored in ships off the ocean there and the cost is approximately 75 cents a barrel to store it. So my question is: why did they not buy it when it was at \$37 a barrel? Are they going to wait until it hits \$60 or \$70?

**Speaker:** Thank you. Minister of Finance, Hon. Keith Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the hon. member for that question. I was one of the MLAs on the regular members' side that was after the hedging policy for years. It's a very complicated financial instrument, it's not to be used with haste, and it requires almost hourly monitoring of the fuel prices. We're aware that the price of a barrel of oil is low and it could go higher. It's one of the tools that we have available to us.

As my colleague indicated, we have other options at our disposal as well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you. Your first supplementary, Mr. Schell.

**Mr. Schell:** I guess my question is: what are the other options?

**Speaker:** Minister Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Schell for that question. The other option that we are

considering is the early purchase of fuel, where we don't necessarily have to go into hedging, the fuel is relatively inexpensive and not relative to what we were paying last year when the government thought the price of going up to \$200 a barrel.

I remember sitting in that meeting, and Mr. Arvaluk mentioned it, where we were presented with charts and graphs, you know, the fuel was going like this and straight up, and the government had to make a decision.

We recognize that the fuel prices are lower, so the Minister of Community and Government Services has worked with his officials on an early purchase option. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you. Your second supplementary, Mr. Schell.

**Mr. Schell:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I guess my question is: why was it not bought then at \$37 if it could have been bought earlier?

**Speaker:** Thank you. Minister Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for his persistence. I don't know exactly when we bought it. Some of it might have been bought at \$37 and some of it might have been bought at \$40, we don't know. You would have to ask my new colleague, the Minister of Community and Government Services. They're in charge of purchasing fuel. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you. Your final supplementary, Mr. Schell.

**Mr. Schell:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I guess I'll ask Mr. Kusugak that question then. Has the fuel been purchased already or are you about to purchase it? If it has been purchased, what price did you purchase some of the fuel at?

**Speaker:** Thank you. Minister of Energy, Hon. Lorne Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you. I guess the record high was \$140 US a barrel down to about \$48 US a barrel.

To date, the Petroleum Products Division has exercised an early purchase of fuel of 16.6 million litres of ultra-low sulphur diesel, ULSD, which is currently being stored in a facility owned by Woodward's for delivery when the 2009 resupply commences. By exercising an early purchase of this oil to date, we have saved approximately \$5.9 million. The first purchase of 16 million litres was purchased at 0.6075 cents per litre. I'm having trouble reading it because I busted my reading glasses this afternoon.

The second purchase of the ULSD purchase of approximately 20 million litres is being planned for some time in the next week or two. The gasoline purchase of approximately 16.5 million litres will be loaded in Montreal some time during this month. The price will be based on the three-day average as per our current supply agreement with Woodward's.

And that takes care of most of the eastern Arctic part of Nunavut's shipping, and the Kivalliq and Baffin area. Again, we still have a lot of fuel to purchase but this will help come June, when we can tally all the numbers. I

hope that is of help to you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Please note that Question Period is now over. Going back to the Orders of the Day. (interpretation ends) Item 7. Written Questions. 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. Mr. Okalik.

### **Item 13: Tabling of Documents**

#### **Tabled Document 011 – 3(1): Article from the National Post**

#### **Tabled Document 012 – 3(1): Nunavut Elections Predictions**

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table a couple of documents in the House. The first one is a copy of a recent article from the *National Post* by Barbara Cray titled *Nunavut Minister is Stripped by Big Sister of his Cabinet Post for Telling the Truth*. I encourage all members to read this document.

And the other one is from a deputy minister's computer records, authored during government work hours. It contains predictions on the Nunavut elections. Please note that two ministers are not on the list because they were not predicted to be elected.

Those are what I am tabling in the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Tabling of Documents. Mr. Elliott.

**Tabled Document 013 – 3(1):  
Nanisivik Naval Facility Project**

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table a copy of a presentation that was given by officials from the Department of National Defence concerning the proposed Nanisivik Naval Facility Project. This presentation was made at a special meeting of the Hamlet Council of Arctic Bay on October 27, 2008. I encourage all members to review the correspondence with care. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you. (interpretation) Tabling of Documents. Mr. Tapardjuk.

**Tabled Document 014 – 3(1): Nunavut  
Lottery – Financial Statements  
March 31, 2008**

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table today the financial statements of the Nunavut portion of the Western Canada Lottery Corporation. The tabling of this document is a statutory requirement under the *Western Canada Lottery Act*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Tabling of Documents. (interpretation ends) I, too, have a couple of documents to table.

