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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

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(Tununiq)

Moses Aupaluktuq
(Baker Lake)

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(Rankin Inlet North)
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(Quttiktuq)

Adamee Komoartok
(Pangnirtung)

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Fred Schell
(South Baffin)

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(Arviat)
Minister of Environment; Minister of Human Resources; Minister responsible for the Nunavut Arctic College

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk
(Amittuq)
Government House Leader; Minister of Education; Minister of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth; Minister of Languages; Minister of Aboriginal Affairs

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

Hon. Hunter Tootoo
(Iqaluit Centre)
Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation; Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation; Minister responsible for Homelessness

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**Iqaluit, Nunavut
Friday, March 27, 2009**

Members Present:

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

Item 1: Opening Prayer

Speaker (Hon. James Arreak) (interpretation): Thank you. Before we proceed, I would like to ask Mr. Shewchuk to say the opening prayer.

>>*Prayer*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Shewchuk. Good morning, Premier, Ministers, and Members of the Legislative Assembly. Have a wonderful morning, Nunavummiut. Going to the Orders of the Day. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. If there are none, Item 3. Minister Tapardjuk.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

**Minister's Statement 049 – 3(1):
Nunavut at 10 – Song Competition**

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to tell you about an exciting new initiative that the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth is launching in celebration of the 10th anniversary of Nunavut.

A song writing competition will be launched on April 1 with submission deadlines on May 15. The songs written for the competition will be about Nunavut. One grand prize winner and two runners-up are to be announced on June 1, 2009. As part of the grand prize, the competition winner will have his or her song professionally recorded for release on July 9, Nunavut Day.

Mr. Speaker, I invite Nunavut musicians to submit a song celebrating our Nunavut territory and Nunavummiut. Entrants must reside in Nunavut and songs can be submitted in any of the three official languages. All of the entry guidelines will be published on April 1 for those interested in submitting an original song.

I encourage Nunavummiut, young and old, to be creative and submit their entries. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

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

**Minister's Statement 050 – 3(1):
Challenging the Proposed EU Seal
Ban**

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. During this legislative session, I updated members on the status of the proposed ban on seal products by the European Union. It's a ban that Nunavut strongly opposes and we have been actively involved in lobbying the EU against passing such a ban.

A vote on this ban was supposed to take place this week. However, because of certain political events taking place in

Europe, a vote on this ban has been delayed by at least three weeks. The Government of Nunavut is using this extra time to once again lobby the 27 members of the European Union, to convince them of the folly of voting for a ban, and to convey our condemnation of the meaningless Inuit exemption.

The Government of Nunavut will support and urged federal government to take what is legally necessary to take this matter to the World Trade Organization as a last resort if the EU votes on a total ban in a few weeks.

I was writing a letter to all members of the EU explaining why such a ban is unnecessary and would be devastating to Nunavummiut. As well, the Premier and I have spoken to federal Fisheries Minister Gail Shea and Foreign Affairs and International Trade Minister Stockwell Day. Both have given us their support and we have been assured that Canada will use this extra time to continue to strongly lobby EU members to oppose the ban.

All these efforts are happening in the face of a vicious and well financed propaganda campaign by anti-seal hunt activists.

We view this extra time as an opportunity to convince any EU nations still on the fence about the folly of such a ban and plan to take full advantage of it. I will continue to keep members updated about any future changes.
Ma'na, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Minister's Statement 051 – 3(1): 2009
Laura Ulluriaq Gauthier
Scholarship Winner

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to inform my hon. colleagues that the Qulliq Energy Corporation has awarded the 2009 Laura Gauthier Post-Secondary Scholarship to Genevieve Killulark of Baker Lake. Genevieve is a second year student at the University of Ottawa.

Mr. Speaker, there were a great many applicants from all over Nunavut this year and narrowing it down to one recipient was difficult. They are all dedicated to their education, their families, and their communities. Many students overcame challenges to be where they are now. They will be excellent role models and leaders for Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, Genevieve plans to further her university career after receiving a degree in psychology by pursuing a degree in education. Genevieve's goal is to become a guidance counsellor and to assist other students in making their dreams a reality.

Mr. Speaker, the Qulliq Energy Corporation has been awarding this \$5,000 scholarship annually in the memory of Laura Ulluriaq Gauthier since 2001, the year after her sudden passing. Applicants submit a package of information including an essay. Applicants are reviewed on the following five criteria: academic performance, career goals, role model

qualities, volunteer experience, and leadership contributions

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Ms. Killulark as well as the other students who applied. I would ask this House to join me in congratulating her and in remembering the dedication and the hard work of Ms. Laura Ulluriaq Gautier and her contributions to Nunavut, the Power Corporation, and her community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Minister's Statement 052 – 3(1):
Results from Wildlife Symposium**

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to provide an update on the wildlife symposium held recently in Rankin Inlet. The event was organized by a joint steering committee of representatives from the Nunavut Inuit Wildlife Secretariat, the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, and the Department of Environment.

The symposium was a great success as participants came together to share and listen to the positive dialogue. It focused on how to work more collaboratively towards our common goal of ensuring sustainable wildlife populations for future generations of Nunavummiut.

The symposium came at a critical time when there was a need for all stakeholders to listen and work towards addressing the concerns from Nunavummiut. The discussions at the

conference have resulted in a better appreciation and understanding among wildlife scientists, elders, co-management partners, and other representatives. I believe this symposium has strengthened the foundation of the wildlife co-management program in Nunavut.

One of the results of the symposium will be the formation of a small, focused co-management committee. The first task of this committee will be to address the main issues that came out of the symposium and to work towards finding ways to resolve them.

As mentioned earlier this week, Mr. Speaker, my department has also created an elders committee that will meet for the first time next month. Many of the issues raised during the symposium will be tabled at the first elders committee so we can get further advice on avenues towards resolution.

My staff will also be resuming consultations next month in the Foxe Basin communities to discuss planned polar bear research activities on this population. We are also in the process of drafting a caribou strategy for Nunavut. Once this draft is approved internally, it will also go to the regions for consultation.

The Department of Environment remains fully committed to working together with all co-management partners to ensure responsible wildlife management that draws on the strengths of both science and *Inuit Qaujimaqatuqangit*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Ministers' Statements. If there are no more, we will go back to the Orders of the Day. Item 3. Members' Statements. Wait a moment. Member for Akulliq, Mr. Ningark.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 088 – 3(1): Repulse Bay Health Centre

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to talk about the issue of health prevention and nurses in the communities.

When we're talking about health issues, we have to consider, Mr. Speaker, prevention of fatigue to our health staff and a healthy and new working environment at the community level. They are responsible for a whole slew of work, monitoring of patients and also management of their duties.

The issue of prevention and treatment is the responsibility of the nurses at the community level. They train and orient new staff coming into the communities and are also responsible for the administration duties.

