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Official Report

**DAY 10**

**Tuesday, June 16, 2009**

**Pages 454 – 541**

**Iqaluit**

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

## Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

### *Speaker*

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(Uqqummiut)

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

**James Arvaluk**  
(Tununiq)

**Moses Aupaluktuq**  
(Baker Lake)

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

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(Rankin Inlet South – Whale Cove)  
*Minister of Community and Government Services; Minister of Energy*

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(Akulliq)

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

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

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*Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole*

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

**Allan Rumbolt**  
(Hudson Bay)

**Fred Schell**  
(South Baffin)

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

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

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

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

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**Iqaluit, Nunavut  
Tuesday, June 16, 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. Ningeongan to say the opening prayer. Mr. Ningeongan.

>>*Prayer*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. Good afternoon, Premier, Ministers, Members of the Legislative Assembly, and Nunavummiut. (interpretation ends) Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Minister Keith Peterson.

**Item 2: Ministers' Statements****Minister's Statement 034 – 3(2):  
Justice Browne**

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On behalf of Nunavummiut, I want to extend my gratitude to Justice Bev Browne for her contribution to the Nunavut justice system for the last 20 years. Mr. Speaker, this fall, Justice Browne will leave Nunavut to take up a new challenge as a member of the court in Edmonton, Alberta.

Justice Browne played a key role in establishing the only single level trial court in Canada. This launched a unique system to Nunavut that enables justice to be provided in our remote communities.

Mr. Speaker, Justice Browne has worked hard at making the Justice of the Peace program successful. Her leadership is commendable.

Today, Mr. Speaker, Nunavut has a court system that incorporates and embraces Inuit societal values. There is a youth advisory panel that sits with the court to work as peers upon sentencing and elders continue to play an important role in our approach to justice.

Justice Browne was active in the development of the Akitsiraq Law Program and its graduates. She was instrumental in the advancement of the Mental Health Diploma Program.

Justice Browne's genuine and selfless dedication to the well-being of all Nunavummiut is an inspiration to the legal profession. She will be always remembered for advancing the cause of justice in Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly, please join me in recognizing the contributions that Justice Browne has made both professionally and personally for Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Ministers' Statements. (interpretation ends) Hon. Hunter Tootoo.

**Minister's Statement 035 – 3(2):  
Qulliq Energy Corporation  
Collective Agreement Signed**

**Hon. Hunter Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am delighted to inform and enlighten my colleagues of the signing of the third collective agreement between the Qulliq Energy Corporation and the Nunavut Employees Union. The three-year agreement reinforces the importance of our most valuable asset, our employees.

Mr. Speaker, in addition, I would like to thank the members of both the Qulliq Energy Corporation and the Nunavut Employees Union bargaining teams for their hard work and dedication. After just two rounds of bargaining, the agreement was reached and subsequently ratified.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would like to express how pleased I am with the accomplishments of the corporation and encourage the growth of a positive working relationship with the Nunavut Employees Union. We are committed to the retention of staff and a positive work environment enhances the effective and efficient supply of power to all Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. (interpretation ends) Hon. Louis Tapardjuk.

**Minister's Statement 036 – 3(2):  
Master of Education Leadership in  
Learning Graduates**

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Good afternoon. Mr. Speaker, I would

like to take this opportunity to share some exciting news with my fellow colleagues.

On July 1, 21 Inuit educational leaders from across Nunavut will graduate with a Master of Education Leadership in Learning degree. Mr. Speaker, this is a truly momentous occasion, one that these graduates have dedicated their careers to achieving and for which they will now be rewarded.

This program is a unique partnership between the Department of Education, the University of Prince Edward Island, Nunavut Arctic College, and the School of Education, St. Francis Xavier University. It has been delivered on a part-time basis over three years through face-to-face and distance courses. With a focus on balancing western and Inuit knowledge, there is no doubt that they will now be in the forefront of educational leadership.

Mr. Speaker, elders were involved in all of the face-to-face courses and two Inuit Master of Education graduates co-instructed on six out of ten of the courses. This program is founded in the principles of *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit* and has been delivered in the Inuit language as much as possible.

As we move towards implementation of the new *Education Act* and the *Inuit Language Protection Act*, it is essential that we increase the number of Inuit education leaders in our schools and education system. This program has enabled these experienced teachers the opportunity to work together to enhance their skills and share their experiences.



Congratulations to the graduates and I encourage potential Nunavut educators to look into the next Master of Education Leadership in Learning Program which is scheduled to begin in 2010. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Ministers' Statements. Item 3. Members' Statements. Mr. Elliott.

### **Item 3: Members' Statements**

#### **Member's Statement 052 – 3(2): Further Support for a Child and Youth Advocate**

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to speak about an issue that has been discussed and studied in depth. It has been tossed around within government departments since division from the Northwest Territories. It has been adopted by almost every province and territory in Canada in some form or another. It provides protection and security for those most in need and supports our youth in the pursuit of their dreams.

Mr. Speaker, I am speaking about the need for an independent child and youth advocate for Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, children and youth make up more than 50 percent of our population. Of a population of 31,500 people, almost 11,600 are the age of 16 or younger. Every year, over 300 Nunavut children are placed in foster homes. Every year, Nunavut children have to cope with poverty, domestic violence, homelessness, and other social difficulties. Children and youth are one

of the most vulnerable groups in our society. They do not vote and they rarely have a voice in determining their lives and their future.

Mr. Speaker, in order to establish an independent child and youth advocate in Nunavut, we would not need to reinvent the wheel. We have a wide array of models to choose from across Canada. Just over two months ago, the Yukon territory established its own child and youth advocate office. The design and planning work has been done.

Mr. Speaker, at least seven Members of Nunavut's Legislative Assemblies have expressed their interest in seeing a Nunavut child and youth advocate. The foundation has been laid.

Mr. Speaker, since division, legislative proposals have been drafted and briefing notes have been written regarding the establishment of a Nunavut child and youth advocate. The framework has been built.

Mr. Speaker, several Nunavut-based and national organizations have expressed their support for the establishment of a child and youth advocate in Nunavut. These include the Nunavut Association of Municipalities, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, the Canadian Council of Provincial Youth Advocates, and the Canadian Paediatric Society. The supporting walls are in place.

Mr. Speaker, at this time, I would like to request unanimous consent to continue with my Member's Statement. Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. The member is seeking unanimous

consent to conclude his statement. Are there any nays? There are no nays. You may conclude your statement, Mr. Elliott.

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleagues.

As I mentioned, the support walls are in place. Mr. Speaker, I believe that it is time to put the roof on this structure and give the child and youth advocate a home in Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, I have recently raised this issue with a number of government officials. Expressed in many of these discussions is the fear that establishing a child and youth advocate office would open up a huge can of worms.

I agree, establishing such an office may very well do so, but how long can we continue to ignore issues and avoid coming up with viable solutions? If we are ever to address our deep-rooted social problems, then we need to move forward. One important step in the right direction would be to create an independent child and youth advocate for Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, for our 10th anniversary as a territory, wouldn't it be nice to give the gift of an independent child and youth advocate to our young people and live up to Nunavut's promise to children. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

### **Member's Statement 053 – 3(2): Best Wishes to Constituents during Summer**

**Hon. Daniel Shewchuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to rise today and wish all of my constituents in Arviat a great summer. Many of them are on the land right now fishing and drying caribou meat.

I would like to also extend my best wishes to all of the students, especially to the graduates of this year's grade 12 class, and encourage them to further their education in the future and to contribute to Nunavut in the development of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

### **Member's Statement 054 – 3(2): Concerns with Capital Planning Process**

**Mr. Ningeongan:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to talk about the government's capital planning process.

As the House is aware, I have asked questions and raised concerns about capital projects in my communities of Coral Harbour and Chesterfield Inlet. I believe that our communities should be provided with realistic information from the government with respect to what projects will be included in the five-year capital plan.

For example, the government's 2008-09 capital estimates indicated that a new

senior school would be constructed in the community of Coral Harbour. The five-year capital plan indicated that work would begin in 2010. However, the project subsequently fell off the capital plan. As members will recall, I raised a number of questions on the matter at our last sitting.

Mr. Speaker, I do not believe that it is fair to raise the expectations of communities and then cancel projects without a good explanation.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the government to keep these concerns in mind over the next few months as departments prepare next year's capital estimates. This is an issue that I will be raising again in our fall sitting. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. Members' Statements. Member for Amittuq, Mr. Tapardjuk.

**Member's Statement 055 – 3(2): Best Wishes to Constituents and Thanks to Assistants**

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At this time, I rise to give thanks to the communities of Igloolik and Hall Beach. They will be going out on the land and I'm sure that they're starting to go out there now.

My two employees, Johnny Ilupaalik from Igloolik and Lenny Curley from Hall Beach, have supported me throughout the whole time that we have been sitting here. I would like to thank them both.

The day after tomorrow, I will be going to Igloolik to participate in the graduation of the grade 12 students and I look forward to seeing everybody.

I would also like to thank during this spring sitting my employees, Eileen Kilabuk-Weber and Diane, who have helped me throughout this whole process. I thank them both and just in case we conclude our sitting today, I would like to express my thanks ahead of time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 056 – 3(2): Sylvia Grinnell Bridge**

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I tabled a report yesterday on a new set of proposals. What we have been hearing from our government is the document *Tamapta*. I, for one, would like a full proposal instead of the much smaller and inadequate plan that has been prepared.

As I have been told, the proposed bridge across Sylvia Grinnell is apparently going to be for pedestrians only. Hunters have been looking forward to getting a bridge that can be crossed by snowmobiles and four-wheelers. Hearing this, I urged the federal government to revise their plans so that the bridge that is constructed will be more adequate and be something that I can seek public support for.

Now, when I came here, it has been changed. The people of Iqaluit, hunters

especially, urge the government to review this matter again. We have to accommodate the people that we represent, not only part of the population but the whole population of Iqaluit. They do want the support from the government and not be forgotten.

So I'm urging the members on the other side to listen to the people out there and keep their eyes and ears open. The river has broken and the hunters can't cross it anymore, and we're going to have the same situation in the fall. So I urge this government to listen to the people.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Member's Statement 057 – 3(2):  
Thanks to Members**

**Hon. Hunter Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As my colleagues indicated, this could possibly be our last sitting day of this sitting.

I would like to just take this opportunity to thank all of the members for what has been a very healthy, constructive session. Some good issues were brought forward and raised, and I must say some great answers as well from this side of the House. I would like to thank everyone for doing a good job representing their constituents and bringing their issues forward.

I know I echo my colleague from Coral Harbour's comments in saying that issue he just raised in his Member's Statement is something that I believe is an issue that I raised in the past. The government as a whole has to make a decision on

projects. I think that we need to be realistic and I would like to think that this government is doing that. I just think that that's important to get out there.

The other thing that I would like to do also, Mr. Speaker, is to thank all of the interpreters who have put up with us and listened to us. I'm sure they're going to have a nice break not listening to us for a while. I thank them for all of their hard work and everyone else involved in the time that it takes to make a session run smoothly.

So with that, Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank everybody and hopefully everyone has a very safe and good summer. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 058 – 3(2):  
Message to Constituents and  
Family**

**Mr. Ningark** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As we are starting to conclude the session, I usually don't make any comments or ask a lot of questions.

However, there has been a virus and of course, we're homesick and thinking of our loved ones. I think about all of the people in Kugaaruk. I don't have much but I say "I love you" to the people of Kugaaruk. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

#### **Item 4: Returns to Oral Questions**

##### **Return to Oral Question 033 – 3(2): Status of GN's Review of Business Development Centres**

**Hon. Daniel Shewchuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am responding to a question asked by Moses Aupaluktuq, the Member for Baker Lake, on behalf of Hon. Peter Taptuna, the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation.

The question was asked on June 9, 2009. The question was: "Last September, a copy of the report *An Evaluation of Business Development Centres in the Kitikmeot, Kivalliq and Qikiqtaaluk Regions* was tabled in the Legislative Assembly. This was of August 2008.

The department's business plan indicates that one of its priorities is to 'implement the recommendations' of this assessment. Can the minister update the House today on the status of this work? ... I'm particularly interested in the Kivalliq."

The response: The department chairs the working group made up of representatives from each of the department's three community operations with offices, which includes the general managers of each of these three business development centres. The working group assessed each of the recommendations from the evaluation of business development centres in the

Kitikmeot, Kivalliq, and Qikiqtaaluk. Recommendations have been implemented in the regions.

This work was completed May 25, 2009. Many of the report's recommendations have been implemented and the working group has prepared an implementation plan for those recommendations that will require more time to complete the required actions. This plan will be submitted to each of the boards for business development centres for approval. I expect that the approved plan can be tabled in the Legislative Assembly in the fall.

Follow-up question: "One of the observations in the assessment of the business development centres was that the Kivalliq Business Development Centre is 'not fully operationally engaged at the present time.' Can the minister indicate how this concern is being addressed?"

The response: The business development centre in the Kivalliq region uses the name Keewatin Business Development Centre. The Keewatin Business Development Centre has been operating in its current form since 2002. It is fully operational in 2009-2010. The centre is receiving and processing applications for small business loans.

To date, in the current fiscal year, the centre has received five loan applications and staff are currently preparing the documentation for decision by the board of directors. The Keewatin Business Development Centre has a small portfolio of 17 active loans, each of which is in good standing. The centre is currently reviewing its by-laws to

ensure appropriate governance structures are in place.

In January 2009, the manager, who is an intern in the position, began a training and mentorship program in the areas of management, lending practices, governance, and policy development under the supervision of the First People's Fund of Manitoba.

Follow-up question: "But the supplementary question that I would like to use in the meantime, Mr. Speaker, is as the minister is aware, under the department's Program Partnerships Policy, the Kivalliq Partners in Development Corporation used to deliver business development programs in the region. However, this relationship ended in 2005.

I agree with suggestions that it's time for the government to revisit this issue. Will the minister commit to me that he will review the idea of renewing his department's relationship with Kivalliq Partners in Development Corporation?"

The response: Yes, the Business Development Centre working group will be reviewing all recommendations from the report, including the recommendation that the department consider extending third party program delivery to all business development centres. As part of this process, I will ask that the working group include consideration of third party program delivery through the Kivalliq Partners in Development.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister. Returns to Oral Questions. Hon. Louis Tapardjuk.

### **Return to Oral Question 046 – 3(2): Income Support Levels**

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This question was asked by Mr. John Ningark, who was my *Angajunnuaq* in Chesterfield Inlet.

The question was that when Mr. Ningark was in Repulse Bay, he was told that these individuals who required income support would receive \$500 a month to pay for their home heating fuel. To date, they receive only \$250 a month, which is insufficient, so they end up using the money that they would have spent on food in order to pay for fuel in the winter. He wanted to know the status of that to date.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to respond to Mr. Ningark's question asked in the House on June 10, 2009 regarding income support levels, specifically the amount that income support pays for home heating fuel.

Income support workers carry out monthly income support assessments to determine the amount of assistance that an applicant may be eligible to receive. If an applicant is deemed eligible for assistance in accordance with the social assistance regulations, the income support worker issues an amount that may be used to help cover the cost of household needs, such as food, clothing, shelter, and home heating fuel.

The program does not issue a specific amount for home heating fuel. The

amount of assistance that an income support recipient receives is based on the income support assessment and may change from one month to the next.

Mr. Speaker, the department recognizes the high cost of home heating fuel for homeowners in the North. With that in mind, the Senior Fuel Subsidy Program helps to offset the high cost of home heating fuel for seniors who are 60 years of age or older and who own their own homes.

Benefits for this program are determined based on the community in which the applicant lives and the combined net income of the homeowners. Eligible seniors are reimbursed full costs up to a maximum number of litres of fuel allowed under this program. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

**Mr. Komoartok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize my partner and her daughters, who are here as well, Penina Mosesee, Geela Mosesee, and Shuvenai. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

#### **Item 6: Oral Questions**

##### **Question 083 – 3(2): Spread of H1N1 Virus**

**Mr. Schell:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Health and Social Services.

Yesterday, he had mentioned that the cases of H1N1 virus were going down in Nunavut. But unfortunately, as of ten o'clock today, there are 25 more cases and believe it or not, all of a sudden there are cases in the Baffin. There are three or four cases in the Baffin, which I kind of figure was going to be happening eventually.

So my question is: what is the minister going to do? This is obviously spreading, we had 164 on Saturday and now we've got 189, including three or four cases in the Baffin. Is he going to take it seriously and do something about preventing the spread of H1N1? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Tagak Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the member for giving us the figures.

It's obvious that there are over 80 nations in the world that have been infected with the H1N1 flu virus, including Nunavut and other regions of Canada. So we are just going to stay status quo; we have a flu plan and we are going to make sure that the information gets out to the public about how to avoid getting the H1N1 virus.

We heard today from some of the communities that they had been given information on how to make sure that the flu virus doesn't spread and they were incredibly thankful for the medical teams which included public health and Dr. Sobol, who will continue to ensure that the information is out there in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Schell:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Of these cases, apparently, there have been 16 patients with confirmed cases that have been hospitalized, and there are quite a few other ones that had flu-like symptoms and were hospitalized.

If this increases at the rate that it is, in another month, we're going to have a serious issue in Nunavut with people going to the hospital and we've got, I think, 10 beds in the hospital here in Iqaluit. I think we're going to have a serious issue.

So my question is: what is he going to do to make sure that he tries to prevent any large gatherings or any other chance of spreading this disease? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Tagak Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the member for asking those questions. We have influenza planners and the plan is being worked on as we speak, especially concerning children. They are currently going through

examinations of suspected children and have ordered the medication.

We have made all of the medications available, but the current medication that we have is just for a flu-like virus since there is currently no cure for this new H1N1 virus. But we can say that we do have influenza planners and they have to speak to each other before it becomes a pandemic.

At this time, we can't say exactly what we're going to do and what will happen. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Schell:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I guess I would just like to suggest to the minister that maybe he could look at different options to do here in the Baffin region because obviously, when it started in the other regions, there were only two or three cases and it ballooned to 180.

So I think if we start early, we can maybe mitigate the issue of having as many cases as they have in the other districts. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Schell. Minister Curley.

**Hon. Tagak Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can tell the member that the plan we have is being utilized and it is preventative. Also, we know that many people who have had the H1N1 virus and got the disease are now healing.



I can't tell you what's going to happen in the future, but once we get to that particular stage, the plan will be utilized by the medical team at Dr. Sobol's office and they will be sending out public advisories on a regular basis.

We are still urging people to call their health centres as soon as they notice flu-like symptoms so that they can be treated by the doctors. We will continue on with our plan. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Schell:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My understanding is that people who have H1N1 and get over it, in the fall, when the flu symptoms are going to come again, they're more vulnerable to get it again. So that's why I'm asking if you can do something to mitigate it right now so they don't have the more serious type of flu in the fall. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Curley.

**Hon. Tagak Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, do we understand what he's saying so far and that's the reason why we have been sending out advisories to the public and urging people at homes to follow them.

We are asking people to practice good hygiene and to avoid going to public places as much as possible. I believe that this is the best way to do preventative work, but I can't tell even before we reach medical health reasons.

