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**DAY 21**

**Tuesday, December 8, 2009**

**Pages 1057 – 1103**

**Iqaluit**

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

## Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

### *Speaker*

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(Uqqummiut)

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(Iqaluit East)  
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**James Arvaluk**  
(Tununiq)

**Moses Aupaluktuq**  
(Baker Lake)

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

**Ron Elliott**  
(Quttiktuq)

**Adamee Komoartok**  
(Pangnirtung)

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

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(Akulliq)

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

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

**Eruk Pauloosie**  
(Nattilik)

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(Cambridge Bay)  
*Minister of Finance, Chair, Financial Management Board; Minister of Justice*

**Allan Rumbolt**  
(Hudson Bay)

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

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

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

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**Iqaluit, Nunavut  
Tuesday, December 8, 2009  
Members Present:**

Honourable Eva Aariak, Honourable James Arreak, Mr. Moses Aupaluktuq, Honourable Tagak Curley, Mr. Ron Elliott, Honourable Lorne Kusugak, Mr. John Ningark, Mr. Johnny Ningeongan, Mr. Paul Okalik, Mr. Eruk Pauloosie, Honourable Keith Peterson, Mr. Allan Rumbolt, Mr. Fred Schell, Honourable Louis Tapardjuk, Honourable Peter Taptuna, Honourable Hunter Tootoo.

**Item 1: Opening Prayer**

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

>>*Prayer*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. A very good afternoon, Premier, Ministers, Members of the Legislative Assembly, and Nunavummiut.

Prior to commencing our proceedings, I have a small announcement to make. For your information, Adamee Komoartok is not attending today's meeting as one of his relatives is sick and he is attending to his relative.

Going to the Orders of the Day. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Minister Hunter Tootoo.

**Item 2: Ministers' Statements**

**Minister's Statement 086 – 3(2): FPT  
Housing Ministers Meeting in  
Gatineau**

**Hon. Hunter Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today as Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation to inform my legislative colleagues and all Nunavummiut of last week's meeting with my federal, provincial, and territorial counterparts.

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure today to report that the meeting in Gatineau, Quebec, was very productive and afforded all of the provincial and territorial ministers an opportunity to discuss our housing concerns with each other and with the Hon. Diane Finley, the federal Minister responsible for Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC), as well as Karen Kinsley, who is the President of Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation.

Mr. Speaker, although there are many differences and specific needs across jurisdictions in Canada, through collaboration, dialogue, and sharing of best practices, it was recognized that we can make positive strides to support each other in our individual goals. Mr. Speaker, this collaboration with federal, provincial, and territorial governments will improve the delivery of programs in areas of housing and homelessness across this great country of ours.

Mr. Speaker, a provincial-territorial group has been formed and Minister Finley has invited us to forward our ideas on how to allow more flexibility and how various programs are funded and implemented.

My colleagues and I were very encouraged by Minister Finley's desire to discuss strategies to help meet the core needs of our populations and her commitment to bring recommendations submitted by this provincial-territorial group to the federal Cabinet in March of 2010.

Mr. Speaker, all ministers attending agreed to build on these positive discussions with Minister Finley and to use the momentum gained to better address housing and homelessness issues in Nunavut and across the country. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister. Ministers' Statements. Minister Keith Peterson.

**Minister's Statement 087 – 3(2):  
Minister's Taskforce to Review the  
Liquor Act**

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to announce the creation of a ministerial taskforce to review the *Liquor Act*. The taskforce will conduct a comprehensive review of the *Liquor Act* and recommend changes moving forward.

Mr. Speaker, this review is long overdue. Liquor legislation in the Northwest Territories and Yukon has recently been revised to reflect their changing needs. We need to ensure that our legislation is consistent and modernized to meet today's needs.

The ministerial taskforce will be made up of a broad range of individuals from organizations across Nunavut that best

represent the needs of Nunavummiut. Letters of invitation will be sent to chosen representatives shortly.

Once membership is formed, the taskforce will attempt to visit all of our communities. The taskforce will provide individuals and organizations with an opportunity to share feedback and opinions on the *Liquor Act* and the overall issue of alcohol in our communities. Information collected and recommendations will be included in the final report.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to providing an update on the progress of the taskforce during our next sitting. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister. Ministers' Statements. Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Rumbolt.

**Item 3: Members' Statements**

**Member's Statement 124 – 3(2):  
Successful Sanikiluaq Course**

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to inform the House of a successful course that was recently offered in my community of Sanikiluaq.

The course was an Accounting/Bookkeeping Program which was run and funded by the Municipality of Sanikiluaq. I would like to thank Ruby Watson and acknowledge all the hard work that she provided while teaching this course. I would also like applaud the graduates of this course; Mary Inooktoolook, Brenda Qapik,



Louisa Meko, Caroline Mahiuq, Wendy Pearce, Ala Saktak, and Lucy Tookalook.

Mr. Speaker, over the past year we have held a number of hearings on the report of the Auditor General of Canada. A theme that has emerged in every hearing is the need for more trained financial professionals in Nunavut. I am very pleased that seven of my hard working constituents have taken a step forward in this important area.

Mr. Speaker, as today is our last day of sitting in 2009, I would like to conclude by taking this opportunity to thank my constituents and family for all their support and encouragement to me over the past year.

I am honoured to have the opportunity to raise issues of concern to my community and I look forward to continuing to do so in 2010. I would especially like to thank my Constituency Assistant, Mary Inuktaluk of all her hard work.

Mr. Speaker, being away from home for weeks at a time is especially tough on our children. It is my hope that the work that we accomplish in the Legislative Assembly will create a more positive legacy for all of our youth. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 125 – 3(2): Best Wishes of the Season**

**Mr. Ningark:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In a day or two we will be going home to our communities and going separate ways.

I want to thank all my colleagues and the staff of the Legislative Assembly and you, Mr. Speaker. The only way that we can work for the benefit of all the people in the North is to work together. As I stated, we will soon be going home. I wanted to wish all of you a very merry Christmas and safe holidays.

I also wanted to wish the people of Repulse Bay and the people of Kugaaruk season's greetings, especially my wife Celine, our children, and grandchildren all the best wishes of the season. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 126 – 3(2): Merry Christmas and Happy New Year**

**Mr. Pauloosie** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, would like to send my greetings to Gjoa Haven and Taloyoak. I wish them a very merry Christmas and to have a safe Christmas along with their children and to have a happy new year.

To all my constituents of Taloyoak and Gjoa Haven and also to my colleagues, I wish them all the best wishes too during Christmas to you and all your families. Have very good holidays and thank you very much for always supporting me when I needed support. I also thank you,

Mr. Speaker. Have a safe holiday during Christmas to you and your family. Have a good New Year to all of you.

I wish all the best wishes to Nunavummiut. I wish a merry Christmas and a happy New Year to all the residents of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Pauloosie. Members' Statements. Member for Amittuq, Mr. Tapardjuk.

**Member's Statement 127 – 3(2): Best Wishes to Everyone**

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too would like to send my best wishes to Igloolik and Hall Beach, especially John Illupalik, my CA in Igloolik, and Lenny Curley in Hall Beach because they worked very hard during the session. Also to my colleagues, I wish them a very safe Christmas season and we will participate during Christmas games.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to tell my constituents that during the session we have been provided with very good support by interpreters and the table officers and sometimes it gets confusing during the session.

Also, Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank my colleagues, the Cabinet members, and also to our EAs. I would also like to thank them for always supporting us and this is a message to my colleagues that we are provided with great support during our work here in Iqaluit and I wish you well too for the next year.

Mr. Speaker, to you and your staff, have a wonderful Christmas. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tapardjuk. Members' Statements. Member for Iqaluit East, Ms. Aariak.

**Member's Statement 128 – 3(2): Best Wishes for 2010**

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, would like to send my greetings to my constituents and wish them a merry Christmas and also wish them a safe holiday season. I know that they will take part in the Christmas games. The Christmas season is unique and it's a happy time for many people and it gets families together.

Also, we should remember those people who are alone during the Christmas season and those people who want someone to talk with. I wish them well so that they can go and talk to someone else. The whole family and all the people of Nunavut, we wish them well during Christmas.

Also, during this Christmas season, since we have been here for a whole year and a bit, I would like to thank all of my colleagues and have a very merry Christmas and a safe holiday. Have a good rest because you worked very hard during the session. When members go home, they work very hard on behalf of their constituents.

I would also like to state that during the weekend, I got a son-in-law. We were very happy. Also during the weekend,

my brother from Igloolik became a grandfather.

In 2010, let's have a good year and good expectations. To you, Mr. Speaker, thank you for coordinating the session and have a good, safe holiday, as well as all of our staff. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 129 – 3(2):  
Christmas Greetings**

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As this is the last day of session in this year, I rise today to send a Christmas greeting to my constituency of Quttiktuq.

Mr. Speaker, it's hard to believe that it's been over a year that I have been serving the good people of Grise Fiord, Resolute Bay, and Arctic Bay. It's been a privilege working with all of you.

The experience of communicating with the outstanding individuals of the High Arctic is always refreshing, stimulating, and fulfilling. Mr. Speaker, I am thankful that I have the honour to serve in my capacity as MLA for Quttiktuq.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the many staff members who have helped me to do my job so effectively. There are my constituency assistants in the communities, the staff here at the Legislative Assembly, who are always willing to sit down and help me understand different situations, provide support, and go above and beyond the

call of duty to get the job done, and of course, I could not forget our interpreter/translators. I would like to say "thank you" from the bottom of my heart for making 2009 a very rewarding year.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to wish everyone happy holidays and best of luck in the upcoming year; may your holidays be safe and happy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 130 – 3(2):  
Looking Forward to 2010**

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was in the midst of drafting my letter to Santa Claus, so that I could pass it onto Mr. Elliott as he is representing the jurisdiction that supposedly houses him. Once I have finalized my draft, I will be presenting it to Mr. Elliott so that he can drop it off.

