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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

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(Uqqummiut)

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(Tununiq)

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(Baker Lake)

Hon. Tagak Curley
(Rankin Inlet North)
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Hon. Peter Taptuna
(Kugluktuk)
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**Iqaluit, Nunavut
Friday, December 4, 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): Thank you. Before we proceed, I would like to ask Mr. Ningark to say the opening prayer.

>>*Prayer*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningark. A very good morning, Premier, Ministers, Members of the Legislative Assembly, and all of Nunavut. Have a very good morning.

Going to the first item on the Orders of the Day. Ministers' Statements. Premier Eva Aariak.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

**Minister's Statement 078 – 3(2):
December 6 – National Day of
Remembrance and Action on
Violence Against Women**

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and a very good morning to you.

Mr. Speaker, as Minister responsible for the Status of Women, I rise today to remind all Members of the Legislative Assembly that December 6 is the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women.

The National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women was established after the tragic death of 14 young female students in Montreal. This day represents an opportunity for Canadians to commemorate the loss of these young women. For us, it is also an opportunity to reflect and commemorate those women who lost their lives through in Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, Nunavut continues to have some of the highest levels of violence against women in Canada.

As a government, as communities, and as individuals, we are trying to meet the challenge of building strong, vital communities in which everyone can live free from violence. We owe this to our children, who may be affected by violence now and in the future. It is essential to the lives of our loved ones, the prosperity of our territory, and the future of our children.

(interpretation ends) As the Premier and Minister responsible for the Status of Women, I am committed to equality and to all Nunavummiut living free of fear and violence.

The Qullit Status of Women Council has planned a ceremony on that important day, December 6, at three o'clock at the Parish Hall here in Iqaluit. I strongly encourage you to participate in that event.

Let's remember to first mourn the lives we have lost to violence and then work for change in memory of all the girls and women who have been victims of violence in Canada (interpretation) so that changes can be made. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Premier. Ministers' Statements. Minister Louis Tapardjuk.

**Minister's Statement 079 – 3(2): CD
Launch Nunavut at 10 – Song
Competition**

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you. I say "hello" to my constituents this morning. My *Annuraaqatik*, Mr. Speaker, I rise today to announce the launch of Nunavut's 10th Anniversary Song Competition CD. The disc contains professional recordings of the three winning entries to the competition.

Launched on April 1 and with a deadline of May 15, CLEY received a total of 22 competition entries. First prize went to Madeleine Allakariallak for her song "Nunavut;" second prize to Leena Evic and Ellen Hamilton for "Pinnarivara Nunavut;" and third prize to Solomon Uyarasuk for "Angirravut."

I would like to invite my colleagues, visitors in the Gallery, and the general public to join us in the lobby of the Legislative Assembly for the launch later today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Ministers' Statements. Minister Louis Tapardjuk will have French interpretation and it will be on channel 4. Minister Louis Tapardjuk.

**Minister's Statement 080 – 3(2): The
Francophone Community's
Contribution to the Adoption of
the Official Languages Act**

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Well, I won't be speaking in French because I can't.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I stand today in this House to recognize the instrumental contribution of the francophone community of Nunavut to the adoption of Nunavut's *Official Languages Act*.

This past June, I led a delegation from Nunavut before the Standing Senate Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs to seek and obtain parliamentary concurrence for the *Official Languages Act*, as required by the *Nunavut Act*. As a result and at the right time, the Government of Canada agreed to accept the recognition of languages enshrined in the *Nunavut Act*.

The *Association des francophones du Nunavut (Katujjiqatigiit Uiviinut Nunattinni)* was well represented by Mr. Daniel Cuerrier. When asked by the Hon. Senators what it meant to be a francophone in Nunavut, Mr. Cuerrier simply replied:

"It means an opportunity to work differently. It means an opportunity to listen more to the people around you, and it means an opportunity to show that Canada can work if we decide to stop fighting one another and to work

together instead. (...) That is the spirit in which I want to work, I want to work in a place with three languages and three cultures that can live together in harmony and that can help one another and ensure their mutual development.”

The Hon. Senators were impressed with Mr. Cuerrier’s candour and open-mindedness, and Members of this House should be as well.

While small in number, the francophone community of Nunavut has relentlessly and successfully pursued one ideal: the promotion, safeguard, and vitality of the French language. For nearly 30 years now, the AFN has provided the necessary leadership in building a vibrant and dynamic francophonie in our territory. It is now our collective duty, as Members of this House, to ensure that all obligations under OLA are met, not only as a matter of law but as a matter of respect for the culture of our friends and neighbours.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Cuerrier has recently stepped down after nearly 12 years as Director General of the *Association des francophones du Nunavut*. Please join me in wishing Mr. Cuerrier all the best in his future endeavours and in recognizing the francophone community’s contribution to the adoption of the *Official Languages Act*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. I had made an error. The French channel is on channel 5.

Ministers’ Statements. If there are no more, we will go on to Item 3. Members’

Statements. Member for Tununiq, Mr. Arvaluk.

Item 3: Members’ Statements

Member’s Statement 112 – 3(2): Climate Change Awareness Vigil in Pond Inlet

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday, the Member for Pangnirtung informed the House about a group of students who will be travelling to Denmark for next week’s United Nations Climate Change Conference.

I am please to rise today and highlight some activities that have taken place in my home community of Pond Inlet. (interpretation ends) Yesterday, the community centre in Pond Inlet hosted a Climate Change Awareness Vigil. This vigil was organized by staff at the new learning centre to raise awareness of the importance of this issue to Inuit living in the circumpolar world.

(interpretation) Elders, youth, and other residents gathered at the learning centre to light *Qulliit* and candles to express their unity. Seven *Qulliit* were lit by elders and young women to symbolize the community’s respect for our arctic environment and *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit*.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, this event coincided with Canada Live Vigil being held by approximately nine other groups in over 90 countries.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to pay tribute to the efforts of Carrie Nutarak, Alice Panipakoocho, Carey Elverum, Martha Fenwick, and Monica Ittusardjuat in

organizing this event. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 113 – 3(2):
Support for Traditional Activities**

Mr. Ningark: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning. I rise today to bring attention to the importance of keeping the tradition of handicrafts and sewing alive.

In Repulse Bay, Mr. Speaker, I have been approached by my constituents a number of times concerning the importance of teaching young women to learn these traditional skills. The intergenerational transmission of Inuit skills is a key factor in keeping Inuit traditions alive.

For a number of families across Nunavut, Mr. Speaker, sewing products created by women provide a significant source of income. I am pleased that traditional skills continue to be used as part of the livelihood for some Nunavummiut.

As my colleague noted yesterday in the House, the Department of Economic Development and Transportation's strategy for growth in Nunavut's arts and crafts sector brings attention to the importance of arts and crafts in Nunavut's economy.

In order to support the ongoing practice of traditional activities, I encourage all of my colleagues to keep abreast the

availability of space in their constituencies for this purpose, Mr. Speaker.

I was recently made aware that the constituents who organize the sewing activities in Repulse Bay are in need of a building in which to teach sewing and to complete similar traditional projects.

One building in Repulse Bay that is not in use is a former RCMP detachment. Whether this particular building is available for use remains to be determined, Mr. Speaker.

Given the importance of passing on traditional skills, I encourage the Government of Nunavut to support these activities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Members' Statements. Member for Natilik, Mr. Pauloosie.

**Member's Statement 114 – 3(2):
Nunavut Mining Symposium**

Mr. Pauloosie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to address an issue concerning economic development in our territory.

As members are aware, the Nunavut Mining Symposium is an important annual event that brings together representatives from the mining industry, various levels of government, regulatory agencies, and Inuit organizations.

Mr. Speaker, the 2010 mining symposium will be held from April 13 to 15 in Iqaluit. Where was the 2009 event

held? In Iqaluit. Where was the 2008 event held? In Iqaluit. Where was the 2007 event held? In Iqaluit. Mr. Speaker, I believe that it is time for the Nunavut Mining Symposium to be held outside of Iqaluit.

Mr. Speaker, as members know, there are exciting mining and natural resource developments taking place in the Kitikmeot and the Kivalliq, including the Meadowbank project and the Bathurst Inlet Port and Road Project.

Mr. Speaker, it's time that the organizers of the Nunavut Mining Symposium begin the practice of rotating this event between the regions. Mr. Speaker, in addition to providing more communities with the opportunity to host the event, I believe that this would also help to raise public awareness and understanding of the mining sector and its importance to our economic future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Pauloosie. Members' Statements. Member for Arviat, Mr. Shewchuk.

Member's Statement 115 – 3(2): Best Wishes to Constituents in Arviat

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to rise today and acknowledge all of my constituents of Arviat. I would like to wish each and every one of them best wishes for the Christmas holiday season and the best wishes into the New Year of 2010.

I would specifically like to recognize my Constituency Assistant, Mary Pameolik, for her hard work in dealing with

constituency issues as they arise and advising the community of the happenings of the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut.

All the best to the people of Arviat. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Shewchuk. Members' Statements. Member for Rankin Inlet South and Whale Cove, Mr. Lorne Kusugak.

Member's Statement 116 – 3(2): Rankin Inlet Bowhead Hunters

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Good morning, Mr. Speaker. Good morning as well to the people of Rankin Inlet and Whale Cove. I am very pleased that it's Friday again.

This fall, I would like to say that Rankin Inlet had an opportunity to hunt bowhead. Unfortunately, we can't do anything about the weather. Because of the weather, the whale hunters were out on the land for three weeks and I would like to congratulate these individuals.

Their captain was Paul Kanayuk and the second harpooner was Ross Tatty. In the first boat were Arsene Karlik and our Member for Rankin Inlet North, Mr. Tagak Curley. In the second boat were Harry Ittinuar, Makkigak, Gabrielle Nirlungayuk, and Jack Kabvitok. In the third boat were Peter Kapuk and his sons. Some of them had to return home because of the length of time that they stayed out at sea and other commitments.

I would like to thank the Department of Environment and the Department of DFO for giving support to the bowhead whale hunt. Also, the conservation officer, Norman Ford, Jr., was of tremendous help during the time of the bowhead whale hunt.

On behalf of all of the people of Rankin Inlet, I would like to thank the hunters, the people who were doing the planning and who participated in the plan, and thank you for giving us *Mattaaq*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 117 – 3(2):
Recognition of Quttiktuq Mayors**

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to start by apologizing for a mistake in introducing one of our fine youth here today. When I introduced the Junior Canadian Rangers who are paging for us, I mispronounced one of their names. I had said Valerie Amaruk and I wanted to say Valerie Amarualik. So I'm sorry, Valerie, wherever you are.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the hard work and support of the three mayors in my constituency of Quttiktuq. Mr. Speaker, municipal elections are coming up soon, and as any politician knows, working on behalf of your community and your constituency is not always easy. I would like to recognize and thank Meeka Kiguktak from Grise Fiord, Saroomie Manik from Resolute Bay, and Andrew Taqtu from Arctic Bay for all of their hard work.

Mr. Speaker, during my term, these mayors and the hamlet SAOs have often been my first point of contact in the communities of my constituency. They have been very supportive in helping me to address issues and concerns.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to thank these mayors for their help in organizing the High Arctic Council back in February. Their involvement helped make that initiative a success.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to wish everyone the best of luck in the upcoming municipal elections. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you. Members' Statements. Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Minister Louis Tapardjuk.

Item 4: Returns to Oral Questions

**Return to Oral Question 147 – 3(2):
Number of School Buses in Pond
Inlet**

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I apologize for the delay.

I have a Return to Oral Question 147 – 3(2) asked on December 1, 2009, regarding a request for two small school buses for Pond Inlet. My response is:

Pond Inlet DEA requested a bus by a letter on February 20. On the 24th, the DEA requested instead two small buses with a DEA motion, as Mr. Arvaluk noted.

There were two other communities requesting buses as well, with a total of six buses requested. There was only enough available funding for three buses. Three buses were purchased, one of which went to Pond Inlet.

The Department of Education staff is available to assist the DEA in a review of scheduling to help maximize the use of the bus. Once reviewed, if an additional bus is still required, the Department of Education will look at an additional bus in keeping with the Pond Inlet DEA's motion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Returns to Oral Questions. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Baker Lake, Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 170 – 3(2): Transportation for Medical Clients

Mr. Aupaluktuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I send my regards to the people of Baker Lake.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Health and Social Services, Hon. Minister Tagak Curley.

Mr. Speaker, constituents from the community of Baker Lake have raised a number of questions with respect to transportation for medical clients. As the minister is aware, the airport is a long distance away from the community, and medical clients need to be able to get to the airport, get on their flight and make it to much needed appointments. Some

can't even make it to the health centre in our community, as there are many without ATVs, snowmobiles, and vehicles.

Can the minister confirm whether or not his department has received a request for an ambulance vehicle, or a contracted ambulance services for the community of Baker Lake? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the member for posing his question. This is a concern for a lot of the Nunavut communities. But first of all, I would say that I would require additional information because his question is on whether we received a request for an ambulance vehicle. We haven't received an official request from anywhere.

First of all, the government does not deal with contracted ambulances. Each individual community is responsible for those types of issues. We do not deal with those matters. Thank you.

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

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the hon. minister for that response. We do have a gentleman who is providing the contract services and is doing an excellent job, with the limited resources he has, and has my support in this area.

Without dedicated transportation for medical clients, such as taxi chits and ambulance, will the minister consider asking his officials to reinstate the policy of issuing taxi chits, so that medical clients from Baker Lake can get to the airport and make it to their appointments? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. Minister Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It seems like a small request, but I will respond this way. We are concerned about it and we do understand the hardship that the community goes through.

