



Nunavut Canada

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NUNAVUT

1st Session

3rd Assembly

HANSARD

Official Report

DAY 4

Wednesday, March 18, 2009

Pages 111 – 167

Iqaluit

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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Speaker

Hon. James Arreak
(Uqqummiut)

Hon. Eva Aariak
(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 Speaker, Chair of the Committee of the Whole

Paul Okalik
(Iqaluit West)
Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole

Eruk Pauloosie
(Nattilik)
Deputy Chair, 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

Officers

Clerk

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

Table of Contents

Opening Prayer.....	111
Ministers' Statements	111
Members' Statements	114
Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery.....	120
Oral Questions	121
Point of Order	136
Replies to Opening Address	138
Tabling of Documents	140
First Reading of Bills	141
Second Reading of Bills	143
Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters	144
Report of the Committee of the Whole	166
Orders of the Day	166

A.

Daily References

Wednesday, March 18, 2009 111

B.

Ministers' Statements

012 – 3(1): Challenging the Proposed EU Seal Ban (Shewchuk) 111
013 – 3(1): Nutrition and Dental Health Months - Drop the Pop Challenge (Curley) 112
014 – 3(1): Terminology Development Workshop (Tapardjuk) 112
015 – 3(1): New Rock and Mineral Teaching Kits (Taptuna)..... 113

C.

Members' Statements

031 – 3(1): Congratulations to Nunavut Skaters (Okalik)..... 114
032 – 3(1): Problems with Medical Travel Office in Pangnirtung (Arvaluk) 114
033 – 3(1): Constituency Concerns Over Sovereignty (Elliott) 115
034 – 3(1): Hudson Bay Quest (Shewchuk)..... 116
035 – 3(1): Healthy Food for the Less Fortunate (Ningark)..... 116
036 – 3(1): Update on Constituency Office in Baker Lake (Aupaluktuq) 117
037 – 3(1): Addressing the High Cost of Living in Sanikiluaq (Rumbolt) 118
038 – 3(1): Nunavut's Speed Skating Champions (Aariak)..... 118
039 – 3(1): Happy Birthday David Akoak (Tootoo) 119
040 – 3(1): Pangnirtung Fishery (Komoartok)..... 120

D.

Oral Questions

025 – 3(1): Problems with Medical Travel Office in Pangnirtung (Arvaluk) 121

026 – 3(1): Healthy, Affordable Food for the Less Fortunate (Ningark)	125
027 – 3(1): Misuse of GN Computers (Okalik).....	126
028 – 3(1): Hiring of Medical Travel Coordinator.....	128
029 – 3(1): Dust Control in Communities (Ningeongan).....	129
030 – 3(1): Public Housing Issues (Pauloosie).....	130
031 – 3(1): Housing Trust Fund (Schell)	132
032 – 3(1): Status of Sanikiluaq Health Centre’s Power Generator (Rumbolt)	133
033 – 3(1): Protection of Lands, Wildlife and People from Development (Aupaluktuq)	134
034 – 3(1): Sealing Issue (Okalik).....	135

E.

Replies to Opening Address

Reply to Opening Address 001 – 3(1): Mr. Paul Okalik (Okalik).....	138
--------------------------------------------------------------------	-----

F.

Tabling of Documents

017 – 3(1): EDT Staff Directory (Okalik)	141
018 – 3(1): 2009 Kivalliq Mayor’s Meeting Resolutions (Ningeongan)	141

G.

Bills

Bill 01 – Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2009-2010 – First Reading.....	141
Bill 02 – Interim Appropriation Act, April 1 – July 31, 2009 – First Reading	142
Bill 03 – Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 3, 2008-2009 – First Reading.....	142
Bill 04 – Supplementary Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, No. 3, 2008-2009 – First Reading.....	142
Bill 01 – Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2009-2010 – Second Reading	143

Bill 02 – Interim Appropriation Act, April 1 – July 31, 2009 – Second Reading	143
Bill 03 – Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 3, 2008-2009 – Second Reading	143
Bill 04 – Supplementary Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, No. 3, 2008-2009 – Second Reading	143
Bill 03 – Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 3, 2008-2009 – Consideration in Committee.....	144
Bill 04 – Supplementary Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, No. 3, 2008-2009 – Consideration in Committee	153

**Iqaluit, Nunavut
Wednesday, March 18, 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): Before we proceed, I would like to ask Mr. Ningeongan to say the opening prayer. Mr. Ningeongan.

>>Prayer

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. Good afternoon, Premier, Ministers, and Members. Have a wonderful afternoon, Nunavummiut. Going to the Orders of the Day. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Minister Shewchuk.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

**Minister's Statement 012 – 3(1):
Challenging the Proposed EU Seal
Ban**

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Recently, the European Parliament's Internal Market and Consumer Protection Committee voted to support a ban on the trade of seal products in the European Union.

Although the EU Parliament must still vote on this in April, the vote foreshadows challenging times for Nunavut. While we support animal welfare legislation and the sustainable use of seals, we view these trade barriers as ill-informed and driven by animal rights groups who oppose the hunt in any form.

The current ban includes an exemption for Inuit communities but is severely restrictive as commercial use of sealskins is prohibited. We remember the devastating effects of the European seal ban in the 1980s. Despite the provision of exemptions for Inuit hunts, the entire sealskin market disappeared and our economy, especially in smaller communities, was slow to recover. We are already experiencing the ban's impact in the market. Prior to 2008, ringed sealskins from Nunavut had an average auction price of \$60 per pelt. They are no longer selling at these levels and in fact, more than 10,000 sealskins remain unsold.

We do not want to repeat an earlier ban. We have joined the Canadian delegation on recent trips to Europe and met with Members of the European Parliament. We have written articles for a magazine directed to the European Parliament and placed ads to counter claims by anti-sealing groups. We are developing new communications materials and supporting events such as the 'Celebration of the Seal' to dispel the misinformation on sealing, raise the profile of sealing products from Nunavut and celebrate in a tradition that is an essential part of our culture and economy.

We will continue to look for opportunities to communicate and celebrate our sealing tradition. We want to keep the industry alive for future Nunavummiut. (interpretation) Thank you. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you. Ministers' Statements. Minister Curley.

**Minister's Statement 013 – 3(1):
Nutrition and Dental Health
Months - Drop the Pop Challenge**

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to announce that March is Nutrition Month and April is Dental Health Month throughout Canada, both of which encourage healthy lifestyles throughout the year by making healthy food choices along with practicing good dental hygiene.

The Department of Health and Social Services provides nutrition programs to address food security, nutrient deficiencies and chronic disease prevention. Our dental health programs in communities target mothers and children by making use of promotional posters, newspaper and radio advertisements to promote good dental hygiene.

One such program addressing both nutritional and dental issues is the Drop the Pop Challenge that was launched this week. This is a pan-territorial campaign that encourages all Nunavummiut to stop drinking pop and make healthier drink choices such as water, milk, and 100 percent fruit juice.

Mr. Speaker, the Department of Health and Social Services has partnered with the Department of Education and 36 schools are now registered for this territory-wide event. Students participating receive fresh fruit juice or milk coupons donated by the Northern Stores.

The key message of the campaign is that you 'Drop the Pop' for a better smile, stronger bones, better concentration at school, a healthy body, a more traditional diet, and a greener environment.

Mr. Speaker, I hope you will join me in 'Dropping the Pop' this month and encourage healthy living in Nunavut. I was invited to partake in eating country food today, which provides much better nutrition, at least from my perspective. Please encourage your constituents to do so. Thank you.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. My *Annuraaqatik*, Minister Tapardjuk.

**Minister's Statement 014 – 3(1):
Terminology Development
Workshop**

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Good afternoon on this very pleasant day, my *Annuraaqatik*. Mr. Speaker, you welcome all of us everyday and I am reciprocating this welcome on this beautiful afternoon. I would like to state this so people can know what happened.

Mr. Speaker, last week, a group of 15 elders and 14 medical interpreter/translators from across

Nunavut got together for a terminology development workshop here in Iqaluit, a similar workshop was also held in Kugluktuk on March 2 to 6, 2009.

The purpose of the workshops was to identify, develop, and standardize Inuktitut and Inuinnaqtun terminology related to the human body and also to bridge the communication gap between unilingual Inuit patients and medical interpreters/translators to the nurses and doctor.

We all know that there is a need to develop more Inuktitut and Inuinnaqtun terminology in all fields in order to achieve our commitment to making the Inuit language the working language of the government. The Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth will continue to sponsor and stage terminology development workshops.

Mr. Speaker, over 500 human anatomy terms were covered. The terms created and reviewed will be used to create an Inuktitut and Inuinnaqtun glossary and anatomical poster to distribute to health centres, hospitals, and schools.

There were over 30 participants from Nunavut communities. The involvement of elders played an important role in workshops. Elders have extensive knowledge in our language and it is very important that we document that.

In closing, I would like to thank the elders, medical interpreter/translators, and the organizers for sharing their expertise and knowledge which led to a very successful workshop. I would like to express my immeasurable gratitude, Mr. Speaker, to these individuals as they provided an immense store of

knowledge to draw from as we work towards making Inuktitut the working language of our government and its operations. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. Mr. Taptuna.

Minister's Statement 015 – 3(1): New Rock and Mineral Teaching Kits

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am very pleased today to bring to the attention of this House the public release of a new and innovative educational product for our young people in our schools and for people truly to be prospectors. My department, in partnership with Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, has produced the "Nunavut Rock & Mineral Teaching Kit."

Each kit contains more than 60 different rock and mineral samples. The samples come from well-known Nunavut locations and some have been denoted by mining companies working in our territory. Knowledge of these rock and mineral samples will give a student a basic understanding of the geology of our territory – the foundation for our mineral exploration and mining industry.

Mr. Speaker, the kit includes a guidebook that shows how to identify rocks and minerals, where they are found in Nunavut, and explains their uses, both in the traditional and in the industrial economies. The guidebook is in all four official languages.

Mr. Speaker, the rock and mineral kits will support new earth science curricula

being introduced in schools by the Department of Education. The kits will be distributed to all Nunavut high schools and middle schools by next month.

The same kit will also be used in our department's Prospector Training Course, offered in Nunavut communities. And they will also be available to mining companies for use in their community outreach activities.

Mr. Speaker, the "Nunavut Rock & Mineral Teaching Kit" will be officially introduced to the public during the mining symposium.

Mr. Speaker, I am confident that the "Nunavut Rock & Mineral Teaching Kit" will quickly become a valuable tool for all science educators in the territory. Students of all ages will develop a deeper understanding of the natural geology of Nunavut.

Above all, the kits will help inspire our young people to pursue careers in our growing mineral exploration and mining industry. *Qujannamiik*, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. If there are no more, we'll move on to Item 3. Members' Statements. Mr. Okalik.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 031 – 3(1): Congratulations to Nunavut Skaters

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to celebrate with my

colleagues today. (interpretation ends) There were a number of competitions recently on speed skating both in Ontario and in Quebec, and I want to recognize a couple of young constituents of mine that were very successful during the event.

First of all, in Peterborough, a young lady by the name of Helena Crowley finished first in the India Class and won gold for Nunavut, so I would like to recognize her.

>> *Applause*

As well, she happened to have a sister who also won gold in Quebec for the first time ever and she skated for Val-des-Monts but she always skates for Nunavut as well, so *Félicitation*.

>> *Applause*

I want to thank the parents for their support for these wonderful young children and also the coaches for coaching them to great success and to all the young people that have great success and those that did their best for Nunavut. Great job and keep up the good work. *Félicitation*, congratulations, *Quviasuqatigivasi. Qujannamiik*.

>> *Applause*

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

Member's Statement 032 – 3(1): Problems with Medical Travel Office in Pangnirtung

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe that it has

been more than a year, perhaps two years or longer now, that I have brought up this issue in statements and questions regarding the medical patient travel coordination in the Baffin region. This situation is still not rectified. There are medical patients going to Iqaluit when the travel coordinator position is not there or even in the hospital since it was placed in Pangnirtung.

The first government stated to me that I should identify problems one at a time, wherever there were areas requiring addressing, so that the government could fix these issues as they were raised. I was told that there would be a phone number placed in Iqaluit for patients to call and this has been created.