As Members of the Legislative Assembly, I don't think we need to do

that. Out of the more than 180 people who were affected by H1N1 virus, the majority are now over their sickness and we are thankful for the help that they received. Thank you.

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

#### **Question 084 – 3(2): Spread of H1N1 Virus**

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was going to ask a different question, but I would like to thank my colleague for informing us about H1N1 virus cases. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Health and Social Services as well.

Although he stated yesterday that it seemed like this virus was subsiding, we now hear otherwise today and that there are more than 20 new cases. It seems like there's no limit, so I'm urging the minister and the department to make some plans to ensure that the number of cases doesn't increase further.

It seems like the cases are increasing every day and it seems to be spreading, so what are your exact plans? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Tagak Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm sure everyone is aware that during the first week, 40 or 50 new cases came out in one night. They had to send the swabs

out to the lab and diagnosed them all at the same time.

We haven't heard about any new cases since Sunday and since today is Tuesday, this means that in the last four days, the increase of new cases has slowed down. So that's why we had made the statement that we were expecting to see the number of new cases decreasing.

Our plan is going to continue. We are not going to panic and we don't want to cause panic to the public, but we want to continue to make sure that they follow the advisory of maintaining proper hygiene because there's presently no vaccine for this flu virus. We're aware of many people realizing that it's best to currently avoid large gatherings.

We are speaking to all of the mayors about what is being done when they are here in Iqaluit and we do, in fact, want to hear from all of the mayors so that we can work cooperatively with all of them while this virus is around. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's evident that this virus will start spreading around here for sure if we don't do anything about it.

The minister talks about how they are working on plans. Perhaps if you table the plan, it will be more helpful to all in finding out exactly what our government is doing. It seems like this virus is spreading and it doesn't seem to be subsiding. So I'm urging the minister and asking him: what do your plans

contain and what are you prepared to do? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Tagak Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. His current question is the same as his first question. I can tell you that we talk to public health officials daily.

We need to provide support to health professionals in all of our communities. Health professionals are available for help and are involved in the continued effort to inform the public that if any of them have flu-like symptoms, they should call the health centre before they go there.

The health professionals also want to avoid getting sick and so they need to have a plan. If they know ahead of time, they can better protect everybody involved. We will continue this way. As the minister for the department, I respect our health professionals because they're working hard.

The federal government is available. They have given advisory on what we can do to prevent the virus. We're not just sending out the advisory to the health centres but to the entire public in the communities and the health professionals will continue to work on it while we're on this area. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Down south, many people have died because of this virus and I

don't want to see people dying from the virus in Nunavut.

It's crucial to ensure that the public knows the importance of this, especially the people who have concurrent health issues. These are the people who are going to be most impacted as they are the most vulnerable in our communities.

What can we do to do preventative work? In the past, we stopped large gatherings. It seems like the department doesn't have any plans. Will you be making that plan so that people will not go to public gatherings? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Tagak Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We will continue to use our plans and we expect that the H1N1 virus will be declining.

We will continue to utilize our staff, ensuring that the appropriate people are being relieved of duty as deemed necessary. Our staff are working very hard at the community health centres, and the nurses and doctors have made themselves very available for help.

However, I'm not going to say in the House to stop all public gatherings, all of the bars, and to stop going to church while we have this virus around. We haven't reached that stage yet.

Our committee, which is working on the emergency plan, has been discussing this matter with CGS and the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs to make sure that the staff know about the advisory, about keeping yourself

clean, and will continue with that plan. Our staff will not stop working on it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In looking at the population of Inuit affected with this virus and comparing it with the number of cases in the south, you can see that the numbers are not even close.

The number of cases amongst Nunavummiut has surpassed the number of those affected in the south. I believe that we should start considering to stop large gatherings. I know we can't stop all of them, but the ones that are not crucial should be stopped. It seems like there are no plans for this.

I would like to ask the minister and tell my constituents that I personally will not be attending public gatherings with this virus going around. I personally urge my constituents to follow suit and avoid public places since the government doesn't appear to be doing so. It seems like they don't want that, but I urge the government to start planning on it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Tagak Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. His questions are very understandable and so are his concerns. I can tell you that we will continue with our plan. We don't want to reach the pandemic stage, and our staff and every one of us don't want to see any more cases of flu virus.

When there were no mass virus cases, we couldn't tell the public what to do. Once we reach that stage, we will monitor the cases every day along with Dr. Sobol and his medical team. The influenza planners are working daily. They issue advisories and have daily teleconferences, as well as make themselves available since they don't want to be surprised when this arrives.

We don't want to reach the pandemic stage and we will do whatever we can to get through this. In the meantime, we will closely monitor all cases and move forward. We are very aware of the dangers to our elders and youth, especially people with health ailments, who are the most vulnerable, and we don't want to lose them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Question 085 – 3(2): Breast Cancer Screening in Nunavut**

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Health and Social Services, the Hon. Tagak Curley.

I don't want to take anything away from the H1N1 virus and the good questions that have been raised. It's kind of hard changing habits after a while. I remember my mom always saying, "Ron, cover your mouth when you cough," and now coughing into your arm, it is hard changing that habit.

Mr. Speaker, as the minister will be aware, we do not currently have the capacity for breast cancer screening in

Nunavut. Individuals who require mammograms and follow-up pathology tests to detect breast cancer must go out of the territory for their tests.

News stories recently highlighted the fact that over one-third of breast cancer patients in the province of Newfoundland and Labrador suffered for years while the disease progressed unchecked in their bodies as the result of false negative test results. Following those reports, a CBC News investigation found that one in five cancer tests conducted in the province of Quebec also gave the wrong results.

Can the minister clarify what procedures are currently in place to ensure that Nunavummiut receive the highest quality of health service for the screening and testing for breast cancer? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Tagak Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question because it's a very important issue. In regard to women with breast cancer, I will definitely have to look into the matter.

In regard to what he mentioned about which provinces had negative test results and lost women as a result, I'm sure that this has occurred in Nunavut. I can't respond to the member at this time as I will have to look into it further. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A number of my constituents have concerns about their test results, especially after hearing the recent news stories. What guarantees can the minister offer to reassure Nunavummiut that their own results are reliable? Thank you.

**Speaker:** Thank you. Minister Curley.

**Hon. Tagak Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I stated before, I'm sure that this issue with false negative test results has occurred here in Nunavut, especially when we have to send samples out of the territory.

I can tell the member at this time that we will look into this issue so that we can come up with a response that is true and accurate, and I will want to make a report to the House. I would just like to let the member know that we will take his question as notice and once I get further information, I will table it in the House. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that commitment. Will the minister also commit to looking into the issue? Would he consider having laboratories retest some of the samples that were taken from Nunavut patients to establish whether or not there is any variation within the results? Thank you very much.

**Speaker:** Thank you. Minister Curley.

**Hon. Tagak Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for asking that question. As soon as we know if the samples need to be retested,

we will let you know. If we look at the records, I would have to discuss this with our health team and look into that.

I can say that if there were any negative test results, Nunavutmiut have to fully understand. So I say yes, I will look into it further. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am confident that the minister will appreciate that this issue is causing a great deal of stress to Nunavummiut who have been at risk for breast cancer.

Will the minister provide this House and the listening public with the appropriate contact information in order that individuals who wish to discuss their situation can have their concerns addressed? Thank you.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister Curley.

**Hon. Tagak Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As soon as the information is available, we will table it and we will send it to all Members of the Legislative Assembly. Thank you.

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

#### **Question 086 – 3(2): Plans to Replace Justice Browne**

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In regard to the Minister of Justice's Member's Statement, we thank Justice Browne for being here and she contributed a lot.

For many years, we have been trying to get our fourth judge and it looks like their workload isn't getting any smaller. I know that Justice Browne will be leaving. So I would first like to ask the minister if they have already started looking for her replacement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleague for that question. Mr. Speaker, I'm not aware that we have commenced the search for a replacement for Justice Browne. She said she is leaving at the end of September, so she has given us plenty of notice. So that will be a priority to look into. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is very important because they have to come up with this committee. They're the ones that have to screen the applicants, make a recommendation to the federal government, and it has to go through Cabinet.

The Minister of Justice will have to take part and I urge him to be involved because we do have the authority to take part during the screening of the applicants and to make sure we let the federal government know which applicant we would like to see. I urge the minister to start working on that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Okalik. Minister Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleague for that information. I know he's very familiar with the process, it can take a long time, but I haven't been fully briefed on the entire process.

Judge Browne only announced on Friday officially that she was leaving, so we will be discussing what the next steps are with my deputy minister this week. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) One of the biggest battles I had in making appointments was our right to be involved as a government.

And I'm sure you will encounter that in your role because the federal government says it's their prerogative and one of the trade-offs that we established with establishing a single level court is that we should be involved. That's the trade-off that we came up with is that we have to be involved in selecting the appropriate justice for our territory.

So I encourage the minister to be diligent in ensuring that we maintain that responsibility and fight for that responsibility as I fought that with every new appointment that had to be made with any new minister that came along federally. So I look forward to hearing that from the minister. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Okalik. Minister Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I again thank my colleague for that advice. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Okalik has been through the war, so to speak. I followed his activities over the last several years, so I pretty much have a good idea what we will be up against.

We will try to get a justice or judge that understands Nunavut, understands the unified court system up here, and understands the type of law and justice programs that we want to continue to implement in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Question 087 – 3(2): Quotes on Telehandlers**

**Mr. Schell:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the housing minister.

Just to refresh his memory that last week, I had asked him who the individuals were that were involved in analyzing the two quotes that they got on the telehandlers. I'm just wondering if he had that information. 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. As I indicated to the member, I would be getting that information and providing it to him. As of right now, at this moment, I don't have all of the information for the member. So once I get all of the information packaged

together for him, I'll make sure that he receives it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Schell:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Apparently, there were five telehandlers that were purchased from New Holland and I just want to make sure. Is the five telehandlers the only equipment that was ordered from New Holland? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Schell. Minister Tootoo.

**Hon. Hunter Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As far as I'm aware, the Nunavut Housing Corporation only ordered five telehandlers with whatever was included in that detailed listing of stuff that came along with it that I provided to him came along with that equipment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Schell:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to know if there was any individual or any consulting firm that was paid any fee in regard to the analyzing or purchase of these telehandlers. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Schell. Minister Tootoo.

**Hon. Hunter Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe that was part of the information that the member had asked for last week and looking at it, that's what we were putting together for him.

In one of his questions though, he did ask me last week and the answer I provided was the purchase order for the telehandlers was made from the Nunavut Housing Corporation directly to the New Holland dealer, so there was no middleman involved there.

But again, further information and clarity of all of the different things that he asked for last Thursday will be provided to him when it's all compiled. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Schell:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The only reason I asked that question is when I was talking to Toromont CAT, they said that an accounting firm had come there to talk to them in regard to the specs and everything on it. I was just wondering if they were getting paid for it or if they were doing it out of the goodwill of their hearts. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Schell. Minister Tootoo.

**Hon. Hunter Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am aware that a firm called Nimacon Consulting was asked to discuss and review the technical aspects of the equipment and make sure that both parties that were requiring it had the information to make sure that all of those different technical specifications were reviewed by that firm. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Question 088 – 3(2): Sylvia Grinnell Bridge**

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

The Minister of Environment stated that the Cabinet made a decision on the bridge that will be made across Sylvia Grinnell and it was just going to be for pedestrians. I tabled some documents that were old. The hunters have gone on the radio repeatedly requesting to have a bridge that could be used with snowmobiles, vehicles, and so on.

I would like to ask the Premier if she could have a meeting with the Cabinet to look at this over again. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is under the responsibility of Department of Environment, so I'm handing it over to that department. Thank you.

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

**Hon. Daniel Shewchuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank Mr. Okalik for that question again. I can advise the members here that we are proceeding as a government in the direction of a pedestrian bridge across the Sylvia Grinnell River.

That decision was made with a lot of background information and previous



commitments by many people. There was in-depth consultation in this matter, in how to proceed with a pedestrian bridge and the Sylvia Grinnell Master Plan that is incorporated.

We are pursuing funding agreements that were in place previously at this time. So this is the direction we're moving in and this is the way we are going to keep moving. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is not a new issue; the people of Iqaluit have wanted a bridge for a very long time. So I'm asking the Premier again if the Cabinet could review this issue again. If it's going to be in my riding, I don't want to see a pedestrian bridge. So I'm asking the Premier to urge the Cabinet to look at this again. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Okalik. Yes, I'll have the Premier respond to that again as the question was if the government will revisit this issue. Premier, (interpretation ends) Hon. Eva Aariak.

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm sure that this issue has been talked about a lot in Iqaluit. The Member for Iqaluit Centre tabled a petition with 250 signatures and they wanted to see a pedestrian bridge, not a bridge for four-wheelers. As my colleague stated, we're just proceeding with the plan that was approved already. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have told the federal government that I don't want to see a pedestrian bridge. I wanted a bridge that could be used by all, including the hunters. We are going to keep expecting to get a proper bridge and in my campaign, it was one of the requests that were made by my constituents.

So I'm asking the government again if they could revisit this. Two hundred and fifty signatures is nothing. Iqaluit has a total population of over 7,000 and 250 doesn't even put a dent in the population. So I'm urging the Premier to look into this issue again. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Okalik. Premier Eva Aariak.

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): I would just like to thank the member because I believe he's just urging us to review this matter again. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Premier. Is that all? Your final supplementary, Mr. Okalik.

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm urging the Premier again to have another meeting with the Department of Environment, the hunters and trappers organization here, and also with the hunters and the people of Iqaluit to find out exactly what they want and have them voice their concerns. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Okalik. (interpretation ends) Madam Premier.

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are different ideas in Iqaluit.

I would like to state again, Mr. Speaker, that this is the responsibility of the Department of Environment. They have made their plans and are going to proceed with the plan that is already established. It's under the responsibility of the Department of Environment, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Item 7. Written Questions. (interpretation ends) Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Item 10. Petitions. Item 11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees. Item 12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Hon. Tagak Curley.

#### **Item 13: Tabling of Documents**

#### **Tabled Document 040 – 3(2): Nunavut Maternal and Newborn Health Care Strategy 2009-2014**

**Hon. Tagak Curley:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table the Nunavut Maternal and Newborn Health Care Strategy for 2009-2014. Thank you.

**Speaker:** Thank you. Tabling of Documents. Minister Louis Tapardjuk.

#### **Tabled Document 041 – 3(2): Staking the Claim, Dreams, Democracy, and Canadian Inuit**

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table the Department of Education's

Staking the Claims, Dreams, Democracy, and Canadian Inuit, a student's guide for grade 10 in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Tabled Document 042 – 3(2): Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated's Annual Report on the State of Inuit Culture and Society; Nunavut Health System 2007-2008**

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table the Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated's Annual Report on the State of Inuit Culture and Society; Nunavut's Health System, a report delivered as part of the Inuit obligations under *Article 32* of the NLCA. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Premier. Tabling of Documents. Hon. Daniel Shewchuk.

#### **Tabled Document 043 – 3(2): Reporting Requirements for the Chief Executive Officer for the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation**

**Hon. Daniel Shewchuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table the Reporting Requirements for the Chief Executive Officer for the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you. Tabling of Documents. Hon. Eva Aariak.

**Tabled Document 044 – 3(2):  
Government of Nunavut’s  
Response to Nunavut Tunngavik  
Incorporated’s Annual Report on  
the State of Inuit Culture and  
Society; Nunavut’s Health System  
2007-2008**

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation):  
Thank you, Mr. Speaker, someone’s  
*Annuraaqatik*.

>>*Laughter*

I am pleased to rise again to table the Government of Nunavut’s Response to Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated’s Annual Report on the State of Inuit Culture and Society; Nunavut’s Health System 2007-2008. Thank you.

**Speaker:** Thank you. Tabling of Documents.

**Tabled Document 045 – 3(2): 2007-  
2008 Annual Report of the Office  
of the Languages Commissioner**

Thank you, Members. I am pleased to table the Annual Report of the Languages Commissioner for the year ending March 31, 2008. Thank you.

Tabling of Documents. Item 14. Notices of Motions. Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 16. Motions. Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Hon. Louis Tapardjuk.

**Item 18: Second Reading of Bills**

**Bill 03 – Western Canada Lottery Act  
– Second Reading**

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation):  
Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move,  
seconded by the Hon. Member for  
Rankin Inlet South and Whale Cove, that  
Bill 3, *Western Canada Lottery Act*, be  
read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill authorizes the conduct and management of the Western Canada Lottery in Nunavut. The bill states that the proceeds of the lottery are to be used for sport and recreational purposes, and it requires the minister to table an annual report on the operation of the lottery in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour of the motion, raise your hand, please. Opposed. The motion is carried. Bill 3 has been read for the second time and will be referred to the appropriate committee.

(interpretation ends) Second Reading of Bills. Item 19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bills 1, 2, 4, and 5 with Mr. Okalik in the Chair.

In accordance with the authority provided to me by Motion 6 – 3(2), the Committee of the Whole will stay in session until it reports itself out.

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

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House recessed at 14:55 and  
Committee resumed at 15:20*

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

**Chairman** (Mr. Okalik)(interpretation): Good afternoon once again. I call the committee meeting to order. In Committee of the Whole, we have the following items to deal with: Bills 1, 2, 4, and 5. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Ningeongan.

**Mr. Ningeongan:** Mr. Chairman, we would like to continue with Bill 1 and the review of the departments of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth, Environment, Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, the Legislative Assembly, and then we will proceed to review Bill 2, followed by Bills 4 and 5. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. Are you in agreement with that?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Bill 01 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2009-2010 – Culture, Language, Elders and Youth – Consideration in Committee**

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. We will begin with the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth. Minister Tapardjuk, do you have speaking notes?

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Yes, I do. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to have this opportunity to present the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth 2009-2010 business plan and main estimates.

This department holds the leadership role within the Government of Nunavut for the preservation, development, and enhancement of Nunavut's culture, heritage, languages, and especially healthy living opportunities for Nunavummiut.

In that regard, we have increased resources to support and implement the *Inuit Language Protection Act* and improve compliance with the *Official Languages Act*. This includes new resources for the establishment of *Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit*.

During 2009-2010, we will be conducting ongoing consultations with territorial institutions, municipalities, Inuit, French, and English language communities, and other stakeholders likely to be impacted by the new legislation.

The new resources will also support the development of regulations and policies and the monitoring, evaluation, and reporting on departmental and public agency performance in implementing the *Inuit Language Protection Act*.

Within our Official Languages Branch, we are continuing to implement and support terminology workshops, Language Week, *Titiraliritti*, the Nunavut Song Contest, community contributions, and other initiatives that help to ensure the preservation, promotion, and development of the Inuit language in Nunavut. In 2009-2010, special emphasis will be paid to initiatives that directly support the revitalization of Inuinnaqtun.

Our focus will be on incorporating Inuit societal values into government policies

and programs, and the continued development of *Piqqusilirivvik* will help to strengthen Nunavut's unique identity by creating an environment where our elders can pass on their cultural and linguistic knowledge to Nunavummiut. The construction and program planning for *Piqqusilirivvik* continues to occur on schedule and the tender for construction for the facility in Clyde River has recently been awarded.