As we say in the House, the Non-Insured Health Benefits that we get from the federal government, we have been trying to lobby the federal government, and have had discussions with NTI about the need to be able to apply taxi chits through the Non-Insured Health Benefits.

If we start giving out taxi chits, then the federal government would say that it's up to our department. It's going to the responsibility of this government to provide those sorts of services. This is a very important question. We have had ongoing discussions with the federal government, but they are reluctant to provide those types of services. It would be excellent if we could include those in the services. Thank you.

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

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, I would like to thank the

hon. minister for his response. The issue of transportation for medical clients does not just stop once patients make it to the airport.

As you may know, there are three airlines which fly out of Baker Lake. Can the minister clarify whether his department has considered allowing medical clients to choose which airline they travel on and if not, why not? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Some members probably recall the time when I was sitting on the other side that I worked vigilantly on loosening up the contracts so that we could choose which airline that we could fly on. This is also an important question for medical clients to choose their airline. Since the tickets that we pay for are very expensive, we contract an airline to provide medical services. The contract that we have has completed one year. It was an open bid.

In the Keewatin region, I believe Calm Air and Kivalliq Air submitted bids and one was awarded the contract, 65 percent for one and 35 percent for the other airline. So that's where we have the problem. One, when they're fully loaded, they can't just move to the other airline. That's a problem that we have in the Kivalliq region on medical travel.

After the expiration of that contract, I personally would like to see some options for consideration by the department. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Aupaluktuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for his response. I would like to ask the minister after the session if he can tell us which ones were reviewed and what problems were identified for the patients or for those going on medical travel and to see if it is the policy itself.

That is what I wanted to ask the minister because Baker Lake residents and residents in the Kivalliq in general as well as Nunavummiut are affected. (interpretation ends) *Ma'nalluavik*, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you. In regard to his questions, he can come to my office at any time to ask them. We are aware that the Member for Baker Lake is working very hard on the issue of medical transportation.

I can tell you in the House that on medical travel in the Kivalliq region, the first question that he asked, that problem has been resolved to a point, that the elders in the Kivalliq region... if the elders have to overnight in Rankin Inlet on their Winnipeg, that problem area has been resolved and they can fly on the jet from there.

The Baker Lake residents, I put an addition to your response. But in regard to your question, some are quite difficult to deal with and we're constantly monitoring them. I will keep you abreast

on the progress of medical travel and the Baker Lake issue. Thank you.

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

Question 171 – 3(2): Status of Apprenticeship Training

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Hon. Daniel Shewchuk, Minister responsible for Nunavut Artic College.

Mr. Speaker, I want to address the status of training for those apprentices who are working under the Nunavut Housing Trust.

The Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation can only tell me that there are 51 apprentices and refers me to the Minister of Education. The Minister of Education has committed to providing a breakdown of the level and trades of those apprentices, but defers to the adult educators when it comes to training programs.

So I now turn to the Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College to ask whether he can provide some information on what apprenticeship training is currently being delivered across Nunavut. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College, Hon. Daniel Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A very important question and thanks to the member. To give the member the best answer, I will take this

question as notice and work with my colleagues to provide a proper answer to that question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Your question is taken as notice. Oral Questions. Member for Akulliq, Mr. Ningark.

Question 172 – 3(2): Old RCMP Detachment in Repulse Bay

Mr. Ningark: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I stated in my Member's Statement earlier of the Repulse Bay old RCMP detachment, my question is to the Minister of Justice.

I believe that this building is now a Crown asset, ready to be disposed of one way or the other. I think that the women in Repulse Bay have a very good potential idea in relation to educational sewing, economic possibilities, and keeping the tradition alive.

So my question to the hon. minister is: will the minister endeavour or at least ask the RCMP if, in fact, this building is ready to be disposed of? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my Kitikmeot colleague for that very important question. I know that facilities are in short supply in all Nunavut communities. So if there's an opportunity to get a building from the federal government, it's worth asking.

I know the federal government has a process for disposing of federal government assets. I will assure my

colleague that I will ask the commanding officer for the RCMP if he could look into that process and I will report back to the member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Oral Questions. Member for Natilik, Mr. Pauloosie.

Question 173 – 3(2): Nunavut Mining Symposium

Mr. Pauloosie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Hon. Minister of ED&T.

Does the minister support holding the 2011 Nunavut Mining Symposium in the Kitikmeot or Kivalliq, yes or no? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Pauloosie. Minister of Mining, Hon. Peter Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Being from the Kitikmeot, I would naturally support his initiative, but in 2009-2010, the Nunavut Mining Symposium Society with other regional directors and leaders of the other regions decided to hold the Nunavut Mining Symposium here in Iqaluit. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Pauloosie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is more of a comment. Mr. Speaker, as elected Members of Legislative Assembly of Nunavut, we have to support our regions economically to help out the local businesses. I think it's very important that we support our regions with these kinds of events happening

with the mining symposium. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Pauloosie. Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the hon. member for that comment. The mining symposium in Nunavut is an important annual event. It brings together lots of people from industry, governments, regulators, scientists, educators, industry people, local businesses, and for the most part, it brings in guest visitors or delegates to the symposium, with numbers ranging between 300 and 400.

In the other regional centres, there is really not that much capacity to put on an event of that size. So of course, naturally, it has been held here in Iqaluit. The Nunavut symposium society has contributed to other regions in having their regional trade shows with a mining component added in there. They have contributed funds to the other regions to do just that for the other smaller centres within Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 174 – 3(2): Bridge for Hunters on Sylvia Grinnell River

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask a question to the Minister of Transportation.

This bridge issue is deemed a very important matter by local hunters. I was wondering if there will be any

preparation in the future for a bridge that meets the needs of our hunters so that they are able to access the areas beyond the river for hunting their subsistence foods. Thank you, Mr. Speaker

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the member clarify that question? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. The minister is asking you to clarify your question, Mr. Okalik.

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The residents of Iqaluit face challenges and difficulties when they go out hunting. It was identified yesterday that the hunters here in Iqaluit face many difficult challenges as they pursue their livelihood.

I would like to ask the Minister of Transportation if he can start preparing for a bridge across the Sylvia Grinnell River to be used by hunters only. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Iqaluit being a city of Nunavut with many needs, of course, this bridge would be a major asset to the department and the city if there was one ever built.

One of the department's concerns is that if there is any kind of accident out there across the bridge, whether it's aircraft, or other incidents. There has to be a means of getting across the river for search and

rescue purposes, or other emergency purposes too. This department will certainly look into the possibilities of moving the feasibility for it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the minister for his response. I urge the minister to start planning as soon as possible with the knowledge that Iqaluit hunters are waiting for this. They go through hardship during their hunting activities. I would like you to recognize and consider how you, as a government, can provide more support for the hunters. When can you start the feasibility study on that? I would like to hear about when you will start it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the hon. member for that question. Of course, there are going to be a number of consultations before any initiations are done to look at the feasibility of possibly putting a bridge across the Sylvia Grinnell River. Of course, it's going to be at a different location, other than the bridge that we were speaking about yesterday for the Park.

Once the initiation of the consultations with the city, of course, and other potential partners starts, we should have a fairly good estimate on what timeframe we will be looking at. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Our next session will be next year. I hope the minister will be able to make a report at the next session. I would like to ask if he can agree to give us a report in the next session on that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the hon. member for that question. I can't commit to the timeframe at this time. As we know, some of these projects, including the one we were talking about yesterday for the foot bridge, took ten years of deliberations, planning, and so forth.

As this time, I can't commit to that, but once I do have any kind of indication of any timeframe, and the possibility of how to approach it, I will certainly let the House know. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The original residents of Iqaluit waited for well over ten years for a bridge. I would like to ask the minister if he can make a report at the next session. I know that you need to do a study and I know that you need to do the plans. I would like you to report on the status of the plans at the next session. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Within the department, we do have a lot of priorities, including some plans that go back a long ways, many years. As I indicated, I can't commit to making a report at the next session. But once I do get some solid indications and dates, I will let the member know. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 175 – 3(2): Hiring Practices of the Department of Human Resources

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Human Resources.

As the minister will recall, the new Cabinet held a retreat in Cape Dorset in February of this year. Following the retreat, the government issued a news release that announced that and I quote, "Cabinet recognized that a number of areas need immediate improvement and committed to increasing capacity in its offices by changing the hiring process."

Can the minister outline what specific changes have been made to the government's hiring process over the 10 months since this announcement was made? Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister of Human Resources, Hon. Daniel Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the member for that question. Yes, Cabinet has recognized that we need to improve our hiring policy. Since that time, through Human Resources, we have instructed all departments to try and deal with the hiring policy and practices better.

We also have a functional independent review being done by a consultant on the whole Department of Human Resources and those results should be out very shortly and I can table those in the next sitting. We also have the Auditor General's report that should be completed by the end of the year and that will come out in the next year or two.

So with these reports, we are hoping that we can see the difficulties and challenges we are facing and improve on them. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have heard concerns from a number of my constituents who have applied for GN positions but have not heard back from the department on the status of their application. It's my understanding that only candidates who are selected for interviews are contacted by the department.

While I recognize that the department doesn't have the time to contact unsuccessful applicants who apply from outside of Nunavut, I believe that Nunavut residents who apply should at least be told the reasons for why they

didn't make the interview stage. Will the minister commit to reviewing this practice, yes or no?

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott.
Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are always reviewing these practices. I would like to clarify this for the member. Currently, any candidate who is unsuccessful in the competition process has the opportunity to contact the staffing consultant and find out the reasons why. That isn't incumbent upon the applicant of a position.

I encourage all Nunavutmiut involved in this process to seek information through these staffing consultants, but we are always willing to review our processes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I guess that would be if they could actually get a hold of someone on the phone.

According to the GN's most recent employment statistics, there are almost 900 vacant positions across the GN. In order to fill all of these positions within a year, the government would have to hire over three new employees a day, every single working day, for the next year. I can't see how this is realistic.

Can the minister explain to the House what actions his department will take to make a dent in the government's vacancy rate? Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott.
Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again I thank the member for the question. It is a very difficult situation. As everybody knows in Nunavut, our capacity rates and filling our capacity rates to the levels they be...

However, in September 2008, where we had 970 vacancies, this December, we have 862 vacancies. We have dropped a considerable amount, 108 positions. In casual positions in September 2008, we had 965 casual positions. As of this September 2009, we have dropped to 576 positions. So we are accomplishing some of our goals.

HR has communicated with the departments and HR Committee in Cabinet desired to reduce the excessive use of casual staffing. So we are decreasing our casual staffing rates. We continue to provide appropriate processes such as competitions, transfer assignments, and direct appointments. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have also heard concerns from constituents that they can sometimes wait up to six months before they hear back from the government after they have applied for a job. Can the minister indicate what bench marks or performance measures are in place with respect to the time it takes to initiate and conclude a job competition? Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Member. Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again this is a challenge that we face also and it varies from competition to competition. The standard we have in place right now is from initiating the competition to offering the job offer is 56 days.

There are many factors that affect the competitive staffing processes which result in delays such as panel availability, reference checks, criminal records checks, and scheduling to get all parties together.

We are very aware of the situation and we working on it and I hope to achieve, through Auditor General's Report and our consultants report that we can improve this process. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Question 176 – 3(2): Larger
Recreational Facility for
Kugaaruk**

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I had made a statement with questions from Repulse Bay and Kugaaruk, well, actually plans. My questions are for the Minister for Community and Government Services.

In Kugaaruk, they built a recreation facility when the population was 400 people. The population has since doubled to 800 and not surprisingly, the recreation hall is now too small. I was told to ask the minister if they could start planning on a larger facility. I wonder if the minister has heard about their request on this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Right now, there is a tour that is going to all the communities to assess what kinds of facilities are required and what need improvement and maintenance. Once they have gone to all the communities, these issues will be compiled and we will have a report of our findings. 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 minister very much. When can we expect them to visit Kugaaruk? I don't want the exact date, but if you can give the approximate the month. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We really appreciate it when other people appreciate us. I will ask my officials which month they will be going to Kugaaruk. If I can give you the date, I'm sure that the community would appreciate it more. So I will look into that and get back to the member after the day is over or even before the session is over. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

(interpretation ends) Oral Questions.
Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. Elliott.

**Question 177 – 3(2): Department of
Human Resources Reaching Goals**

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.
My questions are directed towards the
Minister of Human Resources.

In March, the Minister of Health and
Social Services said it would take six
months to fill the position of a vacant
social worker, which now we have been
told it will be after Christmas hopefully
if the process follows through.

In answering my earlier questions, the
minister said the process should actually
take 56 days. Is his department actually
reaching their goal that he's stating?
Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott.
Minister of Human Resources, Hon.
Daniel Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you,
Mr. Speaker. Thank you for the
question. I would say that we're trying
very hard and diligently to achieve that
goal. However, as I explained to the
member before, there are very many
challenges involved in some of these
competitions, especially in the
professional fields. So we will try and
achieve that goal but we do have many
challenges that we face. Thank you, Mr.
Speaker.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I
know that a lot of Government of
Nunavut workers are actually doing

more than one position because of the
number of vacant positions that we have.
The minister said that there were some
challenges that the department was
facing. I was wondering if he could
elaborate on some of the challenges that
the department is facing. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott.
Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you,
Mr. Speaker. I think I have outlined
some of them to the member. I'm not
sure if he was listening or not but we
have very many challenges and those are
to attract qualified people.

