



Nunavut Canada

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NUNAVUT

2nd Session

3rd Assembly

HANSARD

Official Report

DAY 8

Friday, June 12, 2009

Pages 355 – 391

Iqaluit

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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

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Adamee Komoartok
(Pangnirtung)

Hon. Lorne Kusugak
(Rankin Inlet South – Whale Cove)
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Johnny Ningeongan
(Nanulik)
Deputy Speaker, Chair of the Committee of the Whole

Paul Okalik
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Eruk Pauloosie
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Hon. Keith Peterson
(Cambridge Bay)
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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)
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**Iqaluit, Nunavut
Friday, June 12, 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 Hunter Tootoo.

Item 1: Opening Prayer

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

>>*Prayer*

Speaker (interpretation): A very good morning, Premier, Ministers, and Members of the Legislative Assembly. Going to the Orders of the Day. Ministers' Statements. (interpretation ends) Hon. Louis Tapardjuk.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

**Minister's Statement 026 – 3(2):
Parliamentary Concurrence for
Nunavut Official Languages Act**

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you and a very good morning. I'll be quite boastful in making my statement to you.

>>*Laughter*

>>*Applause*

I am proud to report that Nunavut has written a new page of history on Parliament Hill this week. At both the House of Commons and the Senate, the *Official Languages Act* for Nunavut obtained formal concurrence from the Parliament of Canada.

To recapitulate, our Member of Parliament for Nunavut, Leona Aglukkaq, moved a motion for concurrence on June 1 of last week, which was unanimously supported by all sides of the House of Commons. I sincerely thank her for her leadership on this file.

The following day, Senator Comeau from the government moved the motion to the Senate and was seconded by our Nunavut Senator, Willie Adams, who spoke Inuktitut in the Senate Chamber with simultaneous interpretation to English and French.

After some questions and concerns arose during debate, Senator Joyal moved a motion to refer the *Nunavut Official Languages Act* to the Senate Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs for further study.

The day before yesterday, I made a special appearance before that Senate Committee along with the Member for Iqaluit West, Mr. Paul Okalik, and my officials. We delivered Nunavummiut's message that language rights are essential to human dignity whether you are Inuktitut, French, or English-speaking.

We encouraged the Senate of Canada to swiftly conclude its study of our *Official Languages Act* and adopt the motion for concurrence at the earliest possibility.

The Senate Committee reported back to the Senate Chamber yesterday afternoon and I am pleased to report that Senators have now concurred with our made-in-Nunavut *Official Languages Act*.

>> *Applause*

On the first anniversary of the Prime Minister's apology to students of residential schools, it is now Nunavut that is writing a new chapter of Canadian history on Parliament Hill.

I want to thank all of those that appeared before the Senate Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs, including Paul Okalik, Member for Iqaluit West, Daniel Cuerrier of the *Association des francophones du Nunavut*, and Graham Fraser, Commissioner of Official Languages of Canada, Alexina Kublu, Nunavut's Languages Commissioner, Joe Attaguttaluk from Qikiqtani Inuit Association and Legal Counsel for Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, and all of our supporting and dedicated officials.

The new *Official Languages Act*, along with its legislative companion, the *Inuit Language Protection Act*, will provide important legislative tools to protect and promote the Inuit language in the most significant way while ensuring respect and protection of the rights of our fellow francophones and anglophones in Nunavut.

Now, let's all work together to implement our made-in-Nunavut language legislation, and show Canada and the rest of the world that we can make a difference, and achieve substantive equality between our language communities.

I would like to thank all of those that have worked hard in making this accomplishment. We can stop dreaming now that it has become a reality and Nunavut Inuit should be proud that their language rights have been reinforced. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Minister's Statement 027 – 3(2):
Congratulations to Fur Production
and Design Students**

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Each year, Mr. Speaker, the Fur Council of Canada hosts its Fur Reinvented design competition.

Three winning designs from the Nunavut Arctic College Fur Production and Design Program were featured at this year's North American Fur and Fashion Exhibition in Montreal from May 3 to 5, 2009.

This unique competition allows design students to include their fur collections and experience the versatility of this sustainable, natural, and ecological component. Participating schools included Ryerson University, École Supérieur de mode de Montréal, Cégep Marie-Victorin, and Nunavut Arctic College.

Each participant submitted a sketch presenting a fur garment made with Canadian furs. The winning sketches were selected by a jury of industry professionals for the originality and marketability of their design.

Mr. Speaker, this year's winners from Nunavut Arctic College were Karliin Aariak, Meeka Kilabuk, and Connie Pewatualuk. Karliin Aariak's design for a woman's jacket won first prize, Meeka Kilabuk's design for a man's jacket won second prize, and Connie Pewatualuk's design for a man's jacket placed third. As a prizewinning design, each student can keep their winning garment.

The North American Fur and Fashion Exposition in Montreal is the largest luxury show in Canada, the only high-end fur fashion fair of its type in North America, and one of the most important fur marketing events in the world. The Fur Council of Canada will promote their finished garments.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to mention the fur design and production students will also be participating in the TransCanada Runway fashion show on Thursday, June 18, 2009, during Montreal Fashion Week. Canadian designers from Vancouver, Calgary, Edmonton, Nunavut, Toronto, Montreal, and the Maritimes will unite on the same stage to share their vision.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Nunavut Arctic College, I would like to acknowledge the very generous support of the Government of Nunavut, Department of Environment, and the Kakivak Association. The Fur Production and Design Program could not exist without their support. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Ministers' Statements. Hon. Louis Tapardjuk.

Minister's Statement 028 – 3(2): Labour Market Training

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise again today to inform my colleagues about additional funding for training coming to our territory.

Staff in my department are close to finalizing two different agreements with Human Resources and Skills Development Canada that will provide our territory with approximately \$2.3 million in additional funding in 2009-2010 and notional amounts until 2013-14.

These initiatives were made possible under the Canada Skills and Transition Strategy announced in Budget 2009. The funding will be used in the provision of training and work experience to help workers develop new skills that are in demand in today's labour market, increasing their chances of finding suitable employment.

Mr. Speaker, this funding will allow my department to build on programs and services already offered in the territory, as well as ensure that individuals who have lower levels of education and/or literacy levels have access to support under the new arrangements.

Provisions in one of the agreements will allow greater flexibility with respect to eligible activities, which could include items such as literacy and basic skills upgrading, on-the-job training, job readiness assistance, wage subsidies and earning supplementation, employment counselling and services, and skill enhancement and training.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to reporting on these initiatives once the agreements have been finalized. I wanted to inform you of the mastery of this training. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. (interpretation ends) Hon. Daniel Shewchuk.

**Minister's Statement 029 – 3(2):
Nunavut Advanced Management
Diploma Program (Rankin Inlet)**

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today, I am pleased to rise in the House and offer my congratulations to the 20 graduates from the Nunavut Advanced Management Diploma Program offered in Rankin Inlet. The graduation ceremony will take place this evening in Rankin Inlet.

My department, in partnership with Saint Mary's University, has delivered the Nunavut Advanced Management Diploma Program since January of 2002. This diploma program was specifically designed for delivery in the North.

In 2008-09, for the first time, the Government of Nunavut was able to offer this program in the Kivalliq region. Having faculty from Saint Mary's University travel to Rankin Inlet to deliver all ten modules allowed our participants to study close to home and gain hands-on managerial tools back to their workplace.

Mr. Speaker, the professional development program consists of ten modules providing hands-on managerial experience. Participants must attend in-

class lectures and submit assignments at the end of each module. Participants completing the program earn the Nunavut Advanced Management Diploma from the Government of Nunavut and Saint Mary's University.

Mr. Speaker, including the 20 graduates from the program offered in Rankin Inlet, a total of 56 GN employees have completed the program and obtained their diplomas. Of these employees, I am pleased to announce that 45, or 80 percent, have been beneficiaries. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Ministers' Statements. Hon. Lorne Kusugak.

**Minister's Statement 030 – 3(2): Fuel
Price Reduction**

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm now wearing a different tie, so I'm a little more awake this morning.

