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**Wednesday, December 2, 2009**

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**Iqaluit**

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

## Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

### *Speaker*

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(Uqqummiut)

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

**James Arvaluk**  
(Tununiq)

**Moses Aupaluktuq**  
(Baker Lake)

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

**Ron Elliott**  
(Quttiktuq)

**Adamee Komoartok**  
(Pangnirtung)

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

**John Ningark**  
(Akulliq)

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

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**Allan Rumbolt**  
(Hudson Bay)

**Fred Schell**  
(South Baffin)  
*Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole*

**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****Wednesday, December 2, 2009****Members Present:**

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

**Item 1: Opening Prayer**

**Speaker** (Hon. James Arreak) (interpretation ends): Thank you. Before we proceed with the Orders of the Day, I would like to ask Mr. Curley to say the opening prayer.

>>Prayer

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. A very good afternoon, Madam Premier, Ministers, Members of the Legislative Assembly, Nunavummiut, and the people of Clyde River, who are probably unable to watch the proceedings.

Going to the Orders of the Day. Ministers' Statements. Minister Tapardjuk.

**Item 2: Ministers' Statements**

**Minister's Statement 068 – 3(2):  
Minister Tootoo Absent from the House**

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to

advise my colleagues that Minister Hunter Tootoo will be absent from the House from December 2 to December 4, 2009, to attend an FPT Ministers on Housing meeting in Gatineau, Quebec. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Ministers' Statements. Minister Lorne Kusugak.

**Minister's Statement 069 – 3(2):  
Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions**

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) In light of the upcoming Copenhagen Climate Change Conference being attended by a Government of Nunavut delegation led by the Premier and the Minister of Environment, I would like to take this opportunity to inform the members about our efforts to begin reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Mr. Speaker, in Nunavut, we are at the forefront of effects of climate change and must begin taking the initiative to reduce our emissions and act as a role model to other provinces, territories, and nations.

Nunavut now has the *Ikummatiit* Energy Strategy that will help guide the territory toward a sustainable energy system that is environmentally responsible. New initiatives will be coming forward to implement this strategy as we access the necessary resources and technologies.

In the meantime, Mr. Speaker, we are already working towards reducing emissions to get the process started. As an example, we are currently retrofitting

government buildings in Iqaluit and will move on to other communities to implement some of these measures in the near future.

In July, the Government of Nunavut adopted the 2005 version of the National Building Code and is currently developing a draft Nunavut Energy Code that will promote more energy efficient buildings.

Through my hon. colleague, the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, we are also working toward ensuring that the much needed new housing is built to be significantly more energy efficient than the current stock of buildings. The Nunavut Housing Corporation, with federal assistance, will complete 725 new homes in Nunavut, of which 107 five-plex structures totalling 525 units will be built with an energy efficiency level that is 25 percent above the current national energy standards.

One of our largest hurdles in Nunavut is to address our dependence on diesel. Alternative energy sources are being studied and we are gathering information from current solar and wind pilot projects already established in the territory. Residual heating programs in Iqaluit, Rankin Inlet, and Arviat are using the heat leftover from electricity generation to heat nearby buildings, thus reducing our overall need for diesel and thereby reducing our overall operational costs.

Mr. Speaker, we hope to continue improving our energy efficiency and reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the coming years by exploring possible options such as geothermal and hydro power. I will keep members up to date as

we move forward. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Minister's Statement 070 – 3(2):  
Increase in FANS Activity**

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. *Tamapta* reinforces our belief in the need to for a well-trained and skilled workforce in Nunavut to take advantage of the opportunities that lie before us. A major part of our efforts is to ensure citizens who wish to pursue post-secondary education have financial support.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to advise that during the past two years, we have seen an increase in the number of people receiving student financial assistance through the Financial Assistance for Nunavut Students, or FANS, program.

Mr. Speaker, the number of students using FANS from 2007-08 to this fall has increased by 43 percent. The growth for beneficiaries was even higher, increasing 49 percent. For 2007-08, there were 344 students, including 251 beneficiaries, using FANS. During 2008-09, there were 376 students of which 302 were beneficiaries. To date, there are 446 students with 374 beneficiaries receiving support through FANS.

Mr. Speaker, this increase is testimony to the work our schools have done in increasing the number of high school graduates as well as the increases in the number of post-secondary and career



programs being offered by Nunavut Arctic College in the communities as well as to the increases in the benefits within the FANS program.

Mr. Speaker, the support of my colleagues in this Assembly in ensuring Nunavut post-secondary students do not face unnecessary financial barriers when pursuing their studies is greatly appreciated by the students, parents, and the public.

We expect that we will continue to see increases in the uptake in the FANS program and that more Nunavummiut will be pursuing post-secondary studies in the years ahead to meet the vision of *Tamapta*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Ministers' Statements. Hon. Tagak Curley.

**Minister's Statement 071 – 3(2):  
Qikiqtani General Hospital  
Accreditation**

**Hon. Tagak Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is with great pleasure that I announce today that the Qikiqtani General Hospital was granted a three-year accreditation award. The acquisition of this status indicates to Nunavutmiut and to the rest of the country that the Qikiqtani General Hospital provides quality services and has recognized standards.

I will be reading in English.  
(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, Accreditation Canada measures hospitals using 15 national standards of which the

Qikiqtani General Hospital met or exceeded 10 of those standards.

>>Applause

In fact, Mr. Speaker, the diagnostic imaging department or x-ray department exceeded the national standard with a final result of 100 percent.

Mr. Speaker, QGH has also been recognized by Accreditation Canada for having a leading practice in Canada. Fetal fibro-nectin screening is a tool used to identify when a pregnant woman experiences labour before her due date. I would like to acknowledge Dr. Sandy MacDonald, Director of Medical Affairs, and Audrey Saxton for their work in achieving this special recognition.

Mr. Speaker, my department is committed to providing the highest quality of standards and services at the Qikiqtani General Hospital and the hospital staff continue to work hard to address all recommendations made by the survey team during their site visit.

I would like to extend my appreciation to all staff of Qikiqtani General Hospital who went above and beyond their job requirements to make this happen. Without their dedication and commitment, Mr. Speaker, the Qikiqtani General Hospital would not have received this accreditation award.  
(interpretation) Thank you.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Ministers' Statements. Hon. Peter Taptuna.

**Minister's Statement 072 – 3(2):  
Labrador Marine Infrastructure  
Investigation**

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon everyone, colleagues and Nunavummiut. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise today before the Members of this House to inform them of a trip I took last summer to examine marine facilities the federal government has provided in communities on the Labrador coast.

We started our trip in Happy Valley, Goose Bay, which is slightly larger than Iqaluit. We went from there to Hopedale, which, at 625 people, would be considered mid-sized in our arctic territory of Nunavut. We finished off our trip in Rigolet, which, with a population of 350 people, is not much different than our smaller communities within Nunavut.

The similarities in the size and makeup of these communities with our home were enough to make me feel very much at home during this course of the visit. But the purpose of my trip was to see the difference in marine development between Labrador communities and our own communities. That difference, Mr. Speaker, was like the difference between night and day.

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

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Alongside the huge concrete dock in Happy Valley, Goose Bay, there were two ferries, the MV Sir Robert Bond and the MV Northern Ranger, which, between them, provide weekly low-cost passenger and cargo connections between all

communities on the Labrador coast and Newfoundland.

In Hopedale, there were breakwaters enclosing a sheltered harbour and we watched a ferry come right alongside the concrete wharf where passengers, vehicles, boats on trailers, and pallets of goods were offloaded directly by crane onto the dock.

The whole turnaround operation to offload and load this ship took about an hour and a half, and as I said Mr. Speaker, this service runs weekly from June to November, providing an enormous amount of capacity and flexibility in getting people and goods in and out of communities at a reasonable cost.

In Rigolet, we did not see the ferry come in, but we did have a good look at the long pier and concrete caisson dock where the same operation we saw in Hopedale could be complete with the same efficiency.

Mr. Speaker, the people in Labrador continue to face many of the same obstacles that we face here today in Nunavut, but there is no doubt the marine facilities we saw contribute to the viability of the Labrador communities. There is also no doubt that Nunavummiut are as deserving of federal assistance in getting those facilities constructed as people on the Labrador coast and the rest of the country have these infrastructures in place.

I would like, therefore, to inform the Members of this House that we will continue to make it clear to the federal government that they overlooked

Nunavut when they were constructing marine facilities, that docks and harbours are critical to our viability, and that we will work with them in any way possible to ensure their oversight is corrected. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Ministers' Statements. If here are no more, going to the Orders of the Day. Item 3. Members' Statements. (interpretation ends) Member for Arviat, Mr. Shewchuk.

### Item 3: Members' Statements

#### Member's Statement 099 – 3(2): Nancy Karetak-Lindell Named Director of Arctic Voices Scholarship

**Hon. Daniel Shewchuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to acknowledge one of my very well-known constituents. Nancy Karetak-Lindell, in being appointed as the Director of the Arctic Voices Fellowship, created under the Gordon Foundation.

This is a program that aims to strengthen the participation of northerners in shaping the policies governing the Canadian Arctic. As many of you know, Mrs. Lindell served as the MP for the NWT and Nunavut from 1997 to 2008, and contributed greatly to the creation and operations of our wonderful territory of Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, as MLA for Arviat, I congratulate Nancy and her family on her appointment, and wish her all the best in her future endeavours. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Shewchuk. Members' Statements. Member for Akulliq, Mr. Ningark.

#### Member's Statement 100 – 3(2): Income Support Levels

**Mr. Ningark** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Winter is already here in our Nunavut communities, and the days are getting shorter in some parts of Nunavut. In some communities, the sun doesn't even come up at all. It is getting colder in Nunavut and will continue to do so.

In some Nunavut communities there are houses being built. Usually even if both couples are working, they are not going to be able to keep up with the household expenses. They also have to pay property taxes and other utilities. Even in the winter, because of the high price of fuel, some homeowners put up snow blocks around their house, banking snow to give it further insulation.

When I was on the campaign trail, Mr. Speaker, I indicated that the homeowners need help, even the working homeowners. Even the people, who are unemployed, were making very good money when the seal skin pelts were high, and carving, and so on. Today, it's getting harder and harder to keep up with the household expenses.

For those people on Income Support, they have no other means of income and they require assistance during the winter for purchasing heating fuel and in paying their electrical bills due to the increased demands of the season.

When we reach the appropriate item of Oral Questions, I will be directing my questions to the Minister of Health and Social Services on options to further assist people who have no employment income, yet have been saddled with home ownership. There are also ways to help them when they are assisting those who are homeless in their communities, when we as a government are not doing enough to assist them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Member's Statement 101 – 3(2):  
Tribute to Long-Serving Member  
of the Pangnirtung District  
Education Authority**

**Mr. Komoartok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to earmark a momentous occasion we would like to pay tribute to in this House that relates to the longest-serving member of the Pangnirtung District Education Authority.

Mr. Speaker, the person in question, Taina Angmarlik was first elected to serve on the community's Education committee in 1984. She has run in every election since that time, and as a testament to the steadfastness of her character, has been re-elected every time as people in our community have faith in her abilities and a quarter century has already passed. In 2009, it will be 25 years since Taina was first elected and became a member of the local education council.

Mr. Speaker, Taina is a trusted and adored elder in the community, who has dedicated her life to preserving Inuit societal values, language, and culture. Her volunteer work in the community and its schools has served to build bridges between the generations. She is welcoming to all people, irrespective of whether they are youth, adults or her peers.

As Members of the Legislative Assembly, we often state that the importance of education is one of our priorities, including the proper education of our youth. However, these lofty goals are impossible to attain unless you have committed members who believe in these goals and it is even more meritorious to see one that committed in our community.

Mr. Speaker, Taina has long been married to Seemee Angmarlik, with whom she has grown old with and he recently retired after 40 years of service as the local fuel delivery driver. This is not to say that Taina and her partner have not endured hardship, since they have endured several stressful periods over the years, but their strength, their perseverance and teamwork is an inspiration that we all have to try and emulate in our lives.

Mr. Speaker, I ask and encourage all my colleagues to acknowledge Taina Angmarlik, as we celebrate her landmark 25th anniversary as a member of the Pangnirtung District Education Authority. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Komoartok. We are very proud of Taina. Members' Statements. Member for Tununiq, Mr. Arvaluk.

**Member's Statement 102 – 3(2): Need for a Community Freezer and Meat Plant in Pond Inlet**

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today, I rise to inform my colleagues of a very successful meeting of my constituents in Pond Inlet, during my latest constituency meeting. Prior to my return to the House, during this constituency meeting, many people attended the meeting and voiced many of their concerns, including their opinions on the news of the day from the government.

Further, as my colleagues all know, since quite a few have voiced issues related to the federal Food Mail Program, that this program is still lacking or has a major gap in its applicable foodstuffs since country foods are not included. Many Inuit try to order different country food from outlying communities to vary their diets.

Today, I wish to relate some of these opinions expressed during the latest constituency meeting in Pond Inlet. I would like to clarify, that in our community, the local hunters and trappers organization buys and sells country food and many residents supplement their store foods with these sales.

The HTO is also the manager of many species which are sought after by our local hunters, including assistance program allocations to our local hunters and the Pond Inlet Hunters and Trappers

Organization plays an extremely important role in the lives of Pond Inlet residents.

Further, the HTO has led the initiative for many years and lent its support to local voices clamouring for a new community freezer, to include a meat processing area for the community. Due to the opinions voiced during this community meeting, the attendees drafted up a motion, which was passed unanimously with no dissenting vote, to work towards attaining a new community freezer with a meat processing section.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, the HTO's suggestions are good ones. We often speak in this House about the need to find alternatives to social assistance. I believe the establishment of a meat...

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. I believe that you weren't finished with your statement, Mr. Arvaluk. If you would like to conclude your statement, you must ask for unanimous consent. Mr. Arvaluk.

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's almost done, so I would like to ask for unanimous consent to conclude my statement. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Arvaluk**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, my colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, the HTO's suggestions are good ones. We often speak in this House about the need to find alternatives to social assistance. I believe that the establishment of a meat processing plant would help to increase the opportunities for seasonal work for my constituents. A new community freezer would make it easier for residents to have a healthy diet.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the Pond Inlet HTO for bringing their concerns to my attention. I look forward to the government taking action.

Mr. Speaker, I will have questions for the Minister of Economic Development at the appropriate time. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Member's Statement 103 – 3(2):  
Standards for Graduation in  
Nunavut**

**Mr. Ningeongan:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to voice a concern that has been brought to my attention from my constituents in Nanulik. However, I am confident that it is also an issue across all of Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, my constituents are concerned that the standard of educational success in Nunavut is far below the standards in other jurisdictions across Canada. My constituents feel that their children are being deprived of educational opportunities as a result.

Mr. Speaker, the residents of our smaller communities are aware that the larger

communities have far more resources than they do. This applies not only to infrastructure and employment opportunities but also to education, especially in the areas of curriculum and staffing.

Mr. Speaker, imagine a parent devoting their time, dedication, and energy to encourage their child to attend school, to study hard, to stick with it, and to complete their high school education. Imagine the parent's disappointment in discovering that the level of education that their child has received upon graduating from high school in Nunavut does not give their child the basic academic skills to continue in post-secondary education.

Mr. Speaker, according to the government's vision expressed in *Tamapta*, education is one of our territory's highest priorities. However, the system that we have in place does not even guarantee a minimum standard of education that is comparable to the rest of Canada.

Mr. Speaker, I recognize that there are unique challenges in delivering education in Nunavut such as language issues. However, there are examples from other jurisdictions such as Nunavik and Greenland where bilingual education programs produce successful graduates.

Mr. Speaker, the *Qanukkaniq* Report Card that was commissioned by our government indicated that the following and I quote...

Mr. Speaker, at this time, I seek unanimous consent from my colleagues to conclude my member's statement.

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

**Mr. Ningeongan** (interpretation): Thank you for giving me the opportunity.

(interpretation ends) And I quote, “Many people said they are distressed over the high drop-out rates, the standards, relevance, and quality of Nunavut’s K-12 education programs, and the limited post-secondary offerings for people in the communities.”

In fact, Mr. Speaker, the first nine recommendations in the *Qanukkanniq* Report Card address the state of education in our territory. Recommendation number five recommends that the government benchmark the content of made in Nunavut curriculum against other jurisdictions to ensure that educational standards in Nunavut are comparable in quality to other jurisdictions.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the government to take immediate steps to improve our education system before too many more children find that they have not been taught the basic skills that enable them to follow their dreams. I urge the government to raise our educational standards before too many more parents feel let down by the standards we have now.

Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time, I will be asking questions on this issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. Members’ Statements. Mr. Elliott.

**Member’s Statement 104 – 3(2):  
Robby Qammaniq Receives  
Degree from Trent University**

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Hopefully my tongue will work better today.

Mr. Speaker, it’s with great pleasure that I get to announce the successful completion of university for one of my constituents. Robby Qammaniq is one of Nunavut’s newest graduates. He is a graduate from Trent University and he has successfully received his Bachelor of Science in Biology.

I know that he was one of the recipients and has benefited from the FANS program that the minister spoke of earlier, and would not have been able to be successful without the assistance from that.

As well, Mr. Speaker, it’s the support of his family and friends that have allowed him to succeed and I would like to personally say, “Robby, I am proud of you and you finally did it.” In a wonderful testament to lifelong learning, he is on his way to British Columbia to take the BC provincial instructor diploma program at Vancouver Community College School of Instructor Education.

Upon completion he will be looking for work in Nunavut because in his words he wants to bring back to Nunavut all of the skills that he has learned. I am sure all members will join me in congratulating Robby on a job well done. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Members' Statements. If there are no more... (interpretation ends) Member for Iqaluit West, Mr. Okalik.

**Member's Statement 105 – 3(2):  
Passing of Mary Uniuqsarak**

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm sorry you didn't see me the first time.