The timelines that are involved and
having panel members be able to meet
all at the same time, reference checks,
criminal records checks, these all take
time but we are working extremely hard
to try and streamline that process.
Hopefully the reports that we come out
with from our consultants and the
Auditor General will help us achieve
these goals. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I
was trying to listen, but I just figured
there were possibly some more
challenges that the department was
facing. I just find it hard that sometimes
it take 11 or 12 months, or even two
years to hire a person in a certain
position. So I guess criminal records
checks take a long time.

I am wondering in terms of one of the
answers he gave me earlier, he said that
one of the things we want to do if we
want to encourage people within the

communities to be able to receive the jobs, they might need assistance in terms of how or why they weren't selected.

The minister actually said that anybody could contact his department and sort of go through and find out why they were not hired. I think this is commendable but is there a 1-800 number that they can call in human resources to find out that information or how do they go about getting that number? Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't believe there is a 1-800 number. However, every region has a human resources regional office and they have staffing consultants there that can be contacted. I would be more than happy to supply that information to the member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just a final question in terms of the 900 positions that are sort of available and not filled within the GN.

Has his department thought about sort of following the lead of the Department of Finance and rearranging some of their money to provide training and mentoring opportunities for different departments so that they could get different people into these positions? Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. No, we haven't at this

time. I think that we will get more information once we again see our private consultant's report and the Auditor General's report. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 178 – 3(2): Donation of Sealskin Clothing to G7 Members

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

We have heard that there is going to be a major conference this winter which will attract international attention in February. There are going to be seven first ministers involved. I want to ask if they will be presented with sealskin parkas and lobby to do so. That is my first question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I got a note from a member about that the other day. I think it's a very good idea. It would be nice to know the size of the people coming. We're looking into the matter right now. I can assure you that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to urge the minister to do so and allow us to showcase our parkas, how warm they are, and how important they are. I am

urging the minister to make sure that he gets in contact with his federal counterpart and to make sure that they get the proper sizes beforehand. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Okalik. There was no question, but if you would like to respond, Mr. Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I advise the member that we are definitely going to look into this. I think while those delegates are here, there are many other ways that we can showcase our products through fashion shows and designs, and all of us helping in that regard, wearing sealskins. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Thank you, Mr. Okalik. Oral Questions. Member for Akulliq, Mr. Ningark.

Question 179 – 3(2): Polar Bear Populations

Mr. Ningark: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister responsible for Environment. My question is pertaining to the polar bear population worldwide.

Mr. Speaker, despite the fact that the world believes that the population of polar bears is declining within the country and other polar bear management countries across the circumpolar region of the world, my question to the hon. minister is: what report have you received across the globe that the population of polar bears is, in fact, declining? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. It's a very good question. I would just like to explain to the member that we, as a government, do not think polar bear populations are declining.

In Nunavut, we actually have some populations that may be increasing. We manage 13 polar bear populations in Nunavut. Yes, there are a couple that we are concerned about, but the majority of polar bear populations are stable or even we have an increase in one or two.

Polar bears are very important to Nunavut and Nunavutmiut. I think the government's position on this right now, the member may understand that the US is supporting to list polar bears in CITES Appendix I, which would stop all world exports of polar bears in the world, which would affect us very much in our sports hunts. We oppose this position and we are voicing our voice right now. So polar bears are very important to us.

The information we have is that polar bears have drastically increased since 20 years ago, so we feel polar bears are not declining. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Ningark: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for his honesty. I think we have a lot to share in terms of information with the world. Every year, there are nuisance polar bears, dangerous polar bears getting into our communities and garbage and dump areas.

We have, in Kugaaruk, harvested or put down nine polar bears before the season was open within this year, 2009. Will the minister share these things that happen in Nunavut, animals having to be put down because they are a nuisance and they're dangerous, with the global management of polar bears? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member again. I would like to assure the member that when I discuss polar bears with our northern jurisdictions and with the federal government in Canada that this is my position.

I explain how we're having problems with polar bears, as the member states, in Kugaaruk and in Arviat right now with a similar situation. So it's unfortunate that we have to deal with these situations. We do have initiated in our department a polar bear deterrent plan, which we are setting up plans for communities to be safer when polar bears do arrive in their communities.

I would like to assure the member that our voice is being heard. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Ningark: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My second supplementary is: what happened when the nuisance bear is put down, what happens to the by-products like polar bear skin? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When a defence kill polar bear is taken, there's a tag that's applied on it usually from credits that communities have. Once an investigation is done by a conservation officer, then that information is found out that is a defence kill. The hide and the parts of that polar bear return to the HTO and it's up to the HTO to dispose of that in whatever means they see fit. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 180 – 3(2): Bootlegging in Pangnirtung

Mr. Komoartok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister responsible for the Liquor Licensing Board.

As people may be aware, just this past fall, our community held a plebiscite regarding liquor licensing in our community. A large majority disapproved of this request and voted to continue their current status. We had a large turnout of voters who came to make their opinions known.

We also know, although we are technically a dry community, that liquor continues to be shipped in illegally and it is still sold illegally as evidenced by the large number of court cases where 70 to 80 percent of them are liquor related offences.

This has continued to be the case for many years, and local residents would like to have another plebiscite with respect to how the *Liquor Act* can be better enforced especially if our residents continue to vote for continuing the ban on liquor.

To date, with the current way the legislation is drafted and enforced, there are gaps and leakage points where people can get away with liquor offences. Sometimes, with last winter being a spike, residents of Pangnirtung would travel down just to buy bootleg alcohol for resale in our community.

We have heard about this and they are hearsay, however, a modicum of truth is needed for rumours to get started. We would like to know, and I am asking the minister, how we can better plug these holes in the legislation, especially so that our community is not adversely affected by the illegal sale of liquor, and to search for ways to decrease the number of cases related to alcohol abuse.

What options would our community have to ensure that the legislation is enforced more forcefully? That is my question to the minister. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: My microphone went to sleep on me. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Member for Pangnirtung for raising that important issue. As I mentioned the other day in a response to Mr. Okalik, bootlegging is a serious issue in Nunavut.

It's interesting that Pangnirtung is a prohibited community. It had the plebiscite and it's clear from the residents that they don't want alcohol in their community. I was up in Pangnirtung a couple of months ago with the RCMP and I talked to the senior administrative officer there and I also found it very interesting that the hamlet was trying to pass a public intoxication bylaw in a prohibited community.

I mentioned to them that the *Liquor Act* is available to charge people for infractions against the *Liquor Act*. I have talked to the RCMP up there; great members, they do a lot of hard work in the community and contributing to the community. I told them that the simple fact is they should be charging people with infractions under the *Liquor Act* and they are charging people with infractions under the *Liquor Act*.

So I encourage the people in Pangnirtung, if they know that there are bootleggers, report them to the RCMP, report them to the mayor or to council, but support the RCMP in the community to take the community back from the bootleggers. It's as simple as that.

People should not have to live in fear or worry of bootleggers in their community. The community should work with the RCMP and work with the officials to enforce the *Liquor Act*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Komoartok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank

the minister for giving me that information.

In some parts, some of the council is working very hard to make sure that there is less liquor in our community. Could the minister go to a community to make sure that the *Liquor Act* is understood by the workers in our community? Some of them aren't aware of the contents of that Act. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Member for Pangnirtung again for that very good question. I have officials who can travel to all the communities in Nunavut when requested to explain the *Liquor Act*.

Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned the other day, I am shortly going to be announcing a review of the *Liquor Act* and there will be consultations with all communities in Nunavut, all organizations of Nunavut that wish to make presentations to the task force will have an opportunity to do so.

Pangnirtung will be high on the list of communities to visit so people have an opportunity to have input in how to improve the *Liquor Act* so that we could address the issues of bootlegging in their community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 181 – 3(2): Internship Program

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed towards the Minister of Finance.

In terms of the \$2 million that were allocated in the O&M budget for the training and mentoring of people within his department, I was hoping that the minister could give us an update on how that program is going. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister of Finance, Hon. Keith Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Elliott for that question. I suspected that question was coming my way. He was talking to my colleague in human resources.

Mr. Speaker, the \$2 million was funding that our department found internally that we work with the Department of Human Resources and it's funding that we moved over to their department.

I can assure the member that my understanding is the funding is fully committed for this year training government employees and other people who are linked to government department's to provide them with training by the end of March of 2010. We're hoping to continue that program after March. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was wondering if the minister could be more specific in what type of training

he's talking about. Is it training within his department, the Department of Finance, in terms of bookkeeping and computer programs or is it across the board of all GN employees for workplace safety? If he could be more specific as to what types of training these employees will be receiving. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. As indicated during the main estimates process, there will be training provided across all government departments in accounting, financial management there will be training provided account administrative processes. They will be skills a lot of government employees need upgrading in all government departments so that the transfer of the skills they can take with them from department to department.

We recognize the Office of the Auditor General recognizes that Government of Nunavut needs to provide training and we want to provide training to all our employees and give them better skills. I appreciate the member's concern for Government of Nunavut employees and I look forward to his continued support to train them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My understanding of what the Government of Nunavut was going to do is a little bit different than the reality of what is happening.

My understanding was I thought that the Department of Finance was going to choose a few, in trying to live up with Article 23 of the land claims agreement, beneficiaries to hire, to pay them and give them a salary and then mentor by putting them with another person within the department and work side by side with them over the years to train them and give them the skills to train that person to take on the position. Is that not the case? Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. I'm not sure where the member gets his information. I know he doesn't sleep at all. He emails me at 2:00 in the morning which indicates he's up thinking. I don't know where that information comes from. It may be part of the process.

My understanding is to provide training to the most numbers of employees in all government departments and agencies, we will offer training in classrooms. There will be people going across Nunavut.

I know the Department of Human Resources has training facilities in most Nunavut communities through Nunavut Arctic College and therefore, you can provide those training opportunities to Nunavummiut in the communities and that where you get more bang for your buck. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thanks for the plug. I find my dedication hopefully allows me the time to do the research. To me, \$2 million is quite a bit of money. At the same time, it goes along with my whole idea of having the government accountable for where I'm asked to put capital and O&M dollars.

Could the minister commit to providing, probably in the next sitting, a list or a detailed report on where the \$2 million has gone, who has received the training, how many people have received the training?

As the Minister responsible for Human Resources has said, through the Auditor General's report and whatnot, if we're going to tackle and try and get more people hired, was that \$2 million beneficial or not in terms of evaluating the situation? Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know the member has a long history of working with the people in his communities and he and I have had discussions over the last 10 or 12 months about providing more training for Nunavummiut. He has talked to me about something called PLAR, rating the prior learning assessment. That's important. So I talked to individuals in government departments about what kind of training they require.

I know the consultants who took the lead on the report card talked to people in the communities about some of the concerns they had in the Second Assembly. They indicated through the consultants that they required more training in all areas,

they felt that they weren't getting adequate training, and they weren't getting recognition. It was holding them back in terms of advancing in the communities, in the government jobs.

So the Government of Nunavut, this government, has listened to the people in Nunavut who work for us and we really value the Government of Nunavut employees. We feel that they're overworked, there's a capacity issue, and that has probably led to some of the high turnovers, the lack of training and support. We recognize that.

I tasked my department and I have to complement the Deputy Minister of Finance for taking a lead on that. I asked him to find some funding internally that we can use to help all government departments across Nunavut provide training for their employees. He worked with the Deputy Minister of Human Resources and they came up with this plan. So in order to implement it, we worked very closely with Human Resources and it has been very successful.

I can tell the member, Mr. Elliott, that we will provide a list of where the training is being offered in Nunavut. In fact, I believe there is a list right now and applications are underway. So I can't commit but I will assure the member that the training money is going to be used for good purposes across Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

An Hon. Member: Good answer.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Peterson. (interpretation) Please note that Question

Period is now over. Item 7. Written Questions. Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. (interpretation ends) Item 10. Petitions. Item 11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees. Item 12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Minister Kusugak.

Item 13: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 091 – 3(2): One Year Assessment of Fuel Consumption Performance for Government Ford Escape Hybrid SUV

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table the following report: One Year Assessment of Fuel Consumption Performance for Government Ford Escape Hybrid SUV. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Tabling of Documents. Mr. Tapardjuk.

Tabled Document 092 – 3(2): Supporting People to Succeed: A Council of the Federation Symposium on Labour Force Participation

Tabled Document 093 – 3(2): 96th Meeting of Council of Ministers of Education, Canada (CMEC)

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have two documents to table. The first one is the 96th Meeting of the Council of Ministers

of Education Canada and the other document is Supporting People to Succeed: A Council of the Federation Symposium on Labour Force Participation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Tabling of Documents. (interpretation ends) Item 14. Notices of Motions. Mr. Ningark.

Item 14: Notices of Motions

Motion 014 – 3(2): Extended Adjournment – Notice

Mr. Ningark: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Monday, December 7, 2009, I will move the following motion:

I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Amittuq, that notwithstanding Rule 4, that when the House concludes its present sitting in Iqaluit, it shall be adjourned until March 4, 2010.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Notices of Motions. Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 16. Motions. Mr. Okalik.

Item 16: Motions

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

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

(interpretation ends) WHEREAS the historic First Ministers' Meeting of September 2004 recognized the challenges facing Canada's Northern territories in providing their residents with access to health care;

AND WHEREAS the 2005 federal budget committed \$150 million in additional funding over a five-year period to strengthen health care in the territories;

AND WHEREAS the unique challenges facing Nunavut in the area of medical travel costs have been acknowledged;

AND WHEREAS the Government of Canada's *Northern Strategy*, which was released in July 2009, notes the importance of "making progress to ensure territorial health systems are more responsive to Northerners' needs, patient wait times are reduced and community level access to services is improved";

AND WHEREAS federal funding for the Territorial Health Access Fund, Operational Secretariat and Territorial Medical Travel Fund expires on March 31, 2010;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet North, that 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. The motion is in order. To the motion. Mr. Okalik.

