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Iqaluit

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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Speaker

Hon. James Arreak
(Uqqummiut)

Hon. Eva Aariak
(Iqaluit East)
Premier; Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs; Minister responsible for the Status of Women; Minister responsible for Immigration

James Arvaluk
(Tununiq)

Moses Aupaluktuq
(Baker Lake)

Hon. Tagak Curley
(Rankin Inlet North)
Minister of Health and Social Services; Minister responsible for the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission; Minister responsible for the Utility Rates Review Council

Ron Elliott
(Quttiktuq)

Adamee Komoartok
(Pangnirtung)

Hon. Lorne Kusugak
(Rankin Inlet South – Whale Cove)
Minister of Community and Government Services; Minister of Energy

John Ningark
(Akulliq)

Johnny Ningeongan
(Nanulik)
Deputy Speaker, Chair of the Committee of the Whole

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

Eruk Pauloosie
(Nattilik)
Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole

Hon. Keith Peterson
(Cambridge Bay)
Minister of Finance, Chair, Financial Management Board; Minister of Justice

Allan Rumbolt
(Hudson Bay)

Fred Schell
(South Baffin)

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk
(Arviat)
Minister of Environment; Minister of Human Resources; Minister responsible for the Nunavut Arctic College

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

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

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

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Hansard Production
Innirvik Support Services

Box 1200

Iqaluit, Nunavut, X0A 0H0

Tel (867) 975-5000 Fax (867) 975-5190 Toll-Free (877) 334-7266

Website: www.assembly.nu.ca

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**Iqaluit, Nunavut
Thursday, June 4, 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. Paul Okalik, 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. Taptuna to say the opening prayer. Mr. Taptuna.

>>*Prayer*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Good afternoon, Premier, Ministers, and Members. Have a wonderful afternoon, Nunavummiut. Before proceeding with the Orders of the Day, I would like to take this opportunity to make two announcements.

Firstly, I wish to advise all members that Mr. James Arvaluk is recovering at home in Pond Inlet following his recent emergency surgery. On behalf of all members, I wish Mr. Arvaluk a speedy and full recovery. We look forward to his returning to the House later this year.

(interpretation ends) And members, secondly, I would like to take this opportunity to extend congratulations to our own Legislative Librarian, Ms. Yvonne Earle. Yvonne is this year's

winner of the 2009 Canadian Association of Special Libraries and Information Services Award. This award was made in recognition of her work in leading the efforts of several Nunavut library systems to incorporate Inuktitut syllabics into online cataloguing. I ask all members to join me in congratulating her.

>>*Applause*

Congratulations, Yvonne.

Members, I would now like to read the following communication that I have received from the Commissioner of Nunavut and it reads:

Money Message

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

Mr. Speaker, I wish to advise that I recommend to the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut the passage of the following bills during the Second Session of the Third Legislative Assembly:

- Bill 1, *Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, 2009-2010*
- Bill 2, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 1, 2009-2010*

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

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

ends) Item 2. Budget Address. Minister of Finance, Hon. Keith Peterson.

Item 2: Budget Address

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and colleagues. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to present our government's budget for the current fiscal year and to discuss how we are working now to bring about the better future that we all desire.

As we have described in *Tamapta*, we're looking forward to the year 2030. Guided by *Tamapta*, we're looking ahead to a time when we will all enjoy a higher quality of life. Our people, our families, will be active, healthy, and happy. Our communities will depend not on government but on ourselves, and our fellow Canadians and neighbours abroad will recognize the contributions that we make.

In this fiscal year, our government is taking steps to develop the economy so that we can afford the future we want to build and we're taking steps to protect our environment so that future generations can enjoy our land as we enjoy it today.

Mr. Speaker, let me describe what we are doing to reach our goals.

This year, the Government of Nunavut will spend \$1.25 billion. We expect to receive total revenue of \$1.22 billion. That is an increase of about five percent from last year.

This budget forecasts a deficit of \$29.1 million.

Mr. Speaker, the deficit is unfortunate but also unavoidable. With a global recession underway, this is not the time to raise taxes and slow the economy of Nunavut.

That said, Mr. Speaker, we will not allow the deficit to continue forever. When a government spends more than it receives, it borrows from the future. But deficits and debts are not sustainable and so we must turn to the challenges of growing our economy. We must earn the money that we need to pay for the future that we want to build.

Let us talk about our economy, about how we manage our wealth and our resources.

Overall, the Nunavut economy is in reasonably good shape, it is relatively stable and preparing for growth. We will receive \$1.02 billion this year. That amount is secure and provides the backbone of our services to the public.

Our capital plan of \$120.8 million will allow us to build the structures that we need for growth and future prosperity. In fact, by topping up our capital plan with money carried forward from last year's plan, we expect to fund construction projects this year worth \$200 million. That is a solid contribution to our economic growth.

>> *Applause*

Mr. Speaker, there is a very serious global recession. When financial markets collapsed, so did jobs and investment. We have seen all of those effects here in Nunavut, where mining companies face challenges in financing their exploration. Despite the downturn,

I am encouraged by what I hear from the mining industry about how they view tomorrow.

I attended the recent Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada meeting in Toronto. I heard the reality, industry leaders agree that these aren't the best of times, but they also say things will improve. The key point for us is that they will still consider Nunavut's resources to be solid investments and will step up activity when their financing allows. We heard much the same from the recent mining symposium here in Iqaluit. So I am encouraged by these positive elements of the mining outlook.

The recession may have slowed the pace of exploration and development activity, but the work of building the mining industry in Nunavut continues. Next year, we will see the Meadowbank mine open, which creates the prospect of hundreds of new jobs.

Mr. Speaker, we are not simply relying on the mining sector for our economic growth.

Our government has set out to expand and diversify Nunavut's economic base and to continue our strategic investments in infrastructure. We are taking measures that mean jobs and growth today, especially in construction.

We are completing the Nunavut Housing Trust. We will spend \$62 million this year on social housing units.

>>Applause

This will mean more jobs and better shelter in our smaller communities. And we will see even more jobs and more

shelter thanks to the new federal investment in our social housing. We have received \$100 million and we will invest half of that amount this year.