However, many patients are still experiencing problems today. There are still many patients who are left behind due to the travel coordinator not being located here. When patients are seen late in the day, the office is already closed and when people attempt to call the number, many of them can't get through once it's busy. This affects those least able to cope, especially unilingual Inuit who cannot go through an operator, elders included.

Additionally, this present government has stated more than once that it shall be a transparent government and this statement is praiseworthy. Due to this statement, we urge this new government to review this process quickly as we all know that medical travel for Nunavummiut requires a better process. Patients who are continually going back and forth to the hospital as well as elders especially need to have their travel arrangements looked after properly.

So therefore, I will be raising questions to the health minister on that at the appropriate time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Member's Statement 033 – 3(1):
Constituency Concerns Over
Sovereignty**

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I didn't actually have my hand up, but I guess I should say something.

>>*Laughter*

As most of the members know, yesterday I was on the theme of arctic sovereignty, so I guess today I'll speak to being thankful because I have many things to be thankful for in terms of new beginnings. I'm eternally thankful to my constituents in Grise Fiord, Resolute Bay, and Arctic Bay for putting me here and it's an honour getting up every morning and representing the people of those three communities.

To my friends and my family and extended family in Arctic Bay, I'm also thankful. I know it's been a bit of a rough ride over the last couple of months adjusting, and I'm sure most of the members are feeling the same sort of pressure in terms of being away from everyone and everyone is adjusting to not having everyone around.

So we had a really good Regular Members' Caucus meeting this morning with the members that were in attendance and I'm really thankful to be working with a group of... I have never

seen more dedicated people in terms of wanting to see change within Nunavut and having that change come about because I know there's a lot of sacrifice that comes from change.

Obviously with the way the election and the way that the people of Nunavut and the outcome of the decisions that were made within the government, there was a lot of change that has happened. So with change comes some sacrifice, but I guess with change... I'm losing my train of thought.

But again, it's nice to see that the Cabinet and also the Premier, in her Minister's Statement as of yesterday, I wanted to make sure I had it correct, and here she is quoted as saying, "Mr. Speaker, members will remember from the November Leadership Forum that I view arctic sovereignty as one of the three serious challenges..."

And I know with that being said, with my community, that means a lot and I like the approach of it being arctic stewardship instead of just arctic sovereignty in terms of having it both ways. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Arviat, Mr. Shewchuk.

**Member's Statement 034 – 3(1):
Hudson Bay Quest**

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Hudson Bay Quest is set for March 21 and invites racers from across North America to join in the

celebration of arctic life and sled dog culture.

The Hudson Bay Quest is a 400-kilometre dog sled race linking Churchill, Manitoba, with Arviat, Nunavut. For five years, it has brought together mushers and sled dogs from Canada's polar bear capital of the world, some of the finest Inuit mushers in the Kivalliq, and more than a few teams from outside.

The 2009 Hudson Bay Quest leaves Churchill at 9:00 a.m. on March 21. Twelve teams are registered for the sixth running of the Hudson Bay Quest, all of them race veterans.

This year's teams from Arviat include:

Darryl Baker
Peter Mamgark Sr.
Philip Kigusiutnak
Moses Kigusiutnak
Jamie Kablutsiak
Barnie Kalluk, and
Johnny Mamgark.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all the other teams the best in the Hudson Bay Quest and good luck in the race. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Akulliq, Mr. Ningark.

**Member's Statement 035 – 3(1):
Healthy Food for the Less
Fortunate**

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also wish to thank

my erstwhile colleague, the Hon. Tagak Curley, who spoke about March being Nutrition Month. Thank you, Minister. He also stated that he ate exemplary food today and he also encouraged us to eat healthfully.

We can eat well in Nunavut because we can go hunting for our food and most of us here more than likely have snowmobiles and ATVs. However, Mr. Speaker, many Inuit, elders, and widows don't have ready access to country food because they do not have hunters to hunt for them. During my campaign, I stated that healthy living would be one area that I would work on. As the minister stated in reference to healthy living, he practices it and I am thankful for that.

In our communities, there are many elders with expertise in land skills who are able to survive off the land. We also have many youth who need to be taught land and survival skills. I would like to see them teach the youth the skills required to survive and to hire elders to teach those skills even if it's only part-time. The fringe benefits would be that whenever anyone was craving for caribou meat, seal meat, or fish, then the meat harvested through those courses could be used to benefit the elders, widows, or even disabled people to get healthy meals.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to thank the minister for his statement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Baker Lake, Mr. Aupaluktuq.

**Member's Statement 036 – 3(1):
Update on Constituency Office in
Baker Lake**

Mr. Aupaluktuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last year in 2008, my father, William Aupaluktuq, passed away and today I am thinking of my mother. I hope she is well and has a good day. I hope that my sisters and brother and my relatives in Chesterfield Inlet, Rankin Inlet, and Arviat are doing well.

I would also like to express my thanks for being able to eat healthy food. Even though my mother is 67 years old, she is a very good hunter. I think she is even a better hunter than a lot of men I know.

>>Applause

I thank her for providing us with dry meat, fish, and other food that I crave.

I also want to inform my constituents, especially those who are waiting, that my constituency office is open but my constituency assistant will not start working at the office until March 30. I wanted to let Baker Lake residents know that on March 30th, my assistant will start in the position. That person is still currently working at their old position, but I wanted to inform that they will commence working for me on March 30th. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Rumbolt.

**Member's Statement 037 – 3(1):
Addressing the High Cost of
Living in Sanikiluaq**

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to address an issue that may be of economic crisis. I am not talking about the global economy or the possible recession in North America. I am talking about individuals in our home communities who are wondering how they are going to be able to feed their families and pay their bills.

Mr. Speaker, the cost of living on everyday food and clothing items are on the rise in our communities, which means that everyday people are facing greater and greater pressures to make ends meet. Sometimes, these pressures drive people to desperate actions. They put their health, their safety, and sometimes even their lives at risk.

Mr. Speaker, the cost of living in Nunavut is one of the highest in Canada. To make up for that, those who are lucky enough to have a job usually have salaries that are higher than elsewhere in Canada. And there are often benefits through their employers, such as the Northern Allowance. These salaries and benefits are regularly reviewed and renegotiated, taking into account the rising cost of living.

For those who are not lucky enough to have a job, or for whom there are no jobs available, one of their last options to turn to is income support.

Mr. Speaker, income support benefits such as food allowances are calculated according to a formula and according to where you live.

For residents of Sanikiluaq, the income support food allowance rates are in zone 1, which is the lowest rate of all communities across Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, government employees in Sanikiluaq receive over \$400 more in monthly Northern Allowance benefits than government employees in Iqaluit. At the same time, however, a Sanikiluaq family of nine on income support receives \$100 less in food allowance than a family of the same size in Iqaluit would receive each month. Mr. Speaker, this doesn't seem fair.

Mr. Speaker, it's time that the government consider changing the zoning allocation of food allowance rates for income support clients in Sanikiluaq. In closing, Mr. Speaker, I would like to inform the Minister responsible for Income Support that over the next few days, I may be asking questions on this issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 038 – 3(1):
Nunavut's Speed Skating
Champions**

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will be speaking in English so that our guests who are over there can understand what I'm saying firsthand.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the Iqaluit Speed Skating Club for the hours of dedicated practice and for performing their

personal best in competitions across Canada. Congratulations to all of the skaters for working so hard and making it to the competition.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to congratulate some of my constituents for winning medals at the third eastern Ontario meet. In November, Mitchell Tilley won gold.

>>Applause

At the fifth eastern Ontario regional meet in Peterborough, Ontario, in February, Max Shoo won gold.

>>Applause

And Mary Dunphy and Amelia Nevin won silver.

>>Applause

Congratulations.

Three skaters represented Nunavut at the Speed Skating Canada Youth Leadership Symposium at the New Olympic Oval in Richmond, BC. Congratulations to:

Manasie Kendell;

>>Applause

Calvin Tilley; and

>>Applause

(inaudible) (interpretation) I don't believe he's here.

This would not be possible, Mr. Speaker, without the dedication of Coach John Maurice. Under his guidance, the club has gone from two skaters to a club that

has won 50 Arctic Winter Games' medals for Nunavut since 1999 and has set four records at the games. Thank you, John.

>>Applause

I would like to personally congratulate my neighbour, little Mary Becky Alak Dunphy.

>>Applause

I've watched her grow up and it seems just like yesterday that little Mary was a toddler. But here she is at 10 years old at Nunavut's 10, skating against much older and bigger skaters.

Congratulations, Mary, for winning silver in Peterborough. Considering this was her first major competition, she apparently has nerves of steel. Thank you.

>>Applause

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 039 – 3(1):
Happy Birthday David Akoak**

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, would like to rise today and recognize a constituent of mine and someone that I have known since high school. We all know I went to school out of Rankin Inlet to Yellowknife and this individual came out of Gjoa Haven. He is actually now one of my staff, he's one my senior officials with the Nunavut

Housing Corporation, and his name is David Akoak.

And I just wanted all members to join me in wishing Mr. Akoak a happy birthday today as it's his birthday. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. If there are no more... Mr. Komoartok.

**Member's Statement 040 – 3(1):
Pangnirtung Fishery**

Mr. Komoartok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to speak to an issue regarding the Pangnirtung Fisheries manager. Currently, members of our community are fishing for turbot with great success due to the sea ice freezing solidly, enabling them to reach the best fishing areas. The ice has also stayed solid and not broken up even during the neap tides because we haven't had too many storms.

Our success rate has risen due to the ice being stable, enabling our fishermen to catch over 66,000 pounds of turbot last week. This has allowed our fish plant to hire 20 workers who are working the entire week and the only days of rest are Saturdays and Sundays. If the conditions remain favourable and our sea ice remains stable, our fishermen foresee another two months of fishing and forecast catching 150,000 pounds of turbot over this winter fishery.

The turbot are being caught on the sea ice outside of our community. Our manager also deals with other fish species at the plant, such as char. We

currently have 15 lakes available for commercial char fisheries and the overall quota is approximately 50,000 pounds. This allows the plant to hire more workers from our community to work on the char and this is good news for our community.

As well, last summer, there was a test fishery conducted in our waters to see if it was feasible to fish for turbot using trawlers in the summer. They caught enough to pique their interest and they are planning another round of test fisheries this upcoming summer. I wish them success as our adjacent waters have an overall quota set at 500,000 pounds and it hasn't been reached due to unfavourable ice conditions for the past number of years.

We are extremely pleased that the ice is back to its usual limits and I wish to thank you for the opportunity to speak to this matter. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. There are no more. Item 4. (interpretation ends) Returns to Oral Questions. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Kusugak.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to acknowledge a fellow resident today, someone who was previously not from our community but moved to Rankin Inlet. I would like to welcome and recognize Mr. Thomas Suvisak, who is currently in Iqaluit attending a meeting.

Please welcome my fellow resident from Rankin Inlet. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

>> *Applause*

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

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to note that prior to residing in Mr. Kusugak's community, this individual resided in my community and he was my fellow resident, so I wish to also recognize Thomas Suvisak. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Okalik.

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize this individual who seems lonely sitting alone across from us (interpretation ends) but she's staying in my riding for the time being. I welcome Jane George to our Assembly. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome to the Gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. (interpretation ends) Item 6. Oral Questions. (interpretation) Member for Tununiq, Mr. Arvaluk.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 025 – 3(1): Problems with Medical Travel Office in Pangnirtung

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to direct my question to the Minister of Health and Social Services.

As the members know, I have raised this issue in past sessions in regard to the transportation coordinator position which is currently situated in Pangnirtung. Indeed, we have even heard of residents of Pangnirtung who experienced difficulties when trying to travel home with no transportation coordinator at the hospital here and similar to other residents, they had to call Pangnirtung to fix their travel.

This issue was one that I kept raising as requiring further review, but they wanted to deal with this matter in a different manner. I would like to ask the minister: will he conduct a review on the decentralization policy? Members support decentralization to the communities and we don't oppose it at all. There are government offices situated in Pond Inlet, Arviat, and other communities such as Cape Dorset, and this policy is adequate.

But with respect to the position, it's not a department but rather one position dealing with the travel arrangements or providing tickets to passengers. This position was moved to Pangnirtung. Can the minister review this matter and find out if this position can be returned to Iqaluit? Thank you.

