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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

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Hon. Peter Taptuna
(Kugluktuk)
Deputy Premier; Minister of Economic Development and Transportation

Hon. Hunter Tootoo
(Iqaluit Centre)
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Iqaluit, Nunavut
Monday, March 23, 2009

Members Present:

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

Item 1: Opening Prayer

Speaker (Hon. James Arreak) (interpretation): Good afternoon. Before we proceed, I would like to ask Mr. Ningark to say the opening prayer. Mr. Ningark.

>>Prayer

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Good afternoon, Premier, Ministers, my colleagues, and all Nunavummiut. Going to the Orders of the Day. Ministers' Statements. Premier of Nunavut, (interpretation ends) Hon. Eva Aariak.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements**Minister's Statement 027 – 3(1):
Thank You to Pond Inlet**

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise at this time to thank the people of Pond Inlet.

As you are aware, on Friday, several of us went to Pond Inlet to hold a countdown celebration to Nunavut's

10th anniversary. On behalf of the Hon. Member for Kugluktuk and the Hon. Member for Arviat, I would like to thank the community and the Member for Tununiq, Mr. James Arvaluk, for their hospitality and for organizing the great celebration.

There was a feast of country foods, with a lot of *Mattaaq*, and a lively square dance. We cut ten cakes, one for every year since Nunavut's creation. We helped all of the 10-year-olds of Pond Inlet celebrate the year of their birth and we recognized Tapisa Pitseolak, Pond Inlet's Nunavut Baby, who was born on April 1, 1999.

Mr. Speaker, we also took time to thank the community of Pond Inlet for practicing Inuit societal values and working so hard to harvest the trapped narwhal last winter. The Hon. Member for Arviat and I presented a plaque to the Mittimatalik Hunters and Trappers Association for their role in coordinating the harvest.

Saturday was also productive. We started the day with a trip to Baffinland's Mary River project to see the deposit and their work camp. Back in Pond Inlet, we met with the Mayor of Pond Inlet, several councillors and their elders' representative.

Mr. Speaker, this Cabinet committed to visiting all of Nunavut's communities to really understand local interests and to empower local solutions. This year, the 10th anniversary of our territory and government, is the ideal time to visit the communities. Once again, thank you to Pond Inlet for hosting us for the countdown celebration. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. Minister Tootoo.

**Minister's Statement 028 – 3(1):
Nunavut Housing Trust
Apprenticeship Program**

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today here in our legislature as Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation to update this house on the continued success of the Nunavut Housing Trust Apprenticeship Program.

Mr. Speaker, at the outset of the Housing Trust, the Housing Corporation established the objective of hiring and training local labourers to become apprentices in the skilled construction trades. At present, 51 registered apprentices are working on Housing Trust job sites across the territory, among which two are women, to achieve their journeyman certification. Mr. Speaker, all of these 51 registered apprentices are beneficiaries of the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement*.

I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the collaborative efforts of the Nunavut Housing Corporation, the Nunavut Arctic College, and the Department of Education in providing important opportunities to increase the skilled labour force in Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, the Nunavut Arctic College delivered 17 pre-trades courses in 2008-09, in addition to the 10 courses delivered in 2007. The pre-trades courses are a testament to the efforts of the college to support the apprenticeship initiative. The Department of Education

has been diligent as well in its support for these valuable members of Nunavut's workforce. And furthermore, Mr. Speaker, I would like to acknowledge the work of the Housing Corporation in providing the opportunities for these new apprentices to learn on the job and to begin earning their required hours necessary to move forward in their selected trades.

Mr. Speaker, as a result of these efforts, the majority of Housing Trust job sites have achieved a minimum of 60 percent Inuit employment.

The Housing Corporation, in cooperation with the Department of Education and the Nunavut Arctic College, will continue its efforts to support the development of skilled tradespeople and create long-term employment opportunities for Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. Minister Shewchuk.

**Minister's Statement 029 – 3(1): Than
You to Camp Cook Students for
their Work During the 10th
Annual Kitikmeot Trade Show**

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to extend our congratulations to the Cambridge Bay Camp Cook students for their hard work during the 10th Annual Kitikmeot Trade Show held February 17 and 18 last month.

During the closing gala and charity auction, students Molly Kaosoni,

Benedicta Kayaitok, Verna Ehaloak, Elizabeth Tegumiar, Agnes Akkikungnaq, and Typhanny Porter, along with their instructor, Mr. Andy Poisson, received rousing applause and a standing ovation from everyone in attendance.

The 10th Annual Kitikmeot Trade Show brought together representatives from federal and territorial government departments, businesses, and regional Inuit organizations from across the North. Those of us who have had to work at these events know how much work and effort it takes, especially to feed all the participants.

Mr. Speaker, the Camp Cook program is designed to provide students with the basic knowledge and skills required to obtain employment in the food industry, mainly at mining camps and other institutional camp settings. Through hands-on training and classroom instruction, the students are able to enter the marketplace with confidence.

The students worked all day and well into the night to make sure the hard-working exhibitors and delegates were well fed. We are proud of their work, and on behalf of Nunavut Arctic College and all who attended this year's trade show, congratulations on a job very well done.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce the Camp Cook program will be offered again in Cambridge Bay starting March 23, 2009. I encourage all those who are interested in this very successful program to contact our college and apply to this popular program. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Minister's Statement 030 – 3(1):
IGNITE Program at Aqsarniit
School**

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Good afternoon, my *Annuraaqatik*, Mr. Speaker. I will be talking about computers. When I was a young lad, I was very scared when I first touched a computer, but what I'm going to be talking about is totally different.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to tell my fellow members about a three-day technology camp that took place at Aqsarniit School in Iqaluit last fall.

The IGNITE program, which stands for IGNiting Interest in Technology and Engineering, offers students experience in a variety of technology-related activities. This was the second camp to be held in Nunavut; the first was held in Resolute Bay in 2006. This program was developed in partnership with the Royal Bank of Canada and IBM as a way to spark interest in engineering and computer sciences among aboriginal and Inuit students across Canada.

Mr. Speaker, from October 8 to 10, 20 students from grades 6, 7, and 8 came together to explore technological possibilities. On the first day, the students were given electronic circuit boards they could put together to create a number of results - turning on a light and making a door bell or a siren ring. The same day, the students took apart old computers to see how parts go together to make them work. It was quite

gratifying, Mr. Speaker, to watch these very young students conduct themselves in this way.

The following day, students spent an afternoon designing their own web pages and were taught about proper web protocol and the dangers of cyber bullying, which happens quite a lot among young people. They also learned how to create and show PowerPoint presentations to the rest of the class.

Mr. Speaker, the highlight of the three-day camp for most of the students was building Lego robots they were able to program and operate by remote control. There were many times during the camp that students were so engaged with their activities that they didn't want to go home for lunch or even after school. It was a fun and learning-filled three days thanks to local volunteers from the Department of Education and the Iqaluit branch of the Royal Bank of Canada.

Mr. Speaker, as Nunavut grows, we need to be able to give our students new and exciting career choices of which I was petrified of in my youth. My expectations are that engineering and computer science options for our students will ensure that Nunavut has a strong technical future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Minister's Statement 031 – 3(1):
Public Health Strategy –
Community Gathering**

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning, all Members of the Legislative Assembly and our Premier.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce the community representatives throughout Nunavut are gathering here in Iqaluit to discuss the Public Health Strategy implementation and the role it plays in the health of all Nunavummiut starting today until the 27th.

Represented participants include health committee chairs, youth committee representatives, community wellness workers, elders, youth, community members, political leaders, community HSS staff, youth workers, school and NAC staff, and elders from the IQ Department of Education group.

The Public Health Strategy was developed through many hours of consultation with community members, Inuit organizations, and members of our department. Our priority is to focus on community development and collaboration. Mr. Speaker, we want to increase the capacities of communities to reduce unhealthy lifestyles and improve the overall well-being of residents.

The five-day workshop, led by the public health implementation manager, is designed with the intent of supporting community-driven public health interventions for community identified health needs. Mr. Speaker, we are covering topics such as culture and community relevancy in today's context; building on success – stories from communities; and combining information and building on the public health implementation plan.

Promoting and protecting health and preventing disease and injury are integral components of the department's vision. The workshop focuses on the health issues facing Nunavummiut. Through the Public Health Strategy, we are holistically improving Nunavut's preventative health care delivery. I would like to thank all the people who are gathered here for the workshop. Thank you.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. Minister Shewchuk.

Minister's Statement 032 – 3(1): Sun Joy Harvie Maclaren Award

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to inform the Legislative Assembly that this year, four Nunavut Arctic College students are the recipients of the Sun Joy Harvie Maclaren Award.

The Sun Joy Harvie Maclaren awards, worth \$2,500 each, are presented annually to four deserving students in good academic standing and who have made positive contributions to preserving traditional Inuit culture and leadership in their communities.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to extend my congratulations to first year student Ellen Rumbolt of Rankin Inlet and third year student Leeveena Nuyalia of Iqaluit. Both are students of the Nunavut Teacher Education Program.

I would also like to congratulate first year student Nancy Gordon of Rankin Inlet and fourth year student Deborah

Strom from Iqaluit. Both are students in the Arctic College Nursing Program.

To be eligible, applicants must be full-time students of the Nunavut Teacher Education or Nursing programs, be resident in Nunavut and intend to work as a nurse or teacher in the North upon completion of their program. It is important to recognize, Mr. Speaker, that this award may be renewed for up to four years if the students maintain their academic standing and good grades.

Mr. Speaker, these awards validate the hard work, dedication and sacrifice our students make to complete their education, and we know that being a full-time student is not always easy. On behalf of Nunavut Arctic College, I would very much like to thank Ms. Joy Harvie Maclaren and the Calgary Foundation for their support in making these awards possible. Thank you for supporting and encouraging our students. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. If anyone else is going to make Ministers' Statements, they will have to ask for unanimous consent to extend the time allotted.

Mr. Taptuna, if you wish to make a statement, you will need unanimous consent to extend the Ministers' Statements period. Mr. Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek unanimous consent to complete my ministerial statement. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. The member is seeking unanimous consent to make his statement. Are there any nays? There are no nays. You may proceed with your statement, Mr. Taptuna.

Minister's Statement 033 – 3(1): 12th Annual Nunavut Mining Symposium

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to remind members of an important annual territorial event taking place here in Iqaluit, starting on March 31 until April 2, which will be the 12th Nunavut Mining Symposium.

The Nunavut Mining Symposium attracts representatives of the mining industry from across Canada. Inuit organizations, regulatory and licensing agencies, governments, and community leaders also attend.

The theme for this year's symposium is "Looking Forward: Translating Challenges into Opportunities."

I want to inform the Members of this House that while the global economic slowdown is having an impact on mining activity in Nunavut, we remain optimistic about the future of the industry here.