In addition to these projects, Mr. Speaker, we are taking steps to protect Nunavummiut from the turbulence of the global energy market. To offset rising heating bills, we have provided a one-time homeowner energy rebate worth \$400 per household. And to help Nunavummiut get out on the land, we have reduced the price of gasoline by 10 cents a litre. These measures are helping every community.

>>Applause

Mr. Speaker, these are but a few of the steps that we're taking to grow a diversified economy. We aim for growth in a range of sectors but also to pursue this growth in a way that reaffirms the traditional way of life. Sectors like mining, oil and gas, the fisheries, and tourism are certainly important to the creation of wealth. But, Mr. Speaker, on-the-land activities and cultural legacies are also important to us and deserve our support.

We recognize the value of integrating Inuit societal values into our economic activities and planning. We see the benefit of Inuit knowledge and culture, and of consulting communities and interest groups about their needs and views. We also see the value of investing in our communities, our small businesses, and our cultural industries.

I am particularly pleased that the federal government has renewed the Strategic Investments in Northern Economic Development Program. Through our

dialogue with the federal government, the program has been extended for five more years. For our part, the government will continue to match this federal program with the \$4 million Strategic Investments Program, creating a substantial source of funds that can contribute to business and economic development in the territory.

Also this year, we will begin to develop a new tourism strategy as recommended by our review of the industry and we will further advance our cultural industries.

We began this budget year with the 10th Anniversary Song Competition. We will continue through the year with the Arts and Crafts Development Program. The world will come to know the Nunavut brand for arts and crafts. Mr. Speaker, they will see it next winter at the Olympic Games, where we will promote Nunavut as an excellent place to live, work, and play.

>>Applause

In fact, the Olympic Games represent an excellent opportunity for us to attract world attention. That is why our government has invested \$2 million in promoting Nunavut at the Olympics. The world will see Nunavut Day, Inuit traditional games, and cultural performances. And I am looking forward to the Youth Ambassadors program through which we will provide young Nunavummiut with opportunities to become leaders of tomorrow.

Our people will also need the skills of a 21st century workforce. Education is our greatest challenge and opportunity. We are determined to raise our graduation

rates. Our government will invest almost \$195 million this year in education, a rise of six percent from last year.

>>Applause

We are also making an investment of \$8.6 million to assist the implementation of the *Education Act*, the *Official Languages Act*, and the *Inuit Language Protection Act*.

Mr. Speaker, we are putting young Nunavummiut on the path to a healthy, happy future. We are building the workforce that will lead Nunavut ahead.

Our task will not end on graduation day. Nunavummiut will require training throughout their careers. Their skills and knowledge are the keys to success. We must offer lifelong learning and provide income support so that our people can participate fully in our communities and our economy. That is why I am looking forward to the opening of the Nunavut Trade School in Rankin Inlet.

>>Applause

This is a key step in preparing Nunavummiut for good jobs and good paycheques.

I am also looking forward to continued progress this year in the other operations of the Nunavut Arctic College. Building on last year's reorganization, we have increased our investment in the college this year by five percent.

>>Applause

We are also directing \$2 million into a training and development fund for the civil service so that Government of

Nunavut employees can improve their skills and we will ensure that all employers can do the same.

Mr. Speaker, thanks to the input we received through extensive consultations with businesses, we will implement the Business Training Tax Credit this year.

>>Applause

This credit will help businesses to encourage their employees to get training.

In addition to better education, we need to keep improving our health care. I look forward to the day when Nunavummiut can expect to live as long as the average Canadian.

According to federal statistics, a baby born here today can expect to live for ten years less than the Canadian average. Ten years, Mr. Speaker. Not only that but we lag the Canadian average on many other indicators as well. For example, our infant mortality rate is almost four times the Canadian average. We cannot allow these gaps to continue.

This means that we must improve health through prevention and fix our social problems at their roots. We are addressing that challenge. Health and social services accounts for almost one-quarter of our entire budget. In fact, our budget for the Department of Health and Social Services will rise this year by four percent from last year's levels. We are determined to ensure that our people can lead healthy lives.

Under our five-year health strategy, the government is developing new ways to improve care for mothers and newborn

children. Preventing chronic illness and injury prevention are important priorities, and the government is creating programs to teach our youth about the benefits of physical activity, healthy eating, and wellness.

We are delivering these initiatives in our communities through community health representatives and in partnership with our community health committees. By engaging our communities, we can deliver the programs and services Nunavummiut need to lead healthier lives.

We will continue to help women and children to escape violence in their homes. The Department of Health and Social Services will develop a policy on family violence shelters and has allocated an additional \$1.3 million to support the existing family violence shelters across the territory.

>>Applause

And the government will be making amendments to the *Child and Family Services Act* as we target further support for children and youth.

Mr. Speaker, in making these investments, we must also recognize that people who need help often cannot find it. Our government will set up a social advocacy office to identify vulnerable people who need help, such as our children, and it will explore ways to address social issues.

In addition to improving education, health and social services, our priorities include housing. Through more and better housing, we enable our territory to realize its potential. With good homes,

Nunavummiut will be able to participate fully in growing our economy. We will be healthier and we will enjoy a better quality of life. This is why we must make housing more accessible, more affordable, and more suitable to the way we live.

We have a long way to go before we can meet these goals, Mr. Speaker, but we are moving in the right direction.

This year, we will complete the three-year Nunavut Housing Trust program, which will have given us 725 units across the territory. As well, we will build another 285 homes over two years. These are made possible by the additional funding that we have secured from the federal government. It is a \$100 million investment that will help us to reduce overcrowding and meet the needs of our families.

Mr. Speaker, we are talking about building more homes for families, better health care and social services, and better opportunities to learn. We are working to make sure that our government's actions reflect Inuit values.

This year, we will strengthen the presence of these values in the government and prepare the *Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit* to assume its responsibilities under the *Inuit Language Protection Act*. We are establishing office space, hiring staff, and appointing board members. By September, we anticipate *Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit* to be in full operation. The intent is to ensure that Inuit language is widely used in modern government and business.

>>Applause

Mr. Speaker, we will ensure that Inuit societal values are better reflected in our approach towards law enforcement. The Department of Justice has agreed with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and the federal government to find new ways to settle criminal matters. We will draw on the strengths of our traditional communities. We are strengthening our spousal abuse and family remediation programs and promoting anti-crime awareness.