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

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Firstly, I would like to thank the member for inviting me for lunch today and I was thinking that he might ask me questions about that.

>> *Laughter*

He has swerved to other items, so perhaps I can provide my thanks when he has invited me again.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to state that we continue to review the policy and plan on continuing to do so during our preparations for the O&M proceedings. What we can say with respect to the medical travel contracts is that the airlines are not only handling patients. When the contracts are put together, the airlines have to do their own review as to whether they are fulfilling their contracts, more or less policing themselves, and this causes problems in a lot of places.

If I were to speak from personal experience with respect to the operations of airlines, there are certain routes where they rake in enough revenue without having a medical contract in place to subsidize their routes but that unfortunately doesn't apply to all of Nunavut.

When there's more than one airline competing for these contracts, we have to look at assisting both airlines. Mr. Speaker, due to this reason, I can state that we will review the entire area and I am in constant communication with my staff as to how best to resolve these issues affecting us. Thank you.

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

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The minister is aware that we can either deal with this during the O&M debates in June or alternatively, he can submit a supplementary appropriation to the committee and put it into the O&M. I seem to not be making sense in Inuktitut.

What I'm trying to say is if the transfer was to be dealt with after the budget, then he can include the funds for the transfer of the office in a supplementary appropriation. Can the minister inform me approximately when this matter would be dealt with and when our people can be notified that the office will be moved at a such-and-such date?

The reason is that Inuit are starting to lose their belief. It's like this: they no longer believe in what the government is stating and they believe me since I have continued to bring up this issue for a number of years. Now, because of the lack of action, my constituents are losing their faith in me and ask me bluntly, "Are you still raising this issue at the Legislative Assembly?" My reply is, "Yes, I keep bringing it up."

When can the minister inform me of the approximate time, let's say perhaps this spring when this transfer will be planned to more effectively handle medical patient travel? As it stands right now, it just causes more problems for people on medical travel. So my question is: can the minister inform me when he would be able to make this announcement? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation)

Thank you. I thank you for your comments and I believe that your concerns are felt and heard. I know that this is a concern not just for your constituency but for the whole region and I believe that it was continually raised in the Second Assembly.

What I can state is that when we are reviewing the different departments, not just Pangnirtung but in the Baffin and the Kivalliq regions, there are similarities there. As an example, this government is competing with the private sector medical travel services and due to that, these travel services are no longer being used. This government department has had to deal with these issues in the Kivalliq region.

We are still reviewing the procedures on how to make improvements in these areas. Perhaps it would be best for these air carriers to repatriate the services and lessen the costs that the government currently pays. We have discussed some of these ideas.

Mr. Speaker, prior to making my announcement on the matter or setting a date, I would like to state that we have only reviewed a particular department's recommendations on how best to make improvements and I'm currently considering them.

I would like to hear from the regular members in the Baffin region and meet with them along with my staff to discuss these matters. The regular members can set the dates as to when we would meet. It would be good to hear from the other members prior to my making an announcement on this matter. Thank you.

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

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister because I am the Chairperson of the Regular Members' Caucus and we would welcome any kind of discussion. We would be happy to meet with them to make their report, just like this morning when the finance department came to make a presentation, so I would want to work with him on this issue.

In particular, we all know, perhaps not all of us know but we have heard from our constituents about the additional costs in the neighbourhood of \$400 to \$700 per night for patients boarding at Tammaativvik here in Iqaluit. I can't state exactly how much the additional cost is but I believe the minister has more information on that.

However, when patients are left behind in Iqaluit due to transportation issues, the costs to the government can escalate rapidly and easily surpass the original cost of the ticket. This can be rectified easily enough because, for the majority of the Baffin communities, perhaps all communities situated on Baffin Island, they now have two airlines servicing their communities, Canadian North and First Air.

Nowadays, the aircraft are no longer full to capacity, but we still have issues with the position being located in Pangnirtung. When the First Air flight is full, the patients are told that there's no room even though the other airline has plenty of seats available and this is all because of the complexity of the medical

contracts. The process requires a thorough review.

Can the minister inform me that all of these issues we are raising will be included in this review and further, can he commit to discussing the concerns of the regular members to see how we can make improvements to this system?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you. I want to thank my colleague for his comments. As I stated previously, my department has presented what options they have suggested to me. I also stated earlier that we are open to meeting with the regular members to discuss these issues, but it's up to the committee to set the time of this meeting.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to note that these medical travel contracts are legal contracts and I believe they don't expire for another year. As well, our colleague from the High Arctic has continually brought up the fact that they require more support, especially with respect to airlines. Some of these particular routes may only be feasible to the airlines with a medical contract in place, especially in places like the High Arctic.

However, for communities that are further south, I believe the question is whether we ought to have a single contract for the entire region. This question is one that should be raised and I have asked this question myself as to whether we should reopen the contract particularly in relation to patients who have been bumped off one airline and cannot get space on the other airline.

In the Kivalliq region, this is also the case whereby Canadian North has the contract and First Air is now back on the Rankin Inlet/Winnipeg route and due to the absence of a contract, they can't even take on a medical patient even if they are extremely sick. This is unsatisfactory and we are looking at all of the issues at this time.

When I'm in front of the committee, my expectations are that we will be receiving recommendations to make improvements to medical travel and it would be best to make decisions based on practical solutions. I will try to take into consideration all of the concerns to provide better services. Thank you.

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

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understand the contract situation, especially for the High Arctic and perhaps with the Lake Harbour and Sanikiluaq flight systems too, we appreciate that. Will the minister then be ready to meet with the regular members on this issue of transportation for patients by the June session? Will he be ready to meet with us on that one? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will commit to that because I think earlier today, we heard from one member that we want to be transparent with our plans and with our ideas, and we certainly welcome the suggestions from regular MLAs.

And on that basis, I will appear before your committee with my deputy or other officials and try to see if we could find at least an acceptable way of taking care of some of the medical travel issues without going through any further difficulties. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Akulliq, Mr. Ningark.

**Question 026 – 3(1): Healthy,
Affordable Food for the Less
Fortunate**

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Health and I'm sure that some of it will be responded to by the Hon. Premier.

As stated in his ministerial comments, nutritional food is very important to the people of Nunavut. When we were growing up, our parents always told us to make sure that we ate traditional food. The same advice was given to us by medical practitioners.

For those of us here, we can go hunting because we have the equipment required like snowmobiles, and we call them ski-doods even though they might be Yamahas and we also call four-wheelers Hondas. But there are some people out there in the communities who don't have the equipment and they do get help from other community members, which we are grateful for, but they can't go far with the high cost of gasoline and the increasing price of goods like food, ski-doo and ATV parts.

I would like to ask the Premier about public-private partnership that has been discussed by the government. For

example, this government can work with Nunavut Tunngavik and see how they can better the conditions of people who cannot afford or don't have access to nutritional food. One idea might be to send out a hunting party, not necessarily on a daily basis, but perhaps during the weekends. Thank you.

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

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to also tell the member who posed the question that nutrition is very important and poverty is also something that we have to deal with. He's correct; we do receive country food from the hunters.

This government will deal with the issue of poverty, including nutritious food. It was one of the five-year priorities that the government put together at the retreat in Cape Dorset. I'm looking forward to working with the members to deal with such issues and it has already been identified as a priority by this government. Thank you. I hope I'm clear.

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

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): I would like to thank the Premier for responding to my question. Thank you very much from my heart and also on behalf of the people of Repulse Bay and Kugaaruk. I was thinking that maybe there could be pilot projects done in Kugaaruk and Repulse Bay. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Premier Eva Aariak.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is something that we are interested to hear as this government has stated that working together and cooperation is very important and it also applies to us as Members of the Legislative Assembly. I would like to work with you to deal with this issue and talk about poverty and nutrition. We have to include the people out there and also the Members of the Legislative Assembly. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. As a reminder, if you're going to be asking and responding to questions, please keep your preambles as short as possible. That's just a reminder for the members.

(interpretation ends) Oral Questions.
Member for Iqaluit West, Mr. Okalik.

Question 027 – 3(1): Misuse of GN Computers

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I tabled a document yesterday regarding government computer usage where an employee sent out a document predicting who might possibly win each riding and become the Member of the Legislative Assembly.

Our Premier has already demonstrated that she will remove a portfolio or person as soon as there has been any kind of misuse. So what will happen to the deputy minister who misused the government computers in that instance? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will try and

respond to the issue that was brought up yesterday. (interpretation ends) The *Public Service Act* section 34(2) allows political activity but specifically prohibits activity during working hours on government premises or using government supplies or equipment.

The *Public Service Act* does not specifically apply to deputy ministers but as the government's most senior officials, they are expected to set a very high standard. Also, the human resources manual has a section about conflict of interest and political activity, that's section 204. All staff are required to separate any political activity from their work duties and responsibilities. Also in that directive, deputy ministers and other senior staff are considered restricted employees, which have additional restrictions and compensation terms.

Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, I was not the Premier at the time that this occurred and I thank the member for bringing the matter forward now. Since I was not the Premier at the time, I will need some time to review the matter and get further details. I thank the member for raising this concern.

I am hopeful that together, as an Assembly, we will be able to improve some of the concerns raised by the public about the *Elections Act* and its processes during the territorial election.

Likewise, I will do what is necessary to ensure that the public service complies with the rules set for them through legislation, regulation, and Cabinet directives. (interpretation) Thank you.

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

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's regrettable that the Premier immediately removed a minister's portfolio on the very same day that correspondence was sent out and it reached her attention.

She stated that she wasn't the Premier then. Even if that's the case, this deputy minister will have to appear as a witness during our standing committees. This includes names of two ministers in this correspondence and it smears both of their names.

We no longer have any confidence in this deputy minister as long as they are still in their position and when they appear before the committee, we may no longer believe in what they say. What will be your recommended course of action in this case? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I stated earlier, I wasn't the Premier at the time. Since it occurred prior to the election, I will look into it further. Thank you.

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

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Half of the elected members have been marred by this deputy minister and her only defence is that she wasn't the Premier at that time. This is unacceptable since she

immediately removed the portfolio from the minister just for trying to spark debate amongst his staff by offering his ideas.

As regular members, this is downright scary. Does this mean that any member here can be slandered by any deputy minister? How will you handle these types of cases? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Madam Premier Aariak.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I prefer not to argue over this issue endlessly as I was not elected just to argue. However, with respect to the issue of the portfolio that I removed and which the member is referring to, it is now history as it was dealt with. I didn't remove his ministerial appointment, just that portfolio, and he remains a minister.

Further, with respect to Minister Tapardjuk, I continue to have faith in his abilities to handle his current portfolios and I am thankful for his participation in the Cabinet. I also believe that he continues to represent his constituency, especially with respect to *Inuit Qaujimaqatuqangit* and culture that he so strongly defends. I have complete faith in the minister. Thank you.

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

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Be that as it may, some time during our session, the deputy minister will have to appear as a witness and we're not going to have any confidence in her after she slandered

several members even if she is tasked to appear as a witness.

So I would like you to seriously consider the past action which has caused a problem with several members and in my opinion, also breached some rules and this person will have to be removed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. I didn't hear a question. (interpretation ends) Oral Questions. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. Elliott.

Question 028 – 3(1): Hiring of Medical Travel Coordinator

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't remember putting up my hand but I do have a question. I've got to stop waving my hand around.

>>*Laughter*

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister of Health and Social Services, Mr. Curley, wanted to hear from more members from Qikiqtani.

I had written a letter on January 7 to the Minister of Health and Social Services and it was regarding the meeting that we had during the Nunavut Leadership Forum back in November.

Specifically two aspects of medical travel in the Baffin region were discussed - difficulties in communicating with the regional travel office and significant delays in the booking of airline tickets - which result in a number of other problems for patients travelling to Iqaluit or Ottawa, especially for those residents who are required to make a number of stops along the way.

At that time, we were told by the deputy minister, I believe Alex Campbell at the time, that a manager of medical travel was going to be hired. I would just like to ask: has that person been hired? Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you. I wish to advise you to stop waving your hands when you have nothing to say.

>>*Laughter*

Minister of Health and Social Services,
Minister Tagak Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley: Mr. Speaker, I believe the question could probably wait a bit longer since the member really wasn't hoping to ask the question today.