>> *Laughter*

Mr. Speaker, as a result of completing an early purchase of our gasoline and diesel requirements for the eastern Arctic, we have been able to achieve considerable savings. By strategically purchasing fuel, the government has been able to capitalize on the low prices we have seen over the last few months.

Mr. Speaker, on March 21 of this year, we were able to reduce prices at the pump for gasoline. At that time, we made a commitment to continue to

monitor the price of fuel and the additional requirements for Nunavut.

We all know fuel plays an essential role in the lives of Nunavummiut and the cost of fuel consumes a large portion of our families' disposable income. Mr. Speaker, we are very pleased to be able to pass these savings on to all Nunavummiut.

Mr. Speaker, as Minister responsible for the Petroleum Products Division, I rise today to announce that we are further reducing the price of gasoline, heating fuel, and diesel by 10 cents per litre effective June 15, 2009.

>>Applause

Thank you. The price of gasoline, heating fuel, and diesel will be reduced by 10 cents a litre the day after this Sunday. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Ministers' Statements. (interpretation ends) Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Baffin South, Mr. Schell.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 039 – 3(2): Happy Fifth Birthday Hailey Qatsiya

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise here today to wish my daughter, Hailey, a happy fifth birthday.

>>Applause

I sent her a birthday cake; I won't say which airline I sent it on, but unfortunately, it didn't get there in one piece. They threw a bunch of heavy stuff on top, but I hope she has a better birthday here. I wish her a happy birthday and I will make up for it when I get home. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you. Members' Statements. Mr. Tapardjuk.

Member's Statement 040 – 3(2): Residential Schools Truth and Reconciliation Commission

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday was the first anniversary of the Prime Minister's apology. It was approximately a year ago that the apology was offered to parents, families, and residential school survivors. In my constituency communities of Igloolik and Hall Beach, a large number of people were sent to the residential school in Chesterfield Inlet.

I would like to commemorate this apology and further, what causes me even more joy is that right around that day, our *Official Languages Act* received parliamentary concurrence.

Mr. Speaker, what I wanted to mention was in regard to those of us who attended the Chesterfield Inlet residential school. Many of us suffered hardship and sometimes endured abuse from teachers. We have also heard that there have been three commissioners appointed to the new commission that will be recording the stories of the residential school survivors.

I have heard concerns about the fact that there's no representative from Nunavut sitting on the commission. However, Mr. Speaker, I personally would like to convey my story to that commission about my experiences as a former Chesterfield Inlet student. Even without an Inuit representing us on the commission, I still want my story heard.

I wish to have the stories of the former residential school students notarized and I urge all Inuit to relate their experiences to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

Mr. Speaker, the other reason why I rise today is because I will forever be appreciative of the people of Chesterfield Inlet. They welcomed us with open arms whenever we returned to go to school. I would like the residents of Chesterfield Inlet not to worry overtly even though many former students experienced problems in that school.

None of the students blamed the Inuit of Chesterfield Inlet, they blame the residential school. I would like the member representing that community to voice that to his constituents because the students have much thankfulness to the Inuit of Chesterfield Inlet.

If it weren't for those Inuit, some of us would absolutely be worse off or less skilled, but they took very good care of us.

>>Applause

Mr. Speaker, in addition, this is now largely historical and in the past. Although it destroyed some people's lives and was a terrible experience for some, what I can state unequivocally is

that the residential school experience also allowed many Inuit to increase their capabilities and become employable. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, my *Annuraaqatik*, Mr. Tapardjuk. (interpretation ends) Members' Statements. Member for Arviat, Mr. Shewchuk.

**Member's Statement 041 – 3(2):
Happy 50th Anniversary Donald
Uluadluak and Wife**

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise before you today to recognize a wonderful couple from my community of Arviat. On April 26, 2009, Mr. Donald and Ruth Uluadluak celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. They have raised a wonderful family and contributed to the community immensely.

Donald turns 77 years old today, June 12, and is still working as a culture and heritage advisor in the community for the Department of Education. Donald and Ruth have raised 16 children. They have 66 grandchildren and 28 great-grandchildren.

It is not all people who have the opportunity to accomplish this wonderful milestone. As their MLA, I send my best wishes to them and their entire family, and wish for them to enjoy the wonderful times they will have ahead to share with their family and the community of Arviat as a whole. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 042 – 3(2):
Sylvia Grinnell Bridge**

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's good to hear these types of good news statements today and I thank the minister as this will be of tremendous assistance to our hunters this spring. I also thank his colleague for making a statement about the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and his encouragement for survivors to tell their stories.

As residents of this area, we also have painful memories and experiences to tell, especially the Inuit who grew up here. Some of their past experiences were hard to listen to, especially the stories of how they were not allowed any freedom, even on their own lands. One of the creeks here was forbidden to be crossed by Inuit. To hear these types of stories is distressing and painful in my opinion.

Yesterday, I asked questions about our land here. Our terrain is not all flat and the hunters' mobility is delineated by mountains and craggy hills. This is why the residents have long requested a bridge to span the river. This bridge would be beneficial to Inuit, especially those without boats or those who only have four-wheelers. Nonetheless, we were informed that it would only be a pedestrian bridge.

For an Inuk, it's basically useless to have just a walkway across the river. I would like the members sitting across the room to revisit this issue. I hope that they conduct more extensive deliberations

when reviewing projects that impact our residents who are experiencing difficulties and who also need to utilize the projects being constructed.

With that, I urge the government to review this further and to consult the original people of Iqaluit about the bridge and its possible uses because it should be available to all people, not just pedestrians. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Member's Statement 043 – 3(2):
Residential Schools Truth and
Reconciliation Commission**

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank my colleague, Mr. Louis Tapardjuk, who spoke about the residential school in Chesterfield Inlet. I first went to that school in 1955.

During our years in Chesterfield Inlet, I didn't get abused, fortunately, and I wish to extend a big thanks to the people of Chesterfield Inlet for their hospitality. Once our colleague, Johnny Ningeongan, goes to Chesterfield Inlet, I would like him to extend the gratitude we have to the Inuit and to the council.

Although the Truth and Reconciliation Commission doesn't have any Inuit from Nunavut sitting on it, I urge the former residential school students to go there and to listen to the stories. Even though an Inuk is not on that commission, interpretation will be available. All of the former students speak both Inuktitut and English. So I implore the former residential school students to meet with

the Truth and Reconciliation Commission when they arrive here in Nunavut.

We grew up, Mr. Speaker, being advised to never malign or look down on other Inuit. When we need medical treatment, we visit our local nursing station whether there is an Inuk on staff or not. If we want to heal and if we want to go through the healing process, we can't criticize the Truth and Reconciliation Commission appointed by our federal government because they were created to assist former students. If we wish to be assisted, then we have to appear before them to convey our stories.

So I wish to extend a big thank you to Mr. Louis Tapardjuk, whom I went to residential school with in Chesterfield Inlet, along with the Inuit who reside there. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

An Hon. Member: Hear, hear.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 044 – 3(2):
Rankin Inlet Graduates of the
Advanced Management Program**

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to congratulate Rankin Inlet students for graduating from the Nunavut Advanced Management Diploma Program.

I first of all would like to apologize to them because I cannot attend the event where they receive their diplomas in

Rankin Inlet and I would therefore like to acknowledge them here.

(interpretation ends) I would like to congratulate the following:

Doug McLarty
Wayne Thistle
Christine Nukapiak
Louise Hickes
Sally Cormier
Kerry Angidlik
Kyle Tattuinee
Vanessa Gatehouse
Susan Locke
Jessie Adams
Jacqueline Curley
Verna Angnetsiak
Cecilia MacCallum, and
Stephanie Adams.

(interpretation) I would like to congratulate these students for graduating. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 045 – 3(2): Polar
Continental Shelf Project**

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to pay tribute to the important work that is undertaken at the Polar Continental Shelf Program in Resolute Bay.

Mr. Speaker, the Government of Canada recently announced funding to upgrade key arctic research facilities.