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is readily apparent that the health department still faces difficult challenges today and on more than one occasion since the inception of the Nunavut government, we had to do supplementary appropriations for this department.

In that manner, we are trying to improve the department by offering more support since their pool of funds will wither once the federal funding is cut off and no longer available. This is why I urge our government to liaise with the federal government on this matter during their meetings to fight for more funding.

I urge all of my colleagues to support the motion that is in front of us in the House and we would like to get a positive response from the federal government. I know for a fact that our good minister is working to their utmost to attain the extra funding from the federal government and for the benefit for Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This motion will assist the government tremendously and I thank all of my colleagues and especially the member who tabled the motion, the member from Iqaluit West.

With respect to the funds he alluded to, that the government spent, the \$150

million he referred to was initiated in 2005 is going to be expiring on March 31, 2010. I wish to inform my fellow Nunavummiut that this fund consisting of \$150 million will expire in March and this extraneous funding has allowed our health department to provide more services.

As an example, although our current funding is there, it is never quite sufficient however, this extra \$150 million has been a boon to the three territories of Nunavut, the Northwest Territories, and the Yukon and I wanted to clarify that.

As was indicated earlier in comments to the motion, it has been very beneficial to health prevention initiatives, has assisted us in training employees who otherwise would not have been able to attend these training courses.

Mr. Chairman, due to the importance of this matter, I will be making some of my statements in English elaborate on the reasons why we must deal with it as expeditiously as possible.

There are many people I would like to thank; Premier Aariak, who has written letters to our federal counterparts and is also the Chair of the Northern Premiers. She has corresponded with the Prime Minister, and with the federal Minister of Finance, who previously had the Health portfolio prior to my appointment. The Premier can speak to the details of that if she wishes to.

(interpretation ends) I would just to highlight some of the point that I feel are quite critical. The Territorial Health System Sustainability Initiative, that's exactly what it's called. In the preamble

it was alluded to that the Territorial Health Access Fund is about to expire. That is one component of this complex set of THSSI, and the other party, the medical travel aspect. This particular program has been instrumental in helping the Government of Nunavut to undertake initiatives that contribute to a long term health human resource plan within our government.

This fund has given Nunavut the opportunity to train our health professionals in the areas of nursing, midwifery, mental health, and community therapy, for example. This training would not be possible without the federal contributions. Mr. Speaker, this fund has allowed us to increase positions in specialist services in communities throughout Nunavut. As well, the fund has enabled us to develop and begin to implement the territory's Public Health Strategy which will reduce reliance on the health care system over time.

As well, Mr. Speaker, the Nursing Recruitment and Retention Strategy, funded by this initiative, helped recruit 50 new nurses to Nunavut in the past 16 months. The medical travel grant from Territorial Health System Sustainability Initiative has allowed our government to devote resources towards improving the management of medical travel and to help curb expenditures in the long run.

Mr. Speaker, in total, out of this \$150 million, Nunavut has received \$75.2 million during the last five years, specifically, \$51 million for medical travel, \$21.7 million for the Territorial Health Access Fund, and \$2.5 million for pan-territorial projects throughout Nunavut.

All of this funding is set to expire on March 31, 2010. If this funding is not renewed in the same manner, much essential as well as innovative work will come to an end. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, the programs and projects supported by this THSSI clearly address the goals of *Tamapta* to help individuals and families who are vulnerable, at risk, or disabled.

Also, Mr. Speaker, I want to point out that this is a crucial time. Why? It's federal budget time. This is considered a federal budget item. Therefore, the lobby is really quite critical and we have been encouraged even by our own MP that it is important for us to lobby our colleagues in Ottawa.

I appreciate the help of our federal health minister. She is really up to speed on this issue and our new active Senator from Nunavut is also very aware of this situation and they're speaking to our colleagues, friends, and counterparts in Ottawa.

I would very much like all of you to support this initiative. Why? We may be the only legislature out of the three who can unite on this nature because we are a consensus government. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Curley. To the motion. Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the Minister of Finance and the former Minister of Health, I will be supporting Mr. Okalik's motion. It's a very good motion and I appreciate his working with Tagak, the current Minister of Health, on this.

I know Minister Curley has a difficult job. I think all Ministers of Health across Canada, it's not an easy task being the Minister of Health in any jurisdiction and I recognized that when I had to do the role. I had a good chance to take a look at the health books and understand the issues that they face. I realized immediately that the funding from the Territorial Health Sustainability Fund was critical to Nunavut, particularly for medical travel, which it contributes \$10 million a year.

I met with our federal Minister of Health, Leona Aglukkaq, in January and my territorial colleagues and we had a good opportunity to advance the case for funding in the North. I know our Member of Parliament is working hard in Ottawa to raise awareness of the need for that funding.

As the Minister of Finance for Nunavut, I put my other hat on and wrote a letter to the federal Minister of Finance, Minister Flaherty, and stressed the need and urgency that the Government of Canada renew this funding for Nunavut and for the North, and I believe he is listening.

I had an opportunity as the Minister of Finance; we have the federal/provincial/territorial ministers' meetings. We had one in Meech Lake in May, where my territorial colleagues, finance ministers, again raised the issue of extending or renewing this funding. Of course, they say that it's under review.

I have spoken to the federal Minister of Health, Leona Aglukkaq, several times on this important initiative. I spoke to her in late August when she was in

Cambridge Bay for the Nunavut Association of Municipalities meeting and stressed how urgent it was. She showed me that it is a top priority for her and for the government, she's advancing it.

Mr. Speaker, I spoke again yesterday with Minister Aglukkaq and told her that we're in our budgeting process. Our main estimates process is coming up in March of 2010. It's absolutely critical that we have some indication of whether funding will be extended, or renewed. I don't know what kind of number they're looking at. I certainly hope that they, at least, renew or extend the same amounts that we have now. We would like more.

I know, talking to my colleague, Minister Curley, the funding costs of delivering health services in Nunavut is increasing every year. There are costs beyond his control; certainly, out-of-territory costs and physician costs that we need help with.

I believe that we should get an indication, very soon, as to what the government can and intends to do. I will be raising the issue again at the Federal/Provincial/Territorial Finance Minister's Meeting in Whitehorse in a couple of weeks. I believe my colleagues in the Northwest Territories and the Yukon will as well.

Again, I will be supporting this motion, and I express my appreciation to Mr. Okalik for his support. He understands that the Department of Health is in critical need of this funding, and it will benefit all Nunavummiut. We have a lot of important projects underway and that we believe should be continued.

We have a lot of dedicated health professionals working in the Department of Health, who must be a little bit worried right now about their future. I would like to be able to be in the position, at some point very soon, to assure them that they're jobs aren't in jeopardy, and that the health programs will continue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. To the motion. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will be in support of the motion, for the reasons that have already been spoken about and set up in the past. I think we remember, for those of us who read documents, especially when they started doing a study on how the federal government treated Inuit and First Nations.

I think it was back in the 1800s, just before I was born.

>> *Laughter*

Had set up reservations for the First Nations and the government told them that, "You will be using that reservation as long as the sun rises." In that treaty it states that the health care of the First Nations, Inuit will be included. For that reason, the federal government has to continue the support of health initiatives, and the federal government was responsible for the health care of the Inuit.

I think you remember the C. D. Howe medical ship used to come up here, and it was the responsibility of the federal government as that time. It was their fiduciary responsible. Also after the

Northwest Territories was created, they started thinking that they could take on that fiduciary responsibility, because we know our people. Health and Social Services was part of the transfer when devolution to the NWT. The federal government was going to provide funding continuously.

Within the land claims, there is a provision in there that states that the federal government is going to continue their fiduciary responsibility of taking care of the Inuit. Even though the territorial government took on that responsibility, they will continue their continued services.

Also, we have recognized that the previous federal government had met with all the Premiers of the provinces and also the leaders of aboriginal organizations. At that time, they set up \$5.8 billion. I can't remember exactly how much it was to recognize the fact that health care for First Nations and Inuit has to improve. They need to provide nursing and a health care system and prevention of sickness, so they had to provide adequate funding to set these up.

It's the federal government's fiduciary responsibility to continue with the treaty and what the agreements are because it's already in the federal government's legislation. I believe that we have to remind the federal government very much. So therefore, I will be in support of this motion. I would like to thank Mr. Okalik and Mr. Curley for this motion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. I have no more names on

my list. To the mover of the motion, do you have your last reply? Mr. Okalik.

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Before the Third Assembly, I used to be in the government. Every day, we used to get allocated funding. I did not want to see this.

I will urge all the members to support this motion. This can provide a lot of good assistance and benefits to Nunavut residents. I would like to see the continued support for the health system sustainability initiative. I also request to have a recorded vote on this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Okalik. A recorded vote has been requested. All those in favour, please stand and sit down when I call your name. Please stand.

Mr. Okalik.

Mr. Ningeongan.

Mr. Komoartok.

Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Schell.

Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Shewchuk.

Mr. Curley.

Mr. Taptuna.

Ms. Aariak.

Mr. Tapardjuk.

Mr. Kusugak.

Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Pauloosie.

Mr. Ningark.

Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Mr. Rumbolt.

Thank you, Members. The vote is carried unanimously.

>> *Applause*

Item 16. Motions. Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Item 18. 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. Schell in the Chair.

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

Before we proceed with the Committee of the Whole, we will take a lunch break and report back at one o'clock.

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.

>> *House recessed at 11:55 and Committee resumed at 13:01*

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

Chairman (Mr. Schell): 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 and the Department of Environment, followed by Nunavut Arctic College, the Department of Health and Social Services, and the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. Are we in agreement to continue with the capital estimates for the Department of Environment?

Some Members: Agreed.

Bill 08 – Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2010-2011 – Environment – Consideration in Committee

Chairman: Do you have any witnesses that you would like to bring to the table, Mr. Shewchuk?

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

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

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Sergeant-at-Arms, could you escort the witnesses in.

For the record, minister, could you introduce your witnesses.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's very nice to be here today. To my right, I have Deputy

Minister of Environment Simon Awa, and to my left, I have the Director of Corporate Services, Camilius Egeni, for the Department of Environment. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Shewchuk. We will now proceed to the page-by-page review of the departmental estimates starting with page G-3. Environment. Branch Summary. Program Management. Total Capital Expenditures. \$2,160,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Go back to page G-2. Department Summary. Environment. Detail of Expenditures. Total Capital Expenditures. \$2,160,000. Agreed? Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I tried to get my hand up before everybody agreed to the previous one.

I have just a quick question on G-4. Just for the record, it states for the community of Sanikiluaq, Park Development, \$150,000. I'm wondering if the minister can state exactly what this money will provide. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Sorry, Mr. Rumbolt. Go ahead, Mr. Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for the question. The \$150,000 will be spent on a feasibility study which will include the background research that need to be done, consultation with the hamlet, the HTO, and other appropriate organizations.

We will set up an advisory committee to guide the project, individual entries in public meetings, and we will also commence preliminary investigations on the area's natural and cultural heritage, its viewsapes, mapping and toponomy, and the wildlife issues. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Shewchuk. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Mr. Chairman, I have a similar question. Is the \$150,000 that is going to Resolute Bay, is that for the same things? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Mr. Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I would like to state to the member that it is for the same things. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Shewchuk. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: In terms of the park in Resolute Bay being a territorial park, could the minister give an update as to where that park is now? That might give me a better idea as to the start of the talks of initiating that park, or has it been in the plans for a while? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Mr. Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are just in the initial phases, and we are communicating and in consultation with the community at this point. It's a start up of a territorial park. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Shewchuk. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Is there an estimated date when the park might be opened? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Mr. Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Through previous and past experiences, it takes approximately two to five years before a park is established, so that's the timeline that we're dealing with here, hopefully. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Shewchuk. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In terms of the wildlife office, the construction of new wildlife offices, how does your department rank in terms of need for those buildings? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Mr. Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In conjunction with CG&S, we do assess the status and the state of wildlife offices. They are put on replacement schedule of approximately 25 to 30 years. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Shewchuk. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the communications that we have had, and what not, the Resolute Bay HTA is interested in working with your

department in moving into that building, and sharing space.

Is that something that's possible, in terms of having HTAs work closely with the government department up there? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Mr. Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is new news to me, but it is my understanding now is that CG&S is working with the HTO, and this work is ongoing to see if that is feasible or not, if that is the case. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Shewchuk. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just wanted to confirm though if the HTA wanted to take over a building, once a new facility is constructed, we need to contact CGS for that? Is that correct? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Mr. Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is absolutely correct. It depends on the ownership of the building, but that's absolutely correct in this case. I am aware that CG&S is working with the HTO on this. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Ningark: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Before we conclude the department's capital estimates, I have a

question for the hon. minister. It's pertaining to the Kugaaruk Park development project.

My question is according to the research and I also have a personal question, I have my own question as well. It is regarding whether a proper, Mr. Chairman, protocol was followed. I don't believe the community was probably consulted.

Your department's 2008-09 capital estimates included \$600,000 in funding for the Kugaaruk Park Development Project. However, Mr. Minister, a concern has been raised during the Legislative Assembly's consideration of this project with respect to a proposed area being leased by prospectors. Now, that's where I have a question of whether or not proper protocols were followed.

My question is this, Mr. Chairman: what is the status of this project and what was the \$100,000, which was approved for this project earlier this year for the 2009-2010 fiscal year, used for? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the question. I would like to advise the member that we have a good relationship with the community of Kugaaruk and are moving towards this regard in the park and our department is working very closely with them on community consultations.