Our overall funding allocated to grants and contributions has been increased, and we continue to strive for simplicity, transparency, and improved accountability in the administration of these important programs. For example, we have increased our support to community libraries by 40 percent and significantly increased our grants and contributions for elders and youth programming.

In support of healthy living, we have re-profiled our Sport and Recreation Branch in a renewed effort to focus sport, recreation, and physical activity programs and services at the community and territorial levels. Sport and Recreation is also actively preparing for Nunavut's participation in the 2009 Canada Summer Games and the 2010 Arctic Winter Games.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would be pleased to answer any questions that you might have.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Tapardjuk. Those are very good speaking notes. I would want to participate in the 2009 Canada Summer Games and I will go for the gold.

Thank you, Minister Tapardjuk. Do you have officials that you would like to bring to the witness table?

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Yes, I would like to have my officials with me, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Do my colleagues agree to bring in the witnesses?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): They have agreed. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the officials in so that they can accompany the minister.

For those of you who want to go golfing with me, it will be for the summer games. I don't see any arms going up but I will be putting names together for our team.

Looking at our Rules, for the record, Minister Tapardjuk, please introduce your witnesses.

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On my left is Deputy Minister Phoebe Hainnu and on my right is the Director of Corporate Services, Michael Rudolph. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Tapardjuk. Does the Chair of the Standing Committee on Social Wellness have opening comments? Mr. Aupaluktuq, you may proceed.

**Mr. Aupaluktuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I am pleased to deliver the standing committee's opening comments as we

begin consideration of the 2009-2010 Main Estimates and Business Plan of the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth.

The Standing Committee on Social Wellness has had the opportunity to meet with the minister and his officials. The minister was able to provide an update on his department's proposed expenditures for the 2009-2010 fiscal year. Members noted that the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth is proposing to increase its budget for 2009-2010 by approximately 17 percent.

Two thirds of this increase is related to the implementation costs of Nunavut's new official language legislation and the new cultural school in Clyde River that is scheduled to open in 2011. The remaining amount is related to increases in elder and youth programs, sport and recreation programs and new positions in the department's Directorate Branch.

Mr. Chairman, as all members are aware, two very important pieces of legislation were passed last year by the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut. The *Official Languages Act* was passed in June 2008 and the *Inuit Language Protection Act* was passed in September 2008. The standing committee is delighted to note that Parliamentary concurrence with the *Official Languages Act* has now been achieved.

On June 1, Nunavut Member of Parliament Leona Aglukkaq brought forward a motion in the House of Commons to concur with the passage of the Act. The motion was passed by the House of Commons immediately.

On June 4, the Senate referred its motion for concurrence to the Senate Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs for review. This process included the appearance of the minister and one of our own committee members, Mr. Paul Okalik, in addition to other language leaders from Nunavut.

The Senate Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs presented the report of its review to the Senate on June 11, at which time the motion for the Senate to concur with the passage of the Act was agreed to and adopted.

Members recognize that both the *Official Languages Act* and the *Inuit Language Protection Act* will require a number of years to be fully implemented. The standing committee recognizes that there are a number of complex issues that are raised by these two new pieces of legislation.

With this in mind, the standing committee engaged in an exploratory dialogue with the minister about the new legislation, including discussions with respect to the possibility of using one writing system in Nunavut, the possibility of using one Inuit language within government institutions, and the possibility of drafting a ten-year plan in the context of the new legislation in order to accommodate these goals.

Members recognize that the issue of language services provided by federal government bodies and federally regulated entities is also very complex. Members noted that the minister intends to continue monitoring ongoing efforts to explore the issue of providing Inuit language services at post office boxes and banks in Nunavut.

While members recognize that the Languages Commissioner now has the responsibility of receiving and investigating complaints from Nunavummiut about businesses that are not providing adequate services in the Inuit language, the standing committee encourages the minister to promote pride in the business community with respect to their provision of services in the Inuit language.

Members raised the idea of establishing an award system for businesses that make efforts to include the Inuit language in their services. Members suggested that a system of recognition would help to cultivate a culture of commitment among businesses to include the Inuit language as much as possible. A successful precedent for such an approach includes the department's *Titiraliritti* Nunavut Literature Prize.

The standing committee noted that the department has established *Taiguusiliuqtiit*, a new branch to implement the new Inuit Language Authority created under section 15 of the *Inuit Language Protection Act*. This new Inuit Language Authority will be called *Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit*. The standing committee was pleased to be advised that the minister and his department officials are making progress with selecting the members of the authority.

Mr. Chairman, the standing committee is pleased to note that the minister is aware of the ongoing issue of the repatriation of Nunavut heritage artefacts stored in facilities outside of Nunavut. While recognizing that the issue of heritage infrastructure falls under the department's capital budget, members

expressed concern that young Nunavummiut continue to lack access to an important component of their heritage.

Mr. Chairman, the standing committee is pleased to note that the minister is planning to work with Inuit Heritage Trust to develop education material on place names in Nunavut. Members noted that young Nunavummiut should have access to the knowledge that elders have with respect to traditional place names and geography of Nunavut.

Mr. Chairman, members are pleased to note that the development of the new Inuit Cultural School in Clyde River, *Piqqusilirivvik*, is progressing as planned.

Given the general lack of structured access to elders' knowledge, members were pleased to be advised that there are a number of elders who will be designated to share traditional knowledge as part of the education program for the new school.

The standing committee looks forward to reviewing progress in curriculum development and the establishment of a governance framework for *Piqqusilirivvik*.

Mr. Chairman, members of the committee are aware that youth comprise a large percentage of the population of Nunavut. The standing committee was therefore pleased to note that the department has reorganized its grants and contributions funding to introduce a new program of funding for elder and youth facilities.

Members were advised that once progress has been made with these new elder and youth programs, the minister and his officials expect to either establish more programs or expand on existing programs.

The standing committee notes that the minister had tabled an Elders Strategy in November 2005 which contained a number of recommendations, a number of which have been met. The minister advised the standing committee of the development of a new Elders Strategy. Members look forward to further information on this new strategy and particularly, how it will address the need to pass on traditional knowledge to the younger generations.

Mr. Chairman, the standing committee was pleased to note that the department is working on a report that will provide information about sport and recreation programs for Nunavummiut. Members look forward to the tabling of this report.

Members were also pleased to note that a number of Nunavut volunteers are being recruited for participation in the Vancouver 2010 Olympic Games. Members were advised that the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth is working with the Department of Economic Development and Transportation to organize the display of Inuit games and Inuit culture at the 2010 Winter Games.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my opening comments. Other members may have their own comments and concerns as we proceed. (interpretation) Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

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

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

**Mr. Ningark** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the minister for giving us very clear speaking notes and I'm sure that he is supported by the people of Nunavut. He was saying that there will be ongoing consultations with Inuit, French, and English language communities within Nunavut.

Before the creation of Nunavut, I travelled to Copenhagen. We have to look at the big picture and think about the future. That's the only way we can progress. I'm sure that we have a long time to go yet as the world is not going to be ending anytime soon, not this month and the rest of 2009 and beyond.

We have to look at the big picture. Like I said, I was in Copenhagen and they're trilingual. They have their original mother tongue, they speak English and their aboriginal population also has their own language.



In the future, I'm sure that our young people will have an opportunity to learn the French language and become trilingual like in Copenhagen. Possibly the education boards or committees can start these types of discussions pretty soon. We will have to look at the big picture and possibly aim for a trilingual population.

I also like the idea of gathering up terminologies. If we refer to the Senate Committee in Inuktitut, we call them the old men's committee. If I was part of the Senate, I wouldn't want to be known as belonging to the old men's committee. So I'm very much for gathering up terminology. We will have to look at how we can name the Senate Committee appropriately and not just call it a place where the old men go or something.

When I look at the Senate Committee, some of them are not that old. The elevator needs to go up a little bit faster. Willie Adams invited me to the Senate House and we went to his office. We went upstairs and I asked him, "Is it because the old building is so old that the elevator is slow?" He just stated that it was made specifically for elders.

So we have to look at terminology workshops pretty soon and work together to compile some terms and find appropriate ones for the Senate Committee and the Senate House. We don't even have names for some contemporary items.

We have different dialects. Using Kugaaruk, Taloyoak, and Gjoa Haven as examples, they're very close together and they are in the Nattilik riding, but they have different dialects that are distinctly different from the Kitikmeot

and the Inuvialuit dialects, as well as Inuktitut.

I believe the Inuvialuit use Roman orthography and they use the syllabics writing system in Taloyoak, Gjoa Haven, and Kugaaruk. So we have to think about those very carefully if we're going to be standardizing the writing system and the language.

I grew up in Repulse Bay and over there, the people of Repulse Bay and Amittuq, the minister's riding, lived in the same community.

I don't want to make a long speech, but my question is: have you thought about the different dialects that are being practiced today in the different communities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** *Merci Monsieur* Ningark. (interpretation) That's a very good question. I'm sure that the minister mentioned that during committee meetings. Do you want to try and answer the question, Minister Tapardjuk?

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you. The *Inuit Language Protection Act* was passed in September.

I think it was in March that we held a meeting with the *Association des francophones du Nunavut*, who reviewed the Act, Inuit from different regions and different organizations from the Kitikmeot, Kivalliq, and Baffin as Inuit representatives, and us representing the government. We had a meeting in Arctic Bay to talk about the implementation of the *Inuit Language Protection Act*.

What we have decided to date is we're going to do regional visits and the question will be: if we're going to be using Inuktitut in the workforce, whose language are we going to be using?

The government documents, rules, and Acts will have to be written in standardized Inuktitut and also the usage of Inuktitut in the government. Yes, you can use your own dialect in your house and in your own community, but we need a standardized language and writing system in the government workforce.

In 2009, I don't know exactly when but we will be holding a conference of stakeholders and look for answers for these types of questions.

We also had a call for members who are interested in *Inuit Uqausinginnik Taigusiliuqtiit*. We got 50 submissions of names. We will have to select who will be sitting on *Taigusiliuqtiit* and they will be the ones compiling the terminology. They will be the ones who will decide what language will be used within the government and in the justice system, and what writing system will be used.

For example, if we look at Greenland, the Kalaallit government and the schools use one standardized language and writing system even though they have different dialects. The *Taigusiliuqtiit* will have to look at all of these questions prior to March 2010. We will put out a discussion paper and table a report of our findings.

After having a few conferences to find answers to these questions, we will have

to talk to stakeholders on those issues, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** *Merci Monsieur le Ministre. Monsieur Ningark.*

**Mr. Ningark** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I understand exactly where the minister is coming from.

For example, in the justice system, a standardized Inuktitut and writing system will have to be used. That would be one of the duties of the Inuit Language Authority. The interpreters for the courts will have to learn those new terminologies that will be used within the systems.

I understand very well that this is a huge responsibility and I thank him very much. I have no question. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Ningark. That's quite a lot of work to do. Other countries have gone through that. There are different dialects but they do have one standardized writing system, which we see in other countries. Are there any other comments? Mr. Aupaluktuq.

**Mr. Aupaluktuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Minister Tapardjuk, and your officials, Phoebe Hainnu and Michael Rudolph. I'm sorry if I mispronounced your name.

In the minister's opening comments, Minister Tapardjuk talked about the *Inuit Language Protection Act* and I am very pleased that we have an Act. We will be starting the implementation of this in Nunavut. I thank you very much for having these two Language Acts passed.

In regard to recreation, I'm all for the Sport and Recreation Branch because it's healthy for youth. For example, in Baker Lake, we got an arena in 1985 and we were very pleased with that because it benefited the youth very much. I played a lot of hockey between 1985 and 1989. It benefited the people of Baker Lake very much. When the arena opened, it helped some of the kids who were in trouble.

Looking at the future, we have one in the National Hockey League, and I think we also have one in the gymnastics class, or boxers or wrestlers to be in Nunavut today. So I'm all for the Sports and Recreation Branch. I thank the minister. I just wanted to make those comments. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. That was just a comment. It's too bad you didn't mention that there are some excellent golf players around here as well.

>> *Laughter*

Are there any general comments or questions? No one has their hand up, so we can now move on to the page-by-page review. F-4. Directorate. Culture, Language, Elders and Youth. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$4,686,000. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): That amount has been approved. We can now go to Official Languages. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$3,512,000. Mr. Elliott has a question.

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To the pages, I just had a question or a couple of questions. Section 38 of the *Official Languages Act* requires the government to consult with representatives of the French, English, and Inuit language communities in the development of new regulations under the legislation.

The legislation also requires the minister to notify NTI and the representatives of the English and French language communities of any proposed regulations that may be made.

Section 25 of the *Inuit Language Protection Act* requires the minister to develop an implementation plan for the Act. This section requires the minister to involve Inuit in the development of the plan as well as English and French language communities.

In the GN's view, who are the official representatives for the Inuit language community, the English language community, and the French language community? Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister Tapardjuk, if you could respond.

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would also like to thank the member for asking that question. The French here in Iqaluit have an association and we consult with them. They're called AFN, *Association des francophones du Nunavut*. French-speaking people are represented by that entity. We have been working closely with both them and NTI when we are working on language legislation.

On the implementation stage of language legislation, we will work with other entities, private businesses, and Inuit associations. All the stakeholders of the Act will be consulted and we will negotiate and work on the plan that is to be tabled in March. We will have to come up with an implementation plan for the language legislation. We will be preparing to table that plan and we will have more detail at that time, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. You have responded properly but the *Association des francophones du Nunavut* represents the French-speaking language community. He was asking a question on which representative you meet with. Minister Tapardjuk.

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): We meet with NTI and we have been working closely with them. NTI has membership in their board from all regions. Since that entity is the contact, we work closely with them and we also consult with the regional Inuit organizations. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Mr. Elliott, did he answer your question? Will you be asking another question, Mr. Elliott?

**Mr. Elliott**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I think I got my answer in terms of representation for the French language community. I believe the minister is saying that NTI is the representative for the Inuit language community. For the English language community, I didn't hear an answer. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister Tapardjuk, could you respond, please?

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Since the government has been operating in the English language, the government already represents them because the government always operates in the English language and we are getting tired of it.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Tapardjuk. Mr. Elliott, you probably got the answer you were looking for. Mr. Elliott.

**Mr. Elliott**: Well, I don't know if I got the answer I was looking for. I didn't realize that the government was tired of working in English, but I apologize.

In addition to NTI itself in terms of representing the Inuit language, there are the three Inuit organizations of the Qikiqtani, the Kivalliq, and the Kitikmeot. In the government's view, does NTI speak for the Inuit language community or will they be consulting with each of the three regional organizations? Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Elliott. The minister had responded that they go through NTI, which represents the three regional Inuit associations. So that question was already answered. Mr. Elliott, do you have additional questions?

**Mr. Elliott**: No, I'm good.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Ningark.

**Mr. Ningark** (interpretation): Since the Inuktitut language legislation has been approved or concurred with by Parliament, Nunavut staff will now be trained in the Inuktitut language. Will there be more Inuktitut language training in the future since it has been recognized?

As Inuit people have heard that the government will operate using the Inuktitut language, some Inuit people are unilingual Inuktitut-speaking people and that's why I'm asking that question to the minister. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningark. That question is geared towards the Department of Education but we are aware that he also holds that portfolio. Perhaps you can respond to the question, Minister Tapardjuk.

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With respect to GN employees specifically, they have gone through Nunavut Arctic College and have received Inuktitut language training.

For those interested in learning the Inuktitut language, we utilize Nunavut Arctic College programs and that will continue. We have two main goals for people who already speak the Inuit language and who would like to enhance their Inuktitut or further their language. For those people who would like to learn Inuktitut, we also provide that training program.

In addition, there's a provision in the *Education Act* that states that in order to graduate from grade 12, they will have to be fluent in Inuktitut and English. So for that reason, the Inuktitut curriculum

is now being developed in Arviat and we already have plans for that. We think that once this has been implemented, students will be utilizing the Inuktitut language more in the future. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Ningark** (interpretation): Perhaps put some meaning to it. I can't tell everyone to start speaking in Inuktitut all the time because we need to have staff. But in the future, we have to start working on it, not today and not tomorrow but some time in the future. I just wanted to speak to the issue for the future's sake. Thank you. I also would like to thank the minister.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningark. That was a very good comment. Mr. Ningeongan would like to ask a question.

**Mr. Ningeongan** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm sure I'm a bit ahead; our government wants to function or operate using Inuktitut. Once you start implementing that, local governments... I just want to get clarification so that I can get a clearer picture.

Nowadays, we operate funding only. Would they be provided funding so that they could adhere to the Act? I know that the municipalities are not funded to meet all of their needs. I asked about that so that I could get a better understanding. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. Minister Tapardjuk, do you want to try and answer the question?

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Yes, it will be a two-part answer. First of all, for the *Inuit Language Protection Act*, we will provide funding to hamlets so that they can hire interpreter/translators for services that they provide and translation of material.

We will provide funding to be used for everything that is run by the hamlet council, but we would go through the Department of Community and Government Services. There's a provision in the *Inuit Language Protection Act* that the hamlet councils will have to adhere to the Act. We know that they need support and that's already been in the plans, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Tapardjuk. Are there any other questions on this page? We're on Official Languages. Total Branch. \$3,512,000. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): It has been approved. The next one deals with languages but it's more directed to Inuktitut, Taiguusiliuqtiit. Total Branch. \$930,000. Are there any questions on this page? Mr. Aupaluktuq.

**Mr. Aupaluktuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under the *Inuit Language Protection Act*, where would the office be and how many would be hired? Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. Minister Tapardjuk, do you want to try and answer the question?

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Yes. First of all, when they start

initiating the operations, the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth will be responsible for them. Once they are up and running, they will be at arms length because the government is also liable. It would be too much if the government held that responsibility in order to provide better services to the public.

For the first five years, the department will be responsible for that. As the years go by, they will gain their independence and the term is three years. Once that is up and running, the office will be located in Iqaluit and they're going to have seven PYs. So that's what we have set out in our main estimates. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Tapardjuk. Are there any other questions on this page? Mr. Ningark.

**Mr. Ningark** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think we have seen nomination forms that includes... have you already appointed people for *Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit*? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Although the minister had stated that they haven't screened the submissions for the Inuit Language Authority, there were over 50 submissions. If you would like to make a supplementary, Minister Tapardjuk, I give you the floor.

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for the question. We will find out after approximately three weeks. I think we have received about 50 submissions. According to legislation,

the Inuit Language Authority will have to be set up by September and we will have a better idea three weeks from then.

Also to supplement, NTI and the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth, the Francophone Association of Nunavut, and the government will take part in the committee where they do the screening for nominations. There will be five members in *Taiguusiliuqtiit* and it also includes the Languages Commissioner.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Tapardjuk. Are there any further questions on this page? *Taiguusiliuqtiit*. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$930,000. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Culture and Heritage. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$4,341,000. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Next is Elders and Youth. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$2,243,000. Do you agree? I didn't hear anybody.

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Sport and Recreation. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$5,449,000. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. We have concluded our review of the

main estimates for the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$21,161,000. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Are you in agreement that the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth is concluded?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. We will move on to another department. Department of Environment... I'm sorry. Thank you, Minister and your officials, for appearing before the committee. It didn't take too long to review your department and you have an opportunity to make closing remarks.