Mr. Speaker, certainly I think the issue that was raised is taken seriously and I have spoken to the deputy minister on that, that there is a plan to beef up the travel service. Whether or not it should remain in the community of Pangnirtung is still something that I am looking at.

Even though I indicated to my other colleague, the member from Tununig, that I have received at least one proposal from our department, I think it's important that I consult with the regular MLAs on that because I think this will probably free up some of the alternative ideas being put forward. I would like to do that before really committing whether or not a single, individual position has been hired.

I can indicate to the member that it is the plan that we will put a more senior individual to the whole travel office. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you. Your first supplementary, Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just wanted to thank the minister for his willingness to work with the Regular Members' Caucus. And I will try to keep my hands down. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Nanulik, Mr. Ningeongan.

Question 029 – 3(1): Dust Control in Communities

Mr. Ningeongan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Community and Government Services.

At the recent meeting of Kivalliq mayors, the issue of dust control in our communities was a topic of concern.

On September 12 of last year, questions were asked in the Legislative Assembly on this issue. At that time, the minister told the House that the department was investigating the possibility of increasing the funding that is available for dust control.

Can the minister update us today on the status of this issue? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister of Community and Government Services, Hon. Lorne Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Our department is currently working on the issue of dust control on roads within the Nunavut settlement area because the number of vehicles travelling on roads is

increasing. Our department is still working on this issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Ningeongan (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I just stated to the minister, this issue was raised at a recent meeting of Kivalliq mayors. Could the minister also consider this issue while we're on this subject? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm very pleased that this question was posed. Right now, we are looking at better dust control systems that can be applied to Nunavut communities. As you probably know, we put salt water onto the roads, which dries up very fast and turns into dust again.

What our department is doing is looking at other dust control methods that can be applied on the roads in Nunavut. Our department is currently looking on that and we will probably find a solution in the coming months to deal with dust control in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Ningeongan (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Even though we seem to only be talking about the Kivalliq region, I'm sure that the dust control

systems will be applied all over Nunavut. Is it possible for the minister to table any documents or decisions that are made to the House? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, as soon as we have a decision, we will make sure that we write to the hamlet councils and provide the information to my colleagues. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Natilik, Mr. Pauloosie.

Question 030 – 3(1): Public Housing Issues

Mr. Pauloosie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) First of all, I would like to say “hello” to my constituents in Taloyoak and Gjoa Haven if they are watching the proceedings.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

As the minister will be aware, concerns have been raised by the Municipal Council of Taloyoak and the community’s housing authority with respect to the allocation of units in the community’s new five-plex building. Gjoa Haven is in the same situation. It is the community’s understanding that only two of the building’s five units will be allocated for public housing, with the rest being set aside for employees of the housing authority.

Given the shortage of public housing units in both communities of Gjoa Haven and Taloyoak, they have asked that all of the units be allocated for public housing. Can the minister indicate if he has reviewed this situation and tell me if this situation has been resolved? 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 thank the member for raising that concern and that issue coming from his community.

Mr. Speaker, the only situation that I’m aware of is there are some of the units that are being constructed there that he referred to, I wasn’t aware that they were being used for housing for staff of the housing authority. My understanding, and I stand to be corrected, is that some of those units that were going to be used for staff housing units in the community.

I think how that came about is that under the Housing Trust delivery, there were supposed to be two duplexes delivered in some communities. In this case, it was cheaper to build a five-plex to provide than the two duplexes and that would free up that extra unit to be used for much needed staff housing in the community as well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Your first supplementary, Mr. Pauloosie.

Mr. Pauloosie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my understanding that responsibility for housing is being transferred from the municipality to a new housing authority

in Taloyoak. Can the minister explain the reason for this change and indicate if the transfer of responsibility is on schedule? Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Tootoo.

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my understanding is that there is some work being done to form a local housing authority in the community that he's mentioning, switching it from a housing association to an authority. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Your second supplementary, Mr. Pauloosie.

Mr. Pauloosie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In January of this year, the federal budget announced that Nunavut will receive \$100 million over two years in new housing funding. As the minister is aware, all Nunavut communities, including Gjoa Haven and Taloyoak, are in need of new public housing. Can the minister indicate to the House when he will announce the allocations of new housing units in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Tootoo.

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We were all delighted, and we all know that the severe shortage of public housing across the territory is a big issue, and as the member pointed out, the \$100 million that was announced in the federal budget for public housing in Nunavut was greatly received.

The Housing Corporation, right now, has prepared some different allocation options. Those options have to be

approved by the government with my Cabinet colleagues and once that decision is made on the allocations, I'll be very happy to provide not only the member but all members and all communities with the information on exactly what the allocations will be. Work is being done on it.

I know some of the issues have been that we weren't able to get a lot of details on that information. It was announced and the information to backup the detail on those programs weren't available from the federal government. Now, my understanding is we've just recently received the agreement with CMHC on that particular amount of funding. So that is being reviewed and we are moving this forward as quickly as information is provided to us on that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Your final supplementary, Mr. Pauloosie.

Mr. Pauloosie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As we all know, in most communities I guess, long-time residents of communities have been waiting and been on a waiting list for several years. When these new five-plexes were being built, they were being allocated by staff and in some cases, government staff.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister confirm that all of the new funding will be used for construction of new public housing units? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Tootoo.

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think it's quite clear in the 2009 Federal Budget that the two-year \$100 million investment was for

affordable housing construction in Nunavut and I would anticipate that that \$100 million will be spent on public housing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 031 – 3(1): Housing Trust Fund

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I've got a question for the Hon. Minister of Housing. He may think I'm picking on him but it's not my fault that he got the honour of being the housing minister.

>> *Laughter*

Anyway, on that Housing Trust for the \$200 million, apparently the Housing Corporation collected \$11.1 million, my question is: why did it go into the Housing Corporation fund and not in the general Nunavut government fund?

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

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm not quite sure I understand the member's question. My understanding of the \$200 million under the Northern Housing Trust Program that is finishing off this year, those funds funnelled down from I believe the Treasury Board to the Government of Nunavut's Department of Finance and through appropriations, to the corporation.

I'm not sure if that's what he's looking at but if that's not it, I could ask him to

please clarify and ask again. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Mr. Schell.

Mr. Schell: Sorry about not finishing the question off last time by saying, "thank you." Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is: I'm assuming that this \$200 million goes into the government coffers and then it gets allocated back to the Housing Corporation as you need it, is that the case?

Now, my understanding is that there was \$11.1 million collected in interest and my understanding is that that went to the Housing Corporation. Now, if it went to the Housing Corporation instead of the general government fund, I would like to know: what did the Housing Corporation do with \$11.1 million? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Tootoo.

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the member for clarifying his question and hopefully he can get a clear answer too. Mr. Speaker, I just want to assure him that I don't think that he's picking on me, he's doing his job and that's what we're all here to do.

Mr. Speaker, the interest that was earned on that funding, some of that funding was allocated to the corporation when the Housing Corporation put forward its preliminary estimates in 2006-07 for a number of units that would be delivered across the territory through the \$200 million in Northern Housing Trust, their numbers were based on their costs of that year.

Since then, the construction costs for units have increased. Some of the additional increase in costs in those projections still allowed us to maintain that extra revenue through interest and still allowed us to maintain being able to deliver the 725 units that we committed to at the beginning of the trust.

That number was based on lower construction costs that were there that year but have increased in subsequent years to that. So that interest was used for housing and enabled to help us maintain our objective of putting out and putting on the ground 725 units by the end of this year through the Northern Housing Trust Program. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Any more? Oral Questions. Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Rumbolt.

Question 032 – 3(1): Status of Sanikiluaq Health Centre’s Power Generator

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question today is for the Minister of Community and Government Services.

As the minister will appreciate, it is essential for our communities’ health facilities to have a reliable source of power. It is my understanding that when CGS contracted for a new generator to be sent to the community on last year’s sealift for use at the Sanikiluaq health centre, the wrong model was sent. As a result, the health centre is still using its aging and unreliable generator.

Can the minister provide an update today on what actions his department is taking to either procure a new generator for the

health centre or to make the necessary modifications to the one that arrived on last year’s sealift so that it can be used in the community? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister of Community and Government Services, Hon. Lorne Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The member is correct. The generator that is in the current health centre is old and pretty much on its last legs, but nonetheless, be assured that it still runs, you just have to switch it manually. The department did go ahead and ordered a new generator for it.

Unfortunately, unlike most of the generators in the Baffin region, Sanikiluaq’s generator system is a three-phase generation system. The new generator that was ordered is a one-phase generator. Our department has since purchased a three-phase switch for it and that system is all in Sanikiluaq now, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you. Your first supplementary, Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for his response. As the minister can appreciate, it is important that steps be taken to ensure that these kinds of errors are not repeated. Can the minister explain the costs that were incurred with this mistake? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don’t know the current cost that it was; I think that it was around the

\$30,000 mark. But the phase converter is on site and is ready for installation and hopefully we will have it installed in the coming months, as soon as we can get an electrician on site. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would just like to make a comment instead of a final question. The people of Sanikiluaq know probably better than anybody the importance of having backup generators because they lost their power plant to a fire nine years ago. So I would just like the minister to be sure that in the future, we can make sure the proper equipment is sent to the communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. (interpretation) That was just a comment. Oral Questions. Member for Baker Lake, Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Question 033 – 3(1): Protection of Lands, Wildlife and People from Development

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I've just got a question for the Hon. Minister of Mines.

Baker Lake residents are concerned of mining activities. We're aware the federal government issues the approval of development for mines as the federal government receives royalties from the mines. We're also aware that the Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporation and the Kivalliq Inuit Association also represent the people of Baker Lake. We also are aware that these Inuit organizations also receive royalties.

We know for a fact that people in the Kivalliq region often say, "Baker Lake has the mines. You have nothing to worry about." Right now, what's handed out by mining companies are calendars, mugs, cups, caps, etcetera. We know for a fact that when they are operable, they will provide some royalties to some social development programs in the community.

I would like to ask the minister: will this government ensure that my constituents, the people of Baker Lake, our lands and waters are protected and better represented to ensure that our lands, animals and wildlife are safe? (interpretation) Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister responsible for Mines, Hon. Peter Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll try and answer you here. Thank you for the question from the hon. member of Baker Lake; I'll try and answer that question.

This government doesn't collect royalties from the production of mines. We don't have any mines that are in production now in the Nunavut territory and he's correct in saying that there is some Inuit organizations, such as NTI and the Kivalliq Inuit Association, that do collect through their IIBAs with the exploration and mining companies. These projects go through the NIRB process and everything, including water, lands, and wildlife, is looked at throughout the review process.

Maybe the hon. member can clarify his question as to exactly what he's referring to. Maybe he's asking about the

government protocol. *Koana*, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do apologize for not presenting that as adequately as I wanted to, but the basic question was: what practices have been or will be enforced so that the lands, waters and people are well protected?

I do understand that the Inuit organizations do represent the Inuit but at this point, there are some constituents who feel like they're not being heard adequately. So is there any way that the GN can do to ensure or monitor that the lives of Inuit of Baker Lake are being well protected? That was my question. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, there's a committee put together to monitor the socio-economic situation in these communities that are affected by the mining and exploration companies.

The government does participate in the overall review process, through the NIRB process, and for the most part, NIRB has the authority to listen and review any concerns that any individual may bring up throughout the whole review process. And I can assure the member that the government does participate in the review process. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Your second supplementary, Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also want to thank the hon. member. And I just want to advise him that this is a real sensitive, delicate issue for my community and my constituents.

I just want to advise you of the fact that I'm ready and willing to work with you as well to inform my constituents using what's available to them. I look forward to sharing more information with you in the House and as well as possibly on one-on-one meeting. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As we have indicated before that we are open and willing to communicate and have the regular members participate in all of these issues that we're facing, especially when it comes to mining, I appreciate the member's comments. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you. (interpretation) Oral Questions. Mr. Okalik.

Question 034 – 3(1): Sealing Issue

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is dealing with the sealing issue. I would first like to ask: how many years have you resided in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister of Environment, Hon. Daniel Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I never heard the question. Could the member please repeat it? Thank you.

Speaker: Mr. Okalik.