I rise today to send my condolences or to recognize an individual, my aunt, who passed away this spring. She was physically handicapped and in some ways, it was very hard because we loved her. Even though that was the case, she gave us advice and she was a role model. We try to do the same thing and I thank her very much for having given me the advice.

Also to my relatives, even though we were going through a hard time, they helped us. My immediate relative, Miali Uniuqsarak, was a role model in a lot of ways. She was an elder, but did today's things, as I heard her do many unusual things.

Even though that is the case, the elders who are in the elders centre have helped us and are more than welcome to all of us and just took over what my aunt used to do. They are very welcoming and receptive. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Okalik. Members' Statements. If there are no more, (interpretation ends)

Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions.  
Minister Lorne Kusugak.

**Item 4: Returns to Oral Questions**

**Return to Oral Question 111 – 3(2):  
Completion of New Bridge in  
Pangnirtung**

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a Return to Oral Question 111 – 3(2) asked by Mr. Komoartok, MLA for Pangnirtung, on November 26, titled "Completion of New Bridge in Pangnirtung."

The construction of the new replacement bridge has been completed. On September 11, 2009, the department received a request for additional funding from the Hamlet of Pangnirtung for the construction of an access road on the north side of the Duval Bridge.

The department provided a contribution of \$650,000 to the hamlet to construct the new access road. Construction has commenced on the road and it will be completed during the summer of 2010. The department will submit an application through the Emergency Response Program to recover the funds from the federal government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. (interpretation ends) Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Elliott.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to stand today and recognize



Ranger Debbie Iqaluk, Junior Canadian Ranger Valerie Amaruk, Junior Canadian Ranger Menda Iqaluk, Canadian Ranger Lisa Kiguktaq, Junior Canadian Ranger Celina Ipeelie, Junior Canadian Ranger Michael Muckpa, Junior Canadian Ranger Ooleesee Akeegok, and Captain Sharon Low from the First Canadian Ranger Patrol.

They're in town today and will be helping with the page program starting tomorrow. Thank you.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Welcome to the Gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. I was going to recognize someone, but the individual has since left. (interpretation ends) Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit West, Mr. Okalik.

### Item 6: Oral Questions

#### Question 149 – 3(2): Enforcement of Liquor Act and Regulations

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to pose a question to the Minister responsible for strong water (the Liquor Licensing Board), as we call liquor “strong water” in our community where I grew up.

It is unfortunate that alcohol abuse has raised its peak over the last few days as we have seen unfortunate incidents as a result of abuse. Based on what we have seen, it is becoming a pressing concern, especially the way alcohol is abused. I believe that we have to explore more options in meeting this challenge as our current legislation, which was recently passed and is being slowly implemented,

has to be studied to see how we can better enforce these rules.

I would like to first ask the minister a question, although I am aware that the Act is currently scheduled for review in the short term. With respect to the legislation we currently are following, how can we best attempt to enforce the contents of the *Liquor Act*? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Keith Peterson**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question, but I'm not sure I fully understand what he's asking. The *Liquor Act* is a law of Nunavut. The RCMP follows the *Liquor Act*. The hamlets can follow the *Liquor Act*.

If the people see abuses of the *Liquor Act*, they certainly can report it to the RCMP. I know they can also report to alcohol education committees in their communities. There are a number of ways, but the *Liquor Act* is the law. If you see alleged offences under the *Liquor Act*, then you should bring them to the attention of someone who will deal with them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Perhaps if I explain it in this manner, it will be more understandable.

To elaborate, any individual who is at a bar ought not to be over-served, especially when they are obviously

intoxicated or inebriated. They have to stop serving alcohol to these patrons, but we still hear of cases where intoxicated people are just served more liquor.

To exacerbate the matter, we still have bootleggers who sell alcohol to anyone who is willing to buy their wares. We should look at ways to try and control this part of the equation, especially on ways for the RCMP to be able to stop this practice. Can the minister task his officials to advise the RCMP to look into that?

These are two areas that I have noted at this time. Although the legislation applies to these cases, it seems that sometimes they are not being adhered to properly currently. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Okalik for that question. Yes, Mr. Speaker, the bootleggers are a serious issue in Nunavut. I think we're all familiar with the dangers they impose to our citizens, many of whom are addicted to alcohol, and they prey on the weakness of people. We hear about the price that they charge for the bottles of booze.

I know the RCMP is very diligent in trying to apprehend bootleggers in the communities. I have talked to the commanding officer about bootlegging and he says that alcohol is probably the root of all of the violence in Nunavut; 99 percent of the violence is triggered by alcohol. In various communities across Nunavut, they have caught and charged bootleggers. Interestingly enough, Mr.

Speaker, some of the bootleggers operate in the communities that have voted to ban alcohol, so you know it's a serious issue.

I know that as part of the review of the Liquor Act, we will be discussing how to enforce and possibly even increase the fines for bootlegging in Nunavut. So I would encourage Nunavummiut, Members of the House, and the public to work with the RCMP and their communities to report bootleggers, and if the bootleggers are charged, to support the RCMP in court appearing as witnesses. It's very difficult to apprehend bootleggers without actually catching them red-handed or having witnesses that are willing to testify in court. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you. He responded to some of my questions. Perhaps if you could give advice to the RCMP commanding officer because we are quite concerned here in our community and we need to deal with bootleggers.

Also he did not respond to the question I posed in regard to the drinking establishments. There is legislation there that they are not to over serve clients of theirs when they are drunk. So I would like to know what they are going to do about that because it seems like in some of our communities that have been occurring often. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I apologize to the member if I didn't completely answer his question.

Mr. Speaker, again the *Liquor Act* is there to be enforced, I know we have inspectors who regularly inspect the facilities and I'm sure if they see over serving they will deal with and levy appropriate charges, but if Mr. Okalik is aware of any specific instances I'm sure the inspectors would appreciate the assistance.

With respect to the bootleggers again, I can assure Mr. Okalik that the RCMP are taking bootlegging very seriously in Nunavut and I know in particular in Iqaluit over the last year or two they have caught and charged some bootleggers in the community. So they are taking it very seriously. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the minister for his response. Also, he stated that they will be reviewing the *Liquor Act*. When will the review be initiated and will you have the public involved in the review of the *Liquor Act*, and when do you expect to complete the review of the *Liquor Act*? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Okalik, I think he asked three questions in that one question. I am hoping to make an announcement during this session about reviewing the *Liquor*

*Act* and I wanted to get it started as soon as possible, hopefully before early in the New Year.

We will be consulting with Nunavummiut in all communities. That's the plan. I have spoken to alcohol education committees, I have spoken to the hamlets, I have talked to representatives of NTI saying that we want to talk to everybody to get input, and it's my hope that the review of the *Liquor Act* will be completed within 12 to 18 months. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Question 150 – 3(2): Income Support Levels for Akulliq**

**Mr. Ningark** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Along the line of my Member's Statement, although we are not just requesting handouts for Nunavummiut, Mr. Speaker, carvings, the selling of polar bear hides, sealskins, and fox pelts, prices are going down.

As a government, we seem not to be providing assistance and we know that we will always have individuals in Nunavut that need assistance. I have been told in Repulse Bay and Kugaaruk and I have seen individuals that need help, especially in the wintertime.

The homeowners in wintertime have no form of making money. They have no other way except to go to income support. I have been told that they were given \$500 for income support per household. It was \$250 prior to that. I'm sure the minister stated that he was

going to look into it. Has he looked into this already? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Which minister are you posing your question to?

**Mr. Ningark** (interpretation): I am sorry; I was too excited to ask my question. My question is directed to the Minister of Education, Hon. Louis Tapardjuk. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Curley and I nearly came to blows to provide the answer.

>>*Laughter*

The member is correct. Some families have no other means of income. Although we feel compassion for them as a government, we provide programs and services for those kinds of individuals through the Department of Education's Social Assistance Program.

They have provided assistance, and in the regulations it states for groceries, household expenses, fuel, and etcetera, that are required for basic living. These forms of assistance are provided through the Department of Education's Income Support Division. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Ningark** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the Hon. Louis Tapardjuk for his response.

The homeowners who have no form of income, how much are they given through the Fuel Subsidy Program every month, especially in the wintertime? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): We have not identified to the point because they vary monthly. If a client wins a bingo game, or if they any form of money, it changes, especially in winter for the monthly assistance. We have to follow the criteria.

It would be better if an individual, when they can afford to pay for their household expenses, they're able to do that. I can only reply by saying that we follow the criteria. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Ningark** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For example, if the individual does not earn any income, or does not win bingo, if they need assistance, will they be given \$1,000 or over? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): The individuals that are recipients of income support, it's evident that some clients are not physically able to work. There are some clients too that are only provided assistance for a short period of time. We provide assistance for fuel and for the rent of the house. We're able to provide assistance to those because we're able to know how much they cost. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Ningark** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have been told that the income assistance they would receive was \$500 previously and now it went down to \$250. Perhaps I can provide a response to the individual that if you require assistance and if you're eligible, you will be able to receive more than that \$500. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I cannot give you a definite amount as to where the limit is, but with your last question I will take your question as notice and will provide a response later on. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Question 151 – 3(2): Disruption of Services at the Sanikiluaq Wildlife Office**

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Environment.

As the minister is aware, I have raised concerns in the House on the issue of small communities having only one conservation officer. Conservation officers provide such important services as issuing hunting licences, patrolling, purchasing of sealskins, and other hides from local hunters.

It is my understanding that the conservation officer for Sanikiluaq is currently in Iqaluit attending a conference and may not be back in the community until January of next year. I am concerned that this will disrupt services in my community. What policies or plans does the department have to ensure that services to the community are not disrupted? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Daniel Shewchuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the member for the question. Yes, that is right, just for the member's information we have six communities in Nunavut that have more than one conservation officer. However, as with the previous government, this government position is that we would in the future we would like to staff at least two conservation officers in all communities in Nunavut.

Specifically to his question in what plans we have when an officers leaves a community, we have done it in his community before, is utilize the HTO to deliver services that can be delivered by

the HTO and the member's of the HTO in the community. We also have in other communities hired casuals on an as needed basis to deliver services when officers are out.

As far as him indicating that the officer might be out until January, I think this officer conference that is happening in Iqaluit right now is, I believe, over on December 12 to 15. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for his response. The reason for him being until January, I think he is continuing on his vacation when he leaves here.

So has the minister or his department have made any arrangement with the local hunters and trappers organization so that services are not interrupted in his absence? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Minister Shewchuk.

**Hon. Daniel Shewchuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am not aware of the specific case with Sanikiluaq but I definitely could check into that and get it back to the member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. How does the department determine how many conservation officers should be posted in a community? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you. Minister Shewchuk.

**Hon. Daniel Shewchuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At this point in time, the guideline we have been following is if a population has more than 1,500 people we would provide two officers or more. However, I just would like to explain it this time. It is our intention down the road to staff all communities with two officers or more for safety reasons, patrolling reasons, and delivering of services.

It's very difficult with the funding we have and the resources we have to do this as the previous government knows and was committed to this too. We have a shortage of housing, and we have a shortage of infrastructure to allow for two officers or more in every community. So there are many challenges that we have to overcome.

However, as I explained to the House before and Full Caucus, we do have an officer trainee program in place targeted for beneficiaries in Nunavut and through this trainee program, we want to train more beneficiary officers to be allocated to communities in the future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister. Your final supplementary, Mr. Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm not sure if he answered this question earlier, but if he did, I apologize.

Has the department considered, in communities where there is more than one officer, taking one of these officers and temporarily assign them to a community where there is only one

officer and is absent from the community? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Minister Shewchuk.

**Hon. Daniel Shewchuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That has been done before. Arrangements can be made if there is going to be a long-term absence in communities, that we will move an officer into that community to offer services. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Question 152 – 3(2): Current Status of Apprenticeship in Nunavut**

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my questions to the Minister of Education.

Mr. Speaker, during Monday's Committee of the Whole debate on the 2010-11 capital budget for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, I raised the issue of local training and apprentices as part of the Nunavut Housing Trust program. The Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation indicated that the Minister of Education would have that information.

Can the minister update the House on how many apprentices are currently working under the Nunavut Housing Trust program? Thank you.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister of Education, Hon. Louis Tapardjuk.

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With respect to the matter he asked about, which I believe is in regard to the Nunavut Housing Trust program.

With respect to apprentices, as an example, I only have the figures of those who have passed exams, so basically I only have the numbers in total. There are currently 192 apprentices as of September 2, 2009. That's the total number of apprenticeships, where they spend 80 percent of their time gaining work experience and 20 percent in class work. Those are the figures that pertain just to apprentices that we have currently.

The Department of Education provides funds for apprenticeship programs currently here in Nunavut for continuing apprentices. There were 192 apprentices in September 2009, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm just a little confused because I remember him telling us that 51 apprentices were in the program and if we specifically wanted a breakdown of details, we would have to contact the Minister of Education and ask him questions because he had that information. Could the minister confirm that he doesn't have that breakdown? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The particulars

that the member is asking for are not provided in the breakdown of the information, specifically where the apprentice is working or what region, but we only have the compiled total figures in front of us. We provide funding for the apprenticeship training and only for the approved final apprentices and we can only state what we have been provided in total.

However, if the member would like a further breakdown of the figures into regional and local apprentices, I regret I cannot provide that today, I can request that type of breakdown data prior to the completion of our session and provide it to the member here in the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Minister Tapardjuk. I'm specifically looking for the breakdown for the apprentices who are working for the Nunavut Housing Trust. In that breakdown, would it include what level the different apprentices are at in terms of level 1, level 2, and level 3? Thank you.

**Speaker:** Thank you. Minister Tapardjuk.

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): I will be able to provide you with the breakdown information with different levels. There are also drivers, carpenters, electricians, which we provide funds for the people who are taking the apprenticeship. Yes, I will be able to provide that information, but I won't be

able to give you that information right away. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thanks again to the minister for getting that information out to us. I am hoping for a breakdown of which are the apprentices involved in, and what level they are at.

I would also like to know if I could ask the minister if he could give us an update of the in-class theory training that's going on for apprentices, in terms of it's a level 1 carpentry being offered in Iqaluit this spring. Is there anything going on in Rankin Inlet for housing maintainers? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): I don't have that information. Perhaps I will work with the adult educators and get information to you. Thank you.

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

### **Question 153 – 3(2): Funding for Travel to Dubai and Support to the Kinngait Studio**

**Mr. Schell:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Culture, Language, Elders, and Youth.

It is my understanding that the Government of Nunavut is looking at providing up to \$50,000 for Nunavut partners to travel to Dubai in order to take part in a culture and artistic



exhibition. Can the minister provide further details on this initiative? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We provide a variety of funds under the grants and contributions program.

For artists who are going to be taking part in a cultural and artistic exhibition, they can access funds by making a request to our department. All you have to do is send your request to the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth. We will review the requests and make a decision from there. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Schell:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Has the department released funds of up to \$50,000 to a group to go to Dubai? That's my question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Could the member give us further information on which artists he is talking about that will be getting the \$50,000?

**Speaker** (interpretation): Please clarify your question, Mr. Schell.

**Mr. Schell:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am not too sure exactly who the group

is. That's the reason I'm asking. I was just told that there was a group going to Dubai and that there were some government officials going along with them. That's why I was asking that question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): I don't know anything about this group travelling to Dubai, so I'll take the question as notice, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister. The question is taken as notice. Oral Questions. Member for Tununig, Mr. Arvaluk.

#### **Question 154 – 3(2): Need for a Community Freezer and Meat Plant in Pond Inlet**

**Mr. Arvaluk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation.

Before 1999, the GNWT used to have a community freezer program. It is my understanding that the government had established an interdepartmental working group chaired by the minister's department to look at the issues of community freezers.

Can the minister update the House today on what the working group has accomplished? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Hon. Peter Taptuna.

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. In 2003, there was a study done, which was called “Sustainable Infrastructure for Nunavut,” and in this study, it identified community freezers as necessary to support economic activities that are important to communities.

Within the government, we don’t have any specific community freezer programs, but the member is correct in saying that the GNWT did have that program, which they discontinued just prior to division going into Nunavut.

The interdepartmental working group is chaired by ED&T officials and at this time, there are some findings that came out of that study through this group that was formed. It indicates that funding was very difficult to channel from various departments into the communities.

There have been a couple of communities that were assisted, Chesterfield Inlet and Repulse Bay. The department has helped with funding in building their own community freezers just recently. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Arvaluk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With the successful assistance to those communities, can the minister then tell the House that the support is available to other communities that require a community freezer for the purpose of economic development in their own communities or at least processing the local meat products to be sold at their

HTOs? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Minister Taptuna.

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for that question. We don’t have any sort of mandate in providing community freezers or maintaining them within the community, although there are programs out there, like the Small Community Initiatives Program, where communities can apply into to assist in building community freezers which may or may not be linked to community meat plants.

But at this time, we recognize, as we have said throughout the tenure of the government, that communities play an important role not only in providing economic, traditional harvesting. The best part of this is that it provides nutritional country foods to Nunavummiut and we do realize that it is a health issue.

I think the member may have read my mind because this afternoon, I just instructed my assistant to schedule in a meeting for next month with some other departmental officials to see how we can actually develop better programs in getting community freezers to the smaller communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Arvaluk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would not confess to that knowledge. I think it is important that, you know I was also told that in Pond Inlet there are guidelines for not wasting meat, that as

long as you retrieve all the *Mattaq* and that you're not wasting meat, but we were told in Greenland that what you guys are doing with this whole carcass of a whale, do you just give it to the dogs or what do you do?

We pay \$30 a pound for that in Greenland, but yet, there's a goldmine sitting in our community. What did we do with those 600 whales that we caught last year? \$30 a pound I think is something that would be a good investment.

Mr. Speaker, in my statement, I also spoke about the need for a meat processing plant because the minister indicated his department is considering a strategy in investing in the kind of capital infrastructure in the coming years. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Minister Taptuna.