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to first of all apologize to the Member for Quttiktuq. I would like to retract what I said in regard to the English language because we always utilize English within government. We haven't identified any representative for that and I just wanted to retract what I said. I apologize to Mr. Ron Elliott.

I also would like to thank my officials for their support. We will work hard to implement this after it has been approved. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Mr. Elliott, the minister has apologized for his remark.

We have concluded that department, so we will move on to another department. Minister of Environment, Minister

Shewchuk, you can now make your opening comments.

**Bill 01 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2009-2010 – Environment – Consideration in Committee**

**Hon. Daniel Shewchuk:** Yes, I do.

**Chairman:** Minister Shewchuk.

**Hon. Daniel Shewchuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I am pleased to present my first main estimates for the Department of Environment before the Committee of the Whole.

Since being appointed as Minister of Environment last fall, I have had the privilege of working with all the MLAs, my Cabinet colleagues, Nunavutmiut, Inuit organizations, federal and territorial governments, and at the international level.

The last few months have been a challenging experience, but also one filled with many tremendous learning opportunities. I look forward to whatever the coming year brings with the assurance that my department will be able to rise to the challenge.

*Iksivautaaq*, the Department of Environment's proposed budget for 2009-2010 is \$19,998,000. This is a net increase of \$570,000 from the 2008-09 fiscal year. This budget is essential for us to meet our responsibilities and obligations.

My department has a number of specific obligations and areas of responsibility under the *Nunavut Land Claims*

*Agreement* that are directly related to the management of resources, as well as a number of other territorial, national, and international legal obligations and responsibilities.

The list of these responsibilities is a long one, so I will only list a few of them. There is the co-management of terrestrial wildlife in Nunavut and land use planning. We also have environmental protection responsibilities, including recycling pilot projects, environmental guideline development, pollution prevention inspection, and contaminated site inventory.

My department has the responsibility for implementing the Umbrella Territorial Parks Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreement and is also representing the Government of Nunavut's interests during the ongoing negotiations for an umbrella IIBA for Nunavut's Canadian Heritage Rivers.

We work closely with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, and the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board in managing fisheries and sealing development.

*Iksivautaaq*, sealing remains an important part of the culture, diet, and economy of Nunavut, and my department continues to work with harvesters and the fur industry to support hunters, develop markets, and aggressively represent Nunavut's interests in national and international levels.

There are a number of challenges associated with these responsibilities,



some of which are beyond our control. For example, the costs associated with a recycling program, such as acquiring heated facilities for storage in the communities; the European Union ban on sealskins; and the listing of the polar bear as an endangered species by the US. We are exploring new strategies and working diligently with our stakeholders to lessen some of those challenges.

During our budgeting and planning for the 2009-2010 fiscal year, we worked hard to take advantage of partnership opportunities as they are obviously the most cost-effective and efficient way to meet some of our responsibilities and mandate.

By partnering with others in the private and public sectors, the department is able to take advantage of these resources to improve what we are capable of doing. We have found in the past that even a relatively small investment by the department will support a much needed service for Nunavutmiut with the right partnerships.

For example, in March 2009, we worked with the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated in organizing a wildlife symposium in Rankin Inlet. We brought together many stakeholders, including elders, and the result was a successful symposium that led to important discussions regarding wildlife management.

Mr. Chairman, we also leveraged third party funding to complete some of our projects. In the 2008-09 fiscal year, we received approximately \$2.8 million from various organizations in support of our wildlife research, fisheries, and other

initiatives. We will continue to seek third party funding to supplement our available resources.

Mr. Chairman, in the 2009-2010 fiscal year, we plan to distribute \$1.89 million as grants and contributions to our partnering organizations, such as hunters and trappers organizations, regional wildlife management organizations, and other groups. A portion of the contribution is directed to the Fisheries Development and Diversification Program, commercial fish freight subsidies, and the Nunavut Fisheries Training Consortium.

My department is working closely with Nunavut hamlets in addressing and managing contaminated site inventory projects. We are partnering with the municipalities of Iqaluit, Rankin Inlet, and Kugluktuk on pilot recycling projects.

We are also developing a blueprint for a Nunavut-wide recycling program. This blueprint will help us understand what is needed to ensure the success of a recycling program for the entire territory.

Right now, our recycling and contaminated site inventory projects are financed through the Northern Strategy funding and we have had supports from our partnering hamlets. The Northern Strategy Fund is expected to run out at the end of this fiscal year, so alternative funding will be needed.

To ensure residents and visitors have the best possible experience while in Nunavut, we are continuing to upgrade facilities at all of our existing parks and campgrounds, and will complete

promotional work for territorial parks and Canadian Heritage Rivers with the development of brochures, websites, maps, and displays. We also work in partnership with the Department of Economic Development and Transportation and with Nunavut Tourism to promote our tourism industry in the territory.

In the 2009-2010 fiscal year, we will continue with our feasibility studies and development plans for potential parks in the non-decentralized communities of Kugaaruk, Clyde River, and Coral Harbour.

During the 2009-2010 fiscal year, we also plan to enhance the Natural Resources Conservation Trust Fund, which is a permanent trust fund for education, research, and conservation. We are also implementing an education and outreach plan. This will help us to engage and inform Nunavutmiut and international audiences on the Department of Environment's mandate and the Government of Nunavut's commitment to managing our environment with care and respect.

Mr. Chairman, my department's 2009-2010 main estimates and business plan support the delivery and achievement of the department's mandate and the vision of *Tamapta*. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (Mr. Ningeongan): Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. Do you have witnesses you would like to bring to the table?

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

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. (interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort his witnesses in.

Thank you. (interpretation ends) For the record, Minister Shewchuk, please introduce your witnesses.

**Hon. Daniel Shewchuk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to introduce on my right, Simon Awa, Deputy Minister of the Department of Environment, and on my left is Camilius Egeni, Director of Corporate Services for the Department of Environment.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. (interpretation ends) Does the Chair of the Standing Committee on Community and Economic Development have opening comments? Mr. Komoartok.

**Mr. Komoartok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I am pleased to provide opening comments on behalf of the Standing Committee on Community and Economic Development on its review of the 2009-2010 Main Estimates and Business Plan of the Department of Environment.

The standing committee notes that the department's proposed 2009-2010 operations and maintenance budget of \$19,998,000 has increased by approximately 40 percent since the introduction of the department's 2004-05 main estimates. The number of positions in the department has increased from 102 PYs in 2004-05 to 121.5 PYs in 2009-2010.

During the minister's recent appearance before the standing committee, members

took the opportunity to raise a number of important issues and concerns.

Nunavut's new *Wildlife Act* was passed by the First Legislative Assembly in 2003. Although *Wildlife Transitional Regulations* were published in Part II of the June 2005 edition of the *Nunavut Gazette*, a comprehensive set of new regulations has not yet been approved. The Nunavut Wildlife Management Board has held a number of hearings since 2003 on proposed new regulations under the Act.

Although the department's 2009-2010 business plan does not address this issue, members note that NTI's most recent annual report indicates that it has "outstanding concerns and will continue to work toward resolving these with the NWMB and GN."

The standing committee encourages the minister to be clear and candid with Members of the Legislative Assembly concerning the areas of disagreement that the government may have with other organizations involved in this process.

Section 160 of the *Wildlife Act* requires the minister to appoint an advisory committee of elders to "review current, traditional and historical types, methods and technologies of harvesting wildlife in the context of the guiding principles and concepts of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit and to advise the Minister on those it considers humane and safe."

On March 24, 2009, the minister announced that the newly-appointed members of this advisory committee would be holding its first meeting in Iqaluit. The standing committee encourages the minister to keep the

Legislative Assembly regularly informed on what recommendations this committee submits to the government.

Section 177 of the *Wildlife Act* requires the minister to provide an annual report to the Legislative Assembly on the administration of the Natural Resources Conservation Trust Fund. To date, no annual reports under this section of the Act have been tabled in the Legislative Assembly.

However, the department's 2009-2010 business plan indicates that one of its priorities is to "Build the Natural Resources Conservation Trust Fund as a permanent source of funding for promoting awareness and wise use of wildlife and habitat through initiatives such as education, research and conservation."

The standing committee looks forward to the tabling of the first annual report under this section of the Act.

Last year, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service listed the polar bear as a "threatened species." On May 22, 2008, the Minister of Environment informed the Legislative Assembly that the Government of Nunavut will "pursue all available options to ensure that the US listing has a minimum effect on communities relying on income from polar bear sport hunts."

The standing committee encourages the department to work with appropriate partners to assist impacted communities in identifying new markets with respect to sport hunting.

Mr. Chairman, in March of last year, the government announced that it would be

supporting the Hudson Bay Interagency Working Group's proposal for a Hudson Bay Awareness Summit to be held in 2009. This was announced as a forum for "communities, aboriginal groups, scientists and politicians to present concerns, issues and research on the Hudson Bay ecosystem."

The standing committee was advised that this event has been rescheduled to take place in Iqaluit in 2010. Members also note that the 2009-2010 Business Plan of the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs indicates that it will have a role in supporting this event.

The department's 2009-2010 business plan indicates that "With Nunavut's rapidly growing communities come the challenges of managing waste in an arctic environment, particularly given Nunavut's aging waste management infrastructure. Many communities are also burdened with abandoned waste sites, some of which are contaminated." The business plan also indicates that "A lack of modern community waste management infrastructure impacts compliance with the *Environmental Protection Act*."

The standing committee recommends that the minister begin the practice of tabling an annual report in the Legislative Assembly on the government's activities under the *Environmental Protection Act*. This will provide all members and the public with a more clear understanding of the challenges and issues facing the government in this area.

Members note that the department's business plan indicates that its budget for

environmental operations is decreasing from \$1,059,000 in 2008-09 to \$624,000 in 2009-2010. It is projected to decrease to \$247,000 in 2010-11. The reasons for this decrease are unclear.

On February 17, 2009, the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment announced that a number of jurisdictions have endorsed the new *Canada-wide Strategy for the Management of Municipal Wastewater Effluent* and are ready to begin implementation.

The strategy sets out a harmonized framework to manage discharges "from more than 3,500 wastewater facilities in Canada, many of which are currently in need of repair and upgrading."

The strategy also indicates that "Due to the extreme climatic conditions and remoteness of Canada's Far North, a viable means to improve human and environmental health protection needs to be carefully considered. Therefore, a window of up to five years is provided to undertake research into factors that affect performance of wastewater facilities in northern conditions."

On March 27, 2009, the Minister of Environment tabled a report in the Legislative Assembly concerning this issue. The minister's report indicated that "Nunavut, Quebec and Newfoundland did not endorse the document." The report also stated that "Nunavut agrees in principle with the strategy but is extremely concerned about costs associated with implementation and the lack of direct funding options. Nunavut will certainly support the strategy when funding is more definitive."

During the minister's appearance before the standing committee, members were advised that it would cost the GN approximately \$500 million to implement this new national strategy.

However, members were also advised the Department of Environment is working with the Department of Community and Government Services to build up an inventory of community facilities. The standing committee encourages the two departments to also work closely together with respect to the development and management of such infrastructure as sewage lagoons.

Mr. Chairman, the final report on the joint review of harvester support programs that was undertaken by the GN and NTI was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on March 13, 2006. The report contained a number of observations and recommendations concerning the harvester support programs that are administered by both organizations.

The standing committee encourages the department to continue its efforts to work with NTI and the recently established Nunavut Inuit Wildlife Secretariat to enhance the support provided to harvesters and HTOs.

The standing committee notes that the department's budget for grants and contributions for harvester support programs has remained largely unchanged for a number of years. Members encourage the minister to periodically review the adequacy of these funding levels.

Mr. Chairman, the standing committee applauds the department's success in

“producing a recruitment video, targeted at Inuit youth, to attract them to careers as conservation officers. This video is being used at career fairs and in senior high school classes throughout Nunavut.” The standing committee was also pleased to be advised by the minister that the department plans to hire a summer student in every community where a conservation officer is in place.

In January of this year, the GN participated in a National Polar Bear Round Table hosted by the federal environment minister. The department's 2009-2010 business plan indicates that it has been working to complete polar bear co-management agreements with other Canadian jurisdictions.

The department has “advanced draft language with NWT, Ontario, and Manitoba but a lack of response from the other jurisdictions, particularly Quebec and Newfoundland and Labrador is causing delays in finalizing this initiative.”

The department's business plan also indicates that one of its priorities for 2009-2010 is to complete a “polar bear co-management agreement with Greenland for shared polar bear populations.” The standing committee encourages the minister to regularly update the Legislative Assembly on the status of these initiatives.

Mr. Chairman, in March of this year, a Nunavut Wildlife Symposium was held in Rankin Inlet. This event was organized by the Government of Nunavut, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, the Nunavut Inuit Wildlife Secretariat, and the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board.

The symposium was held to address such issues as the “handling of wildlife in research, and the integration of science and Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit in wildlife research and management.” The standing committee encourages the minister to table a report in the Legislative Assembly on the proceedings of this event and to regularly update the Legislative Assembly on progress achieved in these areas.

On March 17, 2008, the government announced that the Department of Economic Development and Transportation’s Fisheries and Sealing Division would be transferred to the Department of Environment as part of a Cabinet portfolio shuffle.

Members had the opportunity to discuss the issue of where this division would be most appropriately located within the GN’s overall organizational structure during the appearances of both the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation and the Minister of Environment.

Members recognize that this division has been transferred between departments on a number of occasions since 1999. It is important that stability be achieved in order to allow the division to focus on its mandate of fostering growth in this important sector of the economy.

Members also agree that the Department of Environment’s ongoing relationship with the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans has complemented this division’s activities and initiatives. Accordingly, the standing committee recommends that the Fisheries and Sealing Division remain within the Department of Environment.

The department’s 2009-2010 business plan indicates that it is in the process of completing a Nunavut Sealing Strategy. Members look forward to the tabling of this important strategy. Members also note that the Department of Economic Development and Transportation’s 2009-2010 business plan indicates that one of its priorities is to “Identify new markets for seal skins.” Both departments are encouraged to work together closely on this issue.

The Department of Environment’s 2009-2010 business plan indicates that its priorities include continuing “inshore fisheries development including a summer turbot test fishery in Cumberland Sound” and expanding the “coastal resource inventory project to more communities across Nunavut.” Members encourage the department to also explore the development of test fisheries near such communities as Sanikiluaq, where potential exists for the commercial harvesting of such products as scallops.

The department’s 2009-2010 business plan indicates that the department has “helped develop and continue to support the Nunavut Fisheries Training Consortium (NFTC) in an effort to provide long-term training to Inuit for participation in all aspects of fisheries development in Nunavut. The Fisheries Development and Diversification Fund builds the fisheries knowledge-base through such projects as test fisheries, technology transfer, fisheries science, product and marketing development, and feasibility studies.”

The standing committee encourages the minister to table an annual report in the Legislative Assembly on the

department's expenditures under its Fisheries Diversification Program, Commercial Fisheries Freight Subsidy Program, and Fisheries Training Consortium Program.

The standing committee also encourages the minister to regularly update the Legislative Assembly on the government's efforts with respect to fishing quotas in Nunavut's adjacent waters.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening comments on the 2009-2010 Main Estimates and Business Plan of the Department of Environment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Komoartok. According to Rule 77(1), each member will have 10 minutes to speak. Do members have any general comments? Mr. Aupaluktuq.

**Mr. Aupaluktuq:** Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the Hon. Minister Shewchuk and his officials for coming to present their departmental plan as well.

In your opening statements, you mentioned the protection of territorial parks and the protection of Canadian Heritage Rivers.

I just want to provide information or update to you that in the Baker Lake riding, two or three major rivers are recognized as Heritage Rivers, the Kazan River and the Thelon River. I believe they generate a lot of economic spin-offs to the region as well as in total, the rest of Nunavut.

Both rivers attract worldwide travellers such as canoeists down the rivers. Yearly, they attract Europeans, Americans, and all other parts of the world to come to our beautiful country of Nunavut.

I just want to thank the minister for addressing that section as well because it's a vital component to our identity in our riding and it's one that we're very proud of. That was a general comment. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. Did you want to comment on that, Minister Shewchuk?

**Hon. Daniel Shewchuk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Well, I'm glad that the member has identified that because they are both beautiful rivers. I have had the personal opportunity of travelling to the Thelon River and I can tell you that firsthand.

But we realized, as a department, that they are very important rivers in Nunavut and they do promote and encourage tourism and showcase Nunavut to the world. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. I have no more names on my list. Mr. Okalik.

**Mr. Okalik (interpretation):** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is not directly related to your opening comments but yesterday, I asked the minister if he will be able to put forth commercial fishing quotas not only in Nunavut but everywhere. What's the status of that issue? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Daniel Shewchuk:** Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I will take forward the member's concern. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I had asked him about the percentage because we're not up to par with the rest of Canada. My question was in regard to the current fisheries quota in Nunavut. Are we are going to be seeing an increase in the commercial fishing quota for Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Daniel Shewchuk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I didn't realize I was on here.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just as we look up a little bit of information here, I can provide the member with this answer. Our total quota for turbot right now is 900 tonnes and our quota for shrimp, I'm not sure what it is offhand right now, but we harvest very little shrimp in Nunavut at present.

If there is to be any quota increase, we have been in negotiations with the federal Minister of Fisheries and Oceans and have encouraged him strongly that if there is any increase due to scientific research that take place in Nunavut waters and adjacent waters, we would like to see 100 percent of that quota

come to Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If you're going to be making reports to the federal government especially and to other jurisdictions, we will have to have all of the information.

There are 80 to 90 percent quota allocations, but I would like to urge the minister to have meetings with his counterparts so that we can see gradual increases in our quotas. That was the reason why I asked that question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Daniel Shewchuk:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm sure the member realizes that you just don't have gradual increases to quotas; you have increases in quota when the science allows you to have increases in quota.

So when the proper science is done in conjunction with DFO and there is to be a quota increase, we have voiced our interest clearly to the federal government that we want a major share of that quota. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Those are the questions that I wanted to ask for now. There are other items that we will be reviewing. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.



**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Okalik. Mr. Ningark.

**Mr. Ningark** (interpretation): Thank you. In your opening comments on page 5, you stated that in 2009-2010, you plan to distribute \$1.89 million as grants and contributions to your partnering organizations, such as hunters and trappers organizations, regional wildlife management organizations, and other groups.

We want to make sure that all organizations get their fair portion. Could you give us a breakdown of this \$1.89 million that is going to be distributed to these organizations? Can we get a breakdown of how much is going to each of these organizations at some point in time? Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is my question to the minister.

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

**Hon. Daniel Shewchuk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I can give the member that breakdown.

For harvester support programs, HTOs get \$317,000, regional wildlife boards get \$223,000; the Community Hunter Assistance Program is \$251,000; community organized hunts is \$45,000; and disaster compensation is \$80,000.

In partnership programs that we have, to be a member and contribute to the Beverly Qamani'tuaq Caribou Management Board is \$15,000 and Canadian Cooperative Wildlife Health is \$15,000.

