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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Speaker

Hon. James Arreak

(Uqqummiut)

Hon. Lorne Kusugak

(Rankin Inlet South – Whale Cove)

*Minister of Community and
Government Services; Minister of
Energy*

John Ningark

(Akulliq)

Johnny Ningeongan

(Nanulik)

*Deputy Speaker, Chair of the
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Paul Okalik

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(Arviat)

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for the Nunavut Arctic College*

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk

(Amittuq)

*Government House Leader; Minister of
Education; Minister of Culture,
Language, Elders and Youth; Minister
of Languages; Minister of Aboriginal
Affairs*

Hon. Peter Taptuna

(Kugluktuk)

*Deputy Premier; Minister of Economic
Development and Transportation*

Hon. Hunter Tootoo

(Iqaluit Centre)

*Minister responsible for the Nunavut
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Hansard Production

Innirvik Support Services

Box 1200

Iqaluit, Nunavut, X0A 0H0

Tel (867) 975-5000 Fax (867) 975-5190 Toll-Free (877) 334-7266

Website: www.assembly.nu.ca

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**Iqaluit, Nunavut
Tuesday, March 16, 2010**

Members Present:

Honourable Eva Aariak, Honourable James Arreak, Mr. James Arvaluk, Mr. Moses Aupaluktuq, Honourable Tagak Curley, Mr. Ron Elliott, Mr. Adamee Komoartok, Honourable Lorne Kusugak, Mr. John Ningark, Mr. Johnny Ningeongan, Mr. Paul Okalik, 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. Ningark to say the opening prayer. Mr. Ningark.

>>*Prayer*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningark. A very good afternoon, Premier, Ministers, Members of the Legislative Assembly, Nunavummiut, and the people of Clyde River.

Going to Item 2 in our Orders of the Day. Ministers' Statements. (interpretation ends) Hon. Peter Taptuna.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

**Minister's Statement 121 – 3(2):
Iqaluit Marine Facility**

Hon. Peter Taptuna (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) The lack of marine transportation facilities in Nunavut is well known and is an issue in almost every one of our communities. This lack of infrastructure

is most critical right here in Iqaluit, where the crude landing beach, the extreme high tides, and the volume of goods being shipped all add up to a situation where the demand will overtake capacity in a few short years.

For this reason, my department has been working with a marine engineering company on developing designs for a marine facility in Iqaluit. At this point, several options are still being considered. One option being considered is a full deep water port that will serve the needs of the city well beyond the foreseeable future. At the other end of the spectrum are improvements to the causeway and upland areas that were constructed in the 1940s.

Mr. Speaker, each of these options has a cost associated with it. Trucking costs, storage costs, annual maintenance, and capital construction and renewal costs all have to be taken into account. The more elaborate and larger the solution, the higher the operational and maintenance costs will be.

Mr. Speaker, for this reason, my department will spend the coming months consulting with users of this facility. It is very important that any option we decide on solves as many problems as possible, by finding the right balance between capacity and cost. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Ministers' Statements. Premier of Nunavut, Hon. Eva Aariak.

**Minister's Statement 122 – 3(2):
Champions for Implementation of
the Tamapta Action Plan**

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon to my constituents. Mr. Speaker, in our mandate *Tamapta/CLC: Building Our Future Together*, we express our confidence in Nunavut and hope for its vibrant future, built by our people pursuing their dreams. In order to reach our vision for 2030, however, we must do more than dream – we must take action.

In December, I tabled the action plan for *Tamapta*, which contains 61 specific actions which we have committed to completing as a government by 2013. Collaboration between departments will be very important as we move forward with our shared goals.

I am pleased to report that considerable progress has already been made on creating processes for interdepartmental work, specifically in the areas of building human resource capacity, achieving sustainable development of our economy, increased accountability, and in striving to find ways to achieve an ever better quality of life for Nunavummiut.

Mr. Speaker, this need for focus, leadership, and collaboration starts with us. For this reason, each of the Cabinet Ministers will be acting as a champion for several areas of interdepartmental effort. They will receive regular quarterly updates from deputy ministers' committees on progress being made towards implementation of our *Tamapta* mandate.

Mr. Speaker, I will provide the members with a full list of the champion roles selected by each of the ministers on Cabinet. These champion roles do not replace the ministers' work giving regular direction to and monitoring their departments, or their role in setting policy as a Member of Executive Council. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, this champion role will serve as a way to allow ministers to expand their focus sufficiently to ensure that we collectively provide the necessary leadership for all elements of *Tamapta*. It will supplement the regular duties of their ministerial portfolios.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, Cabinet will also meet several times a year as a Priorities Implementation Committee. We will focus exclusively on progress on the *Tamapta* Action Plan and deliberate about ways to ensure that the appropriate priority and resources are given to achieving what we have set out to do.

I look forward to providing updates regularly to all Members of the Legislative Assembly on the progress that we are making on our collective action plan through coordinated efforts within government and through collaboration with our partners. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Premier. Ministers' Statements. (interpretation ends) Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for High Arctic, Mr. Elliott.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 182 – 3(2): Nunavut's License Plates: It's Time for Change!

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My colleague from Nanulik rose in the House yesterday to pose questions on the issue of driver's licences in the territory. I am grateful that he did so because I have also heard concerns on this issue and I encourage the government to examine ways to accelerate the process of issuing new licences to residents in our smaller communities. Mr. Speaker, my colleague's questions got me thinking about a related issue: our territory's licence plates.

Mr. Speaker, earlier in this session, I spoke about how broadcasting in the North can help to promote language and identity. It's interesting that something as commonplace as a licence plate can also serve as an important symbol of identity and distinctiveness. For example, Mr. Speaker, I'll bet you that even those Canadians who have never been to Québec know that the province's official motto, "Je me souviens," which means, "I remember," is on the licence plates of millions of vehicles.

Mr. Speaker, I think it's strange that although the government spends enormous amounts of money on translation services for annual reports and other documents, we haven't yet gotten around to making sure that our own licence plates reflect the character and identity of the territory.

Mr. Speaker, when a resident goes to get a new licence plate for their vehicle, I think that they should have the right to

choose to have the name of our territory displayed in syllabics or roman orthography. It would be unique and wonderful for us to be the only jurisdiction in North America where an aboriginal language was so prominently displayed in this way.

Mr. Speaker, I also would like to take this opportunity to encourage the government to ask the public for ideas for a new motto to put on our licence plates. As we know, the one that we have now was inherited in 1999. Over the years, other provinces and territories have done the same thing.

I anticipate that we would get a lot of good ideas from youth for a motto that captures their dreams and visions for the territory. I think that this would also help contribute to building a distinct image for the territory and branding our distinctiveness. I would also like to see residents have the right to choose to have their plates express this motto in the official language of their choice. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Member's Statement 183 – 3(2): United Nations General Assembly Proclaims 2012 the International Year of Co-operatives

Mr. Ningark: Thank you kindly, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to discuss the importance of co-operatives in Nunavut and throughout the world.

Mr. Speaker, on December 18, 2009, the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed 2012 the International Year of Co-operatives.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to acknowledge the fact that this is the first time that a Canadian government has officially expressed its support for a UN international year before it was proclaimed.

Mr. Speaker, I believe this is an important step to increasing awareness of how co-operatives contribute to the social and economic well-being of communities throughout the world.

As Members of this House are aware, I have been a long-time supporter of co-ops in Nunavut, especially in the communities of Kugaaruk and Repulse Bay. The Koomiut Co-op of Kugaaruk has a crucial role in the community as it strives to become self-reliant.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud the federal government for acknowledging and supporting co-operatives and encourage the Government of Nunavut to do the same.

I ask all members to join me in saluting 2012 as the International Year of Co-operatives. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Members' Statements. Member for Pangnirtung, Mr. Komoartok.

**Member's Statement 184 – 3(2):
Pangnirtung Gathering for
Renewal of Aboriginal Healing
Foundation Funding**

Mr. Komoartok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to talk about the protest yesterday in my community that Pujualussait Association held regarding the elimination of the Aboriginal Healing Foundation. Although the weather was really bad, about 240 to 250 protesters participated in the event and made a human chain to demonstrate their solidarity in wanting the funding to continue.

There are some people that we would like to thank. Madeleine Qumuatuq, our Reverend Louie Mike, and Sakiasie Sowdluapik, who is our mayor, made presentations during the protest. Also, the Qikiqtani Inuit Association provided tea, coffee, and refreshments.

The Pujualussait Association in our community was funded through the program. I myself have been a board member of the Pujualussait Association serving for many years. The association has done tremendous work with healing programs in our community. They have also done work all across Nunavut and parts of Nunavik as well as the NWT. Since 2004, a list includes these people and organizations that have been involved in the work, and I will read it out in English.

- (interpretation ends) Language and Culture Enrichment, 2004-05, funded by CLEY;
- newsletter;
- radio shows;
- tool making;
- *Qarmaq* activities;

- theatre groups;
- sewing;
- Inuktitut reading and writing skills;
- tent making;
- planning sessions;
- trauma and safety training;
- suicide prevention training;
- personal healing;
- women's and men's retreat;
- cultural workshops;
- healing workshop;
- residential school survivor trauma workshops that were in line with Qikiqtarjuaq and Pangnirtung grief workshops;
- a self-care workshop;
- trauma conference in Pangnirtung, Nunavut, Nunavik, Labrador, and the south;
- young parents' retreat;
- suicide prevention training;
- young men's trip;
- traditional life skills;
- youth story telling and video photography that was sponsored by CLEY, Pujualussait, Embrace Life...

Speaker (interpretation): Mr.

Komoartok, you must seek unanimous consent to conclude your statement. Mr. Komoartok.

Mr. Komoartok (interpretation): I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Komoartok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, my colleagues.

These people have done tremendous work in creating programs, such as youth story telling and video photography, where I left off, as well as:

- (interpretation ends) sexual abuse workshops;
- Embrace Life Week;
- assertiveness training;
- residential school survivor cultural workshop;
- *Amauti* making;
- *Kamik* making;
- elders relocation and grief healing;
- substance abuse training;
- substance abuse workshop;
- public meetings to address suicide in our communities;
- counselling, both traditional and modern;
- youth trauma and grief workshop in Pangnirtung, Qikiqtarjuaq, and Iqaluit;
- trauma training to AFC prep projects, that's Qikiqtarjuaq, Nunavut, Labrador, and Nunavut.

(interpretation) As I say, this group has done tremendous work on healing programs. They conduct their work not only in our community but they built a cabin outside of Pangnirtung about 17 miles out where they hold healing programs. People are invited to put up their tents to attend these healing programs.

I urge the federal government to ensure continued funding of the Aboriginal Healing Foundation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to introduce two people behind me. One is Annie Quirke, the Executive Director for the Nunavut Disabilities Society. Beside her is James McDougal, the President and CEO of the Canadian Deafness Research and Training Institute. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome to the Gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Komoartok.

Mr. Komoartok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to acknowledge one of my cousins from our community, Lasalosie Ishulutaq. Welcome.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome to the Gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Ningark.

Mr. Ningark: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also would like to recognize Annie Quirke, who I used to see in Yellowknife when I was an MLA in the NWT before Nunavut. Welcome. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome to the Gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Ms. Aariak.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also wish to recognize the same individual, Annie Quirke, who resides in my riding. I would like to welcome her. She is the better half of one of our own officials in the House.