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Maybe I should clarify my response. There was a strategy in place to look into how we could provide community freezers to communities of Nunavut. There is also a strategy we're trying to work on in coming up with community freezers where we use alternative energy such as solar panels, and one of the problems in the past was with these old freezers that existed, some still do in our Nunavut communities.

When they do break down there is a lot of difficulty in getting technicians in to fix the community freezers and that's one of the things that we want to pay special attention to, the cost of bringing in technicians, the cost of maintenance,

and we intend to look at that and come up with good alternative power, or even other various means of how local people could maintain these freezers at the community level. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister. Your final supplementary, Mr. Arvaluk.

**Mr. Arvaluk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't think that will be a problem in Pond Inlet, getting a technician to come in because Mr. Freezer from Baffin who owns a company that fixes all the community freezers lives and has a family in Pond Inlet. I think that won't be a problem.

The minister is also responsible for the Nunavut Development Corporation which has a number of subsidiaries in different communities. I know that the minister also used to be a board member of the NDC. What is the NDC doing to enhance economic development in Nunavut, especially in North Baffin? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Your third supplementary question is different from your original question. Mr. Arvaluk.

**Mr. Arvaluk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I meant it to be a part of this question. Maybe if I rephrase it you will get exactly what I'm trying to say.

The building of community freezers requires different strategies and probably different funding from different pockets of different funds of the government. So I am wondering if the Nunavut Development Corporation has a program to assist the meat processing plants and

community freezer program for the purpose of economic development? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Minister Taptuna.

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Of course, we will look into that. The more partners we get the better it is. Of course, NDC is within our ED&T department.

The success of some of these meat plants depend on what they are going to be harvesting out there. Most of us don't believe that you will get another 600 narwhales anytime soon. It's got to be viable, there's got to be a feasibility study done on what type of meat plant and what animals are going to be harvested.

You mentioned Greenland, where they do have an open market for selling country foods.

Of course, we are hoping to look into various things like char fishing and whatever is within that area.

A good example of why meat plants are at such a high risk is example where at South Hampton, I know the meat plant is located in Rankin Inlet, but the caribou that do come in are harvested from South Hampton Island. This year, there is a moratorium for commercial harvesting of caribou and that's probably going to go on for two years.

So it's a real risk and it has to be proven through a feasibility study where meat plants are going to be constructed within the communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Question 155 – 3(2): Status of Conservation Officer Investigation**

**Mr. Aupaluktuq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Environment, Hon. Minister Daniel Shewchuk.

Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, November 26, 2009, my colleague from Nanulik raised the issue of a recent incident involving a conservation officer shooting two muskoxen out of season and in a closed area. In response to questions that day, the minister indicated that an investigation had taken place and that no charges would be laid.

This morning, the minister was heard on the radio indicating that the investigation into this incident is being reopened. The minister indicated last Thursday that we should not base our assumptions on what we hear in the media. Therefore, could he take this opportunity to update the Members of this House on what is now being done to address this issue? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Daniel Shewchuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I clarified in the House, the other day with my return to an oral question, this investigation is being reopened, has been reopened, and I will advise the House on the outcome of the case when it's completed. At this point in time, I cannot make any further comment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Aupaluktuq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the hon. minister for that response. Can the minister clarify who or which entity will be conducting the investigation on this incident? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Daniel Shewchuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for the question. Again, at this point in time, my department is working with the Department of Justice and the Department of HR to go through the process of identifying an independent investigator and this has not been completed yet. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Aupaluktuq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have received two letters from the Hamlet of Baker Lake and also another one from the Baker Lake Hunters and Trappers Organization. The conservation officer in question is based in Baker Lake. There is understandably some confusion and division within the community on this issue.

When will the minister and his officials be visiting the community to publicly inform residents on the status and progress of the investigation? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Daniel Shewchuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to advise the member that we're going through the process right now of identifying an independent investigator. That investigator and a person from my department will be going into the community in the very near future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Aupaluktuq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again I thank the hon. minister for that response. It is clear that law enforcement officials must be held to the highest standards when it comes to upholding and enforcing the law. What is the minister's position on the fate of law enforcement officer within this department who break the law? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Daniel Shewchuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I take this very seriously that not only officers in my department that break the law, but any public employees that break laws in any departments. It's very serious. I think that there are consequences that will come out and apply to everybody. That is from a written reprimand to a suspension, to dismissal of employment within the department. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Question 156 – 3(2): Establishing Graduation Standards**

**Mr. Ningeongan:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Education.

Mr. Speaker, earlier, I spoke of the disappointment faced by parents and children when they discovered that a Nunavut grade 12 education has not adequately prepared them for post-secondary education.

Can the minister update this House on what resources and services his department provides to grade 12 graduates from Nunavut, who find that they need further upgrading in order to be admitted into a post-secondary program? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. Minister of Education, Hon. Louis Tapardjuk.

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The new *Education Act* is getting implemented and we're working on getting resources and services that are in the new *Education Act*. Also in there, it states that the educational programs have to be recognized by post-secondary institutions so that Nunavut grade 12 graduates can go directly to those post-secondary institutions without having to be upgraded to meet the standards. This is new.

There are 25 institutions that we utilized and are being used by the Nunavut grade 12 graduates. There are 25 institutions in Canada that take in Nunavut students. We are currently working on upgrading the system so that Nunavut graduates

can enter those post-secondary institutions if they wish. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Ningeongan** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That was not much of a response to the question I raised. Currently, most of our grade 12 graduates in Nunavut find that their education is insufficient and that they require further upgrading when they leave for a post-secondary institution, or when they have entered a southern program.

My question is: what further assistance can the department provide to these students, who are placed in that situation, whereby they find that the material that serves as graduation workload is totally inadequate when they go to other Canadian learning institutions? That was what I was trying to ask about, with respect to the level of education we provide in Nunavut. I did not hear a response to that question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you. Yes, I think I get the gist of his comments, which is in relation to students who are faced with difficulties where they graduate from grade 12 but their level of education is insufficient to be admitted into a post-secondary institution.

I believe you wanted to know how we can be of further assistance, however, I cannot provide that answer today, and I

will have to take this question as notice while I try to conduct research into other forms of assistance that would apply in those situations.

However, I would like to state, Mr. Speaker, currently we are having this matter reviewed whereby all curriculum levels and proper grade assessments are being looked at. Basically, this would be to ascertain which level the student is at, whether there are gaps in their knowledge and this assists the teacher and student to ensure that the students who are graduating from grade 12 are properly educated.

This also applies to the recognition of the levels of education in other parts of Canada, primarily to the excellence of education and what barriers are present, what limitations we are faced with and how can we better strengthen the levels of education taken by our grade 12 graduates.

Currently, we are assessing the entire system for all of these issues, however with respect to his question about the level of education in Nunavut, I cannot respond at this time as I have to research the matter, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Your second supplementary, Mr. Ningeongan. I apologize, Mr. Ningeongan. The question was taken as notice, so you will have to wait for your response. Member for Pangnirtung, Mr. Komoartok.

**Question 157 – 3(2): Shortage of Fuel in Pangnirtung**

**Mr. Komoartok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the

Minister of Community and Government Services, Lorne Kusugak.

As things progressed in our community of Pangnirtung during the year 2006 and again in 2008, our community experienced a shortfall of home heating fuel. In 2008, we suffered a shortfall of aviation gas, home heating fuel, and last year in 2009, we also ran into shortages with gasoline where there was none available for a whole week in our community.

So for that entire week, the whole community did not have any gasoline. This also occurred at a very inopportune time when many members of our community are harvesting arctic char. Residents fish for char immediate adjacent to the community in the marine environment and we have a community commercial quota of 50,000 pounds which is a boon to our people. The fishermen utilize the quota and their income averages around \$75,000 for the sale of that quota.

Due to the shortfall of gasoline in our community, many members in our community could not conduct commercial fisheries and this occurred right in the heart of the char fishery in July. It seems that the fuel purchases for communities is very poorly planned as we sporadically run out of certain fuels as if no one is paying attention to the historical amounts used by our residents, including periods of intense usage.

It just seems that all of the supplies dry up and there is nothing available and this transpired at a very inopportune time. Based on the historical continual shortfall we have experienced, it would be prudent for the PPD officials to

conduct inspections of the local supplies, perhaps even as early as May so that they can ration certain fuels and not run out prior to the arrival of the fuel ships.

I am thinking of those additional infrastructure needs, such as our newly constructed health centre, which will require additional fuel to operate for the year, including the new units that are being constructed by the local housing authority. They are building two five-plexes and these will require more fuel.

On top of that, they offloaded perhaps ten heavy equipment machinery which will also require more fuel during the spring and summer construction period. These machines are to be used to construct our small craft harbour once the open water season has commenced.

They will also require additional fuel, therefore I would like to ask the Minister responsible for the Petroleum Products Division to task his officials to conduct inspections or if there will be a pre-emptive inspection to ensure we do not suffer another shortfall. I would like to get an answer on that matter. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the member for asking that question. Yes, that is true. Because the communities are growing, the tanks are not keeping up with the community anymore. It's very obvious, especially in Pangnirtung, because they run out of fuel before resupply is available.

We are going to be setting aside some funds to start making plans for tank farms and we know that there is going to be a shortage in Pangnirtung in the spring. We will keep an eye on the amount of petroleum products that are in Pangnirtung and as soon as it's available we will be sending the resupply tankers to Pangnirtung and Pangnirtung will be placed as a priority with petroleum products of all types. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Komoartok** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. The only problem is the co-ops, I believe, have the contract for the delivery of petroleum products. I would like assurance that your department will work with the Pangnirtung Co-op so that we will be ready or we won't run out of fuel all of a sudden. We did have a problem with the plane bringing the fuel in.

It would make things a lot easier if there is a close working relationship with your department and the suppliers and distributors. I would like to ask the minister if he will be willing to work with the Pangnirtung Co-op to make sure that we don't run out of supplies again. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Komoartok. I would like to remind everyone here that if you are going to be asking questions or saying a preamble, make sure that you make your point as soon as possible and to be as brief as possible. That is a reminder to the members. Minister Kusugak.



**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): It will be perfectly fine with me if you have a long preamble so that Question Period will be shorter.

Anyways, we work very closely with the fuel distributors and the people who have the contract. Of course, we will be working with the Pangnirtung Co-op when we are dealing with this issue and keeping an eye on the amount of supply. You also stated that in the case of an emergency we can bring in petroleum products to your community prior to the tanker coming into your community.

There are different options that we can follow and we will make sure that there is open communication between our department and the Pangnirtung Co-op, the distributors, and I would like to assure the member that if the conditions are right the fuel tankers will be sent to Pangnirtung as a priority.

It is also possible to bring in some types of fuel by plane. So there are different options that we can follow. I will keep you informed as to the amount of supply that will be available in Pangnirtung. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Please note that Question Period is now over. (interpretation ends) Item 7. Written Questions. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. Elliott.

### Item 7: Written Questions

#### Written Question 002 – 3(2): Graduation Standards Across Nunavut

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It was interesting to hear my colleague

from Nanulik raise concerns about our graduation standards in Nunavut. I can assure him that these concerns are indeed an issue for other communities across the territory.

I have a Written Question for the Minister of Education concerning graduation standards across Nunavut. The question is lengthy, so I would ask that it be entered into the record as read.

- 1) Within the meaning of section 124(a) of the *Education Act*, what are the names of the different types of diplomas that may be granted to high school students who graduate from secondary school?
- 2) For each type of diploma referred to in Question 1 and within the meaning of section 124(b) of the *Education Act*, what are the requirements that must be satisfied before each type of high school graduation diploma may be granted to a student who graduates from secondary school?
- 3) From 1999 to 2009, under the previous *Education Act* as inherited from the Northwest Territories, how many different types of diplomas were granted to high school students who graduated from secondary school?
- 4) From 1999 to 2009, broken down by type of high school graduation diploma as determined in accordance with the previous *Education Act*, how many high school students received high

school graduation diplomas in Nunavut?

- 5) What mechanisms does the Department of Education use to track the number of Nunavut high school graduates entering post-secondary programs?
- 6) From 1999 to 2009, broken down by type of post-secondary program, how many Nunavut high school graduates entered post-secondary programs?
- 7) Within the meaning of section 34 of the *Education Act*, what is considered to be “regular and punctual” attendance at school?
- 8) To date, and within the meaning of sections 36 and 37 of the *Education Act*, how many programs have been established by the Minister, working in cooperation with district education authorities, to encourage regular and punctual attendance in Nunavut’s schools?

Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Elliott. He is asking that we put them into the record as if they were read. They will be entered into the record as read.

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. Mr. Arvaluk.

## Item 11: Reports of Standing and Special Committees

### Committee Report 002 – 3(2): Presentation of the Report of the Standing Committee on the Review of the Annual Report of the Information and Privacy Commissioner of Nunavut

**Mr. Arvaluk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present the report of the Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts on its review of the Annual Report of the Information and Privacy Commissioner of Nunavut to the Legislative Assembly.

As Members will recall, the Information and Privacy Commissioner of Nunavut appeared before the Standing Committee on October 1, 2009. This appearance was held in the Chamber of the Legislative Assembly and was open to the public and media to observe. Transcripts from the appearance have been posted on the Legislative Assembly’s website and I encourage all Members to review these with care.

Members of the Committee engaged in a productive dialogue with the Information and Privacy Commissioner during her appearance. The Standing Committee’s report provides a number of observations concerning the issues and themes that emerged during the Committee’s hearings.

Mr. Speaker, the Standing Committee’s report presents ten formal recommendations. I would like to take a moment to highlight the thematic areas that the Committee has addressed in its report:

- Access to information in relation to government contracting practices;
- The disclosure of information in relation to adoptions;
- The disclosure of information in relation to the H1N1 virus;
- The application of access to information and protection of privacy legislation to municipalities;
- The role of the Information and Privacy Commissioner;
- Amendments to the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* in relation to privacy reviews;
- Amendments to the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* in relation to the Information and Privacy Commissioner's discretion to extend the time for requesting a review;
- Electronic records management in government;
- The development of health sector privacy legislation; and
- The development of school curriculum materials to help ensure the protection of our children in relation to online privacy.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to thank my colleagues for their thoughtful interventions and questions during the Committee's deliberations. The increasingly complex world in which we live requires governments to ensure that their practices in the areas of access to information and protection of privacy are up-to-date. In Nunavut, we must also ensure that Inuit societal values are respected in our approach to these challenging but critical issues.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the

work that our Information and Privacy Commissioner, Ms. Elaine Keenan Bengts, has performed on behalf of Nunavummiut during the tenure of her appointment. The Standing Committee appreciated her frank and candid replies to our questions and suggestions.

Mr. Speaker, I would note that the standing committee is requesting that the government provide a comprehensive response to this report and recommendations, pursuant to Rule 91(5) of the *Rules of the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut*.

With that, I move that the report be received by the House and that it be entered into the record as read.  
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Our colleague is requesting that we accept the report and that it be entered into the record as read. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. We have received the report and the report will be entered into the record.\*

\*See Appendix for full text of Committee Report 2 – 3(2).

**Speaker** (interpretation ends) Item 11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees. Item 12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. (interpretation) Premier of Nunavut, (interpretation ends) Hon. Eva Aariak.

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

#### **Tabled Document 074 – 3(2): 2008-2009 Annual Report Qullit Status of Women Council**

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table today the Annual Report for Qullit Nunavut Status of Women Council for 2008-09. Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Premier. Can we have that document brought forward to the table, please.

(interpretation ends) Tabling of Documents. Minister Louis Tapardjuk.

#### **Tabled Document 075 – 3(2): Schedule for the Student Loan Fund for the Year Ending March 31, 2009**

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table the Schedule for the Student Loan Fund for the year ending March 31, 2009. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Can we have that document brought forward to the table, please.

(interpretation ends) Tabling of Documents. Hon. Peter Taptuna.

#### **Tabled Document 076 – 3(2): Labrador Marine Infrastructure Ministerial Trip**

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table the Labrador Marine Infrastructure Ministerial Trip Report from June 2009. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister. Tabling of Documents. Item 14. Notices of Motions. Mr. Okalik.

### **Item 14: Notices of Motions**

#### **Motion 013 – 3(2): Renewal of the Territorial Health System Sustainability Initiative – Notice**

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I give notice that on Friday, December 4, 2009, I will move the following motion:

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet North, that this House calls upon the Government of Canada to work with Nunavut, the Northwest Territories, and the Yukon to renew the Territorial Health System Sustainability Initiative, including the Territorial Health Access Fund and the Territorial Medical Travel Fund, in a manner that recognizes the unique needs and circumstances of each jurisdiction.

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Item 18: Second Reading of Bills****Bill 11 – The Order of Nunavut Act –  
Second Reading**

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I moved, seconded by the Hon. Member for Quttiktuq, that Bill 11, *The Order of Nunavut Act*, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill establishes the Order of Nunavut. The objective of the order is to recognize individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the cultural, social, or economic well-being of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Okalik. The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill. Question has been called. All those in favour, raise your hand. Opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 11 has had second reading.

Second Reading of Bills. Mr. Okalik.

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek unanimous consent of the House to waive Rule 67(2) and have Bill 11 moved into the Committee of the Whole. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Okalik. The member is seeking unanimous consent that Bill 11 proceed directly into the Committee of the Whole. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Bill 11 is now referred to the Committee of the Whole.

Second Reading of Bills. Item 19.  
Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bills 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, and 11 with Mr. Ningeongan in the Chair.

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

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House recessed at 15:24 and  
Committee resumed at 16:00*

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

**Chairman** (Mr. Ningeongan): I would like to call the committee meeting to order. In Committee of the Whole, we have the following items to deal with: Bills 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, and 11. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Aupaluktuq.