Mr. Speaker, the creation of new health centres, particularly in the smaller communities, is very important. Nunavut is no longer newly created and yet, the disparity between smaller communities and larger centres still exists today with respect to new infrastructure.

Mr. Speaker, one area of improvement is in the communications field, where you can call out immediately, along with sending facsimiles and now, electronic files via email but yet, if we look at the

community level, these things haven't changed the lifestyles of our local people.

At the appropriate time, I will be directing my question to my esteemed colleague, Mr. Curley, who heads the Department of Health and Social Services, in regard to the Repulse Bay Health Centre. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Nanulik, Mr. Ningeongan.

Member's Statement 089 – 3(1): Hockey Tournament in Coral Harbour

Mr. Ningeongan (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This morning, I wanted to rise to announce my enviousness and pride in my fellow residents of Coral Harbour as they are hosting a tournament.

The Joseph Nattaqut Memorial Senior Men's Hockey Tournament is being held there. Our community has three local teams competing in this tournament and they are joined by hockey teams from Rankin Inlet, Kangirsujuaq, Repulse Bay, Whale Cove, Arviat, and Cape Dorset. Mr. Speaker, the reason why this makes a person proud is that it shows that competitive sports games are thriving as we also have participants from other jurisdictions playing in this tournament.

Due to this reason, I would like to commend all the volunteers in Coral Harbour and I am proud that they were able to have these teams participate in the hockey tournament. I know that they are happy to host the teams and I hope

that the tournament will proceed without any problems. I would like to welcome all people to Coral Harbour.

I would also like you to note that I am wearing a tie since Paul Okalik was able to lend me his. I am very pleased that our hockey team is back up on their feet. Thank you.

>> *Laughter*

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 090 – 3(1):
Arctic Bay Atlas Website Launch**

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today, I would like to invite you and my fellow Members of the Legislative Assembly to attend the launch of the Arctic Bay Atlas website on Monday, March 30, 2009, from ten o'clock to twelve o'clock noon at the Nunatta Campus of the Nunavut Arctic College here in Iqaluit.

Mr. Speaker, the Arctic Bay Online Atlas is the collaborative work of the Inuit Heritage Trust, Nunavut Youth Consulting, Nunavut Arctic College, and the Geomatics and Cartographic Research Centre of Carleton University.

The website includes interactive maps with spoken place names. Users can follow the 2008 Nunavut Quest dog team race from Igloolik to Arctic Bay, explore videos and images from different places in the area, and even learn about some of Arctic Bay's artists.

Mr. Speaker, this website is a perfect blend of leading-edge computer technology using a dynamic, interactive mapping interface and living cultural history incorporating the knowledge, wisdoms, and voices of our elders.

Mr. Speaker, this project started five years ago as a literacy partnership between Arctic Bay's Nunavut Youth Consulting and Nunavut Arctic College. Over time, it has provided employment for youth and valuable learning opportunities, as well as establishing a web-based storehouse for traditional and cultural knowledge.

Mr. Speaker, the time to record and capture the traditional heritage of our elders, our communities, and our territory is now. We cannot afford to wait until someone else does it for us.

Mr. Speaker, the community of Arctic Bay has provided an excellent example of what a community initiative can accomplish. I urge other communities across Nunavut to join Arctic Bay in taking on their own initiatives to preserve Inuit language, culture, and tradition. And I look forward to attending many future launches showcasing what our Nunavut communities can accomplish in this area.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I look forward to seeing you and my colleagues at the launch for the Arctic Bay Atlas website on Monday. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Amittuq, Mr. Tapardjuk.

**Member's Statement 091 – 3(1):
Pangaggujjiniq 2009**

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, my *Annuraaqatik*. Every year, there's a dog team race called Pangaggujjiniq where we usually have participants from northern Baffin Island. This race will take place from Arctic Bay to Pond Inlet on April 20.

I want to mention my constituents in Igloolik and Hall Beach who will be taking part. They are: Jaypeetee Palluq, Joanasi Sarpinak, Samueli Amaaq, Simon Qamaniq, Christopher Piugattuk, Jonah Qaunaq, Pitsiulaaq Attagutalukutuk, and the only participant from Hall Beach will be Qanngualuk, son of Siakuluk. He takes part every year and this year will be his 11th year taking part in the dog team race.

The participants from Repulse Bay, Pond Inlet, Clyde River, Hall Beach, Igloolik, and Arctic Bay put in a lot of work for this major racing event. I want to say to these representatives from the communities I just mentioned and my fellow colleagues in the House that Igloolik and Hall Beach will take part, so consider that you are warned in advance. Thank you.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 092 – 3(1):
Happy 15th Birthday to Daughter Terri**

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today was an exciting day. Montreal won again yesterday and I will want to borrow Paul Okalik's tie on Monday.

In regard to comments made by Mr. Ningeongan, I envy the hockey tournaments that are being held in Coral Harbour. As for my constituents from Rankin Inlet and Whale Cove who are there for the tournament, I wish them the best. If you can win the gold, please do so. I know they will be treated very well in Coral Harbour and I just want them to have fun while they are there.

I wanted to mention that my child's 15th birthday is tomorrow and I just wanted to say "happy birthday" to him. I'm sorry that I'm not able to be there. Happy birthday, Terry. I also wish a happy birthday to Andrea Duffy and my older sister, Monica, who will also be celebrating their birthdays. I wish them all the best. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 093 – 3(1): Seal Issue

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, I would like to thank Mr. Ningeongan, who is wearing a very nice tie with little flag motifs. We won the hockey game. That is one thing out of the way again.

I would like to take this time to thank the Minister of Environment. He made a very interesting Minister's Statement. If

we are going to have three weeks, I urge our government to take full use of it.

As Members of the previous Legislative Assembly, we went to the European Union to oppose their proposed seal ban and to tell them about how we live and explain the uses of sealskin. It's important that we convey this message. We will have to be extra active this time around.

I urge that we cooperate with the Greenland Home Rule government. If you can go to Europe, I urge you to go with them to oppose the ban on sealskin products. We have to oppose the proposed import of seal and sealskin products to Europe.

I urge our Premier to prepare a delegation to go to Europe after this session to lobby the European nations on this issue and also to talk to our federal counterparts and urge them to oppose the ban. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 094 – 3(1):
Congratulations Genevieve
Killulark**

Mr. Aupaluktuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank Hon. Minister Tootoo for recognizing Genevieve Killulark, who is the Laura Ulluriaq Gauthier Award winner. I am very pleased and honoured that two people from Baker Lake have won awards this week alone.

I wanted to inform my fellow colleagues and especially our elders that young people are listening. We are told that learning is a lifelong journey and we have been urged to take higher education. For the 2008-09 school year, there are a lot of students from Baker Lake enrolled at colleges and universities. I want to again say to Nunavummiut and Members of the Legislative Assembly that young people are listening and we are proud of them.