I am asking in the letter to Santa Claus on behalf of all Nunavummiut, for their presents, which I will pass onto Mr. Elliott, so he can drop it off when he hops on the plane home to the North Pole, home of Santa Claus.

I am quite appreciative of the opportunity to have been here for this past year as it is coming to an end, and I am expectant that we will see more pleasant things in the upcoming New Year. Further, as the members will be travelling home shortly, I offer our hospitality during your last few days in

Iqaluit for 2009, to each and every one of you.

Additionally, I would be remised not to mention my fellow residents in Iqaluit for whom I am very grateful as they continue to provide timely advice at every opportunity, and they also express their opinions without fear of retribution or intimidation when offering these tidbits of advice.

I extend my warmest appreciation to all of the people who have provided advice, as they buoy up my spirit especially when I have had to face difficult situations, and I have taken every opportunity to visit my constituents when presented with one.

As a matter of fact, just recently I held a meeting with my constituents and I feel like a new man after I had an opportunity to meet with them. I thank them from the bottom of my heart, and I feel as if my heart is not spacious enough to receive all of their warmth.

Therefore, I extend my deepest and most heartfelt gratitude to my constituents and I wish them the happiest holidays during the upcoming Christmas season. My deepest thanks to you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 131 – 3(2): Best Wishes to Constituents**

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe in

priorities, and today I wish to thank our Lord God for his stewardship over of all Nunavummiut every single day.

To my constituents in Whale Cove and Rankin Inlet South, I thank them as they voted me in as their representative. It seems that this year has just flown by. Although I want to visit my communities, it is sometimes quite difficult to schedule it in, especially when you become inundated with your duties.

I wish to apologize for that oversight. I also wish to extend my gratitude to my constituency assistants, David Kritterdlik and Johnny One. I thank them very much for providing all of the information on developments in the communities and of any concerns stemming from the people.

Based on requirements of the position, we have had to settle temporarily in Iqaluit, and I extend my deepest thanks to all of the residents as they are very hospitable and welcoming every time we meet them. I would like to thank them for their reception to my wife, family, and daughters.

We still do have a lot of business to do during the month of December. It's impossible not to remember family members, who passed away and all those family members, when they think of their loved ones, I am with you.

Also, our Premier said that her daughter was married this weekend, and I also would like to congratulate Jim and Sue Shirley for getting a daughter-in-law. In the month of December, during the Christmas season, let us Nunavummiut remember why it is Christmas.

Mr. Speaker, a very merry Christmas to you and all of you. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Kusugak. Members' Statements. Member for Baker Lake, Mr. Aupaluktuq.

**Member's Statement 132 – 3(2):  
Baker Lake Youth and  
Nunavummiut**

**Mr. Aupaluktuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to thank and to send my Christmas greetings during the Christmas season. First of all, I would like to thank my mother, Pukirnak, for always providing any form of support. Every time I have questions, my mother is always there for me to help me, and I thank her.

To my sisters, my brothers, and my older brothers, they have always provided support and advice to me. When I am sitting in the House, their support has been very good to me, and made me strong. My aunts, my uncles, and my nieces and nephews, I love you all, my cousins from my mother's and father's side.

Especially the elders, who are in the hospice centre, have a good Christmas, and we will visit you when I get there. Also, the elders' society in Baker Lake, *Qilautimiut*, I send my best wishes to you. Merry Christmas, and also for those people who work at Martha Talerook Elders Hospice. They take care of our elders and I thank them very much.

(interpretation ends) To all the children and youth in Baker Lake and Nunavut,

may you enjoy the youthful spirit that inspires us all, be safe, celebrate, and take part in games and activities, and remember to honour our culture and take pride.

To all the educators, teachers, and support staff for providing and sharing knowledge that empower our youth to be able to bridge their lives with knowledge and confidence. Their devotion to raising them to the next level in all areas of life will allow our youth to make the necessary steps to advance to better themselves. I admire your hard work.

To the Baker Lake Blizzard coaches, many volunteers, and support staff in the community, you have given dignity and honour of who and where our kids, and young adults are and where they come from in our community. You are truly heroes in giving Baker Lake students spirit and devotion to excellence, I honour you.

Mr. Speaker, I ask for unanimous consent to continue my Member's Statement. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Aupaluktuq**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleagues as well.

The one most important person who has also allowed me to do my job is my Constituency Assistant, Lucy Evo. With her knowledge and skills, her advice, I am able to perform my duties. She is the

link that I have with the community that keeps me informed. For her hard work, and tireless efforts, and constant information, I thank her.

To my colleagues, Mr. Speaker, Madam Premier, Cabinet Ministers, and MLAs for your willingness and openness to work together for the betterment of Nunavut. I have learned a lot watching, hearing, and listening to each and every one of you.

To the Office of the Clerk, your hard work is never appreciated enough. All the support staff and in particular, the policy department, for your tireless research and members' services, for your professionalism and hard work that no one sees in the background.

A very special holiday season and wishes to the Sergeant-at-Arms. Your honour, dignity, and making the House a respectful place is a joy to come into every time.

Most importantly, to all the translators and interpreters, for your commitment and professional standards unlike any known and your work is well respected. For that, I give my sincere and heartfelt thank you to the many hours you put in. Without you, all that is shared in the Legislative Assembly would not be.

To all the pages throughout the sittings, your work is very much appreciated and it actually helps to have refreshments to keep focused, so all of your hard work is appreciated.

To all the professional service providers in various forms and levels to our communities in Nunavut, I thank you all for your commitments and dedication to

Nunavut. Thank you for sharing your skills, experience, and contributions to Nunavut.

Just a friendly reminder, remember that it is a privilege to work in Nunavut. Please respect our uniqueness and strong heritage as northerners. Your skills are welcome in sharing and educating your colleagues in the workplace and please follow procedures, etiquette, protocol, service standards, code of ethics, mission statements, as well as vision statements. Let us live in peace and harmony. Let us share a safe and happy holiday season. Together, we can strengthen Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 133 – 3(2):  
Merry Christmas and Best Wishes  
for 2010**

**Mr. Ningeongan** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year to my wife Elisapee and to our family.

I wish a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year to Angela Gibbons and Kyra Tanuyak, my Constituency Assistants.

To all of the people of Chesterfield Inlet and Coral Harbour, and the residents of Nunavut, have a very merry Christmas. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. Members' Statements. Member for Rankin Inlet North, Mr. Curley.

**Member's Statement 134 – 3(2):  
Thanks to Constituents and  
Nunavutmiut**

**Hon. Tagak Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What a joyous occasion we face today. First of all, we have many people to express our gratitude to, especially Iqaluit residents because of the warm hospitality they extend towards us.

When Sally and I first moved to Iqaluit, we really wanted to extend our warm appreciation to Iqalummiut. Although we do not see every resident daily, whenever we meet Iqalummiut, they are always so gracious and welcoming.

I thank my fellow members. As we reach the close of our first year as members, I know that many Nunavutmiut are proud of our efforts, of our colleagues in the Cabinet, and I am happy to note that I receive a lot of assistance and support for the many duties under this portfolio.

First of all, Mr. Speaker, I wanted to state that this has been a particularly challenging year for Nunavutmiut, due to the outbreak of the new influenza strain H1N1. However, we would like to expect, as we close out this year and prepare for the year 2010, that we hopefully are past that cycle of sickness that was a major point of concern.

With regard to my constituents in Rankin Inlet, I wish to inform them that Sally and I will be spending the Christmas holidays here in Iqaluit,

however, we are not going to forget Rankin Inlet. Based on the growth of Rankin Inlet, we want all students and residents there to know that we will not forget them for even one iota. Further down the road, depending on our schedules, we will be returning to the community for periodic visits.

I also wish to inform the residents that I will be travelling to Rankin Inlet tomorrow and I will be spending several days there until Monday, so if any constituent wishes to make an appointment or to call me, they will have some time to call me while I am there.

Mr. Speaker, what I wanted to speak to initially, was that although we underwent an extremely trying and challenging period this year, we expect in our future to continue with our collaborative efforts to resolve the issues we face.

I also am expectant that during the celebration of the birth of Christ, all families will draw closer and have a healthy, safe holiday while together during this season, at least those families who can get together to celebrate the holidays.

For all of our people who have suffered through the loss of a loved one, I would hope that my fellow Inuit can provide them with country food as we have many families facing this situation today. Country food becomes hard to attain when you have lost your source, and many families are loath to ask for assistance, especially when asking for country food.

I ask my fellow residents to empathize with them and to ensure that their needs

are looked after, wherever they may be, as all communities have residents who have lost their loved ones.

I wish to stop at this juncture, but would like to conclude by telling my fellow bowhead whaling crew members from last summer, that I am extremely proud of their accomplishments. My colleague, the Hon. Lorne Kusugak alluded to this activity and mentioned their names. I also wish to extend my gratitude to our captain for this activity, Mr. Paul Kanayuk, as he provided the depth of his knowledge and experience during our bowhead whale hunt.

I hope that all Nunavutmiut will have a happy and joyous Christmas season in your home communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Curley. Members' Statements. Member for Iqaluit Centre, Mr. Tootoo.

**Member's Statement 135 – 3(2):  
Thank You and Merry Christmas**

**Hon. Hunter Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As was mentioned, this is probably our last sitting day for this year. I think it has been a very productive and a learning year for all of us in our capacities.

I would like to thank everybody for, as has been said already, committing to working together. I think we have seen some great debates, discussions, and questions, especially great answers over the last few weeks, so I think it's good to hear that. I'm glad to see everybody

committed to working together and everybody doing their job.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to wish a very merry Christmas to almost everybody. I think everybody should have and hopefully will have safe journeys home, a safe and happy holiday season.

I would like to especially thank my staff here in the building, my staff with the Housing Corporation and the Power Corporation, and also your staff, Mr. Speaker. I also would like to say a special thanks and merry Christmas to not only our interpreters who are here but also our technical staff who never get recognized for the hard work that they do.