**Mr. Aupaluktuq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We would like to continue with the review of Bill 8, starting with the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth, followed by the Department of Economic Development and Transportation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. Are we in agreement that we first deal with the capital estimates for the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Bill 08 – Appropriation (Capital) Act,  
2010-2011 – Culture, Language,  
Elders and Youth – Consideration  
in Committee**

**Chairman:** Thank you. I would now like to ask Minister Tapardjuk of the Department of Culture, Language,

Elders and Youth to make his opening remarks.

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee of the Whole. I am pleased to have this opportunity to present the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth's 2010-11 capital estimates.

Our Vote 2 Minor Capital budget in the amount of \$60,000 will permit my department to complete minor renovations and purchase new office equipment and computers for departmental operations in the decentralized communities of Baker Lake, Igloodik, and Kugluktuk, as well as our head office in Iqaluit.

Our Vote 2 Capital budget in the amount of \$7 million for the Nunavut Heritage Centre will provide the department with sufficient capital funding to complete the project design. Future capital funding will be needed to construct this important facility. As expressed in *Pinasuaqtavut*, establishing a heritage facility in Nunavut stems from the recognition by the Government of Nunavut and key stakeholders of the need to ensure the security of Nunavut's cultural legacy by implementing plans for a territorial heritage centre. The Nunavut Heritage Centre will also play a key role in supporting Nunavut's arts and cultural sector, which has been identified in *Tamapta* as a 2009-2013 priority for the Government of Nunavut.

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

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Tapardjuk. Do you have witnesses that you would like to bring to the table?

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Yes.

**Chairman:** Does the committee agree to bring in the witnesses?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. (interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort Minister Tapardjuk's officials in.

(interpretation ends) For the record, Minister Tapardjuk, please introduce your officials.

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my right is Naulaq Arnaquq, Interim Deputy Minister of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth, and to my left is Mike Rudolph, Director of Corporate Services for the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth. That is who we are, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Aupaluktuq:** Yes, I do. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Standing Committee on Social Wellness has reviewed the proposed capital estimates of the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth for the 2010-11 fiscal year and I am pleased to provide you with the committee's comments.

Standing committee members note that the department's proposed capital budget for 2010-11 is a total of \$7,060,000, of which \$7 million is for the Nunavut Heritage Centre and \$60,000 is for minor capital projects.

Mr. Chairman, the Nunavut Heritage Centre continues to be identified as an important infrastructure requirement. Article 33.2.4 of the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement* states that "there is an urgent need to establish facilities in the Nunavut Settlement Area for the conservation and management of a representative proportion of the archaeological record." Having such a facility in Nunavut would allow us to repatriate collections of artefacts of Nunavut origin, many of which are currently being held under service contracts at the NWT's Prince of Wales Heritage Centre.

A feasibility study that was tabled in June 2003 indicated other possible sources from which items could be acquired for the purposes of establishing the founding collection of the Nunavut Heritage Centre. For example, the Canadian Museum of Nature in Ottawa was cited as being a major repository for natural history collections. The standing committee looks forward to ongoing updates on the progress of developing the founding collection of the Nunavut Heritage Centre.

Members are concerned that not enough information has been provided by the department with respect to how the \$7 million will be spent. The draft capital estimates refer only to the "development of the project design" for the Nunavut Heritage Centre. The standing committee looks forward to receiving

further details on exactly how these funds will be spent.

Members note that there were no capital funds allocated for this project in the 2008-09 and 2009-2010 fiscal years. Members are aware that as part of his fiscal update in October 2007, the finance minister stated that:

"to maintain previous time frames and incremental infrastructure commitments made to Nunavummiut with respect to major capital projects, \$9 million has been reallocated from the Heritage Centre Project. (...) We are committed to returning the \$9 million to the Heritage Centre Project budget in future years."

Members were informed of and encourage the ongoing fundraising efforts for this project. During his appearance before the committee, the minister advised members of his hopes for obtaining support from Nunavut's Parliamentarians for these efforts. Members look forward to ongoing updates on the progress of fundraising efforts for the Nunavut Heritage Centre, including any anticipated third party contributions. Members recognize that this project's success will very likely depend on federal funding.

Mr. Chairman, the *Piqqusilirivvik* Cultural School continues to be a highly anticipated initiative. In January 2009, the Government of Canada presented the federal budget, in which *Piqqusilirivvik* was announced as a major project that could benefit from federal funding. Members are pleased to note that a federal news release dated April 9, 2009, announced that \$32.2 million has been

allocated through a joint funding effort, with the federal government's contribution covering 75 percent of the cost through the Building Canada Fund.

Members note that as of June 2008, with the passage of the 2008-09 supplementary appropriations, approximately \$2.2 million was approved. This amount brought the total GN contributions to this project to over \$8 million, meeting the Government of Nunavut's 25 percent cost-sharing portion for this project.

Members were advised that the total estimated cost for this project has been adjusted from \$32.2 million to approximately \$28 million. The committee's understanding is that this adjustment was undertaken as a consequence of the department having reviewed its original estimates for the construction of the facility.

Construction of the *Piqqusilirivvik* Cultural School started in September 2009 and members look forward to the opening of the school in 2011. As construction of *Piqqusilirivvik* continues, members look forward to being kept informed of the project's progress. In light of the cost adjustment for this project, members recognize that more funds may now be available for the establishment of the institution's two satellite campuses in Baker Lake and Igloolik.

Mr. Chairman, the standing committee recognizes the importance of fostering literacy among young Nunavummiut. Members note that there has not been any capital funds allocated for public libraries in the last few years. During his appearance before the committee, the

minister and his officials advised members that the Department of CLEY would entertain requests or proposals from libraries in need of capital funds.

Mr. Chairman, members note that the \$60,000 that has been budgeted by the department for minor capital projects is an ongoing yearly amount allocated for minor office renovations and the purchase of equipment. The exact same amount has been budgeted every year since the 2005-06 fiscal year. While members understand that it may be difficult to predict exactly how much to budget for renovations, members would expect to see more variation in this area from year to year. The standing committee encourages the department to report annually on what these funds are actually used for.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening comments on the proposed 2010-11 Capital Estimates of the Department of CLEY. I am confident that individual members will have questions and comments as we proceed. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, 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 pertaining to the opening comments from the minister? Mr. John Ningark.

**Mr. Ningark** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the minister's opening comments, I am in agreement with the opening comments. Sometimes some of us talk about, especially for those of us who were born in Nunavut, that our culture is unique and that's what we usually talk about and we have not utilized our ancestors' ways although we speak Inuktitut, but the artefacts that pertain to who we are, where we come from, and that identify us are not in Nunavut.

Also, Mr. Chairman, the artefacts that were found in Nunavut I believe are housed in Yellowknife's heritage centre. Not only that, they are also housed in Denmark and overseas I'm sure, and I'm sure there are artefacts housed in Ottawa that were sent down.

It would be wonderful if, once the Nunavut Heritage Centre is completed, that these artefacts be repatriated to Nunavut, and also in Kugaaruk I think it has been over 20 years that we used to get visitors from Japan that go tour and see our old traditional camp sites. We used to think that they knew more about us than us, and in Kugaaruk there are some old grave artefacts, and I read about them.

They dig up the old burial sites without our permission and they did not even ask questions, and I believe that before Nunavut was created perhaps once the Nunavut Heritage Centre is completed perhaps you could ask other international countries to make sure that

these artefacts are repatriated. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we constantly talk about it under Article 33 of the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement* that these artefacts are to be repatriated to Nunavut.

Our Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth are working on the development of a strategy for the Nunavut Heritage Centre, and we're making a strategy on how to repatriate the artefacts. Although we don't have a set time or years to complete that but we're now working on the strategy as to how we can repatriate those. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just to give notice I will be wanting to ask questions when we are going clause by clause, but at this time I would just like to make a general comment on the need to have the heritage centre, and all the issues that are under the responsibility of CLEY are something that the people of Nunavut would like to see become.

Some of the elders are not with us anymore but they have been looking forward to seeing everything that is being done by your department and we stated in the beginning, I think it was in Kugluktuk on May 9, 1993, there were going to be some issues that would be challenging after the signing of the

agreement, then in 1999 we knew that the implementation of the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement* was going to be very hard and it's under the federal legislation.

The federal legislation has to follow through with their legislation, but the federal government has been taking a very long time to implement the issues under the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement*. There has even been some court cases that started by NTI. Even though that's the case, we would like to see the establishment of this infrastructure because we are losing our artefacts and the elders.

Even the minister indicated that there was a 108 or 110-year-old and there are people out there who know the Inuit traditional values. They are dying at a very fast pace and dying with them also is that knowledge, traditional societal values, and so on. I'm sure that the elders we have now would be extremely helpful to our department.

It's very important using Nunavut's dollars even if it's just at a design stage. We have to get that heritage centre up and running as soon as possible. We will also have to look at it not only in Canada but also outside of Canada. If there was a heritage centre, it would be a showcase for the whole world. We also know that in Sisimiut, Greenland, and in other countries, if there's anything that's of Inuit origin, it's something that is very popular.

I will have some questions when we're going line by line. I'll leave it at that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Minister Tapardjuk, do you have a response, or a comment?

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Yes, he has indicated that he would have some questions when we go into line by line, and I'm anticipating what kind of questions he'll be bringing up. Yes, it's very true that the monies that we would like to use are, especially for the planning of the heritage centre, there's a project brief, and also the design of the heritage centre.

If this is approved by the House of Commons in Ottawa, we can start doing the designing and the planning. Leona Aglukkaq, and the new Senator Dennis Patterson, I've had discussions with them, and we hope to get some news. We also would like to set up the design, or do the architectural stuff. There is phase one and phase two of this project. We are currently working on phase one.

We will definitely lobby the federal government so that we can do the project brief and also the design. With that, we'll use that as a lobbying tool for the federal government. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Aupaluktuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the minister and his officials for being here. I told Minister Tapardjuk, when he just got into his ministerial position, I would watch and listen to him to learn and become familiar with terminology in the House.

For the communities of Baker Lake and Igloolik for the departmental operations... There are wilderness travellers in canoes that come into Baker Lake that travel from the Kazan River and Thelon River. They are very interested in Inuit culture. They often visit the heritage centre and are impressed and amazed with Inuit. It is a great facility that educates them and it would be of great benefit to Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. I didn't hear a question. I have no other names on my list. We will now proceed with page D-3. The floor is now open for questions. Culture, Language, Elders and Youth. Branch Summary. Directorate. Total Capital Expenditures. \$60,000. The breakdown is on page D-4.

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Page D-5. (interpretation ends) Culture, Language, Elders and Youth. Branch Summary. Culture and Heritage. Total Capital Expenditures. \$7 million. We also have the same detail of expenditures on page D-6. Mr. Arvaluk.

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We all know that \$7 million sounds very expensive when you're setting up the design. I wish I could draw and I would get that \$7 million. We also know very well that in the substantiation sheet it identifies what I'm interested in. What I wanted to see, Mr. Chairman, my table is very small and I do have a lot of papers here.

I am not blaming the architects, but there are a lot of things they have to know

when they're going to be making a design that's going to be built in Nunavut because of the climate, and so on. We have seen schools and houses, and other infrastructures, where the design was drawn, without even thinking about the harsh conditions we live in up here. Due to that, there is mold and shifting, because they don't know the conditions from the heat in the summer to the extreme cold in the winter.

I would like to ask the minister if they will factor in our climate, when they're designing the heritage centre. Do you know where to look for an architect that would make this design climate friendly? We have extreme conditions, and there is the wind chill factor to factor in, the heat in the summer, the cold, and the moisture. There is a tendency for the artefacts to spoil. I didn't see anything that specifies that those should be factored in when they are going to be making the design of the building. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the member. When we are looking for contractors to do the design for the Nunavut Heritage Centre, everything you identified will be factored in. You will have to look at the heat, the cold, the moisture, or the density, they will all be written out in the contract when we are looking for the designers. They will all be factored in. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This question is totally different, but it's still on the same page. What's it called now, the heritage museum? On page 3 of the substantiation sheets, you stated that the heritage centre would cost approximately \$62 million, but in the substantiation sheets, you are anticipating that it will cost \$102 million.

How did you make that estimate without even knowing what type of design it will have or even what size it's going to be? How did you estimate it from \$62 million to \$102 million? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): I will have Mr. Rudolph respond to that question, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Rudolph**: Yes, Mr. Chairman, originally, there was a study done by Vermillion's cost consultants that estimated that it would be \$62 million. Since that time the Department of CGS has estimated a much higher amount but until the projects design is done we won't really know for sure what this building will cost.

When the CGS did that much higher estimate prices were rising in Nunavut for building construction and recently they have been dropping again with the world economy. So we won't know exactly until we complete the design phase have a better idea of the cost.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Rudolph. Mr. Arvaluk.

**Mr. Arvaluk**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I assume that also includes when you will want to start building that building and will determine exactly how much it's going to be. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Again in the substantiation sheets under the Department of CLEY you had Ketchum, not Ketchup, but you directed Kechum Canada Incorporated and Uqsiq Communications Incorporated to start the planning stage, or to find where they can access funds or to do some fundraising.

These consultants, on December 2008, gave a plan as to the fundraising campaign and in February 2009-2010 during our review, you told the Members of the House that the fundraising campaign has been completed. Could you tell us what phase is in place now? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Mike Rudolph will respond to that question, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Rudolph**: Yes, Mr. Chairman. We spent approximately \$300,000 on the preparation of a study that developed a fundraising strategy. The strategy did not commence to actually deliver on fundraising because there were no capital funds in the budget to build upon.

The consultants recommended deferring the commencement of a fundraising strategy until there was a commitment by the Government of Nunavut for some capital funding.

At that time, there wasn't any money actually showing as a commitment.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Rudolph. Mr. Arvaluk.

**Mr. Arvaluk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm not exactly sure if my question is being answered, for the very simple reason that we were advised that that entire plan is being ready. All I want to know now is how and when are you going to proceed? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Currently, we have frozen that issue until we identify where the funds are going to be coming from. If the government put money aside, specifically if it's for that... Fundraising would be available if the government themselves get outside monies for this centre.

We have now identified \$7 million dollars and we are currently working on the project design. Once it's ready, we will go to the federal government to ask for monies. At this time, everything's at a standstill because there are no monies for this project.

In regard to your question, what we had done in the past was the fundraising strategy would kick in once we had identified some money. I believe

Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. is involved and the Department of CLEY. We have a working group that has been struck. If these monies are approved, we will have some ammunition to start working on it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Arvaluk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is going to be my last question for now, in relation the heritage museum fundraising. First of all, for a number of years that has been a lot of discussion in respect to third party funding; obtaining third party funding for the Nunavut Heritage Centre.

Now he seems to be saying that it might be desirable to have more than third party funding, fourth party, fifth party, or whatever you can get. Can he tell me: what is the status of obtaining third party funding now? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): This \$7 million dollars, if they were approved, we will start the project brief: the design. It's two-phased. Once we've completed phase one, then after that we would start on phase two, once we get all the details.

I have had discussions with Dennis Patterson, and got some advice on how to go about it the best way if we are going to get some federal funds. Once we get there, we will look at other sources of funds. If the federal government would be willing to give us some money and for how much, then the

fundraising strategy would kick in and they would raise about \$25 million.

Once we get all the details, then we will have to decide how we're going to use the funds and how much money the Nunavut government will be willing to put in. Right now, we are asking for \$7 million so we can start planning and look at the design aspect of it. When that's all done, we could start the fundraising strategy. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Ningark** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't have any questions for the money portion but of course everything runs on money.

On D-5, it states that the conservation, protection, promotion, and enhancement of the cultural richness of Nunavut. When a lot of people are going up to Nunavut, they probably think that Inuit all dress in the same design.

Inuit women have different styles of *Amautiit*. In the Natilik area for example, the design is different from the Kugluktuk area, and Pangnirtung *Amauti* design is different from ours. And again I'm sure they have different designs in the Amittuq area. Most of them are all very beautiful. Women's *Amautiit*, when I was a child, used to have a loose area under the arm so that in the cold, they would be able to bring their baby from their back down through that loose area to the front. The little...

The design of your hood is not just for decoration and those ones with the points, they have a tie over here in the

front and again it's all for warmth, and in order to have freedom of movement and, Mr. Chairman, if it gets cold you would just draw on the drawstring so that it becomes weather tight.

Once we have our heritage centre I would suggest that the design of clothing be shown from different regions in this centre. Today we have more contemporary designs being made now for showcasing and in the past clothing was made more practical. So I would suggest we showcase the regional designs in this heritage centre. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningark. I almost made him a minister. Do you want to try and respond to Mr. Ningark's comments, Mr. Tapardjuk?

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Yes. We would consider everything including articles of clothing and under Article 33 the artefacts would be repatriated to Nunavut and we will have to have it. I'm sure that would be part and partial of that, and of course the articles of clothing would also be considered. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Tapardjuk. I have no other names on my list. We're on D-5. (interpretation ends) Culture and Heritage. Total Capital Expenditures. \$7 million. (interpretation) Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Going back to D-2. (interpretation ends) Department Summary. Culture, Language, Elders and Youth. Detail of

Expenditures. Total Capital  
Expenditures. \$7,060,000.  
(interpretation) Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you.  
(interpretation ends) Are you agreed that  
the Department of Culture, Language,  
Elders and Youth is concluded?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you.  
(interpretation ends) Before I ask the  
minister for closing comments, Minister  
Tapardjuk, I should have said this in the  
beginning but in the future I ask that  
your witnesses respect the decorum of  
the House. (interpretation) At this time,  
Mr. Tapardjuk, do you have any closing  
remarks?

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation):  
Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, you  
wanted to be kept updated on the  
heritage centre. I will make sure that we  
keep you updated and we have to keep  
working hard in order to get it up and  
running. Yes, we will make sure we  
keep you updated. Thank you very  
much, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you,  
Minister Tapardjuk and your officials.  
Sergeant-at-Arms, if you would escort  
the witnesses. Thank you.

