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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Speaker

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(Uqqummiut)

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(Rankin Inlet South – Whale Cove)

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Government Services; Minister of
Energy*

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(Akulliq)

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015 – 3(2): Appointment of the Information and Privacy Commissioner of Nunavut (Schell) 1135

Iqaluit, Nunavut
Thursday, March 4, 2010

Members Present:

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

Item 1: Opening Prayer

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

>>*Prayer*

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

Going to our Orders of the Day.
Ministers' Statements. Minister Curley.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

**Minister's Statement 088 – 3(2):
Relocation of Pangnirtung Medical
Travel Office to Iqaluit**

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am very pleased today and wish to welcome the people in my community who are going to be watching the proceedings. If they have any questions, they should feel free

to call my constituency office in Rankin Inlet.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce that the Department of Health and Social Services is committed to providing the most efficient and cost-effective access to medical travel support that we can. Medical travel services for Qikiqtaaluk residents travelling to Iqaluit for treatment have been provided through the Pangnirtung Regional Medical Travel Services Office since 2006.

However, providing these services from this location has presented a number of challenges over the years and has been a recurring issue raised in the legislature. Despite various efforts to address issues of technology, communication, and logistics, we continue to receive complaints.

Mr. Speaker, last summer, my department undertook a review of the medical travel file by visiting all of the communities and also held discussions with all of the mayors with regard to the challenges posed by having the medical travel office based out of Pangnirtung. We requested their opinions about this issue and this was sent to all the mayors in Baffin. Community leaders and medical travel clients in 11 Baffin communities we consulted strongly supported an improvement in the effectiveness of the medical travel office, which they conveyed to the staff we had consulting the communities, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to state that our department has listened to the concerns expressed by our residents, which included my colleagues in the Cabinet who agreed to the

recommendation to change the venue out of which the medical travel warrants are issued. This decision supports greater management and accountability and will allow us to provide better travel support services.

Mr. Speaker, please note that our department is working closely with the Department of Human Resources, my colleague Mr. Shewchuk's department, to ensure a smooth transition for the three affected individuals in Pangnirtung. Qikiqtaaluk residents should be aware that the relocation of these services is expected to be completed by April 1, 2010. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Ministers' Statements. Minister Taptuna.

**Minister's Statement 089 – 3(2):
Nunavut's Participation in the
Northern Lights 2010 Tradeshow**

Hon. Peter Taptuna (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Good afternoon to everybody, Nunavummiut, and my colleagues across there.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise today to update the Members of this House on the government's participation in the Northern Lights Tradeshow and Exhibition that was held last month in Montreal. This event occurs every two years and is a joint effort between the Baffin Regional and Labrador North chambers of commerce. Northern Lights 2010 in Montreal follows on the

successful initial Northern Lights event held in Ottawa in 2008.

The Northern Lights event provides a business, economic development, and cultural showcase of Nunavut, Nunavik, Labrador, and Nunatsiavut. The event consists of conference sessions, cultural events, and a trade show delivering an excellent opportunity for businesses and the general public to get to know the North.

Mr. Speaker, Northern Lights 2010 was a great success with over 800 exhibitors and delegates with 300 organizations and businesses represented. A highlight of the event was the unveiling of the Authentic Nunavut brand for promoting art to the south.

Northern Lights provided audiences from outside of Nunavut a tremendous opportunity to experience something of the strength and creativity of our people and our communities. This event showcased our business capacity, cultural industries, tourism, and resources to potential partners and investors.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to the ongoing economic development and business benefits for Nunavummiut that follow from this and future Northern Lights events. *Nakurmiik*, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Ministers' Statements. Hon. Daniel Shewchuk.

**Minister's Statement 090 – 3(2): US
Proposal to Uplist Polar Bears
under CITES**

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to inform you that the Department of Environment will be part of the Canadian delegation to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), Conference of Parties 15 meeting in Doha, Qatar this month.

In collaboration with Environment Canada, other Canadian jurisdictions, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated (NTI), and Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami (ITK), we will strongly be opposing the recommendation of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service to uplist the polar bears from CITES Appendix II to Appendix I, endangered species.

This proposed up-listing would effectively end the export of polar bear hides, trophies, and products from Canada. This would cripple the polar bear sport hunt industry in Nunavut and cause significant impact to many Nunavutmiut participating in this sustainable harvest. It would also significantly impact the benefits Inuit are able to derive from the sale of hides and other products while providing no conservation benefit or even a change in the number of bears harvested.

We have the full support of the Canadian government and our co-management partners, and hope to convince the other nations that are party to CITES that polar bears do not belong on Appendix I of CITES.

Representing the Department of Environment on the Canadian delegation

will be Deputy Minister Simon Awa and Director of Wildlife Drikus Gissing. *Ma'na*, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Minister's Statement 091 – 3(2): 2010
Arctic Winter Games**

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Welcome all to Iqaluit. I am very pleased to see that everybody is able to make it here. My *Annuraaqatik*, Mr. Speaker, I'm sure you will do very well at your job.

Mr. Speaker, the Arctic Winter Games are a high profile circumpolar sport competition for northern athletes. These games provide an opportunity to strengthen our sport development, to promote the benefit of sport, to build partnerships and new friendships, and to promote our culture and values.

The games celebrate sport, social exchange, and the cultures of the circumpolar world. The games provide an opportunity for Nunavut's athletes to compete in friendly competitions while sharing cultural values from northern regions around the world.

The 21st Arctic Winter Games will be celebrated in Grande Prairie, Alberta from March 6 to 13, 2010. The games will provide a great opportunity for approximately 227 athletes and cultural performers, 37 coaches, and 14 mission staff from across Nunavut to interact with other youth from across the arctic world for a week beginning on March 6.

At this time, I would like to introduce to the House this year's Arctic Winter Games "look" as modelled by Amber Eleehetook, if you would please stand up, she is from Gjoa Haven, Brittany Masson of Iqaluit, and Stephane Angotialuk of Repulse Bay, who will be representing Nunavut in volleyball at the games.

>> *Applause*

Mr. Speaker, these are the uniforms that Team Nunavut will be wearing during the 2010 Arctic Winter Games. I also would like my colleagues to view the pin sets that our participants will be exchanging with the other contingents and spectators at the games.

Colleagues, I ask that you join me in wishing all participants good luck in their sporting and to take as many ulus as they can. I would like to thank all of the staff and volunteers that help make these events happen across Nunavut and especially to make sure that they enjoy the games. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. We are extremely pleased with the athletes and other participants who will be attending the games.

Ministers' Statements. If there are no more, Members' Statements. Wait a moment. (interpretation ends) Member for Iqaluit West, Mr. Okalik.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 137 – 3(2): Resignation of Enuk Pauloosie and Nattilik Constituents

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to congratulate the Arctic Winter Games participants. Colleagues, I thank you for being able to make it to Iqaluit and welcome all to my beautiful community.

We have just recently lost a member, who was representing Nattilik, and we are sorry that he has left the House, but we do wish him the best in the future and thank him for making a contribution to this House.

For the communities of Nattilik, Gjoa Haven and Taloyoak, I have talked to the members and I asked them to make sure that they voice their concerns through me. I want them to feel free to contact me if they would like any answers to their concerns. My number is 975-5017 or 979-5807, and my fax number is 975-5112.