Also, thank you and merry Christmas to my family.

Lastly but not least, Mr. Speaker, a special thanks and a merry Christmas to the people who I have the pleasure and the honour of representing as the constituents of Iqaluit Centre. To everybody, I would like to wish a merry Christmas and a *Joyeux Noel! Merci.*

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Members' Statements. Member for Cambridge Bay, Mr. Peterson.

**Member's Statement 136 – 3(2):  
Merry Christmas and Thanks to  
Everyone**

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to express my sincere thanks to my constituents, my family, and Eve and Irene, my two



Constituency Assistants back in Cambridge Bay, for their tremendous support this year. I wish them a merry Christmas and safe holidays. I assure them that I don't actually live in Iqaluit. Cambridge Bay is my home and I'm returning home this year. I hope to see them there.

I would like to thank my Cabinet colleagues and all MLAs for their tremendous work this year on behalf of Nunavummiut. Even though sometimes we agree or disagree and it gets a little contentious here, we're all working for the same common cause, our communities and the people we represent. Merry Christmas and we will see you again next month. It's not very far off until we start our main estimates.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to express my thanks and appreciation to my staff in the Department of Finance, the staff in the Department of Justice, all of the Legislative Assembly staff, the folks who make us all look good as ministers and as MLAs, happy holidays.

I would like to give special thanks to Mr. Nick Pashkoski, my Executive Assistant who keeps me on the straight and narrow. We had some good arguments and debates, but I sometimes wonder who the minister is. He does a tremendous job out there, so thanks, Nick.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the people of Iqaluit. I have spent a lot of time in Iqaluit. It has become like a home away from home.

Special thanks to the Filipino community who feed me well. They keep me in good practice on karaoke.

The folks at Atii Fitness Centre who keep me in good shape from all of the food I'm getting at the Filipino Christmas party, I would like to mention all of those folks.

I would just like to express a very happy holiday season to the people of Iqaluit and thanks for making me welcome in the city. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Members' Statements. Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Minister Louis Tapardjuk.

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

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

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This question was asked by Mr. Ningark, MLA for Akulliq. It was Question 150 – 3(2) asked on December 2, 2009, and the subject was Income Support Levels. Because of the length of the reply, I would like enter it as read.

#### **Questions:**

- 1) I have been told in Repulse Bay and Kugaaruk and I have seen individuals who need help, especially in the wintertime. The homeowners in wintertime have no form of making money. They have no other way except to go to income support. I have been told that they were given \$500 for income support per household. It was \$250 prior to that. I'm sure the minister stated

- that he was going to look into it. Has he looked into this already?
- 2) The homeowners who have no form of income, how much are they given through the Fuel Subsidy Program every month, especially in the wintertime?
  - 3) For example, if the individual does not earn any income or does not win bingo, if they need assistance, will they be given \$1,000 or over?
  - 4) I have been told that the income assistance they would receive was \$500 previously and now it went down to \$250. Perhaps I can provide a response to the individual that if you require assistance and if you're eligible, you will be able to receive more than that \$500.

**Response:**

**Introduction**

I would like to respond to Mr. Ningark's questions posed on Wednesday, December 2, 2009, concerning income support levels. First, I would like to take the opportunity to clarify the difference between the Income Support Program and the Senior Fuel Subsidy Program.

**The Income Support Program**

The Income Support Program is a needs-tested program that is available to those who are unable to pay for their own and their dependents' basic needs, including

food, shelter, fuel, and utilities. Program applicants must complete a needs assessment with an income support worker to establish whether or not they are eligible for program benefits. There is no set dollar amount that an applicant may receive because it depends on the specific circumstances of the individual case. The total amount of assistance is based on overall needs, where a person lives, the size of the family, and the person's ability to provide for his or her own financial resources.

**The Senior Fuel Subsidy Program**

The senior fuel subsidy is an income-tested program that helps seniors with the high cost of home heating fuel. This program is available to eligible homeowners who are 60 years of age or older and do not receive assistance under the Income Support Program. The senior fuel subsidy divides Nunavut communities into zones. Fuel costs are reimbursed up to the maximum number of litres allocated for that community, no matter what the cost is. Eligibility is based on the combined homeowners' annual net income which determines whether they may be eligible for a full or partial subsidy. If the combined homeowner income is higher than the maximum income threshold, they may be eligible for benefits under this program.

**Conclusion**

The member is asking for a specific dollar amount for which an individual may be entitled to help

with the cost of home heating fuel. This information is difficult to provide in a response because eligibility for both of these programs is determined on a case-by-case basis. There is no specific amount set out in the regulations for these needs. Community members who have specific questions about their eligibility for benefits under these programs may wish to contact the director of career and early childhood services in their region.

Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. We will deem it as read. Returns to Oral Questions. Hon. Louis Tapardjuk.

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

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This question was asked by Mr. Ningeongan, Member for Nanulik. It was Question 156 – 3(2) asked on December 2, 2009. The subject was Establishing Graduation Standards. Because of the length of the reply, I would like it deemed as read.

**Question:**

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

**Response:**

Under the new *Education Act* students may remain in school until the age of 21. If a student feels that he or she needs to

upgrade their course studies, they may return to school for this purpose. Students also may opt to take upgrading programs offered by Nunavut Arctic College.

The department is working on assessment tools and procedures to ensure that students progressing through the school system are meeting the expectations of the curriculum. Training on assessment procedures for school staff will continue.

**Question** (First Supplementary):

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

**Response:**

The department has a career plan process starting in grade nine with students and parents that reviews high school program options. Before entering grade 10, the course work students need to compete in order to attend post-secondary, apprenticeship, or employment opportunities is to be identified. Schools, students, and parents have the responsibility to ensure that course loads meet career plans within the options available at the school

If the program is followed and students participate actively in learning by taking all of the required courses and successfully completing them, there should not be a problem entering their

chosen career path. The key is to ensure the student completes all required courses. Students need to be careful to take a full set of grade 12 courses as English alone is not sufficient in most cases.

The department is reviewing their graduation requirements and will be implementing additional mandatory courses in the fall of 2011. Consultations with schools, students, and the district education authorities are occurring this year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. The reply will be deemed as read. Returns to Oral Questions. Minister Hunter Tootoo.

**Return to Oral Question 194 – 3(2):  
Business Plan Cycle**

**Hon. Hunter Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would just like to clarify for the record a response to a question that was asked of me by Member for Iqaluit West yesterday. I want to correct the record or set the record straight. As we all know, Big Brother is upstairs listening to make sure to catch us when we do say things that are not as accurate as they should be.

Yesterday, I stated that I tabled the Qulliq Energy Corporation's 2008-09 annual report. In fact, the actual report that I tabled was the 2007-08 report. So I would like to correct the record there. I would also like to add, Mr. Speaker, that the Qulliq Energy Corporation's annual report for 2008-09 is currently being worked on and upon signing off on the financial statements from the Office of the Auditor General, I hope to be in a

position to be able to table this report this coming spring.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to address the member's questions in relation to the Qulliq Energy Corporation's Business Plan. At the direction of the board of directors to the management of the Qulliq Energy Corporation to prepare a five-year corporate plan which encompasses the corporation's business plan as well as capital infrastructure planning over a five-year period. I hope also to be able to table that in the next year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister. Returns to Oral Questions. Minister Tagak Curley.

**Return to Oral Question 193 – 3(2):  
No Home Care/Community  
Health/Social Services in High  
Arctic**

**Hon. Tagak Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is a question that was asked by Mr. Elliott, the Member for Quttiktuq, on December 7, 2009, Oral Question 193 – 3(2). I would like it to be deemed as read.

On December 7, 2009, the Hon. Member for Quttiktuq, Ron Elliott, asked a question regarding the status of home care positions in Resolute Bay and Grise Fiord.

Mr. Speaker, as of today, I can advise that in Resolute Bay, two individuals were hired in November and currently share one home and community care worker position on a casual basis. In Grise Fiord, the hiring process is underway to staff one home and community care worker position. This

position will also be filed on a casual basis.

Mr. Speaker, the main source of funding for the Home and Community Care Program is Health Canada's First Nations and Inuit Home and Community Care Program. Funding provided to the Department of Health and Social Services has historically been based on the population of the community which requires services.

I would like to advise the member that the department reviews its staffing complement for home care positions across the territory regularly, based on the needs of clients and communities and available financial resources to ensure that its services are meeting the needs of Nunavutmiut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Your reply will be deemed as read. Returns to Oral Questions. (interpretation ends) Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Peterson.

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

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It gives me great pleasure and honour to recognize a constituent of mine. He is also a Government of Nunavut employee in Cambridge Bay, Mr. Seech Kitjatasingh. He is sitting over behind Mr. Schell.

Mr. Kitjatasingh is a child protection worker in Cambridge Bay. He helps kids in Cambridge Bay, and throughout the Kitikmeot. He has very valid work to do for the government and for all Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Welcome to the Gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Tootoo.

**Hon. Hunter Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome a couple of people that are here in the Gallery. I was hoping it would be three, but one of the members had to fly out to Ottawa at lunchtime and that was Trevor Gloyn, who is the General Manager of the Prairie and the Territory's Region for Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation.

The two that are here, Mr. Speaker, first off is Tom Kerwin, who is the Manager of the Northern Housing Centre. I would like to welcome him to the Gallery and inform you that it's been great working with him. Also with the individual sitting next to him, Mr. Speaker, not only is he the corporate representative for Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation here in Nunavut, also another important role he plays here, he is also a constituent of mine.

I would like to welcome both of them to the Gallery, and look forward to the continued collaboration and working relationship that we have developed with them over the last little while. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery.

Members, I, too, would like to recognize our pages who are working for us today. They are Geneva Noble, Jennifer

Amagoalik, and Levi Enuaraq-Strauss.  
Thank you for assisting all our members.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Item 6. Oral Questions.  
Member for Iqaluit West, Mr. Okalik.