I also wish to include in my recognition my cousin, Lasalosie, from Pangnirtung. I would like to welcome him as well. Thank you.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome to the Gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. (interpretation ends) Item 6. Oral Questions. Mr. Ningark.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 287 – 3(2): Correspondence Regarding Safe House Request in Kugaaruk

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to Premier Aariak.

I wish to thank her first of all for *Tamapta*, which speaks of families, healthy homes, the beneficial role of families in all communities, big and small, a healthy society in Nunavut, and wants to promote these values to guide their work. This *Tamapta* Action Plan is supported by all members and evidently by all Nunavummiut.

I have sent correspondence to several members of the Cabinet dated February 8, 2010, and the distribution list included the Minister of Finance, the Hon. Keith Peterson, the Minister of Health and Social Services, the Hon. Tagak Curley, as well as to Madam Premier. The subject regards the wishes of Kugaaruk residents to see a facility built in their community. This facility would serve as a safe house for spousal assault victims. They would like to see this facility provide various assistance programs.

This envisioned shelter for battered women and abuse victims would not just provide such services and programs. The services would extend to include elders, men and women, and in fact, all residents who may require assistance and/or healing practices. It would serve as a place of refuge and quietness, along the same Inuktitut concepts as *Saimmaqsavvik* (a place to achieve calmness).

If the Premier has received that letter, my question is: has she had the opportunity to discuss this matter with her colleagues and if not, will this matter be included in your agenda? The people of Kugaaruk would really like this crisis centre built. There is, in fact, an existing building that could be used for such purpose. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. These are types of issues that people expect to be resolved and which are important to us as they are to all Nunavummiut.

I think the member is referring to what he stated earlier last week. I can meet and have discussions with the ministers and other members on how to address this issue as it is a social issue. We will seek solutions together, my colleagues and I. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Mr. Ningark.

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like the ministers to know that I'm not trying to drag this on and on.

I would just like to say that a building already exists and only needs additions and modifications. It's the old RCMP staff housing buildings which are currently too small for our purposes. The buildings already exist. What they need now is funding to add to the existing structure.

Perhaps if the Premier could meet with the minister responsible before this session is over, I would be very appreciative of any outcome. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At this time, we are still in the approval process for our main estimates, so I will have an opportunity to bring this up with my colleagues. I cannot commit to anything now, but I am willing to discuss this matter with my Cabinet colleagues. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Premier. Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Oral

Questions. Member for Tununiq, Mr. Arvaluk.

Question 288 – 3(2): Medical Client Complaints Procedure

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday, I raised several questions relating to wheelchairs and whether the department could conduct feasibility studies as to whether battery-operated models would be practical up here. Today, I would like to pose my questions to the same person, the Minister of Health and Social Services.

My colleague from Akulliq had eloquent words to say last week. Apparently, they had tried to lodge a complaint regarding services provided by the health department but didn't know who to complain to. It was also said that the complainants couldn't get in touch with the proper people. I myself have been notified by several constituents in our community that their attempts to contact people from the health department go unanswered. When they left phone messages outlining their issues and contact information, none of these individuals received any follow-up.

Now, I would like the minister to inform this House of the correct contact information in order to get proper services. I would like to know if the client service coordinator position in the Baffin region is vacant. Is this office even open to take calls? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understand where the member is coming from and I recognize the concern. What I can tell the member unequivocally is that if a letter is indeed sent or a phone message is recorded, then that information will not be ignored. I can tell him this with respect to the concern he just expressed.

In addition, I believe that the officials in that office are listening to the proceedings. The individual who is handling that office is quite familiar with the issues and is also an Inuk, but we have more than one staff member who works at that office. The facsimile number is correct.

However, what I can state here is that if the information contained in our public service announcements need correction, then we will ensure that it is corrected and the proper information is made public. If we need to remedy this, then we will do so.

With regard to the facsimile machine and number, that machine is in their office. Here I am referencing the facsimile number that our colleague, John Ningark, tested the other day. As a matter of fact, when inquiries are made through my office, we transfer them to the same individuals who are handling the client services. Due to these reasons, we believe that these complaints are being processed properly.

However, we may have to update our contact information that is being announced as public service announcements and I will ensure that the contact information is indeed correct. The information is readily available, but

sometimes getting it out there to the public is not easily done. Thank you.

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

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that response, although he only answered part of my question.

Last summer, the minister distributed a series of pamphlets describing the patient/client complaint procedure. The minister distributed this information to all three regions, the Kitikmeot, the Kivalliq, as well as the Qikiqtaaluk region.

Can the minister tell the House specifically what the cause of the problems are and what steps are being taken to correct the complaint process? This applies as well to patients who feel that they didn't receive an appropriate response. What steps has your department undertaken in order to ensure that this process is effective? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What I can tell the member is that as long as the problem is clearly identified, our senior officials can try and resolve them through the Senior Management Committee. They have regularly scheduled meetings. In fact, when emergencies and other pressing issues arise, they will hold a meeting to try and resolve them, to ensure that they are

properly addressed. This also applies to timely communications.

Sometimes problems arise in dealing with requests or complaints immediately due to the different time zones. Complaints are sent from all over; the Kitikmeot and the Kivalliq region as well. Also, the contact numbers are for all of Nunavut and sometimes all of the lines are busy. The fax machine might also be busy too. I have suggested that the fax machine be used solely for receiving complaints and not for anything else.

Another way of passing communications is through your constituency office. This would help a lot when we need to get the information out there. My office is always open to suggestions and such. Thank you.

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

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister for his response. My last question is: will the minister commit to reviewing the operations of the client service coordinator's office to ensure that clients receive timely and considerate responses to their inquiries?

The reason I'm asking this question is that the minister stated that there is more than one employee working there and that there are two employees in the office. If patients are not getting through, is it because they have the wrong numbers? Can you investigate this further so that all barriers are removed for people with complaints? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we can do that indeed. When our Senior Management Committee meets, we often take further action. We are hoping to look at how we can make improvements to the present system. Sometimes we run into problems, such as the shortage of nurses and overworked nurses.

We are looking at other options that deal with what the member raised. Once we have found solutions, I will announce them. Thank you.

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

Question 289 – 3(2): United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Health and Social Services, the Hon. Tagak Curley.

Yesterday, I tabled an official announcement by the Government of Canada dated March 11, 2010. The announcement indicated that the federal government has ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. It also indicated that and I quote, “The Government of Canada consulted provincial and territorial governments throughout the Convention’s negotiation, signature and ratification processes.”

Can the minister tell the House what concerns and suggestions the Government of Nunavut made during these processes? Thank you.

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

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the member for tabling the document, it is very helpful, and I certainly will do my best to help the hon. member from the High Arctic.

The convention deals with over 190 nations in the world. There are some countries in the world that do not enjoy the freedoms and rights that we have as Canadians or those of us in North America. There are Third World countries that do very little to provide basic rights to their citizens, unlike Canada.

Mr. Speaker, I would love to help the hon. member, but I think it would be more appropriate if you guide it to the appropriate minister. The Nunavut government certainly was consulted. This is a human rights issue, not a health issue particularly. In that regard, I think that I would like you to direct him to the appropriate minister so that he can get a thorough response. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. (interpretation) Minister Curley, at this time, could you elaborate which minister you are referring to, if it’s either the Minister of Justice or another minister. Mr. Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you. Mr. Speaker, I think the rules in the House

are quite clear. The Minister of Justice is responsible for human rights issues of Nunavut. As such, I think he is more prepared to respond to the convention on the rights of disabilities and so on because it's a human rights issue that the federal government is dealing with. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Curley. Thank you very much. Minister of Justice, Keith Peterson, are you prepared to answer the question? Hon. Keith Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Curley for redirecting the question and I thank Mr. Elliott for asking the question.

Mr. Speaker, the Government of Nunavut does support people with disabilities and we have had input into the UN convention. In fact, Mr. Speaker, we sent a letter to the Hon. Lawrence Cannon, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, late in 2009 expressing our support, which goes together nicely with our *Human Rights Act*, which is a very important Act for the people of Nunavut.

In fact, Mr. Speaker, I had the executive director and the interpreters for the Nunavut Human Rights Tribunal in this Assembly to introduce them. They are looking for support and they are also willing to help people with disabilities if they feel that they're being discriminated against. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for the answer. I apologize for directing it to the wrong department.

Article 9 of the United Nations Convention commits signatories to "take appropriate measures" to identify and eliminate "obstacles and barriers to accessibility" in relation to "buildings, roads, transportation and other indoor and outdoor facilities, including schools, housing, medical facilities and workplaces."

That's why it's actually quite nice that the Department of Justice can answer this now because asking the questions to the Minister of Health and Social Services would only limit that to health and social services issues. This is broader now, so he can answer this question on all departments in terms of health and education.

Given that education and health care facilities and all other facilities of the Government of Nunavut are under territorial jurisdiction, can the minister indicate how the government is working with all departments to address the needs with respect to people with disabilities? Thank you.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for the question. Mr. Speaker, it's no secret that I have been in support of people with disabilities for a long time. In fact, I have talked to Ms. Quirke and Mr. McDougal. When I was an MLA in the Second Assembly, Mr. McDougal was here.

Mr. Speaker, I have people with disabilities in my riding and many of my constituents have disabilities. All government departments are well aware

of people with disabilities and special needs, and I believe, Mr. Speaker, that all departments are making efforts to accommodate people with disabilities.

If there's anyone out there who has an issue with government departments or with the government as a whole that's affecting their ability to work, as I indicated earlier, the Nunavut Human Rights Tribunal can help them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for that answer. As I noted earlier, the federal government has stated that it consulted with provincial and territorial governments. Has the federal government committed to providing any additional resources to the Government of Nunavut in order to help us upgrade our buildings and infrastructure to improve their accessibility? Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I again thank Mr. Elliott for that loaded question. Mr. Speaker, the Government of Canada has many programs and services available for people with disabilities. I can't stand here today and say with any certainty that they're giving any extra money to the Government of Nunavut to help people with disabilities, but we will certainly check the availability of the programs.

I'm sure most departments are well aware of the various programs that affect their departments. Non-government entities, such as hamlets and the private

sector, are also aware of the programs that are available through this government and through the Government of Canada. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for that response. Just to clarify, in my example yesterday, I used how, over Christmas, some of our residents were trucked back and forth.

You're saying, just so I know for sure, that I should direct these individuals in our communities who possibly need a vehicle for being transported back and forth to go to the Human Rights Tribunal and make a complaint. Thank you.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm sure Mr. Elliott knows that in most small communities, there are limited resources.

I know that in my home community of Cambridge Bay, many years ago, to help out the disabled and particularly to help out elders, we fundraised and we raised enough money to buy a Handi-Bus to move people around with wheelchairs, rockers, and all of those sorts of things. So there are ways to get those kinds of vehicles.

But if the folks in his community feel that they're discriminated against because of their disability, again, it's their right to contact the Nunavut Human Rights Tribunal and express their concern. It's difficult to say in small

communities that people are being discriminated against.

MLAs say that people are put in a back of a truck. I know you used the word yesterday of “herding” people. I don’t know if that’s really the right word. I help people in my community get in my truck or another truck and give transportation when there’s no other transportation. So we have to be very careful, Mr. Speaker.