The status, with community input, is that we are waiting for lands that have claims

on them right now, the lands that the community has identified that they would like to use in the setup of this park. So we are waiting until those leases expire before we can acquire them through INAC and we are working with INAC in that regard.

I assure the member that we are in very close communication with the community. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Ningark: Thank you kindly, Mr. Chairman. My question is: when do you think the area that is still under inactivity, according to the licence that was issued... when will the particular area where people are prospecting or doing their activities be over so that we can then start working for the project for Kugaaruk? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To answer the member's question, as I stated before, we are working very closely with the community. The land that the community wants has not been definitely established yet. However, once this is done, we will be working with INAC to acquire those lands once these leases come up and INAC has agreed to work with us on that too. So that's where it's at. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Ningark: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My final question to the

minister: when will the lease be up for the next potential client, like Kugaaruk for park development? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's a very difficult question to answer. What we need to define is the land that the community wants included and then once we have that definite, we can move forward. We don't know exactly when that will be. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Shewchuk. Mr. Pauloosie.

Mr. Pauloosie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In recent years, the number of people coming north to search for the remains of the Franklin Expedition has increased. There has been a lot of international attention paid to this part of the northern history.

I noted that the Department of Environment has included \$5,000 in funding for the Northwest Passage Trail Development Project. Under the department's small capital projects for 2010-11, \$50,000 was approved earlier this year for the department's 2009-2010 capital estimates. Can the minister provide more detail on the scope and status of this project? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Pauloosie. Mr. Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The development activities here are identified and

supported in the Northwest Passage Park Plan and this will apply to establishing the Gjoa Haven interpretive trail design and interpretation. That's what the monies are for. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Shewchuk. Mr. Pauloosie.

Mr. Pauloosie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Before I ask my other question, I would like to welcome Uriash Puqiqnak and Andre Qamukkaq from my home community of Gjoa Haven. Welcome to the Gallery.

>> *Applause*

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the minister explain the process of which people from outside of Nunavut apply for permits to travel to Nunavut to search for the remains of the Franklin Expedition? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Pauloosie. Mr. Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Those permits are designated through the Department of CLEY. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Shewchuk. Mr. Pauloosie.

Mr. Pauloosie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The community of Gjoa Haven has been asking and requesting that perhaps a museum be built in the community due to an increasing number of cruise ships arriving each summer. If the minister perhaps can tell me that they would look into this in the near future

for museum to be built. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Pauloosie. Mr. Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that question. Again, that's under the mandate of the Department of CLEY. However, I do think it's important to promote tourism in Nunavut and we would work closely with CLEY to identify any special areas that may exist too.

I do understand where the member is coming from and I think we have to do better in that regard but it is the Department of CLEY that would be responsible for that too. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Shewchuk. I guess there are no more questions. We will go back to. Sorry, Mr. Aupaluktuq, sorry.

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to welcome the Hon. Minister and his officials back as well. In regard to page G-4, the Thelon-Kazan Heritage River development, I would like to know what the present status on this project is and I would like to ask the minister or his officials if they could please provide me with an update and as well what are the next steps? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There is already a management plan for the Thelon and

Kazan Heritage Rivers. They were developed in 1990 and were approved by the Canadian Heritage Rivers Board as river designation documents. A 10-year review on the management plan was completed in November of 2000 in which residents of Baker Lake, industry, and others were consulted.

It is DOE's intention once heritage rivers IIBA negotiations are concluded and following full consultations for recommendations for the tenure review and any additions arising from negotiations with consistence with the Article 8.4.14 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement will be incorporated into the revised management plan. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Shewchuk. We will go back to J-3. Program Management. Total Capital Expenditures. \$2,160,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. We'll go back to page J-2. Department Summary. Detail of Expenditures. Total Capital Expenditures. \$2,160,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Does the committee agree that the Department of Environment is concluded?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: I would like to thank the minister and his officials. Does the minister have any closing comments?

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes. I would like to

thank all the Members of the House and all my colleagues for the great questions that were asked and the support for the Department of Environment to moving on and making this wonderful territory and better and more beautiful place to live.

I would like to thank my witnesses for being with me here today and all my staff for the hard work they've put into this planning stage and into their work within the department. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Shewchuk. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses out.

Do members agree that we proceed with the next department?

Some Members: Agreed.

**Bill 08 – Appropriation (Capital) Act,
2010-2011 – Nunavut Arctic
College – Consideration in
Committee**

Chairman (Mr. Ningeongan)
(interpretation): Thank you. I would now like Minister Shewchuk of Nunavut Arctic College to make his opening remarks.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good afternoon. Welcome to the Chair.

Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to be here today to present and discuss the proposed 2010-11 capital plan for Nunavut Arctic College. As the only post-secondary institution in the territory, Nunavut Arctic College plays a central role in providing Nunavutmiut

with adult learning programs and services. Our core business is training for employment. Building self-reliance through training and employment is our goal.

Nunavut Arctic College's roots are in the community learning centres. This capital plan includes the warranty funding for the new community learning centre in Pond Inlet. Students and staff have moved in and the programs have started. The new Pond Inlet CLC will support non-technical training for the Mary River mining project. A new community learning centre is also being constructed in Qikiqtarjuaq. However, the new CLC for Qikiqtarjuaq is not included in this capital plan. It is still in the Department of Education's plan since it is part of the renovation expansion of the Inuksuit School. This capital plan also provides funding for the initial planning for three new community learning centres. Community learning centres will be planned for Grise Fiord, Whale Cove, and Iqaluit. With the completion of these three projects, there will be a community learning centre in every community in Nunavut.

Nunavutmiut wishing to take career training programs not available in their home community are accommodated in our regional campuses at Cambridge Bay, Rankin Inlet, and Iqaluit. This plan provides for the final warranty on the new student family housing and daycare in Iqaluit. The housing is already occupied and the students are very happy. I had the pleasure of touring the project while it was under construction.

All of us have been eagerly awaiting the major expansion in trades training. The trades training centre being constructed

in Rankin Inlet will enable more Nunavutmiut to take apprenticeship training in Nunavut. Phase one will enable Nunavutmiut to take the initial two levels of apprenticeship training for oil burner mechanic, electrical, and plumbing. This is in addition to two levels of housing maintainer already available in Rankin Inlet and four levels of carpentry already available in Iqaluit. The project is on schedule. We look forward to the official opening of the Nunavut Trades Training Centre in the fall of 2010. This capital plan also provides for the initial planning of phase two of the trades training centre. Trades training phase two is intended to train heavy duty and auto mechanics, and the heavy equipment operators needed by the mining industry.

Mining is becoming a major employer in Nunavut. A mine training centre is proposed as the core of a new consolidated Kitikmeot Campus in Cambridge Bay. The centre will train mine workers, millwrights, and welders. This capital plan provides for funding for the project to proceed to the project brief stage.

I would also like to draw your attention to two important capital projects which are not part of this plan. In March, Nunavut Arctic College received approval for up to \$11 million from the federal Arctic Research Infrastructure Fund for the replacement of the old headquarters of the Nunavut Research Institute in Iqaluit. For over 30 years, the Nunavut Research Institute has provided multidisciplinary scientific support for fieldwork and licensing. This funding will replace the old facility with two new buildings on the same site that will be larger, more modern, and more energy

efficient. They will enable NRI to expand its current research activities and services in the health, natural, and social sciences.

Last month, we received approval for the Cyber Infrastructure Project with \$2.2 million from the federal Knowledge Infrastructure Program and \$2.76 million from the Government of Nunavut. This project will improve telecommunications connectivity and create the communication network that will make online learning and research accessible to Nunavutmiut in all 25 communities. These two projects are being managed for the college by the Department of Community and Government Services. Both projects must be complete by March 31, 2011.

Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to be here today to discuss Nunavut Arctic College's capital plan for 2010-11 and the subsequent four years. These are critical government investments in training Nunavutmiut for employment. I welcome your questions and advice. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Shewchuk. Do you have witnesses you would like to bring to the table?

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I do.

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

Some Members: Agreed.

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

(interpretation ends) Members, we apologize for having a delay in delivering you the goods before you.

For the record, Minister Shewchuk, please introduce your witness.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to introduce to the House Mr. Dan Vandermeulen, President of the Nunavut Arctic College. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. Does the Chair of the Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts have any comments? Mr. Schell.

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to provide opening comments on behalf of the Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts as the Committee of the Whole begins its consideration of Nunavut Arctic College's proposed 2010-11 capital estimates.

This is the second fiscal year in which Nunavut Arctic College's capital estimates have been presented for the capital budget review process as a distinct entity, separate from the Department of Education. Nunavut Arctic College's proposed capital budget for 2010-11 is \$1.1 million, which is significantly less than the college's 2009-2010 capital budget, which was over \$19 million.

The college's proposed capital budget for 2010-11 includes funding for the three major projects which accounted for the majority of the college's 2009-2010

budget and which are currently in their final stages of completion: the Pond Inlet Community Learning Centre, the Rankin Inlet Trades School and the college's new student accommodation project in Iqaluit.

The committee is pleased to note that the new Pond Inlet Community Learning Centre is already open and ready for business. Members urge the government to work closely with non-governmental organizations and other entities, such as mining companies, to ensure that the appropriate types and levels of training are delivered at our community learning centres in a timely manner in order to enable community residents to take advantage of upcoming employment opportunities. It is vitally important that the necessary staff are hired at the earliest opportunity to deliver work-related programs out of this newly constructed facility.

Mr. Chairman, Nunavut's community learning centres play a critical role in addressing poverty and many other social issues within our communities. Through the provision of opportunities for basic educational upgrading, as well as training and preparation for career-orientated programs, the community learning centre is a key facility for every single one of Nunavut's communities.

Mr. Chairman, members of the standing committee recognize that some community learning centres have been successfully integrated within other community infrastructure. For example, the school expansion project in Qikiqtarjuaq will include a community learning centre component once it is complete. However, it is important that the delivery of adult education programs

out of facilities such as schools is not threatened by other aspects of population growth, such as a rise in the school population and the growing need for classroom space. This has, in the past, proved to be a problem in some communities and members urge the minister and his officials to closely monitor changes in community populations and how the delivery of adult education services is affected.

The college's capital plan identifies three communities in which new community learning centres will be established; Grise Fiord, Whale Cove, and Iqaluit. However, the 2010-11 capital budget only allocates funding for the planning of a new community learning centre in the community of Grise Fiord. While this project proposes to renovate the current hamlet office for adult education purposes, the standing committee recommends that the college work closely with the Department of Community and Government Services to ensure that there are no unnecessary delays due to the construction of the community's new hamlet office complex.

While the committee recognizes that renovations to convert an existing building into a community learning centre may, in this climate of fiscal restraint, result in some short-term cost savings, members caution the minister that converting an aging community infrastructure into a community learning centre may not be a sound long-term investment. Members are of the view that the government should focus more of its current efforts and resources towards strengthening community-based adult education services and recommend that other proposed new community

learning centre projects are brought forward in the capital plan.

Members have noted that the new student accommodations in Iqaluit have already begun to accept Nunavut Arctic College students. At the same time, many college students are still being accommodated at the Federal Road residence and in privately leased units. Although having new Nunavut Arctic College housing units has improved the housing situation for many students, there are ongoing concerns with the quality of housing in leased units. Members urge the minister and his officials to give careful consideration to the conditions of new accommodation arrangements when current leases come to an end.

Mr. Chairman, the Nunavut Trade School in Rankin Inlet will be opening its doors in less than a year and members look forward to their invitations to the ribbon-cutting ceremony. The college's capital plan indicates that phase two of the trades school project, which incorporates the acquisition of heavy equipment, will get underway in 2013-14.

In recent years, the trade school project also funded two trades components in the communities of Cambridge Bay, for a mine training lab, and in Iqaluit, for a carpentry workshop. Committee members were surprised to note that the mine training component of this project has now changed into a separate and independent mine training centre project for 2010-11 to be located in Cambridge Bay.

Members have also noted with concern that although the 2010-11 capital

estimates were not introduced until the Legislative Assembly reconvened on November 24, there have been reports in the news media in recent months which have indicated that planning has been underway for what is being described as a “new college campus” for Cambridge Bay.

On a final note, Mr. Chairman, the standing committee is pleased that Nunavut Arctic College has been able to take advantage of not one but two federal funding opportunities. One is for the construction of a new Nunavut Research Institute here in Iqaluit and one is for upgrading the college’s cyber infrastructure network across its facilities and which will allow for additional activities such as distance learning education opportunities at community learning centres.

Committee members would welcome the opportunity to support the college in its efforts to secure additional infrastructure funding, specifically for the building of new community learning centre projects.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening comments on the proposed 2010-11 Capital Estimates of Nunavut Arctic College. I am confident that my colleagues will wish to offer further comments of their own. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Shell. 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 where

ever possible you ask your detailed questions during the page-by-page review of the departmental estimates. Mr. Keith Peterson.

**Committee Motion 003 – 3(2):
Addition of \$50,000 to the 2010-
2011 Capital Estimates of Nunavut
Arctic College**

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move that the 2010-11 Capital Estimates of Nunavut Arctic College, as funded through the appropriation of the Department of Finance, be increased by \$50,000 and that the revised 2010-11 capital estimates reflect the moving forward of the Community Learning Centre Project for Whale Cove from the 2011-12 fiscal year to the 2010-11 fiscal year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Peterson. The motion is in order. Before we proceed with debate on the motion, I have a few comments to make as to procedures. Every member has the right to speak once to the motion for a total time of 20 minutes. The mover of the motion speaks first. The mover of the motion has the right to the last reply which closes the debate. To the motion. Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the opportunity to speak to this. Mr. Chairman, I listened intently to the standing committee’s comments and recommendations.