I also want to announce that Lucy Evo will start on March 30 as my new constituency assistant. She will be starting on Monday.

As I said earlier, young people are listening and Genevieve Killulark is a good example of that. I congratulate her for winning the Laura Ulluriaq Gauthier Award. I also congratulate our young people for attending post-secondary institutions and for pursuing higher education.

I am very proud and happy to have had the opportunity to make this statement today. Thank you kindly, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Pangnirtung, Mr. Komoartok.

**Member's Statement 095 – 3(1):
Pangnirtung after Last Year's
Emergency**

Mr. Komoartok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker and my colleagues. Last year in June, there was a disaster in our community where we couldn't use the two bridges anymore because the

permafrost under the bridge collapsed. From the floor to the ceiling of these Chambers, it was about that high, and about 1,000 feet broke off under the bridge.

This was an unexpected occurrence and we are prepared for emergency response, but this was one unexpected experience for the people of Pangnirtung. It started from the bottom of the bridge and because the river was flowing due to the spring thaw, it started melting the permafrost under the bridge foundation and took out a huge area and collapsed.

The people of Pangnirtung responded to this emergency. They put a water truck right across because it was obvious that we wouldn't be able to use the bridge anymore. They also put a hose from the one side of the river to the other side to make sure that all services will be provided on the other side of the river. They had also put a hose in the shoreline, which was used to provide sewage services to the other side of the river. They put temporary...

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Komoartok, your time is up. If you would like to conclude your statement, you will have to ask for unanimous consent.

Mr. Komoartok (interpretation): I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement. Thank you.

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

Mr. Komoartok (interpretation): Thank you for that consent. We experienced a disaster in our community and we had to put temporary pipes in for temporary services. We also put in a container that could be used for waste products.

The RCMP, the fire department, and the emergency response team had to put temporary measures in place to provide services during that time of need for the people on the other side of the river. They were given access to the other side of the community by being transported by boat when there was high tide. That was the only time that we could go from one side of the river to the other. There were also some people going back and forth with their hip waders.

We were very pleased at the time when the Nunavut government was very supportive and provided emergency services by sending over a new bridge in September. It wasn't completed this year because it was already the end of October.

I would like to thank the people of our community. We never recognized them, especially the hamlet council and the SAO, Ron Mongeau, Kevin Okpik, and our past MLA, Peter Kilabuk, Ed Zebedee, and from CGS, Mike Constantineau, and the CGS regional offices in Iqaluit, Rankin Inlet, and Cape Dorset. They all helped in any way they could. The Premier's office also helped a great deal, especially to Timiusie Dialla, the fire chief at that time.

The bridge hasn't been completed, but we are anticipating its completion this summer. That wasn't the only disaster. There was also another river that collapsed at the Auyuittuq National

Park. Aircraft and helicopters were brought in to participate in the disaster response. This was the first time that we experienced this and we anticipate more disasters as the permafrost is starting to melt.

I would just like to say “thank you” to everyone, especially the people of Pangnirtung. There were a lot of onlookers as the emergency team responded to the disaster. Some were not affected as services for water, sewage, and garbage were provided throughout the whole event. It’s not something we wish on anyone, but I hope it will help when it comes to emergency response in Nunavut. Thank you.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members’ Statements. Member for Iqaluit East, Ms. Aariak.

**Member’s Statement 096 – 3(1):
Nunavut at 10: IBC Call-in Show**

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning to Iqalummiut and Nunavummiut. On April 1, Nunavut will be 10 years old and we’re all aware of that.

It’s not just 10 years that we have been working on Nunavut. Previous to that, there was work done on the preparations. Many people have worked on the plans prior to Nunavut’s creation. Mr. Speaker, since Nunavut was created, many things have occurred and we now have the Government of Nunavut that provides services to the people of Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to inform Nunavummiut and also my colleagues that next Tuesday, I will be on a show hosted by the Inuit Broadcasting Corporation with the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet North, Tagak Curley. We will be on the *Qanuq Isumavit* call-in show with IBC. At that time, I encourage all Nunavummiut to call and tell us what you are celebrating. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member’s Statement 097 – 3(1):
Rankin Inlet Hunters and
Trappers Organization**

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to talk about what has been happening here. I first of all say “good morning” to Rankin Inlet residents on this Friday morning.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate and thank the individuals who came here on Monday from the Rankin Inlet HTO, especially Harry Tattuinee, who was recognized yesterday. He’s a member of the HTO and also the HTO manager, Norman Ford. They have been here this past week and they had requested two projects from the Kivalliq region in regard to wildlife.

The first one was to survey the musk ox in that area and they also wanted to do a survey on polar bears in western Hudson Bay. They attended the meeting to request and to negotiate with the board. Last night, they told me that both of

these projects have been approved and Rankin Inlet residents are so proud. I would like to congratulate these two individuals at this time and I'm sure there will be reports done.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I believe that this new partnership that the local hunters and trappers worked on, teaming up with the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board, is a good example for surveying wildlife in Nunavut. That is the way it should be done. We have to involve elders, hunters, and people who know about the history of the wildlife during the last century and these records are available.

I hope that we will learn from this new partnership arrangement and encourage similar studies be done, which would include frontline workers in communities which include local hunters and trappers organizations. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Iqaluit Centre, Mr. Tootoo.

**Member's Statement 098 – 3(1):
Hockey Season**

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, this being Friday and because of a couple of other statements that were made earlier, I figured I should get up and talk about something that, at this time of year, a lot of people have hopes and aspirations and dreams. That's in regard to hockey, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I know that the end of the regular season is winding down and as

my colleagues, who obviously cheer for a team over a tie, it's been pointed out they did win their game in overtime last night. Everybody has their own team that they cheer for.

It's no secret, as my former colleague from Qamani'tuaq would say, I cheer for the Nashville Predators. They did upset the division leading San Jose Sharks last night, in regular time when they came back in second period, from being down 2-0 to win 3-2, so I congratulate them and I'm crossing my fingers, hoping that I'll be watching them post-season as well.

Mr. Speaker, leading up to this time is the playoff crunch. We know, for example, if you talk about the team on the tie, that not very long ago, I think they were in fourth place. I think they were scrambling, struggling, and crossing their fingers to even be able to make the playoffs. I'm sure that my best wishes go to those fans who hope that their teams make the playoffs.

Maybe, Mr. Speaker, my colleague might want to loosen his tie to help those guys out for the playoffs if it gets a little bit tight. I think it's something that Toronto Maple Leaf fans have seen over the years, where they had their ties too tight and they choked...