Do members agree that we proceed with  
the last department?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Bill 08 – Appropriation (Capital) Act,  
2010-2011 – Economic  
Development and Transportation  
– Consideration in Committee**

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you.  
(interpretation ends) I would now like to  
ask Minister Taptuna, Department of  
Economic Development and  
Transportation to make his opening  
remarks.

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr.  
Chairman. Good afternoon to everybody  
here. Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to be  
here today to present the Department of  
Economic Development and  
Transportation's 2010-11 capital plan to  
the Committee of the Whole.

The department is proposing a \$5.55  
million capital plan for the fiscal year  
2010-11. Nearly 90 percent of that  
amount capital plan is for community-  
specific projects while the other 10  
percent will be used for strategic projects  
that affect the territory as a whole. The  
majority of these expenditures under the  
plan are for infrastructure to improve the  
safety and reliability of our  
transportation system.

In March this year, I tabled  
*Ingirrasiliqta: The Nunavut  
Transportation Strategy*, which members  
will recall highlights the need to improve  
our transportation system to enable  
economic growth and the well-being of  
Nunavummiut. Accordingly, the  
department is proposing that \$4.66  
million, or nearly 85 percent of the total  
capital plan, be dedicated to  
transportation-related projects that will  
provide improved access to air, land, and  
sea travel.

I will highlight a few examples of the proposed expenditures.

### **Airports**

As members know, airports will continue to provide our only year-round mode of transportation for the foreseeable future. As a department, we are responsible for maintaining the quality of the runways and the related infrastructure that allows safe aircraft operations.

In 2010-11, we will be completing construction of the new airport in Arctic Bay. The \$600,000 we have budgeted for the coming year will be used for installation of the navigational aids and relocating the CARS station from Nanisivik.

In Baker Lake, we will be spending \$250,000 on planning and designing improvements to the airport to accommodate the additional traffic the community has experienced with the construction of the Meadowbank Mine.

\$600,000 of our capital plan will go towards rehabilitating the surfaces of the Kimmirut Airport. The project will involve creating a granular stockpile to meet the future maintenance needs of the airport, overlaying the surfaces, and applying a dust suppressant product.

Mr. Chairman, these are the major airport projects we will be undertaking in the 2010-11 fiscal year. There are also some other projects, each under \$250,000, which are grouped together under the heading Small Capital Projects. We have allocated \$800,000 to complete these projects, which will include new runway inspection vehicles

for seven communities, as well as runway dye markers and wobbly wheel compactors.

Several larger equipment purchases will be made under the Minor Capital project heading. Under this project, we have allocated \$1.7 million which will be used to purchase wheeled loaders for Cambridge Bay and Rankin Inlet, a plow truck for Pond Inlet, and crawler tractors for Hall Beach and Coral Harbour.

### **Surface Transportation**

In the past several years, the department has made an annual capital investment of \$500,000 in the Community Access Road Program.

This program has been very well received by the communities in past years. I want to point out to members that while the program does not appear in next year's capital plan, the \$500,000 will now be made available through a new departmental program which will be included in next year's proposed business plan.

### **Small Craft Harbours**

The federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans, in collaboration with my department, completed the *Nunavut Small Craft Harbours Report* in 2006. The report concluded that small craft harbours bring many benefits to our communities, including improved safety, better access to our resources, and increased economic activity.

Mr. Chairman, we continue to believe that these harbours are essential and we will renew our efforts to lobby Fisheries and Oceans Canada to make a financial



commitment to this infrastructure. We have included \$500,000 in our own capital plan to make some improvements to community marine facilities and to support continuing lobbying of the federal government to implement the *Nunavut Small Craft Harbours Report*.

### **Economic Development**

In addition to the transportation project that I have mentioned above, we have \$700,000 identified for the planning and design of the Kivalliq Visitors Centre. The Kivalliq is currently the only Nunavut region without a regional visitors centre to promote community and regional tourism opportunities and attractions for its communities. This funding will be used to start the process towards rectifying the situation.

Mr. Chairman, the Department of Economic Development and Transportation's 2010-11 capital plan makes good use of the limited financial resources by focusing on key elements within the department's mandate. We all realize that there is much more to do and that we would like to do, in some ways, more.

I will continue to work hard to ensure that our financial resources lever partnerships with the federal government, industry, and with communities, and that the investment that this government makes in Nunavut has a lasting and positive impact on our social and economic well-being of our territory.

Mr. Chairman, I will be pleased to answer any questions from my fellow members. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Do you have witnesses that you would like to bring to the table?

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Does the committee agree to bring in the witnesses?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the minister's officials in.

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

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On my right is Deputy Minister Bob Long and on my left is Assistant Deputy Minister of Transportation Methuselah Kunuk. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Does the Chair of the Standing Committee on Community Empowerment have comments? Mr. Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to provide opening comments on behalf of the Standing Committee on Community and Economic Development as the Committee of the Whole begins its consideration of the Department of Economic Development and Transportation's proposed 2010-11 capital estimates.

Members note that the department's proposed capital budget for 2010-11 is \$5.55 million. Its capital budget was \$5,833,000 in 2009-2010 and \$9,470,000 in 2008-09. The department's proposed 2010-11 capital budget is focused primarily on transportation-related infrastructure, such as airport improvements and runway upgrade projects.

Members note that \$700,000 has been allocated for the new Kivalliq regional visitors centre in the proposed 2010-11 capital estimates. While members recognize that federal investments will be essential for realizing a number of the department's longer term capital projects, the department is encouraged to not lose sight of its economic development responsibilities.

Mr. Chairman, the January 2009 federal budget contained funding to accelerate the construction of Pangnirtung's new harbour. The Department of Economic Development and Transportation's proposed 2010-11 capital estimates includes \$500,000 in funding for the GN's contribution towards the construction of small craft harbours in Nunavut communities. Members encourage the minister to table an annual report in the Legislative Assembly concerning the department's actual expenditures in this area, including a detailed list of which communities have received funding.

In June 2009, the Senate Committee on Fisheries and Oceans released its report titled, Nunavut Marine Fisheries: Quotas and Harbours. It listed eight recommendations, the first being that: "The committee recommends that the Government of Canada move forward to

develop and implement, in collaboration with the Government of Nunavut, the harbour development plan recommended by the DFO-Nunavut Harbours Working Committee in its 2005 Nunavut Small Craft Harbours Report."

The standing committee notes that the Government of Canada's response to the Senate Committee's report was presented on November 18, 2009. The committee notes that the response indicated that, "There are no immediate plans to construct additional commercial fishing harbours in Nunavut at this time. However, discussions continue with the Government of Nunavut regarding infrastructure needs to further support local fisheries."

Members are pleased that the minister tabled in the Legislative Assembly on June 5, 2009, an updated Nunavut Transportation Strategy. Some of the objectives of the strategy are to "Implement the federal Small Craft Harbours Program in Nunavut," "act on the Nunavut Small Craft Harbour Report," and "extend the Small Craft Harbours program to other communities."

During the minister's appearance before the standing committee, members were informed of the minister's recent fact-finding visit to Labrador to conduct research on harbours. The committee is pleased that the minister tabled this report on his visit in the Legislative Assembly earlier this afternoon and looks forward to reviewing this document.

The standing committee was also pleased to be advised during the minister's appearance that Transport

Canada and the Department of Economic Development and Transportation have recently agreed to undertake a joint study on marine needs in Nunavut. Members look forward to receiving a copy of this study when it has been completed and encourage the minister to table it in the Legislative Assembly.

Given the potential that small craft harbours have to enhance the territory's economic development and self-sufficiency, members strongly support efforts to obtain federal investments in this area. Members also look forward to being kept informed of progress in relation to the potential development of an Iqaluit deep sea port.

Mr. Chairman, members note the department has changed the funding approach for its community access roads program. The budgeted amount in 2010-11 remains \$500,000 but is now accessible to communities through a departmental program funded through the department's operations and maintenance budget. Members encourage the minister to table an annual report in the Legislative Assembly concerning the department's expenditures in this area, including a detailed list of which communities have received funding.

Mr. Chairman, in the fall of 2006, the Legislative Assembly passed a formal motion that called on the government to work with the Northern Air Transport Association to bring forward an action plan to improve the availability of affordable, reliable air service to Nunavut's smaller, under-served communities. This is a particular

concern to members who represent our most remote communities.

Members are supportive of initiatives that will achieve necessary airport improvements across the territory. Members recall that the government's 2003 Nunavut Air Services Study outlined several infrastructure priorities that are necessary for improving the level of service from airlines. Current runway lengths and their composition reduce the level of service that airlines can provide and can also increase the cost of providing services.

Members note that the relocation of the Pangnirtung Airport is included in the department's five-year capital plan and look forward to ongoing updates on its progress.

Some of the objectives of the updated Nunavut Transportation Strategy are to "assure the integrity of the Nunavut transportation system by ensuring every community has infrastructure adequate for its needs within that system" and to "enhance the current airport systems." Other objectives are to "Rationalize government use of the transportation system" and "revisit the government's Air Services Study."

Members encourage the minister to work towards implementing airport upgrades that enhance service opportunities for Nunavut's airlines. Members are supportive of efforts to obtain federal investment for improvements in our airport infrastructure, including the Iqaluit International Airport.

At its recent annual general meeting in Cambridge Bay, the Nunavut Association of Municipalities passed a

resolution concerning air travel in Nunavut. The standing committee looks forward to receiving a copy of the department's response to the resolution and encourages the minister to table this document in the Legislative Assembly.

Mr. Chairman, on August 10, 2007, the federal government announced a number of major sovereignty investments in the High Arctic, including a docking and refuelling facility in Nanisivik. The Department of Economic Development and Transportation is budgeting \$600,000 in 2010-11 to substantially complete the new Arctic Bay Airport. A total of \$24,887,000 has been spent to date on both the Arctic Bay Airport and Nanisivik Highway. The department has not allocated any funding for ongoing maintenance of the road between Arctic Bay and Nanisivik. Members look forward to clarification on this issue and urge the GN to work closely with the federal government and the local community to coordinate initiatives related to infrastructure development and use in the High Arctic.

Mr. Chairman, two major projects with which the GN has been involved are the Bathurst Inlet Port and Road Project and the Manitoba-Nunavut Road. Previous years' capital budgets of this department have included funding to support these initiatives. Members note that no funding has been allocated for these two projects in the 2010-11 capital estimates.

Members recognize that the Manitoba-Nunavut Road Project is a nation building initiative that will require a significant commitment from Ottawa in order to achieve substantial progress. Members encourage the minister to continue efforts to work in partnership

with the Government of Manitoba and local Nunavut stakeholders, such as the Kivalliq Inuit Association.

During the minister's appearance before the standing committee, members were informed that the GN has been collaborating in cost-sharing a business case study in relation to this project. Members encourage the minister to table this document in the Legislative Assembly. Members also encourage the minister to provide regular updates to the House on the GN's involvement with major infrastructure projects in the Kitikmeot.

Members also look forward to receiving a copy of the recent presentation that the minister made on October 14, 2009, at the Strategic Northern Infrastructure Conference that was held in Yellowknife.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening comments on the proposed 2010-11 Capital Estimates of the Department of Economic Development and Transportation. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Before we proceed, I would like to remind members of the contents of Rule 77(1) and Rule 77(2) as we commence. Do members have any general comments? Mr. Ningark.

**Mr. Ningark:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister. In his opening remarks about air, land, and sea travel, I think the majority of the time, that especially for me, I travel by air. Recognizing that, it is a belief of the world that travel by air is the safest way to travel around the globe, within the area, but that would be next to walking.

Mr. Chairman, I think the minister will recall that I asked him either here in his committee, or other forum, about air travel safety and that was in regard to getting an ILS for main points like Rankin Inlet, Cambridge Bay, or perhaps Kugluktuk, ILS, meaning instrument landing system for the heavy airplanes, like the 737.

I believe majority of the time, Mr. Chairman, when I travel in the heaviest big aircraft, sometimes medium weight aircraft, we are travelling by ILS, that's an instrument rule. There are times that I am in the aircraft with other people, it is not uncommon, Mr. Chairman, to see big heavy aircraft landing in minimal weather.

Sometimes when I'm travelling out of my community, if you go to the airport on time in the minimal weather, most of the time the aircraft will be on approach two or three times and there they go. That's how bad the weather can be up here.

I remember a few times when I travelled, just going home, and the weather is good. You phone home say that I'll be home within half an hour. The weather is okay. Just on the final approach, the weather can change in seconds, only to overshoot the runway and way you go back to point A. I know that safety is a matter that is next to nothing else as the minister has outlined in his ministerial opening remarks.

Again, I would like to ask the minister, which I have asked him since I have been elected, is there any way to try and find ways to bring instrument landing systems to the major points in Nunavut meaning Rankin Inlet, Cambridge Bay,

or perhaps Kugluktuk? It's a matter of safety and we travel by air more than any other way of travelling up here. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll try and answer that question as best I can. He's referring to some critical regulations that pertain to weather instruments and we only have that in Iqaluit, where there are actual FLO landing instruments. Most aircraft that go to the smaller communities do not have those instruments on board. So at the best of times, they really have no real need for this equipment in the smaller communities.

I'll have my ADM, Methuselah Kunuk, elaborate more on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Mr. Kunuk.

**Mr. Kunuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With respect to the matters under discussion, only Iqaluit has that instrument called ILS (Instrument Landing System) due to the difficult terrain that surrounds the airstrip.

The other sites are less terrain challenged, such as Rankin Inlet and Cambridge Bay do not have these types of instruments. These navigational tools are managed by NAV Canada and we do not deal with them.

(interpretation ends) There are also other rules that the airlines have to abide by, including the approach plan, as they call

it. When they don't see anything at a certain point, they have to abort their landing.

I think that we can talk about it after, but at this time, I don't think there are any new plans to put instruments on landing strips in Rankin Inlet and Cambridge Bay. Thank you, *Iksivautaaq*.

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

**Mr. Ningark:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At no time at all in my reply to the minister's opening remarks do I suggest that up here, we do take chances. I think we they are all professional pilots and I can respect that, we all appreciate that.

My question to the hon. minister is: will the minister commit to do some study and perhaps make some kind of comparison with the other airports across the country? I understand that one issue is the terrain of the area. The area has to be of that according to what is stated by the air regulation of the country. Are there airports in the country smaller than Rankin Inlet, Cambridge Bay, and Kugluktuk?

We live in a jurisdiction where the weather can change in a matter of seconds. I think this is important to note. Will the minister commit to do a study across the country on how big the airport has to be and what is the variation of weathers in different areas in order to be determined to have this very special instrument that you have to have? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With a very limited budget for the department, it is going to be a difficult task. We're not going to go to all these various other airports around the country to try and determine how feasible it is to be used up here.

We have to remember that some of these aircraft that do fly up here, the majority of them do not have instrumentation for that type of landing, and weather instruments that the member is talking about. Iqaluit is the only city in Nunavut that does have this instrumentation. I believe that it's a huge cost to these airlines and aircraft to install these special types of equipment.

For that matter, in Nunavut there are very few missed flights due to weather, and of course all the pilots are professional people that do pilot these planes. They do have standards, limitation, and regulations to abide by.

At this time we will probably just talk about it some more, but I don't believe at this time we will be doing any study to see how feasible it is to put all this instrumentation into every community. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Ningark:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The minister seemed to suggest that I am suggesting that every community gets the instrumentation. No, I'm talking about the main point; Cambridge Bay, Rankin Inlet, and Kugluktuk. Kugluktuk happens to be his community and I think the point here is the safety of the public. The safety of the

public is a responsibility of the federal government. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Do you wish to comment on that, Minister Taptuna?

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Not at this time. I would rather comment on the capital plan. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Mr. Arvaluk.

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome to Methuselah too. We used to be children together, and it looks like he's pretty capable now.

I'm not going to be making a long speech, but today we still have an opportunity to make some comments on your opening remarks, Mr. Chairman.

We talked about the airports, surface transportation, and small craft harbours, which are under the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans. We heard that you went to Newfoundland and Labrador to look at the harbours and ports, where they have an adequate supply of facilities. We have been talking about this since 1996. North of 60 there are absolutely no docking facilities or ports or any of that sort.

I don't think the federal government realizes what they are going to be used for. They probably think that we don't need anything because we have a very small population, and we probably don't have boats. We realize that in the south each family, just about every family, has a car and that there is a need for roads.

Up here, we live on coastal areas. Just about every family has a boat, especially in Pond Inlet for example, because you can't travel by four-wheeler because of the rough terrain. We can't use any other mode of transportation except by boat in the summer and every single family has a boat.

On the coastal area from left to right it is absolutely filled with boats when the boats are landed in rough weather. The whole beach is covered with boats and then every year we lose boats. This summer alone we lost two boats which were docked but turned over because of the weather.

These boats were 25 feet long and the people of Nunavut usually have boats about that size, 25 feet and over because 25 footers fit our environment. In Pond Inlet, around the Davis Strait, when it's blowing from the Davis Strait area the waves will collapse onto the boat and once there is too much then they start tipping over and then they are filled by water and collapse.

We are also aware, Mr. Chairman, that on the right hand side of Lancaster Sound up to Greenland, we go up to the Greenland waters and around there and Lancaster Sound are very close to Bylot Island there are new commercial fishing zones, and the fishing boats are fishing for shrimp or turbot in that area and once they have a full load they go all the way to Greenland to offload their fish, either that or to go Newfoundland.

That requires a lot of fuel to offload that far away because of course it takes more than one day to reach their offloading destination, and there is Pond Inlet right around the corner and if you just turned

around that corner Pond Inlet will be right there where, if we had the proper facilities, would be used to offload their loads and very likely the products could also be processed in that community.

The federal government does not seem to realize the need for docking facilities and you probably know we're in a catch 22 situation, we don't have any docks because there's no businesses, and then there is fishing and other business ventures that can't go up because we don't have docking facilities. I'm not a mathematician but I know we're in a catch 22 situation.