The construction of the Meadowbank gold project near Baker Lake is on schedule and is expected to be in production by this time next year. There will be a very positive effect on economic growth in the territory. Other projects are continuing toward production.

The symposium will hear from the companies supporting these projects and we will discuss with them how we can ensure the maximum participation of Nunavummiut in the mining industry through training and education, business development, community engagement, and effective and efficient regulatory processes.

One of the most popular symposium events is the "Town Hall," which will be broadcast across the territory on the Internet. I encourage all Nunavummiut to participate and to bring their concerns to the panellists.

Mr. Speaker, we all know these are difficult economic times, but if we do our part and help ensure Nunavummiut are prepared to play a prominent role in the industry, we can expect a bright economic future. *Qujannamiik*, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. If there is no more, (interpretation ends) Members' Statements. (interpretation) Wait a moment, I wasn't looking over there. (interpretation ends) Members' Statements. Mr. Okalik.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 059 – 3(1): Sealing Issue

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Over the past few days, there have been some good discussions about my agenda and do not want my message to be lost to my fellow Nunavummiut.

I want to let it be known that I'm following the oath that I took in the beginning of my term to the best of my ability and knowledge in the interest of Nunavut. Although I swore my Oath of Office, that does not begrudge the fact that I am an Inuk, of which I am rather proud of, and I have never hid my cultural pride at any time.

The Inuit of Nunavut paid a heavy price for me to be able to stand before you today. I, along with my fellow Inuit in Nunavut, gave a part of our aboriginal rights to our land so that we can form our own government on July 9, 1993. We wanted our own government so that we could tackle our challenges head on and protect our language and culture for the benefit of our future generations.

Mr. Speaker, I have been very vocal about the sealing situation today, as I must in the interests of Inuit, and the Nunavut economy as a whole. From what I had learned in Europe, the strongest case which I have known to date is that of our firsthand stories of our ties to the seal as Inuit. So therefore, I want Nunavummiut to be able to give their best case to European Parliamentarians as no other government in our country can do that for us.

I have not asked for any Cabinet Minister to be removed from Cabinet but rather I have said that I want to have the strongest representative to present Nunavut's case to the outside world. You are well aware that I have stressed the fact that this government needs to undertake better practices. As an example of presenting the strongest representative...

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask my colleagues for unanimous consent to conclude my statement. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Okalik is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Are there any nays? There are no nays. You may conclude your statement, Mr. Okalik.

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

As I have stated, we have to try and present the strongest position and I can talk about the previous positions we presented as a government.

With respect to the division of sealing and fisheries, I moved it to the Department of Environment. Mr. Speaker, if you recall, this division used to be part of the Department of Economic Development and Transportation. However, when I appointed a minister to this department at the time, he was a fellow Inuk but he happened to be from a lake and was not in the best position to present our case of the significance of the seal. Some of my fellow Inuit felt he was too soft on his position.

That is what I wanted to clarify and to illustrate that it is not always a matter of being an Inuk but rather to show the outside world that we have the most capable government for our territory.

Mr. Speaker, it appears that I have hurt some feelings in this Assembly with some of my remarks and how our previous government functioned. However, I wanted to state that I will never apologize for trying to do what is

best for my fellow Inuit. This is completely tied into my person.

During my tenure in elected office, which is now rather long, I have been called many things that aren't the most flattering. This is the unfortunate price that we pay for the positions that we hold. So you can call me anything that you want, but I will not change my agenda.

Even if that is the case, Mr. Speaker, I represent a wonderfully diverse constituency and I am very fortunate to learn more about their stories each time I have an opportunity to speak with them. They teach me a lot of their cultural practices.

Even though I represent non-Inuit in my riding, I have always said that my fellow Inuit are still not enjoying the same levels of benefits as the rest of our territory and country. So my focus has been and will always be to change that so all of Nunavut can have a brighter future. (interpretation ends) *Merçi, Monsieur le Président.*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Members' Statements. (interpretation) Member for Akulliq, Mr. John Ningark.

**Member's Statement 060 – 3(1):
Capital Projects in Repulse Bay**

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to send my greetings to Repulse Bay and Kugaaruk residents.

Mr. Speaker, I just recently received a letter from Donat Milortok, the Mayor of Repulse Bay. They would like to plan

and have already initiated the strategic plan as it is always better to have a plan for the future, Mr. Speaker. The subject of the letter is in regard to what is planned for their community in the upcoming four years, the Repulse Bay Five-Year Capital Plan, and they would like to receive a written response on this matter.

Once our session is over, I plan on going to Repulse Bay, but I'm not sure when that is because we can extend our sittings based on requirements. Prior to my travel to Repulse Bay, I would like to receive a written copy of the Repulse Bay Five-Year Capital Plan and I will ask questions on that at the appropriate time.

When you have properly planned the future of the local government, it makes it a lot easier to administer the community and as we all know, the local hamlets are the planners for their communities. They don't just plan the future; they also plan the capital purchases which are integral to community operations and maintenance. In addition, the equipment is used for local construction projects.

Many communities have too many unemployed residents. Repulse Bay and Kugaaruk are in the same boat. These projects, especially those required by the community such as the local health centre in Repulse Bay, are what the community would like to find out about. I will be asking questions on this matter to the appropriate minister during Question Period. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Member's Statement 061 – 3(1):
Congratulations to Sanikiluaq
Constituents**

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First, I would like to congratulate my sister-in-law, Ellen Rumbolt, for her achievement in education. First, I thought I was getting one, but...

>>*Laughter*

... that's my sister-in-law.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate a number of young students and their teacher on a very successful presentation at the Community Economic Development Tradeshow in Igloolik last week.

Mr. Speaker, the tradeshow is sponsored by the Baffin Regional Chamber of Commerce and allows young people in the region to learn about various businesses, to meet the people involved, and to learn about activities and opportunities.

Mr. Speaker, four students, Louisa Sala, Debbie Kavik, Mick Appaqaq, and Chris Kittosuk, with support from their teacher, Cindy Goodyear, presented E-Spirit, a business planning exercise in which young entrepreneurs plan a business.

Mr. Speaker, the students had a wonderful learning experience. I am very pleased that their presentation was such a success and I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating their young

people and their teacher on a job well done. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

An Hon. Member: Hear, hear.

>>*Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 062 – 3(1):
Successful Leaders' Visit to Pond
Inlet and Mary River**

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I tend to take my glasses off when I am reading because they are just like our ear pieces.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to inform the House of this past weekend's successful leaders' visit to Pond Inlet and Mary River. I would like to thank Premier Aariak, Minister Taptuna, Minister Shewchuk, and their officials for taking the time to accompany me back to Pond Inlet following our sitting of last Friday. This visit accomplished a number of goals.

On Friday evening, Mayor Abraham Kublu, my cousin, and residents of Pond Inlet attended a *Nunavut at 10* event at our new community hall. This occasion was highlighted by a performance by the renowned Pond Inlet Theatre Group.

(interpretation ends) A number of events were held to mark the evening, including traditional games and square dancing. However, Mr. Speaker, I can assure you and other leaders that I will not be tabling any photographs of MLAs dancing and their dancing moves.

Mr. Speaker, as all members are aware, I have been a strong advocate for investments that serve to strengthen our community wellness. Our new community hall will provide my constituents with a gathering place that we will be able to use for years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I now continue to look to progress being made towards the funding, construction and opening of the new arena. I think the Premier already heard from the council that this is one of their priorities.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, on Saturday...

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Arvaluk, if you would like to conclude your statement, you must seek unanimous consent. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When I get excited, I forget about the timer. I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement. Thank you.

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

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On Saturday morning, the leaders' delegation travelled to Baffinland's iron ore project at Mary River. As members are aware, this major project has had a tremendous impact on the local economy and community.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, the visit to the Mary River project provided the opportunity to engage in dialogue

with senior company officials on a wide range of issues, including the current state of the global economy, the company's plan for exploration in 2009, the status of the regulatory review of the project, and initiatives to provide training and employment opportunities to residents of Pond Inlet.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, as you are probably aware, we had made a legislative amendment to change the spelling of Tunnuniq to Tununiq. The Premier was still using the old spelling, so I urge the Premier to use the proper spelling with one "n."

Mr. Speaker, productive meetings were held with the hamlet council and our local elders. These provided the opportunity for local leaders to raise a number of issues of concern with us. But I want you to know that the issues that I brought into the House, such as the need for an arena and other infrastructure, including the transportation office in Pangnirtung, were also the same issues raised by the Hamlet of Pond Inlet. So the Premier and the ministers now know that as a representative of Pond Inlet, I make statements on behalf of what our residents have mentioned.

Mr. Speaker, I want to close by acknowledging the hard work by employees of the hamlet, GN, and Baffinland that went into making this visit a success. I want to again thank my colleagues, the three ministers in particular, for taking the time to demonstrate their commitment to the future of Pond Inlet and its people.

I know that the Premier said that she would like to visit all the communities of Nunavut within the first four years, so

please welcome her and as well, the people of Pond Inlet said that they will be welcoming her. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Members' Statements. Member for Rankin Inlet South and Whale Cove, Mr. Kusugak.

**Member's Statement 063 – 3(1):
Ambrose Karlik, Rankin Inlet's
New Fire Chief**

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Before I make my statement, I would like to extend my condolences to the residents of Rankin Inlet.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased, on another note, to rise to make a statement on Rankin Inlet's firefighters. The fire chief will be an Inuk and I am very proud of him. I am sure that Mr. Curley is also very proud of him.

Ambrose Karlik of Rankin Inlet, who has been a firefighter for over 16 years, is going to be the new fire chief. I know that he will be taking the training now because Fire Chief Al Stubbing will be resigning within two weeks. Before the fire chief resigns, they will both collaborate on the fire chief training.

Although Ambrose Karlik may be a young person, he has a lot of experience in fighting fires. He has undertaken three six-day firefighting courses that are offered to community firefighters and he completed all of them. He has also completed the training required for ascertaining the cause of fires. Ambrose

has worked at the firefighters' office in Rankin Inlet since 1993.

As my colleagues are aware, along with our fellow community members, firefighters are quite committed even though they serve on a volunteer basis. They protect and keep a close eye on our homes, and whenever a member of our community is undergoing the stress of a fire, they are the first ones to respond. We extend our appreciation to all the firefighters in Nunavut for their selflessness in assisting their fellow community members.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to express how proud I am, along with his father, Mr. Karlik, of Ambrose Karlik, who will now become the fire chief in Rankin Inlet. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 064 – 3(1):
Extinguishment of Aboriginal Title**

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mister Speaker. I, too, would like to rise to acknowledge the residents of Rankin Inlet as they are going through difficulties at this time.