I have spoken to the Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College and to the Cabinet about the value of education to Nunavummiut and the importance of it to our government and all

Nunavummiut, in particular, the vital infrastructure of community learning centres that should be in all communities. I know we have one in my community of Cambridge Bay and it provides a very valuable service to our residents and to my constituents.

Mr. Chairman, as well all know, we have heard over the years and in particular, even this morning when Mr. Elliott was grilling me on education and learning for government employees, learning and education is valuable. It's something that a person takes with them throughout their life and it opens up many opportunities for employment and self-improvement.

I know there are many employment opportunities in the Government of Nunavut. There are many opportunities on the horizon working in the mines. I know there are employment opportunities, but there are also career opportunities where Nunavummiut could really participate if they have a sound, solid education and skill sets.

I know as former Mayor of Cambridge Bay that my hamlet and all hamlets would benefit with people who have good education. I'm also familiar with the opportunities in the private sector having participated in the Kitikmeot Corporation in the Kitikmeot and setting up many private sector companies that had to compete with other businesses in the North and down south.

I know that poverty issue and I was very hardened by your comments and the Chairman's comments in standing committee that poverty is an issue we have to address and the recognition that education will be one of the key

components of addressing the poverty and social issues that confront us daily in Nunavut.

Mr. Chairman, I would just like to end by saying that I have been to many Nunavut Arctic College graduations over the years in Cambridge Bay and there are a lot of happy grads every year. Their families are very proud when they graduate, it's an important event in our community and I'm sure it's like that right across Nunavut.

So I can see the significance and importance of having a community learning centre in the community of Whale Cove. I urge all of the members to support this motion when we put to a vote. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Mr. Okalik.

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I completely support this initiative as we must provide all Nunavummiut every opportunity to advance their education. I encourage and ask my colleagues to support this motion, as we must support all the aspirations of our fellow Nunavummiut.

It allows them to become self-sufficient, and based on these reasons; I will be supporting this motion in its entirety. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Ningark: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We wanted our people at home and the people coming from the south to work all to be able to speak Inuktitut in the system. We wanted to

have signs in public buildings that say something in Inuktitut where Inuit people can read. We wanted a certain timeframe for Inuktitut to be a working language in the system.

Mr. Chairman, here is a big opportunity to allow those people who have been up here, long time northerners, to start learning how, academically, to speak Inuktitut, write in Inuktitut, and extra funding for Arctic College is a big opportunity.

Mr. Chairman, there is a saying that if you give a man fish, you feed him for a day, but if you teach that man how to catch fish you feed him for a lifetime. Here is a good opportunity and I will be supporting the motion. I thank the hon. minister for making that motion. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Mr. Aupaluktuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will be in support of the motion because I went to school with a lot of other people in Baker Lake and Rankin Inlet and a lot of them did not graduate from high school for some reason or other. With those people I went to school with, a lot of them went back to Arctic College to get their diplomas and to get their GED. That was very good news. For that reason, I will be supporting this motion. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to urge my colleagues to support the motion as it's going to have an effect on

the majority of the smaller communities, including Whale Cove, which is one of the smaller communities. I'm sure that they are pleased about this proposal. It is also in my riding and I'm sure that they would be very pleased to hear this good news. I will be in support of the motion and I urge my colleagues to support this motion also. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Kusugak. Mr. Pauloosie.

Mr. Pauloosie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I too will be supporting the hon. minister in making that motion. Education is a good tool for a better future and better jobs. It helps Nunavummiut to get better jobs either with government or the public sector and a good career.

We could start working on getting a university. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Pauloosie. I have Mr. Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just as the Minister of the Arctic College I want to thank colleague for the motion and I too believe that advancing the planning of these projects shows the commitment of the government as to how important adult learning education is in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Shewchuk. I don't have any more. Thank you. Mr. Peterson, if you would like to speak to your motion before we go on to vote.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank my colleagues for their good comments. They were all very

good comments and I believe the people of Nunavut and the people of Whale Cove would be very happy today if we all voted to support this motion. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Peterson. We will now vote on the motion. All those in favour, please raise your hands. Thank you. All those opposed. All those abstaining. The motion is carried.

>>Applause

Mr. Keith Peterson.

**Committee Motion 004 – 3(2):
Addition of \$100,000 to the 2010-
2011 Capital Estimates of Nunavut
Arctic College**

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move that 2010-11 Capital Estimates of Nunavut Arctic College, as funded through the appropriation of the Department of Finance, be increased by \$100,000, and that the revised 2010-11 capital estimates reflect the moving forward of the Community Learning Centre Project for Iqaluit from the 2012-13 fiscal year to the 2010-11 fiscal year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>>Applause

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Peterson. The motion is in order. Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Being a politician, I have to say something when given an opportunity.

Mr. Chairman, I won't repeat all the good comments that we all made on the last motion, but I will say that the

addition of a community learning centre in the city of Iqaluit would be a great thing.

My observations, as visitor to Iqaluit, coming from Cambridge Bay, I note that a lot of people from the Baffin communities come to Iqaluit seeking jobs and opportunities that are here because it's the capital of Nunavut. There are not many opportunities. I remember in the Second Assembly, we used to debate the opportunities that were available in the government, and there are many vacancies in the government.

So I think that by adding this vital piece of education infrastructure to Iqaluit will help people who do come here to attend that facility and learn some skills that will help them when they apply in jobs in the Government of Nunavut, the land claims organizations, and the private sector. If they go back to the communities, of course, they will take those skills with them and that education.

I again call on my colleagues to support my motion and make the people of the city of Iqaluit very happy today. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Peterson. To the motion. Mr. Okalik.

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) It's a very happy day for me for a change. I am the product of this community learning centre, when Iqaluit used to have a community learning centre. I wouldn't have gotten myself a university education without such a facility.

So I'm very proud to be able to support this motion today and I see a lot of my constituents who ask me for the assistance. This is something that we can all be very proud of and I'm sure that this money will return a lot of dividends for a lot of Nunavummiut because there are a lot of opportunities here for our constituents. What they lack in education, they don't lack in spirit.

I want to make sure that everyone of us also continues to support this project. I look forward to seeing next year's line item, and making sure that this construction starts as soon as we can, and I'm very pleased to be supporting this motion (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Okalik. To the motion. Mr. Ningark.

Mr. Ningark: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just remembered that today is Friday. I wanted to ask the Hon. Minister of Justice and the mover of the motion if this money, and we just approved one for Whale Cove, is this money coming from the...

Chairman: Mr. Ningark, I would just advise (interpretation) that you cannot ask questions in regard to the motion. Mr. Ningark.

Mr. Ningark: I tried.

>> *Laughter*

Thank you. I too support this motion. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>> *Laughter*

Boy, how I tried. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningark. (interpretation ends) Are there any more comments to the motion? Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would just like to close comments by observing that this is an excellent example of how consensus government works. The standing committee meets with the minister's officials and we hear their concerns and recommendations and it gets to this level and we MLAs and ministers on both sides recognize the importance of projects to Nunavut.

To answer my colleague from the Kitikmeot, Mr. Ningark, I guess to help him sleep tonight, rest assured that the funding is available to take care of these once it's voted on and appropriated in the House. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Peterson. The debate is closed. We will now vote on the motion. All those in favour, please raise your hands. Thank you. All those opposed. All those abstaining. The motion is carried.

>> *Applause*

Mr. Peterson, do you have any more motions?

>> *Laughter*

Chairman: Thank you. Now, we will proceed to the Nunavut Arctic College headquarters. Total Expenditures, as revised. \$1,250,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: We will go to K-2. Detail of Expenditures. Revised Total Capital Expenditures. \$1,250,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Do members agree with the total plans as amended by two committee motions?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Do members agree we have concluded with Nunavut Arctic College?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: I would like to ask Minister Shewchuk if you wish to make closing comments.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the members and I think that we've done something very special here today in providing adult learning opportunities to these two communities on a more advanced schedule.

I would like to thank everybody. I would like to thank my witness and I would like to, at this time, recognize the Chairman of the Nunavut Arctic College Board over here, Uriash Puqiqnak of Gjoa Haven, and thank him for being here.

>> *Applause*

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

We can move on to the review of a department. I would like to ask Minister Curley, Minister of Health and Social Services, if he has any opening comments. Minister Curley.

Bill 08 – Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2010-2011 – Health and Social Services – Consideration in Committee

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Yes, I am prepared to do my opening comments. Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to take this opportunity today to present the 2010-11 Capital Estimates for the Department of Health and Social Services.

Each year, there are limited funds available to meet the wide range of capital projects submitted by all GN departments for consideration. This year's capital budget is very limited.

While the Department of Health and Social Services remains committed to replacing health centres in Repulse Bay, Taloyoak, Arctic Bay, and Cape Dorset, given other competing priorities of the Government of Nunavut, unfortunately, we are unable to begin construction on these projects in the next fiscal year. However, they are in the five-year capital plan.

The Department of Health and Social Services is requesting a modest capital budget for 2010-11 of \$1.05 million. This budget is broken down into Furniture, Fixtures and Equipment and small and minor capital projects.

In 2009-2010, the department's capital budget provided the funds to renovate the old section of the Qikiqtani General

Hospital (QGH) to accommodate some programs and service that were unable to be included in the new QGH building due to cost and space considerations.

These programs and services include: pharmacy, medical support services, the cafeteria, administration, housekeeping, and offices for physicians and medical specialists.

For 2010-11, we are requesting \$50,000 to provide additional furniture and equipment to adequately furnish the soon to be renovated space.

As a department, we ensure that medical equipment, mobile equipment, and furniture meet minimal standards, reducing the risk for patients and staff to keep up with changes in program delivery and increase in demand for services.

In order to meet these standards, we are requesting \$500,000 for minor projects to be used to replace medical and dental equipment and vehicles. While an exact amount is difficult to calculate, it is anticipated that some funds would be saved by replacing equipment and vehicles that have a history of frequent and high repair costs.

Health and Social Services buildings are aging and capital funds are required to keep them in good repair and to meet current operational requirements. In many cases, the buildings have original heating systems, emergency power generators, roofs, and windows.

In order to properly maintain and provide minor repairs to our facilities, we are requesting \$500,000 for small capital. These funds would be used for repairs, such as boiler replacement,

ventilations system improvements, and the replacement of obsolete communications technology. Providing the necessary repairs and renovations to buildings in a timely fashion can help ensure minimal disruption in service to communities when equipment repairs are required.

Our health infrastructure is aging. In fact, 60 percent of our health centres are 20 years old or older. Until we are in a fiscal situation that enables us to move forward with replacing some of this infrastructure, we must ensure that funds are allocated for upkeep, repairs, and renovations to keep our buildings in good condition.

In the meantime, we can celebrate the successes from the recent years' capital plans, including the Gjoa Haven Continuing Care Centre, which opened on November 4, the Igloolik Continuing Care Centre, which will open later in the fall, and the Pangnirtung Health Centre, which should open its doors in the winter. We need to put in telephones and other equipment, but they will open in the New Year.

This request for \$1.05 million is to ensure the maintenance of quality health care facilities for all Nunavutmiut.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley.

(interpretation ends) Do you have witnesses that you would like to bring to the table?

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Yes, my officials can come to the witness table with me.

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

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the officials to the witness table.

Just for your information, we're on page F-3. (interpretation ends) For the record, Minister Curley, please introduce your witnesses.

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my right is (interpretation ends) the Deputy Minister, Alex Campbell, (interpretation) and to my left is Rosemary Brown, Director of Capital Planning for the department.

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

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Yes, I do. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to provide opening comments on behalf of the Standing Committee on Social Wellness as the Committee of the Whole begins its consideration of the proposed 2010-11 Capital Estimates of the Department of Health and Social Services.

Members note that the department's proposed capital budget for 2010-11 is just over \$1 million. This is the smallest capital budget ever brought forward by Nunavut's Department of Health and Social Services.

In prior years, the department's capital budgets have focused on a number of major infrastructure projects, such as the construction of the three new regional health facilities, two new 24-hour continuing care facilities, and new health centres in a number of Nunavut's communities. These projects have represented a considerable investment by the Government of Nunavut over the past decade.

The department's proposed capital budget for 2010-11 includes funding in the amount of \$50,000 for Furniture, Fixtures and Equipment as a final capital investment in the Qikiqtani General Hospital project. Committee members have noted that further renovations to the Baffin Regional Hospital, which is now an extension of the Qikiqtani General Hospital complex, are planned for future years.

Mr. Chairman, the standing committee has noted an ongoing and concerning trend in the presentation of the department's five-year capital planning information. The long-term vision for the department's capital plan appears to undergo significant changes every year.

For example, the Government of Nunavut's Budget Speech of February 2008 indicated that health centre replacement projects for the communities of Repulse Bay, Taloyoak, and Arctic Bay were priorities. However, not one of these projects is scheduled to receive further funding in 2010-11 and the five-year capital plan indicates that work is not projected to continue on any these projects until 2011-12 at the earliest. A fourth health centre replacement project for the

community of Cape Dorset has also been identified for future capital planning.

Members strongly encourage the government to focus on bringing the health centre replacement projects forward and to provide clear update information directly to the communities and members on a regular basis.

The standing committee recognizes that the department is attempting to undertake certain cost-saving measures, such as using the same health centre design for multiple projects. However, members are also of the view that constant changes in the overall capital planning direction for the department increase the risk of costly errors and delays. For example, the opening of the new Pangnirtung Health Centre has been frequently delayed, even though construction was completed some time ago, and costs continue to rise as a result.