As an Inuk, my name is Paulusi, so I will be making my comments on his behalf. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for South Baffin, Mr. Schell.

Member's Statement 138 – 3(2): Support Success in Sport

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to add my voice to those of the millions of other Canadians from coast to coast to coast who have been filled with pride by the performance of our athletes at the Vancouver Winter Olympics.

Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate not only our record-setting 14 gold medalists, but also our silver and bronze medallists, as well as every single athlete who made our country proud by participating to the best of their ability.

Mr. Speaker, in a couple of days, our Nunavut athletes will be heading off to Grande Prairie to represent us at the 2010 Arctic Winter Games. They will be competing in hockey, soccer, Inuit games, basketball, speed skating, and many other sports. I wish them all the best of luck. For some of them, this activity may even be a stepping stone to other opportunities. They may go on to compete at the Canada Games and perhaps even the Olympics.

Mr. Speaker, in my mind, our young athletes have already achieved a major success. They have focused their energy, disciplined their minds and bodies, and developed the will to participate, perform, and succeed. These are all things that will benefit them in every aspect of their lives.

However, Mr. Speaker, without the necessary recreational facilities for our athletes to come together, to learn their sport, to practice, to develop and compete, they will be deprived of the opportunity to reach the success that they are capable of.

Mr. Speaker, I had the opportunity to attend this week's meeting of Baffin mayors that was held here in Iqaluit. The issue of recreational infrastructure was raised with the Minister of Community and Government Services.

Mr. Speaker, I want to go on record today and state that it is important that

we consider the needs of all of our communities.

Before we look at building brand new infrastructure in communities that already have functional facilities, those communities that currently lack public recreational facilities, such as gyms, arenas, and artificial ice, should be the priority for our limited capital dollars. We need to treat all of our communities fairly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 139 – 3(2):
Petition for a Safe House in
Kugaaruk**

Mr. Ningark: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and colleagues. I rise today to bring attention to the need for a family violence shelter in Kugaaruk. Later today, at the appropriate time, I will be presenting a petition signed by 150 of my constituents on this issue, Mr. Speaker.

In Kugaaruk, my constituents are concerned about the women and children who are victims of family violence. When there is violence in a home, it is of vital importance that women and children have a place that they can go to in order to avoid further violence.

As its 2009-2010 business plan states, the development and implementation of the "Family Violence Shelters for Women Policy" is a priority for the Department of Health and Social Services.

I strongly encourage the Department of Community and Government Services, the Department of Justice, and the Department of Health and Social Services to consider all options to construct a family violence shelter in Kugaaruk. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Member's Statement 140 – 3(2): Good Luck to AWG Athletes from Arctic Bay

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to wish the best of luck to my constituents from Arctic Bay who will be participating in the 2010 Arctic Winter Games in Grande Prairie, Alberta.

Sixteen athletes from Arctic Bay have been approved to participate in the Dene games events, such as the pole push, the stick pull, and the snow snake. These athletes will be travelling from Arctic Bay today to Alberta tomorrow. The Arctic Winter Games will take place from March 6 to 13. As some members may be aware, athletes from Arctic Bay have a history of success at the Arctic Winter Games in these events.

I would like to pay tribute to the many people in Arctic Bay who make it possible for these athletes to participate in these events. Without coaches and the effort that they put into organizing the practices of these sports, these athletes would not be able to benefit from the experience of international competition.

As all members are aware, it is important for Nunavummiut to have access and

opportunity to activities and events that promote healthy lifestyles. I ask all members to join me in giving a show of appreciation for those who make it possible and in wishing good luck to the athletes.

The athletes are:

Thomas Levi, our recreation coordinator and coach.

Richard Bohlender

Mason Pauloosie

Steven Taqtu

Darryl Levi

Bobby Kilabuk

Steven Hughes

Patty Levi

Sheena Kilabuk

April Echeak

Louanne Iqalukjuak

Napassi Joseph

Jennifer Issigaitok

Nina Shooyook

Janey Oyukuluk, and

Tom Naqitarvik

Mr. Speaker, we also have the Hamlet of Arctic Bay Council Member and Chairperson for the Recreation Committee, Susanna Barnabas, participating as support staff. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 141 – 3(2): New Health Centre in Pangnirtung

Mr. Komoartok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am quite pleased that

we are all able to attend this Assembly. I was advised that the weather is absolutely gorgeous in our community of Pangnirtung. My constituents are in my thoughts today.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak to a matter that I want completely understood, especially by my fellow residents in Pangnirtung. This matter is one I spoke to last year, actually in the spring session. This was with respect to the newly constructed Pangnirtung Health Centre, which was completed in February of 2009.

It has been approximately a year since the building was completed. However, due to the lack of furniture and medical equipment, the building is not available and the status hasn't changed since last spring. Last summer during sealift, the people of Pangnirtung were anticipating the arrival of the health centre's furniture and equipment. Unfortunately, no supplies or equipment addressed to the centre were offloaded.

To date, we have a very beautiful facility located in our community, which seems to be a very good health centre, but due to the lack of furniture and equipment, it stands empty as the rooms have phones and phone lines, but not much else. That is why we cannot utilize our new health centre, just because of the lack of furniture and equipment.

Our community is getting antsy to utilize this newest local facility, but due to various factors and reasons, it is just sitting empty. We have been advised that the lack of equipment has deferred the opening of the facility. The only downside to these continual deferrals is that it is increasing the costs associated

with maintaining the building and we have to keep that in mind.

The residents are quite pleased with the construction of this fine new facility, but they're not too pleased with the continual changes to the date of its opening. We were told that the equipment and furniture were supposed to be in our community by April 15. It's regrettable when the supplies haven't arrived until 14 or 15 months after the completion of the construction phase. We would not like any other community to undergo this type of waiting for an opening of a new facility.

Perhaps if the materials had arrived when they were supposed to arrive, our community would have been able to exploit this facility for over a year. So it has been over a year now that it has been sitting empty and we would love to try and start making the most of the new facility prior to year-end.

At the appropriate time, I will be asking questions to the Minister of Health and Social Services on this issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Member's Statement 142 – 3(2):
Simon Koomak Participating in
Paralympics**

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to recognize a young student from Arviat of the John Arnalukjuak High School, Simon Koomak. Simon has been chosen to represent Nunavut in the Paralympic

torch relay which is taking place today in Ottawa.

Simon suffers from brittle bone disease and as such, cannot engage in strenuous or contact sports. He moves with a pronounced limp as a result of numerous fractures throughout his youth. In season, however, Simon is an avid golfer playing on the community green near our airport runway. He is a favourite in community dances throughout the year as well. All of this to say that he does not allow his disability to keep him down.

As a result of his confinements in Winnipeg hospitals, Simon's English is somewhat more advanced than many of his peers. He has put this personal strength to good use doing a full-year community practicum coaching grade eight students in English. Simon shares his musical talent with the community and he is always ready to play and accompany at his church. He is a talented guitarist, jamming in after school sessions almost daily where younger students learn at his side.

Simon is also a serious art student with one of his more recent sketches winning first prize in a global warming art contest. His prize was a GPS for the use on the land. The fact that he gave this prize to his father as a gift is testimony of his character. Furthermore, Simon is one of our potential graduates of the John Arnalukjuak High School for this coming year, 2010. We are proud of his accomplishments and his determination and enthusiasm. He continues to be a positive influence in the school and a great example for his younger siblings and for the students at the high school.