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would first like to ask: how many years have you resided in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. A Point of Order has been called. Mr. Tootoo.

Point of Order

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That question has nothing to do with the minister's responsibilities, so it should be ruled out of order. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Thank you for that Point of Order, Mr. Tootoo. I would like to remind hon. Okalik that the question has nothing to do with his portfolio. Can you clarify your question, please. Mr. Okalik.

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When he rose earlier to make a statement, he stated that we remember the devastating effects of the seal ban in the 1980s. So therefore, I wanted to ask how many years he has resided here. If he is going to state something like that, I wonder how long he has been here if he can remember that far back. This is totally in line with his statement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Okalik. I would like to ask Minister Shewchuk if he could respond to the question. Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm not quite sure what the member is trying to get at here. But the sealing issue has come before Nunavut, then the Northwest Territories before, 20 years ago, and it was a similar situation

and that is what's referred to in the document.

As far as how long I've lived here, I have no comment on that then. The sealing issue comes and goes and politicians come and go. I have only been here for a short time, but I wasn't here back in the 1980s when the sealing ban was taking place. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The reason why I posed my question is if we are going to make these types of statements of remembering the effects on Nunavummiut, we have to be able to explain to outsiders how the sealing issue has and will affect Inuit, both from our ancestors' perspective and what we see today, and the truth stemming from our experiences to back up our position and this has always been our argument.

How can the minister explain how important the sealing issues are to Nunavummiut without using his personal experiences when debating these animal rights activists? Nunavut requires strong leadership on this file. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, as minister, I understand and I fully well know how important sealing is to Nunavut. I'm a hunter myself and I hunt seals, and seals are culturally, holistically, and for economic reasons very important to all

Nunavummiut. And the member understands that also, I think so.

Yes, I do know how important seals are to Nunavut. We are trying our best as the Government of Nunavut to team up with Canada and deal with this sealing issue and do the best we can. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Your second supplementary, Mr. Okalik.

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would want you to consider these discussions well into the future because this is a big issue overseas as well. According to the overseas report from other departments, we want to be able to be strong and speak for our communities. In April, there's going to be a vote on whether or not the sealing ban would proceed and we want to be able to have answers for our communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we will have to wait until April 1 before a decision is made as we don't know what that decision is going to be in the European Union.

I can assure that the sealing topic and the sealing industry... we had a very strong Inuk. My deputy minister represented us in Europe on two occasions recently and he took the strong voice from Nunavut there and as a Canadian delegation, so I do understand. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Your final supplementary, Mr. Okalik.

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If we're just going to wait for April to come, it's going to be too late. You need to plan this before April 1 so that we can work together on this area in Canada. Are we just going to wait for things to happen? If we're just going to do that, the people in our region will be affected. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. If members have something to say or a question to pose, they have to remember the proper parliamentary protocol of directing them through the Speaker. Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I have stated already, we are working together very strongly with Canada and we do have a strategy in place. We have been to European nations twice in the last three or four months and we are carrying on with our strategy.

We are waiting for this decision to come through because we have done what we feel is everything that we can up to this point. If this decision does come through to ban seal and seal products from the European Union, we do have a strategy in place of how to deal with that too in conjunction with Canada. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Please note that Question Period is now over. (interpretation ends) Moving right along, Item 7. Written Questions. Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Mr. Okalik.

Item 9: Replies to Opening Address**Reply to Opening Address 001 – 3(1):
Mr. Paul Okalik**

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) This new government's mandate is one of change. My colleague for Quttiktuq keeps referring to how wonderful it has been for him to be given a chance for such a mandate.

Let me do the math in the most recent election on this agenda for change. Only 11 people chose to run for re-election of the 19 ridings in this wonderfully great territory. Out of those 11, 6 were re-elected, which means that the majority of Nunavummiut who were given an opportunity to vote for change chose not to do so.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to go a tad further on the numbers and see how strong a mandate that my colleague for Quttiktuq was given to construct such a change. To begin, he won by nine votes. That is even less than the number of Stanley Cups that the Toronto Maple Leafs have won.

>> *Laughter*

If his competitor had won over five of those votes - that is one hand - he would have lost the election and the mandate for change. How is he representing those good folks that chose not to vote for change, who narrowly lost? My election, which was won by a gap of 44 votes, has been called a squeaker and so close. How would my friend's votes by nine be classified?

(interpretation) I am sure if I were in his shoes, I would be enjoying the type of change that he represents of this government and he is boasting about it. As an Inuk who was born and raised in this great territory and who has spent his entire adult life on improving our plight, I beg to differ. I have worked very hard to be able to do the best job that I can to provide my support to my fellow Inuit and have earned university degrees in the process.

I am forever grateful to my late mother for pushing me to get as much education as possible and for my late father for passing on the traditional ways of hunting and fishing. Both my parents tried to teach the proper ways of the land and the Inuit way and for that I truly thank them.

I do not claim to be an expert in the traditional ways that permitted our ancestors to live in harmony, but I was fortunate to learn a few things from my family. I try to live by the values that they passed onto me and I believe we were making progress with the government that I was so blessed and lead.

I have tried to be as helpful as I can, I want the very best for my constituents and fellow Nunavummiut, and what I am noticing is that I feel like a stranger to this government. This was supposed to be our government and I am starting to sense that we have gone back in time. I led a government that at first was trying to get organized and have a good foundation to deliver the services that the Nunavummiut have grown to accept. From there, we focused on improving our lot and providing a government that is reflective of the citizens it serves.

We passed our *Wildlife Act* during our first term to address the expectations of our Inuit partners. During our second term, we passed our language legislation to ensure that our traditional language had its rightful place. We also passed our *Education Act* to ensure that our children will learn Inuktitut in the classroom. We passed our *Midwifery Act* to permit the use of our traditional knowledge of this long-standing practice in Nunavut. We also passed our *Family Abuse Intervention Act* to try to respond to the unacceptable rates of violence and return to some of our traditional ways to tackle these challenges.

In the area of corrections, we focused our attention towards healing the inmates and made investments for the necessary infrastructure. We increased the number of Inuit employees to the point where they form the majority of our workforce and are improving the services to our unilingual citizens. We focused our attention to the economy where we were second in growth rate in the entire country. We also increased assistance to our Inuit students who wanted to pursue a higher education and they responded by going in higher numbers.

I also took part in delegations to Europe and southern Canada to tackle the agendas of the animal activists and made real efforts to increase our chances of making progress with some key European governments. I would explain to the foreign governments that as an Inuk, I had the honour of killing my first seal when I was eight years old and how I obtained my first real income from the sealskin trade, of how proud my parents were as they knew I was continuing on with the ways of the Inuit that had

sustained us since time immemorial. This has been encouraging to watch over the last few years and I thought that we were heading in the right direction.

Today, I look across the floor and see for the first time in our young government that once again a non-Inuk minister is making very important decisions for us on the most basic of our necessities in managing wildlife. I recall that this individual was trying to extract a commitment from me during the lead-up to the leadership forum when I was running for Premier. I was not comfortable making such a commitment but someone must have as he is sitting where he is today. For example, at the federal level, the minister representing Fisheries and Oceans always comes from the sea.

Today, I see that we have a credibility problem in tackling the animal rights movement, in presenting our case before the European community. An Inuk in your position today can easily give our case a lot of weight by telling our stories firsthand; you cannot offer that to the Parliamentarians who will be making this decision in a month's time. I regret that the Inuit hunters and their families will suffer greatly as a result of your lack of credibility. As Premier, I always tried to ensure that we had the strongest case to present to the outside world so that our constituents were rewarded by our actions.

The incompetence shown by this administration is unforgivable for the suffering that will be faced by the most vulnerable of my fellow Nunavummiut. The decision to ban sealskins was made on March 2 and it took our Premier until March 10 to issue a press release without

any other effort to counter these measures. I was taken aback by the inability to answer a basic question as to why it took her over a week to draft a press release. It also became very obvious that there are no plans in place to challenge the European community over this act. Nunavummiut deserve a far more active government to protect our interests and this act alone shows how out of touch this government is. How could you place such a low priority on the basic needs of the Inuit? We deserve better!

I had already expressed my disappointment with the removal of the former Minister of Justice, who is very wise and knowledgeable about Inuit, and will focus on the most recent decision on this crucial matter for Inuit. In prior governments, we worked very hard in trying to honour the dream of Nunavut by working on reflecting the laws for Inuit as this is our homeland. We have made real strides in the areas of family abuse, language, education, and wildlife, but there is so much more to do and once again, we will have a non-Inuk trying to interpret what is best for Inuit. To the new minister, I know that you will work very hard, but you will be busy trying to manage our dwindling finances.

I, along with numerous Inuit in our territory, feel that we have gone back in time with this questionable decision by our Premier. Inuit want a government that reflects our cultural values and priorities. I find it difficult to put into words how alien this new government feels, how far they have strayed from the path so many Inuit worked so hard to create.

(interpretation ends) I have been very critical as I must as a Member of this Assembly representing the interests of my constituents and as an Inuk who feels our voice is no longer the one that is being heard. However, it pains me; there may be some that say I'm bitter or angry and trying to undermine this government. Life brings many changes to all of us.

My role now is a new experience that I have not before. I led this government for nine and a half years, we faced many challenges. The first was one of inexperience, the second of unrealistic expectations. What experience teaches me is that change is inevitable, change is necessary, but change for the sake of change accomplishes nothing.

(interpretation) We, as Inuit, have learned we are the sum of our experiences, we learn from our past, from our elders, and from those who came before us. If what we are witnessing today is an indication of what is to come, we will be sorely disappointed and the Inuit agenda that we fought so long and hard for will be lost as we are returning to the days of non-Inuit making Inuit decisions. We can use a better approach in our future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. 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 017 – 3(1): EDT
Staff Directory**

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table a staff directory and how this contravenes an Act, and I would like to go into more detail in the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Tabling of Documents. Mr. Ningeongan.

**Tabled Document 018 – 3(1): 2009
Kivalliq Mayor's Meeting
Resolutions**

Mr. Ningeongan (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I spoke with the Mayor of Coral Harbour and he was the chairperson of the Kivalliq mayors meeting in Coral Harbour. I wish to table copies of three resolutions that were passed at the recent Kivalliq mayors meeting. I encourage all members to review these with care and I look forward to seeing the government's responses to these resolutions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

(interpretation ends) Tabling of Documents. Item 14. Notices of Motions. Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 16. Motions. Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Mr. Peterson.

Item 17: First Reading of Bills

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I request consent of this Assembly to waive the two-day notice

requirement to allow for the first reading of Bill 1, *Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2009-2010*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. The minister is seeking consent to waive the two-day requirement rule so that Bill 1 can be read today for the first time. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Please proceed, Mr. Peterson.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet South and Whale Cove, that Bill 1, *Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2009-2010*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

First Reading of Bills. Minister of Finance, Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I request consent of this Assembly to waive the two-day notice requirement to allow for the first reading of Bill 2, *Interim Appropriation Act, April 1 – July 31, 2009*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. The minister is seeking consent to waive the two-day regular notice so that Bill 2 can be read today for the first time. Do members agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Speaker: Please proceed, Mr. Peterson.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet South and Whale Cove, that Bill 2, *Interim Appropriation Act, April 1 – July 31, 2009*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. The motion is in order. Question has been called. All those in favour, raise your hand. Opposed. The motion is carried.

First Reading of Bills. Minister of Finance, Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I request consent to this Assembly to waive the two-day notice requirement to allow for the first reading of Bill 3, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 3, 2008-2009*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. The minister is seeking consent to waive the two-day waiting rule so that Bill 3 can be read for the first time. Do members agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Speaker: Thank you. Please proceed, Minister Peterson.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet South and Whale Cove, that Bill 3, *Supplementary*

Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 3, 2008-2009, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. The motion is in order. Question has been called. All those in favour, raise your hand please. Opposed. The motion is carried.

First Reading of Bills. Minister of Finance, Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I request consent of this Assembly to waive the two-day notice requirement to allow for the first reading of Bill 4, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 3, 2008-2009*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. The minister is seeking consent to waive the two-day waiting rule so that Bill 4 can be read today for the first time. Do members agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Speaker: Thank you. Please proceed, Minister Peterson.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet South and Whale Cove, 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. The motion is in order. Question has been called. All those in favour, raise your hand. Opposed. The motion is carried.