### Item 6: Oral Questions

#### Question 195 – 3(2): Review of Income Test for Homeowners

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) For the benefit of the Minister of Housing's constituent, he didn't say his name, Terry Ma, welcome to the Assembly by the way. In line with housing, I would like to ask the Minister for Housing.

Over the last few days, I have been busy visiting my constituents, in particular, a theme that has developed is for homeowners who are saving our government a lot of money but need some help along the way. I would like to ask the Minister for Housing if there is going to be a review of the income test for home renovation programs that are in place today.

I know that we have gone through this exercise almost annually, but perhaps we could remove it or increase the amounts because today to own a home is not cheap. To buy a home is a lot more expensive than it was in years past. So I would like the minister to see if there can be a review done on this income test that's in place today. (interpretation)  
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Okalik.  
Minister responsible for the Nunavut

Housing Corporation, Hon. Hunter Tootoo.

**Hon. Hunter Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the member for raising that issue. I know that just over the last little while, and that's something that I've raised a lot on the past, is helping homeowners. We got good news with the fuel rates going down and things like that. That should help in some cases.

Also, Mr. Speaker, I know that the member is aware that in the recent years, there have been some changes to the income limits. We've increased the limits up to \$125,000. We've also, in some program areas, put in additional amounts for dependents living in the household, and things like that. So there have been some changes. Some of them have happened over the last few years.

Mr. Speaker, I think as part of the whole report card process, there is a commitment on behalf of the corporation, not only to review that program but all its programs to ensure that they are adequately serving the target group that they are there to serve.  
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) The unfortunate part is that we are all focused on trying to conserve energy and those things that are taking place elsewhere, but for homeowners they are challenged in some ways because they fall just over that income test that's in there today but at the same time they want to renovate and find ways to reduce

consumption of fossil fuels and do their part, but they are not eligible for the programs that are in place today.

So I ask the minister to review this fairly soon in time for next shipping season because these homeowners have to plan well in advance to get their home renovations done. So I ask the minister to do that, perhaps announce increases or move up the income test in the coming session. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Hunter Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the member is aware, as I said a lot of changes that have been made to the income limits before.

The Northern Allowance or Settlement Allowance is something that has been not taken into account when looking at the income limits. Also, in some cases, isolated post allowance and other similar allowances were eliminated as assessable income in order to allow more individuals, especially dual income families, to be able to take advantage of some of the programs that are offered.

As I said Mr. Speaker, the corporation has committed to reviewing all of its programs to ensure the adequacy of them for the target group that they are targeted for. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) As I said, these homeowners need assistance today but are willing to wait. It would be

nice if we could announce some assistance for the coming shipping season because it's too late this year for most of them and if the minister could commit to doing the review and reporting back during our next session. Is he willing to commit to that process? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Hunter Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can't commit to moving that quickly on that. I mean that's just in another month or so that we would be moving forward and I'm sure, as the members are aware, now I'm reviewing programs and putting together ideas for new programs. It is something that we want to be very thoughtful and very thorough and careful of doing so that we don't rush in to doing something just because somebody wants it done.

I believe if we want to change something we need to make sure we know exactly what it is we want to change, how we want to implement that change to be able to ensure the most effective use of our resources. So I will commit that we will do a very thorough review. That will be looked at but I can't commit to providing it for the next sitting. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) These homeowners are saving us a lot of money today.

They're not asking much. They're just asking that this program be reviewed so

that they can continue to own their homes and do their part in reducing consumption of fossil fuels which are on the agenda today, and hope that they can continue on and have a more productive home and someplace where they can stay warm over the winter months in the coming years.

So that's all they're asking and it's not a big commitment. It's something that can save us a lot of money in the long run. So that's all that they are asking for. It would be a nice Christmas present for them. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Hunter Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Someone was conserving energy there by not turning the light on right away, I guess.

Mr. Speaker, as I said, the member is very well aware these are some of the issues that I have been raising for the last 10 years and some of those changes finally got implemented just two years ago, so it does take time to do things.

We don't just make a snap decision that may not be the best decision to move forward in. So that's why I said that the corporation will be doing a comprehensive review and evaluation of all of its programs and when that's done, any changes that will be made will be coming out of that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Question 196 – 3(2): King William Island Park and Explorer Exhibition Centre**

**Mr. Pauloosie:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of CLEY.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to follow up on the questions that I asked in Committee of the Whole last Friday regarding the Northwest Passage Park and Heritage Centre.

Mr. Speaker, the existing Northwest Passage Park in Gjoa Haven is simply a walking trail that consists of nine sign posts throughout the community of Gjoa Haven. There are references to the Heritage Centre in Gjoa Haven, but this is actually the elders' centre. And there are references to the Northwest Passage Museum, but this is just a small display on the second floor of the hamlet office.

Mr. Speaker, there is no centre dedicated to the display of historical information and artifacts related to explorers.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the minister if he would be willing to ask his officials to review the possibility of establishing a dedicated heritage centre in conjunction with a more comprehensive educational heritage park on King William Island to accommodate the high tourist and research traffic in the area. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

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



thank the member for raising his question. With respect to the grants and contributions for those types of items, our department does have funds available which are allotted for museums, heritage centres and visitor centres.

We have a smattering of each throughout Nunavut and all that is required is an application or a letter of request submitted to our department either by the local hamlet or other organization that is a group charged with managing the centre.

If there is such a group in Gjoa Haven, we would welcome any request for assistance from them for their planned projects, Mr. Speaker

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

**Mr. Pauloosie:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are many sources of information in Gjoa Haven with respect to Amundsen and his crew as the first successful exploration team to travel the Northwest Passage. However, there is not enough information on display with respect to Captain Sir John Franklin's lost expedition.

I believe that Gjoa Haven should have a dedicated centre to display all explorers' artefacts and related items as well as information on the role that the Inuit had or could have had at the time.

Does the minister agree that this would be a good opportunity for the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth to showcase their commitment to providing Nunavummiut

and visitors with information about our history? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With respect to my response, I agreed totally and I agree with you wholeheartedly. Nonetheless, without the paper trail associated with a request, it is impossible to know what a community would like or if they plan on building a centre.

My immediate response is that I would only be too happy to work with the residents of Gjoa Haven on both their ideas towards a local centre or museum, or on their ideas for a heritage centre. If they wanted to work towards a museum with archaeological items, we would have to just receive their submission and once the member has submitted a request letter, then we can initiate the process towards planning for this future facility, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Pauloosie** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This will be my last question to the minister, but firstly I wish to thank him for his response to my earlier question regarding this matter.

Once I return home to Gjoa Haven, I look forward to presenting this information and application form to the group, and I will ask that they proceed with the application and to send it to the minister. I appreciate the information that the minister has provided, which I

can then pass on. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Question 197 – 3(2): NHC Purchase of Iqaluit Warehouse**

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

Yesterday, the Legislative Assembly gave consideration to the Nunavut Housing Corporation's request for \$750,000 in partial funding for the acquisition of a warehouse in Iqaluit for the Iqaluit Housing Authority and office space for the Nunavut Housing Corporation itself. The minister informed the House that the total amount for this warehouse will be in the neighbourhood of \$5.5 million.

Can the minister indicate when the government will be requesting the remaining funding and can he explain why this item was not included in the Nunavut Housing Corporation's 2010-11 capital estimates? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Hunter Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe there were three questions there and I will do my best to answer them all. If I miss one I please

ask the member to remind me and I will answer it.

It was indicated yesterday in the Committee of the Whole that the overall cost for this new warehouse and office facility is \$5.5 million. Mr. Speaker, the reason that it wasn't in our current capital budget that we just went through is the fact that we all have targets to work into and once those targets were identified, funding for a facility for the Iqaluit Housing Authority fell off the thing.

But since then some issues came up with the current facility that they're in. There are some health and safety issues at the facility that Iqaluit Housing Authority currently is in. There are certain areas of it that were closed off by the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission and it was identified that we needed to find a way to address their needs so that they can continue to maintain and serve the over 1,000 units that they're responsible for looking after here in Iqaluit.

Having said that Mr. Speaker, that's why it wasn't on the plan. It's been something that we've been hoping to get included for a number of years now. We weren't able to do that. We were able to identify through this supp bill of \$475,000 as a partial commitment on the \$5.5 million. The other \$4.75 million, Mr. Speaker, will be coming out of the corporation's bank account, or if you want to call it, their working capital.

As I have committed to members in standing committee, that if the corporation was planning to use any of its working capital on anything, that I would be formally informing all

Members of the Legislative Assembly by writing and now that that was approved yesterday, I can let the member know that they will all be getting a letter to that effect very quickly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for his clarification on that issue. Can the minister explain what the process is for housing associations in smaller communities to request that the Nunavut Housing Corporation buy them new warehouses? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Hunter Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm sure the member is very well aware, any capital projects that a community or local housing organization, if they feel they need a new office space, or warehouse facility to operate out of in a community, those requests are forward onto the district office, whether it's in the Kitikmeot, Kivalliq, or here in the Qikiqtaaluk to the district offices, and then they are forwarded on through the whole capital planning process in that way. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Question 198 – 3(2): Status of Ikummatiit Energy Strategy**

**Mr. Ningeongan:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Energy, the Hon. Lorne Kusugak.

As we have heard over the last couple of weeks, Nunavut will be represented at the Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen. The minister made a statement last week concerning the government's *Ikummatiit* Energy Strategy.

Mr. Speaker, on page 14 of the *Ikummatiit* Energy Strategy, it indicates, "The Government of Nunavut will motivate Nunavummiut to purchase energy efficient vehicles."

Can the minister indicate exactly how the GN will do this, and confirm whether it is looking at providing any kind of assistance, or incentives to Nunavutmiut to purchase energy efficient vehicles, snow machines, or outboard motors? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. Minister of Energy, Hon. Lorne Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank Mr. Ningeongan for posing that very excellent question. We do have to look at energy efficient vehicles, snow mobiles, outboard motors, and so on. In your question, you asked us what kind of assistance or incentives we would provide to Nunavummiut to purchase energy efficient equipment. We have to look at the details first of all even though it's written like that.