We feel Simon Koomak would do a great job representing Nunavut at the Paralympic torch relay. Choosing Simon is a fitting recognition of his achievements as well as a wonderful reward for friendly, articulate, generous, and most capable young man. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 143 – 3(2):
Avataq Hockey Tournament in
Rankin Inlet**

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I send my regards to Rankin Inlet and Whale Cove, and I congratulate the participants who will be going to the Arctic Winter Games from my community and Nunavut.

I rise today, Mr. Speaker, to inform the House that just a few days ago, there was an Avataq Cup Hockey Tournament and I would like to thank the participants who came in from all over Nunavut. There were no injuries during that tournament and there were participants from Iqaluit, Repulse Bay, Coral Harbour, Baker Lake, and Arviat.

I especially would like to congratulate the people of Whale Cove who participated because they came in third from the smallest community, the silver medallists were Rankin Miners, I congratulate them, and the gold medal winners were the Huka Inuks and I congratulate them all.

I thank all the participants and we hope to see them again next year at the next Avataq Hockey Tournament. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. There being none, (interpretation ends) Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Tootoo.

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It gives me great pleasure today to recognize an individual in the Gallery who has been around in her capacity for quite a period of time and that's our Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Commissioner, Ms. Elaine Keenan Bengts, who is sitting back there. Thank you.

>>Applause

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

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 203 – 3(2): Nunavut Liquor Commission Sale of European Union Products

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Liquor Commission, the Hon. Keith Peterson.

I would like to begin by congratulating the minister on Nunavut's successful hosting of the recent G7 meeting of finance ministers. However, like a lot of Nunavummiut, I was disappointed that the ministers from the European Union apparently did not attend the community feast where Inuit country food was served.

Mr. Speaker, I asked a question last year about why the Government of Nunavut's Liquor Commission sells alcohol from the European Union to our territory's residents if the European Union is banning the import of seal products from Nunavut.

Can the minister clearly explain to the House today why the government's Liquor Commission is still selling alcohol from the European Union to our constituents? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleague for that question. The G7 was a really good event. It really highlighted activities in the special part of the North that we have here and the city of Iqaluit did a great job hosting it.

The Liquor Commission orders their products from the south. As far as I know, there is no specific demand to not buy those products. They are products that people in Nunavut wish to purchase for their own personal consumption or in the facilities in Iqaluit that people frequent. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the minister commit to reviewing the Liquor Commission's sale of alcohol products from the European Union and report to the House before the end of the sitting, yes or no?

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I again thank the member for that question. I will ask the commission about their policy for purchasing alcohol and if they can give me some information, I will provide that to the member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 204 – 3(2): Teaching Positions Created by New Education Act

Mr. Ningark: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Education.

Mr. Speaker, Nunavut's new *Education Act* came into force at the beginning of the current fiscal year. Although there is still some time before all of the sections of the Act have to be implemented, the new *Education Act* will require that a number of additional positions be included in schools, such as school community counsellors, language and cultural instructors, and the elder instructors.

My question to the hon. minister, Mr. Speaker, is: can the minister clarify how

many new positions will need to be created in total to meet the requirements of the *Education Act*? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We're very proud of this new *Education Act*. Our reason, Mr. Speaker, is that the district education authorities will be able to hire elders who will be teaching language and culture. Also, all of the schools will have student counsellors. The local district education authorities will be hiring secretaries and other office staff. We will try to fill up those positions.

We are presently conducting a survey in the communities and we're also training the local district education authorities on what their roles and authorities are under the new *Education Act*, for example, on what positions they are responsible for. By the end of March, I am sure we will have completed this survey of all communities, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Ningark: My first supplementary, Mr. Speaker, recognizing that we still need to do some work on the new *Education Act*. Mr. Speaker, section 123 of the new *Education Act* states that "The Minister shall ensure that the student-educator ratio for each education district... is lower than the most recently published national student-educator ratio."

My question: can the minister clarify which and how many of these new positions established within the Department of Education will be considered as educator positions, like teachers? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think the member is asking how many educator positions we require. I don't have the figures at this time, Mr. Speaker, so I will get back to the member once I get the information. I will take his question as notice at this time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Your question has been taken as notice and he will respond to you once he gets the information. We will move on to another member. (interpretation ends) Oral Questions. Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Rumbolt.

Question 205 – 3(2): Minimum Wage in Nunavut

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Justice, the Hon. Keith Peterson.

As the minister is aware, the minimum wage in Nunavut is established by the territorial *Labour Standards Act*. Under this legislation, the minister is required by law to review the minimum wage annually and report his findings to the Legislative Assembly. However, the government has not reported to the Legislative Assembly since May of 2008.

Can the minister explain to the House today why the government is not following its own laws and will he commit to tabling the report before the end of the current sitting of the Legislative Assembly? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Rumbolt for asking that question. Mr. Rumbolt, it is very important that we follow our own laws. I will look into that and I will report back to the member. Thank you.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for wanting to get back to me with more information.

My next question will be: as of today, the minimum wage in Nunavut is \$10 per hour. Although this is the highest minimum wage in the country, I believe that it's important to remember that the cost of living here is also the highest in the country. Will the minister commit to ensuring that his review of the minimum wage takes into account the high cost of living in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Rumbolt. He certainly touches on a key issue in Nunavut; we talk about poverty and we talk about the high cost of living. In this Assembly and the last Assembly, we

spoke about it and we passed resolutions. We have called on the Government of Canada to increase our Northern Residents Deduction, and so on so forth.

Indian and Northern Affairs published the data on the high cost of living in all Nunavut communities. We know about the \$200 turkey in Arctic Bay from last year that got a wide publication across Canada. They said it was a mistake; there's no question about that.

We will certainly take into account the high cost of living when we consider the minimum wage. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you Mr. Speaker. My final question will be: the minimum wage in Nunavut has not increased since June of 2008. When does the minister anticipate introducing legislation to increase the minimum wage to at least keep up with the annual inflation rate in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Member. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I again thank the member for asking that question. Mr. Speaker, I will endeavour to do that as soon as possible. Thank you. Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 206 – 3(2): New Health Centre in Pangnirtung

Mr. Komoartok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I stated in my Member's Statement, I would ask questions in regard to the new health centre that was recently completed in my community. We have been unable to make use of that health centre because there are no furniture and equipment.

I would like to know if the minister is now fully informed as to when the furniture will be arriving to Pangnirtung. That is my first question directed to the Minister of Health and Social Services. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the member for asking the question. As the member recalls, we had various reasons for delaying the operation of the building as the contractors were behind on some items. During an inspection in November, they were not approved for substantial completion.

They delayed the occupation of that building for a number of reasons and they had to move to the hamlet site because it was cheaper. Not all of this happened at the same time but to this point, these have accumulated in contributing to the delay, particularly during November. It took nearly two months to reach substantial completion, I believe in January.

To date, the delay has been due to the furniture situation. The Department of Community and Government Services had already tendered for that. The furniture items have been identified. Once the furniture tender has been completed and paid for through CGS and with the telephones now being installed, we expect to open the health centre in April. Some of the furniture is huge and heavy, so there is a question if they can be flown to the community by plane. That is one of the things we must resolve.