As the Minister of Justice, I am looking forward to progress under our Inuit Special Constables project. We want to recruit five beneficiaries this year. Through this pilot program and through our consultations, we are adapting our law enforcement system to serve Nunavut's unique needs.

>>Applause

Mr. Speaker, all that we have talked about must occur so that our society can advance and we can achieve the future that we want to build, but none of this should occur at the expense of our environment. We live in a territory that is extraordinarily beautiful.

>>Applause

Our wildlife, our fish, and our natural resources are part of our environmental heritage. They require our continued attention and protection.

Among our priorities this year, we will enhance the Natural Resources Conservation Trust Fund. This will be a permanent fund for education, research, and conservation. As well, the

Department of Environment will develop and put in place an education and outreach plan to help foreign audiences see that we manage our environment with care and respect.

>> *Applause*

I am also looking forward, Mr. Speaker, to the steps our government will take this year toward another important environmental goal. That is to establish a blueprint for a Nunavut-wide recycling program. We will start with the City of Iqaluit and the Municipality of Rankin Inlet. Those communities will work with our departments of Community and Government Services, Education, Economic Development and Transportation, and the Liquor Commission. Working together, they will find a workable way to protect the environment from the by-products of our modern lives.

Mr. Speaker, we have talked at length about how we are creating a stronger economy, a stronger society, and a healthy environment. We are also taking a close look at the ways in which our government works toward these goals.

Under the leadership of our Premier, we are preparing a report card. It will highlight our strengths and our weaknesses. It will help us to improve our structures, our programs, and our spending. A central idea in *Tamapta* is to understand what is working well now and what must be improved. We will publish an interim report this fall, Mr. Speaker, and we will include the lessons learned as we plan for our next fiscal year.

>> *Applause*

Of course, Mr. Speaker, we need not wait for that report card to begin improving what we are doing now.

In my department, our most important job is to manage money better and we are meeting this challenge in many ways.

First, we are working to improve financial management training across the government. This will help our managers and employees to make better decisions about spending public money. We will also improve how we report to Nunavummiut so that we can produce financial statements on time.

Second, we will improve our planning methods so that we can use our funds more effectively to support government priorities. We have been using a system of annual plans, but we need to think forward further than one year. Starting with our next business planning cycle, our strategies will look ahead by three years. By looking beyond the current year, we will anticipate developments earlier and improve our ability to deal with them. Through better planning, we can deliver better programs and services to Nunavummiut.

>> *Applause*

Third, our improved financial management will ultimately help us take control over the royalties that flow from our natural resources. The better we can manage our government, the better we can negotiate a devolution agreement with the federal government. Devolution means that we will manage our natural resources for the benefit of Nunavummiut, just like all the provinces. Prudent financial

management helps us to unlock a better future for us all.

Mr. Speaker, we have covered a great deal of ground today. I think you will see from our budget documents that this government is moving forward prudently in building a sustainable territory.

We are on the right path. In fact, we have already come a long way and we should take a moment to acknowledge our progress.

Today, ten years old, we are meeting our challenges, taking appropriate actions, and building for the next decade, and again the decade after that. And we are doing it in the spirit of *Tamapta*. We are doing it together. With the support of this legislature, we are creating the better future that we want to build for all Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. (interpretation) Going to Item 3. Ministers' Statements. If there are none, Members' Statements. Mr. Ningark.

Item 4: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 013 – 3(2): Health Care Concerns in Akulliq

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am very pleased that I am able to meet up with all of the Members of the Legislative Assembly.

Around April and May, there were respiratory illnesses in the community of Kugaaruk, especially affecting children, Mr. Speaker, to the point where some had to be medevaced to the hospital in

Yellowknife and I believe they were also brought to Edmonton. I would like to congratulate and also acknowledge the nurses in our communities who work not only with sick people but also in the prevention of sicknesses in the communities. We thank them for their efforts, but unfortunately, we had a couple of incidents related to respiratory illnesses.

The father, Mr. Speaker, of one of the children who was medevaced stated that his child was not even one year of age and when he brought his child to the health centre, the nurse indicated that there was nothing wrong with the child. They ended up going to Repulse Bay by snowmobile and went to the health centre there. The child was found to have respiratory problems and had to be sent out for medical reasons. It seemed that this case was not treated with the attention it required in Kugaaruk and the child's illness was finally diagnosed in Repulse Bay.

Additionally, I was told by an elderly widow who also went to the Kugaaruk community health centre only to be told that she was perfectly fine. When she travelled to Iqaluit to attend meetings in April, she went to the hospital where she was diagnosed with pneumonia. This occurred even though there's a health centre in Kugaaruk and medical services available to the people.

At the appropriate time, I will be asking the Minister of Health and Social Services why a child younger than a year and an elder over 60 years of age requested medical services in their home communities but were only properly diagnosed when they went to another community. So at the appropriate time, I

will be asking the Minister of Health and Social Services to conduct a review as to why this occurred to those two patients. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningark. (interpretation ends) Members' Statements. Member for High Arctic, Mr. Elliott.

**Member's Statement 014 – 3(2):
Support for Nunavummiut with
Disabilities**

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to once again urge the government to take a stronger stand in addressing the needs of people with disabilities.

Mr. Speaker, the government's own vision statement, *Tamapta*, speaks of helping those Nunavummiut who are "most in need." I strongly encourage the Premier to establish a special portfolio that deals directly and sympathetically with this issue.

Mr. Speaker, many Nunavummiut with disabilities are in dire situations. They and their families need professional care and professional support in order to be able to live their daily lives without unnecessary difficulties and barriers.

Mr. Speaker, the Nunavut government is not very old but already its history of addressing the needs of people with disabilities is a poor one. In 1998, a meeting in Iqaluit brought together a number of Nunavummiut with different disabilities. At this meeting, the Nunavut Council for People with Disabilities was formed. The government's support for that council ended in 2001.

Mr. Speaker, in 2004, a new disabilities society was formed through the Inuit land claims organization with funding from the government. But still, the support is not there. The disabilities society does not even have its own office or any realistic means to help anyone, let alone its members and their families.