Earlier, I was asking questions to a minister because each one of us is waiting for each other to do something. In Pond Inlet there are business opportunities that are not going up because we don't have the docks. We are trying to set up our freezer and a meat processing plant so that we could create job opportunities and the hunters and trappers organization this summer bought a Peterhead that could be used to ferry their loads back and forth. If there's no dock, I'm sure we're just going to lose it because those big boats are very hard to pull on land. We are in a dangerous situation.

We are losing business opportunities because we don't have the marine facilities. If we did, there are a lot of business opportunities that we can start. Then there would be employment created. How do I know? Because Pangnirtung is a very good example where people who don't have the education are used to butchering animals and they fit right away in the fish processing plant. We know that already.

It doesn't take a rocket scientist to figure that out.

I will be asking questions on that later. I would like to make another comment on the service transportation. I don't believe there are page numbers here. I have stated on more than one occasion to have page numbers on opening comments, or speaking notes, so we can identify which page we're on. It's on page four if you follow the cover, so I would suggest you put page numbers.

In the middle of the paragraph (interpretation ends) under surface transportation. There is capital investment of \$500,000 for community access road program. This is nice but this \$500,000 has unchanged since time immemorial.

I think that should be looked at again, because the communities are now becoming more aware of their own desire for happiness, desire for positive lifestyle, and they want to go back to the land accessibly, even for short periods of time when they're not working, on the weekends, etcetera. Access program is popular but \$500,000 is never enough. Amongst the 25 communities, it's not a lot. I think that should be looked at.

For the community freezer that I was talking about before, that we had under NWT government, that building community freezer is not expensive. It's a regular building with aluminum interior with a small freezer engine along the wall, punctured through the outside. It's not an expensive proposition. Not only that, we use it in the spring and summer quite effectively, and it's not full blasted during the winter. It's too cold outside anyways.



I would like to have the Economic Development and Transportation to reassess the policy of having community freezers in every community. A policy to renew aging buildings like community freezers, for replacement, because when we review the government report card that we stated together that let's listen to what the communities want. What the community desires are.

We also talked about needing to hear from the community what economic development opportunities exist in those communities. I'm just telling you right now, these are the community economic development opportunities if we would like to invest in it.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Mr. Arvaluk, I have given you an opportunity even when your time is up. Mr. Arvaluk.

**Mr. Arvaluk**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will stop for now. When we go to page-by-page, I'll ask questions along these particular items. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Mr. Aupaluktuq.

**Mr. Aupaluktuq**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wanted to welcome the hon. minister and his officials. I'm glad we have this opportunity for some development, team building, and also identifying what the needs are.

In your opening statement, you mentioned Baker Lake, as well as Agnico-Eagle. At this point, I just wanted to state that Agnico-Eagle has developed their own runway in order to land their own resources and fly out their own people.

It is also important to note that there are also Areva, as a major company, and other developing prospecting companies that come in and out of Baker Lake, with more charters coming in than has been known in the last two years.

I just want to keep that in mind, and I look forward to asking other questions in the page-by-page review. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman**: Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. (interpretation) I didn't hear a question. I think that was to the point and you will have an opportunity afterwards. Mr. Elliott.

**Mr. Elliott**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I agree with what Mr. Arvaluk was saying in terms of providing economic opportunities with the small craft harbours. In the three communities that I have, sometimes I feel I have to talk three times as much because I have three communities. I think it gets a little crazy once in a while.

When you talk about small craft harbours, you're not talking about those floating docks that have gone to my three communities, are you? Or is that part of what is considered small craft harbours? Thank you.

**Chairman**: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister Taptuna.

**Hon. Peter Taptuna**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, that is separate. A floating dock is not considered a small craft harbour. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman**: Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Mr. Elliott.

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that clarification, because I know that there have been some concerns, our dock has sat on the shore because there is not enough room on the breakwater. There were concerns in Grise Fiord and Resolute Bay as well with the ocean. There is no break, and they're afraid it's going to get broken. There is no way of stopping it with the waves.

In terms of small craft harbours, I know the Arctic Fisheries Alliance has been working really hard. It combines all three communities of Arctic Bay, Resolute Bay, and Grise Fiord. It actually is looking at the development of a small craft harbour in Qikiqtarjuaq, which I know they've already completed a feasibility study. I think they're actively seeking funding to be able to complete a socio-economic impact study, which goes to what Mr. Arvaluk was saying in terms of providing economic opportunities for our communities.

I am wondering if is that part of what the minister is talking about, in terms of supporting the small craft harbours. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister Taptuna.

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe I heard about three questions there. There was a study conducted already by the group that you mentioned at Qikiqtarjuaq. We just received that, and will be going through that because that is a real good initiative coming from these communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Mr. Elliott.

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm going to change gears.

You mentioned and talked about the airports. I know in one of your comments, I don't really take exception to it, but you had mentioned that there aren't very few flights missed due to weather. I don't know, but you must not have flown into Nanisivik very much because we have quite a few flights that get missed due to weather.

In regard to Iqaluit, I know Mr. Okalik was raising questions about this. Since most of the north Baffin and different communities... we go through Iqaluit when we fly down and it is a big interest for my constituents to make sure that the airport... . If you're there on Monday, Wednesday, or Friday, it's very hard when you're coming up from Ottawa or going down to find room.

I know that there's nothing in the budget this year for it. In travelling across the south, there are some airports that have different airport development fees. When you're travelling through, you actually have to pay when you go through their airport to help build new facilities. Has the government thought about doing something like that?

I know that in one of his Ministers' Statements, the minister mentioned something about the Iqaluit airport being the 20th busiest airport, if I remember correctly, across Canada. Has the government thought about doing that as a way of generating revenue? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Elliott.  
Minister Taptuna.

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe that discussions been around for a bit, in previous governments also. Down south, they call it the airport improvement fee. We don't want to impose that to your constituency, it's already a high cost, but in Iqaluit, the discussions are still ongoing. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Mr. Elliott.

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do have questions about the Arctic Bay Airport, but I was going to save that for when we go through the page-by-page. I am just wondering if the minister could give an update as to what's actually going to happen to the Nanisivik Airport once the Arctic Bay Airport is finally opened. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Elliott.  
Minister Taptuna.

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At this point in time, once the new Arctic Bay airport is up and running to full capacity, the Nanisivik airport is going to be closed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Mr. Elliott.

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Has the government had discussions with the Department of National Defence in terms of possible use with the Nanisivik Naval Facility? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Elliott.  
Minister Taptuna.

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Not at this time. I think DND and the naval facility, what they're mostly interested in is just a dock. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Mr. Elliott.

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In terms of the infrastructure that's already up there and reclamation of the area, what's in the plans for that? Is everything just going to be left there and mothballed? There are three generators that were put up there to create the electricity. There is I think infrastructure, which I believe would belong to First Air, and then there's the government buildings there as well.

I'm just wondering what's been done in terms of planning for that. It's not in capital planning for the future, but I'm sure that's been thought about. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Elliott.  
Minister Taptuna.

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will have my ADM respond to that question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Mr. Kunuk.

**Mr. Kunuk (interpretation):** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I believe at the time of the turnover, I think A and B airports to the GNWT at the time. In the reclamation, cleanup of

contamination and everything like that was built in. We haven't really talked to the federal government yet, but once that airport is no longer used, we probably will be talking to the federal government for them to start reclaiming that airport.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Kunuk. Mr. Elliott.

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So it's not the Government of Nunavut's responsibility for reclamation of that area, it's actually Transport Canada and the Government of Canada? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Mr. Kunuk.

**Mr. Kunuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) The answer is yes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Kunuk. Mr. Elliott.

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know in his opening comments when the minister was talking about small craft harbours and some of the other comments that he made working towards because he was saying there was a lot of collaboration with the federal government.

I guess with global warming and the idea of the Northwest Passage opening up, I could see why ports and harbours are going to be important. Has the Government of Nunavut thought about talking to other countries about whether they are interested in helping support types of ports like this and joint projects? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister Taptuna.

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, we haven't spoken to the Americans or the Russians about small craft harbours. We don't intend to. I agree with the comments that the member made from Tununiq there where, yes, we do have to start initiating some of these infrastructure projects and I will be answering some of those questions. I am looking forward to some of those questions when we come to the line by line items. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Taptuna. I am sort of closely starting to watch the time. Mr. Elliott.

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I was looking and checking to see I only have three minutes and fifty seconds left to continue. I guess I wanted to conclude by thanking the minister actually for his commitment to the High Arctic and the High Arctic Transportation Strategy that he's put through.

In all of the issues that we talked about whether it's air transportation or road transportation between the communities or even travel by the sea in the High Arctic, the costs are just extremely high so his commitment with the study that's been done and travelling to the communities because I know Grise Fiord and Resolute Bay, they've got issues with their airports, we've got issues with our airlines.

So I want to thank him and his department for his commitment to what they're doing in terms of coming up with

that strategy and looking at ways of helping our communities in the High Arctic because I know it's definitely appreciated by Grise Fiord only being serviced by twin otter and with the runway being so small and not capable to be have any other services.

They actually have two airlines they have to go through to be able to get anywhere like down to Iqaluit for medical or whatnot so it's definitely appreciated in the comments that I have received from my constituents in having him come up and do that. So I wanted to pass that along to him while he was here. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister Taptuna.

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will thank the hon. member from Quttiktuq for those comments. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Mr. Schell.

**Mr. Schell:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll try to keep it brief here. We have been here a long time here today. It's nice to see the money is being spent in Pangnirtung there for trying to relocate the airstrip there. Over the next five years there's no money that I see allotted to spend to look at alternate runway site for Kimmirut. So I guess I'm lobbying for Kimmirut to see if you get extra money.

I know you're spending money to rehabilitate the runway, but you're still going to have a short runway, still won't it be able to land twin otters in there. So I would just like to encourage him to try

to get some spending money in there over the next little while, so they can look at an alternative site, because the airfare from Kimmirut to Iqaluit is about the same as it is from Iqaluit to Cape Dorset, and it's only a third of the distance. I would encourage him to do that, it's basically a statement. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Schell. If you want to comment on that, Minister Taptuna.

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Of course, there are a lot of priorities and with a small budget, it's pretty restrictive, we try and maintain the safety factor that's given to the Nunavut airports under the regulatory system. There are a lot of regulatory compliances that we have to abide by. Some of these, as I mentioned in my opening statement, there's a lot to do but very little capital resources to do that within the government. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Okalik (interpretation):** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank my colleague for High Arctic for posing very good questions.

I have asked the minister about a week ago on the status of our airport here, and I still haven't received a response but he stated that he would respond to me next week and the week is coming to an end.

I was wondering what they're going to do with our airport here in town? Looking at the substantiation sheet, and I cannot see anything pertaining to the

Iqaluit airport. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that question. I did indicate at the last week's sitting that I was hoping to get all that information. There has been a preliminary design of the new Iqaluit terminal. That has yet to be looked at by the Cabinet. I intend to do a presentation to the Cabinet tomorrow.

My intention was to get that done before the sitting was done for the Session. As soon as I know anything new, I will let the member know. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Iqaluit International Airport is used to greet international visitors such as the Paris delegation, and also with the cold weather testing. We need to have it properly, so therefore I want to urge the minister that this is an urgent case. I just wanted to ask that question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that question. To a certain degree, it is fairly urgent. This government is responsible for safety of its people. At times, the existing terminal exceeds its capacity. Of course, I understand that there are dignitaries who come to Iqaluit to a full

terminal building. We're acting on it as fast as we can. Even with Air Canada announcing that they're going to be coming here, we're on pace.

Although I was hoping to get this information out before the sitting, we consider this as a safety issue and every time it pertains to safety issues, it becomes urgent. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Ningark:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Observing the final minutes of the hour, I move to report progress. Thank you.

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

Minister Taptuna, I would like to ask if you wish to have closing comments. The page-by-page will likely be carried on for tomorrow, my mistake.

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the minister's officials out.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Going back to the Orders of the Day. Item 20. Report of the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Ningeongan.

### **Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole**

**Mr. Ningeongan:** Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Bill 8 and the capital estimates, and would like to report progress. Also, Mr. Speaker, I

move that the Report of the Committee of the Whole be concurred with. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. There's a motion on the floor. Is there a seconder? Mr. Okalik. The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour, raise your hand. Opposed. The motion is carried.

Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. Item 22. Orders of the Day. Mr. Clerk.

### Item 22: Orders of the Day

**Clerk** (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A reminder of meetings for tomorrow, a meeting of the Full Caucus at nine o'clock in the morning in the Nanuq Boardroom.

Orders of the Day for December 3:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions
8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to Opening Address
10. Petitions
11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills

13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motions
15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions
17. First Reading of Bills
18. Second Reading of Bills
19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
  - Bill 6
  - Bill 7
  - Bill 8
  - Bill 9
  - Bill 10
  - Bill 11
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 Thursday, December 3, at 1:30 p.m.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 18:00*

# **Appendix – December 2, 2009**





**Standing Committee on  
Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts**

**Report on the Review of the  
Annual Report of the Information and Privacy  
Commissioner of Nunavut**

Second Session  
Third Legislative Assembly  
Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

December 2009

**Committee Members**

James Arvaluk, Chair  
Fred Schell, Co-Chair  
Moses Aupaluktuk  
Ron Elliott  
Adamee Komoartok  
John Ningark  
Johnny Ningeongan  
Paul Okalik  
Eruk Pauloosie  
Allan Rumbolt

**Committee Staff**

Committee Clerk: Stephen Innuksuk  
Research and Policy Analysts: Alex Baldwin and Tupalik Boychuck

## Introduction

The Information and Privacy Commissioner is an independent officer of the Legislative Assembly who is required under section 68 of the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act (ATIPP Act)* to prepare and submit an annual report on her activities to the Legislative Assembly.

The *ATIPP Act* provides for the Commissioner of Nunavut to appoint, on the recommendation of the Legislative Assembly, the Information and Privacy Commissioner for a five-year term of office.

The appointment of Nunavut's first Information and Privacy Commissioner, Elaine Keenan Bengts, was recommended by way of motion in the Legislative Assembly on November 2, 1999. On November 25, 2004, her reappointment was recommended by way of motion to a second five-year term of office.

The Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories enacted the *ATIPP Act* in 1996. As the Information and Privacy Commissioner has noted:

“The *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* was created to promote, uphold and protect access to the information that government creates and receives and to protect the privacy rights of individuals.”

The *ATIPP Act* and regulations were inherited from the NWT on April 1, 1999. While the Act has been amended seven times since the creation of the new territory, there have been no fundamental changes to it over the last 10 years. The minor changes that have been made to the Act consist of amendments to address conflicts between the *ATIPP Act* and other territorial Acts. In 2007, there were consequential amendments to 15 other Acts to prevent the *ATIPP Act* from prevailing over these Statutes.

For example, the *Young Offenders Act* was amended by adding the following text:

“Confidentiality

- 74.1 No person shall use, disclose or transfer a record kept pursuant to section 63, or any personal information obtained under this Act or in the course of his or her employment, contrary to
- (a) this Act;
  - (b) the policies of the Government of Nunavut; or

(c) the Access to Information and  
Protection of Privacy Act

Paramountcy

74.2 The provisions of this Act respecting the privacy, confidentiality, collection, use, disclosure, transfer and destruction of records and other personal information prevail despite any conflict or inconsistency with the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act*.”

As another example, the *Insurance Act* was amended by adding “Despite the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act*,” so that section 21.1(3) now reads:

“Despite the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, the Superintendent may make information about an insured or about any party to an application referred to in subparagraph (a)(ii) that is collected under subsection (1) available, either directly or through an agency designated by the Superintendent and on terms and conditions satisfactory to the Superintendent, to

- (a) an insurer that
  - (i) undertakes or agrees or offers to undertake contracts of automobile insurance, and
  - (ii) has a written application signed by the insured;
- (b) auditors of the statistical agency referred to in subsection (1); or
- (c) the insured.”

The thirteen other Acts that were amended are: *Statistics Act*, *Archives Act*, *Disease Registries Act*, *Education Act*, *Evidence Act*, *Financial Administration Act*, *Human Rights Act*, *Labour Standards Act*, *Medical Care Act*, *Payroll Tax Act*, *Qulliq Energy Corporation Act*, *Vital Statistics Act*, and the *Wildlife Act*.

The changes that have been made to the regulations have been house-keeping in nature. The list of “Public Bodies” has been amended to reflect the creation of new public bodies of Nunavut.

As the Information and Privacy Commissioner has noted, her position is mandated to:

“...conduct reviews of decisions of public bodies and to make recommendations to the Minister involved (...) the Commissioner has the obligation to promote the principles of the Act through

public education. She is also mandated to provide the government with comments and suggestions with respect to legislative and other government initiatives which affect access to information or the distribution of private personal information in the possession of a government agency.”

Standing Committee hearings on such annual reports as those presented by the Information and Privacy Commissioner, the Languages Commissioner and the Auditor General provide an opportunity for the issues raised in each report to be discussed in a transparent manner. Government accountability is fostered through the requirement in the *Rules of the Legislative Assembly* that the government table a comprehensive response to the Standing Committee’s report and recommendations within 120 days of its presentation to the House.

The Information and Privacy Commissioner of Nunavut also serves as the Information and Privacy Commissioner of the Northwest Territories. The Information and Privacy Commissioner’s most recent annual reports to the NWT and Nunavut legislatures raise similar themes and recommendations.

## **Reports and Hearings**

The last Standing Committee report on the review of an annual report of the Information and Privacy Commissioner was presented in June 2003 in relation to the Information and Privacy Commissioner’s 2001-2002 annual report.

Since 2005, the Government has been tabling its own annual reports on the administration of the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act*. The latest report on the administration of the Act was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on June 11, 2009.