The announcement indicates that the Polar Continental Shelf Program has

been “supporting science in the Canadian Arctic for the past 50 years and is nationally and internationally recognized as an outstanding and efficient research logistics provider.

The Polar Continental Shelf Program supports up to 165 research projects each year, involving over 1,100 researchers. These studies are in a range of disciplines in the natural and social sciences, including archaeology, biology, climatology, glaciology, geology, limnology, permafrost science, sea ice studies, and traditional knowledge.

This project will help ensure the Polar Continental Shelf’s continued strong support of field research throughout Canada’s North. Funding will allow Polar Continental Shelf Program to nearly double the capacity of the Resolute facility to ensure that current and future client demands are met, provide necessary infrastructure to accommodate an extended operational season and reduce the environmental impact of Polar Continental Shelf Program’s northern operations.”

Mr. Speaker, I strongly support productive, cooperative, and respectful linkages between communities and institutions. I recently had the opportunity to visit the Polar Continental Shelf Program with our Premier, Eva Aariak, during a recent visit to Resolute Bay and had the opportunity to speak with a number of people involved with its work.

I would also like to pay tribute to the work that is undertaken by our own Nunavut Research Institute, which

serves as a key linkage with the national and international scientific community.

Mr. Speaker, it is important that our communities clearly benefit from scientific work that is undertaken in our territory. When scientists conduct research in Nunavut, it is important that their findings be shared with the communities in which the work took place.

Mr. Speaker, science is another important dimension of arctic sovereignty. I look forward to further progress in this area, including work on the proposed new High Arctic Research Station, which the Government of Canada is considering locating in Resolute Bay. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Good timing, Mr. Elliott. (interpretation) Members’ Statements. Member for Pangnirtung, Mr. Komoartok.

**Member’s Statement 046 – 3(2):
Residential Schools Legacy**

Mr. Komoartok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to recognize the people of Pangnirtung who went to residential schools outside of the community, with some schooling held within the community.

Schooling started when people still lived in outpost camps prior to the relocation of Inuit to Pangnirtung and they constructed a building to house the students attending school in Pangnirtung.

From these outpost camps, students were sent to Churchill, Manitoba, for residential school and some furthered their education in Ottawa. I believe there were three people from Pangnirtung who were sent to Nova Scotia when they were quite young.

Young children of various ages throughout the North were sent to schools. Although parents and grandparents wanted to maintain stewardship of their children, they had to release them to the authorities. For many parents, they knew that they may not see their children again for a whole year and some stayed out for longer.

It was impossible at that time for students to call their parents because, in those days, we didn't have any telephones and there was no communication for a year or more. Sometimes when the children went back home, they were no longer familiar with their parents. They had been indoctrinated by a different culture in a different language and alienated from their parents by virtue of having lost their traditions and language.

However, we know now that it took very strong individuals to overcome these challenges and many students didn't want to lose their culture and language. Some kept their language while others lost their language. Be that as it may, we have to overcome these barriers and we have now received an apology.

Last year, former residential school students in Pangnirtung gathered together to listen to the apology made by the Prime Minister so that we could offer support to one another and we viewed the event live at the school during his

apology. This experience scarred some of our people and has impacted their lives and families by creating difficulties.

However, we were informed recently that the *Official Languages Act* was concurred by Parliament, which will nurture and protect our language. We hear that this law will be passed and in those days, many of us thought we would never live to see this occur because the initial efforts were to stamp out our language.

The hearings to be conducted by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission...

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

Mr. Komoartok (interpretation): I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement, it's very brief.

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

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

In some ways, this has been a very large burden for former students. However, once the stories have been narrated to the commission and we include these stories as part of the Nunavut curriculum, it would be quite beneficial. This should be included in the curriculum as Inuit historical

experiences because of its tremendous impact on our culture and current problems.

We also recognize the impact it had on us, but we have to move beyond it and look to the future as this can help us move forward. For those of us who experienced this, let us get going, let us initiate our healing to overcome this era and not remain stuck in that period.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Item 4: Returns to Oral Questions

Return to Oral Question 057 – 3(2): Daycare Space in Chesterfield Inlet

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I reviewed the Blues from yesterday and the Member for Nanulik had asked if we can provide some funding to daycares.

I would like to correct my response as I stated that we would provide support to the communities who currently have no daycare centres. I stated that in error, so I need to make a correction.

I would like to include this response in the record: I should have said that the Department of Education has no funding for capital to build or construct units, but we can look for funds in instances where there is an interest to start a daycare centre. We can provide up to \$5,000 to

purchase items such as furniture or equipment for the daycare and we only provide support for that.

I just wanted to clarify this for the member. We don't have funding for capital items such as daycare construction and I just wanted to make that correction in our *Hansard*, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Returns to Oral Questions. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Ningark.

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to acknowledge Raymond Kayasark from Kugaaruk, who is a former residential school student from Chesterfield Inlet. He has been a mayor of the hamlet, he is currently the vice-president of the Kitikmeot Inuit Association, and he is also our local contractor for fuel distribution in Kugaaruk. I would like to recognize Raymond.

>>Applause

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

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 062 – 3(2): Residential Schools; Truth and Reconciliation Commission

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to apologize to my colleagues who had to go to residential schools at a very young age.

I am grateful in some ways that I was too young to attend residential school. However, even though many of us didn't go to the formal residential schools, we have been hurt as a result. It's obvious that for many, they have had to undergo tremendous challenges in their lives. I am very pleased to say that former students have called to make sure that they start healing and tell their stories of their experiences.

Now, we have been hearing that some former students refuse to become involved just because there will be no Inuit sitting on the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. I would prefer that those who were impacted narrate their experiences to the commission so that we may know what happened and they can start overcoming this.

I would like to ask the Premier if she will be encouraging the federal government to proceed with the process here in Nunavut and to have the Truth and Reconciliation Commission visit our communities so that former students can relate their experiences. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, this is

very important for former students that would like to start healing. I'm supportive of any way or form that we can provide support to former students so that they can move forward. Thank you.

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

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to thank the Premier for that answer. People undergoing problems have to overcome them. Will you be encouraging the Truth and Reconciliation Commission to visit all of the communities in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

An Hon. Member: Hear, hear.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Premier Aariak.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I said, this is a very important process. We will provide support in any way or form, especially to Inuit who went through this, and make certain that we encourage the commission to consult these former students. Thank you.

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

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When you talk about your issues, you can start healing and overcome your burden. I have experienced that myself. So I'm urging the government to welcome the Truth and Reconciliation Commission to make sure that the former students speak to them.

I know the commission will face many challenges, but we will try to provide support to them and all former students. I know that it will be difficult for some to open up to the commission but let us also extend our support for them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Okalik. I didn't hear a question, but if you would like to respond, Premier Aariak.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, this is a very good forum to start working on and his comments are well noted. Thank you.

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

Question 063 – 3(2): Status of Study of Access Houses

Mr. Ningeongan (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This past winter, I tabled a document and spoke with the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation in regard to access housing. I was made to understand that they are reviewing that issue.

The previous homeownership program used to be called HAP housing and many people who have used the access program stated that their expenses are much higher than the HAP houses. This was apparently studied.

So I would like to ask the minister if he has a timeline with respect to the completion of the review and whether he will be tabling the results of the review in the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, I thank the member for raising that very important issue to homeowners, not only in his community but I think it's on behalf of all homeowners throughout the territory.

Mr. Speaker, the district staff are arranging to have blower door tests done on some of the units that the member had indicated and that test is a very preliminary type test to be done on checking on energy efficiency and leakage of heat.

The corporation since then, realizing that that information itself doesn't provide a clear enough picture of exactly what is causing the problems, is currently in negotiations right now with CMHC to have them have someone go in and do a complete energy audit.

Not only on the access units in the member's community but it will be an energy audit of all the homes in the community of Coral Harbour, with the understanding that it will give us a better picture of not only the access houses but it will be done to public housing units as well as other homeownership units and all of the units in the community.