That is what I can report, although we don't want to see any further delay. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Komoartok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to thank the minister for his excellent response. We have been waiting for quite a long time for the opening of the health centre. Many people are starting to ask questions on the local radio station wondering when the health centre will be opened. We want to reach a full understanding between my community and residents and hear from the minister.

I understand that the centre will be opened once the furniture has arrived. Can the minister inform the community once he knows when the centre can be opened? Residents in the community want to fully participate in the opening of the centre and look forward to the centre being in operation immediately upon its official opening. Can the minister commit to informing the community right away once he knows

what day in April or May the centre will open? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the member for his question. We are sensitive to the communities and we also cannot wait to open the health centre due to these delays.

I can say that once CGS completes the tendering process and we know who gets the contract, I will be able to write a letter to you and your mayor to notify you as to when they can open the health centre. Once the tendering process is over, I will write a letter to you as soon as we hear when they can open the health centre.

I will be able to announce in the House because the mayors are very interested in hearing that and I really do want to inform them. Once we start resolving these, I will be keeping you abreast. Thank you.

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

Question 207 – 3(2): Status of Federal Funding Announcement for Community Bridges and Roads

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, whose department is responsible for the government's Community Access Road Program.

On February 24 of this year, the federal government announced that the Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency will be providing \$1.3 million to the Government of Nunavut to “help build community access roads and to upgrade or replace community bridges.” One of the approved projects is an upgrade to the dump bridge in Resolute Bay and the federal announcement indicated that “construction is expected to get underway in the summer of 2010.”

Can the minister indicate what the cost of the Resolute Bay project will be and confirm when the federal funding will be received? Thank you.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. This department has allocated \$500,000 from its capital funding. It's been switched over to a different program, compared to the previous years.

Of course, we are encouraged that the federal government has contributed through its Community Adjustment Fund of an additional \$1.3 million to construct some access roads, including some bridges that, at this time, haven't been identified. I'm not fully aware of the Resolute Bay project, but we do take in proposals for access roads as they come on a first-come, first-served basis. Hopefully we will start getting more applications at the department. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm just a little confused because I know it was announced by the federal government that this project was going to be happening, but the minister is not able to tell me when it's happening and how much. My next question was going to be how these projects were approved. Is he saying that the hamlets actually initiated this and sent in the proposals to have them funded? Thank you.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, that's the usual process where a community sends in a proposal to the department for access road funding. In 2009-2010, 13 communities received funding totalling \$500,000. One of them is, of course, Resolute Bay, which received \$20,000. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The federal announcement indicated that the funding for community bridge projects in five communities will create “46 part-time, short-term jobs for Nunavut residents.” Can the minister indicate how many jobs the project in Resolute Bay will bring to the community? Thank you.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm not aware of the numbers.

I'm sure that has been announced, but I didn't take the time to actually crunch out the numbers to see exactly how many positions and people that it's going to take to build some of these infrastructure that are going to be funded. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The minister was quoted in the joint press release, so I just thought maybe he had some of those numbers. Could the minister commit to me that before the end of sitting, he could tell me the dollar figure and how much, when construction would begin, as well as what jobs will be coming to the community? Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I can do that. Once I get the information, I'll make it available to the Hon. Member of Quttiktuq. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 208 – 3(2): Utility Rates Review Council Consideration of Qulliq Energy Corporation's Capital Projects

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister responsible for the Utility Rates Review Council.

I am sure the minister is aware that Qulliq Energy Corporation has recently issued a tender to construct a brand new

corporate office building in Iqaluit. This tender closes on March 30.

Under the provisions of the *Qulliq Energy Corporation Act*, the corporation is required by law to seek approval from the minister before undertaking a major capital project and the minister may seek advice of the Utility Rates Review Council before granting permission.

Mr. Speaker, it seems to me that the brand new corporate office building will be expensive. I would like to ask the minister if the Utility Rates Review Council has been asked to review the proposed capital project, yes or no. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Okalik. Minister responsible for the Utility Rates Review Council, Hon. Tagak Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the member for asking that question. I believe it was through the media that they have heard about it.

First of all, I would the members to know that the URRC is at arm's length and they are independent. The minister cannot interfere with them, but I have heard that they were given more than one item to review as they have to give advice to the Minister of Energy. At this time, I can tell you that they're now working on that issue.

As the minister responsible, I cannot tell you exactly what they are doing, but they are quite serious about reviewing these issues, particularly the matter raised in your question. Thank you.

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

Question 209 – 3(2): Adequate Housing for Education Staff

Mr. Ningark: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Recognizing my supplementary was taken as notice by the Minister of Education, I recognize and respect your ruling on that. This is a new question to the same minister, Minister of Education.

Mr. Speaker, we often hear of difficulties in hiring teachers to the community because of the lack of housing for them. This is a known fact in Nunavut. Sometimes teachers have to share accommodations when they come to a community, especially in a small community such as Kugaaruk.

My question to the hon. minister, Mr. Speaker: can the minister describe what efforts are being made to ensure that adequate housing is available for teachers across Nunavut's communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the member for his question. I would first of all like to make a clarification. With respect to teachers' housing in the communities, the Nunavut Housing Corporation is responsible for providing the units. The Department of Education

is not mandated to provide housing for teachers.

We do know, however, that there are difficulties being faced due to shortage of housing for teachers. We are now deliberating on meeting that need with the Nunavut Housing Corporation. We have sent correspondence to the housing minister outlining our concerns for some of the other communities as some communities suffer more than others.

My only response available to that question is that the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation is responsible for that matter and we are trying to mitigate this challenge in cooperation with them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the minister. My first supplementary question: can the minister tell the House that staff housing will be available for future teaching positions? Mind you, I am happy that more teaching positions will be created. Will they be able to provide housing for these new positions? If there is no housing available, then we can't implement the new Act in its entirety. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk: (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We made the assumption that the newly-trained teachers hired by the Department of Education, just like adult education

teachers, school counsellors, and secretaries, will already live in the community. We try to fill these positions at the local level since it involves fewer challenges in hiring qualified local residents.

The priority hiring is geared towards local residents and we try to fill these positions from within, such as an elder. We usually don't have to look elsewhere when trying to hire an elder as a teacher in the school. We usually hire from the community and our presumption is that these new hires already have housing.

I will check into the matter the member raised in his question, as to whether this is indeed an obstacle or whether it may pose a serious problem when we try to implement the student-teacher ratio by hiring more teachers in the communities. The Nunavut Housing Corporation is responsible for providing housing, but we share that concern since we want to ensure that we have the suitable number of teachers for each community, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the Hon. Louis Tapardjuk for his response that they are indeed considering the lack of housing as an issue. I would like to ask the minister if the department is already facing problems with lack of housing available for the teachers and if he is aware of that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we are well aware of some communities experiencing a shortage of housing units for teachers. As I stated earlier, every community faces unique challenges. Some communities face bigger challenges more than others.