On September 15, 2008, the Information and Privacy Commissioner’s 2007-2008 annual report was tabled in the Legislative Assembly and the government tabled its response to her report on January 26, 2009. The Information and Privacy Commissioner’s 2008-2009 annual report was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on June 8, 2009.

The Information and Privacy Commissioner appeared before the Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts to present her two most recent annual reports on October 1, 2009. This appearance was held in the Chamber of the Legislative Assembly and

was open to the public and media to observe. Transcripts from the appearance have been posted on the Legislative Assembly's website. Prior to this appearance, the most recent committee hearing on an annual report of the Information and Privacy Commissioner took place in October 2006. That hearing covered her 2004-2005 annual report.

## **Acknowledgements**

Members of the Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts would like to thank Ms. Elaine Keenan Bengts for appearing before the Committee to present and discuss her most recent annual reports. The Standing Committee was pleased to have had the opportunity to engage in a productive dialogue with the Information and Privacy Commissioner.

## **General Observations**

### ***Corporate Culture***

As in her previous years' annual reports, the Information and Privacy Commissioner emphasized the importance of establishing a corporate culture in government which encourages both access to government information and protection of personal information. During her opening comments to the Standing Committee, she stated,

"It is my pleasant observation that public bodies in Nunavut do appear to have a positive corporate culture."

### ***Government Contracting***

The issue of transparency in relation to the government's contracting practices has been raised by committees of the Legislative Assembly for a number of years. During the Information and Privacy Commissioner's October 1, 2009, appearance before the Standing Committee, the issue of disclosure of information concerning government contracts was raised.

The Information and Privacy Commissioner stated that the release of information about government contracts is an ongoing issue across Canada. She stated that "most southern jurisdictions publicly post the contracts they reach with outside agencies." She also stated that "some jurisdictions have taken to posting much of what is in a contract and protecting only certain parts of it." She acknowledged the difficulty of achieving a "balance between the right of the public to know and the rights

of businesses to carry on business.” The Information and Privacy Commissioner also affirmed that the process by which contracts are awarded should be made public.

The Standing Committee notes that the government has, in recent years, commenced the practice of tabling annual reports on its contracting, procurement and leasing activities. The Standing Committee recommends that this practice be extended to the government’s Crown corporations and agencies, including the:

- Nunavut Housing Corporation;
- Nunavut Business Credit Corporation;
- Nunavut Development Corporation;
- Qulliq Energy Corporation; and
- Nunavut Arctic College.

***Endorsement of the Act by Members of the Legislative Assembly***

In her 2007-2008 annual report, the Information and Privacy Commissioner stated that she would “encourage all Members of the new Assembly to publicly and clearly endorse the purposes of the Act and to provide continued leadership in ensuring open government.”

During her appearance before the Standing Committee, the Information and Privacy Commissioner was asked for further clarification on this statement. She encouraged Members to use the Act by making their own requests for access to information. She also stated that, “Openness in this jurisdiction is one of the main concepts upon which this jurisdiction was established. That’s why, in this jurisdiction, this Act is even more important than anywhere else.” She also noted that if MLAs were to make significant use of the Act, they would be “making the public bodies and the departments sit up and take notice, follow through, and do what they’re supposed to do under the Act.”

***Members’ Use of Social Networking Sites***

The extent to which social networking sites such as Facebook are in compliance with federal privacy law has attracted national attention in recent months. In July of 2009, the Office of the Privacy Commissioner of Canada issued the results of “an investigation into the popular social networking site’s privacy policies and practices.” The Standing Committee recognizes that these sites are becoming increasingly popular in the North.

This issue was also raised during the Standing Committee's hearings. The Information and Privacy Commissioner offered a number of cautionary comments with respect to this issue and stressed the importance of ensuring that any site established by a Member of the Legislative Assembly avoid including personal information of constituents.

### **Open and Closed Adoptions**

During the Information and Privacy Commissioner's appearance, the issue of adoption was raised. The Information and Privacy Commissioner commented that:

"In the last year or so, the Ontario legislature has struggled with this very issue over whether or not adoption information should be open. They passed legislation which opened up all records past and for the future, and there was quite a backlash from the public over that. In the end, they took a step back and they passed their legislation for open adoptions going forward, but wouldn't open the ones that had already been completed. The reasoning for that is that parents who put their children up for adoption on the understanding that they wouldn't be contacted in the future were really upset about the fact that now their names and all of the information would be open."

The Standing Committee has noted that on November 20, 2009, the Yukon Government announced that:

"The new *Child and Family Services Act* will come into effect on April 30, 2010 and will include significant changes in how the Department of Health and Social Services deals with adoption disclosures ... The new legislation allows for more openness around adoption-related records, making it easier for birth parents and people who were adopted to find each other. However, in situations where they wish not be contacted, birth parents and children involved in previous adoptions can maintain confidentiality by filing a no-contact declaration ... People wishing to file a disclosure veto or no-contact declaration have until April 29, 2010 to do so. After that, adopted people aged 19 or over and birth parents will be able to access their individual information."

On October 26, 2009, the Full Caucus of the Legislative Assembly announced that a new *Child and Family Services Act* will be introduced during the 3<sup>rd</sup> Legislative Assembly of Nunavut. The Standing Committee is of the view that this issue merits consideration during this review to

ensure that Nunavut's practices in this area reflect and respect Inuit societal values.

## **Recommendations**

The Information and Privacy Commissioner's most recent annual reports to the Legislative Assembly have provided a number of formal recommendations. As noted earlier, the Government of Nunavut has, in recent years, presented formal responses to the Information and Privacy Commissioner's recommendations. These are summarized at the end of this report.

The Standing Committee is pleased to take this opportunity to present its own recommendations to the government concerning the issues raised by the Information and Privacy Commissioner. The Committee is also presenting recommendations on a number of matters arising from its hearings.



**Issue: Government Contracting Practices**

As noted earlier in this report, the issue of government contracting was raised during the Information and Privacy Commissioner's appearance.

**Standing Committee Recommendation #1:**

The Standing Committee recommends that the Government of Nunavut table annual contracting, procurement and leasing reports for all of its Crown corporations and agencies, including:

- Nunavut Business Credit Corporation;
- Nunavut Development Corporation;
- Nunavut Housing Corporation;
- Qulliq Energy Corporation; and
- Nunavut Arctic College.

**Issue: Establishment of a Formal Information Disclosure Policy  
Concerning the H1N1 Virus**

During the Information and Privacy Commissioner's appearance before the Standing Committee, extensive discussion took place concerning the issue of the government's practices in relation to the disclosure of information concerning the H1N1 virus.

Members noted that the Government of Nunavut has been releasing limited information concerning the location of where H1N1 cases have been identified. Rather than identifying the specific communities in which there are cases of H1N1, the Department of Health and Social Services has been releasing information on a regional basis.

However, the Standing Committee also notes that in a news release dated November 18, 2009, the GN released community-specific information concerning the number of H1N1 vaccinations that had been administered across the territory. This approach strikes the Standing Committee as being inconsistent.

The Standing Committee recognizes that great care must be taken in establishing the appropriate balance between the public's right to know and individual privacy rights. In her response to questions on this issue, the Information and Privacy Commissioner noted that:

"When we're talking about health information in particular, health information, of course, is some of the most sensitive personal information we will ever have about ourselves. I am a little surprised to hear that, frankly, because the name of a community is not personal information, the name of a community is general information.

That having been said, I know that there are a number of very small communities in Nunavut. I suppose there is the question about whether the disclosure of the fact that a particular community has been hit hard by the H1N1 virus will identify individuals who have, in fact, been hit by the H1N1 virus. It's a sensitive area. I don't see any reason why it hasn't come to me as a question. Off the top of my head, I can't think of any reason why the name of a community that has been hit by a communicable health problem such as H1N1 shouldn't be named. I don't know what the policies are of the Department of Health or why they have taken that position. All I can tell you is that from my perspective as Information and Privacy

Commissioner, there is no reason not to disclose the names of those communities.”

The Information and Privacy Commissioner also commented that:

“In my opinion, as Information and Privacy Commissioner, the disclosure of the city, Yellowknife, that there is an H1N1 case in Yellowknife doesn’t identify me as the person who has H1N1. On the other hand, in a small community with 100, or 200, or 250 people is identified as a community in which there is an H1N1 case, it is far more likely that the person who has that illness is going to be identifiable. It is a fine line. There needs to be some common sense applied to it, but I understand, frankly, both sides of the equation here and I understand the sensitivity of the issue. A lot of what I do is applying common sense to situations. So on this issue, the bottom line is what you want to avoid doing is identifying individuals who have the H1N1 virus, bottom line.”

***Standing Committee Recommendation #2:***

The Standing Committee recommends that the Government of Nunavut reviews its practices in the area of disclosure of information concerning the H1N1 virus. The Standing Committee further recommends that the government’s next annual report on the administration of the Act include an update on its activities in this area.

**Issue: Review of Legislation in Relation to Adoption**

As noted earlier in this report, the issue of open and closed adoptions was raised during the Standing Committee's hearings.

On October 26, 2009, the Full Caucus of the Legislative Assembly announced that a new *Child and Family Services Act* will be introduced during the 3<sup>rd</sup> Legislative Assembly of Nunavut. The Standing Committee is of the view that this issue merits consideration during the development of new legislation to ensure that Nunavut's practices in this area reflect and respect Inuit societal values.

**Standing Committee Recommendation #3:**

The Standing Committee recommends that the Government of Nunavut's upcoming development of a new *Child and Family Services Act* takes into consideration the issue of adoption.

**Issue: Application of Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Legislation to Municipalities**

In her 2007-2008 annual report to the Legislative Assembly, the Information and Privacy Commissioner recommended that “steps be taken to add municipalities as public bodies under the existing [*Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act*], or that new legislation be developed to apply to municipal governments in Nunavut”.

**GN response to the 2007-2008 recommendation:**

“The GN agrees that privacy and access legislation is needed for municipalities but is reluctant when municipalities have neither the financial resources nor the staff capacity. The Federal Commissioner will accept privacy complaints regarding municipalities.”

During her October 1, 2009, appearance before the Standing Committee, the Information and Privacy Commissioner affirmed her view that the Government of Nunavut should consider amending the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* to include municipalities. She stated that:

“Municipal governments have to be accountable just the same as territorial and federal governments. Privacy is precious. Without any rules or guidelines on how a municipality views personal information that they collect to do their business, there is no guarantee that personal information will be protected in the hands of municipalities. There are benefits. As I said, I think that you would find that some municipalities at least would welcome some guidelines as to what they can and can’t disclose and in what circumstances. Legislation would provide those guidelines. Thank you.”

The issue of the application to the federal *Personal Information Protection and Electronic Documents Act* (PIPEDA) to municipalities in the territories was also addressed during the Standing Committee’s hearings. The Information and Privacy Commissioner stated that:

“The federal Privacy Commissioner’s office has taken the position that all commercial enterprises in the three territories come under PIPEDA ... PIPEDA applies only to commercial undertakings. To a large extent, I think that it would be a push to suggest that municipalities were commercial undertakings.”

The Information and Privacy Commissioner also noted that:

“Regardless of whether or not PIPEDA applies to municipalities, and there is some debate as to whether or not it does, that doesn’t help with the access to information side of things. Governments are governments and unless we have access to information and protection of privacy, there’s a gap. I have long advocated for inclusion of municipalities.”

This issue engendered considerable discussion during the Standing Committee’s hearings. One example that was raised concerned the voters list that the City of Iqaluit had recently posted on the internet. The list contained voters’ addresses and house numbers.

The Information and Privacy Commissioner stated that while voters lists are “public documents for very good policy reasons,” she also indicated that, “I don’t think the public needs to know everybody’s postal address, street address, or any other information. I think the name would be more than sufficient if you are posting it online.”

While the Standing Committee supports the principle that all levels of government should respect the importance of ensuring access to information while safeguarding personal privacy of residents, it also recognizes the challenges that face Nunavut’s small communities with respect to the issue of their administrative capacity to manage a complex access to information and protection of privacy regime. The Standing Committee recognizes that immediately designating municipalities as public bodies under the territorial Act is not necessarily a feasible solution in the short term.

The Information and Privacy Commissioner stated that:

“Voluntary guidelines perhaps could be established for all of the municipalities to kind of give them a taste of what might be coming. I also quite frankly like your suggestion of one central office which could handle perhaps all access and privacy issues for all of the municipalities ... it’s a way to get it done without putting an extra burden on the municipalities.”

***Standing Committee Recommendation #4:***

The Standing Committee recommends that the Government of Nunavut, in cooperation with the Nunavut Association of Municipalities and the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner, review the issue of access to information and protection of privacy at the municipal level. This review should give consideration to the appropriate mechanisms to achieve progress in this area, including those that were discussed during the Standing Committee's hearings. The Standing Committee further recommends that the government's next annual report on the administration of the Act include an update on its activities in this area.

**Issue: Review of the Role of the Information and Privacy Commissioner of Nunavut**

In her 2007-2008 annual report to the Legislative Assembly, the Information and Privacy Commissioner recommended that:

“It may be that it is time to consider a different approach to the office, perhaps by making it a half-time or even a full-time position so as to ensure that the Information and Privacy Commissioner has the dedicated time to commit to [increasingly technical aspects of the position]. Alternatively, it may be that the Information and Privacy Commissioner needs to be given a budget to allow her to hire contract staff to carry out some of the functions of the office, to assist in investigations or with technical issues or with a public education campaign.”

**GN response to the 2007-2008 recommendation:**

“The Information and Privacy Commissioner is an independent oversight body reporting to the Legislative Assembly. Therefore, the GN is unable to respond.”

During the Standing Committee’s hearings, the idea of combining the Information and Privacy Commissioner’s functions with those of an ombudsperson and an office to provide protection for whistleblowers was discussed. The Information and Privacy Commissioner commented that, “it’s not a bad idea to explore an ombudsman’s office combined with the Information and Privacy Commissioner and a whistleblower.”

On October 26, 2009, the Full Caucus of the Legislative Assembly announced that “an independent position to represent and articulate the needs of children and youth will also be established during the life of the Legislative Assembly.” The Standing Committee is aware that the Government of Nunavut has previously committed to considering whistleblower protection as part of the legislative review of the *Public Service Act*.

The 2009-2010 business plan of the Office of the Legislative Assembly indicates that one of its goals for the 2009-2010 fiscal year is to “ensure that the position of Information and Privacy Commissioner of Nunavut is filled following the expiration of the present incumbent’s appointment in November 2009.”



Under subsection 61(3) of the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, “A person holding office as Information and Privacy Commissioner continues to hold office after the expiry of his or her term of office until he or she is reappointed, a successor is appointed or a period of six months has expired, whichever first occurs.”

***Standing Committee Recommendation #5:***

The Standing Committee recognizes that any fundamental changes to the role of the Information and Privacy Commissioner, including the creation of new statutory positions such as an ombudsman or a position to provide assistance and protection to whistleblowers, would require not only significant amendments to the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, but would also require the introduction of new legislation. The Standing Committee recommends that this issue be considered in the context of the Legislative Assembly’s upcoming recruitment exercise to select the next Information and Privacy Commissioner of Nunavut. The Standing Committee further recommends that the government’s next annual report on the administration of the Act include an update on its progress towards establishing whistleblower protection.

**Issue: Amendments to the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* to Include Privacy Reviews**

In her 2008-2009 annual report, the Information and Privacy Commissioner recommended that:

“Amendments be made to the Act to allow for a review process where there is a concern that someone’s personal information has been improperly collected, used or disclosed.”

With the exception of the 2004-2005 annual report, this recommendation has been included in every one of her annual reports since 1999-2000. The government’s response to this recommendation has been substantially the same in every year.

The Information and Privacy Commissioner has conducted reviews and recommendations on privacy complaints. However, as she stated in her most recent annual report, there is “no obligation imposed on public bodies to co-operate with those investigations or to take any steps to address recommendations made.” In her opening comments to the Standing Committee, she reiterated the importance of amending the *ATIPP Act* to “include some formal mechanism to deal with privacy complaints” and stated that:

“The one thing that this Act really is missing is a way to enforce those privacy provisions in the Act and a way to make things better when there are privacy breaches. Right, now, the only way to address that is to prosecute somebody and that’s not the answer. The answer is to change things so it doesn’t happen again.”

**GN response to the 2007-2008 recommendation:**

“The GN will consider providing for a review of breach of privacy complaints in any future amendments to the Act.”

***Standing Committee Recommendation #6***

The Standing Committee supports the Information and Privacy Commissioner’s position and recommends that the Government of Nunavut consider it to be a priority amendment as part of its next legislative review of the *ATIPP Act*. The Standing Committee further recommends that the GN consult with the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner in the development of these amendments.

**Issue: Electronic Records Management, E-mail and Mobile Devices**

In her 2007-2008 annual report, the Information and Privacy Commissioner stated that:

“It is vital that all government employees working with electronic medium and using the internet to communicate and exchange information completely and fully understand the appropriate rules for storing and recording such transactions and that the records management system that relates to electronic records are clear and strictly enforced.”

In her 2007-2008 annual report, the Information and Privacy Commissioner stated that:

“It is important that there be written government policies regarding electronic medium and that these policies are reviewed regularly to ensure that they keep pace with changing technologies. To the extent that these policies already exist, they should be made part of all orientation programs and should be repeated and reinforced constantly and strenuously enforced with serious consequences attached to a failure to comply with the policies.”

In her 2008-2009 annual report, the Information and Privacy Commissioner stated that:

“There seems to be no real government-wide system for filing and storing e-mail communications ... there needs to be an effort to devise a system which is to be used by all government employees with consequences for improper storage.”

**GN response to the 2007-2008 recommendation:**

“The GN has a policy regarding emails and the use and retention of emails ... this policy prohibits anyone from deleting or otherwise denying access to Government records including e-mail messages and requires all employees to apply to electronic records the same Records Management Policies that apply to all GN Records ... The GN recognizes that there is still more training needed in the area of electronic files and their management and strives to improve and work on proper procedures on an ongoing basis.”