First Reading of Bills. Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Minister of Finance, Mr. Peterson.

Item 18: Second Reading of Bills

Bill 01 – Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2009-2010 – Second Reading

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet-South Whale Cove, that Bill 1, *Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2009-2010*, be read for the second time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill. Question has been called. All those in favour, raise your hand. Thank you. Bill 1 is referred to the Committee of the Whole.

Second Reading of Bills. Minister of Finance, Mr. Peterson.

Bill 02 – Interim Appropriation Act, April 1 – July 31, 2009 – Second Reading

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet South and Whale Cove, that Bill 2, *Interim Appropriation Act, April 1 – July 31, 2009*, be read for the second time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill. Question has been called. All those in

favour, raise your hand, please. Opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 2 is referred to the Committee of the Whole.

Second Reading of Bills. Minister of Finance, Mr. Peterson.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet South and Whale Cove, that Bill 3, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 3, 2008-2009*, be read for the second time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill. Question has been called. All those in favour raise your hand please. Opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 3 is referred to the Committee of the Whole.

Second Reading of Bills. Minister of Finance, Mr. Peterson.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet South and Whale Cove, that Bill 4, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 3, 2008-2009*, be read for the second time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill.

Question has been called. All those in favour, raise your hand. Opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 4 is referred to the Committee of the Whole.

Second Reading of Bills. Item 19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bills 1, 2, 3, and 4 with Mr. Okalik in the Chair.

Before we proceed with the Committee of the Whole, we will take a 20-minute break.

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>House recessed at 15:40 and Committee resumed at 16:11

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

Chairman (Mr. Okalik)(interpretation): Welcome. I would like to call the committee meeting to order. I would first like to say that we have the following items to deal with: Bills 1, 2, 3, and 4. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We wish to commence our review of the bills you just mentioned, commencing with Bill 3, followed by Bill 4 and Bill 2. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Is the committee agreed that we first deal with Bill 3?

Some Members: Agreed.

Bill 03 – Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 3, 2008-2009 – Consideration in Committee

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. I would first of all like to ask Mr. Peterson, the Minister of Finance, to make his opening comments. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good afternoon. Bill 3 is an Act to appropriate additional monies for capital expenditures for the balance of 2008-09. The total amount being appropriated is \$67,133,000.

Bill 3 will provide the final balance of \$62,159,000, including interest earned by the Nunavut Housing Trust to the Nunavut Housing Corporation for the delivery of social housing units. As well, an appropriation of \$4,176,000 is allotted for the government's share of the Building Canada Fund (BCF) projects for 2007-08 and 2008-09.

Canada recently indicated approval of the following projects:

- The Sanikiluaq Truck Fill Station;
- The Baker Lake Community Hall;
- The Grise Fiord Hamlet Office Community Hall Complex;
- Improvements to the Taloyoak Airport;
- Iqaluit's Street Paving Project.

A total of \$16,046,000 has already been appropriated in the 2007-08 and 2008-09 capital estimates in support of BCF projects. An additional appropriation of

\$4,176,000 will bring the total to \$20,222,000.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my opening comments. I will be pleased to take questions. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson. Do you have witnesses that you would like to bring to the witness table?

Hon. Keith Peterson: Yes.

Chairman (interpretation): Do my colleagues agree to have the officials accompany the minister to the witness table?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses in. Thank you.

Thank you, Sergeant-at-Arms. Minister, please introduce your witnesses.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my right is Deputy Minister Peter Ma of Finance. To my left is Jeff Chown, Director of Expenditure Management. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. I would like to remind members of the following: according to Rule 77(1), you have 10 minutes to speak, and according to Rule 77(2), subject to the discretion of the Chair, a member may speak more than once to a matter under discussion but not until every member wishing to speak has spoken.

I suggest to members that wherever possible you ask your detailed questions during the page-by-page review of the bill. Do any of my colleagues have any general comments? Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Mr. Aupaluktuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was very pleased to hear that Baker Lake will be getting a community hall. I would like to know when the construction of that facility will begin. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Minister Peterson, would you like to respond?

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We don't have that information here. I'll have to ask my colleague, Minister Kusugak, to answer that question. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Minister Kusugak, could you respond to that question?

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): If we get the funding approved in this House, construction will be able to start as the piles and some other materials are already in Baker Lake. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Aupaluktuq, does that answer your question? Does any member have any general comments? Mr. Ningark.

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): I just wanted to ask you, Mr. Chairman, before we begin dealing with the supplementary appropriations, if I can take my jacket off because I'm getting rather warm. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): It's totally up to you. You can take off all the clothes you want.

>> *Laughter*

Thank you. Does anyone else have any general comments? Mr. Pauloosie.

Mr. Pauloosie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My question is to the Minister of Finance. I also wish to say that improvements to the Taloyoak Airport are on here. It would have been nice to see a terminal building on there too. But like you said earlier today, resurfacing of the runway and the runway lights, would you know when this will be taking place? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Minister Peterson, could you respond to that question?

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will ask my colleague, Minister Taptuna, who is responsible for Economic Development and Transportation, to respond to that question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Minister Taptuna, could you answer the question?

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The tender is going to be going out in April, next month. It's been a really tough go at this project here for Taloyoak for a number of things, but in April, the tender is due to go. *Koana*, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Does that answer your question? Mr. Pauloosie, would you like to add something? Mr. Pauloosie.

Mr. Pauloosie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have heard some complaints from the pilots that the condition of the runway is really bad, especially for a Learjet medevac when it lands there. The pilots were complaining about the runway and I am glad that the tender is going to be going out this April. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Pauloosie. I didn't hear a question. Are there any other questions? Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There seems to be questions posed in the pages and if there are no other general comments, Mr. Chairman, I would like the page-by-page review to begin. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Okay, we will do that. Bill 3, 2008-09 Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) No. 3. We will now deal with supplementary appropriations on page 4. Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth. Total Directorate. \$791,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Total Department. These funds have to be approved again. \$791,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Go to page 5. Department of Education. Total Corporate Services. \$285,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Total Department. \$285,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Go to page 6. Department of Health and Social Services. Total Directorate. \$161,000. Do you agree? Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I recall correctly, I believe it was last year or the year before that finance personnel from the Department of Health was moved to the Department of Finance so that there would be better overall alignment. What was the reason for this error, this \$161,000? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Minister Peterson, if you would like to respond to that.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think the member is referring to recentralization and that's when some health staff were moved to the Department of Finance. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Arvaluk, did he answer your question?

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): No. They stated the finance personnel were moved from the Department of Health and Social Services to the Department of Finance in order to have better financial management.

So this is an accrual error of \$161,000 in the recording of the adjustment that was never found until the finance personnel were moved. It says here that this is a year-end accrual error of \$161,000.

Have they started finding accrual errors since these staff were moved? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister, would you like to respond to that?

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that question. At the close of the fiscal year of 2007-08, there were five outstanding invoices for medical equipment and there was a miscommunication between the Department of Health and the Department of Finance with respect to setting up the funds to pay those outstanding invoices. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Did he answer your question? \$161,000. Do members have any further questions? Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Total Department. \$161,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Department of Community and Government Services. Total Capital Planning. \$2,568,000. Do you agree? Are there any questions? Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): I believe we're on page 7. Thank you. The Building Canada Fund will give 25 percent to the Government of Nunavut and they appropriated \$6,927,000. Did the Building Canada Fund increase the amount of money they gave to Nunavut by 25 percent so that it is now

\$2,568,000? (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Minister Peterson, if you would respond to that question.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for asking that question. The government has better financial numbers now, so they're adjusting the figures to reflect the more accurate numbers and that's why there was an increase. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): So there's an increase. Are there any other questions? Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This goes back to some of the questions that some of the other MLAs were asking and I don't know whether it would be Mr. Kusugak or Minister Peterson answering this. I guess Mr. Kusugak said that when these funds are approved. Was that when we approve them or has the federal government already approved these and these are underway because this is for up until April 1 of this year, correct?

Chairman (interpretation): Minister Peterson, if you would respond to that question, please.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's a very good question from the member. The Government of Canada has approved their share, we have to approve our share, and then bring it into the House for final approval. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Elliott, did that answer your question? Are there any other questions? Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Following that, you must know approximately how much the Building Canada Fund is going to give you in order to agree to your 25 percent share because if they are going to give you \$2 billion, you cannot put 25 percent of that without jeopardizing other projects. Do you know approximately then how much the Building Canada Fund will give you in order to determine that you will be able to afford 25 percent from the GN? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Minister Peterson, could you address the question?

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that question. The Building Canada Fund is a seven-year program and there is roughly \$26 million a year to Nunavut. So over those seven years, it's roughly \$180 million. We could fairly and accurately calculate our 25 percent share. I don't have a calculator in front of me, but that's roughly 25 percent of \$180 million. Hopefully that answers the question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Get the man a calculator. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will adjust the difficulty to get the right calculation.

\$26 million or whatever the federal government will give you, you already heard that it will be used over a seven-

year period. You must know pretty well then how much annually you would agree to be using from the federal side, from the Building Canada Fund.

How did you manage to miscalculate it by \$2,568,000 when you already know how much it will be per year? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson, maybe you should invest in a calculator. Would you like to respond?

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Maybe I need one of those abacuses there. When we went out to RFP, the numbers came in, so then there were estimates and then there were more accurate numbers when the RFPs provided the information through the processes there. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Are there any further questions? Total Capital Planning. \$2,568,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Total Department. \$2,568,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. We will now go to the Department of Economic Development and Transportation. Total Transportation. Not Previously Authorized. \$2,751,000. Are there any questions? Mr. Ningark, please proceed.

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't have a question for Arviat or Taloyoak, but this question is directly related to runways.

Every year in the smaller communities, runways aren't usually paved. They have to resurface them every spring when there is erosion. There is generally erosion with the continuous landing of airplanes and also during snow removal in the winter. I'm sure it's very expensive for the Nunavut government in communities where there are no paved runways.

Has the minister considered paving runways in the smaller communities or in all of Nunavut's communities, at least one community a year? We need to try to think of how to spend less money. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningark. That's geared more towards the Department of Transportation. If you would like to respond to that question, Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, hon. member, for that question. The department has considered asphalt for paving the runways, but it has been determined that it should be limited to runways which receive aircraft that cannot operate on gravel, meaning Rankin Inlet and Iqaluit.

Asphalt is really expensive, difficult to maintain in the winter, and difficult to repair once the ground beneath is slightly uneven. It's a really expensive proposal. At this time, the O&M just to maintain asphalt on paved runways is a really huge expense. Although the

department has looked at it, it's still a huge expense that the government can't afford. *Koana*, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Mr. Ningark, do you have any more questions?

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the minister, my colleague from the Kitikmeot. As he stated, it's quite hard to maintain paved runways in the winter. I don't think it's very hard with snow blowers and I was wondering if that has been taken into consideration. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Taptuna, if you would respond to that as well.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, member, for that question. At any given time, just to apply and maintain the asphalt runways in the smaller communities is a huge expense. At this time, the department is still looking into that, but we have considered costs of just O&M as a huge cost to the government that. At this time, we're just looking at that and hopefully I'll have a better answer for you further down the line in the near future. *Koana*, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Ningark, do you have another question?

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister. In the larger communities where 737 jets land, there's usually asphalt or concrete pavement on the runways. Once in a while, we get Hercules or other jet planes that land in Kugaaruk and they

carry passengers who are on charters. This was just a comment, not a question. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningark. That was just a comment. Are there any other questions? Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Item 1, first, there's a transfer from Vote 1 O&M to Vote 2 Capital. Am I correct in that? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Minister Peterson, if you would answer that question.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's correct. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On Item 2, you have previously allotted or at least previously appropriated your share of 25 percent for the Building Canada Fund against the Building Canada Fund of \$275,000. Now, you are requesting a net requirement of \$2,751,000.

Why is there 90 percent miscalculation or under-calculation when you told us already that these are seven-year agreements and that you pretty well know how much it will be a year for those projects? Can you explain the rationale behind the 10 percent you have allotted and now, you're asking for 90 percent of your original calculation of your 25 percent share? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Minister Peterson, would you like to respond to that?