>> *Laughter*

... near the end of the season. So I would encourage my colleague, if he really and truly hopes to have a stick in his hand after the regular season, to be cheering for his team rather than a golf club. Perhaps he should loosen off the tie and cross his fingers. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Laughter*

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Natilik, Mr. Pauloosie.

**Member's Statement 099 – 3(1):
Pauktuutit's 25th Anniversary
Gala**

Mr. Pauloosie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to extend my appreciation to the Pauktuutit Inuit Women's Association.

Yesterday, we participated in Pauktuutit's celebration and it was very enjoyable. They were very hospitable as we watched shows, including Cambridge Bay dancers, and we ate nutritious food. I would like to extend my appreciation for their invitation yesterday as we were very well-received. I would like to thank the members of the Pauktuutit Inuit Women's Association. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. If there are no more, (interpretation ends) Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Minister Tapardjuk.

Item 4: Returns to Oral Questions

**Return to Oral Question 076 – 3(1):
Plans for Lottery Booths in
Nunavut**

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a return to Oral Question 076 – 3(1) asked by

Paul Okalik on March 25. Mr. Speaker, I have filed the return with the Clerk to be entered into the record as read.

Online lottery operations in Nunavut fall under the Western Canada Lotteries Corporation; the Government of Nunavut has a negotiated contract with Sport North Federation in Yellowknife to administer lottery operations in Nunavut.

There is currently a single online lottery operation in Nunavut located in Iqaluit. A second operation existed in Rankin Inlet until February 1 of 2006, when the operations ceased due to the absence of a licence holder.

Under Nunavut's *Western Canada Lottery Act*, the lottery operation must be conducted by a non-profit organization, with revenue received from sales on a quarterly basis. Lottery retailers must be granted a licence in order to operate.

Applications must be submitted to Sport North. Licence holders must be non-profit organizations in good standing with the Department of Justice, Legal Registries with the capacity to maintain the operation. The hours of operation are determined by the licensee. Operators may apply for amendments to their licence if another terminal is required to accommodate customers during high volume periods.

**Return to Oral Question 070 – 3(1):
Responsibility for Establishing
Social Assistance Rates**

Mr. Speaker, I also have a return to an oral question asked by the Member for Hudson Bay; I can't remember the name in Inuktitut of that riding and I

apologize, it's Tasiujarjuaq; concerning the responsibility for establishing social assistance rates. The return is quite detailed, so I have filed it with the Clerk to be entered into the record as read.

I apologize, Mr. Speaker, that they're just in English and some time today, I'm sure they will be translated into Inuktitut and I will file a copy with the Clerk. So therefore, I will be re-filing this return. I am submitting them only in English so that they may be entered into the record as read.

I would like to take this opportunity to clarify and correct statements made in the Legislative Assembly on March 19, 2009, and on March 25, 2009, addressing concerns regarding the income support food allowance rates.

On March 19, 2009, the member from Sanikiluaq asked if the Income Support Program had conducted a review of the food allowance rates zoning allocation for Sanikiluaq and if I could provide him with the results of such a review. In my response, I stated that the food allowance rates are set by the federal government through Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC). At this point in my answer, I was referring to the INAC Food Mail Program that provides perishable food and other essential items to northern communities at reduced postal rates. I would like to clarify that I was speaking of a federal program that is entirely separate from the Nunavut Income Support Program.

The Nunavut Income Support Program, including the Nunavut Food Allowance Table, was inherited from the Government of the Northwest Territories regulations upon division in 1999. The

Nunavut Food Allowance Table is part of Schedule A of the Nunavut Social Assistance Regulations. The food allowance table divides Nunavut into five zones because food costs differ across communities. The food allowance amounts are based on the number of people in the family and the community in which the family resides.

Since division, we have not made changes to the structure of the food allowance table but we have increased the food allowance amounts by 15 percent. The food allowance table was last increased by five percent in April 2005 and prior to that, it was increased by ten percent in June 2004. We will continue to pursue increases to the food allowance table whenever necessary and possible to help ensure that Nunavummiut are able to meet their basic needs.

I was also asked whether I would be willing to commit to consulting with colleagues in other departments so that similar standards and criteria are used to measure the impact of the cost of living across Nunavut communities for all residents. I misspoke in saying that the food allowance rates are set by INAC. The Income Support Program, including the Nunavut Food Allowance Table, was inherited from GNWT regulations upon division and the structure of the Nunavut Food Allowance Table has not changed since then.

On March 25, 2009, I was asked which government entity is responsible for establishing social assistance regulations, including food allowance benefits, for the residents of Nunavut. The Income Support Division in the Department of Education is responsible

to recommend legislative changes for Cabinet consideration. Because the Income Support Program is financial in nature, changes to the program often require additional funding and resources, which is an important consideration given the current fiscal environment.

I stated that my staff attended a Federal/Provincial/Territorial Poverty Measurement Conference held in Ottawa on January 28 and 29, 2009. My staff along with a representative from the Department of Finance attended this meeting to demonstrate the challenges of measuring low income in Nunavut's communities. We hoped that our attendance would demonstrate our interest in developing a low income measure that would set a standard of living for Nunavummiut most in need.

At the conference, the three territories showed interest in developing a Market Basket Measure (MBM) for the North. The Market Basket Measure is based on the cost of contents in a "basket" required for low income individuals and families to meet their basic needs and also allow them to participate in community activities. The basket includes items like food, shelter, clothing and footwear, transportation, and other necessary goods and services. Human Resources and Social Development Canada (HRSDC) discussed the possibility of creating a task team on "Measurement in the North" which is in the early stages of discussion.

It would be unrealistic to assume that one department could address low income measurement and poverty-related issues in Nunavut alone. My department is willing to work

collaboratively with other departments and agencies to address the high cost of living in the North.

I was also asked if the Income Support Program was going to be reviewed and for a timeline as to when the review would be undertaken. Any time there are changes made to social programs, there are significant costs associated with the change. There are no plans in the immediate future to undertake a complete program review. Given the size and complexity of the various programs under Income Support, the department has had to set priorities based on the most pressing issues with the resources that are currently available within the division.

Income Support staff are committed to completing the development of a case management system that will be deployed across the territory. This case management system, once fully deployed, will provide the department with statistical data that would establish a more accurate baseline from which to begin a review. The case management system will also allow income support workers throughout Nunavut to focus on improved client service delivery.

As is the case in all jurisdictions, income support is meant to provide temporary financial assistance to help individuals and families meet their basic needs until they are able to provide for themselves. The Department of Education has made every effort within its fiscal resources to ensure that income support benefits are adequate to help meet the needs of income support clients. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Your returns will be entered into the record as read. (interpretation ends) Returns to Oral Questions. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. (interpretation) Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Baker Lake, Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 095 – 3(1): Baker Lake Water Treatment Plant

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Hon. Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Kusugak.

Concerns have been expressed to me regarding the quality of drinking water in my community of Baker Lake and the condition of the community's water treatment plant.