Although we have provisions to provide assistance to the homeowners where

they get a rebate from the government if they purchase energy efficient refrigerators, stoves, and so on, we have nothing in place for energy efficient vehicles, snow machines, and outboard motors. We are currently looking at what we can provide for the purchase of energy efficient equipment. We are just asking for some ideas, if you have some. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Ningeongan** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I recognize the response from the government.

(interpretation ends) The government's energy strategy also indicates that the government is considering introducing graduated registration fees based on the size of vehicle engines. Is the GN still looking at doing this? If so, when will the new system be introduced?  
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you and I would like to thank the member for asking that question. We are looking at all avenues and once we have a solid plan we will see when it's going to be implemented. At this time, we are at the preliminary stages, and just doing a review. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Ningeongan**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It seems like almost every single Cabinet Minister has an energy issue in his or her portfolio.

For example, the Premier is responsible for the GN's energy secretariat, the Minister of Energy is responsible for fuel subsidies for senior citizens, and the Minister of Finance is responsible for fuel tax rebates for hunters. Is the government looking at reviewing this balance of responsibilities so that its approach towards energy policy is more coordinated? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): With regard to the issue of energy and conservation, it seems to go separate ways and is held responsible by different departments. We are currently looking at how we can better coordinate the issue of energy within the Government of Nunavut. We are trying to do what you have suggested so that there would be a more coordinated approach. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Ningeongan**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) The minister is also responsible for purchasing the GN's annual fuel supply. Can the minister indicate whether the government's fuel suppliers are required to acquire supplies from countries and refineries that have good environmental protection records? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you. I would like to thank him again for asking that question. With regard to fossil fuels, from what I know we try to limit where we get our supplies from. We usually get our fuel from Canada and we try to make sure that we get the best quality. From there, after being bought they are sent to the three different regions. For the Kitikmeot, NTCL is the one who distributes the fuel to the communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Question 199 – 3(2): Authority of DEAs under Education Act**

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

This is with regard to the DEAs, which are a locally elected body responsible for dealing with educational issues in their community. Further, although they have a plethora of authority granted to them under the *Education Act*, the members of the DEAs can be easily overwhelmed or intimidated by the tasks assigned to them.

It results in some DEAs not fulfilling their legislated mandate due to this reticence or lack of knowledge of their authority. I wish to ask the minister, with respect to the Kugaaruk DEA, whether he or his officials can provide information on the *Education Act*, or

even a summary of the powers, duties and functions of a DEA within a community.

Examples include, the types of powers of a DEA with respect to the school principal and their mandate towards the parents, and what role the DEA can play as a committee responsible for education in the community as well as what the role of the parents are with respect to our legislation.

Can the minister inform me as to whether his officials can visit our community, either from the Kitikmeot regional office or from headquarters? This type of learning workshop would really assist them, as the members with no knowledge of their mandate tend to not fulfill their duties. I am not belittling any of the members for their lack of knowledge, only the lack of support for them in terms of their mandates. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also wish to thank the member, who posed as my older brother during school, Mr. John Ningark, representing Akulliq.

Indeed, this past summer, closer to the beginning of fall, there was a meeting held in Iqaluit. This was a conference held for the principals and chairpersons of the DEAs. They travelled to Iqaluit to hold meetings and to conduct a workshop on the details of the *Education Act* and what expectations were placed on the DEAs.

Some of our priorities which we are trying to implement include several activities planned for 2010. For example, conducting a survey of the DEAs as to the level of comprehension of their mandates, especially with respect to the budgets allocated to the DEAs and how these funds are to be managed. We will be discussing *Inuuqatigiitsiarniq* (respect for one another) and we will also be elaborating on the bilingual language educational requirements placed on the DEA.

I believe that his question revolves around the DEA mandate, their role, powers, and functions. During the winter of 2010, we will be conducting a survey of all schools, including consultation visits to every school, especially during the implementation period over the next three years. The process is outlined as to how each aspect of the implementation will be dealt with over this timeline.

With the Inuit language legislation having been passed, along with our *Education Act* as well as the development of the curriculum to encompass Inuktitut teaching in all grades, it's a rather tall order and it's quite challenging. We are aware that DEAs have requested assistance on these matters and we will be trying to resolve these issues over the upcoming winter to ensure that all DEAs in the communities are fully aware of their duties, roles, powers, and mandates, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Ningark** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I really appreciate the response provided by the minister. To

use an example, in Kugaaruk, a student reaches adulthood and is considered over-aged. Would they still be allowed to attend high school or would that be disallowed? This was a question posed to us by one of the parents during a community meeting.

We also heard a concern expressed by a parent that if a student isn't attending school regularly during the school year, they would no longer be able to attend school if they didn't comply with any action decisions made by the DEA. We were told that their perception is that that student would only be able to take courses outside of Kugaaruk after they have been barred from the local school. This seems to be overkill.

Some of us Inuit, perhaps most of us, tend to try and compete on our level of understanding. For example, I want to be more knowledgeable than that person and conversely, that person wants to try to be more knowledgeable. When this occurs, the focus shifts from resolving the problem to trying to outdo one another.

I wonder if there will actually be departmental officials arriving into Kugaaruk during the calendar year of 2010 to conduct these meetings, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member also for his line of questioning. Based on what I heard, it sounds like he has two questions contained in that question.

Firstly, with respect to his question about the age limitation for students at the high school and whether that student would not be allowed to attend, this has been resolved in the new *Education Act*, where it states that any student may attend high school up to the age of majority, 21. I imagine that in some cases, this person could still attend high school even though they appear too old to attend.

Further, within our stated goals and objectives, it states that if a student has a problem with either their studies or their attendance, there are mitigation provisions. Instead of just suspending or expelling the student, it outlines the higher level of support and assistance mechanisms that must be implemented with the student within the legislation.

There is also a new provision that states that for students who require further assistance, a DEA has to consider the options outlined in the legislation and try to adapt them to the student. In English, it is called 'inclusive education' and the focus is not on punishing the student but in assisting and supporting the student if they are facing any problems within the school. These are the types of assistance we will be providing.

With respect to the third aspect of his question regarding the visitation tour, it would be preferable to receive a letter from the local DEA, asking for assistance and a visitation to outline the new duties. This letter should highlight their request for a meeting with Education officials and it should be drafted such that the DEA invites the officials to your community.

We can look at invitation letters on a case-by-case basis over the winter and we can then look into scheduling this, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Ningark** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister. I'll use myself as a brief example. Our children and grandchildren don't always listen to us.

We were compelled to sign a document in Kugaaruk. Although I was reluctant to do so, my wife and I signed the document as guardians. We were forced to sign our names because our grandchild was attending high school.

Now, if the child continues to do poorly in school the following school year, the child would no longer be allowed to attend school within Kugaaruk. That is how the document was written. Is that indeed the case? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Cases vary and this is the very first time I have heard of this particular case. I will have to review his individual case to determine if that is the truth. I'll have to get back to members by way of correspondence.

This is something I want to hear about and I personally want to know if that's an actual fact. However, I can't respond to his question and so I'll take it as

notice and allow me to get back to the member at a later time, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Question 200 – 3(2): Status of NNI Policy Review**

**Mr. Pauloosie:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation.

Mr. Speaker, as the minister is aware, the first comprehensive review of the NNI Policy took place in 2003. The second comprehensive review was scheduled to take place five years later, in 2008. The GN and NTI jointly appoint members to the review committee. Can the minister indicate when this review will be completed and its results tabled in the Legislative Assembly? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. The review is in its final draft. It has been a struggle to get the final draft in place, but all parties have agreed that it's going to be completed in the near future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Pauloosie:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Under the NNI Policy, a contracting appeals board has been established to

hear appeals from companies who believe that the NNI Policy was not correctly applied to their bids on government contracts.

The government has not tabled the contracting appeals board's annual report since September of last year. When will the minister table the contracting appeals board's most recent annual report? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again I thank the member for that question. At this time, I'm going to be taking notice of the question as I have no idea of when the documents are going to be prepared or ready for tabling. Once the documents are in place and ready for tabling, I surely would table the documents. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister. Your question is taken as notice. Therefore, I will move on to another member. Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit West, Mr. Okalik.

**Question 201 – 3(2): Review of the Liquor Act**

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister responsible for the *Liquor Act*. He tabled a document today that he will be appointing a task force to review the *Liquor Act*.

As the minister is aware, Iqaluit is unique from other communities in Nunavut. Iqaluit is the only municipality that allows the sale of liquor in drinking establishments and this has been of great



concern in Nunavut, Iqaluit in particular. I wondered if these concerns will be addressed during this review.

I wanted to first ask the minister who will be on the task force. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. Mr. Speaker, the review of the *Liquor Act* has been a long outstanding issue. I think it goes all the way back to 2005-06 that there have been commitments to review the *Liquor Act*. This government intends to do that. As I indicated last week, I hope the work begins early in the New Year.

We will attempt to consult with all communities of Nunavut with the task force. I proposed to appoint ten members to the task force; I think it is ten members. I hope that's Members of the Regular Caucus, some members of the alcohol education committees, a representative of the health and social services department, the Qullit Status of Women, a representative of the RCMP, and for the time being, we're calling it a youth ambassador. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Iqaluit residents have felt the impact the most and worst than in other communities. When you visit other communities in Nunavut, they have no liquor outlets or places to drink in other

communities outside of Iqaluit. This makes our community very different and we have felt the impact of the *Liquor Act* more than anyone else in so many ways.

So therefore, I urge the minister to make sure that Iqaluit residents are well represented when they review the legislation because they will be affected the most. I strongly urge the minister to take this into account. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. Mr. Speaker, I assure the member that the members of the task force will represent all communities and all Nunavummiut to the best of their abilities.