In 2008-09, the Department of Health and Social Services' budget included a contribution of \$90,000 for the disabilities society. I recently had the opportunity to ask the minister and his staff what this funding was spent on. At the time, no explanation was available and I have still not received an answer. To me, this is a clear indication of what level of support, care, and attention that people with disabilities in Nunavut really get.

Mr. Speaker, in April, I had the opportunity to travel to Ontario and visit with one of my constituents who is deaf. This youth is under 18 and attends a residential school for people who are hearing impaired.

I find it appalling that a government which represents Inuit who have lived through the pain, suffering, and cultural loss of identity as a result of attending residential schools puts one of its own youth through the same terrible experience. I cannot understand why this government would not learn from past mistakes made by the church and the federal government.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly urge the Premier, the Minister of Health and Social Services, the Minister of Education, and this government to look at how we provide service to our residents with disabilities. Attention to this issue is

urgently needed. All Nunavummiut should have the ability to participate in society equally without any unnecessary barriers. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Member's Statement 015 – 3(2):
Pangnirtung Students Upinngijut**

Mr. Komoartok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to inform the House of recent events in Pangnirtung, where the students were taken out on the land over a three-week period from April 27 to May 15. They camped just outside of Pangnirtung and I believe it was about 10 miles away from the hamlet.

There were six cabins that were occupied by these students, including their cook. When the cabins weren't enough to accommodate all the children, they were housed in tents over this three-week period. All students undertook this course, from kindergarten students who were out on the land for a day, to the high school students who were able to stay for several days and this was very beneficial.

During their time at this camp, the students were taught survival skills, seal and caribou skinning, fishing, and various camp activities. They were also taken down to the floe edge to see marine mammals such as bowhead, narwhals and beluga whales. We had many students who experienced this course during this year.

Over 270 students were taken out on an outing as part of their orientation and

approximately 50 teachers were able to escort these children. They requested support from various entities, in particular the Kakivak Association, the GN departments of Environment and Education. They also raise their own funds in order to have adequate funds to cover this course.

This year, they spent approximately \$70,000 to \$90,000 over these three weeks. They employed three elders, drivers, eight instructors, and three cooks. It is a self-sufficient camp run by the instructors and teachers, and our community is very pleased that they are keeping our culture strong and alive, even though it is quite difficult in this day and age.

We are also very pleased that this year, the past director for Isuma was able to...

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Komoartok, you must ask for unanimous consent to conclude your statement. Mr. Komoartok.

Mr. Komoartok (interpretation): I would like to conclude my statement, it's very short, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. 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, Mr. Speaker. As I indicated earlier, an individual filmmaker, who is originally from Igloolik, travelled to Pangnirtung to film this cultural inclusion program. Further, we also had a manager from the Department of Education in Pond Inlet, Trudy

Pettigrew, who also came to observe the program.

The community also invited the Minister of Education and me, but we unfortunately had a session at that time and were unable to attend to this event. However, this program which promotes our culture and way of life is one that should be experienced personally.

I thank all of my colleagues for allowing me to conclude my statement, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Member's Statement 016 – 3(2):
Condolences on the Passing of
Victor Sammurtok**

Mr. Ningeongan (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to extend my condolences to the Sammurtok family over the loss of Victor, who recently passed away. We share your grief and empathize on your loss of a loved one.

Victor was a well-respected elder in the community of Chesterfield Inlet. I travelled to Chesterfield Inlet and had an opportunity to visit Victor while he was staying at the Naja Isabelle Home. I knew a little of his history, both as a worker and as a community leader. I recently had the opportunity to pay tribute to his accomplishments and I know that his wisdom will be missed in the community.

Mr. Speaker, when an elder passes away, that is a lifetime of knowledge and experience that just disappears. We

know our elders reflected on many challenges and if these experiences were written up, it would encompass many chapters and categories. It reminds us of the importance of their experience and wisdom and I urge communities to utilize this valuable resource. Keeping our elders' depth of knowledge in mind, and in this case, Victor's, he was able to pass along his experience and wisdom to later generations in his community and we are immensely grateful for that.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in extending condolences to the Sammurtok family and the community of Chesterfield Inlet over this loss. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. I apologize for acknowledging you as the Member for Nunalik instead of Nanulik.

Members' Statements. Member for Iqaluit West, Mr. Okalik.

**Member's Statement 017 – 3(2):
Nunavut Member of Parliament
Moving Federal Concurrence with
the Official Languages Act**

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to welcome the Members of the Legislative Assembly to our community and I hope that we have a successful meeting.

Today, I would like to make a statement in regard to a motion introduced by our Member of Parliament in Ottawa, while our Premier and ministers were in attendance. I would like to thank her for efforts in trying to get federal concurrence for our *Official Languages Act*. It's very exciting and it's good to

see that our representative is working hard to have the Act passed and I thank her for that.

Once the Act receives concurrence from the federal government, it will greatly assist all of our constituents in Nunavut. However, we have heard that the Senate seems to be having a little bit of a problem and will not be able to pass the *Official Languages Act* at this time, which is regrettable. Perhaps our government needs to lobby the Senate to ensure that the Act is passed and implemented in Nunavut.

As Inuit, we will be very proud to have our language fully recognized in our land. If that day comes, we will always remember it and that is why I urge the federal government, especially the Senate, to concur with the Act. So I thank the ministers and the Premier for making sure that the legislation proceeds to the next step. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Okalik. Members' Statements. If there are no more, we will go to the Orders of the Day. Item 5. Returns to Oral Questions. Item 6. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. If there are none, I would like to recognize some individuals.

Item 6: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

(interpretation ends) Thank you, Members. I would like to take this opportunity to recognize a group of visitors who are in the Gallery today.

Joining us today is a group of parliamentary interns from the House of Commons. These young Canadians from across the country are participants in the national Parliamentary Internship Program. They are in Iqaluit this week for their annual study tour to Nunavut.

I ask all members to join me in extending a warm welcome to our guests. Welcome to the Gallery.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. If there are no more, Oral Questions. The first one to ask questions will be the Member for Akulliq, Mr. Ningark.

Item 7: Oral Questions

Question 001 – 3(2): Health Care Concerns in Akulliq

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I apologize as I made an error about the patients I alluded to previously; I will provide the minister with the names of the individuals.