I know Ambrose Karlik and his father personally. We are very proud of that individual because we know that he is a capable and hard worker.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to state that I know Nunavutmiut are starting to realize and are proud that the Nunavut government will be celebrating its 10th

anniversary on April 1. We have already heard about our executive members who kicked off the celebration in Pond Inlet. Members of the Executive Council will be asked and have already been asked by our Premier to start visiting the communities within this current fiscal year.

I would like to state how proud I am of Nunavutmiut and of the many individuals who worked very hard on the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement*. It was not the only avenue and James Arvaluk recalls this as he replaced me as the President of ITC during those years. There are also other entities that were established prior to Nunavut being divided and many individuals who were part of the process towards establishing Nunavut. In particular, the people who worked on land claims.

The reason why I rise today is to make sure that everyone understands because we have heard about our Inuit rights being extinguished. I want it known that the extinguishment of Inuit rights is not applicable for the Nunavut government. *Article 4* does not contain the extinguishment clause in its provisions. The extinguishment clause is meant only for the rights that Inuit gave up in exchange for the land claim. The new rights contained in the land claims agreement are what we exchanged for. It does not form part of the creation of the Nunavut government and that is what I wanted to clarify.

As members of this government, we have to be proud of the creation of the Nunavut government no matter who is elected. We don't want to state that the electors are wrong in choosing their representatives. When they elect their

representative, those elected assume the rights and powers of their positions. This is why I rose today because I am proud of that right. When we campaign, it is completely different.

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

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): I don't have very much left to say and I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Curley is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Are there any nays? There are no nays. You may conclude your statement, Mr. Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you.

I wanted to say in closing that during the 35-year negotiation, there were other entities that tried for aboriginal self-government. At the time, First Nations were fighting for a long time to get their own land claims settled, but Inuit were also fighting for a long time. Most of the support came when some of us requested a public form of government and due to that, we can now stand in this House regardless of our affiliations.

As April 1 is fast approaching, we need to plan together for the celebrations and I welcome any ideas from members. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Members' Statements. Member for South Baffin, Mr. Schell.

**Member's Statement 065 – 3(1):
Importance of Addressing
Substance Abuse**

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It sure doesn't seem like it's been two and a half hours since the Hon. Tagak Curley made his Minister's Statement, but I believe it's the afternoon now.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to address an issue that affects every single community in Nunavut, including those that I represent in the Legislative Assembly. Mr. Speaker, I believe that we are all aware of the harm that substance abuse causes to our constituents and to our families. Substance abuse is a root cause of many serious problems, including crime, suicide, FAS and FASD.

Mr. Speaker, the issue of drug and alcohol abuse is one that has no easy answers. When it comes to stopping the flow of illegal drugs into our communities, we need to support the enforcement efforts of the RCMP. I was pleased to note that in September of last year, the government tabled a copy of the Shared Directional Statement that was developed by the GN and the RCMP.

One of the sections in this document indicates that "The RCMP will deliver education programs designed to reduce substance abuse and the number of violations related to substance abuse. In addition to delivering education programs, enforcement remains a

priority." I urge the territorial government to coordinate its own efforts in this area with those of the RCMP so that both parties make the best use of scarce resources.

Mr. Speaker, as a former member of my community's alcohol education committee, I am very aware of the challenges that communities face when it comes to trying to control access to alcohol. I believe that it is time that we review how the government approaches this issue. We need to carefully consider which organizations are best equipped to focus on matters of control and enforcement and which are best suited to issues of education and treatment.

Mr. Speaker, I have been pleased to hear the Premier discuss the need to develop suicide prevention programs and strategies. The tragedy of suicide is something that we cannot ignore. I believe that initiatives to address substance abuse must be a part of our efforts in this area. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

An Hon. Member: Hear, hear.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you. Members' Statements. (interpretation) There being none, (interpretation ends) Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. (interpretation) Premier of Nunavut, Eva Ariak.

Item 4: Returns to Oral Questions

**Return to Oral Question 014 – 3(1):
Federal Initiatives in the High
Arctic**

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will be making this response in English and it's in regard to the question asked by the Member for Quttiktuq on whether the government has made a formal recommendation to Ottawa concerning the location of Canada's new High Arctic Research Station.

(interpretation ends) The announcement by Mr. Strahl, federal Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs, on February 20, 2009, was very good news for Nunavut. INAC had shortlisted the location of the proposed High Arctic Research Station to three communities in Nunavut. That ensures that a world-class facility for research in Canada's Arctic - and the Canadian and international scientists and three researchers - will call Nunavut home within the next seven to ten years.

We have been working with the officials at INAC and especially at the new Arctic Science Policy Branch as they develop the planning and implementation of the proposed initiative. INAC spent almost a year on preliminary work to look at remote research centres in other countries and Antarctica, and to determine the priority research areas for Canada. They began consultation with the three territorial governments and other interested parties in the middle of last year. We had provided input at that stage on possible sites for the facility and we were very happy with the all-Nunavut roster of three communities making it on the shortlist.

In the last federal budget, INAC was allocated \$2 million to establish preliminary costs and design needs of the facility and to evaluate the potential locations. They will undertake investigations over the next few months. We are advised that INAC officials plan to visit each of the three communities to introduce their planning process and discuss their criteria for selection. Our government will continue to assist at the community level within our research network and through our intergovernmental relations.

The location is ultimately a federal decision. We have not made any further formal recommendations to Ottawa on the specific location. We are just happy that they already selected Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you. 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 would like to acknowledge my wife, Sally Kusugak, and welcome her to the Gallery. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome to the Gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. If there are no more, (interpretation ends) Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Akulliq, Mr. Ningark.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 047 – 3(1): Capital Project Plans for Repulse Bay

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Community and Government Services, Hon. Kusugak, which I alluded to in my Member's Statement.

I received correspondence from the Hamlet of Repulse Bay in regard to the five-year capital plan and my question to the minister is: will the minister be able to provide a copy of the capital plan? I do not require an answer in this House but I would like to get a copy before I leave for that community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Minister of Community and Government Services, Hon. Lorne Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for your question. Yes, our department can provide you with a copy of the five-year capital plan prior to your departure. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Oral Questions. Member for South Baffin, Mr. Schell.

Question 048 – 3(1): Nunavut “Liquor Act” and the Role of Alcohol Education Committees

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Finance, who is responsible for the

activities of the Nunavut Liquor Commission.

As I noted in my Member's Statement today, the issue of substance abuse affects all of our communities. I recognize that the minister's department recently distributed a new guide for alcohol education committees.

Can the minister indicate to the House what new initiatives he is planning in the area of support to alcohol education committees? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that very good question, I used to ask those questions when I was on that side.

Mr. Speaker, the Department of Finance continues to support the work of the alcohol education committees. There are 13 alcohol education committees in Nunavut and through consultation with those committees, we are prepared to offer them whatever assistance we can provide them to help them do their jobs better. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The 2008-09 Business Plan for the Department of Finance indicates that one of its ongoing goals has been to undertake a comprehensive review of the *Liquor Act*. Can the minister update the House on the status of this initiative and indicate when community consultations will begin? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I again thank the member for that question. Mr. Speaker, an interdepartmental working group has been formed to undertake a review of the existing legislation. I can't give a definite date when they will go out to a public consultation, but I can assure the member that that is a priority for the Department of Finance. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In May of 2007, a letter was tabled in the Legislative Assembly which suggested that revenues raised from fines levied under the *Liquor Act* were earmarked for substance abuse treatment and education programs. This letter was written and tabled by the Member for Cambridge Bay. Can the minister advise the House if he will take action to implement this idea? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the member's question. Of course, as the Minister of Finance, I recognize the importance of that initiative. I have asked our Department of Finance officials how it is possible that we can implement something like that and they are reviewing it. So hopefully, through that mechanism or another mechanism, we can get some funds out to the folks that deliver the substance abuse programs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Schell. Oral Questions. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. Elliott.

Question 049 – 3(1): Legacy of the High Arctic Exiles

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed towards the Premier and I would like to thank her for returning the answer to the question I asked the other day.

Mr. Speaker, on March 17, 2009, in my Member's Statement, I touched on the issue of what I consider to be the federal government's moral responsibility with respect to the legacy of the High Arctic exiles, including measures to address the unbearably high cost of transportation to and between our nation's most remote communities.

Can the Premier tell the House today whether she has had the opportunity to raise this issue directly with the Prime Minister? Thank you.

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

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for asking that question. This is a very important subject and I will make sure that we have this discussion so that we can bring it up with my federal counterparts. Thank you.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would just like to ask again if the Premier could make a commitment as to

when, if possible, dates or a timeline.
Thank you.

Speaker: Premier Aariak.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation):
Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Once I get the information as to the timeline, I will make sure that I let him know. I will also give him regular updates as it's not going to be dealt with all at once. Thank you.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Premier is well aware that the issue of arctic sovereignty is a top priority for the three communities in my constituency.

In my Members' Statement of March 17, 2009, as well, I informed the House of the recent establishment of the High Arctic Council which includes the mayors and the SAOs from each of the communities, an initiative that will help to coordinate my community's concerns and ideas.

Will the Premier commit to formally consulting with the High Arctic Council as the GN develops its own position and policies on the issues related to arctic sovereignty, yes or no? Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you. Madam Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation):
Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will be very pleased when I'll be able to have meetings with them. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you. (interpretation)
Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit West, Mr. Okalik.

Question 050 – 3(1): Employment Opportunities for Local People

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Human Resources and it's in relation to a question that the Member for Tununig asked about last week.

This issue was raised like this: why these Inuit from the original communities and indeed all Inuit who apply are being bypassed for employment by emerging job opportunities by non-Nunavut residents. This situation also applies here in our city and as a matter of fact, an Inuk, one of the original Inuit families who settled Iqaluit, asked me to look into this matter.

For our decentralized offices of our government in these original communities, this issue of human resources allocation has to be reviewed, especially for positions in them. That's my first question, to see if that review can also be conducted for Inuit employment figures in Iqaluit. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Mr. Speaker, I did not understand the question. Could I have the question repeated, please?
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you.
Please clarify your question, Mr. Okalik.

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I stated, this is in relation to my erstwhile colleague from Tununig's earlier question who urged this government to conduct a review of how government employees are hired since there are so many discrepancies between Inuit and others.

I would like this to also be included for Iqaluit's own Inuit, to be included as part of the review of local employment of Inuit into the government's employment hiring practices. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My understanding is: what job opportunities are out there in communities? There are several job opportunities in communities and they're all advertised through the open competition process. At this time of year, there are going to be more job opportunities as our summer student program is going to be initiated very soon. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I urge the minister further to do this as it would decrease the costs that are incurred by the government and cut down the cost of transporting new non-Nunavut personnel to the communities. It can really lead to cost savings if the government hires locally and I urge that this review be conducted.