A number of the government’s policies in this area are available on the GN’s website.

In her 2008-2009 annual report, the Information and Privacy Commissioner recommended that:

“Employees be reminded on an ongoing basis that, notwithstanding the fact that the Collective Bargaining Agreement allows personal use of government e-mail systems by employees, those communications are subject to the Access to Information and Protecting of Privacy Act and may be the subject of an access request. They should be reminded often that caution should, therefore, be exercised when taking advantage of their government e-mail for personal communications”

The importance of employee awareness was also noted in her opening comments to the Standing Committee, during which she provided the following advice: “use government email for personal communications at your own peril and know that it is not private and may be subject to public scrutiny.”

This recommendation first appeared in the Information and Privacy Commissioner’s 2006-2007 annual report.

**GN response to the 2007-2008 recommendation:**

“The GN has recently developed a policy (Acceptable Use of Handheld Wireless Devices - May 14, 2007) with respect to records produced and stored on personal computers and other personal or GN-issued devices not always connected to the main network such as cell phones, laptops, PDAs and other hybrid devices such as Blackberry.”

***Standing Committee Recommendation #7:***

The Standing Committee recognizes that the pace of technological change is such that governments must make ongoing efforts to ensure that their policies, practices and procedures remain current. The Standing Committee recommends that the government review its policies, practices and procedures in this area on an annual basis.

**Issue: Information and Privacy Commissioner's Discretion to  
Extend the Time for Requesting a Review**

In her 2008-2009 annual report, the Information and Privacy Commissioner recommended that:

“The Information and Privacy Commissioner be given discretion to extend the time for requesting a review in appropriate circumstances, except where the issue involves a third party objection to the disclosure of information.”

This recommendation also appeared in the Information and Privacy Commissioner's 2007-2008 annual report.

**GN response to the 2007-2008 recommendation:**

“The GN will consider changes to the discretionary powers of the Commissioner in regards to this situation in any future amendments to the Act.”

***Standing Committee Recommendation #8:***

The Committee supports the Information and Privacy Commissioner's position and recommends that the Government of Nunavut consider it to be a priority amendment as part of its next legislative review of the *ATIPP Act*. The Standing Committee further recommends that the GN consult with the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner in the development of these amendments.

**Issue: Development of Health Sector Privacy Legislation**

In her 2008-2009 annual report, the Information and Privacy Commissioner strongly recommended that:

“Steps be taken to begin the process of developing health sector privacy legislation as soon as possible.”

This recommendation first appeared as a specific recommendation in the Information and Privacy Commissioner’s 2007-2008 annual report. However, it was also referred to as far back as her 2000-2001 annual report in which she stated “it is important to have good legislation in place that will provide strict guidelines for the whole of the health industry when dealing with personal health information.”

In her most recent annual report, she also states that “every jurisdiction in Canada, other than Nunavut, has now either passed health specific privacy legislation to address the very real privacy concerns raised by electronic records.”

**GN response to the 2007-2008 recommendation:**

“The GN is currently not in a position to develop new privacy legislation ... Through its active participation on the Pan-Canadian Privacy Forum on Electronic Health Record (EHR) Information Governance, the GN is gaining significant insight and information on the legislative requirements and complexities associated with health information and EHRs. This will facilitate the development of health specific legislation in the future. The GN is currently working on its integrated EHR system ... A privacy work plan is currently being finalized to ensure that the EHR system is compliant with legislative requirements and privacy best practices.”

***Standing Committee Recommendation #9:***

The Standing Committee recognizes the importance of achieving progress in this area and recommends that the Government of Nunavut continue its efforts to move forward to introducing legislation. The Standing Committee further recommends that the government’s next annual report on the administration of the Act include an update on its activities in this area.

**Issue: Protection of Children from On-Line Risks and  
Development of Curriculum Materials**

In her 2007-2008 annual report, the Information and Privacy Commissioner recommended that:

“Consideration be given to including in school curriculums specific information about electronic medium and strategies for protecting children from on-line risk, beginning at the elementary school level.”

In her 2008-2009 annual report, the Information and Privacy Commissioner recommended that:

“Steps be taken to include comprehensive instruction on new technologies, including instruction with respect to safety on the internet.”

**GN response to the 2007-2008 recommendation:**

“The current junior high school curriculum includes coverage of risk factors involved in aspects of media communications. In addition, students are required to sign an agreement that they will only use internet and other electronic systems for positive learning purposes. ... to strengthen the approach to this potentially serious issue, as the Department of Education develops a new Information Technology curriculum for Nunavut schools, this topic will be included at all grade levels.”

During her appearance before the Standing Committee, the Information and Privacy Commissioner informed Members that her attempts to have guest speakers visit Nunavut to speak about access to information and privacy issues “fell through” in the 2008-2009 fiscal year. She informed the Committee that she will continue to try and arrange events of this nature.

The Information and Privacy Commissioner also stated that she hopes and intends to arrange for Professor Val Steeves from the University of Ottawa to travel to the territory to speak to high school students in Nunavut.

She also stated that there is an ongoing collective effort among “Information and Privacy Commissioners from across the country, on a number of initiatives aimed at children, teenage children in particular.” She also stated that she is “working on a couple of projects to create brochures and such for high school students.”

In her 2008-2009 annual report, the Information and Privacy Commissioner stated that “times are changing and school curriculums should be changing as well.” During her appearance before the Standing Committee, she also affirmed that “it’s not just kids whose view of privacy is changing but the world view of what is appropriate, what should be private, and what isn’t private is changing.”

***Standing Committee Recommendation #10:***

The Standing Committee recognizes that children are using the internet and related technologies at increasingly young ages. The Standing Committee recommends that the Department of Education continue its efforts to include relevant curriculum in elementary schools. The Standing Committee further recommends that the government’s annual report on the administration of the Act include an update on its activities in this area.



**Tabling Dates of Annual Reports of the Information and Privacy  
 Commissioner, GN Responses and GN Annual Reports**

	Information and Privacy Commissioner's Annual Reports	GN responses to Standing Committee Reviews of the IPC's Annual Reports	GN responses to the IPC's Annual Reports	GN Annual Reports on the Administration of the ATIPP Act
1999-2000	October 27, 2000	December 4, 2001	-	-
2000-2001	November 14, 2001	March 4, 2003	-	-
2001-2002	November 27, 2002	December 2, 2003	-	-
2002-2003	December 4, 2003	(June 2004)*	-	-
2003-2004	November 25, 2004	-	-	(May 31, 2004)*
2004-2005	November 15, 2005	-	March 1, 2006	November 18, 2005
2005-2006	November 30, 2006	-	March 13, 2007	November 22, 2006
2006-2007	October 26, 2007	-	February 19, 2008	June 1, 2007
2007-2008	September 15, 2008	-	January 26, 2009	May 26, 2008
2008-2009	June 8, 2009	-	Not yet tabled	June 11, 2009

\* Not tabled, but available

**Statistics on Requests and Review Recommendations reported by the Information and Privacy Commissioner**

	2004-2005 Annual Report	2005-2006 Annual Report	2006-2007 Annual Report	2007-2008 Annual Report	2008-2009 Annual Report
<b>Review Recommendations</b> (made under Section 35 of the ATIPP Act)	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>16*</b>	<b>4****</b>
<b>Requests</b> for Review regarding Access to Information	10	7	2	17	3
<b>Requests</b> for Review regarding Privacy	1	1	1	1	1
<b>Requests</b> for Review regarding Fees	-	-	-	2	-
<b>Requests</b> for comment (on the scope of the ATIPP Act, government initiatives related to the ATIPP Act, or legislation)	6	4	-	2	1
<b>Requests</b> to correct personal information	-	-	-	1	-
<b>Requests</b> to lay a charge	-	-	-	7**	-
<b>“Other” Requests</b>	-	-	3	5	-
<b>Total requests</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>35***</b>	<b>5</b>

\* 9 of which dealt with issues of time extensions and deadlines

\*\* All from the same applicant. No charges were laid. The Information and Privacy Commissioner stated in her 2007-2008 Annual Report that she “declined to lay any charges or to consider any further such requests from the Applicant”.

\*\*\* The 2008-2009 GN Annual Report on the Administration of the ATIPP Act states that in 2007-2008, a single requester made 22 requests to the Commissioner for review.

\*\*\*\* During her appearance before the Standing Committee on October 1, 2009, the Information and Privacy Commissioner corrected this figure to include a fifth recommendation. She stated that a synopsis of this recommendation will be included in the next annual report.

**Statistics reported by the Government of Nunavut's Annual Reports on the Administration of the ATIPP Act**

	2004-2005 Annual Report	2005-2006 Annual Report	2006-2007 Annual Report	2007-2008 Annual Report	2008-2009 Annual Report
<b>Access requests</b> (requests where the applicant is looking for information)	30	28	33	39	23
<b>Personal requests</b> (such as requests for personal information)	62*	23*	37*	65 (incl. 3 corrections and 5 privacy breach requests)	27 (incl. 1privacy breach request)
<b>Total of access and personal requests***</b>	92 (generated by 45 applicants)	51 (generated by 37 applicants)	70 (generated by 44 applicants)	104 (generated by 46 applicants)	50 **
<b>Request for release from other government</b> (Requests from other governments refer to '3 <sup>rd</sup> party reviews'. When a government gets a request pertaining to intergovernmental relations with the GN, they first check with the GN department(s) in question to ensure that are no objections to releasing the information in question.)	5	9	7	9	20
<b>Total of all formal requests</b>	97	60	77	113	70 (generated by 56 applicants)

\* The 2004-2005, 2005-2006 and 2007-2008 reports do not provide statistics on privacy breaches.

\*\* Starting in the 2008-2009 report, statistics on the number of applicants generating requests were reported differently.

Information and Privacy Commissioner's Recommendations	Information and Privacy Commissioner's Annual Report				Most recent GN Response to the Information and Privacy Commissioner's Recommendation
	2005-2006	2006-2007	2007-2008	2008-2009	
<p><b>Contracting out of information management</b> The GN should take a look at its contractual relationships with outside service providers, particularly in those areas which include the use of financial or medical information of individual residents of Nunavut. Contractors should be subject to access requests and responsible for the privacy of individuals whose personal information they acquire.</p>	√				There is a growing awareness of the need for privacy and access considerations to be built into contracts entered into by all departments and public bodies. (2005-2006 GN response)
<p><b>Review of Privacy Commissioner's Compensation</b> The hourly rate has not changed since the IPC first undertook the position 7 years ago. The IPC requests that the hourly rate be reviewed with a view to implementing a reasonable increase.</p>	√				No response in the "GN's Response to the 2005-2006 Annual Report of the Information and Privacy Commissioner". (2005-2006 GN response)
<p><b>Educating Boards and Tribunals</b> The leadership of all boards, tribunals and agencies should be required to receive basic training in the principles of access and privacy issues and be required to update that training periodically.</p>	√				GN agrees. However, many of the boards in Nunavut are federal and subject to federal Access to Information legislation. (2005-2006 GN response)
<p><b>Boards and Tribunals</b> Boards and tribunals are subject to the Act, but because the members of these organizations are not government employees, there is some concern. The Act should be amended to clarify that individuals appointed to public bodies are subject to the Act by virtue of their appointment by a government agent. Policies should be created for all boards and agencies to establish the necessary protocols for handling records.</p>	√	√			Letters have been sent to all 35 boards, agencies and tribunals...the response has been positive and training sessions have begun with more training to be held in the new fiscal year. (2006-2007 GN response)

Information and Privacy Commissioner's Recommendations	Information and Privacy Commissioner's Annual Report				Most recent GN Response to the Information and Privacy Commissioner's Recommendation
	2005-2006	2006-2007	2007-2008	2008-2009	
<p><b>Private Sector Privacy Legislation</b>  PIPEDA (<i>Personal Information Protection and Electronic Documents Act</i>) is of limited practical effectiveness to deal with smaller, localized issues. PIPEDA does not protect privacy of employees unless the employee is working in a federally regulated business. "Made in the north" legislation should be created to deal with the protection of personal information in the private sector.</p>	√	√			The GN is reviewing whether to develop legislation similar to the federal legislation. In the absence of territorial legislation, PIPEDA applies to the private sector in Nunavut. (2006-2007 GN response)
<p><b>Openness of Contract Details</b>  It should be made clear that private companies contracting with the government should do so knowing that the accountability of government may require that details of the contract will be shared with the public.</p>	√	√			The GN is in the process of implementing clauses in all contracts stating the obligations of the contractor to comply with the Act. This will be monitored on an ongoing basis. (2006-2007 GN response)
<p><b>Municipalities</b>  Either amend the Act to include municipalities as "public bodies" or create legislation which deals with access and privacy matters at the municipal level. PIPEDA addresses only privacy issues. It does not address the right of citizens to have access to public records of municipalities.</p>	√	√	√		The GN agrees that privacy and access legislation is needed for municipalities but is reluctant when municipalities have neither the financial resources nor the staff capacity. The Federal Commissioner will accept privacy complaints regarding municipalities. (2007-2008 GN response)

Information and Privacy Commissioner's Recommendations	Information and Privacy Commissioner's Annual Report				Most recent GN Response to the Information and Privacy Commissioner's Recommendation
	2005-2006	2006-2007	2007-2008	2008-2009	
<p><b>The Role of the Information and Privacy Commissioner</b> It is difficult to maintain an appropriate level of expertise on some issues. It may be time to consider a different approach to the office, perhaps by making it a half-time or a full-time position. Alternatively, it may be that the IPC needs to be given a budget to allow her to hire contract staff to carry out some of the functions of the office, to assist in investigations or with technical issues or with a public education campaign.</p>			√		The IPC is an independent oversight body reporting to the Legislative Assembly. Therefore the GN is unable to respond. (2007-2008 GN response)
<p><b>Privacy investigations</b> The IPC has conducted reviews and recommendations on privacy complaints. There is, however, no obligation imposed on public bodies to co-operate with those investigations or to take any steps to address recommendations. The Act should be amended to allow for a review process where there is a concern that someone's personal information has been improperly collected or disclosed.</p>	√	√	√	√	<p>The GN will consider this recommendation. (2007-2008 GN response)</p> <p>(This recommendation was in the 1999 annual report and has been in every annual report except for the 2004-2005 report. The GN response has been the same since 1999.)</p>
<p><b>Electronic Records (mobile devices)</b> In the email and internet usage policy, there is nothing on the use of other electronic media. It's important that written government policies regarding electronic medium keep up with changing technologies to ensure that government records are accessible when requested and to ensure that there are no inadvertent or accidental disclosures of personal information. To the extent that these policies already exist, they should be reviewed annually.</p>		√	√	√	The GN has recently developed a policy with respect to records produced and stored on personal computers and other personal or GN issued devices not always connected to the main network such as cell phones, laptops, PDAs, and other hybrid devices such as Blackberry. (2007-2008 GN response) (see attached policy on handheld devices)

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<p><b>Electronic Records Management</b> It is vital that all government employees working with electronic medium and using the internet to communicate and exchange information understand the appropriate rules for storing and recording such transactions and that the records management system that relates to electronic records are strictly enforced.</p> <p>There seems to be no real government wide system for filing and storing e-mail communications. .... There needs to be an effort to devise a system which is to be used by all government employees with consequences for improper storage.</p>			√	√	The GN has a policy regarding emails and the use and retention of emails. This policy prohibits anyone from deleting or otherwise denying access to Government records including email messages and requires all employees to apply to electronic records the same Records Management Policies that apply to all GN Records. The GN recognizes that there is still more training needed and strives to improve on an ongoing basis. (2007-2008 GN response) (see attached policy on email and internet use) (see also other attached GN policies and procedures on records management)
<p><b>Limitation Period for Requesting Reviews</b> In a number of cases, in which the request for review has been received in the IPC office a day or two after the 30-day deadline, the IPC has asked the public body to agree to allow the review to proceed in any event and the public bodies have complied. The IPC should be given discretion to extend the time for requesting a review in appropriate circumstances, except in the case where the issue is a third party objection to the disclosure of information.</p>			√	√	The GN will consider changes to the discretionary powers of the Commissioner in regards to this situation in any future amendments to the Act. (2007-2008 GN response)

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<p><b>Health Specific Privacy Legislation</b>            If Nunavut does not begin to consider the health privacy issues...it will find itself with few choices and the solutions already dictated by those jurisdictions which have led the charge, with little consideration for the unique needs and realities of health care in the north. The GN should begin the process of developing health sector privacy legislation as soon as possible.</p>			√	√	<p>The GN is not in a position to develop new privacy legislation. The GN is currently developing its Electronic Health Record (EHR) system. A privacy work plan is currently being finalized to ensure that the EHR system is compliant with legislative requirements. The GN is actively participating in the Pan-Canadian Privacy Forum on "EHR Information Governance" and gaining significant insight and information on legislative requirements. (2007-2008 GN response) (see attached GN news releases dated September 10, 2008)</p>
<p><b>Educating/Protecting our Children</b>            School curriculums should include specific information about electronic medium and strategies for protecting children from on-line risks, beginning at the elementary level.</p>			√	√	<p>The current junior high school curriculum includes risk factors of media communications. Students are required to sign an agreement that they will only use the internet for learning purposes. As the Department of Education develops a new curriculum, this topic will be included at all grade levels. (2007-2008 GN response)</p>
<p><b>Personal Email</b>            Employees should be reminded on an ongoing basis that personal emails are subject to the ATIPP Act and may be the subject of an access request.</p>				√	<p>(The 2008-2009 GN response has not yet been tabled)</p>



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<p><b>Legislative Review</b>  The ATIPP Act is 10 years old, with no substantive changes and no real review of the legislation or its effectiveness. The world has changed in 10 years, particularly in its capacity to move and exchange information. If legislation is to continue to be effective, it must change. (see attached news item dated July 16, 2009)</p>				√	(The 2008-2009 GN response has not yet been tabled)