And then further fisheries support programs, the Fur Price Program is \$70,000, the Fur Institute of Canada is \$10,000, the Fisheries Diversification Program is \$525,000, the Commercial Fisheries Subsidy is \$190,000, and the Nunavut Fisheries Training Consortium is \$150,000. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Ningark** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the minister for his response. I would like to ask another question regarding the... I don't know what you call it; I think it's called the disaster program for \$80,000.

As I said earlier, when the rivers are starting to open, sometimes the melting starts from the bottom instead of from the top and you can fall through if you're on your snowmobile. When you're trying to cross the river, sometimes they go through the ice.

Could we make a claim under the disaster program or what can you use this disaster program for? I would like the minister to explain that program in more detail, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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

**Hon. Daniel Shewchuk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for the question and I believe he asked the same question in the standing committee.

You can put a claim in under the disaster program for an incident like that. There are further criteria that would have to be met at the present with the program that

we have in place right now. The maximum funding amount and money amount claim per incident is \$10,000 and we have \$80,000 in that fund at the present. Very little of it is being used at the present.

I have made a commitment to the standing committee previously that we are going to look at the criteria and consult with resource users, HTOs, RWOs, and the committee to look at our criteria we have in place right now and maybe adjust those criteria. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Ningark** (interpretation): It's possibly my last question. You recently stated that there was a case where a claim was made under this program when there was a landslide or an avalanche. Individuals from Gjoa Haven, Cambridge Bay, Hall Beach, and Arviat will possibly not be able to make a claim under this program.

I think we have to rethink this carefully because at times, some people lose their snowmobiles going through the ice. Is it possible for the minister to look at this program again? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Daniel Shewchuk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I have assured and I will assure the member that we are going to look at the criteria of this program again and the eligibility to it.

And I just stress again that this program is offered to all of Nunavut, all communities and community members of Nunavut, and it varies and it does go up and down from year to year. So the funding that we have is very rarely all used up at this point. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. I have no more names. Mr. Okalik.

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I'm looking at the business plan, I-16, and there's a 2007-08 priority of completing the Nunavut Climate Change Adaptation Plan. I don't know if it ever was completed but then if we go to 2009-2010, "Begin implementation of the Climate Change Adaptation Plan."

So that would be my question: is there such a plan? It took forever when I was on the other side to try and get anything out of the department. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Daniel Shewchuk:** Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the question. The progress on this that I can update here right now is that adaptation plans were being done community-to-community. Those plans are complete for the three communities that are listed and the other ones are not complete. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I would like to see those plans if possible and see what else we can do to help implement the plan here in Iqaluit in particular.

The other question I have is: what steps is the department doing? I know in other governments, departments of environment have led their governments in trying to do their part to reduce emissions, such as testing vehicles for other departments, and some have put in place assistance, like in the NWT, to assist in whether it be solar or wind energy for private homeowners.

I would like to know if the department has looked at that at anytime.  
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Daniel Shewchuk:** Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Thanks again for the question. Our department has not looked into these avenues that the member is speaking about, about emissions.

However, we do have encouraged people to emit fewer emissions into the air. People, I think, are wise, we don't give them credit for it sometimes, but they do buy vehicles with smaller engines now and they are looking into all kinds of alternative sources of energy just for cost saving too. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Looking at the west, they have their private plan. I was wondering if you can start planning on other uses of alternative energy so that we will not depend on fuel. They provide support in the Northwest Territories. Looking at the Northwest Territories likewise, are you going to start looking at those things? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Daniel Shewchuk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member. Yes, of course, we are interested and we will be working with other departments, such as CG&S and Nunavut Housing, in looking at and developing plans where we can be more energy efficient as a government and as a territory. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you. I'm done for now, so I will allow the other members to ask questions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Okalik. Mr. Ningark.

**Mr. Ningark** (interpretation): I'll go back briefly to the \$80,000. For those who have shacks to store their equipment, it seems that polar bears are now damaging all of the cabins and their shacks at the communities. Would they be able to make claims from that \$80,000? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank Mr. Ningark. Minister Shewchuk.

**Hon. Daniel Shewchuk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. A situation like the member describes would not be eligible. There is an onus on people that they have to lessen their risk as much as they can.

This program is established for something that happens as a natural disaster where a person is not in control of the situation. But where a person is in control of storing their equipment or whatnot and there is a risk there that can take place, they have to take all responsibility of that risk.

So as the program is setup right now, they would not be eligible but as we said, we would review this program in cooperation with other interested groups and come up with other criteria too. But as he states it right, no, it wouldn't be. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. I don't have any names on my list. So we will proceed with the page-by-page review of the departmental estimates starting with page I-4. Branch Summary. Corporate Management. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$3,992,000. Agreed? Questions? Mr. Okalik.

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't want to lose my opportunity, I'm sorry. I had asked the Minister of Finance if there are any plans to get rid of the shopping bags.

I was wondering if the Department of Environment has any plans in the future to stop the use of plastic bags because they're destroying our beautiful environment. I know that they have given out reusable shopping bags, but

can they take another look at how to stop the use of plastic bags in Nunavut altogether? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Okalik. Minister Shewchuk.

**Hon. Daniel Shewchuk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would thank the member. I think this is an important issue and it's of interest to me too. I do live in a smaller community... well, not that small anymore, it's the second largest community. But we have a similar problem in Arviat where shopping bags are very much of a hindrance not only to the landfill but to the land and the viewing of the land.

So we would be interested in consulting with different departments, Community and Government Services and hamlets, on their view of shopping bags and having something alternative to plastic shopping bags. We would be very much interested in this. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the minister. We are already aware that the other places are starting to utilize biodegradable bags. But these plastics that we use are not biodegradable, so maybe we can start using biodegradable bags.

I was wondering if you could look into that because these used plastic bags or shopping bags are accumulating in our environment. So I urge the department to start looking at plans for the future. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Okalik. Minister Shewchuk.

**Hon. Daniel Shewchuk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member. Again, he brings up a very good point. And yes, we are very interested in looking at that avenue of using biodegradable bags and speaking with all of the stores and businesses that supply plastic bags to maybe revert to these. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. (interpretation) Mr. Okalik, are you finished? (interpretation ends) Branch Summary. Corporate Management. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$3,992,000. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Go to page I-5. Branch Summary. Program Management. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$16,006,000. Mr. Aupaluktuq.

**Mr. Aupaluktuq:** Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Baker Lake residents are not just mainland people; we have five distinct groups in Baker Lake. We have genealogical ties to other areas of Kivalliq and even further north, Gjoa Haven and Nattilingmiut. Baker Lake has strong ties with Chesterfield Inlet, Rankin Inlet, Whale Cove, and Arviat and these communities come to Baker Lake to hunt as well.

In Baker Lake, we not only fish but we also hunt for caribou and we also hunt for marine mammals with our ties with the rest of the region. Specifically, the inlet between Baker Lake and Chesterfield Inlet, in our community, that section is also known as the north

and south channels leading into the inlet. Our mothers, aunts, and relatives can also work with sea mammal products, although we historically depend on caribou over a large land mass.

In Baker Lake, with the rich history of the Back River and the major contributions from the people of the Back River known as the Ukkuhikhalingmiut are major contributions to Canadian identity with world-renowned artists and cultural strength for cultural programs. Back River people have ties to the areas of Chantry Inlet, Gjoa Haven, Taloyoak, and Kugaaruk by relations by way of the Back River.

Would the minister and his department consider making Back River a Heritage River? Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. Minister Shewchuk.

**Hon. Daniel Shewchuk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for his question and his point of interest there. Yes, we would be interested. Of course, we would have to do a quite in-depth consultation with the community of Baker Lake and all interested user groups that use that area. But if that was an interest of the community of Baker Lake, we would be interested in looking at something like that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. Mr. Aupaluktuq.

**Mr. Aupaluktuq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the minister for that reply because it's a positive note. As

I mentioned earlier, two of three rivers are recognized as heritage, being the Kazan and Thelon.

The Back River has some historic importance to the sovereignty of Canada because the majority of the Back River people were brought down to Baker Lake and some of them were also brought up to Gjoa Haven in terms of the sovereignty program in which to get communities created. That's how a lot of the Back River people ended up in Baker Lake as well.

I just want to make a statement, Mr. Chairman, if I may, as I touched on the fact that we have world-renowned artists, such as the late Jessie Oonark. A lot of her work is well recognized throughout the world, a lot of it has been sitting in the Vatican, the Buckingham Palace, the National Gallery of Canada, and the Canadian Museum of Civilization. It's recognized throughout the world as well as the other descendants of the Oonark family. I am very proud to say that I'm a relation of that.

But the one thing that we were always taught in Baker Lake is the importance of the history of where the people came. In today's society, the people of the Back River are also really consulted with for cultural programs and also historic importance for terminology, history, and even as you may know, in the last two years, the stories and legends of Kiviuq have gotten a lot of recognition. A lot of the Back River people were consulted with that.

So this is exactly where I was resorting to in terms of seeing whether or not Back River could be recognized as a

Heritage River. I just wanted to make that comment. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. I'll take that as a comment. Minister Shewchuk, you wanted to comment on that too?

**Hon. Daniel Shewchuk:** Yes. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Again, I thank the member for very interesting information. I would ask him at this point in time if he can provide us with the information that he is giving us.

In conjunction with the member, we would be pleased to take his request forward and nominate that river to the Community Heritage River Board that exists at the present to consider further process in this river getting the protection it needs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to move on to sealing. The European Union had banned sealskin products. What are your plans for the upcoming year to support seal harvesters in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Daniel Shewchuk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member again for that important question. The plans for the upcoming year in regard to our sealing program are to deliver the sealing program the same as it has been in the past. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Where will we market the sealskins since we can no longer trade with European countries? Did you find any new markets outside of Europe? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Daniel Shewchuk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First of all, yes, we are looking at other markets. We are looking at China, Russia, and Asia.

I would just like to say too, as the member is well aware, that we have our repatriation process that we have in place right now with our sealing program where Nunavutmiut are allowed to buy tanned sealskins back from the auction house directly.

We are assessing where that is right now and how that's going to work into the future. Hopefully it works very well so we can get our own sealskins back and produce clothing and crafts, and distribute them to southern Canada and the rest of the world.

So the program is going to stay the same at the present. We're looking at other markets and we're looking at other avenues to use our sealskins produced in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Since they utilize a lot of sealskins, have you thought about the

people of Greenland? Have you any plans for Greenland to market our sealskins there? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Daniel Shewchuk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm advised that we have been in communication with Greenland and they are not too interested in our sealskins. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In spite of that, by negotiating with them, we have changed their minds on other issues since they talk to countries outside of Canada.

Because we are both Inuit, they started supporting us after we had close discussions with them although they were not originally interested. I urge you to continue to speak to the people of Greenland since we both use and understand the importance of utilizing sealskins. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Daniel Shewchuk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I assure the member that I will keep in communication with Greenland and we will keep up the negotiations and ongoing communications.

However, we have been, as I said, in communications and they are not interested in our sealskins right now. The main reason being is the quality of

our sealskins. From the time the hunter harvests them and gets them, we buy them at all of our individual community conservation officers, the quality is deteriorated somewhat. So it's the quality that's the factor here too. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I remember that they were very happy and pleased with our sealskins in regard to the quality. I wonder where the quality went poor with our sealskins.

So I urge the minister and his officials to look into this issue because these sealskins are available and can be prepared at good quality. I'm just urging the minister to make sure that he communicates with Greenland. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Daniel Shewchuk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman, very much. I assure the member that I will be in communication with Greenland and we will discuss options in sealskins. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. (interpretation) Going back to (interpretation ends) Branch Summary. Program Management. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$16,006,000. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Go back to page I-3. Department Summary. Detail of Expenditures. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$19,998,000. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Is the committee agreed that the Department of Environment is concluded?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) I would like to thank the minister and his officials for being able to be before the Committee of the Whole. I would like ask Minister Shewchuk if he has any closing comments.

**Hon. Daniel Shewchuk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would just like to thank my witnesses beside me and I would like to thank my witness over in the Gallery, Earl Baddaloo, Assistant Deputy Minister.

And I would like to thank the Committee of the Whole and the members for the very good questions that were asked here today. Again, I encourage all of you that if you have any concerns with our department to voice them. We're open to you at all times and to make Nunavut work better as a whole. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

(interpretation ends) Do members agree that we proceed with the next department?



**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Bill 01 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2009-2010 – Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs – Consideration in Committee**

**Chairman:** I would now like to ask Premier Aariak of the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs to make her opening remarks.

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to have this opportunity to present to the Members of the Legislative Assembly the 2009-2010 Main Estimates and Business Plan for the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs.

The role of the department includes providing support to Cabinet and overall coordination of the work of the public service, including the implementation of the priorities we set under *Tamapta/CL<sup>c</sup>: Building our future together*.

In addition, the department coordinates intergovernmental and circumpolar relations, and, in support of the Minister responsible for Aboriginal Affairs, addresses aboriginal issues for the GN. The department ensures that our responsibilities under the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement* are implemented.

The department's main estimates total for the fiscal year 2009-2010 is just under \$13.9 million. This amount is comprised of approximately \$9.7 million for salaries and benefits and \$4.2 million for other operations and maintenance costs.

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Legislative Assembly, please allow me to outline several of the key budgetary priorities for the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs for this fiscal year.

One of our priorities under *Tamapta/CL<sup>c</sup>* is to establish a social advocacy office. This budget will establish that important office by moving two positions from Health and Social Services and adding one new position to an already existing position in the EIA Directorate. This office will continue working on suicide intervention and gender issues.

In addition, over the coming year, the social advocacy office will begin focused study, research, and consultation. It is our hope that we will be able to recommend appropriate systems to act as strong intermediaries on behalf of our constituents, with a special focus on children's advocacy, physical disabilities, and advocacy on behalf of those disadvantaged due to their gender. I have been pleased to hear strong support from many members for this work.

Ultimately, it is crucial that any office advocating for individual constituents have some level of independence from government. However, it is important that options be developed quickly and I am confident that the social advocacy office working within this department will be able to make significant progress over the coming year by working together with various stakeholders and with other departments.

Two new positions will be created in this budget for the Energy Secretariat to

provide ongoing guidance in relation to energy issues, including implementation of *Ikummatiit*, the GN's Energy Strategy. In addition, this secretariat will undertake initiatives to raise public awareness around energy conservation.

Starting with the business plans that you are currently considering, the Department of Executive will coordinate all business planning functions for the Government of Nunavut. With the transfer of two positions from the Department of Finance to the Policy and Planning Division of Executive, we will turn the policy directions that we set under *Tamapta/CL<sup>c</sup>* into concrete action plans and business plans for 2009 to 2013.

Other significant changes to EIA's budget for this year include the addition of one position to the Nunavut Bureau of Statistics, an increase for the longer travel distances for Cabinet Ministers, and a one-time increase to our communications budget to help assist with the costs of celebrating the 10-year anniversary of our wonderful territory.

That concludes my opening remarks. I welcome your comments and look forward to answering your questions on the EIA main estimates for 2009-2010. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** *Qujannamiik*, Madam Premier. Do you have witnesses you would like to bring to the table?

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Yes.

**Chairman:** *Qujannamiik*, Premier Aariak. Does the committee agree to bring in the witnesses?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort her witnesses in.

(interpretation ends) For the record, Premier Aariak, please introduce your witnesses.

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On my right is Markus Weber, Deputy Minister of EIA, and on my left is Scott Marriot from Corporate Affairs.

**Chairman:** *Qujannamiik*, Premier Aariak. Does the Co-Chair of the Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts have comments? Mr. Schell

**Mr. Schell:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to provide opening comments on behalf of the Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts on its review of the 2009-2010 Main Estimates and Business Plan of the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs.

The standing committee notes that the department's proposed 2009-2010 operations and maintenance budget of \$13,856,000 has increased by approximately 48 percent since the introduction of the department's 2004-05 main estimates. The number of positions in the department has increased from 71.5 PYs in 2004-05 to 86.5 PYs in 2009-2010.

During the minister's recent appearance before the standing committee, members took the opportunity to raise a number of important issues and concerns.

The Commissioner's Address of April 1, 2009, announced the creation of a new social advocacy office, which has been established as a division in the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs.

The department's business plan indicates that the social advocacy office will "continue and expand the work of the Women's Secretariat, continue work on a Nunavut suicide-prevention strategy, and undertake comprehensive analysis of children's advocacy and the potential for ombudsman-like services."

During the minister's appearance before the standing committee, members engaged in a broad dialogue with respect to the structure, role, and priorities of the social advocacy office. As the work of the office evolves, members look forward to further discussions concerning such issues as the establishment of separate and independent ombudsman and children's advocate positions.

The Commissioner's Address stated that the social advocacy office will "recommend policies, programs, and services which would better represent the interests of groups of people who find themselves vulnerable, at a disadvantage, or in need of a strong voice."

Members also look forward to discussions concerning the identification of the needs of vulnerable groups in Nunavut society. Members also stressed the importance of the office being involved in the government's planned review of the *Child and Family Services Act* and noted the importance of ensuring that the needs of both children and youth

are taken into account in the office's mandate.

The department provides a \$250,000 annual contribution to the Qullit Nunavut Status of Women Council. Members note that the council has been led by an acting president since July of last year. Members also note that a public call for nominations to the council has recently been issued.

Mr. Chairman, there is no formal system in place for the registration of lobbyists in Nunavut. A recent annual report of the Integrity Commissioner suggested that "the value of lobbyist..." registration, "... introduced by other jurisdictions, might be considered." Further work in this area could complement the government's plans to introduce a new *Public Service Act* and a Code of Values and Ethics.

Mr. Chairman, the 2006 Report of the Auditor General to the Legislative Assembly recommended that the GN review aspects of its decentralized financial structure.

The department's 2009-2010 business plan indicates that "There has been a persistently high vacancy rate for decentralized positions in many communities. Of the 459 decentralized positions in the GN, the numbers of vacancies have fluctuated between 105-125 positions over the past few years. However, Inuit employment rates for departments for those filled positions have been quite steadily averaging around 56% and positions filled by local residents at around 65%.

The more successful decentralization initiatives appear to be those where job

opportunities closely matched the local skill base. The Report Card exercise, which will be conducted by external reviewers by the fall of 2009, will provide the GN with valuable information to help reassess decentralization initiatives in government.” The standing committee looks forward to reviewing the results and recommendations from this exercise.

The department’s 2009-2010 business plan indicates that the budget for the Energy Secretariat has been increased to \$648,000 for 2009-2010. Its 2008-09 budget was \$424,000. One of the department’s priorities for 2009-2010 is to implement the energy strategy “through a coordinated approach with affected departments and agencies.”

On November 1, 2007, the provisions in the *Qulliq Energy Corporation Act* providing for the creation of an Affordable Energy Fund came into force. Its purpose is to “subsidize the cost of energy or otherwise make energy more affordable.” The Government of Nunavut’s Energy Strategy, which was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on October 30, 2007, indicates that this fund is to be managed by the Department of Finance.

However, none of the GN’s 2009-2010 business plans make any reference to the Affordable Energy Fund. The standing committee looks forward to the government clarifying its plans in this area.