I urge this government to conduct a comprehensive review of employing more local Inuit and how best to use training to allow these local Inuit to become proficient in these positions and to use this practice instead. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The member brings a good question. Through our employment process, our priority hiring is for beneficiaries and that is in place right now. So we do target beneficiary hiring and again, I advise that our summer student program where that's going to be initiated and that primarily is for beneficiary hires too. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we know this policy and we are in full support of it. Just like my colleagues, I have been asked by a constituent to look into the matter about local beneficiary hiring. Indeed, if this were looked into, it would really help the local population. So I would like this review conducted in the near future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I indicated before to members, we are looking at our Department of Human Resources and we are going to review the process and how our operational/organizational structure

is in place at this time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to thank the minister as I believe it's very important to do a review of this issue. Perhaps when we have our next sitting in June, the minister can report on the progress he has made with respect to this matter and we would really be appreciative of any plans to conduct such a review. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I assure the member that I will keep everybody updated on this particular question. Thank you.

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

Question 051 – 3(1): Inuit Accounts of Henry Larsen Voyage through Northwest Passage

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the Second Assembly, I asked questions in regard to the St. Roch, which went through the Northwest Passage and down to Vancouver with Captain Henry Larsen. Those are very important stories. I have talked to Panipakoocho, Qajaaq, and other elders and their stories are totally different from what the historians have put together. I have asked questions in regard to this and I would now like to ask the new government.

A woman who participated in that trip is in her 90s, possibly even 96 years old. We will never verify the facts in the story because the people who participated in that trip are dying off. This woman used to do the cooking, made their clothing, and warmed up their feet with her stomach.

I would like to ask the Minister of CLEY: is it possible for the Department of CLEY to get the facts together and to complete the St. Roch journey before all the participants are gone? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister of Culture, Language, Elders, and Youth, Hon. Louis Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to thank the member. I remember very clearly when you asked that question. I wonder how we can properly name the Department of CLEY, but we have funds that are available for taping stories from elders in different communities, as an example.

Mr. Speaker, we can look into this matter raised by the member to decide what we're going to do about that particular issue. I would like to assure the member, however, that we do have funds for making these recordings. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Minister. Possibly what you could do is get someone off the streets and give him money to tape stories.

Earlier, Tagak Curley mentioned the Tuurngaaluk family who possibly got abducted by airplane and were never to be seen again. As well, the St. Roch was the very first ship to go through the Northwest Passage. That feat was previously attempted by others, but they failed because they didn't bring an Inuk on their voyage. It was only when they brought an Inuk with them to be their guide, to be their servant, and to help them survive that they were able to make that trip.

I'm talking about special circumstances that we have to deal with right away. So therefore, is it not possible for the government, particularly the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth, to take the initiative and collect stories without waiting for somebody to apply for a grant and start a project?

Historians say that Henry Larsen was a very accomplished explorer, but from talking to the people who participated, they had to help him pee because his hands were too cold and he couldn't handle it. When will these stories be compiled? If we're just going to wait for somebody to apply for the grant, we will always wait.

It might be a little amusing now, but Inuit were intimidated by Henry Larsen and his crew. They knew they would die without the help of Inuit and the Inuit did their best to keep them alive from the time they were iced in during the winter. I would like to ask, Mr. Speaker: when will work on these stories, especially those that must be emanated and that we have little time left to deal with, be initiated by CLEY? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm not sure exactly how to reply to your questions because we have grants and contributions available from our department to fund projects such as the one you mentioned. If you write a letter to our department to suggest initiating a project, then we could consider it.

We also hear stories through the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation program, *Tausunni*, and we have heard stories about the trip by Henry Larsen. Those stories are very interesting to hear.

We can consider the project, Mr. Speaker, only if we get a written request from the organizations or communities out there because we don't know what is important or a priority in any given community. We can consider and work on it further once we get a written request as it is something that is very important to us.

Every year, we have an annual writing contest called *Titiraliritti!* and that would be part and parcel of those types of projects. We urge the communities to make proposals to our department. One thing that I note also is that Nunavut Arctic College compiles stories and I think there was a biography done about John Amagoalik and Abe Okpik. So we can look at that, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you. I will not make an example then. To continue with my question, there are Arctic College campuses in each of the communities for adult education. Is Arctic College used to tape record oral history of Inuit and are they funded by CLEY? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth is very reluctant to give monies to Arctic College as Dan Shewchuk has his own funds within his department geared towards that. They have their own funding and they have their own programs. I just wanted to indicate that, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Oral Questions. Member for Baker Lake, Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Question 052 – 3(1): Inuk Conservation Officer for Baker Lake

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

Recently, I received a letter from the local HTO requesting that an Inuk who can speak in the Baker Lake dialect be selected for the wildlife officer position in Baker Lake, whom we call the caribou officer. Again, it is their wish that an Inuk be hired for that position and if that's not the case, I was also urged to

ask the minister for a training position to be considered. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Environment, (interpretation ends) Hon. Daniel Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for his question. At present, there is a vacant wildlife officer/conservation officer position in Baker Lake. A competition has been run that has ended on February 27, and at the present time, we are in the screening process of this competition. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Aupaluktuq (interpretation): Thank you. Thank you for the response. I would like to ask the minister if there will be a training program set for an Inuk conservation officer. This is also a request made by the hunters and trappers organization in our community of Baker Lake. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to advise the member also that, of course, our Priority Hiring Policy is applying to this position, so we would target to hire a beneficiary.

And also yes, our department does have an officer trainee program to train beneficiaries to become conservation officers and the location of this could be reviewed and considered, and it could be established in Baker Lake. It could be looked at. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Aupaluktuq (interpretation): I am very pleased and thank you for your response. When would the conservation officer start work in Baker Lake? Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Of course, we are in the process right now, as I told you, in the screening stage. And after the reviews are done on all the applications, interviews will be held and I would foresee this position being filled within the next couple of months. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Aupaluktuq (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. And I would like to thank the minister for responding to my questions. Thank you very much.

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

Question 053 – 3(1): Representation at Terminology Workshop

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth.

Mr. Speaker, I was pleased to hear the minister speak about a recent terminology workshop on human

anatomy for interpreters and translators working in the health field. Can the minister clarify if all communities had representation at this workshop and specifically, whether elders were representatives from each community? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth, (interpretation ends) Hon. Louis Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Not all communities were represented. For instance, the first workshop was held in the Kitikmeot and is the second round in the Baffin region. There were only a few elders and most of the participants were interpreters and translators working in the health field.

What I can tell the member is that not all communities were represented. Not very many attended this meeting as they held a meeting prior to that in the Kitikmeot and now this one for the Baffin region. This will continue into the future, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for his response. Mr. Speaker, my predecessor in the House knows that there were such significant differences between the Sanikiluaq dialect and other dialects, so he would often speak in English just to avoid confusion.

Can the minister indicate what steps are being taken by his department to ensure

that all Inuit dialects, including the Sanikiluaq dialect, are represented in terminology workshops such as the one held recently in Iqaluit? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleague for raising that question. With respect to this issue, we initiated preparations after the *Official Languages Act* was enacted and as a matter of fact, we are looking at discussing this at our next Cabinet meeting. I will be forwarding the discussion and request for approval for the establishment of the *Inuit Taiguusiliuqtiit Katimajit*, where appoint members to this committee.

This revolves around Inuit terminology and of establishing common terms for all things that require an equal Inuit term. These matters would be reviewed and deliberated upon by the *Inuit Taiguusiliuqtiit Katimajit*. In addition, the committee will ensure that all Nunavummiut can understand the terms related to government operations and terms used by its agencies. Their mandate is to set up the terms of reference.

As I stated previously, we are preparing to establish this committee and we will also be making announcements as to how we will implement this committee. What I can tell the member is that all Nunavut communities, including Sanikiluaq, will be represented when we have started nominating and appointing members to the *Inuit Taiguusiliuqtiit Katimajit*.

Once we have established the committee as a body, then they will be dealing with issues such as the concern expressed by the member with regard to the dialectal differences. That seems obvious to me, so that is how I can respond to his question, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 054 – 3(1): Nunavut Ombudsman

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Justice on the issue that he used to raise with me in prior years and that is the issue of an ombudsman for the territory. I would like to know where the status is on this important matter for Nunavummiut. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Member. (interpretation ends) Minister of Justice, Hon. Keith Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the hon. member for that question. I did used to raise that issue but I'm not sure I called it the ombudsman; I called it the child advocate off the same thing.

I recall from my days as a Member of the Standing Committee on Government Operations and Accountability, there was a legislative proposal that came forward and I think it was in the summer of 2007, and I don't think it went anywhere.

Currently, as the Minister of Justice, I'm not aware of any legislative proposal that

has come forward from Cabinet for drafting. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Yes, it's something that I hope that we can pursue so that we can tie it with other pieces of legislation that has been asked for in prior years, in particular whistle-blower legislation would have to be administered by a body and that could be a vehicle to put that in place.

And I know that my colleague for Cambridge Bay has pursued that as well in prior years, so I look forward to legislation in these areas in the very near future. Could the minister please explain to the House if there are any plans to address these matters? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. Mr. Speaker, whistle-blower protection hasn't been discussed, that I'm aware of, in this Assembly. We have touched on the ombudsman for that from members. But currently, as a Cabinet, we have not discussed which legislation would go forward once the mandate is finalized.

I want to assure the member that whistle-blower protection, ombudsmen, and child advocates' legislation are very important to this government and to all members and all Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I would like to applaud the minister for committing to reviewing these pieces of legislation and to continue to pursue these matters as they are quite important to our constituents.

There are numerous examples that whistle-blower legislation elsewhere that we can work with perhaps and I would like to encourage the member, my colleague, the Minister of Justice, if he can announce, perhaps in June, when we can contemplate working on these pieces of legislation. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I again thank the member for raising those four pieces of legislation. I can't give the member a commitment, but I will assure him that I will raise them at the Cabinet level, we will discuss them, and hopefully in June, we can meet with the Regular Caucus and discuss some of these pieces of legislation that the member would like us to work on. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 055 – 3(1): Review of Harvester Support Programs

Mr. Ningeongan (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Environment.

In March of 2006, the government tabled the final report from the joint review of harvester support programs that was undertaken by the GN and NTI. This comprehensive report was over 80 pages in length and made a number of observations and recommendations. In June of 2006, changes to the Department of Environment's Disaster Compensation Program were also tabled in the Legislative Assembly.

Can the Minister of Environment indicate to the House today what further improvements to the department's harvester support programs will be made over the coming year? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I again would like to thank the member for a very good question. At present, the department has the Disaster Compensation Program in place that totals \$80,000 for all of Nunavut. This program was reviewed at that time in 2006. Claims at that point in time were at a maximum of \$4,500 per incident claim. They have now increased to \$10,000 since that time.

At present, with the \$80,000 that we have committed to this program, it is not being all utilized in the present system we are in. That meaning that there are not enough claims or the claims that are coming in did not use up this fund. So that is the program that we have in place right now and it seems to be working well.