With regard to housing for teachers, we have written about this matter and we will continue to deliberate on how best to resolve that challenge. However, the Housing Corporation is responsible for providing housing for public servants. That is all I can respond with at this time, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the hon. minister for his response. He may already have been briefed on this matter, but I could be wrong. Has the minister been briefed about the severe lack of housing for teachers who are working in Kugaaruk? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Yes, I am very well aware that they are facing a severe shortage of teacher staff housing in Kugaaruk. There is housing available, perhaps even the housing unit that belongs to the local co-op, which we could rent. We are mulling over the challenges they face in trying to alleviate the problem, particularly in Kugaaruk, where they face the problem of lack of

housing for teachers. We are dealing with the issue, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 210 – 3(2): Electrical Inspector for Kivalliq Region

Mr. Ningeongan (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to Minister Lorne Kusugak of CGS.

In the Kivalliq region, the communities are building houses and carrying out other projects by way of contracting companies. What I would like to hear from the minister, Mr. Speaker, is about the electrical inspector and if one is now dedicated to the Kivalliq region. I think the minister is aware of inspectors and the problem we have in most Nunavut communities due to the lack of them.

What I would like to hear from the minister is if there is going to be an electrical inspector dedicated to the Kivalliq region and when that would come about. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the member for posing that question. It is an ongoing problem for construction companies and for individuals who are building their homes. We are well aware of the issue with electrical inspectors. Once the

electrical wiring is completed in a house, it is usually required for an electrical inspector to ensure they're up to code.

At this time, we don't have an electrical inspector just for the Kivalliq. We usually send an individual out from the Baffin to the Kivalliq region. In the meantime, for example, we have to come up with a completion schedule so that inspection dates can be set up. We have done this to speed up the approval process and reduce waiting times. We have been talking to private construction companies to make sure that inspection dates are established and therefore, speed up the approval process. Thank you.

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

Mr. Ningeongan (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As this is an ongoing problem in Kivalliq, when are we going to have an electrical inspector that is dedicated to the Kivalliq region? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you. We did plan to target an electrical inspector, but we don't have one at this time. We are trying to fill that position and it is one of the priorities of our department to make sure that there is one dedicated for the Kivalliq. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Ningeongan (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the minister: is your department currently looking for an electrical inspector who will be solely dedicated to the Kivalliq? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you. We thought we found one this summer, but from what I understand, yes, we are currently looking for an electrical inspector. If any changes are made, I will make sure that the member is updated. I can tell you that it is one of the priorities in our department. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Question 211 – 3(2): New Corporate Office Building for the Qulliq Energy Corporation

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I would like to follow up with a question for the Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation.

As I noted in my earlier questions, the Qulliq Energy Corporation has recently issued a tender to construct a brand new corporate office building in Iqaluit. As the minister should be aware, the QEC's headquarters is in Baker Lake and its facilities are very new.

Why does the QEC need a brand new corporate office and how much is it going to cost Nunavummiut, who will

have to bear the costs at the end of the day? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Okalik. Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation, Hon. Hunter Tootoo.

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. I was hoping that he would ask me that question after his questions to the Minister responsible for the Utility Rates Review Council.

Mr. Speaker, as the member is well aware, I'm sure that the limit for the Qulliq Energy Corporation to bring forward a request to the Utility Rates Review Council for a major project is \$5 million. This project is, I believe, going to be projected to be under that. One of the reasons for putting it out to tender is so that we can get some accurate numbers to determine what the actual costs for that facility are going to be.

In an analysis that was done, looking at it, it would be more cost-effective over time for the corporation to build, construct, and own its own office building rather than having a number of various locations here in town that are leased from the private sector. Over time, it will be more cost-effective and beneficial for ratepayers to move forward with a project like that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I did not get a reply as to the cost, so I would

like to get an answer to that, if you don't mind.

Late last year, the QEC quietly announced that its next General Rate Application will be submitted this spring. Why is the minister allowing the QEC to build a new building before the GRC process is completed? Does the corporation already know how much it will be getting at the end of the day? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Once we get some final numbers, as I indicated, I would be more than happy to provide that information to the member. Until the tenders are received, we won't have a good, accurate number of what it will cost. Once that information is received, I would be more than happy to provide it to the member.

To his second question, no, the Qulliq Energy Corporation doesn't already know what it's going to receive. I don't believe that it was something that was done quietly, as far as the General Rate Application. I think it's something that went on the website, there was a press release and letters sent out to all of the municipalities informing them that the corporation was going to be doing that, so I would disagree with the member that it was done quietly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) In last

year's Budget Address, it was indicated that the long-term debt of the Qulliq Energy Corporation is around \$54 million. It will be interesting to note what the figures will be next week when the Minister of Finance addresses us. Given QEC's debt load, how can it afford to construct a brand new office building? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm sure and the member is quite well aware too that a lot of the debt that the corporation incurs is a result of the purchasing of fuel and that's something that's recouped throughout the year as things go on. I'm sure that that's something that the board of directors did look at.

One of the things that I had mentioned earlier is that there will be cost savings over leasing numerous locations throughout the city to having everyone consolidated in one building. That was the basis on which the board of directors made that decision. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I would like to get an accounting as to how much savings that will be before any new commitments takes place as a ratepayer.

It's been a while since this entity of our government has tabled any corporate plan. If you go to their website, the plan

is quite out of date. It would be nice to see a new plan tabled by this minister before our session is over. When will the minister table an updated corporate plan for the Qulliq Energy Corporation? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will check with the officials at the Power Corporation and find out when that will be available and done and ready for tabling. As soon as I find out, I will again be more than happy to provide that information to the member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 212 – 3(2): Problems with Sanikiluaq District Education Authority

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

Mr. Speaker, I refer to a CBC radio report about the GN lending \$130,000 to a Sanikiluaq school to assist the Sanikiluaq DEA. I seem to remember in September that the DEA was struggling with, I think, \$78,000 and now, it seems to have grown to \$130,000. I was just wondering if he could explain how this is allowed to happen. Are there any mechanisms in place to stop this from happening? Thank you.

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

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for his line of questioning. At this time, most of the district education authorities tend to use the regional auditors for their bookkeeping and financial statements. They review all of the financial paperwork and try to formulate a management letter. Most of them use the auditors here in Iqaluit.

In Sanikiluaq, the local DEA used the same auditors in the past. However, the DEA board concluded that they would prefer a different auditing company. Once the DEA made that decision, there was no one auditing their statements. The result was that the DEA no longer knew what their financial situation was. The end result was that they were unaware of their financial standing as there was nobody managing their finances. It even led to a situation where no one was responsible for managing their finances.

Due to this situation, Mr. Speaker, our priority has become trying to conduct training on financial management with the DEA boards locally. We have almost finalized the production of a handbook outlining the financial mandate of the DEAs. This handbook contains all of the relevant information that the DEAs need.

With that being the situation, we came to an agreement with the Sanikiluaq DEA, including their new chairman, that the DEA would resume using the auditors that other authorities use out of Iqaluit. The auditing company we recommended

is based out of Iqaluit that assists a lot of organizations already.

It is obvious that once the Sanikiluaq DEA resumes using the auditing company's services, the DEA will resume their smooth operations. Further, the auditor will be looking at six years worth of financial statements to try and return the DEA to normal operating status. That is how we have approached this matter.

We would not want any other DEA to have to undergo this type of experience. All public finances have to be properly managed and the financial statements have to be correct so that they can make proper decisions. That is our commitment to manage this situation, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank you for that explanation. My next question is: is this a unique situation for just Sanikiluaq or are there other communities and other DEAs in similar situations? Thank you.