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. These two projects were added to the list of projects through the accelerated initiatives that the federal government announced earlier this year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Arvaluk, did that answer your question? Are there any further questions? Total Transportation. \$2,751,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Total Department. \$2,751,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Go to page 9. Nunavut Housing Corporation. Capital. Total Corporation. \$62,159,000. Are there any questions? Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Item 1, to provide funding to the Nunavut Housing Corporation to draw down the remaining balance of \$54 million, and the interest is Item 2, \$7 million. Why was this not asked for or at least put in the capital in the previous year? Did you not know that you were going to get that amount?

Is this, from the Nunavut Housing Trust, finally matured with interest or what was the plan in that? What was the rationale behind having this very large amount into the supplementary appropriation

rather than a regular capital item from the previous budget? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Minister Peterson, would you like to respond to that question?

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Nunavut Housing Trust project had to be delivered over three years and the Nunavut Housing Corporation draws down the money when it's required. So we wouldn't require the whole \$200 million in the first years as the materials are ordered and the houses are delivered. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So you already built the houses for \$62,159,000 and that's why it's in the supplementary rather than in the capital budget that we will be dealing with some time this week or next week. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Minister Peterson, if you would respond to that question.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that question. The amount being requested is to order materials, do the site work, foundation development, and labour for the houses to be built in this construction season. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Arvaluk, did that answer your question? Do you have further questions? Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you very much. I fail to understand this. In a couple weeks time, it will be another fiscal year and we hopefully won't be approving the capital budget this week or next week. Why is this not included in that 2009-2010?

Why do they need a supplementary appropriation for 2008-09 as if they have already ordered it and as if they are already building it, especially the foundation? I just want him to explain why this is not included in the regular capital budget for next week. Why are we doing the supplementary? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Minister Peterson, if you would respond, please.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for asking the question. Maybe the best way to explain it is that the Nunavut Housing Corporation isn't a regular government department, it's a Crown agency, and the funds are for the 2009-2010 fiscal year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Last one. So in the regular budget process for capital next week, for example, there will be no appearance from the Housing Corporation at all in that total capital budget. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that question. I believe there will be an appearance by the Nunavut Housing

Corporation there with the other capital items such as staff housing. So there will be an appearance. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Total Housing Corporation. \$62,159,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Total Corporation. \$62,159,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): My colleagues, we will go back to page 2. Supplementary Appropriation. Schedule 1. Capital. Total Capital Appropriation. \$67,133,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Bill 3 can now be placed on the Orders of the Day for third reading.

If you have your legislation binders, we can go clause-by-clause, (interpretation ends) in the white pages. (interpretation) Do you have them on hand? Someone is looking for them, but I believe they're under your desks.

Bill 3, (interpretation ends) under the "B" 3, (interpretation) *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 3, 2008-2009*. Clause 1. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 2; we will go to the Schedule on the back to review it first. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Summary of Appropriation for the Fiscal Year Ending March 31, 2009. Vote 2: Capital. Total Capital Appropriation. \$67,133,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Total Capital Appropriation. \$67,133,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Go to clause 3. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 4. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 5. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 6. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 7. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Is the committee agreed to Bill 3 as a whole?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Is the committee also agreed that pursuant to Rule 62(2) that Bill 3 can now immediately be placed on the Orders of the Day for third reading?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Thank you, ministers and your officials. Do you have any closing remarks, Minister?

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would just like to thank my colleagues for asking some good questions and approving this bill. It's very important to the people of Nunavut. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Bill 3 can now be referred for third reading. We have another bill.

Would you like to stay there, Minister, to deal with Bill 4? Thank you. We are now going to be dealing with Bill 4. Minister Peterson can remain at the witness table.

We will now be dealing with *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 3, 2008-2009*. Minister Peterson, please introduce your witnesses again and proceed if you wish with your opening comments.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, I would like to

introduce my Deputy Minister, Mr. Peter Ma, he's to my right, and to my left is Jeff Chown, Director of Expenditure Management for the Department of Finance. I have some opening comments, should I continue?

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson. Do members agree to have the witnesses remain at the witness table and make their opening comments?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Minister Peterson, you may proceed.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Bill 4 is an Act to appropriate additional monies for operations and maintenance expenditures for the balance of 2008-09. The total amount being appropriated is \$20,533,000.

In Bill 4, the major items being appropriated are:

1. The Department of Health and Social Services in the amount of \$7,354,000 for
 - a) an increase in federal funding of \$1,620,000 for the Non-Insured Health Benefits Program;
 - b) an increase in residential care costs of \$4,334,000; and
 - c) an increase in out-of-territory hospital costs of \$1,400,000.
2. The Department of Justice in the amount of \$4,943,000 for
 - a) an increase in out-of-territory inmate costs of \$3,390,000;
 - b) an increase to the RCMP contract due to recent federal

legislation changes of \$968,000; and
 c) recognition of \$487,000 from the federal government for funding previously identified as Vote 4/5 for the Legal Services Board.

- 3) The Department of Intergovernmental Affairs a total of \$6,100,000 for federal Eco Trust projects.

This money has been re-appropriated as of last year in 2007-08.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my opening comments. I will be pleased to take any questions. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. We will just be going over the same procedure at the beginning of each bill.

Before we proceed, I would like to remind my colleagues of the following: according to Rule 77(1), you have 10 minutes to speak, and according to Rule 77(2), subject to the discretion of the Chair, a member may speak more than once to a matter under discussion but not until every member wishing to speak has spoken.

I suggest to members that wherever possible you ask your detailed questions during the page-by-page review of the departmental estimates. Do members have any general comments? Mr. Ningark.

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the Minister of Finance. I would like to make a

comment on your opening comments on page 3, which I don't fully understand.

When we are campaigning to get elected, we talk about how we can benefit our voters, even those who have not voted for us. With respect to development, they want assistance and we want to help them as much as they want to help us.

I cannot grasp the English terminology used here, federal Eco Trust projects. I'm not aware of what the definition is for that word, so can the minister enlighten us as to what it means? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Minister Peterson, would you like to respond to that question?

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that question. The federal Eco Trust program is a program that was announced in 2007 and it's a one-time program. The funds are in it to be drawn down over three years and the funds are for projects that would improve energy in Nunavut. For example, fixing up the Iqaluit House with better windows, new furnace; those kinds of projects and residual heating projects. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Are there any other questions? Do members have any general comments?

Since there are no more questions or comments, we will go to page 4. 2008-09 Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) No. 3. Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. Operations

and Maintenance. Not Previously Authorized. Total Department. \$6.1 million. Do you agree? Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm not totally opposing this because it refers to Eco Trust. (interpretation ends) The Energy Secretariat of the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, (interpretation) why was this secretariat established and why do they require an additional \$6.1 million for the Eco Trust Fund? What constitutes as the Eco Trust Fund? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. That very question was raised earlier. Please clarify what Eco Trust means, Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that question. The fund would normally go to QEC but it's not a government department, so it flows through EIA. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is this for something like planning hydroelectric dams so that it decreases fossil fuel dependency? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Which minister would like to respond? Perhaps Minister Peterson can provide a response to that question.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that question. Basically the funding is for \$5.4 million to the Qulliq Energy

Corporation for residual heating projects and \$700,000 to the Nunavut Housing Corporation for the Homeowner Energy Efficiency Program, and the program ends on March 31, 2010. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Arvaluk, did that answer your question? Mr. Ningark.

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for appearing before us. In the interest of conserving fuel in the wintertime when it's cold, or summer for that matter, with respect to buildings in Nunavut, especially for homeowners, snow is piled around homes.

In smaller communities, there are many who do not earn a lot of money. Now, when snow is going to be piled up against buildings to conserve fuel in the winter, has the government looked at providing that service for homeowners? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningark. We have experienced that, so that's a very good question. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm not aware that the government itself has considered that through this program. The individual homeowner could apply for funding of up to \$1,000 to do home energy audits or hire someone to fill up their piles. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Mr. Ningark.

Mr. Ningark: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This government, Mr. Chairman, believes strongly in protective services in the small communities.

Many people come to me and say that when they go to a welfare office, they are asked, "Have you been looking for a job in the community?" Jobs in the community that are taken have a very low turnover. Other than that, there is practically no choice in a community when it comes to getting a job, everything is taken.

Those jobs taken have a really slow turnover, that's what I said before, and many people in my community, even the older people that own their own homes, will work to make their home more energy efficient by snow-banking their homes.

Mr. Chairman, I'm asking: will the government consider at least, when it comes to protective services, hiring two or three people in the community to snow-bank homes that are proved not energy efficient? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I understand the member's question and that's important. I have done that, I have banked snow around my house on occasion as well and I also had the plywood on the side and on the skirting of it.

I think a question like that would be better directed to the Minister of

Housing as he has the responsibility for that portfolio. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): The Minister of Housing is not in the House at this time, so you can ask that question when he is available if that's okay with you. Mr. Ningark.

Mr. Ningark: Thank you. Somebody got lucky. Thank you.

>> *Laughter*

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you. I just have one quick question I forgot to ask that time.

I understand that this is for Nunavut citizens who want to buy energy efficient appliances, etcetera, or insulate their homes, or anything they can do to make their homes more fuel efficient or eco-friendly. Will you be advertising these or at least give notice to regular members, not just close friends but regular Nunavummiut so that everybody will know about it? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Minister Peterson, if you would respond to that question.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe this was already announced in October of 2007, a press release went out. So that information is out there and I believe the program will probably be advertised just to make sure that people are aware of it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Do you have any more questions, Mr. Arvaluk? Mr. Ningark, did you have a question in regard to housing?

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a short question. We were talking about energy efficiency for homeowners in the presence of the Minister of Finance. I was talking about piling snow around houses to conserve fuel in the winter. Has the government considered applying that kind of solution?

Also, there are a lot of unemployed people in the communities and then we have the government telling them to look for jobs. Has the minister given any thought to hiring people to pile snow around houses to reduce fuel consumption? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Minister Tootoo, if you want to try and respond to that question.

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. That isn't one of the subsidy programs that the corporation provides. There are a number of them and one I think he is referring to is the subsidy for homeowners buying energy efficient appliances or doing energy efficiency upgrades to their units, and I think that's the subsidy program that's out there.

There is no program and this is the first, I am sure, I have heard and I don't think anyone at the corporation has heard of the request of banking snow as an energy efficiency program. But if the member would like to provide the corporation, through his community or

through the hamlet, some kind of a request in writing, I would be more than happy to have my officials at the corporation look at it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Tootoo. He mentioned that there are a lot of people living in public houses. It would cut down on O&M costs to the Housing Corporation to conserve energy in those units. That was a very good question from Mr. Ningark and it's something that you should look into further. Thank you for trying to provide a proper response.

Are there any more questions? Total Intergovernmental Affairs. \$6.1 million. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Total Department. \$6.1 million. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Department of Justice. Operations and Maintenance. Total Directorate. \$540,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Law Enforcement. Operations and Maintenance. Supplementary Appropriation. \$968,000. Do you agree? Are there any questions? Mr. Ningark.

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is this to support communities where they have only one RCMP officer? It would be great if it was geared towards that. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Minister Peterson, would you like to respond to that question?

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, this would help the detachments with the minimum number of officers. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Are there any more questions on this page? \$968,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Corrections. Supplementary Appropriation. \$3,390,000. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm not arguing with the requirement for a supplementary of three and a half million, but have you approached the federal government to consider the federal inmate program or federal institutions in Nunavut? They are and you are paying, once it's altogether now, pretty close to \$24 million for O&M a year for Yellowknife and southern institutions.

Nunavut inmates resulting from being outside of Nunavut is about 24 million dollars and then in turn, the federal government gives you money under the Territorial Funding Formula, or TFF. Have you ever tried to convince them that they're spending more money by not providing an institution in Nunavut for federal inmates? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Peterson, can you try to respond to that question?

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that question. Most of the inmates are inmates that don't need to go to a federal penitentiary.

One of the reasons for the construction of the Rankin Inlet facility is to address the member's concerns so that we don't have to ship people to Yellowknife, where they charge us \$266 a day, and that's approximately one hundred thousand dollars a year per inmate. We're well aware of the need for facilities in Nunavut and that's why we're building the Rankin Inlet facility.