And if the member has further questions, I will feel free to answer them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Ningeongan (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the minister for his response. Nunavut hunters have been impacted through never ending changes. Today, as discussions arise regarding the market for seal pelts, they too are also being affected and that's where my question comes from. I also want to ask the minister further.

The Department of Environment provides core funding to HTOs. In 2004-05, the amount budgeted for this activity in the department's main estimates was \$317,000. The amount budgeted for this activity in 2008-09 was also \$317,000. Since HTOs have not had an increase in five years, would the minister commit to reviewing this amount before the government introduces its 2009 budget? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The member is quite correct that the funding of \$317,000 from the Department of Environment is given to HTOs through the new Nunavut Wildlife Secretariat that has been set up that governs all those HTOs. In addition, we also contribute another \$223,000 to wildlife through the regional wildlife organizations in each region. So the member is quite right there with the funding.

So in total, we do, as a government department, contribute \$540,000 directly and indirectly to all HTOs across Nunavut. And I would, at this time, commit to reviewing the funding source that they are receiving from the Department of Environment and that review could take place as soon as possible. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Ningeongan (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the Minister of Environment for his response. I would like to ask him when “as soon as possible” will take place and when we can expect that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will commit to notifying my officials to look into this matter and review the process. Unfortunately, I cannot give you an exact timeline of this taking place. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 056 – 3(1): Energy Efficiency Program under NHC

Mr. Ningark: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Hon. Minister of Housing.

I found a copy of the Homeowners Energy Efficiency Rebate Program application form in my office, but I am

grateful for the privilege. Will the minister send a copy of the application form to housing across the board? Thank you.

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

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the member for raising that question. But I just want to inform the member that as far I’m aware, all of the applications for all of the different types of programs are sent out to all the local housing organizations throughout the territory and there are even some cases where they are sent out to individual hamlets.

I would ask the member if he can check if either of his communities hasn’t received that information, I would be more than happy to make sure that it is sent out to them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Ningark: Thank you kindly, Mr. Speaker. The copy I received is a very poor copy. I hope copies that are sent to housing offices in Kugaaruk and Repulse Bay are of a better quality for that matter. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Tootoo.

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I’m sure that may be just a photocopy of one or not, I’m not sure what the member is referring to. I can assure the member that as a regular member in the past Assembly, and I’m sure it’s still the current practice, I

received a package of all the different types of programs available to homeowners, and that was printed and provided to all the members in the past.

I'm sure that those same copies are the ones that were sent out to each of the housing organizations across Nunavut and I'm sure that the quality of those application forms is there. Mr. Speaker, also, I believe some of those, I'm not sure if all of them, are available online and I think some of those application forms may also be available online as well at the Housing Corporation's website. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Ningark: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm referring to the printing quality. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Tootoo.

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just want to assure the member that I have just been handed a note indicating that the copy that he did receive was a photocopy of an actual application form. I can assure the member that the quality of the original print copy ones is much better than the one that he received.

If he would like, the member can ask me and I would be more than happy to get him a complete set of these application forms and program guidelines for each of our programs that I can provide to him for his perusal. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit West, Mr. Okalik.

Question 057 – 3(1): Residential Schools Truth and Reconciliation Commission

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Premier.

The residential school survivors have been waiting to hear from the federal government about the entity that was set up previously but they were dissolved. I would like to ask the Premier if she can urge the federal government to try and push to have an Inuk member on the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we can work on it further because we're now at the initial stage of working on that. Thank you for asking me that question.

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

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Some survivors are still hanging on to their issues even though they would like to let go of them.

I would urge the Premier to lobby the federal government to include Inuit on the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and try and do it as soon as possible to make sure that this commission is established so that they start consulting and touring the northern communities right away. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Madam Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I didn't hear a question, although I understand the member wants me to lobby the federal government. I understand him thoroughly. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Oral Questions. (interpretation) If there are no more, we will move on to Item 7. Written Questions. Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. (interpretation ends) Item 10. Petitions. Item 11. Reports of Standing and Special... Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just want to go back to Item 5, if possible, for Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. At this time, I am very pleased to announce that... (interpretation) I'm sorry.

>> *Laughter*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. The member is seeking unanimous consent to return to Item 5. Are there any nays? There are no nays. You may proceed, Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Revert to Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Mr. Aupaluktuq (interpretation): Thank you very much. I was so excited about recognizing this individual that I forgot about our procedural requirements.

(interpretation ends) At this point, I just want to thank my colleagues for allowing me to do this. I want to

recognize, in the visitors to the Gallery, that we have a former MLA sitting back there, Mr. Silas Angna'naaq. He's a former Member of the NWT legislature, so I want to thank my colleagues for allowing me to do that. (interpretation) Thank you very much.

>> *Applause*

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

Mr. Ningark: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is a privilege for me to recognize a former colleague, Mr. Angna'naaq. (interpretation) Welcome. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome to the Gallery. (interpretation ends) Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. (interpretation) Since there are no more, (interpretation ends) Item 11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees. Item 12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Item... Mr. Shewchuk.

Item 14: Notices of Motions

Motion 019 – 3(1): Opposition to European Union's Proposed Ban on the Import of Seal Products – Notice

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At this time, Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Wednesday, March 25, 2009, I will move the following motion:

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the Hon. Member for Nanulik, that the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut opposes the European Union's proposed ban on the import of seal products. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you. Notices of Motions. Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 16. Motions. Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Item 19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bill 1 with Mr. Pauloosie in the Chair.

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

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>House recessed at 15:29 and Committee resumed at 15:58

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

Chairman (Mr. Pauloosie): I would like to call the committee meeting to order. In Committee of the Whole, we have the following item to deal with: Bill 1. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We wish to continue with the review of Bill 1 and the Capital Estimates for the Nunavut Arctic College, followed by the Nunavut Housing Corporation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Are we in agreement that we deal with the capital estimates for the Nunavut Arctic College?

Some Members: Agreed.

Bill 01 – Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2009-2010 – Nunavut Arctic College – Consideration in Committee

Chairman: Thank you, Members. Before the Committee of the Whole continues with its consideration of the 2009-2010 capital estimates, I wish to make a statement concerning this process.

As members will have noted, the capital estimates document that is before the Committee of the Whole is divided into different sections, including a number of appendices that present such information as future projects that are on the government's five-year capital plan.

As members are aware, the Legislative Assembly formally votes on the appropriation requests for the 2009-2010 fiscal year. However, members are permitted to ask questions concerning the information that is contained in the appendices to the capital estimates document.

For example, when the Committee of the Whole considers the proposed capital estimates for the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth, members may also ask questions concerning information that is presented in the appendices to the document that relate to the department's activities, including projects that are receiving third party funding.

I trust that this clarifies our procedures and I look forward to the cooperation of all members in assisting your Chair in keeping our proceedings moving forward in an orderly manner. Thank you.

I would now like to ask the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Arctic College, Hon. Daniel Shewchuk, to make his opening remarks.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to be here today to present and discuss the proposed 2009-2010 capital plan for Nunavut Arctic College. This is my first appearance before you as the Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College. I am looking forward to the opportunity of working together in advancing the mandate of our new government, especially as it applies to Nunavut Arctic College.

First, I would like to thank the Minister of Education and his officials for their cooperation. Historically, Nunavut Arctic College's capital plan was part of Education's plan. Now, for the first time, it is separate. Their generous help made the development and presentation of this plan possible. Also, as this is a year of transition, you will find the capital movements between projects are recorded in their plan and not in this one.

I would also like to thank the Minister of Community and Government Services and his officials for their assistance. While Nunavut Arctic College develops its internal capital planning capacity, we continue to rely on their experience and expertise in planning and coordinating capital projects.

As the only post-secondary institution in the territory, Nunavut Arctic College plays the central role in providing Nunavummiut with adult learning programs and services. Our core business is training for employment. Building self-reliance through training and employment is our goal.

Nunavut Arctic College's roots are in the communities. Our roots are the community learning centres. Two community learning centres are being replaced. You will find the new Pond Inlet Community Learning Centre in this plan. The new community learning centre for Qikiqtarjuaq is not included. It is still in the Department of Education's plan since it is part of the renovation and expansion of the Inuksuit School.

Nunavummiut wishing to take career training programs not available in their communities are accommodated in our regional campuses at Cambridge Bay, Rankin Inlet, and Iqaluit. Student family housing was completed in Cambridge Bay in 2005. This plan provides for the final warranty on the student family housing and day care in Rankin Inlet. It is already occupied and the students are very happy. This plan also provides for the construction of additional family housing and day care in Iqaluit. I've had the pleasure of touring the project. It is scheduled to be ready for occupancy this fall.

All of us have been eagerly awaiting the major expansion in trades training. The trades training centre being constructed in Rankin Inlet will enable Nunavummiut to stay in Nunavut and to take the initial two levels of training for housing maintainer, oil burner mechanic, electrical and plumbing. This is in

addition to four levels of carpentry already available in Iqaluit. All of us look forward to the official opening of the Nunavut Trades Training Centre in the fall of 2010.

Mining has become a major employer in Nunavut. To that end, the new Pond Inlet Community Learning Centre will support non-technical training for the Mary River mining project. Though currently deferred, the mine training centre proposed as the core of the new Kitikmeot campus in Cambridge Bay remains a high priority for the training of mine workers, millwrights, and welders. And we are hopeful that the training centre in Rankin Inlet will be expanded in the future to train heavy duty and auto mechanics, and the heavy equipment operators needed by the mining industry.

Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to be here today to discuss the Nunavut Arctic College's capital plan for 2009-10 and the subsequent four years. This is a critical government investment in training Nunavummiut for employment. I look forward to your questions, comments, and discussion.
(interpretation) Thank you.
(interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Shewchuk. Do you have witnesses you would like to bring to the table?

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Yes, I do, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Does the committee agree to bring in the witnesses?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Sergeant-at-Arms, (interpretation ends) could you escort the witnesses in?

For the record, minister, please introduce your witnesses.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my right, I have Dan Vandermeulen, the President of the Arctic College, and to my left I have Barry Cornthwaite, Manager of Capital Planning for the Department of Education.

Chairman: Does a member of the Regular Members' Caucus have opening comments? Please proceed, Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to provide opening comments on behalf of the Regular Members' Caucus as the Committee of the Whole begins its consideration of Nunavut Arctic College's proposed 2009-2010 capital estimates.

Nunavut Arctic College's proposed capital budget for adult education related programs in 2009-2010 is \$19.85 million. This is the first time that the college has been a separate entity, distinct from the Department of Education, for the purposes of the capital budget review process. In previous fiscal years, the Department of Education had allocated \$10.5 million in 2008-09 and \$6.25 million in 2007-08 for adult education related projects.

Members note that the college's proposed funding is allocated to four projects which are ongoing from previous years and include accommodations for Nunavut Arctic College students, the construction of the

Nunavut Trade School, and the construction of the Pond Inlet Community Learning Centre.