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

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With respect to problems such as this, we have run into them in the past where there were financial management matters. Sanikiluaq, however, is the only community experiencing problems with financial management matters. Other communities, such as Rankin Inlet, Cambridge Bay, and Iqaluit, have their

own financial managers and these DEAs are in good financial standing. Other communities experience these issues, so our focus has been on assisting those communities.

We tend to recommend certain actions that would improve their management, such as recommending auditors or other financial management procedures. This includes processes, such as financial statements that other corporations use. Most accounting firms already have these processes included in their service provision. So if they are assisted by these companies, then there is less likelihood of encountering future issues with respect to financial management.

That is how we have approached these challenges and we continue to prepare more corrections that the DEAs can utilize down the road, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It sounds like by having centralized auditors, it can help with financial situations. The minister didn't actually specifically say if there are any other DEAs that are running in a deficit situation at this point. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Sanikiluaq is the only one that I am aware of. Just to make sure that I have it correct, I'll look into the matter and see if there are any other communities in a deficit situation. At this time, Sanikiluaq is the only one that I'm aware of, but I'll

have to take this question as notice, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Your question is taken as notice. Oral Questions. Member for Pangnirtung, Mr. Komoartok.

**Question 213 – 3(2): Pangnirtung
Staff of Medical Travel Office**

Mr. Komoartok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask my question to the Minister of Health and Social Services. It is in regard to the Minister's Statement he made about the Medical Travel Office being relocated to Iqaluit from Pangnirtung and the three individuals who currently work in Pangnirtung.

What I can also say, Mr. Speaker, is that when we come here to Iqaluit, we hear that there is a vacancy rate of 24 percent with the Government of Nunavut. I can state that in the smaller communities, if there is a position open and available, it gets filled and there is almost a zero vacancy rate.

In looking at the three positions that are being transferred to Iqaluit, it's obvious that they will be transferred, will there be three more positions opened under the health and social services department in our community? So will three more positions be transferred to Pangnirtung to replace these transferred positions or are these three positions slashed from our total number? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the member for asking that question. The three affected individuals will stay on as Government of Nunavut employees. We would be more than happy to relocate them here to Iqaluit if they wish to do so. If not, they will be able to stay in Pangnirtung as there are positions available for them there.

We have already had discussions with those affected individuals and have had discussions with their union. They are not going to be losing their employment. As I stated earlier, if they would like to relocate to Iqaluit, we will welcome them. To emphasize it further, there will be no job losses in Pangnirtung. Thank you.

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

Mr. Komoartok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the minister for that excellent response. If those three positions are going to be relocated to Iqaluit, are you going to be creating new positions even if they're in a different field?

In any smaller community, if you lose a position, it has a drastic effect on the community. If those three positions are going to be moved to Iqaluit, are we going to be creating three new positions to work with the GN? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I said

earlier, the Medical Travel Office is going to be moving to Iqaluit, so those three affected individuals will be offered other positions within the Nunavut government in Pangnirtung. Their salaries and benefits are not going to be affected and they will fill positions within the Nunavut government.

If I have any other information or any new information, I will make sure that I keep the member updated. I'm very sure now that the medical travel staff will be located in Iqaluit. Thank you.

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

Mr. Komoartok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to thank the minister, along with the individuals whose positions are to be transferred since they will be retaining their positions in the GN.

What I'm trying to get across is that there are three positions under the Department of Health and Social Services in Pangnirtung. Let's say that if there were 12 positions, then we lose three Health and Social Services positions from Pangnirtung, will the government transfer three other positions to Pangnirtung which will stay there?

We treasure every position that has been transferred to our community and we don't want them reduced as this would set precedence. If this continues, then eventually, the positions would be reduced to nothing, with all of the positions being slowly transferred to Iqaluit. We don't want to see this occurring in our community.

So if any positions are transferred, then we want to see three different positions transferred to our community. These positions are coveted by our community and I just wanted to make that statement, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you. I can respond to the member that it will not be done in that manner. If the three individuals whose positions were earmarked to be transferred didn't want to move, that would be a problem.

We aren't moving three filled positions since we have many vacant positions. We have an approximate 30 percent vacancy rate in the Department of Health and Social Services here in Iqaluit. Since these positions are under this department, we wouldn't be filling new positions here as one of our guiding principles is to develop the smaller communities and we would have to allocate more funds to do this.

However, with respect to the three public servants who already fill these positions, we wouldn't want to lose the employees. So by virtue of transferring these positions, we have stated to the individuals that if they wish to remain in Pangnirtung, they can do so since we still have some vacancies in Pangnirtung. The affected individuals will not lose a job because of this relocation. I can only respond as such. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Thank you, Mr. Komoartok. (interpretation ends) Oral Questions. Member for South Baffin, Mr. Schell.

**Question 214 – 3(2): Banning
European Union Liquor Products**

Mr. Schell: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I would like to return for a moment to the issue of liquor. I had asked the Minister of Finance one simple question: when the South African government was still discriminating against Blacks, Canada and other countries took a strong message by boycotting the sale of South African alcohol in Canadian stores.

Will our minister send a strong message against the EU ban on seal products by introducing a ban against their alcohol, yes or no?

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the member's question. I can't say yes or no, but if the member wants to introduce a motion in the House, then we can debate it and we can do it here. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Question 215 – 3(2): Minister's Task
Force on Nunavut Liquor Act**

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I look forward to moving that motion very much.

(interpretation) I would like to direct my question to the Minister responsible for

the Liquor Commission because it is very important to our community here.

I know that we have faced difficult situations in Iqaluit over the past year. I imagine that most members have heard through the media that many crimes have been committed due to the use of alcohol here in Iqaluit. It is evident that alcohol is a major cause of social problems and we need to work on it.

I would like to ask the minister: this entity that is going to be reviewing the *Liquor Act*, will you ensure that the Iqaluit residents are involved in that review? Iqaluit is amongst the most impacted communities here in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Okalik for raising that concern. There's no question, Mr. Speaker, that alcohol is seriously destroying the fabric in our communities. It has been that way for as long as I can remember, living in the North. The statistics are shocking, Mr. Speaker, not just for Iqaluit but for some other communities in Nunavut. I hear all of the time from people in Nunavut that we have to do something.

That is one of the reasons we established the minister's task force to review the *Liquor Act*. I assured Mr. Okalik in the past that Iqaluit would be fully involved. The task force will meet with all communities. They will meet with city and town councils, hamlet councils, wellness committees, and anyone who is interested in contributing to the task force discussion reports.

We look forward for the input from Nunavummiut on how to resolve some of the issues related to alcohol. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm not trying to belittle any other community elsewhere in Nunavut, but they aren't even in the same category simply because of the numbers and Iqaluit is impacted more than most other communities.

Therefore, I urge the minister to ensure that the residents of Iqaluit are participating and involved. Yes, I heard your comment that they will also be holding a hearing here in Iqaluit, but I would prefer that they be involved in a meaningful and constructive way. If the experiences are heard, then they can work to resolve the problems faced by citizens in Nunavut.