It will give us a better understanding of exactly where the issues are. Once the results of that are done, hopefully we will be able to come up with a plan to deal with the problems that are identified. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Ningeongan (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The minister didn't seem to respond to my original question. I asked the minister when he will be tabling that information in the House. Maybe if I ask him: when will you be completing the review? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Tootoo.

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish I could tell the member exactly when that will be done, but as I indicated, the corporation is negotiating with CMHC to come to an agreement to have a complete energy audit done of the entire community.

I can inform the member that as soon as any agreement has been made, I will inform the member of when that happens and when the plans are to go in and do the audits in the community of Coral Harbour. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Ningeongan (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I stated last winter, the access houses are now being the vehicle for homeownership. For many years, it was becoming apparent even prior to the audit that these units are worse than any of the HAP housing units. This aspect is fairly well known.

I rise today, Mr. Speaker, to say that people obtaining access housing in

Nunavut are fairly numerous and this is a program used to initiate homeownership. The evidence that the access units are more expensive to maintain is causing future homeowners to question their purchase of these units. This places them in an unenviable position as future homeowners.

With respect to that study and as per my previous statement, an access housing unit in Coral Harbour was found to have no vapour barrier when they tore down part of the wall to make repairs. After the energy audit is completed, will these people who have access housing be provided with some form of support? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Tootoo.

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Sorry about that, ladies and everyone else who had their earpiece on.

Mr. Speaker, I again thank the member for raising that very important issue. I do understand and appreciate him bringing this issue forward on behalf of his constituents. As I had indicated, as a result of the member's inquiries into the circumstances and the situation dealing with access units in his community, the corporation is committed to getting a complete energy audit done.

The preliminary blower door tests that I talked about earlier indicated that most of the leakage was around the windows and doors. Further testing with these energy audits will clearly determine exactly how much is being leaked and if it's being leaked from any other areas.

As the member indicated, there are some issues with the vapour barrier, but once the exact problem has been identified as a result of these energy audits, the corporation will likely look at putting together a plan to deal with the problem depending on the severity of it. But until those energy audits are done and the results are in, we won't know.

I will commit to the member that once we know when exactly our agreement is in place with CMHC, I will provide him with that information and also when they're looking at getting someone to come into his community so that he can ensure that they look at the exact units of the people whose issues that he's bringing forward. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 064 – 3(2): Funding for Sports and Special Occasions

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Hon. Louis Tapardjuk.

Yesterday, in my Member's Statement, I stated that residents of Repulse Bay and Kugaaruk are requesting more funds for hockey or volleyball tournaments from his department. They also asked about funding coordinators for Christmas celebrations.

I would like to ask the minister if he can provide us with an application form or if the department is willing to provide support to the athletes' travel for sports

to other regions during celebrations as well as for Christmas events. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth has contribution funds for athletes who are going to play sports at the regional level. They can access the funds by way of an application.

In regard to his other question about funding celebration events such as during Christmas, the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth doesn't provide funding for those types of events, but we provide funding for other sports events and traditional games.

So they can apply for funding for such events, but we don't have any funding for celebrations during Christmas. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the minister for his response in that the department has funds. Maybe he can provide me with some more information by correspondence. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Minister Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are various contribution funds that we have in our department and if you don't have that information, I will provide all of that information to you. Perhaps I will provide all members with information on what kinds of funds we have made available. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 065 – 3(2): Dry Cargo Resupply Program

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

For the last couple of years, the Minister of CGS has tabled an annual activity report on the dry cargo resupply program, which we commonly refer to as the sealift. Can the minister tell me if he will be tabling the latest report before the end of this month? 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 Baker Lake for asking that question. (interpretation ends) The department has completed the report, Mr. Speaker. However, it is in the hands of translators and hopefully it will be ready for tabling as early as the fall session. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also want to thank the minister for the response. Last week, the GN's new Nunavut Transportation Strategy was tabled in the Legislative Assembly by the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation.

One of the proposed actions in the strategy is to enhance the current marine resupply system. Can the minister indicate to me how the departments of CGS and ED&T are working together on this issue? Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank you again for the question. You are right, that department is definitely the lead on the marine infrastructure issues. However, having said that, Mr. Speaker, we are in discussions with them to see how we could better work together once the new infrastructure comes into place. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister for that response as well. I guess people are just curious to know what the options are as private and business owners are inquiring about the information that I'm asking.

For supplementary, earlier this week, during the proceedings of the Committee of the Whole, a number of questions

were asked concerning the open market feasibility study that the Department of Community and Government Services plans to undertake. Can the minister indicate to me if his department will be doing this work itself or will it be contracted to a consultant to perform? Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you again, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for the question. With respect to the open market feasibility study, an RFP process has been completed, the contract has been awarded, and work will be starting within the next two weeks, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Your final supplementary, Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister for responding to that. I will be following up with a question later on this week with that response the minister provided.

Mr. Speaker, summer is only days away and Nunavummiut are looking forward to replenishing their shelves and restocking their sealift rooms. Can the minister indicate if residents of the Kivalliq can expect any changes to this year's sealift with respect to such matters as routes and carriers? Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you. Thank you for the question. I was looking out my window last night and this morning while I was having coffee,

it looks like summer is a little later this year than usual.

Thank you for the question. With respect to the Kivalliq sealift, the GN contract remains as it has been for the past few years. With competition, however, the region is being served by a number of carriers at this time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 066 – 3(2): Status of Sealskins in North Bay

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

Last winter, you made an announcement in regard to sealskins that were shipped south, both tanned and non-tanned skins, that were not purchased at the auction and that they would be sold here in Nunavut.

I would like an update on the status of these skins, whether people have purchased any skins or if they are not ordering them. 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 a good question. The status of the sealskin market is very poor right now. Yes, we do have sealskins down in the North Bay Auction House.

We have now implemented again a program that we are allowing all Nunavutmiut to purchase sealskins back at a reduced rate. I don't have an updated status on that right at the present, but I'm enquiring and I'm going to find out that information and see from the auction house what interest has been shown by the people of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Komoartok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the minister for his response. The reason why I ask is that based on my experience, most people prefer to look at, handle, and check the quality of the material prior to making a purchase.

I would like to tell the minister that there would be a lot more skins sold if people can see the skins and bring them up to the headquarters like Iqaluit, Cambridge Bay, and Rankin Inlet. The people of Nunavut are more interested in purchasing skins when they can see them and they would pay for them right there.

If it takes a long time to order sealskins, then I would suggest that you bring the sealskins to regional headquarters like Iqaluit, Rankin Inlet, and Cambridge Bay since many Inuit from the outlying communities tend to pass through these gateway centres.

If it takes a long time to order sealskins, I would recommend that the GN undertake to have these sealskins shipped to regional centres in Nunavut as more people would be able to purchase them. Can the minister commit

to reviewing this if the process of ordering is too long? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understand the member's concern and I agree that there may be some time involved, but I think we have to give this program a chance; it was just initiated again to see how it works.

I also think that there could be problems in that the orders would go in and then the sealskins are tanned to supply back to the people of Nunavut. There would be a cost involved to have the sealskins tanned, but we don't know how many people want back.

But I take his comment well and I think we should be prudent and review the process to see how it's working and then if there are challenges, we could address it at that time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 067 – 3(2): H1N1 Virus Update

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question today is for the Minister responsible for Health and Social Services.

The H1N1 virus has been on constant rise for the last week throughout Nunavut and has recently been upgraded to a pandemic by the World Health Organization. Can the minister update

the House on the latest statistics on the effects of H1N1 on the people of Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you. (interpretation) I fully understand his question and I would like to inform the member that we have been getting daily announcements.

The chief medical health officer sends out press releases every afternoon at two o'clock on what is happening in Nunavut and if the H1N1 cases are increasing. There will be another press release today. But I can tell the members today that we have been receiving press releases daily and we have a press release for today.