Members have noted that while projects such as Nunavut Arctic College's student accommodations in Rankin Inlet and Iqaluit will allow for more students and their families from the outlying communities to move to the regional centres to take advantage of post-secondary educational opportunities, programs such as Financial Aid for Nunavut Students are still administered by the Department of Education.

Members encourage the Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College and the Minister of Education to work closely together to ensure that adequate funding is budgeted for a potential increase in costs for FANS benefits, especially in the area of travel for students and their dependants to the regional campuses.

Members were pleased to note that the new student accommodations in Iqaluit should be ready for occupancy in time for the fall semester. The issue of security was raised as a concern, especially as many students will be coming to a larger regional centre for the first time as well as sharing accommodation with individuals whom they may not know. Members urge the minister and his officials to consider the installation of security devices to provide as much protection as possible for students and their families.

Although many Nunavut Arctic College students will still be accommodated at the Federal Road residence as well as in some privately leased units, it is anticipated that the new Nunavut Arctic

College housing units will improve the current housing situation for students.

Mr. Chairman, the recent federal budget contained funding of \$2 billion for maintenance and repair projects for post-secondary institutions. Members urge to minister to act swiftly and decisively to access a share of this funding. Priority will be given to projects that will improve the quality of research at a given institution and the Nunavut Research Institute would be an ideal candidate for this type of infrastructure development. This Arctic College institution has not received any substantive upgrading in several years.

Mr. Chairman, in order for many Nunavummiut to be able to take advantage of post-secondary programs such as those offered at the regional Nunavut Arctic College campuses, a great deal of groundwork needs to be covered at the grassroots level in our communities. Community learning centres are enormously important to helping residents access the upgrading programs that they need in order to get into more specialized training programs.

Members note that the funding proposed for the community learning centre project in Pond Inlet will go towards a final year of construction. This is the only community learning centre project on the college's capital plan. Members recognize that there are cost-saving opportunities to partner with other departments to include community learning centres in other capital projects, such as schools or municipal infrastructure.

Members encourage the minister to work closely with his officials and

counterparts in other departments to ensure that these adult education needs are met while also ensuring that other sectors of the population, such as our school age children, do not end up with less space than is optimal in their newly-built or renovated school.

Mr. Chairman, members fully support the ongoing work at the Nunavut Trade School in Rankin Inlet. The proposed construction costs for this facility in 2009-2010 account for more than half of Nunavut Arctic College's entire capital budget. Members encourage the minister to provide regular updates on the progress of this facility and, as he pointed out in his opening statements, on the types of trades training that will be offered in order that Nunavummiut can prepare themselves accordingly to take advantage of the opportunities once they become available.

Members also recommend that the minister give consideration wherever possible to opening small trade-specific facilities in some of Nunavut's smaller communities, especially where the circumstances are particularly conducive to training for a specific trade such as heavy equipment operating and activities that are in demand such as gravel processing or mining. Again, this was mentioned in his opening comments, so we thank the minister for working on that.

On a final note, Mr. Chairman, the change in ministerial responsibility for Nunavut Arctic College from the Department of Education has led to this capital budget being subsumed under the Department of Finance. Members recognize that this is a transitional step.

At the same time, it is important to recognize that the governance, mode of operations and even the fiscal year of Nunavut Arctic College are all significantly different from other GN entities. Members urge the minister and the government as a whole to proceed with caution in determining Nunavut Arctic College's new status within the government's structure.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening comments on the proposed 2009-2010 Capital Estimates of Nunavut Arctic College. I am confident that my colleagues will wish to offer further comments of their own. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Shewchuk... sorry about that, Mr. Elliott. I wish to remind members: to allow time for the interpreters, please speak slowly.

Before we proceed, 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 departmental estimates. Do members have any general comments? Mr. Ningark.

Mr. Ningark: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I am very happy to hear that the new facilities in Rankin Inlet and Iqaluit will include or have included already day care facilities. I think that

this is something that has prevented many young families from attending the post-secondary educational facilities in their region.

However, I have not seen such a plan for the Kitikmeot region in Cambridge Bay. I have no question at this time, but I do wish that such arrangement for the Kitikmeot region will be considered seriously within the coming months. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Do members have any general comments? I have no more members on my list for general comments. We will proceed to the page-by-page review of the capital estimates starting with page C-3 and Appendix A-II-5. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't want to make a general comment with respect to the Arctic College, but I observed that based on this paper, the Pond Inlet Community Learning Centre is the only one scheduled for construction, although Qikiqtarjuaq was also mentioned.

Have we undertaken a plan to start replacing the really old infrastructure in our communities? For instance, we have heard of several communities where the Arctic College doesn't even have its own building. I used to reside in Coral Harbour, so I don't know if that facility was ever built, however... apparently the member is not listening to the dialogue.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, as I noted earlier, I do not wish to make a general comment, but looking at the funds listed here, we saw that Pond Inlet will be the only community receiving a new community learning centre and it's

being constructed and should be completed this spring. Pond Inlet residents are grateful for that new building. However, this current building was originally built to house government teachers in 1960.

I actually know, as I resided in Coral Harbour, that there was no standalone building for Arctic College and they had to try and utilize the school in the community. I imagine that there are a few more communities in that category in Nunavut. How useful is the Arctic College for drop-outs from high school? It's a very useful tool for these people to upgrade their educational skills.

My question is: how committed or dedicated is the Arctic College to construct a community learning centre in communities that currently either do not have a building or are operating out of very old Arctic College buildings? What kind of plans does Arctic College have to build new learning centres where there are none or replacement plans where the buildings are very old? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My colleague is right that the Pond Inlet Community Learning Centre is under construction and will be finished hopefully this summer.

We do have another community learning centre that is being constructed. However, it's administrated by Education because it's going to be part of a new proposed school infrastructure that's taking place in Qikiqtarjuaq.

Community learning centre plans will be reviewed in 2009-2010 and we would like to move forward and ahead in including community learning centres and any major capital infrastructure that may be built in communities and partnership with these construction projects. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's a concern because approximately 50 percent of the students complete high school, but the rest who don't complete high school face a lot of challenges. They might think about becoming conservation officers, plumbers, or carpenters, but they can't take the training because they didn't finish high school.

When you finish high school or receive your GED through Arctic College, you can finally receive further education. So I see it as a priority to build community learning centres because if students or their parents aren't working hard enough, they don't complete their education and regret it later in life.

You can only get your GED through community learning centres, where there's an opportunity to make accomplishments and get into occupational stages. However, there are communities that don't have these types of buildings at all or have buildings that are deteriorating from age and becoming too small. So I would like to have this reviewed by your department as soon as possible. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Mr. Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I agree with my colleague that the community learning centres are very important in communities and I agree that we have to look at upgrading and keeping these facilities going. At present, we have a community learning centre in every community, except in Grise Fiord at this time.

So we do have them established. To maintain them and upgrade them is going to take funding and time, and through a review that we will do, community-by-community, we will establish a priority list on the replacement schedule. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Shewchuk. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The minister was speaking to the fact that Pond Inlet is receiving the last year of construction for their CLC and Qikiqtarjuaq is combined with the Department of Education.

I believe Grise Fiord is the only other community that doesn't have a community learning centre. I'm just wondering if he could update how high of a priority is that and when could they actually see something coming about for them. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Mr. Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for his question. As I stated before, Grise Fiord is the only community right now that does not have a community learning

centre in place, so obviously it is a number one priority.

At this present time, we are looking for a short-term solution in acquiring space, a place where we could have this, but it will be a number one priority in the future to hopefully get a new establishment there. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Shewchuk. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Along that line of questioning, I was just wondering if they have been in touch with the community. Through Community and Government Services, there's an \$8.5 million project being put through under the Building Canada Fund for a hamlet office/community hall and I thought that perhaps the community learning centre might be an ideal situation in terms of partnering with. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Mr. Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The member raises a very good point and we are and we will be in discussions with Community and Government Services to see if we can partnership on this project. I would just like to advise too that we do have an adult education position established in the new Arctic College budget for Grise Fiord. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Shewchuk. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's great to hear and I'm sure the

people in Grise Fiord will be really happy to hear that. In your Member's Statement, you had mentioned that "Mining has become a major employer in Nunavut. To that end, the new Pond Inlet Community Learning Centre will support non-technical training for the Mary River mining project."

That's a benefit for Pond Inlet, but most of the work that's being done with the Mary River project and the communities that are involved, including Clyde River, Resolute Bay, and Arctic Bay, are also being included for some of the impact review and whatnot, and some of the benefits through the IBAs.

Will members in my communities of Grise Fiord, Resolute Bay, and Arctic Bay be allowed to apply for those non-technical training courses that you mentioned? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Shewchuk or Mr. Elliott, sorry about that. Mr. Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, of course, we feel this training should be a priority for all communities, not just Pond Inlet. There will be introduction to mining safety modules that are going to be available to all communities; they will have access to those. But I assure you that, through community learning centres, training in all communities in the different mining fields is a priority. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Shewchuk. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would just like the minister to clarify

that. I don't know if he was saying yes, Arctic Bay residents will be able to go to those non-technical training courses being offered. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What we will try to do is take training modules and training to the communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Again?

Mr. Elliott: ... turned my light on. Thank you.

>> *Laughter*

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Members, I would like to remind you to please put your hand up if you have more questions so I will know that you have more questions. Thank you.

Mr. Elliott: Oh, there you go. I was just too eager to ask these questions. Thank you for answering those questions.

I have a question in regard to student financial assistance. Has the minister been speaking with the Minister of Education in terms of the possibility of increased travel for having family members come to stay at the new residence that is being constructed? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Mr. Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have not yet spoken and had conversations with the Minister of

Education about this. However, the member knows that this is a mandate of the Minister of Education. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm used to keeping my hands down now because I'm being told to keep them down.

>> *Laughter*

The question is in regard to the new residence that is being constructed behind the Nunatta Campus. Is that intended for family units or for single units? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Mr. Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, the new residence in Iqaluit is targeted both for single and family units and more family units that can be reverted to be used as single units too. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Shewchuk. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Will the White Row units or Cedar Creek, I'm not exactly sure of the terminology, will those units still be in use or will they not be needed anymore? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, those units will be used for a minimum of one year at the

present time. During that one year period, there will be a review on all Nunavut Arctic College housing. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Shewchuk. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Mr. Chairman, in terms of the food services, I ate there many times and I'm just wondering: will that service still be provided to the students once the residence has been constructed? I know that they will within their own unit. At the new residence, they will be allowed to, but will they have the option of a meal plan? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Mr. Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The quick answer is yes, they will. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the minister's statement to the COW, he mentioned housing maintainers, oil burner mechanics, electrical and plumbing as trades that would be done in Rankin Inlet's new training centre.