It is the intention that the task force will be members who are quite knowledgeable on all the issues that affects us for the irresponsible use of alcohol. I will have a lot of faith in the task force. I neglected, Mr. Speaker, one of the other members of the task force will be the Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated.

So I assure the member that the concerns of the residents of Iqaluit will be heard and considered during the review of the *Liquor Act*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am very pleased to hear about the review of the *Liquor Act*. I can

only urge the minister again, when they start holding consultation meetings with these entities, that they hold one here in Iqaluit. To the residents of Iqaluit, this is a very important issue and again I emphasize this to the minister. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I again thank the member for his question and sharing his concerns about the alcohol issue in Iqaluit.

I want to assure the member that there will be consultations with the residents of Iqaluit. I'm not sure in what context, but we're hopeful that the task force will hold public meetings in all communities with various agencies and groups. There are many agencies and groups working with people who have issues with alcohol and have a lot of knowledge that they can share with us, a lot of experience, a lot of good ideas and recommendations.

We're hopeful that when the review is complete, all communities in Nunavut will have had input into the review of the *Liquor Act*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Question 202 – 3(2): Nunavut Curriculum**

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

As the minister is aware, I first asked my questions in regard to the quality of education that grade 12 students receive and graduation standards across Nunavut. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask: are grade 12 exams reviewed to make sure that the students are receiving the best possible education? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The curriculum we use in Nunavut is still being developed as we speak. All of the schools in Nunavut use the curriculum that is developed in Nunavut. For example, the high school curriculum has been identified and they follow the curriculum that was produced.

If I understand him correctly, there is a standard curriculum that is used for the whole of Nunavut and they follow it, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Ningeongan** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. During my first line of questioning, as I stated, the smaller communities have too much work to do and too much to do in the larger communities, and they lack curriculum material.

I would like to ask the minister what kind of testing they perform with the teachers to make sure that the special

needs students' needs are met. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): When we start hiring teachers, we follow the same process we use to hire teachers. We look at their experience and level of education. Also, the teachers and the principals are interviewed when they apply for an educational position. If there are a lot of people who apply for the position, they review the staffing process, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Ningeongan** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am not trying to disparage any teachers in my line of questioning. Rather, it speaks more to the level of education a teacher is supposed to have their students reach. I believe the minister misunderstood my question.

What I was referring to was whether or not teachers are fulfilling the required level of education a student is required to learn in their grade levels and whether the competencies of every teacher is reviewed periodically. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you. With respect to his question as to whether teacher competency is reviewed, I cannot ascertain that as I do not have those details.

However, with respect to the question of exams, which test the retention of the material learned by each student, we do indeed have these exams, usually at the end of each school semester and school year.

These processes are followed more closely and if the students are affected by the lack of teachers, I am unsure what factors we are discussing, but every situation has different factors and outcomes.

However, with respect to his question regarding the periodical review of teacher competency, I will have to take that part of his question as notice as I do not have the pertinent information on hand. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. For your information, Mr. Ningeongan, your question has been taken as notice. Oral Questions. (interpretation ends) I have no more names on my list. (interpretation) I want everyone to know that the next time you will be able to direct your questions will be during our next session in 2010.

>> *Applause*

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

**Item 13: Tabling of Documents****Tabled Document 103 – 3(2): 2008-2009 Interim Financial Report**

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday, in my opening comments for Bill 7, I told members I had previously tabled the 2008-09 Interim Financial Report. Today, I would like to clarify the record and table the 2008-09 Interim Financial Report. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you. Tabling of Documents. I have a document to table.

**Tabled Document 104 – 3(2): Final Report of the Independent Commission to Review Members Indemnity Allowances, Expenses and Benefits**

Thank you, Members. As required by section 37 of the *Legislation Assembly and Executive Council Act*, I am pleased to table the Final Report of the Independent Commission to Review Members Indemnity Allowances, Expenses and Benefits. Thank you.

Tabling of Documents. Item 14. Notices of Motions. Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 16. Motions. Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Item 19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bills 12, 18, and 19 with Mr. Ningeongan in the Chair.

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

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.

>> *House recessed at 15:04 and Committee resumed at 15:39*

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

**Chairman** (Mr. Ningeongan): I would like to call the committee meeting to order. In Committee of the Whole, we have the following items to deal with: Bills 12, 18, and 19. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Aupaluktuq.

**Mr. Aupaluktuq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We would like to commence with the review of Bills 12, 18, and 19. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. Are we in agreement that we first deal with Bill 12, *Northern Employee Benefits Services Pension Plan Protection Act*?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Bill 12 – Northern Employee Benefits Services Pension Plan Protection Act – Consideration in Committee**

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) I would now like Minister Kusugak, who is responsible for the Department of CGS, to make his opening remarks.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I am pleased to appear before the Committee of the Whole on the proposed *Northern Employee Benefit Service Pension Plan Protection Act*, Bill 12. Currently, there is no legislation in place that protects the Northern Employee Benefits Service

Pension Plan or protects its members from creditors.

Unlike other pension plans and RRSP schemes that do enjoy protection from creditors, if a member of the NEB's Pension Plan has financial difficulties, a lending agency can potentially access the member's pension and use those funds to satisfy any debt the member may have with the creditor.

It is very important that we protect the members from risk of losing their pensions. In March 2009 the Northwest Territories passed a Bill to protect Members of the Northern Employees Benefit Service Pension Plan in the territory. This legislation is a mirror of that Bill as it affects the same group of people in Nunavut.

This Bill 12 would provide protection from creditors for their pension entitlements of the Nunavut Members of the Employees Benefits Services Pension Plan. The Bill restricts the ability of members to pledge as security their pension entitlements under the plan. This is the first step in seeking overall regulation the NEBS Pension Plan.

It is an important step that will protect the retirement benefits of plan members from potentially being seized to satisfy debt and ensure those benefits go toward providing for the plan member's retirement.

While many municipalities and housing organizations participate in the NEBS Pension Plan, there are a number that do not. This means that we have hard working municipal employees who spend their entire career serving our

residents that do not have the benefit of a secure income in place for when they retire.

As Minister of Community and Government Services, I am prepared to take further steps and introduce draft legislation in the next Session of this Legislature that will regulate the overall operation of the NEBS Pension Plan.

Such legislation would greater certainty to the plan and would strengthen it for the benefit of all its members. I also see this draft legislation having provisions that would make participation in the NEBS Pension Plan mandatory for municipal in employees in Nunavut thereby ensuring that of all these hard working employees have income security for their retirement years.

My department regularly consults with municipal community mayors through the Nunavut Association of Municipalities and SAOs through NAMA on the NEBS Pension Plan and will continue to do so to promote the importance of a pension plan for municipal staff.

I want to thank you, Mr. Chairman and colleagues for this opportunity to outline this Bill before the committee. I would be pleased to respond to any questions you may have. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I do.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses in. Thank you, Minister. (interpretation ends) Please introduce your witnesses.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my right is my Deputy Minister, Kathleen Lausman, and to my left is Mr. Darren Flynn from our department. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Does the Chair of the Standing Committee on Legislation have opening comments? Mr. Okalik.

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) As Chair of the Standing Committee on Legislation, I am pleased to make some opening comments as we begin consideration of Bill 12, *Northern Employee Benefits Services Pension Plan Protection Act*.

The standing committee recognizes that this bill mirrors legislation that was passed by the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories earlier this year.

During the minister's appearance before the standing committee, members took the opportunity to raise a number of concerns in relation to the Northern Employee Benefits Services Pension Plan.

The standing committee notes that the 2009-2010 Business Plan of the Department of Finance of the Government of the Northwest Territories indicates that work has been undertaken to study the implications of splitting the existing NEBS pension plan into separate NWT and Nunavut pension

plans. During the minister's appearance before the standing committee, he indicated that the Government of Nunavut is not in favour splitting the plan. Members are in support of this position.

The standing committee also noted that although every municipality in the Kivalliq and the Kitikmeot provides pension benefits to their employees under the NEBS pension plan, only three municipalities in the Baffin do so. The standing committee urged the minister to bring forward legislation to ensure that all municipal employees in Nunavut participate in the plan.

Mr. Chairman, a number of non-governmental organizations, including the Kitikmeot Inuit Association, the Nunavut Water Board and the Nunavut Literacy Council, participate in NEBS. The standing committee supports clear information being made available by the government with respect to the process for interested employers to join the plan.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening comments. The standing committee recommends the passage of Bill 12 to all members. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Okalik. Are there any general comments? Mr. Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the minister's opening comments, and also in the standing committee chair's opening comments, they talked about many municipalities not participating in the plan.

Information provided by your department indicates that employees of the Municipalities of Arctic Bay, Cape Dorset, Clyde River, Igloolik, Iqaluit, Kimmirut, Pangnirtung, Pond Inlet, Resolute Bay, and Sanikiluaq do not participate in the NEBS pension plan. Employees in all municipalities in the Kivalliq and the Kitikmeot participate in the pension plan.

Why do so few municipalities in the Baffin participate in the pension plan? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's a very good question.

The reasons differ from community to community. Some of the municipalities not on the NEBS pension plan do offer RSP plans to their staff. Most, however, do not. So there are a number of reasons they choose not to. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Mr. Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is my understanding that the communities are funded for this program. Are there any present rules regulating what this funding is used for? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. CGS does fund all communities on a similar. So funding should not be an issue. It's all part of

funding we give to all municipalities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Mr. Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt:** So I'm then the reason it's not being done in these communities is because of either housing managers, or senior administrative officers not taking the initiative to have staff participate in the NEBS program.

With regard to unionized communities compared to non-unionized, what is the difference? Are unionized communities more inclined to be involved with the NEBS pension plan? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you. Thank you for the question, Mr. Rumbolt. If I may be allowed to have Mr. Flynn respond to that question, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Mr. Flynn.