But if the people in his community feel they’re being discriminated against, again, the Nunavut Human Rights Tribunal is in Coral Harbour. They have a phone number that people can contact them to raise their concerns. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 290 – 3(2): Tax the Pop

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to direct my question to the Minister of Finance.

Lately we’ve been hearing on the news that other governments are taking a closer look and taxing soft drinks. I believe it’s time we started considering this for the good of our health.

Our government is always claiming to have a shortage of funding and I see this tax as a funding source. I want to ask the minister if the government has started to look at levying this tax. 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 that question. It’s a good question, Mr. Speaker, and I know that we’re all concerned about the health of Nunavummiut. At this time, I would like to tell Mr. Okalik that we’re not planning to introduce a soda tax. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I think we have been very fortunate in being isolated in some cases and we have been fortunate in that diabetes hasn’t hit us as hard as other aboriginal groups elsewhere, but that day is coming.

There is far too much soda being consumed by our fellow Nunavummiut and it’s just a matter of time before diabetes will take its toll on our population. At the same time, we’re looking for ways to generate revenue. I believe the issue of a soda tax, which is being explored elsewhere, should be reviewed by our government. Will the minister commit to reviewing this matter? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I again thank Mr. Okalik for that question. I understand why he’s asking the question, but you know, Mr. Speaker, I read one of the newspaper stories about the soda tax in New York. They say it’s a soda tax to tackle obesity and budget shortfalls. Mr. Speaker, last week, I introduced a balanced budget, so

we're not looking to find extra taxes to deal with any shortfalls.

Mr. Speaker, I'm also aware that the Department of Health and Social Services has done a great job over the last several years. They're recognized across the North for introducing the 'Drop the Pop' campaign, which is being touted as an educational program. It helps the kids in school understand that drinking too much pop and consuming too much sugar leads to obesity. I think education is probably more important than actually taxing people, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I believe we are \$40 million in deficit, so I don't know about a balanced budget at this time. We're obviously not getting any additional revenue, maybe in the future, that we know of because the biggest source of our funding is facing some financial challenges.

We have to look for ways to generate some revenue as a government and at the same time, we use the tax system to deter smoking, for example, and other unhealthy ways of living. So I ask the minister again: will he commit to reviewing this matter in the future? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I again thank Mr. Okalik for that question. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, I was getting hammered a little bit about

dropping the payroll tax because we're taxing people and I had to say no to that because we needed some of the funds for programs and services that we deliver in the communities to Nunavummiut.

Mr. Speaker, a few years ago, the Government of Nunavut introduced a tax on cigarettes thinking that increasing the taxes would actually lower the smoking levels in Nunavut. Mr. Speaker, it proved to be an inelastic tax. In other words, the more we taxed, the more people continued to smoke. We got more revenue, so the net effect was more revenues for the Government of Nunavut.

We're tackling the smoking issue with the Tobacco Reduction Strategy and education. Mr. Speaker, I see the same thing with obesity. The 'Drop the Pop' and other preventative health programs that the Department of Health and Social Services is introducing is a way to get to people and educate them about the dangers of sugar, obesity, and diabetes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I know that we have been carrying out the 'Drop the Pop' campaign for some time. I actually stopped drinking pop when we started it, so it served its purpose on me, but there's still a lot of consumption of soda pop throughout the territory. It's just not a health issue, there's a dental cost associated with it. It affects a lot of our citizens and in unknown ways as well. So I ask the minister: can he review this for future budgets? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I again thank the member for that question. Mr. Speaker, I recall several years ago in Cambridge Bay at a health fair, there was a contest to guess how many teaspoons of sugar are in a can of Coke. I guessed three and then they lifted the cover and there's 14 teaspoons of sugar in an average can of Coke. So I'm well aware of the dangers of sugar and obesity and the health risks imposed on individuals, plus the damage that it causes to your teeth.

As Mr. Okalik indicated, he learned and he stopped drinking pop, and this is what we're hoping that other people in Nunavut will do, that they become aware that consuming too much soda pop, especially soda pop with sugar, and Mr. Speaker, it's not just soda pop with sugar, it's cans of juice and other products that have a lot of sugar and calories, people become more aware that the more sugar they consume, the greater dangers there are to their health.

As far as I can see, education is the way to go. Imposing taxes probably impose a hardship on those people in Nunavut who are already struggling to put enough food on the table to eat. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 291 – 3(2): Additional Building Inspectors

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have been nine days into the session

and it's hard to believe that I haven't asked the Minister of Housing a single question. I wouldn't want him to feel like the Maytag repair man. We all know what happened to him. My first question is for the housing minister.

In that \$100 million trust fund, is there any money allotted for additional inspectors to inspect the buildings?
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was beginning to think that the member had forgotten about me; I am very glad that he hasn't.

Mr. Speaker, in not only the \$100 million but also as was with the Nunavut Housing Trust, there is an admin portion of that funding that the corporation can use for administrative costs. As a result of those administrative costs, just last June, as a part of the trust, we had 13 additional technical positions approved throughout the three regions in the territory to be able to move around and take care of the backlog and the shortage that we had of staff to be able to go around and do inspections on the projects.

Yes, there is some funding in there for it. Additional term positions have been approved and are in the process of being advertised and filled right now to do those jobs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I guess I should have clarified this. I'm basically referring to electrical and mechanical inspectors. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm not sure of the exact breakdown of what those technical positions are, but I think there were five, four, and four for the three regions. If the member would like, I will get that information exactly. Some of them are different trades to do different inspections, so I'm not sure of the exact breakdown of what exact trade they're there to do inspections on, but I will get that and provide it to the member if he so wishes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My understanding is that the Housing Corporation had sent a letter off to Protection and Safety Services indicating that there were funds in that trust to hire an additional electrical inspector, but of course, they wanted it in writing to confirm that they were going to pay for that position from the Housing Corporation.

Apparently, they have been waiting three months for that and they haven't received a letter. So I would like to ask the housing minister if he can make sure that he gets back to protection services so that they can hire for that position. Thank you, Mr. Chairman... Mr. Speaker.

>> *Laughter*

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

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say that the Housing Corporation, through this funding, it's a percentage of the administrative... that is for Housing Corporation's administration of it. It is not for the administration of the electrical inspector, it's somebody who works for a different department.

I'm not aware of some of the things that the member hears, but I will follow up and look at that. As far as my knowledge goes, the only technical positions that were approved through the corporation are our own technical people to go around and inspect the projects. The final electrical inspection that is done, it's done on a project when it's completed and needs to get certified by the electrical inspector before power can be hooked up to it. So I will follow up.

To my recollection, those are the only positions that I know of. I can't see that funding going to fund a position in another department. I know that wasn't something that we brought forward. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Apparently, this was a letter sent directly from your Housing Corporation office in Cape Dorset and it was received by protection services. They were willing to fill that position and all they asked was that they wanted in writing to confirm that they would support the funds, so

that's the only reason why I'm asking that question. I wish and hope that he can look into it and make sure if that's the case, he gets a letter off to them stating that they are going to finance that position. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Tootoo.

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I indicated earlier, the only positions that we brought forward and asked to fill were the technical positions that would be in the district offices in Cape Dorset, Arviat, and Cambridge Bay.

But I will, as the member pointed out that he seems to find out things from his own community, be more than happy to follow up with that. Again, I won't make a commitment one way or the other. I don't believe that we would be able to utilize that funding to fill a position like an electrical inspector in another department, but I will certainly follow up with it and I would like to thank the member for bringing that to my attention. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 292 – 3(2): Feasibility Study for New BCC using CGS

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are directed to the Minister of Justice, the Hon. Keith Peterson. I don't think that it will be something that could be transferred over to the Minister of Health.

Mr. Speaker, I was extremely pleased to hear the Premier talk in her Minister's

Statement and perhaps, this could be a suggestion for the GN acting as champions for one of the areas of interdepartmental effort.

Mr. Speaker, yesterday, in Committee of the Whole, the Minister of Community and Government Services, the Hon. Lorne Kusugak, explained how his department has a whole division entitled Capital Planning and Technical Services. In reviewing the operational maintenance accounting structure for that department, the division has 112 positions of which 44 employees provide technical services and 13 employees provide capital planning services.

Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Community and Government Services said that his department provides services to a number of departments on a wide range of issues regarding GN assets, the Department of Justice being one of them.

Mr. Speaker, in regard to the Baffin Correctional Centre, we have heard shocking stories of the safety issues and concerns with this facility. I myself, along with members, took a tour of the facility. Obviously, something needs to be done.

Mr. Speaker, my question is: did officials of his department contact the Department of Community and Government Services in regard to providing technical assistance to the feasibility study in reviewing the Baffin Correctional facility? Thank you.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Elliott for that question. I feel like he's on a bit of a witch hunt here. Mr. Speaker, there is a project delivery guide that clearly demonstrates the capital planning process.

Mr. Speaker, when I became the Minister of Justice, my officials were describing the facility to me and I said, "Stop, don't tell me more. Show me." I went over there and it was shocking, Mr. Speaker, and I told my officials, "What can we do?" And they gave me a bunch of ideas. I said that we will put a proposal together and we will take it through the capital planning process, which was just initiated in a call letter that I think was out in April/May of last year. It's no secret, Mr. Speaker, I have heard the stories from the Kitikmeot, that the Baffin Correctional Centre is an old, dilapidated facility. It's a risk to inmates and a risk to our officials who work out there.

The simple answer to Mr. Elliott is that our officials went through the capital planning process. Each department has to do a little bit of legwork before they actually go to CGS. It's not just go to CGS and say, "We want a building." There is some legwork required before that stuff occurs and then it goes through the deputy ministers' committee and they review all of that stuff. There's a little back and forth and then the capital plans end up in this House, where they get debated, as happened last November or December.

I'm glad Mr. Elliott took the opportunity of my invitation to go out and visit the Baffin Correctional Centre. I urge all of the Members of this House, if they have

the time, to request a tour and I'm sure officials out there would be willing to accommodate them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 293 – 3(2): Iqaluit Marine Facility

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was very pleased to hear what the Minister of Transportation had to say in his Minister's Statement with respect to the review of the Iqaluit Marine Facility in the coming months. How long do we have to wait to complete the process? I would like to find out how many months we have to wait for results of the review process. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. When we're doing public consultations, we go through the whole process of reviewing all of the recommendations and there are a lot of organizations that are involved - the city, the users, and various other groups, including regulators out there. I can't specifically say how long the timeframe is going to be before the consultations are done. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. While it's impossible to

say when this project will be completed, my constituents who go out boating are running out of space to dock their boats. Perhaps the minister could also look into possibilities for a small craft harbour and to work with city council and the local HTO of Iqaluit. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. He is absolutely right. We're consulting with the hunters and trappers organization, the city, and all users, whether it's for sports hunting and of course, the main ones are the actual companies that do transportation for supplies for the Qikiqtaaluk region. We intend to clarify, get the right recommendations, and do the consulting in a right way to actually get the best bang for infrastructure that we're proposing.

There are going to be a lot of issues. As the member is well aware, we have one of the highest tides in the world, in some cases, up to 32 feet, and some of these factors have to be considered.

Throughout the process, we want to make sure that everybody is consulted, including the regulators. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Has the process already been started? The minister further stated that he expects this process to be completed within months. This being the case, I'm sure my constituents would

also like to be kept informed of the consultation process. Whatever issues come up, they want to feel like they are involved. More support for this project could be generated this way.