Can the minister indicate to me how often the community's drinking water is tested and will he commit to providing the results of these tests to both the hamlet council and me, as the community's MLA? (interpretation) Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Member for Baker Lake for asking that question. The quality of drinking water has to meet certain standards in Nunavut prior to being released and I believe Nunavut has some of the best quality drinking water in all of Canada.

With respect to testing community water, tests are conducted twice a month to see if there are any health hazards in the water supply, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, hon. minister, for your reply. While I recognize that the department's capital budget includes funding in the coming year for improvements to the community's sewage lagoon, I believe the condition of the water treatment plant needs to be reviewed. Will the minister commit to providing me and the hamlet council with a current assessment of the water treatment plant's condition? (interpretation) Thank you very much.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you. I thank the member for his question. The Baker Lake Water Treatment Plant design plans have been completed, but they are currently reviewing the set-up for the pump house so that they can be ready for the construction season. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Aupaluktuq (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. The government will be spending over \$7 million in the coming year for major improvements to Kugluktuk's water

treatment plant. Can the minister indicate to me how the department determines whether a community's water treatment facility requires repair or replacement? Thank you very much.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you for that question. Whenever any facility is being planned or when there is an assessment of a facility to determine whether it needs to be repaired or replaced, the process is not simple.

A thorough review is conducted if a facility requires repair or needs to be replaced. There are many factors taken into consideration, such as whether the water treatment plant is fully operational and whether the capacity is reached.

It includes a review on whether the plant is operating on schedule. The planning starts from that and then there's a replacement process identifying priorities. So there are many aspects that have to be assessed during the process for looking at the repair or replacement of a facility.

It's not a simple question to respond to because of the many parameters included in the process for the assessment of facilities to figure out if they need repair or replacement, especially with regard to government and municipal infrastructure. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Aupaluktuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have heard concerns in the community that people get sick during the spring run-off season, potentially as a result of poor water quality. How do the Departments of CGS and Health and Social Services work together to monitor and report on health problems related to the water supply?

I will ask the question in English. (interpretation ends) ... with the monitoring and report on health problems related to the water supply? (interpretation) Thank you very much.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Every spring, when everything springs back to life, people are outdoors more often and it seems that different sickness make their appearance as well. We tend to get the flu and other seasonal sicknesses, so it is sometimes difficult to ascertain the exact causes of sicknesses.

But what I can state to the member is that with respect to Baker Lake, the water quality has been monitored over three years as to whether the water quality has deteriorated or if there are any health hazards. What I can tell the member is that during the three years of water monitoring, there were no health hazards or issues with the water quality.

There is also a drinking water testing facility in Canada that we sent samples to be tested. The results showed that the quality of water in Baker Lake is better than the Canadian standard and this has continued to be the case and the water

has no health hazards. As I stated earlier, they test the water quality twice a month to see if there are any pathogens in the water supply in Baker Lake as well as in all other communities in Nunavut.

However, I can tell the member that the Baker Lake water is very good water that one can drink and it is probably one of the best tap water supplied throughout Canada. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 096 – 3(1): Repulse Bay Health Centre

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the Minister of Health and Social Services.

Before I ask my question, I want to say that I'm happy that today is Friday. As well, yesterday, I met with Senator Willie Adams, a Liberal, who I was very pleased to meet.

In my Members' Statement, I spoke about health issues and nurses. They need a proper work environment in the communities. If they have a proper workplace, then they can provide better services to the public.

For that reason, I would like to ask the minister: what is the status of the plans for the new Repulse Bay Health Centre? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We discussed part of this yesterday during Committee of the Whole and during the capital plan review, it came out that the three health centre design plans for Repulse Bay, Taloyoak, and Arctic Bay are near completion. If we get into Committee of the Whole today, we will be able to deal with them as per our earlier review.

After the designs have been completed, we will be able to do a feasibility study. That's all I could state right now. Thank you.

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

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): I would like to thank the minister for his response and it looks as if this will proceed further. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningark. The member has stated his appreciation to the minister. Oral Questions. Mr. Ningark.

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Mr. Speaker, I apologize because I may have failed to ask the question clearly enough. What I was trying to ask after I thanked the minister was: will this proceed to the construction phase? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Member. Minister Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With respect to the health centre, I can tell the member that his predecessor worked really hard on that issue and he ensured that it was

included. The health centre was not even in the books and there were no funds for the architectural plans, but due to his hard work, we will be able to put it back in the books.

I can tell the member that this is in the planning and design stage, it will eventually become reality. That is what I can state. Thank you.

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

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank my predecessor, Steve Mapsalak, and I acknowledge his hard work along with the mayors in Repulse Bay. What is the exact timeline to initiate the project? I would like to find out. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I cannot tell you today when it will be started as the designs have to be completed first and once the design is completed, then we will have to consult and communicate that to your community.

The Department of Community and Government Services' officials and our department's officials will have to review the design along with the hamlet council. I can tell you that we will get further clarification today because my Cabinet colleagues still haven't considered which health centres or schools should be dealt with at this time.

We will have to deduce which projects will go ahead because it's going to be

impossible to construct all three health centres at the same time. At this time, I cannot respond to which projects will commence this summer. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

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

Question 097 – 3(1): Proposed EU Seal Product Ban

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the Minister of Environment for making a statement on the European Union's seal ban, which is an issue we grappled with during my tenure in government.

What I'm trying to point out is that the office can open doors that others cannot with respect to meetings with the elected officials across the ocean. I am asking the Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs to use the Department of Foreign Affairs to work towards lobbying the members of the European Union to oppose the ban.

I would like to first ask this question since I would like to support the minister in any way possible to further his mandate. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the member for that question on this very important issue. I would just like to update and advise the member that we had conversations with both federal ministers yesterday and this is a very high priority issue with them too.

We have gone to Europe twice in the past couple of months to lobby against the seal ban. We are, along with the federal government, our colleagues, writing to the European Union with this time we have right now. We are going to keep each other informed on a daily basis of any on-goings or updates.

And when we do this, I will consider and ask the federal government if they plan on deliberating in Europe and making a trip over there. I will keep the member updated and we will be part of that delegation if it does happen. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) One of the most effective ways that we found in our lobby efforts was that through my office, as Premier, it would open opportunities for us to meet with parliamentarians in Europe. And when we had our meetings, one of the most effective ways that we dealt with it was to provide our knowledge and our firsthand information, and it would stump them.

I encourage our Premier to use her good offices to open doors and opportunities for us in Nunavut and work with Foreign Affairs to create openings. We have three weeks, let's use it and go to Europe and lobby those parliamentarians and organize meetings. Hopefully, our Premier can work with Greenland. It is another opportunity that opened the door for the European community.