Members caution the minister and his department not to rely on carryovers and supplementary appropriations to achieve goals that should be achievable within the capital planning process if it were consistently followed. Members encourage the minister in his efforts to work with his federal counterpart and other potential partners to identify any possible additional infrastructure funding that could support and accelerate his department's capital plans.

Mr. Chairman, as in prior years' budgets, and similar to the practice of other departments, the 2010-11 Capital Estimates for the Department of Health and Social Services include two blocks of non-specific funding. One of these blocks of funding is for small capital

projects such as repairs to buildings and emergency situations. The other is for minor projects including the purchase of new equipment and vehicles.

Adequate transportation for medical clients continues to be an issue in many communities. It is also important that medical equipment be regularly replaced and upgraded in order that medical clients are not required to undertake expensive travel outside of their community for tests and procedures that could have been done at home or within their region. Members also recognize the importance of ongoing repair, replacement and renovations of facilities in order to maintain uninterrupted operations and health service delivery to Nunavummiut.

While recognizing that it is not possible to predict every emergency repair or equipment replacement need, the standing committee encourages the department to provide details of small or minor projects that have been identified and prioritized for the upcoming fiscal year. The standing committee further recommends that the department provide, on an annual basis, a listing of minor and small capital projects on which such funds were spent in the previous fiscal year.

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

Chairman: Mr. Aupaluktuq. Before we proceed, I would like to remind

members of Rule 77(1) and Rule 77(2). Keep that in mind. Before we go to the page-by-page review, do members have any general comments? Mr. Shell.

Mr. Shell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the opening comments by the minister, I know that's an error because he said he was requesting for a dollar and five cents. I know the million was forgotten in there.

Going back to the health centres, there are three being built in the next two or three years, and Cape Dorset is listed in there but unfortunately there is not any planning dollars until the year 2014-15. As we all know, the Cape Dorset Health Centre is the oldest of the four that are being replaced in the system.

Community and Government Services had just done a conditional rating on the health centre in Cape Dorset. I read through it and it's not very good. They've had major fuel leaks in the crawl space. If you open it, you just about die of suffocation from the fuel that has leaked in the bottom, there is no ventilation system in the health centre, period, and the entire exterior, the siding, the windows and stuff was supposed to be replaced. There are a lot of dollars if you were going to renovate which wouldn't make much sense at this point.

So I'm just asking the minister if he could seriously look at it. I realize there are no dollars this year but if he could seriously look at trying to prioritize Cape Dorset and move it ahead a bit from the 2014-15 start-up date on the design. That is all I'm requesting. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Shell. Minister Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley: I thought that was under regular comments but do you want me to respond to that? Mr. Chairman, I just want to indicate that, unlike my previous colleague who was sitting here, I have no motions today to have to entertain. It might be difficult, but I thank the member from Cape Dorset and Baffin South. I thought it was a quite a good report because it assessed the condition of the Cape Dorset Health Centre quite well.

From that perspective I think it was good. Now it may have concluded that what was assessing may not have been the best. I think should have been but I think it brought the whole picture of the Cape Dorset facility to a situation where may have to address that, whether to prioritize it with other projects, but you may have to do a bit of a squeeze your elbow to your right there and see whether or not he would be willing to trade.

No, I'm not suggesting that but I think that the report did indicate that there are serious issues that we have to look at with Cape Dorset. I concur with you. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Curley. Mr. Shell. Okay, thank you. Mr. Ningark.

Mr. Ningark: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I, too, like my colleague, Mr. Schell, appreciate having Repulse Bay still in the plans. Repulse Bay, Taloyoak, Arctic Bay, and Cape Dorset, I believe that funding will be made available in

that order. So Repulse Bay is first on the order here. That's the way I looked at it.

Mr. Chairman, like my colleague from Cape Dorset, on the second page, the minister talks about \$1.05 million. That was the original money set aside for the things that we want to do up here. In his final statement, he acknowledges \$1.05. You know how things change in time. Just like my colleagues.

I just want to state my appreciation that the Repulse Bay Health Centre is still in the works. It is, no doubt, a multi-year project. I would also like to know when the planning stage will begin. Is it in 2011? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Mr. Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I understand exactly where you're coming from, and I thank you for making those comments.

For Repulse Bay I can tell the member that it is a priority for construction, but it would be any one of those communities. I would give my support for the Committee of the Whole. For example, since we were elected, the Minister Leona Aglukkaq and since Keith Peterson was the minister, then I, not too long ago, there have only been three ministers. What I'm trying to say is that we are at the beginning stages. I just took on these responsibilities in January.

I could say that at the department we want to be able to have a larger budget and we have been told by my peers that we have a very limited amount of money that would be used for recreational facilities for schools, and for major

infrastructure. There is absolutely nothing left for my department.

In regard to Repulse Bay, the money will be used for tomorrow, if we get approval by my colleagues. We will try and direct that money there so that we can start ordering the materials, and so on. At that time, they would be bought and then construction would begin for 2011-12. Those are the plans that we have for Repulse Bay. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Curley. Mr. Ningark.

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Minister for your explanation. He says that he is going try and get his colleagues to agree with him. I thank you, once again, and I give you my support to my request.

I understand exactly where you're coming from and how the health centres are getting old very quickly in Nunavut. We have to replace them with new ones and also make modifications so that they meet the standards and the only way we can do that is by renovating those buildings. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Ningark. (interpretation) I didn't hear a question. Mr. Pauloosie.

Mr. Pauloosie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to express my disappointment with the government's capital planning process.

Mr. Chairman, the 2010-11 capital estimates were introduced in this House on Tuesday, November 24, 2009. Even though previous government had identified certain projects there have

been critical priorities, such as a new health centre for Taloyoak as well as the renovations to the school in Gjoa Haven, the present government continues to delay these projects.

Mr. Chairman, I am very disappointed to see brand new projects coming up in the capital estimates even though these projects have been on the plan for several years. The communities I represent expect the capital projects will proceed according to what has been said and planned in the past. It is very disappointing and frustrating when the government's capital planning process changes directly so quickly.

Mr. Chairman, Nunavummiut had been given to understand that his government's mandate is to build better facilities as well as strengthening our health care and health facilities.

Mr. Chairman, learning other communities will be getting infrastructure such as new recreational facilities before these other critical projects is simply not acceptable to the communities I represent. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Pauloosie. I didn't hear any questions. Perhaps Minister Curley wishes to elaborate on what Mr. Pauloosie commented on. Minister Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation) Just briefly we stated that our department, the Department of Health and Social Services, would like to proceed with the nursing stations or health facilities.

There's one in Repulse Bay that would be placed in the priority category. The assessments were done first of all in Repulse Bay and we have limited funds and we are not saying that we're not going to be building any more health facilities, and for Gjoa Haven if we can access the funds we would be looking at 2014-15 fiscal year for construction.

If we are going to be fair I would have to say that I was talking about aging health facilities in regard to Gjoa Haven and when we were regular members we can say that the Gjoa Haven Health Centre is the newest renovated facility and we used quite a lot of money on that one, and because of that there is a little bit more waiting time for that facility because of the major renovation that was done on it. I will leave it at that, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Curley. Mr. Pauloosie. (interpretation) Did you have another comment?

Mr. Pauloosie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation) It states here that the Taloyoak Health Centre is a priority and I would like that to be treated as such by the Government of Nunavut to have that Taloyoak health centre placed as a priority.

I would like to ask your department and the minister if he could deal with the Taloyoak Health Centre. I would like to make sure that my constituents are made well aware of what's happening in their community by the minister. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Pauloosie. Mr. Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I had made a mistake and I apologize. In the five-year capital plan we are focusing on 2014-15. I had said Gjoa Haven instead of Taloyoak. We could treat that as a priority and make a note to the federal government.

On the FMB, we have been dealing with this issue because it is an emergency and it's a safety issue. We will lobby the federal government and we are looking at the possibility of accessing funds because these facilities are at risk and there are safety issues and I have said such to my federal colleague. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Mr. Pauloosie.

Mr. Pauloosie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the minister for making those comments. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Pauloosie. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess I would echo Mr. Pauloosie's comments as well. With the GN report card and the promotion of *Tamapta*, it appears that the Premier and Cabinet are promoting healthy communities and with such an emphasis on healthy communities it puzzles me why the budget is so small.

On page 3 of his opening remarks he was talking about the \$500,000 for small capital. It mentioned the ventilation system improvements. Could the minister tell me what community that

belongs to or is that too specific? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you. Yes, I will be able to have a capital project, especially with the comment on that, but this is an allocation for future projects obviously. It could be that the ventilation in some aged or old facilities fails to operate, so we need some allowance to enable that. We're not talking about previous projects now.

If you want an example of the previous year; in Rankin Inlet, even though the facility that we have is relatively new, really quite new, the ventilation system was not adequately working, so we had had to approve extra funding even throughout the capital budget that we had it wasn't enough to cover it out of the small capital projects.

So we allow for allowance. We have 24 or so facilities in Nunavut. We want to make sure that at least have some allocations of funding in the event that either a boiler or ventilation system for instance fails. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Curley. Do you still wish to have Ms. Brown expand on the issue? Ms. Brown.

Ms. Brown: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Every February and March, we send a letter out to all of the health regional directors, all of the Community and Government Services regions who do O&M who look after our buildings and so on. We find out what their priorities are for replacement that upcoming year.

There is only \$500,000 so it's not big planning that needs to take place.

We get the list, we have a conference call with the health regional directors, the executive director of corporate services and we prioritize what we can afford out of that \$500,000, keeping a little bit of money back as contingency for going over budget or something else that happens during year end.

Then it is submitted to the deputy minister who gives the go-ahead for that year. What we've done this year; boilers in Resolute Bay, they finally finished off the health centre garage in Sanikiluaq, in Resolute Bay there was also a problem with the generator because it was moved from Sanikiluaq as an emergency and didn't get the garage. So now we have to make some alterations there. These are examples of some of the projects.

The Whale Cove telephone system was done the year before because it was completely obsolete. As the building was old, the wiring cost a lot more than the telephone system. So that's why we them the year before and that's why we report kind of after the fact on what we've spent in the previous year because we don't know if there is going to be boiler or another emergency generator that is going to come up that as the buildings age, have obsolete parts. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Brown. Mr. Elliot.

Mr. Elliot: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And thanks for that answer. It helps. I remembered something about Rankin Inlet and I tried to find it, it's in the

appropriations and that's why I couldn't find it.

I want to talk a little about the replacement health centres; the three of them and the way that they are sort of staggered. How did your department come up with deciding that Taloyoak would be started in 2011 and Repulse Bay would be 2013, and Arctic Bay would be 2014? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Elliot. Minister Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will have our Capital Planning Specialist deal with that one. It has to do with some of the years. I replied to it in Inuktitut I believe. There was previous work that was done with the help of Community and Government Services. The assessment of the aging facilities normally carried over a number of years.

I know Repulse Bay from experience when I was sitting on the regular member's side that Repulse Bay was consistently moved back. Depending on how the capital allocation is done by the Cabinet, obviously projects tend to fall back. In this case, we're dealing with the health facilities, but I will have Rosemary Brown explain a bit about the procedure and how we arrived at our own situation. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Curley. Ms. Brown.

Ms. Brown: The Repulse Bay and the Taloyoak Health Centre projects goes back to the dawn of Nunavut. I am talking back as far as 2000-01. In the way the capital plan was determined,

way back then, funding was based on three year rolling averages.

So we didn't do capital planning like we do now, where we show planning, design, year one construction, whatever. With these rolling averages, each department was given a target. Say if the Department of Health's target was 4,000 one year, and 3,000 the next. It couldn't exceed those targets, so you couldn't plan properly. So if you didn't have enough money to do what you needed to do, the project slipped back in the plan. That's why here we are in 2009-10 coming up to 2010-11, with the Repulse Bay and Taloyoak projects not done.

There are a lot of things that have changed since then. Communities got bigger. The 2008 announcement by the then Minister of Finance, had said bring these projects forward, where the government decided to make them all the same, so that we would have a good prototype. So it would take hours to say why we have got them here.

Basically, you are saying the order is because Repulse Bay has been in the plan the longest, Taloyoak has been in the plan the next longest, Arctic Bay was brought into the plan in 2008, and we're attempting to bring Cape Dorset into the plan. We haven't done the planning yet for Cape Dorset, but we're showing that that is the next health centre that needs consideration for replacement. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Brown. Mr. Elliott. Thank you. Mr. Komoartok.

Mr. Komoartok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a question on page 2 in your opening comments. The

Qikiqtani General Hospital in Iqaluit is fully utilized now, which I am very pleased about.

I am sure there have been some changes, but I was in the lobby a month ago and waited about ten hours. When you go into the hospital, it's kind of an unfriendly place. There are hardly any pictures or any decorations around. I waited ten hours, there is no TV and I waited a very long time in the lobby in the old section. I am sure that there have been some changes in it, but it seems like it wasn't complete.

I want to know if they're still missing some furniture or some decorations that would make it friendlier to the clients. Is it in the planning stages? Is it in the works? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Komoartok. Mr. Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will have my deputy minister respond to your question.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Curley. Mr. Campbell.

Mr. Campbell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) The quick answer is yes, we will be getting eventually more of the furniture into the new hospital as well as the old. There is going to be a new renovated area in the next several years.

It's also our plan to do a bit more cultural orientation to decorate more of these health centres to have our promotion of more culturally sensitive prints and whatever carvings that we

have as well placed in the centres at some point in time. Those are all issues that we're going to be dealing within the next few years.