The standing committee also recommends that the government’s report card exercise examine the balance and distribution of energy related portfolios between different

departments. For example, while the Department of Finance is responsible for the administration of the Nunavut Electricity Subsidy Program and the Harvesters Fuel Tax Rebate Program, the Department of Education is responsible for the administration of the Senior Fuel Subsidy Program.

The department’s 2009-2010 business plan indicates that one of its priorities is to “Continue implementation work on the Northern Vision dialogue... with a report to Northern Premiers at their July 2009 meeting.” Members encourage the minister in her efforts to effectively represent Nunavut’s priorities in such areas as arctic sovereignty and pan-territorial initiatives.

**An Hon. Member:** Hear, hear.

**Mr. Schell:** On February 20, 2009, the Council of the Federation issued a statement in “Support for the negotiation of a new and comprehensive economic agreement with the European Union.” The statement noted that only the province of Newfoundland and Labrador issued a separate communiqué. That province’s government stated that it was “unable to support this at this time” as a consequence of concerns related to such issues as the proposed EU ban on seal products.

On May 13, 2009, the Council of the Federation announced that it “held a conference call on May 11, 2009 to discuss the proposed trade ban on seal products by the European Union (EU). The discussion took place at the request of Newfoundland & Labrador Premier Danny Williams and Nunavut Premier Eva Aariak. The Council expressed a strong objection to the EU’s proposed

ban which is not based on fact or on scientific information. The Council indicated its support of the federal government's public commitment to take action at the World Trade Organization should the EU proceed with the proposed ban. The Council also agreed to work with the federal government to reverse the position of the EU." The standing committee strongly urges the Government of Nunavut to vigorously pursue this issue.

Mr. Chairman, the Clyde River Protocol between the Government of Nunavut and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated was signed in 1999. A new agreement was signed between the parties in early 2004.

The department's 2009-2010 business plan indicates that one of its priorities is to work "on a renewed protocol" with NTI. The standing committee supports a positive working relationship between the GN and NTI while urging the government to be candid with MLAs and the general public concerning the rationale for its own position in areas where the two parties may have disagreements on specific issues.

The department's 2009-2010 business plan indicates that one of its priorities is to "Complete the negotiations process of the Implementation Contract for the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement*." It states that there have been no official discussions or negotiations while the NTI lawsuit for breach of contract "against the federal government is before the courts."

In early June of this year, the Nunavut Court of Appeal issued a judgement concerning the Government of Canada's

appeal of a decision by the Nunavut Court of Justice to not include the GN as a defendant in this case. The federal appeal was dismissed.

On July 17, 2008, the federal Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs released *The Road to Improvement*, the report from Neil McCrank, Special Representative for the Northern Regulatory Improvement Initiative. The report made three specific recommendations for Nunavut, including one which stated that "the duplication of efforts by the Nunavut Impact Review Board and the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency should be addressed."

On September 5, 2008, the Government of Canada, the Government of Nunavut, and NTI announced the signing of a *Lands and Resources Devolution Negotiation Protocol*. On January 15, 2009, the Government of Canada announced the appointment of a chief federal representative for Nunavut devolution.

The department's 2009-2010 business plan also indicates that "By coordinating the work of the Sustainable Development Committee of Deputy Ministers, the department will ensure that the Government of Nunavut will focus on the coordination of economic initiatives and environment and land management issues across government..."

In particular, the committee coordinates the development of government positions and input to Land and Resource Management Institutions established under the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement*. It also has responsibility for the development of a

land management system in anticipation of devolution of responsibility for administration and control of Nunavut's land."

The department's 2009-2010 business plan states that one of its priorities is to "Engage Canada and NTI in formal negotiations for the transfer of provincial-like authority over Crown land and non-renewable resources." However, it also indicates that the Government of Canada "has yet to secure a negotiation mandate; therefore formal negotiations have yet to begin."

The standing committee supports progress towards devolution and will be monitoring developments in this area with attention.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening comments on the 2009-2010 Main Estimates and Business Plan of the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Schell. I would like to remind you that each member has 10 minutes to speak. Do any members have any general comments pertaining to the opening comments from the Premier? Mr. Elliott.

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I thank you for the chance to speak. I just have some general comments which I'm sure are sort of questions as well.

There's no page numbers on here, but the Premier was speaking about the social advocate office and in one of the sentences it says, "This office will continue working on suicide intervention and gender issues."

I was just wondering if she could elaborate on gender issues. Is she talking male/female issues or are we talking bisexual, homosexual, transsexual? What kind of gender issues are we talking about? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Madam Premier.

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What it means is we have a suicide prevention office within our department and we have one person working there. We would like to set up a new social advocacy office for the vulnerable population.

We have heard that when we go to the Nunavut communities, there are men, especially young men, who don't have any support or somebody to advocate for them and we hear of women who need further support. It's talking about male and female issues. I hope that's clear. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Madam Premier. Mr. Elliott.

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the explanation. As I'm sure everyone is aware, I have been pushing for an independent youth and child advocate.

Again, I noticed in your statement, you're talking about the social advocate office working with a special focus on children's physical disabilities and advocacy on behalf of those disadvantaged due to their gender. Once again, my whole concern, and I had mentioned it in my Member's Statement,

is that even the word youth is not present in that sort of statement.

Again, I'm a little concerned with the sort of blanket or one umbrella of a social advocate office. This position is providing three PYs. Are there any MOUs created for what that office will be doing this year? I know for FMB to allocate money, there must have been some sort of briefing notes as to specific outcomes for this year. If the Premier could elaborate on those priorities. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Elliott. I would like to remind members that yesterday, my co-chair reminded the members that we should respect and be considerate when members are speaking to issues. I would appreciate it if we can concentrate on matters that we're dealing with at this time. Madam Premier.

**Hon Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have some new people working on that right now. We seconded them from the Department of Finance and the Department of Health and Social Services. They are going to be working on those plans. We also have the Women's Secretariat that's in there as well. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Madam Premier. Mr. Elliott.

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I noticed it says that you will "begin focused study, research, and consultation." Will that consultation be with communities across Nunavut in terms of how they want to see the social advocate office run or will it be

consultation on the best way to handle the social advocate office?

I was trying to get a little more information on what the specific outcomes are by March 31, 2010, and what we will actually have. Will we have more studies? We were talking about this morning how we seem to be studied to death, and we want to move forward and get some action done. What will we have by March 31, 2010? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Madam Premier.

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Just taking a few steps back, the position is not a new one from the Department of Finance. In regard to the position, it already exists in the Department of EIA. We have a new position and one is from the Department of Health and Social Services. That's just for clarity.

On your comment, I would like to thank you very much for asking those questions. We have very many people in Nunavut who need help and we have to give them the support that is required.

As I said earlier, men are starting to make their concerns heard and asking for help. Women have made their concerns known and now the men are too. We also have the physically disabled group of individuals that the government has to seriously consider. The importance of this matter is becoming more important.

We are starting to hear many of these issues as a government. We started off with: what are we going to do? The question is what the social advocacy office will be doing. We have to make

some improvements and look at where we have to make some changes, evaluating what is proceeding as outlined and what is not.

So once all of that is done, the social advocacy office is going to work together with the government departments - the Department of Health and Social Services, the Department of Education, the Department of Justice, and the Department of CLEY. They are all going to work together and we will be consulting with the departments I just mentioned as well as stakeholders.

We will consult with these organizations and see how they would like to see the social advocacy office operated and we won't be able to represent all, but we are going to plan how we can improve the services that are provided to these disadvantaged people. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** *Qujannamiik*, Madam Premier. Mr. Elliott.

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the Premier for the explanation. So I guess maybe I'll be the first in the consultation process to put forward that we should once again have an independent youth and child advocate in the territory. At the same time, I think there needs to be, and I hope as the consultation goes by, more education.

I know I had a discussion with you about the whole word of advocacy coming across as a negative type of word, and I think some people and even some members misunderstand the whole idea of what an advocate is, where I think the social advocate office should be even more proactive than reactive. It is not as

if there's a problem, then you go and complain about it, and you deal with it after the fact.

To me, my idea of a youth and child advocate office is more of a proactive approach to raising awareness, raising education, and helping our young people and their children. I even had someone tell me that, "Are you saying that the parents are bad?" And in a sense, you're not saying the parents are bad because you have a child and youth advocate, that's not the point.

So, I think, to move forward on this issue, I really hope that the government seriously considers my comments and works towards being as proactive as it can in terms of promoting it in a positive aspect. Thank you. That's the end of my comments.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Elliott. I take that as a comment. I don't have any names on my list. I do now. Mr. Okalik.

>> *Laughter*

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With the social advocacy office, my question is: exactly how is it going to operate? We would like to see it run smoothly and it will also have to follow the rules. I would like to know how it's going to operate first of all. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Okalik. Madam Premier.

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This project is brand new and is one that hasn't been seen previously in Nunavut.



I'm sure that there are a lot of people out there who wanted to see an advocacy office. First of all, we are going to consult with stakeholders and see where the government can make changes on the policies and programs, and how we can further support the disadvantaged.

This office that we're proposing to set up in 2009-2010 under the Department of Finance, as I stated earlier, will have a special focus on children's advocacy, physical disabilities, and advocacy on behalf of those disadvantaged due to their gender. They're first going to focus on setting up the policies. I hope that was clear. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** *Qujannamiik*, Madam Premier. Mr. Okalik.

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Regarding this issue, we're talking about disadvantaged people who aren't being properly represented. They can approach this social advocacy office because it seems like it is open to all.

My hunters are at a disadvantage at all points. Are they going to be able to approach this social advocacy office if they want their concerns dealt with? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Okalik. (interpretation ends) Madam Premier.

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just to elaborate further, women and men will be provided with support, especially those who are underrepresented and also children, who say they need support on social issues, as well as disabled people

and children. They will have special focus on those groups.

They will work on the policy and also on the details as to how it will be operated. There will be a director in that office and the director will be the manager. There will also be another PY. I would also like to say that they are now working on what the policies should contain after consulting with the people of Nunavut.

The Member for Quttiktuq had stated earlier on that the children need a representative. When we talk about children, we have to have a clear understanding of Inuit societal values and we have to incorporate those values and Inuit culture into that office. Thank you.

**Chairman:** *Qujannamiik*, Madam Premier. Mr. Okalik.

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Yes, we usually have legislation going for that advocacy office and they are looking for ways to make it better. There is no legislation for this office.

Where does anyone who makes a complaint to the advocacy office go after that? What's the next step? Is that the only place for them to make their complaints when there's no legislation to provide support to the people? So what's the status of it or how will it be done? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Okalik. (interpretation ends) Madam Premier.

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's what I'm talking about. That's what we're

going to be working on, but we haven't set up the legislation yet and we are going to start working on the policies, and the Members of the Legislative Assembly will have to approve all those. Thank you.

**Chairman:** *Qujannamiik*, Madam Premier. Mr. Okalik.

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't have a problem if she fully discloses what is involved with the legislation, which will allow us to make the appropriate preparations. Just setting up an office is not enough by itself. So I would appreciate it if she can give a full report on the proposed office and what kinds of plans are being prepared. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Okalik. (interpretation ends) Madam Premier.

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There will be four PYs in the beginning.

As I stated earlier on, we will be working out the details. It's not complete yet. However, all of us Nunavummiut know that we need to provide additional support and we need to have special focus on the ones that I mentioned.

The office could be set up at arms length with the government. We have to plan on various contents and we need to do more consultation with Nunavummiut in regard to that. The report card is going to be very beneficial to the function of the social advocacy office. Thank you.

**Chairman:** *Qujannamiik*, Madam Premier. Mr. Okalik.

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There were some questions asked and my colleague was talking about the marketing of sealskins. That market is very important to Nunavummiut.

I had asked the Premier before the session to start planning to go to the European Union and to have a good representative when they were going to discuss the ban on sealskins. I would like to ask now: did we send any elected members to the European Union? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Okalik. (interpretation ends) Madam Premier.

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's a very good comment. Since we have been elected, we have been working on that issue even prior to the general election in 2006. With respect to sealskin marketing in the European Union, they have been talking about the ban since then and they have been working on this issue for quite some time.

All levels of government, the federal government, as well as the Department of Environment and various departments, are working very hard and they made sure that we communicate with each other. We continue to work with federal government officials.

Minister Canon had supported us when they went to the European Union during the banning of sealskins. Minister Canon, his officials, as well as Minister Shea have stated, as Minister Daniel Shewchuk had stated, that they have

provided support to us and that we are all working very closely together.

This will not stop. We will continue to work on it because we truly believe that it's very crucial and the sealskin is very important to Nunavummiut. We will look for other avenues to market sealskin.

As we had heard earlier on when Minister Shewchuk made his statement, by working hard together along with our partnership with federal government counterparts, we hear that there's good support on that in Nunavut. Thank you.

**Chairman:** *Qujannamiik*, Madam Premier. Mr. Okalik.

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. She didn't respond to my question. As an elected person, did we have a representative for Members of the Legislative Assembly when they went to the European Union?

I had asked during the last session to please go over there as soon as possible. So I would like to ask the Premier: did we have a representative from this legislature? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Okalik. (interpretation ends) Madam Premier.

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I stated earlier, I went to Norway just prior to the EU Parliament's vote on the seal ban. We were representing Nunavummiut and Minister Canon made a statement. We're not going to stop looking to market the skins and the market is still open.

Just prior to the vote, we had heard that they already knew what the results of the votes were. We had an individual from Iqaluit going over to Europe as well. So we will use various ways to support this. Thank you.

**Chairman:** *Qujannamiik*, Madam Premier. Mr. Okalik.

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Sometimes after we learn something new, we can make changes and we have to try new things.

What we had experienced, I'm sorry that we didn't get a representative from the Legislative Assembly to change the minds of the Europeans. I was called by them that they had not heard what the plans are of the government. A person called to tell me that they didn't hear anything about the European Union and I know that they were facing some difficult challenges.

I don't want to see that again in the future because we have to show our strength and we need good representation. If there's going to be something like that occurring, I want the government to learn from past experiences because I don't want to see this occur again. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Okalik. (interpretation ends) Madam Premier.

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I want to state again that Nunavummiut are working very hard on that because we truly believe that. We even have a department that takes care of that and

that's the Department of Environment. I am very appreciative that they are working very hard and I know that they will continue to work at the Department of Environment. Thank you.

**Chairman:** *Qujannamiik*, Madam Premier. (interpretation) Thank you. I have no more names on my list. We will move on to page B-4. (interpretation ends) Branch Summary. Directorate. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$2,306,000. Mr. Elliott.

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm going back to what Mr. Okalik was asking about - the social advocate office - and your answer in terms of studying it or trying to do more research on it.

I know the civil service has been studying this since 2001. In the research that I have been going through, I have seen legislative proposals, briefing notes, policy outlines, Members' Statements, and letters from organizations like NAM. What happened to all of this work that was done?

There's a lot of good work that's been done since 2001 and like Mr. Okalik keeps saying, they have been busy building up a government and moving on and getting a lot of other priorities dealt with. What happened to all of this information? Why do we need to reinvent the wheel and go over it again? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Madam Premier.

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) As I said earlier, because the government is making plans

to improve life in Nunavut, this is one of the little initiatives that we are trying to implement to address the social needs of our citizens in Nunavut. There are too many people experiencing personal pain and hardships without enough assurance that they can be helped.

I guess when I mentioned the word study, I meant that how the policies can be changed, how programs can be implemented, and structure for better advocacy and better action on behalf of those who are disadvantaged is what I was getting at earlier. Maybe I didn't make myself too clear at the time. (interpretation) Thank you.

**Chairman:** *Qujannamiik*, Madam Premier. Mr. Elliott.

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have questions dealing with another issue, so I don't know if other people want to... but can I continue? Thank you.

In the business plan on page B-13, for the priorities for the government for 2008-09, it talked about assisting in the coordination of a business plan and marketing strategy for the 2010 Olympic Games.

In terms of the status of that, ED&T has led the participation in the Olympics with the help from CLEY and EIA, and this will continue until March 2010. Is it possible to have a copy of the business plan and the marketing strategy for this? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Madam Premier.

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We can look

into it and we can provide a copy. To supplement, ED&T is responsible for that and we can provide more information on that. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Madam Premier. Mr. Aupaluktuq.

**Mr. Aupaluktuq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do have a couple of questions for Madam Premier, Ms. Eva Aariak, or guests at the witness stand.

On page B-4 under the title Directorate, your department's business plan also indicates that "Four deputy-level interdepartmental committees will be created with goals of furthering the priorities of government: Quality of Life Committee, Central Accountability Committee... and Building Capacity Committee." What are the roles and priorities of each of these committees? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. Madam Premier.

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will have Markus respond.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Madam Premier. Mr. Weber.

**Mr. Weber:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The deputy ministers' committees that are to be created have, in fact, now already been created and are actively meeting. There's always a large amount of interdepartmental work that needs to happen within the government. We can't work within individual departments and because of that, there are many.

The ones we specifically deal with daily are probably 30 to 40 interdepartmental committees. It was felt that we needed to put some structure to that and to have some directed work that can look specifically at implementing mandate priorities, that can also look at aggregating several departments and having them work closely together when they commonly deal with the same issues.

One of those, for example, is the Quality of Life Committee. That committee will have the departments that have traditionally been considered social envelopes that deal with social issues like health, education, justice, culture, language, elders, and youth to coordinate the work. That committee, for example, will likely play a role in steering the work of the social advocacy office that members are very interested in.

The other committees, the Building Capacity Committee is specifically about building capacity of staff within the Government of Nunavut and also building capacity within the private sector amongst other Nunavummiut to build the capacity to take on new jobs. That committee has been meeting quite actively on a monthly basis and has started some work specifically around the Training and Development Fund as well that's in this current budget that you're considering.

The other committee that you reference is the Central Accountability Committee. That committee has many of the central agencies from government on it. It's the Department of Finance, Community and Government Services, EIA, the Department of HR, and the Department of Justice. The Central Accountability

Committee is chaired by Finance and ensures that issues around accountability particularly are dealt with regularly.

The issues around public agencies can be dealt with through a committee structure. I hope that answers the question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Weber. Mr. Aupaluktuq.

**Mr. Aupaluktuq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the guest for that response. I do have a final question under B-4. The issue of lobbyist registration has been raised in prior years by MLAs and in reports of the Integrity Commissioner.

Do you support the creation of a public registry of individuals who are paid by private companies to lobby the Government of Nunavut on different issues? Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. Madam Premier.

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the member for asking that question. Yes, we can look into that. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Madam Premier. I have Mr. Okalik.

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) My question is on... (interpretation) I know that it's very difficult to start working on an amendment.

I know that in the past, we have faced many challenges in trying to obtain what the needs of the public are and to make sure that these problems are reduced. We wanted to respond adequately to: when we are within the three years coming up, will we feel the impact as Nunavummiut? Sometimes it's very difficult to know where to start.

They said that they will want to start planning this coming fall. During that time, I want you to perhaps consider shortening the response and to have an impact on Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Okalik. (interpretation ends) Madam Premier.

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like the member to clarify his question because I didn't understand his question.