I can tell the member that the H1N1 cases are increasing in Nunavut and I heard this morning that there are two additional cases. It would be better if the number of cases were reducing, but to date, there are 145 cases of the H1N1 flu virus in Nunavut. Thank you.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for updating us. Your department has not made public which communities are affected by the H1N1 virus. Will your department be releasing which communities are affected any time in the near future? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understand his question. We haven't considered making public which communities are affected because there are not too many cases of H1N1. Furthermore, there are privacy issues that we have to consider as well. For that reason, we're not going to publicize which communities have been affected. Thank you.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My next question is just so that we can understand the process. From the time that somebody is tested in the community to the time where they are tested either positive or negative, what is the timeline for this? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you. Mr. Speaker, I think the member should really be asking the local medical officials about that because they are pretty well informed exactly what they should be doing, but I will get back to the member on the specific question with respect to the medical procedure. Thank you.

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

Question 068 – 3(2): Home Care Workers for High Arctic Communities

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to continue with the question I had started yesterday and it's directed to the Minister of Health and Social Services, the Hon. Tagak Curley.

In Grise Fiord and Resolute Bay, we do not have any home care workers and the situation for both of those communities is compounded because there is no community health representative and there are also no social workers. What are the guidelines for communities to be able to receive home care workers in their community? Thank you.

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

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you. In regard to your question, the workers that you mentioned are working really hard in the communities and we try to provide home care workers to take care of elders. We would like to see an increase in the number of workers because more communities are requiring home care workers and some of them need more than one.

In your community, from what I can understand, I can say that there's a requirement to have a home care worker to take care of the people who are housebound. We are currently reviewing the community that you mentioned. We will keep you informed and give you updates as they come up. Thank you.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for that answer. I was wondering if the minister would be able to tell me what type of a timeframe I would be looking at before I would hear back from him on that. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Speaker, I think we are all aware that when you create positions within the government, those positions aren't opened right away. There are currently vacancies in the government and the members on that side advised us not to create any further PYs while there are still vacant positions not being filled. We will respect that advice.

But I can tell the member that in the community of Grise Fiord, we might possibly get a home care worker on a casual basis at the beginning. We will have to work on these issues first of all and it will probably take about six months to fill the permanent position. So in the interim, we will use a casual position in Grise Fiord. Thank you.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that statement. I'm sure the people in Grise Fiord will be extremely happy.

So I guess we will work and hopefully have something happen in Resolute Bay as well because I know there are some residents there who require home care. It puts a lot of strain on the family and if people are working, it actually doesn't allow them to provide the care and I

think it actually builds a little bit of guilt because they feel that they wish they could do more for their family but they are not able to.

In your answer to my question, you stated that there's an increase for the requests for home care workers across the territory in all communities. Now that I have dealt with my two communities that have a concern for this, is the government looking at some type of a strategy to work towards home care or long-term care for, as you mentioned, our elders but also people who have disabilities or people who require home care on a long-term basis? Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Speaker, I agree to that and it's currently in our plans. Since we don't have a long-term strategy for home care workers, our department will have to deal with it directly and work on a strategy.

I can say though that we are getting \$5.4 million from the federal government for community and home care, and we also supplement it by \$2.7 million. We would like to see this as an ongoing program and we would like to see home care workers in all Nunavut communities. We will be putting together a long-term strategy for home care. Thank you.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for that explanation. That's

great that there's going to be more money for communities all across Nunavut.

I was just wondering if the minister could indicate if he has any idea of what timeframe the strategy will take to have it tabled in the House. Will it be developed in lightning speed like the Minister of Finance's strategy that is completed already or will it lag like some of the other reports that haven't been? Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I haven't talked to the Minister of Finance about these issues. I can't say what timeframe we have, but it's one of the priorities of our department and we are well aware of the elders, or housebound people, or the people with chronic diseases who need proper home care.

We will probably put together a strategy by the fall because of its priority and once it's completed, I will table it in the House. Thank you.

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

Question 069 – 3(2): Official Languages Act

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the Minister of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth for making an announcement about the concurrence by Parliament and that our *Official Languages Act* is now ours to implement.

My question is: when are we going to be implementing the *Official Languages Act*? It's very important and July 9 is also a very important day for Nunavut. Is it possible to have the *Nunavut Official Languages Act* implemented on that date? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister of Languages, (interpretation ends) Hon. Louis Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the member for that question. Just yesterday, the Senate Committee approved the *Official Languages Act* and it will become official once it is signed by the Governor General.

Mr. Speaker, I wanted to clarify that we have to plan on how we are going to implement the *Official Languages Act* because it's quite clear in there that the Minister of Languages has to complete a plan by March 2010 on how the Act is going to be implemented and then we will know at that time.

We will also hold a major conference in the fall about the implementation of the *Official Languages Act*. The government and private businesses will be included in this major conference.

The *Official Languages Act* will have an effect on three sectors - the Legislative Assembly, the Government of Nunavut, and court services. These three are the foundation where we will start from with respect to the legislation concurred to yesterday and we are going to start planning.

From my perspective, if members would like to make a special announcement

about this legislation on July 9, then we can do that. Even though it's not going to be ready by then, we will be working on the plans to have the Act implemented. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 070 – 3(2): Regulations for Official Languages Act

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth as well, the Hon. Louis Tapardjuk.

Has the Government of Nunavut created all of the regulations required to enforce the Act? Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister of Languages, (interpretation ends) Hon. Louis Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, I would like to thank the member. We had a meeting in Arctic Bay on language issues, which the member attended, and the Nunavut Quest dog race was just getting underway when we had that meeting to start planning on how to implement the legislation.

In regard to regulations, we will be having regional meetings so that the *Official Languages Act* is fully understood by the people out there. It's going to be some time in 2009, but we still haven't picked a date for the final conference.

But with regulations, the Minister of Languages will have to put together a plan. Once we start implementing the Act, we will also have to work on the regulations. It will clearly identify policies or regulations that will have to be amended and those are going to be identified in the plan, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank you for the answer. I realize that I'm still learning all of the aspects of the different... there are two, the *Official Languages Act* and there is also the *Inuit Language Protection Act*. I think sometimes I get them confused, so you might have to excuse my ignorance on this part of it.

But when it talks about Inuit languages, we're talking about Inuktitut and Inuinnaqtun. Is that correct? Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Yes, that's correct. When we are talking about Inuit languages in Nunavut, we are referring to the language spoken by Nunavummiut, Inuktitut and Inuinnaqtun. The recognized Inuit languages are Inuktitut and Inuinnaqtun and whenever we refer to the Inuit language, that is what we are alluding to, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank you for that answer. It's an interesting learning experience to go

through this and it's amazing to see the Government of Canada, with the concurrence, is allowing us to take this sort of bold step and there are a lot of opportunities that are coming up.

But the last question that I actually would like to ask is just so that I have total clarification. In terms of printing material in the Inuit language, will that be in syllabics, or will that be in Roman orthography, or will that be in both? Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Inuinnaqtun will be in Roman orthography or *Qaliujaqpait*, which is the Inuktitut term for Roman orthography. We have the Roman orthography and the syllabics writing system. The correct term for syllabics is *Qaniujaqpait*. Even though I'm the Minister of Languages, I'm not quite sure which term is which.

Mr. Speaker, we are going to establish a language authority called *Taiguusiliuqtiit* and this authority is going to have a lot of work to do in standardizing the writing system. We will also have to realize and decide which writing system the government is going to be using. Regulations, policies, government operations, and even schools will have to decide which writing system they will use.

Those are going to be the responsibility of *Taiguusiliuqtiit*, the Inuit Language Authority. They will have to work on these matters that the member asked about and that's a major responsibility that they will have to take on to clarify

them and there are still many details that they will have to work on in the near future, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Elliott: Sorry, I said I wasn't going to ask any more questions. Is this all within the timeframe? You had mentioned, I believe, March of 2010 is when everything and all of the consultation will be taken care of. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Starting from now up to the time of the conference, we're going to be performing all of the logistical work and I think there's some consulting going on to identify the impacts.

Before March 2010, we will have to have a plan in place and completed by the Minister of Languages, which has to include all of the areas that need changes. It will identify who is going to be affected or who may have concerns about the legislation and its implementation.