Of course, we are always going to have conversations with our federal counterparts and other provincial jurisdictions about facilities. We do send some people down to Ontario and again, we have an agreement with them to take some of our inmates. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are federal institutions in every province, maybe several of them in one province. Ontario, for example, has quite a few I think. The federal government pays for those programs. Are the federal inmates from Nunavut? Does the federal government pay for them 100 percent or do you have to fork over some of it even though they have federal inmates? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. I can respond to your question, but that's the minister's responsibility. Minister.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I understand it correctly, once the federal inmates are in the federal jurisdiction, then the federal government is responsible. We're responsible for territorial inmates. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): He provided a proper response. Corrections. Total Supplementary Appropriation. \$3,390,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Lawyer Support Services. Supplementary Appropriation. \$45,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Department of Justice. Total Supplementary Appropriation. \$4,943,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. We will now go to page 6. Department of Education. Operations and Maintenance. Supplementary Appropriation. Total Directorate. \$285,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Total Education. \$285,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. We will now go to page 7. Department of Health and Social Services. Total

Health Insurance Programs. \$3,020,000. Do you agree? Are there any questions? Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to have clarification on this. Total Health Insurance Programs, \$55 million, is that for the whole operation of GN for health insurance programming or is that costs incurred when they have been provided out-of-territory hospitals? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Minister Peterson, if you would try to respond to that question.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll ask my colleague, Minister Curley, to respond to that question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Minister Curley, if you can try and respond to that question.

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Yes, I can try and respond to his question. The appropriation bill is for additional funds for Health and Social Services. This is for the total health insurance program for all people, Inuit and non-Inuit, with health care cards.

This supplementary is to cover the over expenditures from the previous year. It's clear that some of these funds have already been used and it should balance out with this amount. Last year, \$55 million was approved. Once this is approved, the total expenditure from our department will be \$58 million and that's what we have provided you.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Arvaluk, did that answer your question? Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation) Yes, I've got my response. For example, I have Green Shield insurance coverage as an employee and if I went to the health centre, I am covered through that insurance.

I fail to understand why you would have to pay for that same insurance coverage again, that \$55 million in total, and I understand that they were short \$3 million. But I'm wondering if you pay the insurance companies additional fees, for example, \$55 million. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Maybe a lot of people became sick or ill. Minister Curley, can you try to respond to that question as well?

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): This is to provide services for individuals that need to travel that the government pays for. Even if you are covered under an insurance program or under Green Shield and you have to travel by medevac, they provide interim payment. We do recover those expenditures after the patients have been treated.

If a patient has to be medevaced out of the territory, we are billed first and then we can claim this amount depending on the patient's insurance coverage such as the Green Shield coverage that the member just mentioned or some other program to cover travel outside of Canada.

In Nunavut, this is easier as there are only two main types of insurance, Non-Insured Health Benefits and Extended Health Benefits, where coverage is provided for patients receiving care outside the territory.

I know that this is bit complicated and it's not easy to understand. That's all I have for now.

Chairman (interpretation): Are there any more questions? Department of Health and Social Services. Total Health Insurance Programs. \$3,020,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Social Services. Total Supplementary Appropriation. \$4,334,000. Are there any questions? Mr. Ningark.

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't mind the increase here. I would like to hear more, Mr. Chairman, about the mental health training program which takes three years to complete. Are these projected costs included in the calculations? I believe they receive training here in Iqaluit, which I don't mind, and I just want to hear more about that. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Minister Curley, do you wish to respond to the question?

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you. The federal government provides us with some funds. We had an agreement with them for 10 years, but some of these programs will expire next year. Some of this funding was used to train mental health specialists.

The money that we received from the federal government is the largest that the three territorial governments received in extra funding. Some of this funding was also used for community health, midwifery, and the nursing program.

When you look at the future years, however, we are still lacking resources. With respect to what you mentioned about the mental health training program, it's our desire that this program continue. However, we have to realize that federal funding may be cut and that's our main concern.

We know that mental health is a serious issue and there's not enough funding allocated to deal with that issue in Nunavut. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Mr. Ningark.

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This isn't a question, just a comment. Because the population in each community is growing, we will have to work harder for more services to be provided in our communities. Like Premier Aariak stated, we are supporting better health and better living in the regions together. That's just a comment, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningark. That's a good comment. Total Social Services. \$4,334,000. Do you agree? Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): I just want to hear about the policy which I think is under social services and you can correct me if I'm wrong.

When children are being neglected by parents, they are taken in by social services. Sometimes they are sent to other communities or even to the south. I have heard that according to the policy, if a child doesn't have any relatives in the community, they are most likely sent to another community.

However, we have been noticing that there are some children that have been taken out of Pond Inlet even though they have relatives who would like to care for them. In some cases, I believe they have been sent to Edmonton.

How is this set up? If you do have something set up, will you review it? Children easily forget their language and culture which tie them to Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Arvaluk, these funds aren't geared towards children in particular, but Minister Curley may wish to respond. Would you like to try and answer that question?

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you. (interpretation) Yes, I can try and respond. That's a very good question from my colleague, Mr. Arvaluk. I can tell him that we are considering that and we would like to make improvements to the legislation.

As well, I can tell the member that we would like to change the name of the old legislation, which I believe is the *Family Services Act*, to the *Child Family Services Act*. That is our intention and this process will run for a while.

Additionally, I can tell you that the funds we are requesting are for residential care and mental health facilities. For instance,

we have no choice but to send a lot of our clients outside of Nunavut if we can't take care of them ourselves and this is mainly geared towards addressing that problem.

With respect to children and the legislation that you mentioned, there are facilities in Edmonton and Winnipeg. We are planning to try and create a facility to meet this need so as to lessen our costs since this is an expensive way of handling our needs. So we are preparing our position and we hope to complete it in the next two years.

I can state that we have a sense of urgency to complete our legislation and policy as we would have to take it to Cabinet for review. This is something that we will work on urgently if the funding becomes available. I just wanted to let you know that. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Curley. I totally agree with that. We will need to deal with that Act before the end of this year. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): I just want to add that I agree with him as well. There is talk about these issues particularly in Pond Inlet, but I suspect this is the case in the other communities.

We have been told that healthy children go to day care facilities and when they enter kindergarten, they are ahead of the class. While parents are working during the day, their children are in day care. They are looked after throughout the day, with outdoor activities, reading books, and so on.

I believe that there should be a facility similar to that for children who are

neglected by their parents so that they are properly taken care of and lead better lives. I would like this taken into consideration. I believe that we will discuss this again in June when we are dealing with O&M. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is all.

Chairman (interpretation): There was no question, but that was a good comment. Mr. Ningark.

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have heard that when we were part of the NWT and then now in Nunavut that some children who were born in Nunavut were sent out of the territory. I believe it's against the law in Canada now.

Many don't know who their parents were and parents weren't allowed to know where their children were sent. These children who were sent away from their parents are adults now and some of them want to see their parents.

Referring back to what Mr. Arvaluk stated, it would be better if our clients could be taken care of in our territory. Social services placements is something that we need to reconsider because the children need to be raised in Nunavut and learn where they're from and not be lost when they're adults. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningark. That's more of a comment than a question, a very good comment. That legislation will definitely have to be dealt with. Are there any more questions? Total Social Services. \$4,334,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Total Health and Social Services. \$7,354,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Go to page 8. Department of Community and Government Services. Operations and Maintenance. Total Supplementary Appropriation. \$146,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Total Department. \$146,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Go to page 9. Department of Economic Development and Transportation. Transportation. Supplementary Appropriation. Not Previously Authorized. \$352,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Total Economic Development. \$2,387,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Total Economic Development and Transportation. \$2,035,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Bingo. (interpretation) Thank you. Go to page 10, the last one. Housing Corporation. Operations and Maintenance. Total Supplementary

Appropriation. \$240,000. Are there any questions? Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Those of us who live outside of Iqaluit probably don't know what the Sivummut House is. Maybe if you explained what it is, we would be more willing to approve the amount. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Yes, I wonder what that is. Can you clarify that, please? Minister Tootoo.

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Sivummut House project is a women's homeless shelter and a women-with-kids homeless shelter. There's a group in Iqaluit that is looking at opening up a facility like that and hoping to use it as a transition for individuals coming to the women's shelter.

That's the facility that we have in Apex that women go to when they're fleeing domestic violence and they can only stay there for so long. In some cases, some of those individuals are homeless. So this is a way of looking at trying to help address those individuals that are in need. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Did he answer your question? Mr. Pauloosie.

Mr. Pauloosie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In many small communities, the Nunavut Housing Corporation provides homeowners a home. That's good, but in the smaller communities where you don't have parts for boilers or furnaces, it gets really hard for the homeowners to find the parts as well as a

maintainer who is qualified to work on boilers or furnaces.

I'm wondering, down the road or in the near future, if the Housing Corporation could provide or hire maintainers in the housing associations who could provide maintenance for homeowners and perhaps for parts as well from housing associations. The reason I'm saying that is because homeowners get stuck with nothing and they can't find a maintainer who is qualified to work on boilers or furnaces.

I'm wondering if the government could find some funding to hire more maintainers in the small communities or in every community. The reason why I said that is because I know a lot of my constituents who own their own homes get stuck with nothing and no maintainer to find in the community that's qualified.

I'm wondering if the government could provide these homeowners with a maintainer that's qualified and parts perhaps from housing associations and charge it to a person that pays rent for renting a public house. If we could tie that in now with the housing associations, I'm wondering if the housing associations or the Housing Corporation could do that for homeowners. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Pauloosie. The question isn't related to what we're dealing with right now, but I'm sure that the minister will be able to look into that. We're dealing with the \$240,000 figure at this time. Are there any more questions? Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): That amount has been approved. Total Housing Corporation. \$240,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. You can now go back to page 2. Total Operations and Maintenance Appropriation. \$20,533,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Do members agree that we can now proceed with the clause-by-clause review of Bill 4, 2008-09 Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) No. 3?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 1. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 2. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Before we go to clause 3, please go to Schedule on page 2. Summary of Appropriation for the Fiscal Year Ending March 31, 2009. Vote 1: Operations and Maintenance. Total Operations and Maintenance Appropriation. \$20,533,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Total Supplementary Appropriation. \$20,533,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Clause 3 of the bill. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 4. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 5. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 6. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 7. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Is the committee agreed to Bill 4 as a whole?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Is the committee agreed that pursuant to Rule 62(2) that Bill 4 can immediately be placed on the Orders of the Day for third reading?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. We have concluded Bill 4, so we will move on with the next item on the agenda. Mr. Arvaluk, do you have something to say?

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to report progress. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Arvaluk has moved to report progress and the motion is not debatable. We will now vote on the motion. All those in favour of the motion. Opposed. The motion is carried. Thank you.

Thank you, Minister and your officials. If you have any closing remarks, I give you the floor.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, I would like to thank my colleagues on both sides of the House for taking the time this afternoon to work together to pass these two bills. That's what a consensus government is all about and I think most of us are still in the learning mode but it has been a productive afternoon. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. We have completed our review for now. Sergeant-at-Arms, escort the minister and his officials from the witness table, please. Ministers, you can return to your seats. We will be returning to the Orders of the Day, so I thank you all.

We will take a short break. Please remain in your seats while we wait for the Speaker to return. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Going back to the Orders of the Day.

Item 20. Report of the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Okalik.

Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Bills 3 and 4, and would like to report that Bills 3 and 4 are immediately ready for third reading. Also, Mr. Speaker, I move that the Report of the Committee of the Whole be concurred with. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. There is a motion on the floor. Is there a seconder? Mr. Tapardjuk. The motion is in order. Question has been called. All those in favour, raise your hand, please. Opposed. The motion is carried.

(interpretation ends) Item 21.
(interpretation) Third Reading of Bills. There being none. Item 22. Orders of the Day. Mr. Clerk.

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just a reminder for regular members to check the sessional work plan for the times for meetings for tomorrow.

Orders of the Day for March 19:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

6. Oral Questions Sergeant-at-Arms.
7. Written Questions >>*House adjourned at 17:40*
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
 - Bill 1
 - Bill 2
20. Report of the Committee of the
Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills
 - Bill 3
 - Bill 4
22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you.
This House stands adjourned until
Thursday, March 19, at 1:30 p.m.