**Chairman:** *Qujannamiik*, Madam Premier. Mr. Okalik.

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Perhaps if I elaborate further. In the first government, as members, we kind of argued as to which one would be our priority to reduce problems, such as housing and education. Those were our missions and then later on, social issues and economic development became our priorities.

I know that we resolved some of the problems by working hard and setting up our goals. We kept them at a minimum because it was very difficult to have so much on your plate.

In order to have an impact on the ten, where are we going to start on the wish list? There are ten on wish list, how can we reduce the number on the wish list? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Okalik. (interpretation ends) Madam Premier.

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Now I understand. I would like to thank the member for his question. I personally would like to thank Mr. Okalik for being a Premier from the first legislature to the last general election. He guided us as the Premier and he received support from the elected members.

It's true that we have many priorities in Nunavut and we face many challenges, but we will have to work confidently on the ten items on the wish list that he mentioned. If we lack confidence, we will not be able to move forward. We have to look far into the future in Nunavut as a government.

During the last session in October, the Cabinet went to Cape Dorset to start planning on the mission statement, what our priorities are during this term and what we would like to achieve during this term as well as in the future. We have many tasks ahead of us and new tasks will keep appearing while we start improving on the others. There will be more that will be coming out that we will need to address.

During that retreat, we created the *Tamapta* mission statement and there are various things included in there such as education. For all Members of the Legislative Assembly, education is our

priority and to move on to healthy lifestyles. There are various priorities like economic development. How could we make sure that it could help us? So we had identified many missions and we have to work on the contents of some of the statements.

We will want to see the report card of the Nunavut government and I know you're expecting it as Members of the Legislative Assembly. Also, I'm sure that Nunavummiut will want to see the results of the report card exercise. The results of the report card are going to be very beneficial for Nunavummiut and to the governmental departments. We are interested in hearing from them because they are the staff of the government and they have ideas as to how we can provide more support.

I just wanted to state again that his question is a very good one because we need to develop a long-term plan. This is the initiation of this report card within our government and it will be completed during the summer. Thank you.

**Chairman:** *Qujannamiik*, Madam Premier. Mr. Okalik.

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) One of the things that was raised to us this morning with one of your officials, I think, was that there needs to be more focused responses to given issues.

That's the experience that I have learned over the years is that if you want a focused attention to some of the issues that we're facing today, we have to prioritize. When you have a nice list of ten, it's a little more difficult to focus on the issues of the day.

That's my advice that I have learned over the years is that in order to tackle an issue and get it solved, you have to focus on it and give it the attention that it deserves. So when you have a long list, it's a little more difficult to start from one area and try and do a decent job of it and move onto the next one.

So that's why I'm a little cautious about having a long list because hopefully we will solve all of them but when you're not as focused, then you don't give the attention that it requires. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Okalik. I didn't hear question on that, but Madam Premier.

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) We will be much focused once the report card is done after the summer and that is one of the plans, that we will have a focused vision to deal with some of the many issues that we need to deal with.

(interpretation) We will have a goal and after the report card has been completed, we will be able to identify the issues that are real to Nunavut and which need to be addressed. These are, in fact, identified in *Tamapta*, but this will allow us to get down to the core of these issues.

We have identified the priorities and obviously, we're not going to be able to complete them all in the next five years because we do have a lot work to do as a government. However, we have to initiate it and I'm hoping that we will make an improvement in order for Nunavut to make progress. Thank you.

**Chairman:** *Qujannamiik*, Madam Premier. (interpretation) I have no more names on my list. (interpretation ends) Branch Summary. Directorate. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$2,306,000. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** B-5. Branch Summary. Statistical Services. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$900,000. Agreed? Mr. Aupaluktuq.

**Mr. Aupaluktuq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank my colleagues for allowing me to ask this question. I do have one question. Your department's business plan also indicates that its priorities include conducting "the Government of Nunavut Employees Survey." What is the purpose of this survey and is this project related to your government's report card initiative? Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. Madam Premier.

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Thank you. We're going to place a priority on the government report card. With respect to conducting the Government of Nunavut Employees Survey that Member Aupaluktuq referred to, it's mainly for senior management of government. Thank you.

**Chairman:** *Qujannamiik*, Madam Premier. (interpretation) I have no more names on my list. (interpretation ends) Branch Summary. Statistical Services. (interpretation) I can't pronounce that very well. (interpretation ends) Total Operations and Maintenance. \$900,000. Agreed?



**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** B-6. Branch Summary. Policy and Communications. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$2,750,000. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) B-7. Branch Summary. Nunavut Cabinet. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$4,442,000. Agreed? (interpretation) What was that?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** B-8. Branch Summary. Commissioner of Nunavut. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$302,000. Mr. Okalik.

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask a question regarding the Commissioner of Nunavut. The position of Deputy Commissioner of Nunavut is vacant and there has never been a replacement for that position. My question is: could you give us an update on whether you're going to be filling that position or not? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Okalik. (interpretation ends) Madam Premier.

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank my colleague from Iqaluit for asking that question. The commissioner's position is very important and so is the deputy commissioner.

This government doesn't appoint the deputy or the Commissioner of Nunavut; it's the federal government's responsibility. We can only make nominations or recommendations on who to appoint. The individual who was asked turned down the position, but I can assure the member that we are still working on it. Thank you.

**Chairman:** *Qujannamiik*, Madam Premier. Mr. Okalik.

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): I just wanted an update on whether you're going to be filling that position. We don't have our commissioner available to assent to bills, so we're going to have to get the senior judge to assent to the bills. So it's becoming quite urgent and I urge the Premier to have a meeting with her counterpart to get that position filled. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Okalik. I believe that's just a direction from the member and it's understandable. (interpretation ends) Branch Summary. Commissioner of Nunavut. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$302,000. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** B-9. Branch Summary. Intergovernmental Affairs. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$1,634,000. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) B-10. Branch Summary. Aboriginal and Circumpolar Affairs. Total Operations and

Maintenance. \$408,000. Mr. Aupaluktuq.

**Mr. Aupaluktuq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do have one question for Madam Premier or guests at the witness stand. NTI is currently suing the federal government for \$1 billion. The federal government filed a motion in September 2007 asking the Nunavut Court of Justice to name the Government of Nunavut as a co-defendant in the litigation.

What is the status of the GN's position on this lawsuit and has NTI's leadership indicated to you what it would do with the \$1 billion in the event that the lawsuit is successful? Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. Madam Premier.

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't think I understood the question. Did I understand that he mentioned the \$1 billion and did he ask what NTI would do with that \$1 billion in the event that the lawsuit is successful? Was that the question? I apologize for that. Thank you.

**Chairman:** *Qujannamiik*, Madam Premier. (interpretation) Mr. Aupaluktuq, if you would clarify your question, please.

**Mr. Aupaluktuq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The question was: what is the status of GN's position on this lawsuit? The second one was: has NTI's leadership indicated to you what it would do with the \$1 billion if it had won the lawsuit? Thank you very much.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. Madam Premier.

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Thank you. This is in front of the courts and we're now a third party in the courts.

The implementation of the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement* is something that is very important. Some of the sections have been implemented but some are still outstanding, and it's the obligation of the federal government to implement the sections in the agreement. Thank you.

**Chairman:** *Qujannamiik*, Madam Premier. (interpretation) I have no more names on my list. (interpretation ends) Branch Summary. Aboriginal and Circumpolar Affairs. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$408,000. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) B-11. Branch Summary. Devolution. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$1,114,000. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. We will go back to B-3. (interpretation ends) Departmental Summary. Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. Detail of Expenditures. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$13,856,000. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Is the committee agreed that the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs is concluded?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. I would like to thank the Premier, Ms. Aariak, and her officials for making an appearance. Premier Aariak, do you have any closing comments?

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank you all for your excellent questions. If you would like any further information, we are available and you can direct your questions to the Department of EIA. I would like to thank Mr. Weber and Scott Marriott for being my witnesses.

As a reminder, our department has initiated a Nunavut-wide survey and I would like everyone to make their comments on the government's report card. When those people are in your communities, please make sure that you have a discussion with them and also express your wishes to them.

Thank you very much. All staff at EIA work very hard and I would like to thank them. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you for making your appearance. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witness out. Thank you.

(interpretation ends) Do members agree that we proceed with the next department?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Bill 01 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2009-2010 – Legislative Assembly – Consideration in Committee**

**Chairman** (interpretation): I am sure there are people who would like to take a break, but is it okay if we finish what we agreed on before we take a break?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) I would now like to ask the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut, Mr. Arreak, to make his opening remarks. (interpretation) Mr. Speaker, you can proceed with your opening comments.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The two Arreaks had to be the last witnesses.

It is a pleasure for me to appear before members today to present the 2009-2010 Main Estimates and Business Plan for the Office of the Legislative Assembly.

The proposed 2009-2010 operations and maintenance budget for the Office of the Legislative Assembly is \$14,986,000. This represents a moderate increase from the Legislative Assembly's 2008-09 main estimates, which were \$14,159,000.

I am also pleased to inform members that the Legislative Assembly's budget and staffing levels have remained relatively stable over the past several fiscal years.

The total number of positions funded through the Legislative Assembly's budget has increased by only four since the 2004-05 fiscal year, primarily to address increased staffing requirements in the Office of the Languages Commissioner as a result of the passage of new official languages legislation.

I am also pleased to inform members that over half of the Office of the Legislative Assembly's full-time positions are filled by beneficiaries.

I would like to take a moment to highlight some of our operational priorities for the 2009-2010 fiscal year. These include:

- Supporting the Legislative Assembly's response to the recommendations in the report of the Chief Electoral Officer on the conduct of the 2008 general election, including the establishment of an Electoral Boundaries Commission in 2010;
- Initiating a project to create an electronic repository of Government of Nunavut documents;
- Implementing ongoing improvements to the Legislative Assembly's information technology infrastructure;
- Seeking Caucus direction on options, including Public-Private Partnerships (P3s), to move forward the Assembly's long-term plan for a replacement facility;
- Seeking Caucus direction on the establishment of a central elections office for Nunavut; and
- Continuing development of a new *Plebiscite Act*.

I am pleased to report to members that the Office of the Legislative Assembly continues to successfully meet our

statutory deadlines for the tabling of annual reports and other documents that are produced under the authority of the Speaker.

That concludes my opening comments, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank members for their ongoing support and I welcome their comments, suggestions, and questions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** *Qujannamiik*, Speaker Arreak. Do you have witnesses you would like to bring to the table?

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I have witnesses that I would like to bring to the witness table.

**Chairman:** Does the committee agree to bring in the witnesses?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

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

Thank you. (interpretation ends) For the record, Mr. Speaker, please introduce your witnesses.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On my right is Mr. John Quirke, Clerk of the Legislative Assembly, and on my left is the Director of Corporate Services, Mr. Steve Pollock.

**Chairman:** *Qujannamiik*, Mr. Speaker Arreak. (interpretation) Do members have any general comments to the Speaker's opening comments? Mr. Ningark.

**Mr. Ningark** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Mr. Speaker. I don't have any sad comments or anything opposing your office.

I just want to say thank you for mentioning that you wanted to set up an Electoral Boundaries Commission in 2010. I thank the Speaker for that. It would be perfectly fine if nothing is changed in 2010, but I would suggest that Kugaaruk and Repulse Bay each receive their own members instead of being represented by one member. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningark. I believe that was just a comment. I have no other names on my list for general comments in regard to the Speaker's opening comments.

We can now proceed to A-4.  
(interpretation ends) Branch Summary. Assembly Operations. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$6,608,000. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) A-5. Branch Summary. Expenditures on Behalf of Members. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$6,025,000. Agreed? (interpretation) Mr. Tapardjuk has a question.

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under the business plan, in 2008-09, we held a Youth Parliament and I don't see anything in the plans here. Are you planning to have another Youth Parliament this year and if not, is it possible to have an Elders Parliament so that they can voice their concerns in this

type of forum? That's my question, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tapardjuk. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker Arreak.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank my *Annuraaqatik*. This is a very good suggestion. We held a Youth Parliament last summer and will hold another one next year, but we haven't held an Elders Parliament. So it's a very good suggestion and it's something that can be considered next time around in our budgetary process.

**Chairman:** *Qujannamiik*, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) Mr. Tapardjuk, is that it? Thank you. Mr. Curley.

**Hon. Tagak Curley** (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome, Mr. Speaker. My question is in regard to the Youth Parliament which is enjoyed by all and I would like to see it continued.

In addition, the youth have to understand about our government and the process. Some of us can't make it to the schools, but I think it's very important to have the youth understand the electoral process. Has your office considered including youth so that they will learn about democracy, the whole parliamentary process, and so on? Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker Arreak.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank Mr. Curley. At this time, we don't have anything planned, but if you talk to us

about any activities you would like to see us take on, such as going to the schools more often, I think we can work together and plan how we will participate in those types of activities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** *Qujannamiik*, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Curley.

**Hon. Tagak Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's something I would enjoy and I would urge you to look into this not right away but soon.

We have a Manitoba Speaker who is an Inuk and he has been a Speaker for a long time. Mr. George Hicks enjoys teaching young people about democracy and visits the schools, and so on. He makes it very interesting so that the students enjoy it. He holds debates among the students and some of them turn out to be politicians.

I would like you to possibly consider setting up something like that. I was wondering if you could get in touch with the Manitoba Speaker and see if he is willing to travel around in Nunavut with you to teach the youth about democracy and the government process. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the member for that excellent suggestion. But at this time, we haven't set aside any travel monies. As I said earlier, we try to keep within budget. We have very little increases on a yearly basis, but your suggestion is heard by our office and we

will leave it at that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** *Qujannamiik*, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) I have no more names on my list. (interpretation ends) Branch Summary. Expenditures on Behalf of Members. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$6,025,000. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) A-6. Branch Summary. Independent Officers of the Legislative Assembly. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$2,353,000. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Go back to A-3. Department Summary. Office of the Legislative Assembly. Detail of Expenditures. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$14,986,000. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Is the committee agreed that the Office of the Legislative Assembly is concluded?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you.

>>*Applause*

**Chairman** (interpretation): I would like to thank the Speaker and his officials for being at the witness table. I would like to ask you, Mr. Speaker, if you have any closing remarks. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank everyone for approving the main estimates of the Legislative Assembly and you will have funding available for another year in your constituency offices. Thank you very much.

I would like to thank my officials, John and Steve.

**Chairman:** Please refer to Bill 1 in your white legislation binder. Bill 1. (interpretation) Do you have a copy of the bill? We will wait a moment for you to obtain your copy of the bill.

**Chairman** (Mr. Okalik)(interpretation): We will now begin the clause-by-clause review of the bill. Do you have a copy of Bill 1? Clause 1. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Clause 2, take a look at the Schedule on the back, Amounts Appropriated for the Fiscal Year Ending March 31, 2010. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$1,050,873,000. Do you agree? It's Vote 1.

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): The total appropriation that you have to approve is \$1,050,873,000. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

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

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 3. (interpretation) Do you agree to the contents of this clause?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

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

**Some Members:** Agreed.

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

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Are my colleagues agreed to the bill as a whole?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Are my colleagues in agreement that pursuant to Rule 62(2) that Bill 1 can now be placed on the Orders of the Day for third reading?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. We're finally done with that bill. I don't think the other bills are ready for us to consider as the officials will have to go to the witness table. We will take a 10-minute break while the officials are getting ready. Thank you. We will return.

*>>Committee recessed at 18:52 and resumed at 19:10*

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, my colleagues. We can start with Bill 2. Minister of Finance, Minister Peterson, you can now make your opening comments. Minister Peterson.

**Bill 02 – Supplementary  
Appropriation (Capital) Act, No.  
1, 2009-2010 – Consideration in  
Committee**

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Members. I am here today to provide a briefing on the *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 1, 2009-2010*, Bill 2. The purpose of Bill 2 is to appropriate \$101,994,000 in additional monies for 2009-2010. These items include:

- Departmental 2008-09 capital carryovers;
- Federal budget 2009 infrastructure funding under the Recreational Infrastructure Canada Fund, Infrastructure Stimulus Fund, and the Knowledge Infrastructure Program;
- The 2009-2010 allocation under the federal Building Canada Fund; and
- Pre-construction monies.

For the fourth consecutive year, capital carryovers are significant. For 2008-09, capital carryovers are \$82.8 million, which is an increase of \$21.5 million from 2007-08. The 2007-08 capital carryover amount was \$61.3 million, which included the Qikiqtani General Hospital. The capital carryover amount for 2006-07 was \$87.4 million.

A contributing factor to the large capital carryover amounts in the Second Assembly was human resource capacity within the Department of Community and Government Services.

A second factor was the improper cash flowing of multi-year capital projects, which, over time, has been addressed.

And lastly, there was a decline in competition for Government of Nunavut capital projects. Fortunately, this year, there are more tender bids coming within budget. This is likely a direct result of the current economic situation.

Our government recently received confirmation from the federal government that they will provide \$3.6 million under the Infrastructure Stimulus Fund, which will allow us to renovate the Taloyoak Hamlet Office and for the City of Iqaluit and our government to leverage monies to repair the Arctic Winter Games Arena. The Government of Nunavut will match the \$3.6 million.

In addition, the federal government has confirmed funding of \$567,000 under the Recreational Infrastructure Canada Fund, which our government will also match. This funding will allow the communities of Taloyoak, Chesterfield Inlet, Igloolik, and Sanikiluaq to receive improvements to recreational facilities.

Through the Knowledge Infrastructure Program, the federal government will contribute \$2.8 million towards a total capital project cost of \$5.6 million so that Nunavut Arctic College can improve information technology connectivity. This improved connectivity will allow Nunavut Arctic College to improve its distance learning capacity to help improve adult learning and training in our communities.

The Building Canada Fund was accelerated as part of the federal government's economic action plan. For



2009-2010, there will be ten capital projects in the departments of Community and Government Services and Economic Development and Transportation that will be funded for a total of \$20.2 million. Bill 2 will appropriate \$6.5 million towards these capital projects.

Bill 2 will also appropriate \$6.6 million for pre-construction technical work on seven capital projects in the departments of Community and Government Services and Economic Development and Transportation.

It should be noted that the capital projects for the Department of Economic Development and Transportation under both the Building Canada Fund and pre-construction technical funding are primarily for airport improvements in our communities.

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

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

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Yes, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Do my colleagues agree to have the minister's officials with him at the witness table?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): They have agreed. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort

the minister's officials in so that they can appear before us at our witness table.

Thank you, Sergeant-at-Arms. Minister Peterson, please introduce your witnesses for the benefit of our colleagues. Minister Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee of the Whole. To my right is Peter Ma, Deputy Minister of Finance, and to my left is Jeff Chown, Director of Expenditure Management. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

I suggest to members that wherever possible you ask your detailed questions during the page-by-page review of the departmental estimates. Do any members have general comments? There are no hands up.