I know that more people would get behind it if they were aware of the important dates of the consultation and its deadline. So I would like to know when this process will be completed so that my constituents can be aware of when this is taking place. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. Throughout the engineering and design work that the conceptual design was being worked on, we had three options and the price ranged from \$20 million to \$90 million. Throughout the process here, we will be looking and reviewing to see what are all of the options. That depends on whether we get a certain amount of funding and of course, we're looking at Ottawa to fund the majority of this project.

Throughout the process here, we're going to be looking to make sure that all of the processes, all of the land use regulations, the marine infrastructure, and the marine users are consulted. Once we have a better idea of how far in we're into the consultations, I'll let the member and the House know of our progress. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Question 294 – 3(2): Polar Bear
Defence Kills in 2008-09**

Mr. Ningark: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Hon. Minister of Environment.

I think 2009 was a good year for polar bears in Kugaaruk. It was so good that nine polar bears had to be put down before the hunting season opened.

According to the international scientific community, the polar bear is an endangered species. However, according to the traditional knowledge of the Inuit living up here in Nunavut, it is not an endangered species. We believe that a seemingly endangered species is doing so good that it's coming to a point where it's going into the communities and endangering the people in the communities.

So my question to the hon. minister, Mr. Speaker, is: how many polar bears had to be put down or put under observation in the year 2008-09 because they were coming too close for comfort in the hamlets across Nunavut? Thank you.

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

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the member for that question. It's good to be back in the House today. The member brings up a good point that is addressed by all communities in Nunavut, that people are seeing more polar bears around communities and having trouble with them.

In Kugaaruk, the community he is talking about, there were polar bears that were harvested on defence kills. I believe the quota was also harvested with that number included. There is a problem in his community that there was an over-harvest of female bears. There are many credits for defence kill harvests with male bears, I believe, in the community, it is 10, 12, or something like that, but there are no credits left for female bears and that's where the over-harvest came into play.

So we are addressing that and I would encourage the member to advise the community to deal with our conservation officer in the community to address that situation because there are means to do that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Ningark: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My supplementary in my initial question is: how many polar bears were put down or put under observation in the year 2008-09 because they were coming too close to communities across Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't have those exact numbers in front of me, but I can get those numbers and supply them to the member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Ningark: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister. As he stated that he

will share the information with me, will the hon. minister share the information with the House? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I commit to sharing that information with the House and I will supply that information as soon as I can get it if not this sitting of the House, the next sitting of the House, for sure.

I would just like to add to the member's comments here that I would like all of my colleagues to know that part of dealing with these problem bears in communities is a program that we have set up and that is a deterrent plan that we're going to action and form in all communities in conjunction with the hamlet, the RCMP, the by-law, and everybody involved. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 295 – 3(2): Panellized Housing Units

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My second question is for the housing minister. It's in regard to the new panelling system of the new houses that are going to be constructed with the \$100 million here in Nunavut. My question is: have any other units been built or is this first bunch of units built with that firm that's supplying the panels? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my understanding that when this request for proposals was put out for these units, in our proposal, we put, "This is what we want for a product." When they looked at it, they realized that the product that we were looking for didn't exist and it's not something that they could take off the shelf.

The successful proponent bids that we got or the proposals that we received were looking at designing a completely new type of structure to meet the requirements of the proposal. As far as my knowledge, this is the first time these ones are being manufactured and constructed. I must say, Mr. Speaker, that one of the conditions of the proposal was a proof of concept, where they actually had to bring a demonstration unit and put it together.

That's something that we held down at our marshalling yard last September, where we invited a number of contractors, our technical staff, and northern contractors to be there so they could witness this and also to point out some of the things that may work great in the southern environment but may not work great here in the North. We had that input and there were some changes made as a result of that.

The product that's coming out is called the *Tuktu*, that's the name of the SIP. It's a unique product and to my knowledge, this is the first time it is being manufactured. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When anybody down south purchases trusses, etcetera, it has to be stamped by a structural engineer. So my question is: are these panels stamped and approved by a structural engineer? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Tootoo.

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know that the company that is manufacturing these and the specifications that were all done were required to meet the building codes that are out there. So I'm not sure if it's exactly because they're not trusses, they're panels and it's not the same as a truss. If they require a stamp from an engineer or not, I'm not sure, but I can look into it and let the member know if it is required or not. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I realize these are panels and they're not trusses, but they're also used on a roof and I'm sure that a structural engineer would have to stamp them. So I would just like to make sure that when we do purchase these here and they come down to Nunavut, they are approved by a structural engineer. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Schell. I don't think that was really a question, but I will give the minister time to answer it. Minister Tootoo.

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, I thank the member for raising that. As I had indicated earlier, when the proposals were put out, our design was for... we wanted a structure that would hold the highest volume of snow load that we have, that would handle that. With the staff there, I believe that those numbers come out of Coral Harbour, same with the wind and energy efficiency. These are going to be extremely energy efficient units and structurally sound because they have all met or exceeded the current building codes out there.

As far as the member suggests as to whether or not it is required that a structural engineer puts their stamp on it, if it's required, I don't know if it would be on the actual truss itself. It may be on the blueprints or the designs on it if it's required, but as I committed, I will look into it and let the member know. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The only thing I'm worried about and the reason I'm bringing it up is that I don't want these panels to come on the sealift and then we realize we can't use them here at a great cost to the Housing Corporation. Certain things have happened in the past that cost a lot of money and I don't want this to happen there. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Tootoo.

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the member points out, there are always things that have happened in the past that you end up

dealing with and moving on and learning from.

I have every faith in our technical staff working at the Housing Corporation that worked with the manufacture and the design of this product that it will meet the minimum or exceed the national building standards that they have to work with here in Canada. Like I said, as far as energy efficiency goes and that, this structure, this SIP, this *Tuktu* unit will far exceed and hopefully reduce our energy costs by close to half on these units.

So I have every faith in the fact that our technical staff, in doing the design and putting the technical requirements together, did look at everything. The member won't have to worry about a bunch of roof panels coming up that will be no good for us other than rafts, maybe. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 296 – 3(2): Territorial Licence Plates

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed towards the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, the Hon. Peter Taptuna.

Further to my Member's Statement of today, I was just wondering if his department has looked into the issue of territorial licence plates. 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 hon. member for that question. I'm glad and I'm delighted that he's able to come up with the idea on his own, although obviously with the help of other members.

Trying to make Nunavut culture unique is a great idea. I commend the member for that, but if we're going to have two or three vehicles going down to southern Canada from the territory, it's hardly worth the cost of reverting and changing our templates for the Nunavut vehicle design of a licence plate.

But then again, depending on the cost and the exposure of the vehicle licence plate design that we get down south, because we all know of our unique culture up here, it wouldn't really matter if we have 2,000 vehicles driving around town if we all know our uniqueness. The uniqueness that we've got to promote is for the people down south.

At this time, I really would have trouble trying to find a way of why we would do that if only half a dozen vehicles go down south where the exposure is needed the most. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, once or twice a year, I have an original idea.

In regard to the new language law that's coming into effect in the fall once all of the regulations and all of the consultations are finished and tabled in the House, is there any requirement to

change the licence plate because of that law? Thank you.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't believe that there is a requirement. I'm not aware of that, but if there is, I'll certainly let the member and the House know if there is a requirement. At this time, I don't know if there is and like I said, I'll let the member know. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe that the Government of Nunavut is required to provide services in English, Inuktitut, and French. I thought the whole idea of the *Inuit Language Protection Act* was to make sure that Inuktitut was more prominent.

But if he prefers to have English on our licence plates and continue to have English on our licence plates, well, then I guess maybe that's what his department wants to see. I would like to see Inuktitut syllabics or roman... well, I guess roman orthography wouldn't be the same, but syllabics would be nice to have or at least, it would be nice to have the people in the communities decide what language they would like to have.

So if the minister could commit to having his department look into that and report back to the Legislative Assembly. Thank you.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I apologize to the member. The requirements that I thought he was speaking about were the design of the plate in itself. Yes, there is a plan for implementing the language change into syllabics for all new licence plates that are going to be coming out. That's in the plans.

Again, I apologize to the member. What, in fact, I thought he was talking about was the design and the uniqueness of the plate. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I apologize if I didn't make myself clear. I was referring to the "Explore Canada's Arctic" that's on all of our licence plates.

In terms of the other part of my Member's Statement, I was referring to the idea of possibly changing the motto that's on there, which is "Explore Canada's Arctic." It's inherited from the Northwest Territories and we share that with the Northwest Territories. The only difference is if you have a licence plate in the Northwest Territories, it says "Northwest Territories" and if you have a licence plate from Nunavut, it says "Nunavut."

Would he humour the idea of asking the public what they feel about that? We have so many examples of things that are carried over from 1999 that we keep changing in terms of laws and policies. It might be something else that we could do to express our vibrant territory. Thank you.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. Once again, I've got to reiterate that there are hardly any vehicles that do leave the territory and tour southern Canada and there are a handful of plate collectors from down south.

I'll surely ask staff in my department to look into the cost of changing the wording on some of these and it may tie in with the implementation of putting Inuinnaqtun on licence plates. We will certainly look into that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Going back to our Orders of the Day. Item 7. Written Questions. Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Item 10. Replies to Budget Address. Item 11. Petitions. Item 12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees. Item 13. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills. Item 14. Tabling of Documents. Mr. Arvaluk.

Item 14: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 132 – 3(2): Iisaqsivik Society Gathering to Petition the Federal Government for a Renewal of Aboriginal Healing Foundation Funding

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am confident that you will be very pleased that today, I wish to table some documents related to yesterday's gathering in Clyde River.

Mr. Speaker, as you know, the Iisaqsivik Society runs many important healing programs in the community and many of these programs rely on Aboriginal Healing Foundation funding.

You will see here photographs of residents coming together in support and a copy of a petition of 105 signatures calling on the Government of Canada to renew this funding. (interpretation)

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. You're right, I appreciate it very much.

>> *Laughter*

Tabling of Documents. Mr. Schell.

Tabled Document 133 – 3(2): Air Canada Insight

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table today an excerpt from Air Canada's newsletter called *Air Canada Insight*. Members will note that Air Canada is announcing that service from Ottawa and Montreal to this community begins on March 28.

However, Air Canada thinks the name of this community is spelled I-q-u-a-l-u-i-t. I don't need to remind my colleagues that the meaning of this word is very different from that of how the city's name is really spelled.

Mr. Speaker, as I predicted, Air Canada is not showing a lot of insight into Nunavut.

>> *Laughter*

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

Tabling of Documents. Hon. Peter Taptuna.

Tabled Document 134 – 3(2): FPT Ministers Responsible for Innovation, November 19 to 20, 2009

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table the following document: Federal/Provincial/Territorial Ministers Responsible for Innovation, November 19 to 20, 2009. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Tabling of Documents. Hon. Daniel Shewchuk.

Tabled Document 135 – 3(2): Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment (CCME) Council of Ministers (COM) Meeting

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table the following document: Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment (CCME) Council of Ministers (COM) Meeting, Oct. 29, 2009. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Tabling of Documents. Item 15. Notices of Motions. Item 16. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Minister of Finance, Hon. Keith Peterson.

Item 15: Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills

Bill 23 – Supplementary Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, No. 2, 2009-2010 – Notice

Hon. Keith Peterson: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on March 18, 2010, that Bill 23, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 2, 2009-2010*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Can we have a copy of that document, please.

Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 17. Motions. Item 18. First Reading of Bills. Item 19. Second Reading of Bills. Item 20. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bill 22 with Mr. Schell in the Chair.

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

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House recessed at 15:02 and Committee resumed at 15:30*

Item 20: Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters

Chairman (Mr. Schell): I would like to call the committee meeting to order. In Committee of the Whole, we have the following item to deal with: Bill 22. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We would like to continue with the review of Bill 22 and the main

estimates for the fiscal year 2010-11. This afternoon, we will continue with the review of the Department of Justice, followed by the Department of Finance. If time permits, we will commence the review of the Department of Economic Development and Transportation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Some Members: Agreed.

Bill 22 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2010-2011 – Justice – Consideration in Committee

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I do.

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

Minister Peterson, for the record, please introduce your witnesses.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my immediate right is Mr. Doug Garson, Acting Deputy Minister of Justice, and to my left is Rebekah Williams, Assistant Deputy Minister of Justice. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Yesterday, we heard the opening comments from the Minister of Justice and the Chairman of the Standing Committee on Social Wellness. As members know Rule 77(1) and 77(2),

are there any general comments on the opening statements? Mr. Okalik.

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In reviewing the opening statements by the minister, I want to draw your attention to page 2, where it says that they will “expand the role of community justice outreach workers in assisting victims of crime” this year. In also reviewing other government initiatives, one of the objectives in the business plan for the Department of Health and Social Services is “To provide emergency intervention to address domestic violence.” There is no mention of how the two departments will work together to address the same issue.

Perhaps if there was more collaboration, then the issues would be more manageable and there would be less duplication of services. My question to the minister is: will you ensure that you will work closer with the Department of Health and Social Services on these issues even though the offices are separate? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Okalik for that question. Mr. Chairman, this question was raised in the standing committee and I indicated that we would be talking to the Department of Health and Social Services. Mr. Chairman, my Assistant Deputy Minister, Rebekah Williams, has had conversations with Health and Social Services officials and those meetings will continue. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's very good to hear. However, this year, about three million dollars will be spent on the issue and the Department of Health and Social Services plans to spend additional funds on top of that.

I don't like to see duplication where one problem is charged to more than one department to deal with. I would like to see this approach changed. I wonder if it will be changed in the future. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I again thank Mr. Okalik for that question. As I indicated in the standing committee and again today, when there is duplication, it's not necessarily a good thing. I know that Health and Social Services does a lot of work with crisis shelters. What our funding is intended for is to support the FAIA, but again, as I indicated, we are going to talk with the Department of Health and Social Services to look for ways to work together to avoid any duplication of services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the minister. We hope to see this approach more in the future.

I would like to turn to page 1. It says that in Iqaluit, there are emergency numbers for fire and ambulance services. We have been asking to get a single emergency number to eliminate confusion by people in need and have just one number for all emergency services.

In our earlier committee meetings, I asked the minister to review this further and I would like an update on the current status. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Okalik for that question. Mr. Chairman, I did talk to the Commanding Officer, Steve McVarnock, of the RCMP about exactly that concern. He has told me that he will look into it, he will talk to the City of Iqaluit, and he will update me. I have agreed that once I get that information, I would share that with the standing committee. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm sure that the other members would like to ask questions, so I will just leave it at that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't think there was a question there. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Ningark.

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you. I apologize that I didn't see the light go on.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister. Years before the RCMP came to Kugaaruk, life seemed to be difficult. Now we have two RCMP members stationed there and we are thankful for that. Just seeing them out walking around in their uniforms makes one feel safer in the community.

Yesterday, in your opening statement for the Department of Justice, under page 2, it states under Corrections and Community Justice, in the last and third bullet, the final paragraph refers to the *Family Abuse Intervention Act*. I assume that this is a way of trying to avert abuse before it happens, to have support in place, and to know where to seek help. I like this very much and appreciate it there.

However, in a small community, when residents call the RCMP detachment over the phone... I'm not sure exactly how it works, but I hear that their calls are redirected to the detachment in Iqaluit even if they are experiencing an emergency. The complaint is that response is usually not immediate. I haven't experienced that personally, but I tend to trust those who have told me this.

Why is it that in small communities are redirected to Iqaluit instead? To use myself as an example, I live in Kugaaruk where the population in our community is between 700 and 800 residents. If I were to see a dangerous situation, I would call the RCMP number. Now,

would there be an RCMP officer to respond immediately to my call or would I be redirected to Iqaluit instead? Who would answer the call? That is my question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Ningark for that good question. Mr. Chairman, it's been an issue for many years across Nunavut. Before I was an MLA, it was an issue and it was an issue in the Second Assembly.

Mr. Chairman, the operational call centre for the RCMP is here in Iqaluit. There are 25 communities in Nunavut. When they receive a call, they are supposed to dispatch an RCMP officer in a particular community to where the offence or issue is located.

One of the concerns that we have heard over the years about the operational call centre is that when people call, they can't be understood in their dialect. I have met with the RCMP in the last year and talked to them about this. They are working to address that with the apprentices who will be able to answer the phone in the language of the callers' choice. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): I thank the minister for his clear response.

I have not heard any complaints about a police officer in Kugaaruk, but a constant complain is the amount of delay between the call first being made and the

response from the RCMP, particularly at night. That is what I have heard. I have not heard this from the majority of residents, but rather by one or two individuals who complained about the response time.

The concern is with the lag time between when the call is made and when the police officer responds to the call. It seems much easier to redirect it immediately to the local RCMP, as the police officers located there are solely responsible for that community.

Personally, I thank the RCMP for their tremendous assistance and commitment as they are very visible in our community and most of them are quite capable in their positions. I do not have much more to add to this issue, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Ningark. It's basically a comment, but if you want to make a statement on it, Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Ningark for that concern. Mr. Chairman, I don't have the exact statistics with me, but I recall that the RCMP operational call centre receives anywhere between 12,000 and 14,000 calls per year.

We can certainly pass on Mr. Ningark's concern. There may be valid reasons for the delay in answering the phone or delays in dispatching an officer to a call, but we will certainly pass on the concern to the RCMP. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Peterson. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I basically have two. I just want to follow up with my colleague's question a little bit on that last bullet on the second page. That was my big issue before, having to dial Iqaluit and then finally, Iqaluit to wake up whoever the constable might be in bed, etcetera. That takes a long time.

We have a system in our community where if there's a fire, we call a number and whoever is at that phone answers. This is a mobile phone. He alerts everybody else and the fire truck is at your house in no time. It's the same thing with the health centre. When I had a heart attack, it was no problem. The nurse in charge picked up the phone and alerted everybody else and they were told to come down. But with the RCMP, we have to go through Iqaluit.

Can a similar system be arranged in a phone system, like a mobile phone where the RCMP can pick up the phone or like volunteer firefighters that you have volunteers arresting people in the community, where you don't have to bother the RCMP at all? Just simply get four or five guys there who've got the phone to go to your house and then they arrest the people there and the RCMP can do the books if they need to do the books or they can do the books on the next day.

We have not been trying to find an innovative way to community policing and it's a very expensive operation. I think we should try to make it as effective as much as possible. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Arvaluk for expressing that concern. I understand the frustrations of people that they would like to pick up the telephone and have an officer be there right away. I believe the operation call centre is a system that is designed to ensure that when a call is received, someone is dispatched. It also provides security.

Just to be working in the call dispatch or operation call centre you have to have some high qualifications; you have to be able to identify the nature of the call, the concern, and the officers to dispatch, and then track the dispatch to its conclusion. It's important that the people be trained and be qualified to receive a telephone call when it's an emergency to ensure that the services that are called for are delivered to the community.

Again, we can certainly talk to Commanding Officer Steve McVarnock and express the concern. He is a very innovative man and he's looking for solutions to help the communities receive better services from the RCMP. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Peterson. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In most cases, we may have two RCMP officers. In the case of Kimmirut or Grise Fiord, not much more than that. We expect too much from them. We want them to work during the day to do all of the paperwork they need to do and we expect them to guard us all night too.

That's why I was suggesting, you know, let's try to find an innovative way to do our community policing so that we have a realistic approach to this. I'm just suggesting that, Mr. Chairman.

My other question I have is on page 1, first bullet. I just need a really small clarification. You have an increase of \$1 million in the Law Enforcement Branch budget to fund the RCMP... sorry about that; just before the first bullet, second paragraph on the first page.

The department made a slight increase of 2.7 percent, which is \$2,050,000. I believe that in the first bullet, your increase of \$2,050,000 also includes \$1 million in the enforcement branch budget to "fund the RCMP Stand-By Policy." Is that part of it or is it separate? (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's correct, Mr. Chairman. The \$1 million for the standby is part of the \$2,050,000. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Peterson. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The second bullet indicates, "The 2010-11 impact of the NEU collective bargaining contract." I believe that has already been negotiated, that it is just the outstanding that we have to pay out in 2010-11, which is, I guess, the remainder of the \$2,050,000. If so, that doesn't really represent the actual

increase in the NEU collective bargaining contract.

If I'm wrong, can you correct me on that one and explain the correction? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I understand Mr. Arvaluk correctly, yes, on April 1, there are increases to the negotiated contract with the Nunavut Employees Union. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Peterson. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Mr. Chairman, he just explained to me that the 2.7 percent increase from \$78,052,000 is \$2,050,000. So he's got \$1 million for the Law Enforcement Branch and for the RCMP Standby Policy. The remainder of that 2 percent, approximately one million and fifty thousand dollars, is going to the collective bargaining contract. That doesn't seem to represent the collective bargaining agreement that is more than 1 percent.

Why does the increase seem to be smaller than what is in the collective bargaining? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Arvaluk for that question. I believe, Mr. Chairman, that that is the negotiated amount. The

increase on April 1 will be covered by the amount that is requested. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Peterson. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Are we saying that it's approximately 1.5 or 1.6 percent that the collective agreement indicates in this \$1,050,000 increase required? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What I'm saying is that on April 1, the amount that is required by the Department of Justice will be covered by the amount that we are seeking in this appropriation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I want to turn to page 4 of our committee's opening comments, second paragraph. We make reference to the lack of work on the Akitsiraq Law Program II. We also note that Nunavut Arctic College, through their business cycle, is planning for Akitsiraq Law Program II next year.

There has been a lot of work on this model and there is not mention of it from the Department of Justice. I would like to know if there is any commitment that the minister can make towards meeting the Arctic College deadline of seeing the Akitsiraq Law Program II next year.

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Okalik for that question. Mr. Chairman, I had a very good, productive meeting with representatives of Akitsiraq II approximately two weeks ago. There were four individuals. We met for a couple of hours to discuss their business plan and we agreed to continue talks. They have clarified a lot of information and they have my direct line to my office. We will probably meet again after this session to discuss their plan. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) I can only encourage the minister further at this point. We have our laws that will have to be translated into Inuktitut, so we need a lot more Inuktitut-speaking lawyers in the very near future. I can only encourage the minister to hopefully report progress by the spring so that a lot of good potential students who are waiting in the wings can plan for next year. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Okalik. I think that was just a comment there. I don't have anybody else on the list here, so we will go to the page-by-page. E-4. Justice. Branch Summary. Directorate. Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to extend a welcome to the Hon. Minister Keith Peterson from the Department of Justice, as well as his officials, Mr. Garson and Ms. Williams.