Let's say an oil burner mechanic goes through all of the years through the apprenticeship program. Will they receive something that is called the inter-provincial or the ticket that allows them to be able to practice their trade not just in Nunavut but in any province or territory across Canada at the end? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Mr. Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that question, my colleague. All of Nunavut Arctic College trades programs require and use red seal approvals or curriculum, which means that, yes, the credentials are good right across Canada. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Shewchuk. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the Minister responsible for Housing's Member's Statement today, he mentioned that 51 Nunavummiut are involved in the apprenticeship program. How closely is Nunavut Arctic College working with the Nunavut Housing Corporation on this project? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Mr. Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, there's a very good relationship with Nunavut Housing and we work very closely with them in reviewing the demand for tradespeople. And in regard to this, because of the demand that is needed in construction projects that are happening, the trades school in May is going to be double the number of people enrolled in that program. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Shewchuk. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Once again, this is great news that two departments are working so closely on providing these training opportunities for the people in the communities.

It's often very hard and there are so many stumbling blocks for them to go through to actually become a qualified apprentice. And often times, I know, in Arctic Bay, in doing research and finding out that for the Nunavut Housing Trust project, \$500,000 has gone to southern staff and \$300,000 has only gone to our local residents, which stays in the community.

Something in terms of foresight is the project for Nunavut Housing Trust is going to be finishing in one year. I'm just wondering whether the college has thought of or if there's a plan in place. What are they going to do with those 51 apprentices, after the Nunavut Housing Trust is completed, to continue to train them and also provide opportunities?

I guess employment is not going to be happening, so they won't be able to get to the next level in terms of the apprenticeship program. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Mr. Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, that is a concern to everyone to what is going to happen to these tradespeople that want their training after construction projects run out. But we do have, for the next couple of years anyway, an abundance of houses that are going to be built in Nunavut and we need people, beneficiaries, hopefully Nunavummiut to do this.

So by doubling the intake of trades in the carpentry program this May, we will address hopefully part of that challenge and also, we will have to continue to work with Housing and CG&S to look

for projects to have these people employed after our housing boom is over. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Shewchuk. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It looks like from your Member's Statement that 2010 is when you actually hope to have the trades school up and running. Are you starting to source out and look for qualified staff to be able to instruct the courses in oil burner mechanics, electrical and plumbing?

We noticed, and I'm sure the minister is well aware since he has the portfolio of HR, that it's hard finding qualified and good people to take on the responsibilities and make the commitment for more than one or two years. Thank you.

Chairman: I would like to remind the members again that we're on capital estimates, so stay on topic of the 2009-2010 capital, please. Thank you. Mr. Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: In that case, I won't answer that question... no.

>> *Laughter*

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, the curriculum staff is being recruited right at the present time before construction is completed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Shewchuk. Thank you. Mr. Ningark.

Mr. Ningark: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are discussing or reviewing Nunavut Arctic College.

About a month ago, we had people from the regional Arctic College office in Kugaaruk and we recognize that Nunavut Arctic College is a gateway for the opportunity for young people looking for a career in their lives.

We held a meeting at the Arctic College in Kugaaruk and some people from Cambridge Bay commented that the building was kind of out of date. We were told that perhaps Kugaaruk would be a priority for building and replacing the Arctic College in the community and in the region.

I'm wondering, loudly I suppose, if people from the Cambridge Bay Arctic College have communicated with the good office of the minister about replacing the old Arctic College building in Kugaaruk. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Mr. Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for his question, very valid question. I have been informed that the community learning centre in Pelly Bay is in very poor condition and under our review, when we are reviewing all communities, we are aware that it will be one of the higher priority places to be looked at. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Shewchuk. Mr. Ningark.

Mr. Ningark: Mr. Chairman, I don't know where Pelly Bay is.

>> *Laughter*

I'm talking on behalf of Kugaaruk. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Mr. Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am speaking about Kugaaruk. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Ningark.

Mr. Ningark: Mr. Minister, thank you for that respect. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Okalik.

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I appreciate the minister's commitment to continued learning and it's one way to tackle a real problem in our territory is to get our adult population educated so that we can tackle poverty throughout Nunavut. I'm glad to see commitments for community learning centres in a number of communities throughout Nunavut. And to my colleague from Kugaaruk, I look forward to more commitments throughout Nunavut.

There used to be one here in Iqaluit. I'm a product of the community learning centre here in Iqaluit. When I was working, I was able to get my grade 12 at the community learning centre that used to be directly across from what is now Northmart. And I have been asked to see if it's possible once again to have a dedicated community learning centre here in the community of Iqaluit.

There is one currently at the main campus and they coalesce with the rest of Nunavut's students, but they would

like to get more attention from the community. So that is one area that I would ask the minister to try and see if there are possibilities of creating a small local community learning centre here in Iqaluit. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Okalik. Mr. Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for his question. Yes, he's absolutely right that there is currently a community learning centre at the Nunatta Campus.

We do hear his concern and it will be part of our review process and we would appreciate his input on that review process of us dealing with community learning centres in all communities. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Shewchuk. Mr. Okalik.

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I appreciate your response and I look forward to taking part, and it's something that has been missing in our community here in Iqaluit and it has real potential for improving services and improving our potential as a territory for adult learners.

I applaud the minister and I look forward to working with my colleagues in making sure that all of the communities have community learning centres throughout Nunavut because it's one area where it can really have a very positive impact in our territory. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Okalik. (interpretation) Did you ask a question?

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): No, it's okay. I am just encouraging the minister to work closely with me. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was waiting to see and make sure nobody else had any other questions.

I just have one more question about the new Nunavut Arctic College student accommodations that are happening here in Iqaluit. If the minister could sort of give us an update as to what's going to be happening with the Old Residence in what they call the West 40, whether there are going to be single units there.

You have mentioned that there's going to be food services happening, so I'm assuming that's where the cafeteria will still be used. But I'm just wondering, with the second and third floors as well, will they be used for housing units or office space, if the minister could explain. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Mr. Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member again for his question. The plan is to keep the Old Residence as residence, the second and third floor will be a single-unit residence, the cafeteria will stay in place, and the bottom floor will be used for classrooms. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Shewchuk. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, relating to that, it might cross over into an O&M question, but the money that's proposed in the budget on the substantiation sheets for the capital dollars that are going to be put into the construction of the residence, is any of that going to be spent on the old building for renovations there in terms of turning them into single-unit rooms? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Mr. Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, none of the funding that is allocated for the new residence and the capital construction project will be used for renovations in the old Arctic College. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Do members have any more questions on C-3 and A-II-5? We can now go back to C-3. Finance. Branch Summary. Centrally Administered Funds. Total Capital Expenditures. \$19.85 million. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: We will go back to page C-2. Department Summary. Finance. Detail of Expenditures. Total Capital Expenditures. \$19.85 million. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Is the committee agreed that this department is concluded?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: I would like to thank the minister for appearing in front of us with his witnesses. Thank you. Mr. Minister, do you have closing comments?

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, I would like to thank my officials for being here with me and I would like to thank all my colleagues for working on these very important projects and to better educate all Nunavummiut. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

>> *Applause*

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

Thank you. (interpretation ends) I would now like to ask Minister Tootoo of the Nunavut Housing Corporation to make his opening remarks.

**Bill 01 – Appropriation (Capital) Act,
2009-2010 – Nunavut Housing
Corporation – Consideration in
Committee**

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The corporation's capital plan for 2009-2010 has been set at \$18,546,000 from the Government of Nunavut and additional funding of \$4,290,000 from the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, which, from here on in, I will refer to as CMHC and conserve my energy, for a total capital budget of \$22,746,000.

We are pleased with the news from the recent federal budget of the allocation of \$100 million over the next two years for construction of affordable housing in Nunavut. This is another step in

achieving our goals set out in the Ten-Year Inuit Housing Action Plan.

The 2009-2010 capital estimates' main highlights are as follows:

First, the Nunavut Housing Corporation's funding for Modernization and Improvement (M&I) Retrofit to local housing organizations, the Fire Damage Replacement Fund, the Mobile Equipment Fund, the Seniors and Disabled Persons Preventative Maintenance Program, and the homeownership programs remain at approximately the same level as last year.

Also, the corporation has responded to requests for more staff housing by adding the funding for the final units of the continuing care centres in Igloolik and Gjoa Haven and duplexes in Arctic Bay, Hall Beach, and Kugaaruk.

The corporation continues to renovate older staff housing units in communities with the greatest needs.

The corporation is also taking steps to address the Office of the Auditor General's concern over inventories at the LHO, or local housing organization, level by conducting a pilot project with three LHOs to establish proper inventory controls which includes providing a secured compound for the proper storage of materials.

Finally, the corporation is planning on having a retrofit to the Baker Lake warehouse for the local housing association so that the facility can be used in a safer environment until funding can be obtained to construct a new warehouse.

I am pleased to report that the Nunavut Housing Trust delivery is proceeding with the last of the 725 units to be delivered this summer. Construction on the housing units is continuing despite challenges in prior years. We have learned lessons from these challenges and have remained flexible to suit community circumstances.

Across Nunavut, most construction projects are meeting or exceeding the Nunavut Northern Housing Trust targets of 60 percent Inuit employment and there are over 50 Nunavut apprentices working on job sites across the territory.

Funding for Housing Trust units has been appropriated outside of the capital estimates process and is not included in the information provided before you today.

Mr. Chairman and committee members, I thank you for the opportunity to meet with you today. And I look forward to a meaningful discussing and we will be pleased to hear your comments and answer any questions that you may have. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Do you have witnesses that you would like to bring to the table?

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Yes, I do. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Does the committee agree to bring in the witnesses?

Some Members: Agreed.

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

For the record, minister, please introduce your witnesses. Mr. Tootoo.

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My witnesses are no strangers to this House, they may be for some of the new members here but I'm sure that they're familiar with most of the people here in the Chambers.

On my right is Mr. Peter Scott, who is the President of the Nunavut Housing Corporation, and he has many years of service in housing in the NWT and Nunavut. On my left, Mr. Chairman, is our chief financial officer. Some former members may remember him in his capacity with the Department of Health, but we have since enticed him over to the Housing Corporation and he is doing some great work for us at the Housing Corporation, and that's Mr. Eric Whitworth. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Does a member of the Regular Member's Caucus have opening comments? Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll try and read slowly for the benefit of our translators. I am pleased to provide opening comments on behalf of the Regular Members' Caucus as the Committee of the Whole begins its consideration of the proposed 2009-2010 Capital Estimates of the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

Mr. Chairman, the ongoing shortage of housing in Nunavut's communities is an issue of significant concern to all

Members of the Legislative Assembly. The announcement in January's federal budget that Nunavut will receive \$100 million over two years in new funding for the construction of housing units is welcome news.