We will use conferences or other means of working on this plan for implementing the legislation and it will outline what our expectations are. Prior to that, we have to have a plan in place which will include the kind of details that the member was asking about. Only when that plan has been completed will we be able to provide an answer on the details, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 071 – 3(2): Inuktitut Language Instruction in Schools

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to Mr. Tapardjuk. I think it's his day today.

I would like to ask a question to the Hon. Tapardjuk as he is the Minister of Languages as well as Education. As was stated earlier, a reference was made about the Senate approving the *Official Languages Act* and concurrence of Parliament. I don't want to dwell on the actual terms.

My question is: does this mean that the usage of Inuktitut will be strengthened in the schools? That's my question, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Minister of Education, (interpretation ends) Hon. Louis Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are two pieces of language legislation that we are very proud of and as I stated earlier, the *Official Languages Act* received concurrence yesterday.

Further, this winter, the *Education Act* was passed and it identifies the requirement for Inuktitut and curricula to be taught in the schools. When the Department of Education goes in front of the Committee of the Whole to have its appropriation approved, we will identify the number of additional teachers we

may require in order to fully implement this legislation.

This means that we will require more funding in order to have the Inuktitut curricula worked on and the other matters that require planning. At that time, we will give you definite numbers. As I stated earlier, it says specifically in the *Education Act* that Inuktitut is a requirement in the schools, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for his response and it was quite clear. I'm not only talking about Inuit practices but the Inuit language within the schools as well.

The minister made reference to Inuit and we can teach Inuit practices, such as hunting, land, and survival skills. What I wanted to know was the actual language and if we will be strengthening the usage of the Inuit language within the schools.

Will the federal government be providing more funding to the Nunavut government for the implementation of the two pieces of language legislation? Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the *Education Act*, there's a clause that we can have Inuktitut language instructors who are unilingual and may even be preferable in some cases. We will have to also deal with the details of how we will hire Inuktitut instructors, especially

elders who cannot speak English but can teach Inuktitut.

In these plans, the goal is to have students fully bilingual in English and Inuktitut. If we are to have this goal and plan for this result, we also have to look at the number of instructors down the road. There are quite a number of details we have to work on in order to implement it fully. In the Act, it states specifically what should be implemented at certain times. There are timelines set for the implementation of the Act.

Yes, it's true that we don't see a lot of money specifically for Inuktitut services from the federal government, but we do get larger chunks of money for French services. We hope to negotiate an agreement with the federal government after it's approved by Parliament and take additional action at that time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister very much for his response. I believe he was talking about planning. Are you now preparing plans already or will that happen at a later date, or are you going to wait for the concurrence of the *Official Languages Act* from Ottawa?

Are you already making plans so that unilingual Inuit elders will be instructors in the schools? Have these plans been initiated or is it just starting? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Yes, we are already doing the planning and I believe it is set for July 9. It will be in July anyway because we will have to implement the Act. Cabinet has approved the policies as it is a requirement. We are moving on it and we are also looking at the month of July to have it implemented for the *Education Act*, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 072 – 3(2): GN Response to PETA’s Cartoon

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed towards the Hon. Minister Daniel Shewchuk, Minister of Environment. It also may be a side note for Madam Premier.

In relation to seals on this morning’s CBC report, a story states that the People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, better known as PETA, has launched a website and has a cartoon depicting Inuit as barbarians with clubs.

An Hon. Member: Shame, shame.

Mr. Aupaluktuq: I just thought that the minister should know as well that this is being advertised on the Internet and it is a website called, “Olympic Shame 2010,” and I’ll quote briefly a couple of sentences in the animation.

There’s a cartoon there in the animation of an Inuksuk swinging a club at a seal and a pool of blood. And the other quote here as well, an animation on the site

also shows Inuit with seal blood dripping from their hands and mouths, wielding Stone Age clubs.

I want to ask the hon. minister: will the minister or his department make an official response to this PETA anti-sealing campaign and website on behalf of Nunavummiut? Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do have the information in front of me that the member has provided and I say yes, we will make a response to this. Thank you.

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

Mr. Aupaluktuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What the anti-seal lobbyists are doing has a major impact on Nunavummiut and on Inuit culture. It clearly shows gross misunderstanding of the cultural practices and how seals are utilized by Inuit.

In the Olympics coming up in 2010, the Inuksuk is going to be the official symbol. We will have to give our support and educate the outside world about Inuit and our culture, and that we do not play with animals that are our food. I wanted to make this statement publicly due to their antics.

What has been put on the Internet by PETA is extremely negative. So I would like to urge the minister or his department to make a response to this

anti-sealing campaign. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I assure the member that we will respond to this. I find it very disgraceful, this PETA website they have formed and the information the member supplied to me.

We will make a response and we will voice our concerns to the Vancouver Olympic Committee and we will ask for the support of Canada to stand behind us too. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 073 – 3(2): Further Review of Fuel Prices

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, I would like to thank the Minister responsible for the Petroleum Products Division. The hunters especially will be very happy with the fuel price reduction in the statement you made earlier. I wish to provide more support and thereby, I'm asking questions to the minister.

This past winter, the minister stated that they are going to keep an eye out on the fuel prices and with the reduction again today, we will know only in November exactly how much we will pay for fuel for all of Nunavut.

So I would like to ask the minister: if there is a further decrease prior to November, will you make an additional

review of the fuel prices and see if there will be a further reduction for next winter? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank Mr. Okalik for posing that very good question. Yes, our purchasing activities of bulk fuel are continuing. To date, we were able to make a reduction.

However, we have to remember that we will only have bought the entire bulk fuel after the last ship has left for the North. At that point, if there's an opportunity to further cut prices, we will do another review.

What we have done to date is because of the changes in prices. If there's a possibility for further price cuts, we will only know after the last ship has left with our bulk fuel. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 074 – 3(2): Structurally Insulated Panelized System Housing Units

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the housing minister, the Hon. Hunter Tootoo, and it's in regard to the \$100 million in new funds that the federal government is giving to housing.

In that sheet that he sent us there, Cape Dorset is getting nine individual houses and my understanding is that the panels are going to be prefabricated for the exterior of the units.

Earlier on the year, the minister had stated that they were going to do an experimental unit and try to put it together. My question is: has that been done yet? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. The specific project that the member is referring to is going to be going up in Arviat this coming summer, where there is going to be a SIP panel constructed unit and a conventional stick-built unit right beside it.

This project is being sponsored by the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation and that's where most of the funding is flowing through for that particular project. They have agreed to, throughout the length of not only the construction but after the construction, monitor on an ongoing basis the differences in fuel efficiency and every other aspect of that unit for their purposes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wonder if the hon. member could tell us who manufactured the panels for this experimental unit. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Tootoo.

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Off the tip of my tongue and the top of my head, I don't recall the exact name of the firm, but I believe the firm was either out of Alberta or Manitoba that provided the SIP unit. I will confirm with the member exactly which company it was and where they're from. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the hon. member: was this tendered or quoted, or was it invitational? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Tootoo.

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I indicated in my previous comments, I don't want to misinform the member or give him misleading information. I don't recall exactly what type of method that was used and whether that was done through the Nunavut Housing Corporation or through CMHC for that, but I will commit to getting that information and providing it to the member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Thank you, Mr. Schell. (interpretation) Please note that Question Period is now over. Going to Item 7. Written Questions. (interpretation ends) Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Item 10. Replies to Budget Address. Mr. Elliott.

Item 10: Replies to Budget Address

**Reply to Budget Address 001 – 3(2):
Mr. Ron Elliott**

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present a reply to the Government of Nunavut's 2009-2010 Budget Address.

Mr. Speaker, it's unfortunate that the Government of Nunavut will be forecasting a deficit of \$29.1 million. It is a sign of the times though. If you look at the Government of Canada, they too forecast a deficit in their budget. I have never quite understood this concept of governments and the ability to run in debts.

In business, you can run into a deficit position, but if you do run too long in a debt, you are no longer in business. I think our government should strive to work within a balanced budget. Mr. Speaker, I am happy to see that the Government of Nunavut has stated that it will not allow this deficit to continue forever.