So I would like to know if our Premier has any plans to go over to Europe and

represent us. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Member. I would first like to ask Mr. Shewchuk if he can answer the question. Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I take the comments very well and we will, in conjunction with Canada and on our own, do what we can to keep on and fight against the seal ban.

The Premier and I will consider this request, but we feel very strongly that we have to represent Nunavutmiut and also all of Canada and go together there as one common voice. So our strategy is going to be coordinated with Canada. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I am trying to utilize my knowledge for the benefit of Nunavummiut. That is what I know.

Our stories have been the most powerful to tackle the animal rights movement and that is why I strongly encourage this government to work with our national partner and push our national partner to organize the lobby effort, to use the three weeks and push our national government to open doors in Europe and use it to fight this ban.

As I said in my Members' Statement, we have five countries with us and there's a majority of 27 that we have to get into our corner. So let's use it and hopefully our Premier can work with our national

government and organize the very best lobby effort over the next few weeks.

So I ask again, please let's work together and make this happen. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. I didn't hear a question, but I will give Mr. Shewchuk an opportunity to make a comment.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, we hear what the hon. member is saying and we will consider his request.

I must advise you that we are doing whatever we can at this point in time to be coordinated with Canada in this pursuit to oppose the seal ban. We will continue to do this and we will keep the member updated. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. Elliott.

Question 098 – 3(1): Ombudsman versus Child Advocate

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are directed to the Minister of Justice.

Mr. Speaker, earlier this week, my colleague from Iqaluit West asked the Minister of Justice a question about legislation and more specifically, an ombudsman. In his reply, the minister mentioned child advocate legislation.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister tell the House what the difference is between an

ombudsman and a child advocate? Thank you.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for asking that question. I probably need a couple of hours to explain it all to you, but in a nutshell, an ombudsman, as I understand it, is a person that would represent all people, it would be a neutral position, hear arguments from both sides, and then render a decision. So that person could be an ombudsman for government employees or the public at large.

A child advocate would represent or be a voice for children and families. In other words, they would be specifically on the side of that group of people and they would advocate on their behalf issues that affect them and also serious issues. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Elliott: Mr. Speaker, recently, the Minister of Health and Social Services made reference to reviewing the *Family Services Act* and stressed the importance of reviewing the issue of a child advocate.

Can the Minister of Justice let the House know whether or not this government will introduce child advocate legislation? Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I again thank the member for

asking that question. Mr. Speaker, the government has discussed the child advocate position and legislation. We are looking into it, there's a lot of information out there to consider, and once we have all of that information, we will be making a decision.

It's no different than my answer earlier this week to Mr. Okalik about other types of legislation. It's something that we have to review and investigate closely before we actually introduce anything. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister tell the House how many other Canadian provinces and territories have child advocate offices in place at this time? Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for asking the question. When I was a regular member on that side of the House, I had researched the child advocate in other provinces and territories quite extensively, in fact, going all the way back to the year 2000.

Since the year 2000, several provinces have instituted child advocates in their provinces. I can't be sure of the exact number, but several if not most jurisdictions have a child advocate. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do recognize that the former regular member was well versed in child advocacy. I have been doing research on it myself and in reading old *Hansards*, it seemed to be repeated over and over in some of your Members' Statements and some of the Oral Questions that I have been reading anyway, and that's why I figured you would be a good person to start asking questions to.

Can the minister tell this House how a child advocate would help children and families in Nunavut? Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I again thank the member for that question. I know the member gets up early to research; he sends emails at 5:30 in the morning. Unfortunately, I'm not up that early.

Mr. Speaker, again, as I mentioned earlier, a child advocate is an important position because it is the actual voice for children and families. So issues that would normally affect children and families, there would be legislation that children and families may want their voices to be heard.

When the government introduces legislation, every government department has anything to do with children and families, but they could represent the children and families to those government departments. If there are children who run into problems with the justice system or the law, they could represent them there as well. If children are incarcerated in institutions, they can help the children to improve their conditions in those institutions.

If there are provincial/federal/territorial laws that may impact children and families in Nunavut, they can also have a voice in bringing their concerns to those levels of government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 099 – 3(1): Assistance to Hamlets with Cost of Leasing Heavy Equipment

Mr. Pauloosie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Community and Government Services.

The Hamlet of Gjoa Haven has raised concerns with me regarding the heavy equipment situation in the community. The hamlet is currently leasing a number of vehicles to provide essential services to the community. This is costing the hamlet tens of thousands of dollars in leasing costs.

Can the minister indicate if his department can provide assistance to hamlets to help with the cost of leasing heavy equipment that is needed to provide essential services? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to thank the member for posing that question. Our department has funds available for heavy equipment and mobile equipment that are used to

provide essential services in the communities.

Most communities have a 10 or 15-year replacement cycle and the funds are allocated to replace aging equipment. We assist the hamlets with the leasing or the purchase of heavy equipment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Pauloosie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Each year, the department's capital budget includes some funding for the purchase of heavy equipment for communities. How does the department determine the allocation of this funding? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you for that question. There are different types of determinations we use to allocate this fund. Some communities have heavy equipment that are too old and have to be replaced according to the criteria used by the department, while some communities are able to keep really old equipment running.

So there are different determinations that we use for the replacement of heavy equipment for the communities and I will use Gjoa Haven as an example. We purchased a D6 bulldozer for the community.

Usually, the communities have different agreements for heavy equipment. I will use the replacement of water trucks and sewage trucks as an example. There are agreements between the government and

the hamlet that outline the process. These agreements include clauses that outline when the heavy equipment would be replaced and this is more with respect to water and sewage trucks. That is generally how it is determined, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Mr. Pauloosie (interpretation): This will be my last question with respect to this issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In Gjoa Haven, the front-end loader used for snow removal is the only one and after a blizzard, it is inundated with work since the runway has to be cleared and it takes quite a while to get all the roads cleared.

Some of the residents will be calling for water and sewage service, but they cannot be serviced due to the roads. On top of that, the water lake is about three kilometres away and the service road also has to be cleared after a blizzard. So with all of that, residents have to wait for quite a while even though they are clamouring for water and sewage services due to the lack of snow clearing equipment.

The D6 bulldozer is quite small, so it has to go back and forth more often than a larger one. I would like to know if the matter of more snow clearing equipment can be reviewed by the minister since our residents are experiencing long waiting periods for service. Further, they have to prioritize snow clearing for the runway.

I would like to ask the minister if his department can look into this matter. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): I thank the member for asking that question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With respect to the concerns and the problems in Gjoa Haven, that is unfortunate, but I think that that situation is experienced throughout Nunavut as communities continue to grow.

There is usually a list of general equipment for every community, such as bulldozers, front-end loaders, and so on. As I stated at an earlier time in this House, there are some communities that have inadequate equipment while others have adequate vehicles, and there are even some communities that have too much equipment. We are currently reviewing what type of equipment should be on this list.