**Mr. Flynn:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Generally, it's our experience that most unionized communities are covered under the pension plan. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Flynn. Mr. Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you. Just lastly a comment; I am pleased to see in your opening comments that the drafting of legislation to make it mandatory that municipalities be involved in the NEBS program because it's like he said, too

many people out there are leaving municipalities and housing after many years of service without any kind of income support or income security after they leave the jobs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** I couldn't agree with you more and we will make sure that we communicate with all the parties involved or not involved with NEBS that could and should be. It is very important that this, I think, that we go forward with ensuring that they all do because I think in a lot of cases they don't realize the benefit of it at the time when it's being discussed with them. So we will make sure that the benefits are clearly identified to the employees. It is a very important issue. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Ningark** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At times as elected members and when we have to show our appreciation, Mr. Chairman, we have to recognize individuals.

When I was the SAO in Kugaaruk, the regional staff at CGS in Cambridge Bay used to go to Kugaaruk to give us briefings on the pension plan. They used to be called the local government then but they are called CGS now.

Some of the hamlet employees were reluctant to join the plan but once we got a briefing on the pension plan from the employees based out of Cambridge Bay we approved and joined in the plan. In

the opening comments of the Chair of the Standing Committee on Legislation, it recommends that we pass this bill and I support it.

It was because of the briefing that we got from the employees that we are part of this plan. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningark. I didn't hear a question. Minister Kusugak, if you would like to respond.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In regard to having the Nunavut Employee Benefits and Services Pension Plan, when you retire you don't have steady revenue anymore, then you start thinking that you should have been a part of our pension plan.

If this bill is passed, we will start preparing to implement this so that anyone qualified can become a member so that they will have a fixed income at the end of the day. What we are focusing mostly on is right now, the creditors can take the retirement benefits and that's what we're trying to stop here or protect its members from creditors. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for allowing me to speak.

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

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am very pleased to see this bill. The minister has agreed to look this through and he introduced this bill. I think it's mostly focused on the hamlet council so that we will see more joining in.



The Canada Pension Plan doesn't meet the cost of living up here, so I would like to make sure that employees are protected and are a part of the pension plan. I don't think that they should have monetary problems in the future when they retire.

It is for the protection of the members and we would like to make sure that there is revenue coming in once they have retired. So I urge the minister to put this through. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Okalik. I'll take that as a general comment of support. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): I am very pleased that we're getting the support of the members. Possibly at our next sitting, we would like to introduce legislation. I want to make sure that the hamlets do get funds so that they can join in these types of plans, the government and the employees putting in matching contributions.

I would like to thank you and we look forward to our winter sitting. At that time, I will make an introduction. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Mr. Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My question is a general question, it's not in the bill itself and it's not really in the opening comments. With the recent troubles in the market in the past year, do we know what the status of the pension fund is? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I may again, Mr. Chairman, I'll have Mr. Flynn respond to that question. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Mr. Flynn.

**Mr. Flynn:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The fund, as of November 30th, has a market value of \$64.5 million. It had slipped last year to \$51 million as a result of the market's deterioration. That was a 14 percent drop in the fund at the time, but it has since recovered that and is ahead of what it was at the time the market started to slide. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Flynn. Mr. Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Absolutely nothing came through the microphones at that time to me, so I didn't hear anything he said, sorry.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I could again have Mr. Flynn respond to that, but this time maybe he will be audible. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Mr. Flynn.

**Mr. Flynn:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's one of the few times I have not been audible, I guess.

The fund, as of November 30th, is at a market value of \$64.5 million. During the market downturn last year, the fund had actually slipped to approximately \$51 million. It has in the time since regained and is, like I say, at November 30th, \$64.5 million.

If I might add to that, when the fund was transferred to NEBS from the Government of the Northwest Territories in 1999, it had a market value of \$18.9 million at that time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Flynn. I have no more names on my list for general comments. We will now proceed with the clause-by-clause review of the bill starting with page 1. Clause 1. Allow me to clarify. We're dealing with Bill 12, *Northern Employee Benefits Services Pension Plan Protection Act*. Clause 1?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 2?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Clause 3?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Clause 4?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Clause 5?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 6?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 7?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Is the committee agreed to Bill 12 as a whole?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Do members agree that pursuant to Rule 62(2) that Bill 12 can immediately be placed on the Orders of the Day for third reading?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. I would like to ask Minister Kusugak if he has any closing comments.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank my colleagues for agreeing to the item. I would also like to thank Mr. Flynn, Cathleen Lausman, and others who have been active in bringing this Protection Act forward. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Thank you to your staff. (interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses.

I would now like to ask the Minister responsible for the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth, Minister Tapardjuk, to make his opening remarks.

### **Bill 18 – Language Statutes Amendment Act – Consideration in Committee**

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman and fellow colleagues. I would first of all like to

thank the Members of the Standing Committee on Legislation for their review and support for Bill 18, the *Language Statutes Amendment Act*.

Bill 18 proposes only technical changes and will not impact the substance of either the *Inuit Language Protection Act* or the *Official Languages Act*, nor do we intend to alter the rights and duties enacted in 2008 in any way.

As Member Ningark correctly pointed out, Bill 18 essentially responds to the need to link back together the *Official Languages Act* and the *Inuit Language Protection Act* as we originally intended.

My colleagues will recall that clause 50 was approved by the Committee of the Whole in September of 2008 and exceptionally added to the *Inuit Language Protection Act*. This extraordinary measure allows the government to begin immediately the implementation and consultation process which we had agreed without any unnecessary delay.

The concurrence of the federal Parliament with the Nunavut *Official Languages Act* became effective on June 11, 2009. As a result, we now have the authority to proceed and prepare the *Official Languages Act* for its coming into force after the government has completed mandatory implementation steps.

Bill 18 will first reverse many of clause 50 provisions that are unnecessary, and will correct some minor punctuation, grammar, and spelling errors, as well as harmonize the wordings of our language statutes with those approved under the

new *Education Act* and the *Child Daycare Act*.

Mr. Chairman, and colleagues, as I mentioned in my Minister's Statement on December 3, 2009, the implementation of the language legislation is currently our main project and focus. Bill 18 proposes only incidental and technical changes, but none the less important to ensure the continuation of our implementation and planning work.

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

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

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

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Yes, I do.

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

**Some Members**: Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Sergeant-at-Arms, if you would escort the officials, please?

Thank you. Minister Tapardjuk, please introduce your officials.

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Susan Hardy is on my right, who helped draft this legislation from the Department of Justice, and on my left Stéphane Cloutier, who is with the Department of

Culture, Language, Elders and Youth.  
Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

(interpretation ends) Does the chair of the standing committee have any opening comments? Mr. Okalik.

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As Chair of the Standing Committee on Legislation, I am pleased to make some brief opening comments as we begin consideration of Bill 18, *Language Statutes Amendment Act*.

Nunavut's new *Official Languages Act* and the *Inuit Language Protection Act* were passed by the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut in 2008. However, because the *Official Languages Act* had not yet obtained the required Parliamentary concurrence as required under the federal *Nunavut Act*, provisions were added to the *Inuit Language Protection Act* during its passage through the House to allow it to stand alone in the event that this concurrence was not obtained.

On June 10 of this year, the Minister of Languages and I had the privilege of appearing before the Senate Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs to provide testimony on the occasion of its consideration of a motion to concur in the passage of our new *Official Languages Act*. On June 11, 2009, the Senate adopted the motion to concur in the passage of Nunavut's *Official Languages Act*.

The standing committee recognizes that Bill 18 has been introduced in order to reflect these recent developments and

reinstate the relationship that was originally intended to exist between the *Official Languages Act* and the *Inuit Languages Protection Act*. The committee also recognizes the housekeeping nature of the bill's technical amendments.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening comments. The standing committee recommends the passage of Bill 18 to all members. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Okalik. Are there any general comments? Since there are no general comments, we will now proceed with the clause-by-clause review of the bill. (interpretation ends) Bill 18, *Language Statutes Amendment Act*. Clause 1?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 2?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 3?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 4?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 5?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 6?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 7?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 8?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 9?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 10?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 11?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 12?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 13?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 14?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 15?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 16?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 17?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 18?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 19?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 20?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 21?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 22?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 23?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 24?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 25?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 26?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 27?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 28?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 29?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Is the committee agreed to Bill 18 as a whole?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Do members agree that pursuant to Rule 62(2) that Bill 18 can immediately be placed on the Orders of the Day for third reading?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Tapardjuk, do you have any closing remarks?

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): I would like to thank the Standing Committee on Legislation. As the Minister for Languages, this is just to clean up the legislation and I believe that they will start implementing the Act this winter.

I also would like to thank our staff, Stéphane and Susan Hardy, very much. I also would like to thank my colleagues for providing support to this bill. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Tapardjuk and your staff, for working hard on that. We thank them. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the officials out.

(interpretation ends) I would now like to ask Minister Curley, responsible for Department of Health and Social Services, to make his opening remarks.

### **Bill 19 – Child and Family Services Act – Consideration in Committee**

**Hon. Tagak Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the members for giving consideration to Bill 19. I also thank the Members of the Standing Committee on Legislation for

their supportive comments during our discussion of the bill.

The Department of Health and Social Services is committed to conducting a full review of the *Child and Family Services Act* during the next two years. This broad review will include community consultations to allow Nunavummiut the opportunity to influence the future direction of child welfare and family services.

In the meantime, however, certain aspects of the Act have been challenged in the Nunavut Court of Justice and were ruled to be in violation of the Equality Guarantee of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. The court made it clear that the Government of Nunavut must make changes as soon as possible to address the needs of young people not adequately protected or served by the current Act, or risk further court action.

This time-sensitive revision of the *Child and Family Services Act* is the Government of Nunavut's response to the decision of the Nunavut Court of Justice. Under the current legislation, when a person reaches the age of 16 years old they are no longer a child and the Department of Health and Social Services has no authority to protect them from abuse or neglect when they reach that age.