I applaud the government for having forward thinking, for working through the principles of *Tamapta*, and for looking towards the year 2030. Change takes time and we have seen that over the past ten years. Progress has been made, but there has been so much to change. Nunavut is still a young territory. Guided by *Tamapta*, I feel we are working towards a better Nunavut.

We do enjoy a high quality of life within our rich and vibrant territory. Our people are known internationally and our families are close. We are active, healthy, and happy. Our communities continue to grow and as the years roll on, we will depend less upon the

government as we become more self-reliant. I hope that the government will allow us to grow.

I have seen this many times in watching families. Parents wish for their children to grow and become independent, but as their children do grow, a fear of letting go and losing control scares them. I hope that our government will continue to boldly step out and allow our communities to freely make decisions that benefit them.

I believe the minister is correct in stating that the Nunavut economy is in reasonably good shape. I know that I have been criticized for putting down the past government and if that is what people feel, I must apologize.

Our economy is in a good state that it is because of the hard work and dedication of the previous government. To have our territory in the shape that it is in during this serious global recession is a testament to the foresight of that government. I trust that this government will learn from their wise choices.

Mr. Speaker, my constituents are pleased that the government is taking steps to protect Nunavummiut from the turbulence of the global energy market. By introducing the one-time homeowner energy rebate worth \$400 per household, this allows a tremendous savings for homeowners.

To help Nunavummiut get out on the land, the government reduced the price of gasoline by 10 cents in March and there is also the fuel tax rebate. I was going to suggest that the government reconsider lowering the price of gasoline even more during this season so that

families can enjoy more time out on the land, but the Hon. Lorne Kusugak, the Minister of CGS, in his Minister's Statement today, announced that 10-cent reduction. So thank you for that.

>> *Applause*

Mr. Speaker, I believe the government when it says, "We see the benefit of Inuit knowledge and culture and of consulting communities and interest groups about their needs and views." This has been demonstrated already in the drafting of *Tamapta* and now, under the leadership of the Premier, the preparing of the report card that will highlight the government's strengths and weaknesses. I hope this open and free sharing of ideas continues as this government grows over the coming years.

I am glad that the government sees the value of investing in our small communities, our small businesses, and our cultural industries.

In Quttiktuq, my constituents are working hard at creating opportunities. The community economic development committee, under the supervision of the community economic development officers, is building capacity within the community by partnering with a wide range of business and government sectors. I am pleased to say that there are many exciting opportunities before us.

As members are well aware, the Arctic Fisheries Alliance is a partnership between the HTOs of four Nunavut communities. These communities are Grise Fiord, Resolute Bay, Arctic Bay, and Qikiqtarjuaq.

The Arctic Fisheries Alliance has received a portion of Nunavut's turbot quota. They continue to work hard to get a fair share of that quota and I am concerned at just how that quota is allocated. I trust that the government will continue to monitor this allocation process so that all applicants are given their fair share of the quota allocations.

The alliance is committed to providing much needed training and employment opportunities for Inuit and I support their efforts wholeheartedly. Government financial support will be needed to assist this initiative.

I am pleased that the minister has stated that through their dialogue with the federal government, the Strategic Investment in Northern Economic Development Program has been renewed for a period of five more years. As well, the Government of Nunavut will continue to match this federal program with the \$4 million strategic investment program, creating a substantial source of funds that can contribute to business and economic development in the territory.

Mr. Speaker, the House is well aware of the successful results of the High Arctic Council meeting held here in Iqaluit on Thursday, February 26. The meeting brought together the mayors and SAOs of my three communities of Grise Fiord, Resolute Bay, and Arctic Bay, the airlines, the territorial government with the attendance of Minister Taptuna and his staff, and the federal government with the attendance of Senator Adams and his staff.

The council continues to meet and is trying to push their issues forward. It is these types of determined cooperative

and collaborative teamwork that will make our three communities grow. Mr. Speaker, the success of these meetings has seen the Government of Nunavut tender a terms of reference to study and come up with a High Arctic Transportation Strategy.

Mr. Speaker, the High Arctic communities which I represent are increasingly in the national spotlight as our country becomes increasingly aware of the importance of arctic sovereignty.

I continue to meet on a regular basis with Brigadier General Millar, Commander of Canadian Forces Joint Task Force North. The Department of National Defence has a very big presence in each of my communities and it is great to have the support of the Canadian Rangers Program in all three of the communities.

The Nanisivik Naval Port Project in Arctic Bay, the Winter Welfare Training Centre in Resolute Bay, and the Alert Project in both the communities of Grise Fiord and Resolute Bay - all of these projects show the collaborative networking that I referred to earlier. Mr. Speaker, this speaks to the dedication and determination of my constituents.

Mr. Speaker, recent federal announcements and initiatives concerning the High Arctic are of tremendous importance to my constituents. I see a need for federal, territorial, and local leaders to continue to work closely together on such issues as infrastructure development and use. I am pleased to see that the Government of Nunavut is continuing with its open dialogue with the federal government.

Mr. Speaker, the minister states that despite the downturn of the economy, he is encouraged by what he hears from the mining industry about how they view tomorrow. We see this in how the Baffinland iron ore mine is operating this year. The company continues to seek financial backing to begin production; the company continues to move forward.

While it continues to work on securing the financing it requires, the company is working on developing and training its local Inuit labour force. It is working with the Government of Nunavut to provide these educational training and mentoring opportunities. I trust that the Government of Nunavut will support these ventures and allow as many of our constituents to become trained and ready to enter the wage economy.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, in terms of financial and economic opportunities for the communities of Quttiktuq, we hope to be the successful bidders in the federal government's commitment to a High Arctic Research Centre. By locating the High Arctic...

>> *Applause*

>> *Laughter*

Thank you. By locating the High Arctic Research Centre in Resolute Bay, the federal government would not only be living up to its sovereignty promise of over 50 years, it would also be providing economic and educational support to all three of my communities.

I look forward to seeing the new tourism strategy once the document has been completed. We need to find ways to

continue to open our communities to the world. There is a lot of interest internationally in Nunavut and to be able to capture that audience and have them share the beauty of our land would be a great economic opportunity.

As well, it would be an excellent learning opportunity. If we are able to have people come to Nunavut and understand our way of life, our values, and our communities, then that layer of ignorance that seems to exist would disappear.

For example, if many Europeans could see past the 'bleeding heart smokescreen' of the propaganda produced by animal rights activists, we would not be experiencing the hardship created by the EU sealskin ban.

An Hon. Member: Hear, hear.

>> *Applause*

Mr. Elliott: I am pleased that the government will further advance our cultural industries. In Grise Fiord, through the hard work of Jimmy Qaapik and local artists, they have a very successful arts and crafts society. In Arctic Bay, they are working on developing a soapstone quarry.

Mr. Speaker, I am sure members will remember one of my young constituents, Cassidy MacDonald from Qamartalik School in Resolute Bay, who was one of the winners of the Speaker's Nunavut at 10 essay competition.

Mr. Speaker, I feel that the minister is correct when he says that we are lagging in areas such as health care. By saying this, I am in no way making reference to

the excellent health care services that our health care professionals provide on a daily basis. I am continually amazed at what our health care professionals are able to accomplish with the resources they are provided.

For example, in Grise Fiord and Resolute Bay, both communities are without community health care representatives and social workers, and have been without for some time. This means that the work of these positions falls on the staff already there. It must feel overwhelming at times.

Another example is that both Grise Fiord and Resolute Bay are without home care workers. Again, I urge the government, through Health and Social Services, to seriously look at how the government will handle long-term care of individuals in our communities because honestly, at this time, our government is failing our residents.

Long-term care, especially our elders, usually means that they no longer stay residents of our communities and are forced to move out of the territory to spend the last days of their lives alone and away from family.

Mr. Speaker, health care professionals require proper facilities in which to work to provide proper medical care. I am sure the House is well aware of the fact that Arctic Bay is in need of a replacement health centre.

I am encouraged that the minister speaks of proper planning so that capital projects can be carried out. I trust that this planning will continue so that residents in my community of Arctic Bay will be able to receive care in their

new health care centre that was promised to them.

Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased that the government is putting more resources into mental health. I know for many, this area seems to be seen as taboo and if you use the resources provided by mental health workers, people feel there is something wrong with them. I think we need to get over this stereotype and realize that many of our deep-rooted social problems are caused by deep-rooted hurt, pain, suffering, and anguish.

To seek help is not to show weakness, it is a sign of strength and self-love. Healing does not happen overnight and I am encouraged that extra support is being given in these areas.

I would also note that perhaps it is time to revisit the *Mental Health Act* as it is old, cumbersome, and very archaic. On forms used by mental health workers, they still have the Government of the Northwest Territories logo on them and make reference to the years of 1900s.

I am encouraged that the government will be making amendments to the *Child and Family Services Act* as they work towards supporting our children and youth. I am sure that by doing this exercise, they will come to realize the need for an independent youth and children advocate office.

Mr. Speaker, our government will set up a social advocacy office to identify vulnerable people who need help. I say this is a good start but is way off on having social issues dealt with at the grassroots level. A one-stop shop for all social issues is not the way to go. This office would be bombarded with many

questions pertaining to a wide range of social issues. With such a high volume of varied and different issues, the process would become bogged down and inefficient.

We have heard in standing committees, Committee of the Whole, during sessions, and even with the Auditor General of Canada that we have serious human resource and capacity issues. I asked the question: if we have a social advocate office, how would we begin to staff this office? To deal with issues, we must deal with them in smaller, manageable chunks.

Since youth are our highest population, I strongly feel that we need an independent youth and child advocate office to help our youth. Our government is willing to pay \$200,000 to support homelessness, how come we are unable to find funding within our budget to support our youth? How can we put a price tag on the social well-being and safety of our young people? By giving our youth a voice, we will help them realize their potential.

As the minister said, "Our wildlife, our fish, and our natural resources are part of our environmental heritage. They require our continued attention and protection." The minister is correct. We live in the most beautiful territory in Canada and that is why, in the High Arctic, the protection of the international waters of the Canadian Northwest Passage is so important.

We are encouraged in Quttiktuq that the Minister of the Environment will be inviting different government agencies in all levels of government as well as international agencies to work together

on a mock oil spill cleanup exercise in Quttiktuq.

My grandfather used to say, “Hope for the best and plan for the worst.” We hope that we never have to deal with an oil spill in our territory, but the lessons that can be learned by preparing for the future will be invaluable.

We are excited that constituents of the High Arctic will be included in this exercise. It will be our communities that will be the first responders to these types of incidences as we live in the communities and continue to assert arctic sovereignty on a daily basis.

Mr. Speaker, in keeping with the Government of Nunavut’s blueprint for recycling, I feel that the government should bring forward new legislation that requires businesses that bring over 50,000 cans of pop or canned items into the territory to provide recycling services even if it is something as simple as a manual can crushing operation where residents can get involved in every community to support recycling.

We have empty sea cans leaving the community annually that could be filled with recyclable materials. The money generated from the sales of these recyclable materials could be used to support the many worthwhile, struggling Nunavut non-profit organizations, such as the Ilisaqsivik Society in Clyde River or perhaps the Nunavut Disabilities Society. Mr. Speaker, I am sure that no businesses within Nunavut would object to providing this service to our communities since it has such a beneficial impact on our sustainable future.

I am encouraged that the Government of Nunavut has made commitments towards reaching sound environmental goals.

As mentioned earlier, all Nunavummiut should be allowed to participate in recycling in our territory. We will need our communities to work with the departments of Community and Government Services, Education, Economic Development and Transportation, and the Liquor Commission. I would also ask the government to not forget to look towards the support that the business economy can provide. By working together, we will find workable ways to protect the environment from the by-products of our modern lives.

Mr. Speaker, I am glad that the Government of Nunavut is working to improve upon how the government reports to Nunavummiut so that they produce financial statements on time. I know that the standing committees have made many recommendations to the government in terms of tabling documents on time to continue work on holding the government accountable to the people of Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, it’s encouraging to see that the Housing Corporation will continue to build houses within the territory. I am encouraged that there is work towards providing training to the Apprenticeship Program.

I believe the minister has been quoted as saying that 51 apprentices have been announced and they’re working towards their apprenticeships. I would ask sometimes that possibly those numbers are misleading.

I would hope that the minister would be able to provide us with more detailed information on what level these apprentices are at. Are they merely apprentices who have passed their pre-trades entrance exams or are they at all levels, level 1, 2, 3, 4, within their particular trade?

Mr. Speaker, Minister Tapardjuk, in his Minister's Statement today, had brought us the excellent news to the House and to all of Nunavut that the *Inuit Language Protection Act* has received concurrence. This is an amazing opportunity for our territory and I am pleased that the government is in support of such ventures.

Mr. Speaker, I am encouraged that the GN is working towards justice and social issues. I feel that it should be more proactive in its current preventative measures. I would like to suggest that perhaps the Department of Justice could adopt one of its Nunavut Arctic College Nunavut-developed prior learning assessment recognition programs within the court system to provide education opportunities to inmates.

I am pleased to see that the RCMP is offering the Summer Student Cadet Program again this year. I believe the minister stated that \$200,000 is going to this project and it's an amazing investment towards our youth. I feel this is money well spent.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to working with the Government of Nunavut in the spirit of *Tamapta*. We can and will do this together. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Replies to Budget Address. Mr. Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like unanimous consent to go back to Item 5.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tapardjuk. He is seeking unanimous consent to return to Item 5, Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Are there any nays? There are no nays. You may proceed, Mr. Tapardjuk.

Revert to Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, my colleagues. I would like to acknowledge an individual since we have been working very busily on language legislation. There's an individual in the House from ICC, Duane Smith, and he is visiting our Gallery today.

>>Applause

They have worked very hard to make sure that we do get what Inuit request. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tapardjuk. Welcome to the Gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. If there are no more, (interpretation ends) Item 11. Petitions. Mr. Tootoo.

Item 11: Petitions

Petition 001 – 3(2): Proposed Sylvia Grinnell Bridge

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table a petition and

I'll read what it says, "We the undersigned petition the Government of Nunavut, the Government of Canada, and the City of Iqaluit to restrict the new bridge across the Sylvia Grinnell to foot traffic."

Mr. Speaker, I acknowledge that this petition was done some time ago. However, the individual that was organizing it had indicated to me that he was informed from former staff of the GN that it wasn't appropriate for it to be tabled in the House. After he presented it to me, I said that I would be more than happy to present this petition on his behalf.

Mr. Speaker, there are about 250 names on this petition and all are residents or were residents of Iqaluit, including original residents of Iqaluit and constituents of all three fine representatives that Iqaluit has here in the Legislative Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Item 11. Petitions. Item 12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees. Item 13. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills. Item 14. Tabling of Documents. Minister Tagak Curley.

Item 14: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 030 – 3(2): 2009 Annual Report of the Utility Rates Review Council of Nunavut

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table the 2009 Annual Report of the Utility Rates Review Council of Nunavut. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Tabling of Documents. Minister Daniel Shewchuk.

Tabled Document 031 – 3(2): Public Service Annual Report for 2007- 2008

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table the Public Service Annual Report for 2007-2008. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker: Thank you. Tabling of Documents. (interpretation) If there are no more... Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Motion 005 – 3(2): Early Adjournment

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

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. The motion is in order and it's not debatable. All those in favour of the motion, raise your hand, please. Opposed. The motion is carried.

We will proceed to Item 23 in our Order Paper. Item 23. Orders of the Day. Mr. Clerk.

Item 23: Orders of the Day

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just a reminder for meetings on Monday, there's a meeting of the Standing Committee on Social Wellness commencing at nine o'clock, followed

by a meeting of the Full Caucus at eleven o'clock.

- Bill 4
- Bill 5

Orders of the Day for June 15:

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
 - Bill 3
18. Second Reading of Bills
19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
 - Bill 1
 - Bill 2

20. Report of the Committee of the Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills
22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned until Monday, June 15, at 1:30 p.m.

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 12:13*