**Tabled Document 015 – 3(1):  
Statutory Requirements for  
Tabling of Reports and Other  
Documents in the Legislative  
Assembly of Nunavut**

**Tabled Document 016 – 3(1): Report  
of the Chief Electoral Officer  
under Subsection 15(3) of the  
Nunavut Elections Act**

Thank you, Members. I wish to table today the document *Statutory Requirements for Tabling of Reports and Other Documents in the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut*. This list tracks the status of documents that are legally required to be tabled in the House.

Thank you. And the other document... Thank you, Members. I wish to table today the Report of the Chief Electoral Officer under subsection 15(3) of the *Nunavut Elections Act*.

Thank you. Tabling of Documents. Item 14. Notices of Motions. (interpretation) Wait a moment. Mr. Okalik.

**Item 14: Notices of Motions**

**Motion 016 – 3(1): Appointment of  
Deputy Speaker – Notice**

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Thursday, March 19, 2009, I will move the following motion:

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the Hon. Member for Quttiktuq, that Mr. Johnny Ningeongan be appointed Deputy Speaker and Chairperson of the Committee of the Whole.

Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time, I will seek unanimous consent to deal with my motion today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Notices of Motions. Mr. Okalik.

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Hold on, I'm sorry but Mr. Aupaluktuq was supposed to go first. Mr. Aupaluktuq.

**Motion 014 – 3(1): Standing Committee Appointments and Revocations – Notice**

**Mr. Aupaluktuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I give notice that on Thursday, March 19, 2009, I will move the following motion:

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the Hon. Member for Pangnirtung, that John Ningark be appointed a Member of the Standing Committee on Legislation, a Member of the Standing Committee on the Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts, a Member of the Standing Committee on Community and Economic Development, and an Alternate Member of the Standing Committee on Social Wellness;

AND FURTHER, I move that the appointment of Mr. Eruk Pauloosie as a Member of the Standing Committee on Rules, Procedures and Privileges be revoked;

AND FURTHER, I move that Mr. Johnny Ningeongan be appointed a Member of the Standing Committee on Rules, Procedures and Privileges.

Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time, I will seek unanimous consent to deal with my motion today. (interpretation) Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Notices of Motions. Mr. Arvaluk.

**Motion 015 – 3(1): Referral of Reports to the Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts – Notice**

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also give notice that on Thursday, March 19, 2009, I will move the following motion:

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the Hon. Member for Quttiktuq, that these reports be referred to the Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts for review.

At the appropriate time, I will seek unanimous consent to deal with my motion today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Notices of Motions. Mr. Okalik.

**Motion 013 – 3(1): Appointment of Deputy Chairperson of the Committee of the Whole – Notice**

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Thursday, March 19, 2009, I will move the following motion:

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the Hon. Member for Quttiktuq, that Mr. Eruk Pauloosie be appointed as Deputy Chairperson of the Committee of the Whole;

AND FURTHER, I move that the appointment of Mr. Johnny Ningeongan

as a Deputy Chairperson of the Committee of the Whole be revoked.

Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time, I will seek unanimous consent to deal with my motion today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. We're on Item 17... (interpretation ends) where are we? (interpretation) Item 14. Motions. (interpretation ends) Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Mr. Peterson.

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

**Bill 01 – Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2009-2010 – Notice**

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Thursday, March 19, 2009, that Bill 1, *Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2009-2010*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Mr. Peterson.

**Bill 02 – Interim Appropriation Act, April 1 – July 31, 2009 – Notice**

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Thursday, March 19, 2009, that Bill 2, *Interim Appropriation Act, April 1 – July 31, 2009*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Mr. Peterson.

**Bill 03 – Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 3, 2008-2009 – Notice**

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Thursday, March 19, 2009, that Bill 3, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 3, 2008-2009*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Mr. Peterson.

**Bill 04 – Supplementary Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, No. 3, 2008-2009 – Notice**

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Thursday, March 19, 2009, that Bill 4, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 3, 2008-2009*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you. Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 16. Motions. Mr. Okalik.

**Item 16: Motions**

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek unanimous consent to deal with my motion today.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. The member is seeking unanimous consent to deal with his motion today. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Please proceed, Mr. Okalik.

**Motion 016 – 3(1): Appointment of Deputy Speaker**

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, my colleagues.

WHEREAS the *Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act* provides that the Legislative Assembly shall elect a Deputy Speaker;

AND WHEREAS the office of Deputy Speaker is presently vacant;

AND WHEREAS the Legislative Assembly is prepared to make an appointment;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the Hon. Member for Quttiktuq, that Mr. Johnny Ningeongan be appointed Deputy Speaker and Chairperson of the Committee of the Whole.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. The motion is in order. Question has been called. Those in favour of the motion, raise your hand, please. Opposed. The motion is carried.