I would like to use an example. Some communities are experiencing gravel shortages and there are no gravel crushers available. This is a challenge that we are working on at this time to try and meet this need. The review is ongoing as we know that some communities need more than one front-end loader or one dump truck, while others are okay with only one truck.

So the needs are quite different and unique for each community. Some cannot keep up with the demands as roads become more numerous while the snow clearing equipment remains static. The issues that the member raised are what we face in all communities and they all have different needs.

The Department of Community and Government Services is looking at what

is currently in each community, what equipment should be provided, and whether we should increase the allotted budget for purchases or merely to increase repair funds. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 100 – 3(1): \$400 Rebate for Homeowners

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

Last Friday, there was an announcement made that homeowners in Nunavut will be receiving a \$400 rebate to help offset the high cost of fuel this winter. Can the minister indicate where and how the homeowners in Nunavut can receive that rebate? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for asking that question. There are several ways to get the form; you can go to the Department of Finance website if you have a computer, you can pick up forms at their offices, there's a 1-800 number that you can call.

I have also asked officials to look at other ways to distribute the application forms to the communities. I haven't received an update yet, but we're trying to get the information out there to the homeowners. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Is that it? Your first supplementary, Mr. Komoartok.

Mr. Komoartok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In my riding, we have two outpost camps quite far from Pangnirtung that receive some funding annually to assist them in their fuel purchases and it's usually insufficient for their yearly needs. My question is: are outpost camps eligible for that rebate as well? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. I don't believe that they are eligible; it's for a home in the community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Komoartok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that clarification. There are a number of elders who are homeowners in our community. These houses are inside the municipality and they get the elders' assistance for their home heating fuel provided by the government. Are they also eligible to receive that rebate? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that very good question. Mr. Speaker, I believe it's pretty basic criteria. If you own your own home and it's...

Speaker: Keith, the light didn't go on.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's very simple criteria. If you own your own home and it's your principal residence, you are eligible for the \$400 rebate. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 101 – 3(1): Nunavut Energy Centre

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm not too sure which of the two departments to ask the question to, but the good part is it's the same minister for both departments, so I will be asking the question to the Hon. Hunter Tootoo.

The question is in regard to the closing of the Nunavut Energy Centre as it relates to the Government of Canada's ecoENERGY grants. Now that the centre is closed and according to the Government of Canada ecoENERGY website, it is the only agency in Nunavut that is qualified and certified as an energy advisor to perform home energy assessments in Nunavut.

Also, according to the ecoENERGY website, only homes that have undergone a residential energy efficiency assessment by an energy advisor certified by Natural Resources Canada will be eligible for grants from the program. Where will residents of Nunavut be able to get a residential assessment in order to qualify for the \$5,000 grant from the ecoENERGY Retrofit – Homes program? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, I would like to thank my good friend and hon. colleague from South Baffin for the question.

Mr. Speaker, even though I indicated earlier in my Minister's Statement that the Energy Centre under the Qulliq Energy Corporation will be closing its doors effective March 31 of this year, Mr. Speaker, the Government of Nunavut is still committed to meeting the highest levels of energy efficiency and conservation throughout the territory.

As I indicated at that time, a lot of the programs that the Energy Centre was fulfilling at that time were also being done through other components within the government. I know that the Energy Secretariat has been directed to carry out energy conservation and awareness activities as of April 1, 2009.

So once the doors close in one place, that function will be offered through the Energy Secretariat to carry on with those programs. As I also indicated in my Minister's Statement, any contracts for the delivery of programs would not end, that they would continue to be offered through other components within the government.

I just want to clarify one thing that the member mentioned in his question is that he used the term energy assessments and I'm trying to clarify that what goes on are not actual assessments but evaluations. There's a legal terminology or a difference in that, and as far as I'm

aware, our staff and our officials within the government are qualified to perform energy evaluations, not the actual assessments. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I guess my next question is: in that \$5,000 grant, is this \$5,000 that the homeowner can get or is the cost of this assessment, or whatever you want to call it, taken off of that figure? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Tootoo.

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Much like what we have been saying here in Nunavut for many years, a lot of times, when federal programs come out, the way they deliver their funding on a per capita basis doesn't work for us here in Nunavut.

And I must say that this program that the member is talking about under the ecoENERGY grants through Natural Resources Canada is another great program I think if you live in the south where you can get someone to come in for \$300 and do an energy audit and come back again and do it after any renovations are done.

It's my understanding under this program that the maximum amount of a rebate that a homeowner would be eligible for is \$5,000. But in order for an individual or a homeowner to access any of those dollars, they first off have to have an energy evaluation or an audit on their home prior to any work being done, and then they have to expend their own dollars and do whatever renovations that they get done, whether it would be

replace the doors or windows, put some rigid insulation around there and reside it.

Whatever type of renovations that they want, they have to pay for that upfront and then they have to pay again for another energy assessment or audit to determine what the difference those renovations made and then based on the number at the beginning, the first audit and the change as a result of those renovations, it was a sliding scale up to \$5,000.

But I think in order to get the energy audits done, especially in communities outside of Iqaluit where that equipment is, it's very cost prohibitive to anybody. But that's the way the federal Department of Natural Resources Canada had that program set up. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Is there any chance that you could maybe get a hold of your federal counterparts and explain to them that it's not fair to people in Nunavut? They can't apply for these grants because they don't qualify. Maybe they should be giving the \$5,000 plus paying extra for getting these assessments done. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Tootoo.

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to clarify for the member that residents in Nunavut do qualify for the program, but it's just cost prohibitive for them to be able to access the program.

As we have indicated and we have seen coming out of the federal government over the last number of years, there has been some recognition of the uniqueness and challenges that we face in the delivery of programs throughout our territory and some of the unique challenges and needs that we face.

So I'm hoping, with the small steps, like the initial change in the way that we were funded for the Northern Housing Trust, where we got a substantial chunk of that money over and above a per capita basis, the same thing. When the last budget came out with the \$100 million that they announced for Nunavut for housing over the next two years, again this is outside of the per capita formula.

So I think there has been some recognition from our federal government that we do have unique circumstances and challenges of being able to deliver where it's the fact that we're being funded on a per capita basis does not work for us.

I would suggest that maybe under the Energy Secretariat, which is my understanding, Mr. Speaker, that after March 31 to April 1, the transfer of the functions under the Energy Secretariat will be under review, that may be one of the things that they have a look at and say, "This is something that we will need to go and talk to our federal counterparts about changing." Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the hon. minister when

he finds out if there are any changes in this \$5,000 grant for the energy retrofit – homes program that he let the rest of us members know about it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Tootoo.

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. By the time any changes happen to this program, it will be after March 31 of this year. It won't be my responsibility, but I will make sure that I pass on that commitment I would make on behalf of whoever's responsible for that after March 31. Right now, it's under the Energy Secretariat.