I further urge the minister to include an Iqaluit resident in this review panel. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I again thank Mr. Okalik for sharing his concerns. As a former Mayor of Cambridge Bay, I have stood up in many public meetings to talk about the alcohol issue in my community. I have many friends who have suffered from alcohol in my community and I know many people who have died from alcohol in my community. It's not news to me what he is talking about.

I have assured him that the people of Iqaluit will be consulted and there is no intent of the minister's task force to exclude the people of Iqaluit. They will be included and they will have the opportunity to talk to the task force. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Thank you, Mr. Okalik. Please note that question period is now over. Going back to our Orders of the Day. Item 7. Written Questions. Mr. Rumbolt.

Item 7: Written Questions

Written Question 003 – 3(2): Annual Fuel Purchases by the Government of Nunavut

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My written question today is for the Minister responsible for Community and Government Services. My question is concerning the annual fuel purchase by the Government of Nunavut.

- 1) Expressing the data in the same format as that which the Government of Nunavut provided in Return to Written Question 12 – 2(4), which was tabled in the House on May 22, 2008, what quantities of fuel were purchased and delivered in 2008 and 2009?
- 2) As of March 1, 2010, what is the current bulk fuel storage capacity in each of Nunavut's communities?
- 3) For the calendar year of 2008, which communities in Nunavut received fuel deliveries by airlift?

- 4) For the calendar year of 2009, which communities received fuel deliveries by airlift?
- 5) What policies and/or procedures does the Government of Nunavut follow with respect to the rationing of fuel supplies in communities in circumstances where shortages exist?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Written Questions. Member for South Baffin, Mr. Schell.

**Written Question 004 – 3(2):
Government of Nunavut Response
to Resolutions Adopted at the 2009
Annual General Meeting of the
Nunavut Association of
Municipalities**

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for Madam Premier and it's in regard to the Government of Nunavut responses to resolutions adopted at the 2009 Annual General Meeting of the Nunavut Association of Municipalities.

- 1) What were the Government of Nunavut's responses to the resolutions adopted at the 2009 Annual General Meeting of the Nunavut Association of Municipalities?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Schell. Written Questions. Member for Iqaluit West, Mr. Okalik.

**Written Question 005 – 3(2):
Ministerial Travel**

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct this written question to Premier Eva Aariak and it's in regard to ministerial travel.

- 1) For the period November 19, 2008 to March 3, 2010, how many trips on official ministerial business were undertaken by:
 - a. The Hon. Eva Aariak, MLA;
 - b. The Hon. Tagak Curley, MLA;
 - c. The Hon. Lorne Kusugak, MLA;
 - d. The Hon. Keith Peterson, MLA;
 - e. The Hon. Daniel Shewchuk, MLA;
 - f. The Hon. Louis Tapardjuk, MLA;
 - g. The Hon. Peter Taptuna, MLA; and
 - h. The Hon. Hunter Tootoo, MLA?
- 2) What was the purpose, itinerary, and duration of each trip?
- 3) Who participated in each trip?
- 4) What was the total cost of each trip, broken down by:
 - a. Airfare and/or aircraft charter expenses;
 - b. Accommodation expenses; and
 - c. Other expenses?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Okalik. Oral Questions. Mr. Komoartok. I'm sorry. Written Questions. Mr. Komoartok.

Written Question 006 – 3(2): Status of the Implementation of the Nunavut Housing Trust Delivery Strategy

Mr. Komoartok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Hon. Hunter Tootoo, Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, in regard to the status of the implementation of the Nunavut Housing Trust Delivery Strategy.

- 1) As of March 1, 2010, what is the status of the Nunavut Housing Corporation's implementation of the Nunavut Housing Trust Delivery Strategy with respect to:
 - a) The total number of public housing units constructed, broken down by Nunavut community;
 - b) The total cost of construction of public housing units, broken down by community; and
 - c) Inuit employment and training initiatives, broken down by Nunavut community?

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Komoartok. (interpretation ends) Written Questions. Mr. Ningeongan.

Written Question 007 – 3(2): Enforcement of the Wildlife Act

Mr. Ningeongan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Hon. Daniel Shewchuk, Minister of Environment, in regard to the enforcement of the *Wildlife Act*.

1. How many charges have been laid under the *Wildlife Act* since it came into force on July 9, 2005?
2. What were the circumstances involved in the laying of each charge?
3. What was the ultimate disposition of each charge?
4. Section 241 of the *Wildlife Act* provides that alternative measures may be used to deal with a person alleged to have committed an offence instead of judicial proceedings. On how many occasions have the provisions of this Act been used?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. Written Questions. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. Elliott.

Written Question 008 – 3(2): Correctional Facilities, Recidivism Rates and Rehabilitation Programs

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a written question for the Minister of Justice concerning correctional facilities, recidivism rates, and rehabilitation programs in Nunavut.

1. As of March 1, 2010, how many adult and young offenders are serving sentences in territorial custody at the Baffin Correctional Centre, the Ilavut Healing Centre, and the Iqaluit Young Offenders' Centre?
2. As of March 1, 2010, how many individuals are incarcerated in territorial correctional facilities awaiting trial?
3. As of March 1, 2010, what is the average period of time before an individual on remand in territorial custody goes to trial?
4. As of March 1, 2010, what is the rate of recidivism for male adult offenders in territorial custody?
5. As of March 1, 2010, what is the rate of recidivism for male young offenders in territorial custody?
6. As of March 1, 2010, what is the rate of recidivism for female adult offenders in territorial custody?
7. As of March 1, 2010, what is the rate of recidivism for female young offenders in territorial custody?
8. As of March 1, 2010, what rehabilitation, counselling, and education programs are offered to adult offenders in territorial custody?
9. As of March 1, 2010, what rehabilitation, counselling, and education programs are offered to young offenders in territorial custody?
10. As of March 1, 2010, how does the Department of Justice measure the effectiveness of its rehabilitation, counselling, and education programs for adult offenders?
11. As of March 1, 2010, how does the Department of Justice measure the effectiveness of its rehabilitation, counselling, and education programs for young offenders?
12. From March 1, 2008 to March 1, 2010, what percentage of adult offenders in territorial custody participated in rehabilitation, counselling, and education programs?
13. From March 1, 2008 to March 1, 2010, what percentage of young offenders in territorial custody participated in rehabilitation, counselling, and education programs?
14. As of March 1, 2010, what rehabilitation, counselling, and education programs are offered to former adult offenders who have completed sentences in territorial correctional facilities?
15. As of March 1, 2010, what rehabilitation, counselling, and education programs are offered to former young offenders who have completed sentences in territorial correctional facilities?

Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott.
Written Questions. Member for Akulliq,
Mr. Ningark.

Written Question 009 – 3(2): Activities of the Nunavut Liquor Licensing Board

Mr. Ningark: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a written question for the Hon. Keith Peterson, the Minister of Justice, and it's pertaining to the activity of the Nunavut Liquor Licensing Board. The question is:

1. Within the meaning of sections 3 to 10 of the *Liquor Act*, what were the activities of the Nunavut Liquor Licensing Board for the:
 - a. 1999-2000 fiscal year;
 - b. 2000-01 fiscal year;
 - c. 2001-02 fiscal year;
 - d. 2002-03 fiscal year;
 - e. 2003-04 fiscal year;
 - f. 2004-05 fiscal year;
 - g. 2005-06 fiscal year;
 - h. 2006-07 fiscal year;
 - i. 2007-08 fiscal year;
 - j. 2008-09 fiscal year; and
 - k. 2009-2010 fiscal year to date?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Written Questions. Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Mr. Clerk.