An elder told me that he brought his child to the health centre in Kugaaruk, where he was told that the child was perfectly fine but I'm not sure whether that was over one or two visits. Only when they travelled to Repulse Bay, where he brought the child to the nursing station, they were informed that the child had respiratory issues. There was also another case of an elderly widow who was told that she was fine in Kugaaruk but was diagnosed with an illness here in Iqaluit.

It is not because they cannot get a medical appointment, but they were misdiagnosed for some reason. So I would like to ask the minister why a child and an elder who were suffering respiratory illness were not diagnosed in their community. They had to go out of their community in order to receive the proper analysis. Can the minister look into these issues and see what the problems were? I will be giving you the names of these individuals via a written note. Thank you.

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

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the Member for Akulliq for posing those questions. First of all, I would like to inform him and Nunavummiut that the health centres are open to the people in the communities and are there to help individuals to the best of their abilities.

We are aware that not all patients are diagnosed immediately, but I would like to thank the medical practitioners of Iqaluit and Repulse Bay for seeing those patients and giving them the proper diagnoses.

I wish to inform the member that I held a meeting with our senior health officials where I asked them to increase their efforts to appreciate Nunavummiut, and particularly to ensure that smaller communities and elders are respected. Our language is diverse, which may cause some communication problems, so we have to make sure that we respect the people in our communities.

For that reason, I would like to thank Mr. Ningark and after you have submitted the names, I will have these two cases looked into and will provide an update. Thank you.

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

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My first supplementary is that there are many people who were diagnosed properly and medevaced out of Kugaaruk. We appreciate the work of our nurses, but for about a month or two, it seemed as though they weren't able to diagnose those two patients with respiratory illnesses.

I have written the names of the parents of the child and also the elder. I wonder if the minister will really look into these two cases. If I have made an error on this matter, his staff can provide a briefing on what actually transpired over the visits. Perhaps he can direct his staff to look into the issues these two patients faced in Kugaaruk. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to assure the member that our department will definitely look into those cases and I wish to thank him for providing the names of the individuals.

I can tell you, Mr. Speaker, that I will look into those issues. I would like to take the question as notice and I will provide a response at a later time. Thank you.

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

Question 002 – 3(2): Letter from Iqaluit Housing Authority to Minister

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) My question is to the Minister of Housing.

I understand that the minister was given a letter on May 15 of this year from the Iqaluit Housing Authority. I would like to know when the minister became aware of the need for a workshop and warehouse for Iqaluit housing here in Iqaluit. I would like to know if he had prior notice of this letter. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the member for raising that issue. I think that the member is quite aware that this has been an issue that has been going on for a number of years now. The Iqaluit Housing Authority has been hoping to have a new warehouse in the capital plan for the last three years now at least, I believe, it may be longer than that.

The corporation became aware of the current situation that they are facing right now late this fall and have been working with the housing authority to try and assess the actual situation and the extent of the problems that they face over there. We hopefully look forward to coming up with a solution that's

satisfactory for everybody. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) In accordance with the letter, the employees in the housing authority are being put at risk for their safety and part of their workshop is no longer available for working. We have the largest housing inventory in the territory and the ability to repair the units will be impaired according to the letter.

We just went through a capital projects exercise last month. Why wasn't it on the capital budget? (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Tootoo.

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm sure the member himself is very much aware that this is a project that was not only in this year's capital tasks from the corporation but it hasn't been included and at least in the past three years, it's always been something that has been kept out of the capital budget due to the limited resources and priorities that we have to work with.

So it is something that has been brought forward and unfortunately, with the priorities and resources that we have this year, and I'm sure that the member is quite aware of the same situation in the previous years, it was just a matter of resources. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I believe this is the first time I have been provided with information on this matter, so to refer to prior years at this point is a bit pointless.

Housing is a major issue, we just heard it on the budget, but how are we going to repair the units that we have now? We don't have a facility to repair and fix some of the units that may need repair. So if there's no facility to repair them and no places for employees to work to fix up those units, how are we going to maintain our units here? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Member. Minister Tootoo.

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just referred to prior years' capital budgets and the member is quite aware of how that process works, where every department is given targets and they have to work within those targets. And I do agree that it is unfortunate and this is the first time he has heard of it, but I know this is something that the housing authority has been hoping to have included in the capital budget for at least the past three years.

Mr. Speaker, I know the member indicated that the warehouse that the housing authority is operating in right now is 40 years old. It was initially designed when there were nine people working for the housing authority and only 200 public housing units that they had to look after.

Since that time, Mr. Speaker, there are over 458 public housing units now and there are over 20 employees working for

the housing authority and on top of that, the housing authority here in Iqaluit is also responsible for looking after 635 government staff housing units. We know that this is an issue; some of the space that they have has been deemed unusable.

We have been able to obtain additional warehouse and storage space from a warehouse that the Department of Finance had obtained a lease on. In the interim, until we can come up with a viable solution, the housing authority is being able to have access to the Department of Finance warehouse in the West 40. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I asked earlier if this was proposed in the capital plan that we just approved in our Assembly. Why wasn't it on the budget for the coming year's capital that we just approved? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Tootoo.

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Like I mentioned earlier and I'm sure the member is aware from past experience, each department is given targets that they have to work with as far as capital goes and the Housing Corporation is no different than anyone else. We had targets that we had to work with and had to prioritize projects that were in there.

There are a number of communities that we have on a list as far as dealing with warehouse issues. If the member would

recall, there's some funding in this year's budget to deal with warehouse issues in Baker Lake. This year, we're able to have enough funding to deal with issues there.

Iqaluit is the next community on the list as far as prioritizing where the resources or which warehouses need to be addressed. There's a list of communities with warehouses that are prioritized for funding, but given the limited resources that we have, we were only able to have enough funding to deal with the Baker Lake warehouse this year and that one was in the budget this year.

Because of lack of resources and funding available to the government as a whole, as far as the capital budget goes, unfortunately, the warehouse replacement project for Iqaluit didn't make the cut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Oral Questions. Member for Pangnirtung, Mr. Komoartok.