If we're able to convince the federal government or Natural Resources Canada to make any changes to the program to make it more suitable for Nunavummiut, we will expeditiously pass that information on to all members so that they can inform their constituents of any possible changes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Baker Lake, Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Question 102 – 3(1): Community Growth and Health Services

Mr. Aupaluktuq (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I would like to direct my question to the Hon. Minister of Health and Social Services, Mr. Curley. First of all, I wish to formally state that I acknowledge the vast, complicated, and sensitive nature of your portfolio.

Mr. Speaker, as the Member for Arviat noted in his statement the other day, his community has undergone such a significant growth in population that it is now the second largest community in Nunavut. In fact, First Air has increased services by adding Arviat to its flight list.

Mr. Speaker, Baker Lake is not far behind and is currently the fourth largest community in Nunavut. However, the level of services, especially in the area of health care, has not been increased in a very long time.

Can the minister advise this House how often the level of health services in each community is reviewed and specifically, whether his department has given any consideration to hiring a full-time doctor for the community of Baker Lake? (interpretation) Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) I want to thank the member for the question. It's totally right on the mark that Baker Lake has significant growth in its population, especially since the mine opened near the community.

It's not just the Department of Health and Social Services that has to deal with the impact on people and communities. With respect to this issue, I know that it's gotten better than the previous year. There was a document tabled last year to initiate a Nursing Recruitment and Retention Strategy in Nunavut and it included wage levels and so on. This process has been completed and we now

expect to retain nurses longer in the communities.

But with regard to doctors and physicians, we will have to review that to determine which communities require full-time staff. This is something we are still looking at. Nevertheless, we will continually review the matter of doctors as the number of emergency cases increase and when there are too many cases. We hope to be able to state that in the future, but at this time, I cannot state when this would occur. Thank you.

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

Mr. Aupaluktuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I recognize that there is a shortage of nursing staff and other medical staff across the country. Can the minister describe what initiatives his department has in place to recruit full-time nurses and doctors to come and work in Nunavut on a long-term basis? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think I stated earlier in my response that now that the Nursing Recruitment and Retention Strategy has been tabled and approved by the government, I think our nurses now currently have competitive bonus packages as well as for nurses that are recruited. So we think that we are making progress with that.

We also know that in some parts of Nunavut, the agency nurse provisions

that are being applied is slowly decreasing and I believe that within a year, we will see some statistics that will confirm that we are making some headway into having more permanent as well as an increase of nurses in communities.

But I can tell you, as far as my department is concerned, that there is a significant vacancy rate with nurses in terms of the staff positions that we have. We have 244 positions available but only 124 of them are filled, so we have over 100 vacant positions throughout Nunavut. Thank you.

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

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for his response. I just have a final question, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister indicate how many positions are currently filled by agency nurses? (interpretation) Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for the question. I stated earlier that we are slowly starting to see some reductions in the number of agency nurses.

With respect to the total, we have 39 agency nurses as of January 31, 2009 and it breaks down as follows: Iqaluit, because it's the largest base for the nurses that we have, had 4 agency nurses; Baffin in total, outside of Iqaluit, had 19; we had 9 in the Kivalliq; and the Kitikmeot had 7 agency nurses; and that adds to 39 agency nurses throughout Nunavut. Thank you.

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

Question 103 – 3(1): Children and Youth Advocate

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are directed to the Minister of Health and Social Services.

With the demographics of Nunavut, youth and children make up the highest percentage of our population. I believe strongly that a youth and child advocate and maybe even an elder advocate is a must for our territory. What are the views of the minister on a child advocate and youth advocate? Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. I will have to ask you to rephrase your question. You are seeking a personal view of the minister.

Mr. Elliott: Okay, I'll try this one then. Could he state in terms of his department's views on a child and youth advocate? Thank you.

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

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member. I think my colleague from the Cabinet already indicated that the government is committed to putting forward legislation to improve the lives of a number of disadvantaged individuals, which includes children and the Cabinet included elders and women while we were at the Cabinet Retreat in Cape Dorset.

All of these three areas, which are very important disadvantaged groups, I can tell you that the government is committed to bring forward legislation and I believe that these will eventually become enough.

Our department plays the role because it has the largest social agency involved in it and we are certainly supplying all that information where possible. Eventually, these proposals will be put forward through the House after the Cabinet has approved them. Thank you.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that. I guess my first question leads up to my second one.

With a lot of the issues faced by his department, I guess a lot of them we have been discussing over the past week, is it easier for the minister and his department to handle issues in terms of having an ombudsman or a child advocate in place? Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. No, at this moment, I am not prepared to indicate which one is the best mode to bring forward legislation. That would have to be the collective decision of the Cabinet.

And certainly, for my department, I can say that the advocacy responsibility, should it be under the *Child and Family Services Act*? That's the question we are dealing with. We are dealing with whether or not it should be a separate legislation to bring forward to the

House, but that will be responded and dealt with by the Cabinet as a whole. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. I have no more names on my list, so we will move on to (interpretation ends) Item 7. Written Questions. Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Item 10. Petitions. Item 11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees. Item 12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Mr. Elliott.

Item 13: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 028 – 3(1): Poster for the Launch of the Arctic Bay Atlas Website

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Earlier today, I invited you and my colleagues to the launch of the Arctic Bay Atlas website. I would like to table a poster on this initiative and encourage members to distribute it widely. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Tabled Document 029 – 3(1): Brochures for Government Support for Economic Activities

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I pleased to table in this House today copies of five informative brochures for Nunavummiut who are seeking government support for their economic activities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Tabled Document 030 – 3(1): Annual Report on the Operation of Medical Care Plan 2007-2008

Tabled Document 031 – 3(1): Nunavut Food Guide

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I pleased to table the following document: Director of Medical Insurance Annual Report on the Operation of the Medical Care Plan, 2007-08. This is very important information for all members. I urge all of you to read it.

I am also pleased, Mr. Speaker, to table the following document: the Nunavut Food Guide. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Tabled Document 032 – 3(1): Report on the Atlantic Council February 27, 2009

Tabled Document 033 – 3(1): Report on the Canadian Council of Ministers of Environment February 17, 2009

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table a Ministerial Meeting Report on the Canadian Council of Ministers of Environment Meeting that occurred on February 17, 2009.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to table a Ministerial Meeting Report on the Atlantic Council of Fisheries and Agriculture Ministers Meeting that I

attended on February 27. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Tabling of Documents. Item 14. Notices of Motions. Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 16. Motions. Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Item 19. Mr. Elliott.

Motion 020 – 3(1): Early Adjournment

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

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

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

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): Thank you Mr. Speaker. Orders of the Day for March 30:

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 Monday, March 30, at 1:30 p.m.

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 11:59*