Item 8: Returns to Written Questions

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

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am tabling a response to Written Question 2 – 3(2) that was filed with my office by the Minister of Education. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Returns to Written Questions. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Item 10. Petitions. Mr. Ningark.

Item 10: Petitions

Petition 003 – 3(2): Petition for a Safe House in Kugaaruk

Mr. Ningark: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I mentioned earlier, I have a petition from my constituents in Kugaaruk. This is a petition for the 'creation of a safe house' in Kugaaruk. Mr. Speaker, this petition contains 150 signatures. I sincerely hope that these voices will be heard. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Petitions. Item 11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees. Item 12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Mr. Okalik.

Item 13: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 105 – 3(2): Mould Problems Closes Minto Mine Bunkhouses

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I am pleased to table a copy of a recent news story from CBC North concerning mould infestations in facilities at the Minto copper mine in the Yukon. The news story indicates that swift action was taken to address the threat to the health and safety of mineworkers. Mr. Speaker, I have raised the issue of health and safety conditions in Government of Nunavut office buildings and I would suggest that this needs to be addressed as well.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Okalik.
Tabling of Documents. Mr. Curley.

**Tabled Document 106 – 3(2): 2009
Tobacco Control Act Annual
Report**

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation):
Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to
table the following document: 2009
Tobacco Control Act Annual Report.
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Can we have the
document brought forward to the table,
please.

Tabling of Documents. Mr. Curley.

**Tabled Document 107 – 3(2): 2008-
2009 Annual Report on the
Operation of the Medical Care
Plan**

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation):
Mr. Speaker, I would like to table the
following document: 2008-09 Annual
Report on the Operation of the Medical
Care Plan in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr.
Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Curley.
Tabling of Documents. Mr. Okalik.

**Tabled Document 108 – 3(2):
Correspondence to the Hon. Leona
Aglukkaq, Minister Responsible
for the North**

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you,
Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to also table a
copy of my recent correspondence to the
Hon. Leona Aglukkaq concerning the
Government of Nunavut's proposed
bridge over the Sylvia Grinnell River. In
my letter to our Member of Parliament, I

urge the federal government to withdraw
support for this project until the concerns
of Inuit hunters are addressed. I have not
yet received the courtesy of a reply to
my letter and I encourage the hunters of
Iqaluit to bring their concerns directly to
their MP's attention. Thank you, Mr.
Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Tabling of
Documents. Mr. Okalik.

**Tabled Document 109 – 3(2):
Correspondence to the Hon. Jim
Prentice, Minister of the
Environment**

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you,
Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to also table a
copy of my recent correspondence to the
federal Minister of the Environment
concerning the Government of Canada's
recent and outrageous decision to
prohibit the issuing of export permits for
polar bear harvested in Baffin Bay.

I urge all members to review this
correspondence with care. Thank you,
Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you,
Mr. Okalik. Tabling of Documents.
(interpretation ends) Mr. Clerk.

**Tabled Document 110 – 3(2): Returns
to Oral Questions 199 – 3(2), 200
– 3(2), and 202 – 3(2)**

Clerk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am
tabling Returns to Questions [199], 200,
and 202 that were taken as notice at the
last sitting and that were filed with my
office by the appropriate minister. Thank
you.

Speaker: Thank you. Tabling of Documents. Item 14. Notices of Motions. Mr. Schell.

Item 14: Notices of Motions

Motion 015 – 3(2): Appointment of the Information and Privacy Commissioner of Nunavut – Notice

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Monday, March 8, 2010, I will move the following motion:

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the Hon. Member of Quttiktuq, that the Legislative Assembly recommend to the Commissioner of Nunavut that Ms. Elaine Keenan Bengts be appointed as Information and Privacy Commissioner effective this day.

Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time, I will seek unanimous consent to deal with my motion today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Item 16: Motions

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek unanimous consent to deal with my motion today.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Schell. The member is seeking unanimous consent to deal with his motion today. Are there any nays? There are none. Please proceed, Mr. Schell.

Motion 015 – 3(2): Appointment of the Information and Privacy Commissioner of Nunavut

Mr. Schell: WHEREAS section 61 of the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* provides that the Information and Privacy Commissioner is appointed by the Commissioner of Nunavut on the recommendation of the Legislative Assembly to hold office for a term of five years during good behaviour;

AND WHEREAS the Legislative Assembly's Management and Services Board has undertaken a merit-based selection process for this position;

AND WHEREAS the Legislative Assembly is prepared to recommend an appointment to this position;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the Hon. Member of Quttiktuq, that the Legislative Assembly recommends to the Commissioner of Nunavut that Ms. Elaine Keenan Bengts be appointed as Information and Privacy Commissioner effective this day.

Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Schell. The motion is in order. To the motion. Mr. Schell.

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am very pleased to have the opportunity today to speak to my motion and I would like to thank my colleague from the High Arctic for having seconded it.

Mr. Speaker, the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* is one of our territory's most important pieces of

legislation. The Act ensures that the public has access to government information while preventing the unauthorized use or disclosure of personal information held by government departments and other public bodies.

The Information and Privacy Commissioner of Nunavut, who serves as an independent officer of the Legislative Assembly, plays a critical role in maintaining this balance. In addition to providing independent reviews of decisions made by public bodies with respect to requests made under the Act, the Information and Privacy Commissioner may offer formal comments on proposed legislation, as well as providing public education on the Act.

Ms. Elaine Keenan Bengts was appointed as Nunavut's first Information and Privacy Commissioner in 1999. She was reappointed in the fall of 2004 for a second five-year term which expired in November of last year. She has also served as the Information and Privacy Commissioner of the Northwest Territories since 1996, when the legislation was created. Ms. Keenan Bengts is a long-time northerner and non-resident member of the Law Society of Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, as you will recall, a public invitation for applications was issued by the Legislative Assembly earlier this year. Following its review, the board unanimously recommended to Caucus that Ms. Keenan Bengts be reappointed as our Information and Privacy Commissioner.

I would also note that Ms. Keenan Bengts appeared last fall before the Legislative Assembly's Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts on the occasion of its public hearing on her most recent annual report. Having had the opportunity to participate in this important hearing, I am confident that she will continue to serve this Assembly and Nunavut with distinction.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to unanimous support for my motion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Schell. To the motion. Thank you. Question has been called. All those in favour, raise your hand, please. Thank you. Please note that the motion is carried unanimously.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Motions. Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. (interpretation) Item 19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters.

At this time, we don't have any agenda items for Committee of the Whole, so we will move on to the next item. Item 20. Report of the Committee of the Whole. Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. Item 22. Orders of the Day. (interpretation ends) Mr. Clerk.

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Clerk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Orders of the Day for March 5:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements

3. Members' Statements Sergeant-at-Arms.
4. Returns to Oral Questions >>*House adjourned at 15:27*
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions
8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to Opening Address
10. Petitions
11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motions
15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions
17. First Reading of Bills
18. Second Reading of Bills
19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
20. Report of the Committee of the Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills
22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. This House stands adjourned until March 5 and we will begin at ten o'clock in the morning. Thank you.