>>Applause

Motions. Mr. Aupaluktuq.

**Mr. Aupaluktuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I seek unanimous consent to deal with my motion today.

**Speaker**: Thank you. The member is seeking unanimous consent to deal with his motion today. Are there any nays? There are none. Please proceed, Mr. Aupaluktuq.

**Motion 014 – 3(1): Standing Committee Appointments and Revocations**

**Mr. Aupaluktuq**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

WHEREAS section 17 of the *Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act* provides for the Legislative Assembly to appoint such committees to aid and advise it as it considers necessary;

AND WHEREAS the Member of the Legislative Assembly for Akulliq has taken office;

AND WHEREAS the Legislative Assembly is prepared to make appointments and revocations;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the Hon. Member for Pangnirtung, that Mr. John Ningark be appointed a Member of the Standing Committee on Legislation, a Member of the Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts, a Member of the Standing Committee on Community and Economic Development, and an Alternate Member of the Standing Committee on Social Wellness;

AND FURTHER, I move that the appointment of Mr. Eruk Pauloosie as a Member of the Standing Committee on Rules, Procedures and Privileges be revoked;

AND FURTHER, I move that Mr. Johnny Ningeongan be appointed a Member of the Standing Committee on Rules, Procedures and Privileges.

(interpretation) Thank you.

**Speaker:** Thank you. The motion is in order. Question has been called. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried.

>> *Applause*

Motions. Mr. Arvaluk.

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek unanimous consent to deal with my motion today. Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. The member is seeking unanimous consent to deal with his motion today. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Please proceed, Mr. Arvaluk.

**Motion 015 – 3(1): Referral of Reports to the Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts**

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

WHEREAS the Third Legislative Assembly of Nunavut's Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts was established on January 26, 2009;

AND WHEREAS the terms of reference for the standing committee include the mandate to review the reports of the Auditor General of Canada and the Information and Privacy Commissioner of Nunavut;

AND WHEREAS the Report of the Auditor General of Canada on the Nunavut Housing Corporation was tabled in the House on May 22, 2008;

AND WHEREAS the 2006-07 and 2007-08 annual reports of the Information and Privacy Commissioner of Nunavut were tabled in the House on October 26, 2007 and September 15, 2008, respectively;

AND WHEREAS these reports were not formally considered by standing committees of the Second Legislative Assembly;

AND WHEREAS these reports contain observations and recommendations that are deserving of consideration;

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker... I omitted to state the last part.

(interpretation ends) NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the Hon. Member for Quttiktuq, that these reports be referred to the Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts for review.

(interpretation) That's it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you. The motion is in order. Question has been called. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried.

Motions. Mr. Okalik.

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek unanimous consent of my colleagues to deal with my motion today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. The member is seeking unanimous consent to deal with his motion today.



Are there any nays? There are no nays.  
Please proceed, Mr. Okalik.

**Motion 013 – 3(1): Appointment of  
Deputy Chairperson of the  
Committee of the Whole**

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you,  
Mr. Speaker. Thank you, my colleagues.

WHEREAS section 43 of the *Legislative  
Assembly and Executive Council Act*  
provides that the Legislative Assembly  
shall elect two Deputy Chairpersons of  
the Committee of the Whole;

AND WHEREAS Mr. Johnny  
Ningeongan has been appointed to serve  
as Deputy Speaker and Chairperson of  
the Committee of the Whole;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded  
by the Hon. Member for Quttiktuq, that  
Mr. Eruk Pauloosie be appointed a  
Deputy Chairperson of the Committee of  
the Whole;

AND FURTHER, I move that the  
appointment of Mr. Johnny Ningeongan  
as a Deputy Chairperson of the  
Committee of the Whole be revoked.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you.  
The motion is in order. Question has  
been called. All those in favour of the  
motion, raise your hand. Opposed. The  
motion is carried.

Motions. Mr. Elliott.

**Motion 017 – 3(1): Early  
Adjournment**

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.  
Pursuant Rule 46, I move, seconded by  
the Member for South Baffin, that the  
House adjourn for the day. Thank you,  
Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Elliott. All  
those in favour. (interpretation) I  
apologize. The motion is in order.  
(interpretation ends) To the motion.  
Question has been called. All those in  
favour, raise your hand. Opposed. The  
motion is carried.

Item 22. Orders of the Day. Mr. Clerk.

**Item 22: Orders of the Day**

**Clerk** (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr.  
Speaker. A reminder for all members  
that at approximately four o'clock,  
please report back to the Chambers for  
the group picture.

Orders of the Day for March 18:

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

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

Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you.  
This House stands adjourned until  
Wednesday, March 18, at 1:30 p.m.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 15:37*