In practice, the department has provided services to youth at risk through extensions of court orders or through Voluntary Support Service Agreements. However, the department can not compel a young person to use services that are currently available. The amendments proposed in Bill 19 give legislative authority to the Department of Health

and Social Services to provide support services for youth who are found to be in need of assistance or protection. For example, youth need to go to school and have good meals. Where necessary, to protect a young person, the department will be able to apply to the court for a custody order to ensure the appropriate services can be delivered.

Bill 19 is well aligned with the goals of *Tamapta* to help those most at risk in our communities and it remedies the deficiencies noted in the court decision. Mr. Chairman, I believe that in the near future, we will find a more comprehensive solution once we start dealing with that it.

It is my hope that by shifting the approach we take in dealing with family problems and by using the strength of our culture, our children will live in environments that are safer and healthier. These long-term improvements will be subject to the full Act review over the next two years.

I look forward to your support and I welcome questions from the members. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Tagak Curley:** Yes, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Some Members:** Agreed.

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

Thank you. (interpretation ends)  
Minister Curley, please introduce your witnesses.

**Hon. Tagak Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my right is Monty Kehler and he is on the strategic area. To my left is our Legal Counsel from the Department of Justice and she's been working on this legislation. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Curley. (interpretation) Who did you say the person on your left was?

**Hon. Tagak Curley** (interpretation): To my left is Anne Macintosh, Legal Counsel from the Department of Justice. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Curley. (interpretation ends) Does the Chair of the Standing Committee on Legislation have comments? Mr. Okalik.

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As the Chair of the Standing Committee on Legislation, I am pleased to make some brief opening comments as we begin consideration of Bill 19, *An Act to Amend the Child and Family Services Act*.

The standing committee recognizes that this bill has been introduced in order to fulfill requirements imposed by the Nunavut Court of Justice in the 2006 decision of the court. Members support the principle of the bill which is to ensure that individuals who are over the age of 16 but who have not yet reached the age of 19 enjoy equal protection and services under the Act. It is crucial that

no one falls through the cracks when it comes to such services.

Mr. Chairman, all Members of the Legislative Assembly have committed to ensuring that a new *Child and Family Services Act* is introduced during our term of office. During the minister's appearance before the standing committee, members stressed that the importance of ensuring that the new legislation takes into full account Inuit societal and cultural values in areas of child rearing and family relationships.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening comments. The standing committee recommends the passage of Bill 19 to all members. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Okalik. (interpretation ends) Are there any general comments? I have no names for general comments. We will now proceed to the clause-by-clause review of the bill starting with page 1. Bill 19, *An Act to Amend the Child and Family Services Act*. Clause 1?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 2?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 3?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 4?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 5?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 6?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Does the committee agree to Bill 19 as a whole?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Do member agree that pursuant to Rule 62(2) that Bill 19 can immediately be placed on the Orders of the Day for third reading?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Curley, do you have any closing remarks?

**Hon. Tagak Curley** (interpretation): Thank you. That was very fast. I would like to thank each and every one of you. I understood the chair's opening comments. I would like to thank Monty, on my right, and on my left, Ann. Thank you for passing this bill. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Curley and your officials. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the officials out.

(interpretation ends) What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Aupaluktuq.

**Mr. Aupaluktuq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move to report progress. Thank you very much.

**Chairman:** There is a motion on the floor and it's not debatable. All those in favour of the motion. Those opposed.



Those abstained. The motion is carried. (interpretation) Thank you.

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

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

**Mr. Ningeongan:** Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Bills 12, 18, and 19 and would like to report that Bills 12, 18, and 19 are immediately ready for third reading. Mr. Speaker, I move that the Report of the Committee of the Whole be agreed to. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. There is a motion on the floor. Is there a seconder? Mr. Tapardjuk. The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour of the motion. Opposed. The motion is carried.

Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. Minister Tapardjuk.

**Item 21: Third Reading of Bills**

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

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

**Speaker** (interpretation): The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour.

Opposed. The motion is carried. Bill 3 has had third reading and is ready for assent.

Third Reading of Bills. Minister Kusugak.

**Bill 12 – Northern Employee Benefits Services Pension Plan Protection Act – Third Reading**

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Kugluktuk, that Bill 12, the *Northern Employee Benefits Services Pension Plan Protection Act*, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister Kusugak. The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried. Bill 12 has had third reading and is ready for assent.

Third Reading of Bills. Mr. Okalik.

**Bill 11 – The Order of Nunavut Act – Third Reading**

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I forgot to thank Alex Baldwin for working very hard on behalf of this.

I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Hudson Bay, that Bill 11, *The Order of Nunavut Act*, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Okalik. The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour of the motion. Opposed. The motion is carried. Bill 11

has had third reading and is ready for assent.

Third Reading of Bills. Minister Peterson.

**Bill 13 – An Act to Amend the Retirement Plan Beneficiaries Act – Third Reading**

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Iqaluit Centre, that Bill 13, *An Act to Amend the Retirement Plan Beneficiaries Act*, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour of the motion. Opposed. The motion is carried. Bill 13 has had third reading and is ready for assent.

Third Reading of Bills. Minister Tapardjuk.

**Bill 18 – Language Statutes Amendment Act – Third Reading**

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Iqaluit East, that Bill 18, *Language Statutes Amendment Act*, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour of the motion. Opposed. The motion is carried. Bill 18 has had third reading and is ready for assent.

Third Reading of Bills. Minister Tapardjuk.

**Bill 19 – An Act to Amend the Child and Family Services Act – Third Reading**

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Iqaluit East, that Bill 19, *An Act to Amend the Child and Family Services Act*, be read for the third time.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. The motion is in order. To motion. Question has been called. All those in favour of the motion, raise your hand. Opposed. The motion is carried. Bill 19 has had third reading and is ready for assent.

Third Reading of Bills. Item 22. Orders of the Day. Before we go to Orders of the Day, Clerk, could you ascertain if the Commissioner of Nunavut is ready to enter the Chambers.

**Assent to Bills**

**Bill 03 – Western Canada Lottery Act – Assent**

**Bill 06 – Supplementary Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, No. 5, 2007-2008 – Assent**

**Bill 07 – Supplementary Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, No. 4, 2008-2009 – Assent**

**Bill 08 – Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2010-2011 – Assent**

**Bill 09 – Supplementary Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, No. 1, 2009-2010 – Assent**

**Bill 10 – Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 2, 2009-2010 – Assent**

**Bill 11 – The Order of Nunavut Act – Assent**

**Bill 12 – Northern Employee Benefits Services Pension Plan Protection Act – Assent**

**Bill 13 – An Act to Amend the Retirement Plan Beneficiaries Act – Assent**

**Bill 18 – Language Statutes Amendment Act – Assent**

**Bill 19 – An Act to Amend the Child and Family Services Act – Assent**

**Commissioner Ann Meekitjuk-Hanson** (interpretation): Please be seated. As Commissioner of Nunavut, I hereby give assent to the following bills:

- Bill 3, *Western Canada Lottery Act*
- Bill 6, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 5, 2007-2008*
- Bill 7, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 4, 2008-2009*
- Bill 8, *Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2010-2011*

- Bill 9, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 1, 2009-2010*
- Bill 10, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 2, 2009-2010*
- Bill 11, *The Order of Nunavut Act*
- Bill 12, *Northern Employee Benefits Services Pension Plan Protection Act*
- Bill 13, *An Act to Amend the Retirement Plan Beneficiaries Act*
- Bill 18, *Language Statutes Amendment Act*
- Bill 19, *An Act to Amend the Child and Family Services Act*

That ends the formal aspect of the assent of these bills.

On a personal note, I wish to extend, on behalf of my husband, our children, our relatives and our son-in-laws, including our grandchildren, a very Merry Christmas to all of the members here as well as to all of their relatives who are currently awaiting their return home.

I extend a holiday greeting to all Nunavummiut. Merry Christmas to one and all! Thank you.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. We now have several more enacted pieces of legislation. Going back to our Orders of the Day. Item 22. (interpretation ends) Orders of the Day. Mr. Clerk.

**Item 22: Orders of the Day**

**Clerk** (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Orders of the Day for March 4, 2010:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions
8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to Opening Address
10. Petitions
11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motions
15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions
17. First Reading of Bills
18. Second Reading of Bills
19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
20. Report of the Committee of the Whole

21. Third Reading of Bills

22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Prior to our conclusion of this session, I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a merry Christmas and to express our wishes for a safe trip to your home community. We hope that you will have a very pleasant and safe holiday with your families and community residents.

I would also like to take this opportunity to express our holiday greetings to our staff, our interpreters, our partners through legal agreements, along with our pages, especially our Sergeant-at-Arms.

Indeed, for many members here, we have made agreements with our partners and spouses to ensure that our families are cared for while we conduct our legal work. I, too, have made that arrangement and would like to acknowledge my wife, who is sitting in the Gallery, for her support.

>> *Applause*

Actually, I want all Nunavummiut to have a safe and joyous holiday during the Christmas season. I wish to remind one and all that Christmas is about celebrating family and health, so I hope that everyone will have a healthy and enjoyable season.

During the first few days of this current session, one of my grandchildren, one out of many grandchildren to tell you the truth, a two-year-old girl apparently

made a comment, “I am ecstatic to be alive.” When one strives to enjoy life to the fullest, as evidenced by the comment of this two-year-old, then we all can make that statement, especially us older people, including our elders, youth, and children.

We can all make a truthful statement about the fact that we are glad to be among the living. If you say it once, you can say on the morrow and if you are enjoying life to the fullest, then one ought to be proud of one’s life and to celebrate the occasion with the mentality.

Further, I would like to extend my holiday greetings to all Nunavummiut. Since we only comprise about 32,000 individuals here in Nunavut, to each and everyone of these 32,000-plus Nunavummiut, I am glad that I am alive along with each of you here in our wondrous territory of Nunavut. With the travel arrangements made for our return home, I wish each of you a very happy New Year, Nunavummiut.

This House stands adjourned until Thursday, March 4, 2010, at 1:30 p.m. Thank you to each and every one of you.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*Applause*

>>*House adjourned at 16:47*