Question 003 – 3(2): Reimbursement for Medical Travel

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

Sometimes in the smaller communities, individuals go to the health centres and some nurses don't believe the patients' sincerity about their illness. Just recently, I learned of an individual who paid his own airfare from Pangnirtung to Iqaluit and was immediately admitted to the hospital upon presentation. I know that it's very difficult to diagnose individuals at the local level and as we

were informed, not all diagnoses are immediate. However, these patients are sincere when they make appointments at the health centre because they can no longer tolerate their illnesses.

My question to the minister is whether the department can reimburse this individual for paying his own airfare since the individual was, in fact, seriously ill and the community workers didn't believe in the severity of his condition. I wonder if the department can reimburse the people who paid the ticket out of their pocket due to a medical matter where they are admitted to the hospital as this proves their case. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to respond to the member that this is the very first time that I have heard about this and I would like to get more information. If the individual paid for his or her own plane ticket for medical purposes, we can look into that. But if the individual came here for a different purpose, our department will also have to look into that.

I would like to say that if the individual did indeed travel to Iqaluit purely for medical reasons and paid for his own airfare, we can consider the possibility of reimbursing him. However, we must consider the large number of people who have travelled while they were ill but not purely for medical reasons and we must identify them as not eligible for reimbursement.

If the member could provide me with correspondence on the particulars of this individual, without mentioning their names in the House, I would definitely like to pursue the matter in further discussions with the member. Thank you.

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

Mr. Komoartok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The minister's response was quite clear. I just want to add a bit more detail.

In our community, the problem of nurses not believing community members seems to occur when people call the health centre after working hours. It seems like the nurses don't always believe the individuals asking for medical attention and although this is unfortunate, it doesn't happen to all of the people who use this service.

The specific individual in question called the health centre in our community saying that he was seriously ill, but the nurse responded by saying that he didn't sound seriously ill on the telephone, and that it wasn't necessary for him to come to the health centre. You cannot make a proper diagnosis via the telephone and when the medical workers do so, it is very detrimental and difficult for our sick residents.

I would like to ask the minister to ensure that this matter is reviewed and to make the necessary improvements in the services provided to our community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Mr. Speaker, thank you. I understand his question and his concern. As I stated earlier today, I met with the senior health officials last winter advising them to respect the residents in the communities, especially in smaller communities, and to send that directive to all communities. I will look into that as this is unacceptable.

As the minister responsible, my colleagues and I cannot condone this practice, "You don't sound sick enough so don't come to the health centre." That must be stopped because the individuals have to be examined before they can make an assessment. Illness is a serious issue; it's not a joking matter and I will look into that case.

I would like to thank the member because we would like to be apprised of those types of issues. They shouldn't be treating Nunavutmiut like that, especially elders. Thank you.

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

Question 004 – 3(2): Recycling Program for Iqaluit

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

(interpretation ends) According to today's Budget Address, there seems to be money for recycling for Iqaluit. If memory serves, there's an existing

recycling initiative here in Iqaluit and if that's still in place, I would like to let my constituents know. So I ask the Minister of Environment: what is in place today and what is this new money for? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for asking that question. Yes, there is a recycling program in place in Iqaluit.

To date, we have three pilot projects ongoing for this year and they are in Iqaluit, Rankin Inlet, and Kugluktuk. This is the last year of funding we receive from Northern Strategy funding commitments from the federal government. So after this year, we're going to review the whole program and see how this has worked and how much it has cost.

The blueprint referred to in the budget is to look at what it would cost to eventually implement it across Nunavut in all communities, but there will be a review done. There's going to be further consultation with CG&S on how to deliver this in a coordinated approach to all communities, and that is the status of it right now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) As I walk this time of year, I notice a lot of pop cans and bottles, and it's something that I do not like seeing because I happen to live here and it's not very aesthetic for people that visit our wonderful community.

So I would like to follow up with the minister and re-educate some of my constituents perhaps on how much they can make and where they should go today to recycle these pop cans and bottles here in Iqaluit. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Member. Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I agree with the member that we all have a part to play in cleaning up any cans that we see or that we leave there ourselves, we should be doing that and everybody has an individual responsibility to do that.

I would just like to say that it has been quite successful. So far, across our pilot communities, we have collected 1.4 million containers. So it is obviously successful and it lessens the solid waste going into our landfills. I agree with the member and I think the onus is not only on my department but on all of us to educate our communities to address that problem. Thank you.

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

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I just want to create additional incentives particularly for young people that come our way for fundraising purposes. If we can advise them of how much we pay per can or per bottle, I think it would help my constituents to pursue this initiative a little more. So I ask the minister how much these initiatives can provide to people that may be fundraising in our community. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Member. Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At current, the price per container is five cents and that is what people can expect to get when they recycle. Thank you.

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

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Minister. (interpretation ends) I'm just following up and ask that for those people who may want to fund-raise in their community, there's free stuff out there throughout the side of the roads and this time of year, it's quite easy to rinse them, there's a lot of runoff taking place in our community. So it's free, it's there and readily available for those that may want to use those proceeds for their initiatives.

So I encourage my fellow Iqalumiut to get our community cleaned up again and use those proceeds for useful products. (interpretation) Thank you, Minister. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Although I didn't hear a question, I'm sure that your comments are well taken. (interpretation ends) Oral Questions. Member for Akulliq, Mr. Ningark.

Question 005 – 3(2): Staff Housing for Kugaaruk

Mr. Ningark: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Sorry about that. We just talked about the environment, so I wanted to keep the floor clean here.

>> *Laughter*

Mr. Speaker, prior to coming here for the session, I had the pleasure of meeting with a principal of a Kugaaruk school and other interested groups to talk about staffing our teachers in the community. The information that I received from the school principal is that we will need to staff at least seven new employees for programs at school.

Also recognizing that there is a duplex government house to be completed this summer, I will ask the Minister of Housing: will the minister commit to ensuring that at least one side of that duplex is set aside for teachers who are coming back this summer? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If memory serves me correct, I believe the corporation did seek approval and was granted approval to put the staff housing unit into Kugaaruk this summer, and I think it was included in the capital plan.

As I was saying, I'm just going by memory right now. I will look into it and if I am wrong, I will let the member know. But I'm pretty sure that there was a unit that was assigned for delivery in the capital budget that was just passed for staff housing in that community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Ningark: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The school principal was quite serious about housing as his new staff is coming in. Will the minister let me know by tomorrow or Monday? Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Tootoo.