My lines of questions, Mr. Chairman, for the hon. minister are in the lines of employment. Under the Directorate here, it's indicated in the plans that it was noted before that as of September 30, 2009, the department had 69 vacant positions. I want to know what the status of filling these vacant positions is at presently. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Aupaluktuq for that question. Again it's a good question.

As I indicated the other day, we have a lot of vacancies throughout the government, but we are making good progress in the Department of Justice in staffing positions. We're recruiting and staffing for Corrections a senior policy analyst and we're making progress on that.

We encourage people who are interested in working for the Department of Justice to get their applications in to us. It may take a while, but we certainly encourage people, if they have an interest, to apply for those jobs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the minister for

that response as well. In all of Nunavut, all across the board I believe, we struggle with different departments as well as providing services. Essentially, the quality of service that we provide to Nunavummiut is affected with all of the cutbacks and the concerns of employment staffing. It's always in the best interest of the legislature to ensure that we identify what they are.

Basically to touch on Mr. Okalik's earlier comments on the opening comments in regard to services in Inuktitut, Mr. Chairman, I wanted to ask the hon. minister. In the 2010-13 business plan, it refers to ongoing efforts to increase the recruitment and retention of lawyers and court workers. What are the main difficulties with recruitment and retention of lawyers and court workers? Maybe if I could conclude my line of questioning here for this particular one. How is your department addressing these difficulties?

I believe Mr. Peterson had answered in terms of recruiting. I appreciate the fact that we have to entice the people to join the professional areas in services. Legal and justice is very strenuous as well as a very sensitive issue that affect the people of Baker Lake. Again, Mr. Chairman, I want to ask: what are the main difficulties with the recruitment and retention of lawyers and court workers? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I again thank the member for that question. It's a good question. There is a high turnover rate of lawyers coming to work in Justice. Probably one of the

main concerns is that lawyers coming up from down south are not familiar with the North and a lot of them leave after one or two years. We have encouraged them to take cross-cultural awareness training courses in our department.

I think, through our advertising, we promote that Nunavut is a territory where there's a lot of adventure, you can do a lot of good work, particularly if you're just getting out of law school. It's a great place to gain a lot of experience real fast working on various issues. I'm very happy to tell the members that I think in the legal and constitutional law department, we're almost fully staffed. On the legislative side, I think we have a competition out for a director of constitutional law. In the staff complement of lawyers, I think we have two Akitsiraq Law grads working for our department. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the hon. minister for that response. I was glad to hear that you mentioned constitutional law and also the introduction of those with the Human Rights [Tribunal] in Nunavut.

I think that as Canadians and as northerners, that's one thing that we all have to focus on as well. It's not just the quality of service and the quality of life, but the fact that each and every individual in Canada is protected under the constitution as well as the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. That's why we try to provide those services as legislatures as well as public officials. It's our job to bridge these services and to listen and hear what our constituents have to say.

I'm glad to see that the constitutional law will be in place in a sense that from an administrative, it would be nice to provide a solid foundation in which people can feel comfortable to be able to express themselves and feel comfortable that they're represented.

A final question along these lines of employment, Mr. Chairman, to the hon. minister is concerns of being consistently raised by MLAs and the Government of Nunavut with the respect to the issue of federal funding for legal aid in Nunavut. What is the status of your efforts to obtain additional sources? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Aupaluktuq. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Aupaluktuq for asking the question. It's probably no secret that legal aid, to me, is very important. It's in the communities. We have three regional law centres and they're typically the face of justice in Nunavut, where the people in the communities seeking family lawyers or defence lawyers can go when they get into difficult times.

Of course, over the years, we have known that legal aid has been underfunded not just in Nunavut but across Canada. Lobby efforts have been underway in most jurisdictions across Canada to get additional funding from the federal government. We put together a business case last year that was submitted to officials at the Department of Justice in Ottawa. The feedback hasn't been all that positive yet.

We have to be careful that when we're lobbying for funding, we don't call it legal aid. Because there unique circumstances in Nunavut, the great geographical differences and the distances we have to travel at a high cost, we have to recognize our unique circumstances. So we call it access to justice.

I'm very pleased that the Department of Justice Canada recently gave us an additional \$100,000 that we earmarked for legal aid. There is recognition, but getting additional funding out of Ottawa for legal aid is very difficult. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My questions are on page E-4 of the department's business plan under the priorities for 2010-11, it talks about completing "community consultations on the Wills Kit and distribute the kit across Nunavut." In terms of the consultation, is that consultation on how to fill out the will or is that consultation on how to present the will to the communities? Thank you.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Elliott for that question. I have talked to the Public Trustee, Esmeralda Batista, a couple of times on this because it has come up in my own riding. In fact, one of my constituents wants us to open a public trustee sub-office over there to help people.

Esmeralda has told me that she is working to update the wills kit. At some point, she would like to do community consultations, going into regions and talk to people and explain how to complete the wills kit, the importance of having a will, and how it benefits the survivors in an unfortunate circumstance where a loved one passes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that answer. That's where it leads to my next question. I can see that must be. We've had situations in my community where someone passes away and the survivor runs into problems because there's no will and it's held up in courts and whatnot, so it continues to go on for years and years.

But in terms of distributing them from our end in the community, is there going to be a central place where they're distributed through? Will they be able to pick them up at the RCMP detachment or will they be mailed out to every home? Thank you.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Elliott for that question. Again, I have talked to Ms. Batista about distribution of materials to share with communities and I have suggested that one way would be through our MLA offices.

I recall when I was an MLA, I did have a wills kit and I assisted some individuals, but we also have community justice

outreach workers who may well be able to provide information to people in the communities when they require it. It's in preliminary discussion stages, but we're looking at ways to get information out into the communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We haven't received a job description yet, but is this another role of the new GLO position that's mentioned in *Tamapta*? Thank you.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Elliott for that question. It could potentially become one of their duties. I don't think there will be a GLO in every community initially. I stand to be corrected, but initially, there will be 14 GLOs in communities, so there will be communities that don't have those positions.

You would have to ask the appropriate minister responsible for GLOs for more detail, but potentially, that's one of the roles the GLO does, to disseminate that kind of information and other Government of Nunavut information on departmental programs and services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under the Directorate on E-4 of the main estimates, in the description above, it

talks about “The division also oversees the financial aspects of the Territorial Policing Agreement.” How often is that policing agreement reviewed? Thank you.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Elliott for that question. Mr. Chairman, that’s the territorial policing agreement that is a 20-year agreement and expires on March 31, 2012. Officials from my department and other officials from other jurisdictions have been in negotiations for a little while now on a new territorial policing agreement. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is the minister able to explain to us some of the new amendments that are going to be in this agreement in terms of some of the things that have been brought up in terms of call centres and language of service, and things like that? Thank you.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As Mr. Elliott can appreciate, I’m not part of the negotiating team. Sometimes I wish I was, then I could hammer away with some of the concerns that the members have raised and I’ve had over the years.

The negotiations are going along quite well. It’s a 20-year agreement. There is a lot of information considered and there

are different jurisdictions involved. My Assistant Deputy Minister, Rebekah Williams, has been one of the people at the negotiating table and she may be able to provide some of the detailed information that Mr. Elliott is seeking. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Peterson. Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you. I will answer in Inuktitut. We’re very pleased in Nunavut that we will have an actual agreement in 2012. When we separated from the Northwest Territories, we inherited what came from there. Now we will have our own Nunavut agreement. I am quite pleased about that.

There are many issues included in the negotiations, such as the provision of housing units, offices, and other related infrastructure required by the RCMP. We also have provisions related to sick leave and other types of issues related to the transfer of jurisdiction to our government. We have to be fully aware that we are dealing with many of these issues during these rounds of negotiations. It has to be understood here that we are just one of many jurisdictions. In Canada, there are 8 provinces and 3 northern territories, a total of 11 governments that have similar agreements pertaining to policing.

However, here in Nunavut, we have slightly different requirements that will be reflected in the agreement. As an example, language service provisions. With respect to languages, Nunavut now has legislation on the Inuit language and most of the applicable provisions will be inserted into this agreement. We also

have clauses specific to Nunavut, such as cases that often have to be handled by the RCMP.

If that is understandable, I will stop there. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Williams. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that explanation.

I'm going back to the business plan on page E-4, the fourth bullet there, where it talks about devoting "greater resources and training to Community Justice Committees." Could the minister expand on what types of resources and training the community justice committees will be receiving? Are they going to be receiving suicide prevention training or other types of training? Thank you.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have to wait for a light to come on before we can start.

>>*Laughter*

I would have started talking seconds ago, but, Mr. Chairman, I thank you for bearing with me. I thank Mr. Elliott for that question.

Mr. Chairman, the community justice outreach workers are relatively new. They have been in place less than two years, so we appreciate the work that they're doing out in the communities. It's a very difficult job to do and also the community justice committees have very difficult jobs.

So we're providing more resources to them in terms of helping the youth out; diversionary programs on the land, honoraria to the community justice committees, and more support from our department headquarters here in Iqaluit. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that explanation. On the last bullet of the priorities for 2010-11, it talks about "Investigate and remove barriers to recruiting bilingual RCMP Special Constables into communities." Could the minister explain some of the barriers that they're having in terms of recruiting bilingual RCMP special constables? Thank you.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's a very good question. There were 15 applications to the Special Constable Program since last fall and 11 of them have been screened out, so we're down to 4. We're seeking one to two additional recruits for our September intake of people.

One of the interesting things I learned is that when you go for profiling, in Nunavut, young men grow up hunting. They might shoot their first caribou at age six or eight. Down south, when you tell someone that you had a rifle in your hand at that young age shooting animals, it doesn't go over well with the recruiters. My assistant deputy minister explained that to me and it's a good point. I didn't even know that. As a young boy growing up in the North, I

had opportunities with rifles to go out and hunt a little bit.

Other barriers might be the level of understanding of the English language on a written test. So we're working with the RCMP to explain to them that these barriers should not be used against recruits from Nunavut. I think we have a very good opportunity in the coming years to work very closely with the new commanding officer on that and he will help us get that information across to the people who recruit for Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that explanation because that just brought up the other question.

This is for the testing and the evaluation of candidates for the Special Constable Program. It makes me wonder how many Nunavummiut are not able to actually go into the RCMP in terms of applying officially because of these barriers that you were talking about. If we're having it for having bilingual special constables and since we have the unique situation where the RCMP does the policing for us here, will your department be letting the RCMP know this in terms of recruiting through the regular RCMP recruiting process? Thank you.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Elliott for the question. Mr. Chairman, we have to abide by the national standards that are

in place across Canada. There are situations where criminal records may come into play. You have to pass and write some difficult entrance exams. There are aptitude tests, polygraphs, all sorts of medical/psychological testing and physical testing. So it would be very difficult for us.

If we're going to make recommendations, we will have to understand what recommendations we're putting forward. We do want individuals who are interested in becoming an RCMP officer or a special constable to be able to succeed and to put them into a training situation where they can't succeed may ultimately work against us.

Mr. Chairman, the five special constables that we want to recruit or hopefully get into depot in September are part of a pilot test. Their success will determine the future of RCMP special constables in Nunavut. We want to eventually have 32 special constables in Nunavut.