I would like members to now go to page 4 of the supplementary capital estimates. Department of Finance. Centrally Administered Funds. Not Previously Authorized. New and continuation of prior projects not completed in the fiscal year. Total Department. \$7,033,000. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Total Capital. \$7,033,000. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Department of Justice. Capital. Not Previously Authorized. Total Directorate. \$114,000. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Corrections. Total Capital. \$3,444,000. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Department of Justice. Total Department. \$3,558,000. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth. Capital. Total Directorate. \$8,991,000. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Total Department. \$8,991,000. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Department of Education. Capital. Not Previously Authorized. Total Corporate Services. \$27,714,000. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Total Department of Education. \$27,714,000. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Department of Health and Social Services. Capital. Not Previously Authorized. Total Directorate. \$12,997,000. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Total Department. \$12,997,000. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Department of Environment. Capital. Not Previously Authorized. Program Management. Total Directorate. \$1,255,000. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Total Department. \$1,255,000. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Department of Community and Government Services. Capital. Not Previously Authorized. There are quite a few pages; pages 10, 11, and 12. Not Previously Authorized. Total Capital Planning and Technical Services. \$24,657,000. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Petroleum Products Revolving Fund. Total Capital. \$741,000. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Department of Community and Government Services. Total Capital. \$25,398,000. Are there any questions? Mr. Komoartok would like to ask a question.

**Mr. Komoartok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a question on behalf of our colleague, the Member for Uqqummiut. Maybe I'll ask that question once we get to page 15. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): You are ahead of us, but we will go to page 15. We're on Community and Government Services. Total Department. \$25,398,000. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Department of Economic Development and Transportation. Capital. There are two pages on that. Not Previously Authorized. Total Transportation. \$15,048,000. Do you agree? Someone has their hand up, I'm sorry. Mr. Komoartok, would you like to ask a question?

**Mr. Komoartok** (interpretation): Yes, now that I have the opportunity to ask my question. I would like to ask a couple of questions on behalf of our colleague, the Member for Uqqummiut. It's on page 15.

(interpretation ends) I know that the member has been actively pursuing a new air terminal building for Qikiqtarjuaq. This supplementary appropriation includes \$350,000 in funding for the planning and design of the new ATB.

What are the timelines for this project and when is it expected to be completed? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Komoartok. Minister Peterson, would you like to respond?

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The timelines aren't in place at this time. Our department is just in the process of planning the project. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Mr. Komoartok.

**Mr. Komoartok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) When is the project supposed to be completed? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Minister Peterson, can you try and find an answer? Minister Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are a lot of projects here. As I said earlier, they are securing funding to complete the planning and design. They are hopeful that the project can be funded under the Building Canada Fund and hopefully when they proceed, they will establish the timelines.

I know that the Building Canada Fund is a seven-year program and I think it's in its third year. So I would hope that within four or five years that that project gets deemed eligible and that it will proceed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson. (interpretation ends) I have a similar question for Item 4 which

is very important. I would like to know when that project will proceed to actual work on the ground. Minister Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. A similar answer, it's in the planning stage. Once its funding is approved, it will be planned and designed and the cost estimated. I think the plan would be to bring it into the capital planning process and then we would establish the timelines. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson. (interpretation ends) I look forward to the announcement when that would be taking place.

(interpretation) Total Transportation. \$15,048,000. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Total Department. \$15,048,000. Do you agree? (interpretation ends) Mr. Schell, you had your hand up.

**Mr. Schell:** No, I did earlier on, but you asked the question I was going to ask.

**Chairman:** Very good memory. (interpretation) Total Department. \$15,048,000. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Go to Schedule 1 on page 2. Total Capital Appropriation. \$101,994,000. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. We have concluded the document. We can now go to Bill 2 in your legislation binder. Bill 2, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 1, 2009-2010*. Do you have it in front of you? Clause 1. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Clause 2, Schedule 2. We have to look at the contents of the Schedule first. Summary of Appropriation for the Fiscal Year Ending March 31, 2010. Vote 2: Capital. Total Capital. \$101,994,000. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Total Capital Appropriation. \$101,994,000. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

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

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 3. (interpretation) Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

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

**Some Members:** Agreed.

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

**Some Members:** Agreed.

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

**Some Members:** Agreed.

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

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Are my colleagues agreed to the bill as a whole?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Are my colleagues in agreement that pursuant to Rule 62(2) that Bill 2 can immediately be placed on the Orders of the Day for third reading?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister, if you have any closing remarks, the floor is yours. Minister Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank you and the Members of the Committee of the Whole for your support in putting all of these parts together. We are going to have a busy construction season with important projects for all of Nunavut, for all of our communities.

I would like to thank the Department of the Community Government Services' officials for working very closely with our officials from the Department of Finance.

I would like to thank the gentleman to my left this time, Mr. Jeff Chown. He has put a lot of hard work into getting all

of this stuff together for us and keeping track. I don't know how he does it but somehow he does, so it's good to have officials like him around. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>>Applause

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson. I also thank your officials. We have finished that bill, so we can now move on to another bill. Please refer to Bill 4, (interpretation ends) *An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act*.

(interpretation) Our legal counsel can come to our table before we start reviewing the bill if that's okay with you. Ms. Cooper will be at the table. I would like to ask Minister Peterson, Minister of Finance, if he has opening remarks for Bill 4. Minister Peterson.

#### **Bill 04 – An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act – Consideration in Committee**

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do. Good evening again, members. I am pleased to speak to Bill 4, *An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act*. Bill 4 provides tax relief to Nunavummiut in the following forms:

- an increased pension amount for retirees and seniors,
- a firefighter tax credit for our volunteer firefighters,
- a textbook amount for students, and

- a business training tax credit to enhance our workplace skills and abilities.

This bill also addresses an administrative amendment to change the wording of the donation tax credit to conform to the federal statute.

Nunavummiut who are currently receiving pension income can claim a four percent territorial tax credit on the first \$1,000 that they receive. Bill 4 aims to increase this amount to \$2,000, which matches the amount that can be claimed under the federal tax credit.

This change affects approximately 600 tax filers based on the most current data from the 2007 tax year. On average, these 600 pension recipients claimed \$578,000 in tax credits, resulting in a tax savings of \$23,120. Combined with the federal tax credit, this averages to \$317.78 per person. An increase in the pension amount results in an additional average tax savings of \$38.50.

Volunteer firefighters often put their own lives at risks to save others. In recognition of this dedication, Bill 4 seeks to create a tax credit for volunteer firefighters. Any volunteer firefighter who commits 200 hours of training and on-call service will be eligible to claim a \$500 tax credit.

This credit reduces the territorial tax that volunteer firefighters will have to pay by the full \$500. We believe that this credit will help as many as 300 volunteer firefighters in Nunavut. The cost to the government is approximately \$150,000.

Higher education and learning is a cornerstone of the modern wage

economy. Bill 4 introduces an amount for textbooks that can be claimed by Nunavut students. Full-time students will be able to claim \$65 per month for textbooks, while part-time students are eligible to claim \$20 per month. This credit mirrors the federal credit and helps provide tax relief to students and the parents of students.

An administrative change is being made to the wording in our Tax Act for charitable donations to make it consistent with the federal statute. The current Act has always been administered as if the change had been made and now the legislation is being updated.

Finally, Bill 4 introduces a business tax training credit that allows eligible Nunavut employers to claim tax credits for training Nunavut employees. This program was developed in consultation with private and public stakeholders and received warm reviews.

The tax credit is based on 30 percent of their training expenditures. This percentage can increase to 50 percent if the employees being trained are beneficiaries of the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement*.

Small businesses will be able to claim up to \$10,000 in credits, while large businesses will be able to claim up to \$50,000. The total amount of the tax credits is limited to \$1.5 million each fiscal year.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will be pleased to take questions now.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson. (interpretation ends)

Do you have additional witnesses or new witnesses to appear with you?

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Yes, I want to let Mr. Chown go sit in the Gallery and I'll introduce Mr. Peter Tumilty.

**Chairman:** Minister Peterson, can you please introduce your new witness?

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my left is Mr. Peter Tumilty, Director of Fiscal Policy, we also refer to him as our tax man. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** He's not welcome if he's collecting taxes.

>>Laughter

(interpretation) Does the Standing Committee on Legislation have any opening comments? Mr. Ningeongan.

**Mr. Ningeongan:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As Co-Chair of the Standing Committee on Legislation, I am pleased to make some brief opening comments as we begin consideration of Bill 4, *An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act*.

The standing committee recognizes that this bill has been introduced in order to implement a number of tax measures that were announced in the Government of Nunavut's 2008 Budget Address.

During the Minister of Finance's recent appearance before the standing committee, members took the opportunity to raise a number of concerns with respect to the implementation and administration of the proposed tax measures.

Members note that the proposed new business training tax credit program will end on March 31, 2014. Bill 4 provides that the total amount of all business training tax credits available to all eligible employers during any 12-month period from April 1 to March 31 shall not exceed \$1.5 million.

The standing committee recommends that the minister report annually to the Legislative Assembly on the administration of this program. This process will help the government to evaluate the program's success in encouraging employers to provide training to Nunavutmiut. It will also assist the government in determining if the annual program limit is sufficient to meet demand.

The standing committee also looks forward to the government reporting on the number of volunteer firefighters and students who benefit from the proposed firefighter tax credit and the textbook credit.

Mr. Chairman, as I noted earlier, the proposed changes to the *Income Tax Act* were originally announced in last year's Budget Address. The standing committee encourages the government to introduce bills of this nature in a timely manner.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening comments. The standing committee recommends the passage of Bill 4 to all members. Thank you.

**Chairman (interpretation):** Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. Before we proceed, I would like to remind members of the following: according to Rule 77(1), you have 10 minutes to speak, and according

to Rule 77(2), subject to the discretion of the Chair, a member may speak more than once to a matter under discussion but not until every member wishing to speak has spoken.

Do members have any general comments? No one has their hand up, so we can now begin the clause-by-clause review of the bill if that's okay with you.

We will go to page 2. Bill 4, *An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act*.  
(interpretation ends) Clause 1.  
(interpretation) Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

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

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 3. (interpretation) Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

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

**Some Members:** Agreed.

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

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 6. (interpretation)  
Mr. Aupaluktuq has a question.

**Mr. Aupaluktuq:** Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. As the minister will recall, I asked him a question during his recent appearance before the standing committee on the issue of

whether students taking distance education courses would be eligible to benefit from the textbook credit.

The minister undertook to look into my question and I would like to ask him if he has that information with him today. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Very good question, Mr. Aupaluktuq. Minister, I hope you have a response.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Indeed, we do have a response if you would like me to provide it. Okay. We've got to follow the official script here.

The answer to Mr. Aupaluktuq's question is that this credit mirrors the federal one. If the correspondence, of course, qualifies for the federal amount, it will also qualify for the territorial amount. So it's tied to the federal income tax. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Are there any questions?  
(interpretation ends) Hopefully it's covered by the federal government so we can get the credit for the students. Clause 6. (interpretation) Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

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

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 8. (interpretation) Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.



**Chairman:** Clause 9. (interpretation) Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Are my colleagues agreed to Bill 4 as a whole?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Are my colleagues in agreement that pursuant to Rule 62(2) that Bill 4 can immediately be placed on the Orders of the Day for third reading?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson, the floor is open if you have any closing remarks.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the members. Thank you for all your good questions in the standing committee meeting. These are great comments to the Chairman and I'm sure we can provide annual reports and information to the standing committee, Committee of the Whole, and table them in the Legislative Assembly so you will see how all of these changes are benefiting Nunavummiut.

I also would like to thank my officials for working so hard and diligently on these changes so that we can clean up the *Income Tax Act* today and endeavour in the future to be timelier in bringing amendments forward. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) I was glad to clean up some outstanding issues from last term as well. Thank you, Minister, for

carrying that ball and completing some of our promises from the last term. Good job.

(interpretation) We will move on to another item. I would like to thank all of his officials for making an appearance. We will now be dealing with Bill 5, *Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act*. (interpretation ends) Minister of Justice, Mr. Peterson, (interpretation) you can now begin with your opening comments. Minister Peterson.

**Bill 05 – Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act, 2009 – Consideration in Committee**

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to appear today to present these proposed amendments.

Miscellaneous bills such as this one are commonly used in other jurisdictions in Canada to correct mistakes in Acts and to make other non-controversial changes. In fact, many jurisdictions do one every year.

This bill amends six Acts to correct errors and to replace references to the Northwest Territories with references to Nunavut.

This bill corrects an omission in the *Family Abuse Intervention Act* – that Act authorizes designated Justices of the Peace to issue orders, including community intervention orders, but a mechanism for designating which Justices of the Peace can issue community intervention orders was inadvertently omitted.

This bill removes outdated references to certain entities in the schedules to the

*Financial Administration Act* and the *Public Service Act*, and further updates the *Public Service Act* by referring to the “Qulliq Energy Corporation” instead of the “Nunavut Power Corporation.”

Finally, this bill also includes amendments to the *Public Trustee Act* to ensure that the drafting is in accordance with established standards.

I thank the committee for its careful consideration of this bill. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson. (interpretation ends) As this is a justice matter and you still have your finance officials, I’m sure you want to put forward new witnesses. So we thank your officials and I leave it to you if you want additional or new witnesses at the table. Minister Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I have a justice official I would like to join me. I would like to thank Mr. Ma and Mr. Tumilty and have them return to the Gallery. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the new witness in.

Is it okay with the committee members to bring in the new witness?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Minister, I now give you the opportunity to introduce your new witness. Minister Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to welcome Mr. Ken Chutskoff, who is the Director of our Legislation Division. He just joined the Government of Nunavut on June 1, so I hope you folks get the chance to see him here a few more times in the coming years. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson. Are there any general comments? Mr. Ningark.

**Mr. Ningark** (interpretation): So that we are not misunderstood by the new witness, we don’t say nay, we say *Ii* when we are agreeing in Inuktitut. I just wanted to clarify that point. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Do members have any general comments? No one else has their hand up.

We can now proceed to the clause-by-clause review of the bill starting with page 1. Bill 5, *Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act*. Clause 1 and Schedule A is on page 4 and 5. If you can review the various amendments to the Act on Schedule A. Do you agree to the amendments?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

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

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 2 (interpretation) is on page 6. The provisions to be amended must be reviewed. Do you agree with Schedule B?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

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

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Clause 3. (interpretation) Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Clause 4. Refer to Schedule C on page 7. You must first agree to Schedule C on page 7. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

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

**Some Members:** Agreed.

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

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 6. (interpretation) Before you agree to this clause, you must first review Schedule D on page 8 and 9. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

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

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Are my colleagues agreed to Bill 5 as a whole?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Do my colleagues agree that pursuant to Rule 62(2) that Bill 5 can immediately be placed on the Orders of the Day for third reading?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. We have concluded the bill. Minister Peterson, if you have any closing comments, the floor is now yours.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the Members of the Committee of the Whole again; I appreciate your scrutiny of this bill. It is important that we update these Acts and references to Yellowknife and the Northwest Territories ten years after we left there, it's long overdue.

I would like to thank Mr. Chutskoff for his work on these important amendments in his first 16 days on the job. I look forward to working with him, you guys, the standing committees, and the Committee of the Whole in the future. Thank you very much.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson. (interpretation ends) I think I'm hungry, so I think we're done. Are there any other issues on the floor? (interpretation) We are now finished. Would you like to report progress?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. The committee meeting is over and I will now rise to report progress. Mr. Tootoo.

**Hon. Hunter Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just for the record, I think we

need a formal motion to report progress. So we can't just sit there and say, "Yeah, we agree." We unfortunately have to follow procedure, so I'll make that motion to report progress. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. (interpretation) There is a motion on the floor to report progress and the motion is not debatable. All those in favour of the motion, raise your hand, please. Opposed. The motion is carried. Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Going back to the Orders of the Day. Item 21. Report of the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Okalik.

#### **Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole**

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Bills 1, 2, 4, and 5 and would like to report that Bills 1, 2, 4, and 5 are now ready for third reading. Also, Mr. Speaker, I move that the Report of the Committee of the Whole be concurred with. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Okalik. That's Item 20 but I referred to it as Item 21. There is a motion on the floor. Is there a seconder? Mr. Kusugak. The motion is in order. All those in favour of the motion, raise your hand, please. Opposed. The motion is carried.

(interpretation ends) Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. Minister Peterson.

#### **Item 21: Third Reading of Bills**

#### **Bill 01 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2009-2010 – Third Reading**

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Iqaluit Centre, that Bill 1, *Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, 2009-2010*, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Peterson. The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour, raise your hand, please. Opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 1 is ready for assent.

Third Reading of Bills. Mr. Peterson.

#### **Bill 02 – Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 1, 2009-2010 – Third Reading**

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Iqaluit Centre, that Bill 2, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 1, 2009-2010*, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Peterson. The motion is in order. Question has been called. All those in favour, raise your hand, please. Opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 2 is ready for assent.

Third Reading of Bills. Mr. Peterson.

#### **Bill 04 – An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act – Third Reading**

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Iqaluit Centre, that Bill 4,

*An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act*, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Peterson. The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour, raise your hand, please. Opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 4 is ready for assent.

Third Reading of Bills. Mr. Peterson.

**Bill 05 – Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act, 2009 – Third Reading**

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Iqaluit Centre, that Bill 5, *Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act, 2009*, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Peterson. The motion is in order. Question has been called. All those in favour, raise your hand, please. Opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 5 is ready for assent.

Third Reading of Bills. Before we proceed with the Orders of the Day, Mr. Clerk, will you ascertain if the senior judge of the Nunavut Court of Justice is prepared to enter the Chambers to give assent to bills? Mr. Clerk.

**Assent to Bills**

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

**Bill 02 – Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 1, 2009-2010 – Assent**

**Bill 04 – An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act – Assent**

**Bill 05 – Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act, 2009 – Assent**

**Justice Beverley Browne:** As members are aware, section 10 of the *Nunavut Act* provides that if both the Commissioner and the Deputy Commissioner of Nunavut are absent, ill, or unable to act, the senior judge of the Nunavut Court of Justice has and may exercise and perform all of the powers, duties, and functions of the commissioner.

As those conditions have been met, I hereby give assent to the following bills:

- Bill 1, *Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, 2009-2010*
- Bill 2, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 1, 2009-2010*
- Bill 4, *An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act*, and finally
- Bill 5, *Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act, 2009*

I believe that concludes your work here at this sitting of the Legislative Assembly. I wish you all a safe journey back home to your families and your communities, and you will get back to work in a few months time again. Thank you.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Before we go to the Orders of the Day, I would first of all like to thank all of the members for having a successful session. I would also like to thank the staff of the Legislative Assembly. I would especially like to thank the interpreters.

>> *Applause*

If it wasn't for the interpreters, we wouldn't proceed as smoothly as we do.

I would also like to thank the pages very much.

>> *Applause*

Last but not least, I would like to thank all of the people of Iqaluit for their hospitality.

>> *Applause*

To all Nunavummiut, have a wonderful and safe spring season. Enjoy the spring season and have a safe trip home, my colleagues.

(interpretation ends) Orders of the Day.  
Mr. Clerk.

### **Item 22: Orders of the Day**

**Clerk** (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Orders of the Day for November 24, 2009:

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

6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions
8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to Opening Address
10. Petitions
11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motions
15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions
17. First Reading of Bills
18. Second Reading of Bills
19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
20. Report of the Committee of the Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills
22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. This House stands adjourned until Tuesday, November 24, 2009, at 1:30 p.m.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>> *House adjourned at 20:05*