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My colleague, the Minister of Education, just pointed out in his briefing notes that there was a staff housing unit approved for Kugaaruk to go in this year. So I will confirm that with the member and most definitely will provide him with that information if I'm wrong or if my memory doesn't serve me correct by later today or tomorrow at the latest. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Ningark: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Incidentally, I have some information for the Minister of Education and the Minister of Housing which I will have delivered at this point. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Oral Questions. If there are none... Mr. Okalik.

Question 006 – 3(2): Senate Delaying Passage of Official Languages Act

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask a question that I mentioned in my Member's Statement in regard to the *Official Languages Act*.

We have heard that the Senate Committee has delayed the language

legislation. I would first like to ask our Premier if she has asked the Senate Committee to approve this language legislation so it can be passed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When the language legislation was passed in the House, we were really happy to see it passed as my colleague and I were down south at the time. With respect to the Senate Committee, yes, it is indeed stuck at the committee level and they're now negotiating and discussing this matter.

Our Member of Parliament in Ottawa just recently informed and updated me on this issue. That's where it is sitting currently and they're trying to resolve the matter. We had some discussions on this point, and the Minister of Languages is probably better able to respond to the question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is more within Intergovernmental Affairs since the federal government is outside of the Government of Nunavut and that is why I posed my question to the Premier.

We are represented by our senator where the obstacle is happening but it seems it is being blocked by Liberal party representatives. Perhaps we should provide more information and guidance to our Senator on resolution of this

matter. I would like to ask the Premier if she is willing to do that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Premier Aariak.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Since yesterday, we have been waiting for a response from the Senate Committee and we also want to wait a bit more today. We are planning on how we will deal with this and we still haven't done anything about it, but we have plans. We will have a better idea of what to do after today. Thank you.

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

Question 007 – 3(2): Gasoline Prices

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

We will be boating in Nunavut in some of the communities either this month or next month because the ice will start breaking up. We were so pleased to see a reduction of 10 cents per litre in the price of gasoline and the private homeowners' rebate of \$400 on March 20, I believe. Once the session is over, perhaps around June 18, we will leave to go back to our communities.

I'm sure the price of gasoline and fuel is going to change or increase at the beginning of July. Prior to people going out boating, I would like some assurance that it will be cheaper to buy gasoline at that time. Can we perhaps expect to see

a price reduction in July? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the member for asking that question. As I stated during the session last winter, we were working on how we would start pricing fuel and our officials are still reviewing that.

Once we know how much fuel we will be using, it will be easier to make a forecast. We're figuring out how much fuel we will need within the department. We will provide more detailed information on the price of fuel prior to the end of this session. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Komoartok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the minister for his response. However, have you any inkling as to when you will provide this information or that announcement, at the end of this month or at the beginning of July? Many people have been expecting to hear the announcement, so I would like to know if you have a timeframe. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. During this

session, I will make an announcement on when we will be able to reduce the price of fuel. Just like you, all Nunavummiut would like to see the price of fuel drop. We're working on that right now.

Once the information is available, I will provide a response to his question as most of our constituents in Nunavut wish to see a reduction of fuel prices at the earliest opportunity, especially in relation to gas and heating fuel. If we are able to reduce the price of fuel, I will make an announcement, but I can't tell you when that day will be.

I'll make that announcement once the information becomes available and at that time, you may resubmit that question and I will provide you with a response. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 008 – 3(2): H1N1 Swine Flu Cases in Nunavut

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The atmosphere is akin to Christmas today. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Health and Social Services as we seem to be concentrating on health issues today and I'm sure that the minister is facing some difficulties in dealing with all of the complaints arriving on his desk.

We recently heard via the media that an individual has contracted the new flu virus. It is called the H1N1 virus in English and I don't think it even has a corresponding Inuktitut name yet and therefore, I don't know how to refer to it in Inuktitut.

However, my first question to the minister is: has the department discovered more cases of the H1N1 virus here in Nunavut? 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. I would like to thank the member for posing his question. Of course, Nunavutmiut are not immune to that illness. On Wednesday, June 3, we heard that there were five confirmed cases of the H1N1 virus. If it's okay with the Cabinet, I would like to give a brief overview tomorrow of exactly what's happening, and what our department is working on.

However, we can state in the last two days, there are samples that have gone through lab tests. I'm sure that there is a possibility of other cases in the Baffin region which we haven't heard of yet, but we have not heard of any cases here to date. The cases currently in the news have stemmed from the Kitikmeot and Kivalliq regions.

The Stanton Territorial Hospital in Yellowknife is assisting us with three cases that required hospitalization from the Kitikmeot region. We have three patients at that facility and I want to extend our appreciation to the Stanton Territorial Hospital. Thank you.

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

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The reason why I brought this matter up is because of the

seriousness of this new strain, with the number of cases in the south along with the fatality rates. I wish to urge the department to provide information to Nunavummiut about the H1N1 virus, how many infected individuals there are, and what type of preventative measures the public can take to protect themselves.

I would especially like this information available in Inuktitut and I would like to ask if his department has started on the preparations to deal with this issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the member for the question. There are many people in Nunavut who are concerned about contracting this disease. However, our Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Sobol, is working closely with his counterparts at Health Canada and has held daily conference calls dealing with these cases. They are trying to implement their protocols for the pandemic flu plan.

In particular, our community health workers with whom I had a meeting yesterday were informed about the need to make public announcements on their local radio stations in their language so that the majority of the public can understand. I also told them not to just read the information on the brochure about this virus on the radio.

I also want to inform you that if you would like further information or if you want to talk to Dr. Sobol directly, we can make arrangements to ensure that

members have the opportunity to talk about this issue. And it would take a while, so it may be best to use one of the conference rooms for this matter.

Nonetheless, to date, we don't want to create any panic amongst our constituents and that is why the message of personal hygiene has been reiterated by our local health care providers. However, this is a complicated medical issue and we have been fortunate that the cases have so far been mild and that is what we have seen to date.

We still have to keep an eye on this matter and ensure that we provide preventative measures in our Nunavut communities. I thank you for asking that question. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

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

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the minister for his response. We want this information to be available to all communities and the type of preventative measures the public can take to lessen the chance of infection.