As part of a five-year plan, we put together a business case last year and submitted that to Public Safety Canada. The five that we're putting through the depot this year will be funded internally through the RCMP here in Iqaluit, so it's very important that those individuals can be recruited and have a very good chance of success.

In the meantime, we will be communicating with the RCMP. Nunavut is a unique area and certain standards should be looked at in a different way. In an earlier reference to hunting at a young age with a rifle, that should not be a barrier to becoming an

RCMP officer in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Ningark: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On the *Family Abuse Intervention Act*, I think that I was one of the first people throughout 2007-08 to attend a community information [session] on the Act. Whether it was passed or not, we had people from the Government of Nunavut coming to our community and held a workshop. At that workshop, which I had the privilege to attend, there was a certain anticipation of better things to come. My wife and I and some other people talked about it for a couple of months.

Mr. Chairman, I have a question here on this matter. On December 7, 2009, Mr. Minister, you informed the Legislative Assembly that you will likely table the first annual report on the administration of the *Family Abuse Intervention Act* in the winter session. My question is this, Mr. Chairman: what is the status of the first annual report on the administration of the *Family Abuse Intervention Act*? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Ningark for that good question. That's what I did say and the plan is still to table the annual report in this session. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Ningark: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Would the minister repeat? My ears are aching today. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Ningark for asking me to repeat. Yes, it is our intention to table that report in the winter session. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Peterson. Member for Nanulik.

Mr. Ningeongan (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Some day you are going to have to learn to say my last name.

>>Laughter

Once in a while, I like to get a spotlight.

>>Laughter

(interpretation) I would like to ask the minister a question. I kept my eyes out for the Summer Constable Program to see if it was in the statement, but I didn't find anything in regard to it. I was wondering if this program is going to continue or if it has been cancelled. Students have worked during the summertime in the past under this program. I would like to know the status of that program. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. I'm working on your last name there. Hopefully, before the next session, I'll have it right. Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Ningeongan for that excellent question. I am very pleased to tell Mr. Ningeongan that it is the intention of the RCMP to hold the summer student program again this year.

I have talked to Commanding Officer Steven McVarnock. He feels that it's a very worthy program and he encourages all children and youth in all Nunavut communities to consider applying for the position. It's an excellent opportunity and it benefits the communities and it benefits the youth who participate. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Peterson. Member for Nanulik.

Mr. Ningeongan (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think it was back in 2001 that only some of the communities received the Summer Constable Program. Do I understand correctly that all of the communities will have that program? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Ningeongan for that good question. It is our intention that every community in Nunavut can participate. We encourage community councils and schools to help the students, if they're interested, to apply. I think the RCMP officers in the communities and the detachment commanders will also be encouraging young people to apply.

I talked again to Commanding Officer McVarnock. Every community is

eligible and I don't think there's a reason why they can't or there may be communities where there are no applicants, but it's our intention for every community to participate. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Peterson. I have no more names on my list here. We will go to E-4. Justice. Branch Summary. Directorate. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$10,956,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: We will move to page E-5. Branch Summary. Justice. Law Enforcement. Mr. Ningark.

Mr. Ningark: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think most members are aware that since I became a member of this Third Assembly, my concern has always been the free-flowing liquor into my dry community in Kugaaruk, technically dry, I might add, Mr. Chairman. The funnel to bring the liquor into the community never stops flowing. Most people like my age, obviously, should respect the vote on what we call a liquor plebiscite that was taken about a year and half to two years ago, and I'm not going to share with you how I voted.

Anyways, my question to the hon. minister, Mr. Chairman, is that on the priority list in your business plan, it's got Law Enforcement Branch to "work with the Justice department to provide input into the Liquor Act review." Okay? We want to work in the community along with the RCMP law enforcement agency. The question is: what kind of input are you expecting from the RCMP

on the review of the *Liquor Act*? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Ningark for that question. It's a great question. Bootlegging is a serious issue across Nunavut. Alcohol is a serious issue across Nunavut. It's really early for me to make assumptions though on what input the RCMP are going to make into the review of the *Liquor Act*. I do know that they feel that the permitting process is too liberal to make some recommendations on how to improve the permitting process. They may make some recommendations on the levels of fines for bootleggers.

It's early. I have only announced the task force as the Minister of Finance, but we still have yet to announce the 10 members and get them out there working on consulting with the communities. We hope to have some really good input from the RCMP, the health department, alcohol education committees, women's groups, youth, and other members of the task force when they can get out on the road and talk to the communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Ningark: Thank you. I thank the hon. minister for his response. With all due respect to the current liquor law, just about any individual who is thirsty enough will find \$250 for a drink. Any bootlegger in the community who is making \$500 per 60 ounce will be fined a \$250 fine.

So I'm hoping that the new *Liquor Act* will have more teeth than the current one. Well, people say, "Okay, I know I have enough money to buy a drink and I have enough money to pay for the fine." I'm hoping that we will come up with something that will deserve a little more respect than the current liquor law, at least in penalties. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Ningark. I think that was just a comment there, but if you want to make a comment, Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Ningark is making a very valid comment. Some of the bootleggers in Nunavut are very prosperous. The fines that they receive under the *Liquor Act* could easily be paid for out of the proceeds of their crime.

The recommendations made may lead to increasing the amounts of the fines for the first and second offences. There may be recommendations for civil forfeiture, which would mean that you lose your assets if they are deemed to be purchased or acquired through the proceeds of crime.

If someone's out there, they're not working, they haven't inherited \$1 million, they haven't won a lottery lately, but they've got four or five shiny snowmobiles and a couple of new trucks, it's probably a good indication that they are getting the money from somewhere. They may be at a risk of losing that, but we will see. Changes to the *Liquor Act* may talk about those kinds of fines that Mr. Ningark would like to see. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Peterson. Member for Nanulik.

Mr. Ningeongan (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a question, I'm not sure what to call "restraining order" in Inuktitut. Let's say a father is abusive at home. He is then temporarily ordered to live elsewhere.

The minister is aware of a letter from the housing association in Coral Harbour regarding this problem in enforcing restraining orders. If they have relatives, it appears to cause problems when they interact with relatives. When an individual doesn't have any relatives to turn to and nowhere to go, it becomes a real concern for local housing associations because there are no available public housing units. I'm sure that the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation is listening, but we hear that it is becoming increasingly serious.

Is it really the case that an individual who is under a restraining order and prohibited from contact with their spouse and their children is just thrown out of the house without being given an alternate place to go? Is that what happens? I would first like clarification on that, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Ningeongan for raising that concern. He has raised it in the past with me and I want to assure him that I did receive a letter. I gave it to one of my officials who look after that area to review and to talk to the housing board.

Yes, the concern he raises is a very valid concern. When an individual receives a restraining order, normally, I think the Department of Justice would accommodate them in a local hotel for up to 72 hours. After that, they can't go home, where do they go? That has been proven to be a concern since the implementation of the Act and my officials are aware of it. They acknowledge that it's challenging and it's a challenge that we have to address.

One of the areas that I think that they are looking at is talking to people in the communities and developing a pool of housing or billets where individuals can go, not just tossing them out into the street but they can go somewhere. It is a big issue and the reality in Nunavut's communities is that housing is short and we will just have to find a way to overcome that challenge. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Peterson. Member for Nanulik.

Mr. Ningeongan (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Have you ever considered looking at the larger communities and sending out the individuals temporarily to those communities instead?

I believe it is very hard on individuals when they are ordered not to see or speak to their spouses. Ignoring such orders only causes more problems. When an individual is forced to live in a way that is different from what they're accustomed to and are forced to run away from their problems when there could be dispute resolutions in place in the traditional Inuit way, it is no wonder

that such orders aggravate situations and cause alienation.

Don't the larger communities have the available facilities for those individuals who have no place to go to? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Ningeongan for that question and suggestion. Mr. Chairman, obviously, we would like to see the families reconciled as quickly as possible through mediation and family counselling, and ideally that would occur in the community. Barring that, if an individual wanted to go to another community or had to go to another community, we would have to seek their consent. It would make the mediation and family counselling very difficult if the family members were in separate communities, but it's something we can look at.

We're looking for ideas from anyone on how to improve, implement, and make the *Family Abuse Intervention Act* successful. If MLAs or community members have ideas, or people have some practical experience and solutions at the community level, we're open to their suggestions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Peterson. Mr. Arvaluk. Go ahead, Mr. Arvaluk. Okay, we will go to Mr. Elliott then.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On E-6 of the business plan, under the priorities for 2010-11, the second bullet

talks about the beginning of the training of special constables to provide services in the communities. You said that there are four now and hopefully six will start that training.

I had similar concerns when they were doing the mental health worker training for Nunavummiut. The concern I have is sometimes, working in the community, you're put under a lot of extra stress that maybe members from the south that aren't put in certain situations, especially with language barriers. They probably hear a lot more... I have spoken to some of our Inuk RCMP officers and they do hear a lot more and there seems to be some anger towards some of them.

Is there any extra training that's going to be given to our special constables to help them with dealing with these kinds of situations? It might be a relative or an in-law that they're arresting, it could be a family friend, but it would be hard on these members. So I'm just wondering if there's some extra assistance that's going to be given to them, sort of like care for the caregiver, those types of training and assistance. Thank you.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Elliott for that question. Just to be clear, we have four now and they're looking for a fifth and possibly a sixth, but more likely, there are going to be five special constables in training in September. As far as special training, I think the recruits would receive the same regular RCMP training that other members would receive.

I believe that the RCMP would be cognizant of the difficulties that you just expressed in terms of any concerns if they are being posted to communities in Nunavut. I believe that that will be taken care of. They will ensure that officers are not placed into communities or situations where it might make it difficult for them to perform their duties. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Ningark: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When my colleague for Nanulik was talking about restraining orders, I believe the Hon. Minister for Justice was open to suggestions from MLAs that might help families to reconcile. That was the term he uses.

I have been fighting to get a crisis centre for my community where people and families could reconcile, work it out. So that's one idea that I throw in. Get me a crisis shelter or safe house and things like these so I could start working towards what the minister is looking for. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Ningark for that suggestion. That might be the fastest responses I've had to request for suggestions.

In all seriousness, Mr. Chairman, the issue of family violence at the community level is taken quite seriously by the Government of Nunavut as that would require various programs and services. We will look seriously at Mr.

Ningark's request; my officials have taken note of it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Ningark: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just a comment. In Kugaaruk, many of the good people, residents of the community, saw that shipping people out to another community or buying a ticket for them to another community was not a way to go.

One of the better solutions when there was a misunderstanding, as I put it, family violence, what the community wanted was before something becomes serious, before people go to the RCMP, before anyone comes up with hiring a lawyer, have a place to reconcile, as he put it, was a family shelter or crisis shelter in the community.

It is not only for women but also there are times when men are literally kicked out from their homes, sometimes younger people, adults, and so on. So I think it could work both ways for any member of the family who is not welcome but has not done any serious harm or damage and just go to a place where they can think it over, go through the program, and work it out.

I admire and acknowledge the Premier of Nunavut. In *Tamapta*, they saw and brought forward the idea of families working together. If they have some differences, work it out instead of sending people to another community or out of the territory if you have to, so it's a win-win situation. I am not talking about dangerous offenders or anything like that, but if you have family

differences, work it out, as the minister has indicated, reconcile.