Members look forward to the announcement of the delivery model that will be used to determine where new units will be constructed. Members encourage the Nunavut Housing Corporation to recognize that all communities are in need of new housing and to allocate units in as equitable a manner as possible.

In 2007, the Legislative Assembly approved over \$8 million in supplementary funding for the corporation to provide to LHOs to assist with meeting forced growth pressures, including the costs associated with new housing units. Members recognize the importance of ensuring that the Nunavut Housing Corporation's budget keeps pace with forced growth.

Mr. Chairman, the Report of the Auditor General of Canada on the Nunavut Housing Corporation was tabled in the Legislative Assembly last year. The report contained a number of observations and recommendations concerning the Nunavut Housing Corporation's implementation of the Nunavut Housing Trust Delivery Strategy. In light of the federal announcement of new funding for housing construction in Nunavut, it is essential that the Nunavut Housing Corporation act on the Auditor General's recommendations.

Members look forward to their upcoming hearings on the Auditor

General's report, which are scheduled to take place in May. This will provide an opportunity for members to scrutinize in detail the Auditor General's recommendations and the Nunavut Housing Corporation's responses.

Mr. Chairman, the GN and NTI jointly submitted a Ten-Year Inuit Housing Action Plan to the Government of Canada in September of 2004. The action plan called for federal investment of approximately \$1.9 billion over ten years for the construction of 5,700 new housing units in the territory. The Nunavut Housing Corporation's current business plan indicates that it will "Work with NTI and other stakeholders to lobby the federal government to fund the remainder of the *Nunavut 10-Year Inuit Housing Action Plan*."

In January of this year, the minister announced in the Legislative Assembly that the Nunavut Housing Corporation will be undertaking a housing needs survey in March and April. Members look forward to the minister's response to the Legislative Assembly on the results of this survey. Members also recommend that the Nunavut Housing Corporation use this opportunity to evaluate the special needs of disabled and elderly residents across the territory with respect to such issues as accessibility.

Members are aware that in 2007, the Nunavut Housing Corporation issued a request for proposals for the development of a housing strategy for Nunavut. Members note that the Nunavut Housing Corporation's response to the Auditor General's recent report indicated that the corporation has been "working with a proponent on their

proposal and expects a report in the fall of 2008." Members urge the minister to table this in the Legislative Assembly as soon as possible.

Mr. Chairman, the Nunavut Housing Corporation administers a significant number of programs to assist homeowners and potential homeowners in Nunavut. According to the Nunavut Housing Corporation's recent annual reports and other information provided by the corporation, the Nunavut Housing Corporation's expenditures on its homeownership programs have increased from just over \$2.1 million in 2004-05 to \$3.7 million in 2005-06 and \$7.4 million in 2006-07. A number of these programs are funded through the Nunavut Housing Corporation's capital estimates.

The number of Nunavutmiut benefiting from these homeownership programs has increased significantly, as illustrated by the change in the number of approved applications for Nunavut Housing Corporation programs from 174 in 2005-06 to 320 in 2006-07. This is an increase of over 83 percent. Members understand that approximately 425 applications have been approved in the 2008-09 fiscal year to date.

The Nunavut Housing Corporation has allocated \$2,116,000 in its 2009-2010 capital estimates for homeownership programs. It is unclear if this amount will be sufficient to meet demand. Members encourage the Nunavut Housing Corporation to regularly evaluate its homeownership programs in order to determine which are successful and which are not. Members also look forward to the Nunavut Housing Corporation announcing whether its staff

condominium program will be reinstated.

In September of 2008, the former minister announced in the Legislative Assembly that as a result of oil spills and fuel leaks in various communities throughout Nunavut, the corporation and local housing associations have compiled a Nunavut-wide report resulting from fuel tank inspections.

The minister indicated that the corporation is developing a strategy for the acquisition and replacement of outdated fuel tanks in its public housing stock and that such a replacement strategy “will likely involve a five-year action plan.” The minister indicated that the corporation has already ordered 260 new fuel tanks. Members recommend that the minister table a copy of this action plan in the Legislative Assembly. Members also support the introduction of a new program to assist homeowners with the cost of purchasing new fuel tanks.

Mr. Chairman, the Nunavut Housing Corporation’s proposed capital estimates for 2009-2010 include \$4.75 million in funding for new staff housing units, including units associated with the GN’s new continuing care facilities in Gjoa Haven and Igloolik. The Nunavut Housing Corporation’s capital plan includes over \$13 million in funding in 2010-11 for new staff housing units associated with the Rankin Inlet Correctional Centre and the Clyde River Cultural Centre. It is important that the Nunavut Housing Corporation work closely with departments to ensure that budgets adequately account for the incremental operating costs that accompany new units.

Mr. Chairman, the Nunavut Housing Corporation’s proposed capital estimates for 2009-2010 include \$900,000 in funding for a project to construct fencing in three communities to secure compounds for the outside storage of LHO housing materials. While members recognize the importance of inventory controls and security, the Nunavut Housing Corporation has not demonstrated that this particular approach is the most appropriate solution.

A number of members have observed that fencing is only a short-term remedy given the ease with which fencing can be damaged. Members recommend that the Nunavut Housing Corporation broaden this initiative and examine other solutions that have a greater potential for long-term success, such as the construction of economical and enclosed warehouses or garages. This approach would also better meet the Nunavut Housing Corporation’s stated goal of helping LHOs to protect materials from damage or theft.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening comments on the 2009-2010 Capital Estimates of the Nunavut Housing Corporation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Do members have any general comments? I would like to remind all members that they each have 10 minutes to make their general comments. Thank you. Mr. Ningark.

Mr. Ningark: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the effort to build much needed homes by this government

and their counterpart, the federal government.

In recent years, Kugaaruk has been constructing, in the last three or four years now, homes for their community and there is a long list of people that want to move into a home. We have many overcrowded homes in the community, but we should never compromise the safety of the people, of the tenants in Nunavut wherever the community may be.

One family home in Kugaaruk burned down just before the final inspection. A second home that has been occupied for 12 months, the tenants complain about mould in the house. And Mr. Chairman, another home in the Hamlet of Kugaaruk, within six to seven weeks, was leaking to a point of making the showers useless because every time the showers were being used, it would leak to the floor to the point of making the drywall spongy and it was going into the floor. I have been to the home a number of times. Every time you walk into the bathroom, the floor was spongy and the water would come out. I am talking about a brand new home.

Regardless of how much we need a home, we should never compromise the safety and standards of a home in a community where our people will be using and paying for. So that's my comment, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Ningark. I think that was more of a comment than a question.

Mr. Ningark: I don't think this is an appropriate time to ask questions. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Ningark. General comments? If there are no more general comments, members could ask questions on pages L-3, L-4, L-5, and L-6. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Does the Housing Corporation have a plan in place or are they trying to come up with a plan to replace the aging and deteriorating units that are in our communities? Thank you.

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

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the member first off for his opening comments. I think there are very good issues that he raised in there and I look forward to discussing and addressing those issue as we move forward.

In regard to the aging units that we have, I had an opportunity... was it about a month and a half ago when Minister Strahl was up here or less than that, not even a month a half ago, but it seems like it's been a long time ago. But when Minister Strahl was here, one of the things that we pointed out specifically to him, when we took him to some of the units that we're building with the Housing Trust funding that we've got from them over the last three years, and gave him an indication of what we need, as you pointed out in the Ten-Year Inuit Housing Action Plan, we're saying we need just over a billion dollars.

Also, in the report, it has been identified that we have around a thousand units in our inventory that need to be replaced and I think these are the exact units that the member from Hudson Bay is

referring to. Some of these units were built, I think they're older than me, and when they were designed and built, they were built with two-by-four construction. They weren't designed for any plumbing, electrical or heating systems in them.

As time moved on and these things came out that we have been forced to retrofit because we haven't had the resources to replace them, when you add in a heating system, when you fix the floor, when you make it from a two-by-four to a two-by-six insulation on the walls, that just made these units smaller and smaller every time something like that was done.

In some of these units, we had the opportunity to take Minister Strahl into one of them and showed him that he's not the shortest, he's taller than me, and in some of these units, he had to duck down to go from one room to another. That's just the state they we're at and I stressed with him that as we put out this first \$200 million from the Housing Trust and now the \$100 million that they have announced is like a down payment or an instalment payment towards dealing with that exact issue of having to replace those aging units.

I also told him that we don't have a choice. We have to keep people and we have to spend money to keep these houses so that they are safe for people to live in because we can't afford to shut them down. We don't have enough houses and we've got no place for those people to go.

So we have made our case with the federal government and I'm hoping, with this new funding that they have announced, that we can be able to move

forward to be able to secure more funding in the future to deal with that exact thing of replacing some of these ancient housing units that we have in our inventory. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Ningeongan (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm sure the minister responded to some of the questions that the member asked in regard to old units. I do want further clarification with respect to funding for retrofitting old units.

In Chesterfield Inlet, I have been informed that a number of units which have been renovated suffer from thermal leakage through the floors. I was wondering if the Housing Corporation has a policy as to when a unit would be replaced rather than be renovated. I didn't quite understand the response that was provided, so I would like clarification on that.

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

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for raising that question. As I indicated in my earlier response, the corporation, over the years, is forced to modernize and improve and just keep some of these older units liveable because we can't afford to replace them, we don't have the resources to be able to just replace.

Like I said, we have around a thousand units like that in our inventory that we would like to be able to replace, but the Government of Nunavut doesn't have the funding for that and that's part of

what we're trying to continue lobbying our federal counterparts to provide us with funding so that we can be able to afford to replace those units. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. He's got no more. Mr. Ningeongan.

Mr. Ningeongan (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to move to report progress, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: We have a motion on the floor to report progress and the motion is not debatable. All those in favour of the motion. All those opposed. The motion is carried. I will now rise to report progress.

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms, (interpretation ends) can you escort the minister and his witness out, please.

Speaker (interpretation): Going back to the Orders of the Day. (interpretation ends) Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. I'm sorry, I went ahead of myself. Item 20. Report of the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Pauloosie.

Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Mr. Pauloosie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Bill 1 and the capital estimates, and would like to report progress. Also, Mr. Speaker, I move that the Report of the Committee of the Whole be concurred with. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Pauloosie. There is a motion on the floor. Is there a seconder? Mr. Schell. Thank you. All

those in favour of the motion. Opposed. The motion is carried.

Now, we will go to Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. Item 22. Orders of the Day. Mr. Clerk.

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Orders of the Day for March 24:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions
8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to Opening Address
10. Petitions
11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motions
15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions
17. First Reading of Bills
18. Second Reading of Bills

19. Consideration in Committee of
the Whole of Bills and Other
Matters

- Bill 1

20. Report of the Committee of the
Whole

21. Third Reading of Bills

- Bill 2
- Bill 3
- Bill 4

22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you. This House stands
adjourned until Tuesday, March 24, at
1:30 p.m.

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 17:24*