So I wish to encourage the minister to table in the House to the members and also to the people of Nunavut information on the proper practices and preventative measures people can take. This would assist both the members and our constituents. Can the minister provide information on the preventative measures during this session? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for the question. It's obvious that Nunavutmiut are quite concerned, especially now that the influenza virus has made it to our territory.

The H1N1 virus is a new mutation that we haven't seen before, but it hasn't been as traumatic as new viruses and we are learning how best to deal with it via our frontline workers in the communities.

Due to this reason, what I can state today with the blessing of my colleagues at the Cabinet is that I wish to table the information tomorrow, including the exact strategy we are using to deal with this matter for Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Thank you, Mr. Okalik. (interpretation ends) Oral Questions. Item 8. Written Questions. Item 9. Returns to Written Questions. Item 10. Replies to Opening Address. Item 11. Replies to Budget Address. Item 12. Petitions. Item 13. Reports of Standing and Special Committees. Item 14. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills. Item 15. Tabling of Documents. Mr. Shewchuk.

Item 15: Tabled Documents

Tabled Document 005 – 3(2): Nunavut Arctic College Annual Report 2007-08

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table the Nunavut Arctic College Annual Report for the year 2007-08. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Can we have the document brought forward, please?

Tabling of Documents. Mr. Shewchuk.

Tabled Document 006 – 3(2): Towards a Representative Public Service as of December 31, 2008

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table the Human Resources' Toward a Representative Public Service Statistics as of December 31, 2008. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Tabled Document 008 – 3(2): Letter to Minister from Iqaluit Housing Authority

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table a letter addressed to the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Tabled Document 007 – 3(2): Statutory Requirements for Tabling of Reports and Other Documents in the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

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

law to be tabled in the House. This list is current to May 31, 2009. Thank you.

Tabling of Documents. Item 16. Notices of Motions... Item 15. Tabling of Documents. Mr. Clerk.

Tabled Document 009 – 3(2): Return to Oral Question 84 – 3(1) Healing for Residential School Survivors

Tabled Document 010 – 3(2): Return to Oral Question 88 – 3(1) Sports Trophy

Tabled Document 011 – 3(2): Return to Oral Question 93 – 3(1) Transportation Costs to Airports

Tabled Document 012 – 3(2): Return to Written Question 1 – 3(1) Health and Safety Standards for GN Buildings in Iqaluit

Tabled Document 013 – 3(2): Return to Written Question 2 – 3(1) NHC Contracting and Hiring Activities

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm tabling five documents. The first three are responses to questions taken as notice during for First Session of the Third Assembly and the question numbers are 84, 88, and 93. The last two are responses to written questions also asked during the First Session of the Third Assembly and the question numbers are 1 and 2. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Tabling of Documents. (interpretation) There are finally no more. (interpretation ends) Item 16. Notices of Motions. Mr. Okalik.

Item 16: Notices of Motions

Motion 002 – 3(2): Suspension of the Member of the Legislative Assembly for Nattilik – Notice

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Monday, June 8, I will move the following motion:

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the Member for Akulliq, that Mr. Eruk Pauloosie, Member for Nattilik, be suspended without pay from sittings of the Legislative Assembly until the conclusion of the spring 2009 sitting of the House.

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

Speaker: Thank you. Notices of Motions. Item 17. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Minister of Finance, Hon. Keith Peterson.

Item 17: Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills

Bill 01 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2009-2010 – Notice

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Monday, June 8, 2009, that Bill 1, *Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, 2009-2010*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 18. Motions. Mr. Okalik.

Item 18: Motions

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

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

Motion 002 – 3(2): Suspension of the Member of the Legislative Assembly for Nattilik

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

WHEREAS section 18(1)(b) of the *Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act* provides that the Legislative Assembly has the power to ensure the attendance and service of its members;

AND WHEREAS section 18(1)(c) of the *Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act* provides that the Legislative Assembly has the power to discipline its members;

AND WHEREAS the Member of the Legislative Assembly for Nattilik has been persistently absent without reasonable explanation from meetings of the Legislative Assembly's committees and caucuses;

AND WHEREAS the Legislative Assembly wishes to express its displeasure with the member's conduct;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the Member for Akulliq, that Mr. Eruk Pauloosie, Member for Nattilik, be

suspended without pay from sittings of the Legislative Assembly until the conclusion of the spring 2009 sitting of the House.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Item 18. Motions. Item 19. (interpretation ends) First Reading of Bills. Minister of Finance, Hon. Keith Peterson.

Item 19: First Reading of Bills

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I request consent of this Assembly to waive the two-day notice requirement to allow for first reading of Bill 1, *Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, 2009-2010*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. The minister is seeking unanimous consent to waive the two-day rule so that Bill 1 can receive first reading today. Are there any nays? There being none. Please proceed, Mr. Minister.

Bill 01 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2009-2010 – First Reading

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet South and Whale Cove, that Bill 1, *Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act*,

2009-2010, be read for the first time.
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. The motion is in order. Question has been called. All those in favour, raise your hand, please. Opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 1 has had first reading.

First Reading of Bills. Item 20. Second Reading of Bills. Minister of Finance, Hon. Keith Peterson.

Item 20: Second Reading of Bills

Bill 01 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2009-2010 – Second Reading

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

Mr. Speaker, this bill authorizes the Government of Nunavut to make operations and maintenance expenditures for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2010. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Second Reading of Bills. Item 21. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Mr. Ningeongan.

Motion 003 – 3(2): Early Adjournment

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

Speaker: Thank you, Member. The motion is in order and is not debatable. All those in favour, raise your hand, please. Thank you. Opposed. The motion is carried and we will proceed directly to Item 24. Orders of the Day. Mr. Clerk.

Item 24: Orders of the Day

Clerk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Orders of the Day for June 5:

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. Replies to Budget Address
11. Petitions
12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
13. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
14. Tabling of Documents

15. Notices of Motions
16. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
17. Motions
18. First Reading of Bills
19. Second Reading of Bills
20. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
 - Bill 1
21. Report of the Committee of the Whole
22. Third Reading of Bills
23. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. This House stands adjourned until Friday, June 5, at ten o'clock in the morning.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 15:19*