Once we have most of the health centres that we have and the continuing health centres that we have in the current plan completed. That's the next phase of the process. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Campbell. Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to welcome Hon. Minister Curley, and his officials, Deputy Minister Campbell, and Ms. Brown.

In the opening comments I mentioned that this department has the smallest capital. With that, you also have the most sensitive impact to Nunavummiut as a department, in terms of sensitivity.

I want to commend your efforts, and offer support for the diligent work that you do. Every community has specific issues. I wanted to ask the minister in his opening comments on page 3 it mentioned, "In order to meet these standards, we are requesting \$500,000 for minor projects to be used to replace medical and dental equipment, and vehicles."

I would like to ask the minister if he, or his officials, can explain to me what they mean by vehicles. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. Minister Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): My deputy minister will respond.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Curley. Mr. Campbell.

Mr. Campbell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) When we say vehicles, we are talking about vehicles that are assigned to the health centres, or in Iqaluit the hospital, as well as, in some cases, we do have ATVs, as well as skidoos that we do purchase for some of our health centres, to provide that emergency transportation for our staff to attend to cases at some point in the community. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Campbell. I don't have any names on the list. F-3. Health and Social Services. Branch Summary. Directorate. Total Capital Expenditures. \$1,050,000. Agreed? Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank you for the opportunity to ask this question. In regard to small capital on F-4 you have minor projects.

I had asked earlier in the year in the House with the concern as well in the Committee of the Whole, I believe was that there was a concern for steps and grill for the steps for the Baker Lake Health Centre.

As you may or may not know, there are elderly and those with special needs who have difficulty climbing the stairs due to the extra large pore openings in the present step grills. I had requested to see if a better grill could be installed. I wanted to ask the minister or his

officials if this would be considered as part of the capital planning. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. Minister Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have seen this responded to by email. They needed to rectify the portal openings in the step grill. Once we are able to work, they will assess it. This also can go through minor projects. Through that, I will assess it, review it, and I will keep you abreast as we progress on that when they're working on it.

Thank you for identifying this issue because Baker Lake has the highest population of elders in Nunavut. They said that those portal openings were quite huge. We will work on that. Once we start working on that, I will let the member know. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Curley. Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Mr. Aupaluktuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would also like to thank the minister for acknowledging the elders in Baker Lake because the population of elders in Baker Lake is highest and they identified the problem and they also identified Baker Lake with the highest elder population. I would like to thank the minister for acknowledging that.

I will be waiting for the rectification of this problem. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. That was not a question. We will go back again. (interpretation ends) Health and Social

Services. Branch Summary. Directorate. Total Capital Expenditures. \$1,050,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Go to F-2. Department Summary. Health and Social Services. Details of Expenditures. Capital Expenditures. Total. \$1,050,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Are you agreed that the Department of Health and Social Services is concluded?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. I would like to ask Minister Curley if he wishes to make closing comments.

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the members. We are sensitive to emergency work and we'll still be thinking about how we can work with urgent repairs with regard to the health centres and I will keep the members abreast as we progress.

I would also like to thank Alex Campbell, the Deputy Minister because he works very hard on behalf of Nunavummiut and many people know him now. I would also like to thank Rosemary Brown. She is the Capital Projects Coordinator. I would like to thank her for appearing before the committee. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Curley. I also thank your officials.

Sergeant-at-Arms... Mr. Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Although I may be out of place, Mr. Chairman, before the Sergeant-at-Arms comes here, I would like to acknowledge a couple of people from Rankin Inlet and welcome them to the Legislative Assembly.

>> *Applause*

Welcome, Brian and Maggie.

Chairman (interpretation): We can proceed and continue with our meeting. I would now like to ask the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut, Mr. Arreak, to make his opening remarks.

Sergeant-at-Arms, if you can escort the Speaker in. Mr. Speaker.

**Bill 08 – Appropriation (Capital) Act,
2010-2011 – Legislative Assembly
– Consideration in Committee**

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is a pleasure for me to appear before you and members today to present the proposed 2010-11 Capital Estimates of the Office of the Legislative Assembly.

(interpretation ends) As members will note, the 2010-11 Capital Estimates of the Office of the Legislative Assembly amount to approximately one percent, it's only one percent, Mr. Chairman, of the Government of Nunavut's total planned capital spending for the upcoming fiscal year. Our capital budget continues to be modest and responsible.

The Assembly's capital estimates for 2010-11 continue to include an annual

allocation dedicated to planning for our long-term vision of a new facility.

Our other priority areas for the coming fiscal year include:

- Ongoing investments in equipment, furniture, and fleet renewal for the Assembly and members' offices;
- Further enhancements and upgrades to the Legislative Assembly's audio/visual, *Hansard*, and information technology systems; and
- Acquisition of artwork for the Legislative Assembly building to ensure that it reflects and showcases the rich culture and heritage of our territory.

That concludes my remarks, Mr. Chairman. I would be pleased to answer any questions that members may have. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Do you have any witnesses that you would like to bring to the table?

Speaker: Yes, I do, Mr. Chairman.

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

Some Members: Agreed.

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

For the record, Mr. Speaker, please introduce your witnesses.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my right is John Quirke, Clerk of the Legislative Assembly, and to my left is Michael Rafter, Director of Corporate Services. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Before we proceed, I would like to remind members of the following: Rules 77(1) and 77(2). Keep that in mind if anybody wishes to have any comments on the general comments. Mr. Ningark.

Mr. Ningark: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is one branch of the Legislative Assembly that I find no controversial issue with. So I just want to state for the record that the people who work under this branch are the most welcoming people and if it wasn't for them, there would be times when I would get stuck on the way to Iqaluit from my community.

The moment weather is out and you landed anywhere other than your destination, you made a phone call about hotel and meal arrangements. It's there for you. So I thank them for that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Ningark. I don't have any more names. Mr. Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to welcome the Speaker to the witness table and I would also like to thank him for his dedicated work.

The question I have, the G7 ministers are going to hold their meeting here in February. There is no doubt that they are going to be using this Chamber and we are very proud of that fact. We are hearing that there is going to be high

security. Will they have to renovate this chamber or will they have to rework the doors for high security? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Curley. Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. John Quirke has been working very hard on that, so he will respond to that question.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Quirke.

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There will be no renovations to the facility. However, what they will do is join these entire rows of desks where members come over together. As you know, we have a spare desk where our Law Clerk is, there's an empty spot there. They're building us a brand new desk. So we will get a brand new desk out that is completely wired.

Those are the only changes that will be made to the facility. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Mr. Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't want to ask too many questions but another question is with regard the G7 delegates coming here, the Minister for Economic Development and Transportation discussed this today and also in the Caucus, we discussed the matter of having carvings displayed out there.

Will you be displaying carvings or would they get in the way? Will you

display and showcase Inuit and culture along the walls? It's going to be very good for outsiders to see. I was wondering if you have considered all of that. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Curley. Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we will showcase and display Inuit carvings and handicrafts as much as we are able to and that are with a Nunavut theme. As well, our pages will wear traditional clothing. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's not very often that I get a chance to ask questions now I'm in the Cabinet. I echo Mr. Ningark's comments that the Legislative Assembly does a tremendous job in organization and coordinating everything.

I was truly amazed in the Assembly when I was a Member of the Legislative Assembly how you folks took care us. Now being on the Cabinet side, I see the integration and cooperation and coordination. I still haven't figured out how you guys do it, but you do it very well.

Mr. Chairman, I would just like to ask the Speaker just for the record. I hear the Clerk would give us an update on the new Legislative Assembly building that they have here identified in capital reserve for \$1 million.

Thinking forward in the future, there was a boundaries commission report a couple of years ago that was defeated but it recommended there be 24 Members of the Legislative Assembly and more than likely, there is going to be another boundaries commission that will recommend an increased number of Members of the Legislative Assembly.

Of course, we're all squeezed in here with Members of the Legislative Assembly and staff. So I'm just wondering if you could just give us an update on how that project is proceeding in the planning stages. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Quirke will respond to that question.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Quirke.

Clerk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can mention to members that the Management and Services Board received a briefing from staff in terms of the financing of a new facility and I believe you mentioned at Full Caucus that you get the complete detail in our Full Caucus meeting in January. What I can tell you is that we have identified the site and we identified drawings in terms of the first boundaries commission where they were looking for increased membership to the floor.

If you have two new members where you're sitting right now, we would have to straighten that out a little bit. If there are four members, we have to move this

Assembly right back to the exit sign and that's the easy part. The hard part is no office in the building, etcetera. We've got those concepts in drawings already.

In terms of the overall, the next steps will be during the meeting of the Full Caucus in January to see how far we proceed. That will impact future work of the building and future work of the boundaries commission. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Quirke. Mr. Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wasn't going to discuss this, but as you stated, Mr. Speaker, the pages are going to use traditional clothing during the G7 Summit. I would be in support of you. I have also spoken with your official that the pages' uniforms should be renewed and some pages wear *Kamiit* in the House.

I was wondering if you can look at and review the uniforms of the pages because the pages were using *Kamiit* with no duffle socks to make sure that the decorum is perfect, so that the pages could also utilize traditional clothing during the regular sessions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for giving me the opportunity to speak on the subject.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Kusugak. Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We will look into that. At that time, the pages will be able to use sealskin slippers instead of *Kamiit*. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) I have no more names on my list. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In regard to Mr. Curley's question about high security here during the G7 Summit, we heard on CBC radio as to what the process is going to be. We don't see how much it will cost. Will the federal government help pay for this G7 meeting?

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are working on capital estimates now. Your questions are operations and maintenance questions. Mr. Clerk can, through you, Mr. Chairman, make a supplementary response.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Quirke.

Clerk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There will be no cost to the Assembly other than assisting the Department of Finance and the Department of Public Works federal officials. It would be just our time, so there will be no monetary costs to the Legislative Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Quirke. I have no names anymore. Page A-3. Office of the Legislative Assembly. Branch Summary. Assembly Operations. Capital Expenditures. Total Capital Expenditures. \$1,470,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Page A-5. Office of the Legislative Assembly. Branch Summary. Independent Officers of the Legislative Assembly. Total Capital Expenditures. \$12,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Go back to A-2. Department Summary. Office of the Legislative Assembly. Detail of Expenditures. Total Capital Expenditures. \$1,482,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Does the committee agree that the Office of the Legislative Assembly is concluded?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: I wish to ask Mr. Speaker (interpretation) if you have any closing remarks. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, my colleagues. I also thank the members for making their general comments. Thank you for approving the capital estimates. I also would like to thank my two officials who appeared before the committee with me. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the officials out.

(interpretation ends) What is the wish of the committee? (interpretation) We will move on to Bill 8, *Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2010-2011*. We will go clause-by-clause.

(interpretation ends) Thank you, Members. Before we proceed with the clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 8, I wish to advise members that the pages are currently distributing a package of motions to amend the bill. These motions will be made by the Minister of Finance at the appropriate time. They are required to give effect to the additions and deletions that have been made to the 2010-11 capital estimates. There are four motions in total and each one has been numbered for your reference.

Bill 8, *Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2010-2011*. Clause 1.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 2. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 3. Minister Peterson.

Committee Motion 005 – 3(2): Bill 8, Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2010-2011 - Amend Item 2 of the Schedule

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move that Item 2 of the schedule be amended by striking out \$1,100,000 and substituting \$1,250,000.

Chairman: The motion is in order. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Peterson.

Committee Motion 006 – 3(2): Bill 8, Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2010-2011 - Amend Item 3 of the Schedule

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move that Item 3 from the schedule be amended by striking out \$16,900,000 and substituting \$16,600,000. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: The motion is in order. (interpretation) Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 3. Pardon me. Mr. Peterson.

Committee Motion 007 – 3(2): Bill 8, Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2010-2011 - Amend Total Capital Schedule

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move that the schedule be amended by striking out \$111,435,000 and substituting \$111,285,000 opposite the reference to total capital and total capital appropriation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: The motion is in order. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Mr. Peterson.

Committee Motion 008 – 3(2): Bill 8, Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2010-2011 - Amend Subclause 3(2)

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move that the subclause 3(2) be amended by striking out

\$111,435,000 and substituting \$111,285,000. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: The motion is in order. (interpretation) Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 3, as amended. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 4. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 5. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Is the committee agreed to Bill 8 as revised?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Do members agree that pursuant to Rule 62(2) that the bill can immediately be placed on the Orders of the Day for third reading?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. I now will rise to report progress.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. 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: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Bill 8 and would like to report that Bill 8 is immediately ready for third reading as amended and that six committee motions were adopted. And, Mr. Speaker, I move that the Report of the Committee of the Whole be agreed to. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. There is a motion on the floor. It is seconded by Mr. Arvaluk. The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour, raise your hand. Opposed. The motion is carried.

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

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Clerk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A reminder for Monday that there is a meeting of the Standing Committee on Legislation commencing at nine o'clock to do a clause-by-clause review of Bill 12, Bill 13, and Bill 19. Ministers should check the schedule for the exact time.

Orders of the Day for December 7:

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
 - Motion 14 – 3(2)
17. First Reading of Bills
18. Second Reading of Bills
19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
 - Bill 3
 - Bill 6
 - Bill 7
 - Bill 9
 - Bill 10
 - Bill 11
 - Bill 18
20. Report of the Committee of the Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills
22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you.
Before we adjourn, I would like to invite you to participate at five o'clock for the 2009 Christmas Lighting Ceremony.

(interpretation ends) I wish to invite all members and the general public to join me at 5:00 p.m. this evening on the occasion of the Legislative Assembly's participation in the 2009 Christmas Lights Across Canada Ceremony.

This House stands adjourned until Monday, December 7, at 1:30 p.m.

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 15:20*