So having a facility in the community where people can go to a program, communicate, and talk with a professional, and so on, is a win-win situation. I don't have any questions. It's just a comment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Ningark. There was no question there. Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe this is just a comment I want to share while we're under Law Enforcement, under E-5, under the Branch Summary. It's also important to note, Mr. Chairman, as well as the hon. minister that the RCMP is the policing agency in Nunavut. It's also imperative that the RCMP works with the Department of Justice and not just the Department of Justice but also inter-agency departments as well.

I think the one thing I would like to comment on, Mr. Chairman, is to remember that all enforcement officials must follow protocol when it comes to law enforcement in respect to dealing with Nunavummiut. I am glad that you mentioned that there was the issue of even ensuring that there was cultural sensitivity training in one certain department, but it also applies to law enforcement officials.

Mr. Peterson has indicated in the House several times that there are working partnerships with inter-agencies, such as health centres, Health and Social Services, mental health workers, social workers, even the education system. It's

just a comment that I would like to remind my colleagues here as well as the hon. minister and his department is that there are protocols to follow in which we have to recognize in order to provide the best services to our people.

It would be nice to enforce that inter-agency partnerships are clear and defined. I think, as a government, one of the *Tamapta* mandates is to provide enhanced services. I just want to ensure that this was also recorded as a formality in this sitting to ensure that there are protocols to follow and that there are respects to inter-agencies in working partnerships, as well as providing quality of service to our constituents. That was just a comment. Thank you, Sir.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. That was just a comment. I don't have anybody else on the list here. We will go to E-5. Branch Summary. Justice. Law Enforcement. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$26,110,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: We will move to E-6. Justice. Branch Summary. Lawyer Support Services. Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to follow up on a comment my esteemed colleague, Mr. Elliott, had mentioned in regard to wills earlier.

I have been approached by some constituents as well as former colleagues in the region in Kivalliq and they had questions about wills. I just want to follow up, as I said, on Mr. Elliott's

comment earlier. I think this question might clarify some of it.

Your draft 2010-13 business plan refers to priorities for the Directorate branch with respect to will kits. Mr. Chairman, in previous years, an objective for the Legal Support Services Branch was to protect the interests of Nunavummiut who have died without a will.

My question is: why has this item been removed from the list of objectives for the Legal Support Services Branch?
Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Aupaluktuq for that question. A simple answer to that is that the Public Trustee has been removed from Lawyer Support Services and is repositioned under Directorate and reports to the Assistant Deputy Minister, Rebekah Williams. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Peterson. Are there any other questions? I don't have anybody else. Justice. Branch Summary. Lawyer Support Services. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$3,180,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: We will go to E-7. Branch Summary. Justice. Registries and Court Services. Are there any questions? Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$9,418,000. Agreed? Sorry, Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just a quick question. I don't have any guidance on this, but I'm just interested in how many mining permits and insurances have been issued under this registry this year. (interpretation)
Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Arvaluk for that question. We're not sure that mining permits are registered under this registry. We would have to check, but we certainly wouldn't have the level of detail that he's requesting anyway.
Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Peterson. Are there any other questions? Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Looking at E-7 under Registries and Court Services, it's also listed that it's to operate under the Labour Standards Board.

If this question is not appropriate, I would welcome the direction of the Chair. I would like to ask the minister and his department that when you tabled the 2008 annual report on the minimum wage as you are required to do under the *Labour Standards Act*, is the government or will the government be looking at increasing the minimum wage this year or in the near future? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll take that question as notice. Thank you.

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

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under Corrections... are we under Corrections? We're under registry? Okay, forget it. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Yes, we're under Registries and Court Services on E-7.

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a very quick question. As you know, I have been an advocate of men who have gone out elsewhere after impregnating especially vulnerable girls in our communities. They take off somewhere. We don't know where.

Is this section or page supposed to strengthen or are you planning to maybe reviewing your enforcement type of arrangement for those who are very vulnerable young women in our communities and have no means of support when their boyfriend or whatever they call them just vanish from the face of the earth? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Arvaluk for that specific question. That's what the Family Support Enforcement Program will do. We have legislation currently winding its way through the various levels to put an Act in place that gives the maintenance enforcement people

more powers to go after the people who Mr. Arvaluk is referring to. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Peterson. I have no more names on my list here. Branch Summary. Justice. Registries and Court Services. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$9,418,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: We will go to page E-8. Justice. Branch Summary. Corrections. Are there any questions? Total Operation Maintenance, to be Voted. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was waiting for other people to ask questions before I started asking questions.

One of the questions that I had was that we had the Minister of Health and Social Services in front of us and I know some of the extra duties that the social workers have to take on are the fact that they do probation work as well. I noted that there are some changes that you're planning to do with your department in terms of taking that on as a standalone. I was wondering if you could update us on what is happening with that. Thank you.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Elliott for that question. The immediate concern or plan is to get more community corrections officers in the different communities and that has been a long, festering issue, I believe, from the Second Assembly.

We're making progress in getting more community corrections officers. We have 15 in the 11 communities. We're hoping, in the New Year, to add two additional positions through re-profiling of existing resources. Eventually, we won't have to rely on social services. That's the plan. I have talked to Minister Curley and our officials have talked to officials in Health. Through a phase approach over three years, we're hopeful that we will have community corrections or services available in all communities where we don't have to rely on the Department of Health and Social Services and social workers. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank you for the answers to that. That actually answered my next question, which would be: how many years would it take for that to happen? And you said it was three years for it to unfold.

I guess my next question is: in terms of the Baffin Correctional Centre, could you update the committee on the facility review and some of the findings in terms of the living conditions of the inmates out there? Thank you.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Elliott for that question. As committee members know through a previous debate on this discussion on the Baffin Correctional Centre, the facility is in an advanced state of disrepair. It is an old building. It wasn't designed for the type of services

that it is providing now. It is overcrowded. I think Mr. Elliott has taken a tour of the facility and seen first-hand what the condition is.

The director of corrections services approached CGS following the decision by the House not to fund our \$300,000 request for funding to look at the modernization, expanding, upgrading the facility, or even possibly replacing it. He requested an assessment of the immediate priority areas that need to be addressed to make the facility a safer facility not only for our inmates, Mr. Chairman, but also our officials who work out there.

The three areas that they looked at as requiring immediate attention would be the security system, then the fire security system, and then the ventilation system. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The reason I'm asking is because I was wondering, with some of the changes and some of the suggestions in that study, whether it was going to adversely affect the operations and maintenance in terms of repair and some of the things that they were going to do to that building in terms upgrading the fire system, the ventilation system, and the security system. So are those changes reflected in this budget or is there going to be an increase to the O&M for the operation of that building? Thank you.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Elliott. It's a good question. No, it's not reflected in this budget. Mr. Chairman, the cut off for preparation of main estimates was early in November and we were into capital estimates in December when we got the decision not to proceed, but we will have to deal with these costs in the new fiscal year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that answer. In regard to... I don't know the proper term, but I guess the inmates who are in there and then now, if I understand correctly, there are quite a few people who are in there who are on remand, so I don't know if they're technically called inmates.

Is it a usual practice across Canada where we have people who have been through the court system and they have received a sentence and they are an inmate put in with the general population of people who are on remand awaiting trial that could go from one to two to three years waiting for a trial to happen? Thank you.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Elliott for that question. Mr. Chairman, recognizing Nunavut's unique circumstances and the lack of facilities, we have to put remand prisoners in with the regular population. It's not a common practice down south. It may occur in some areas, but it's not a common practice. It's only in Nunavut,

to my knowledge. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Then I guess I'm going back to my original question. The feasibility study or the study that was done, in terms of CGS being asked to help with looking into the possibilities of things to do, was there a suggestion of having a separate remand centre for people on remand or was it just looking at the facility? Thank you.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Elliott for that question. No. Mr. Chairman, the only thing that they were asked to look at was the immediate areas that needed replacement or repair. As I said, it was a security system for operating the doors, then fire safety, and then the ventilation of the facility. The work was undertaken by Accutech Engineering and Parkin Architects Limited, the people who designed the Rankin Inlet facility. So they have a lot of good knowledge about correctional facilities and what is required to undertake all of these improvements and repairs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There was quite a bit of publicity on the state of BCC and there was a CBC report that sort of was talking about some of the inmates or some of the people in

BCC and whether it was infringing on people's human rights. Is that the case of what's happening here? Thank you.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's a very good question. I don't think we're at that point yet, but we're at a point where we have to deal with making some of these repairs to make it safer for the prisoners and also the officials out there. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So I guess it wouldn't hurt to tell some of the inmates and also some of the people who are in remand who feel that they're - I guess I'll take your advice that you gave me about the people with disabilities - not having their human rights met to go to the Human Rights Tribunal. Is that a good suggestion? Thank you.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Elliott for that question. Mr. Chairman, the folks who are prisoners and the officials who are out there, if any of them feel that their human rights are being infringed on or violated, then the Human Rights Tribunal is a phone call or letter away if they want to contact them. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that explanation because that was going to be my next question. If some of the workers out there feel that they're being put into situations like that, what advice and suggestions do you have for them? It sounds like you're saying that the Human Rights Tribunal would be a good way for them to go, unless I'm wrong. Maybe a clarification. Thank you.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Elliott for a good question. Mr. Chairman, the Human Rights Tribunal operates at arm's length from me, so I can't answer for how they might receive the application or how they deal with it.

I have talked to the Executive Director, Marion Love, and they have a very good system in place. They will investigate properly and promptly. There is no guarantee that they may find that there is a human rights violation, but they will look into it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. While we're on that topic, I know we don't actually have whistle-blower legislation in place and we've had a lot of talk about it from different MLAs. It sounds like the government is working towards that in terms of HR.

So no employee feels that they will be reprimanded or anything, your department would have no problem with them doing that in terms of there would

be no negative or adverse effect in terms of their job if they were to go through the Human Rights Tribunal. If you just say yes or no whether you would support them. Thank you.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Elliott for that question. I want to assure the officials and employees out at the Baffin Correctional Centre or anywhere that if they have concerns and complaints, ideally, they would take them to their supervisors, but if they have other concerns, I don't think there is going to be any retribution from this government. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Ningark: Thank you. Before I ask, Mr. Chairman, I need a clarification on the activity page for Community Justice, if activity is, in fact, related to the outreach community worker directly or indirectly. If yes, I have one question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: I believe that's under Community Justice, but I'll ask Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If Mr. Ningark could direct me to the correct page that he is referring to, it would help. Thank you.

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

Mr. Ningark: My question was: this activity page here on Community Justice, does it have anything to do with the community outreach worker? If yes, I have one question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If Mr. Ningark is referring to page E-9 of main estimates, the community justice outreach worker is connected to the *Family Abuse Intervention Act*, so yes to his question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Peterson. That will be the next page we go to. You can ask that question then. Any more questions, Mr. Ningark?

Mr. Ningark: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I apologize. I'm getting ahead of the game here, sorry. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: No problem. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wanted to go back and again in terms of Baffin Correctional Centre, one of the things that were mentioned in some of the media releases that have come out is the idea that programs are not able to be run for the inmates because of overcrowding and because of the way that the building is set up.

I guess I'm new at this. What are the programs that are offered to individuals? I know originally, there was a carving program that was stopped for a while and I don't know if it's still going again, but if the minister could explain some of

the programs that are offered. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. According to 77(2), I'm going to give you an opportunity to ask some questions, but we have to be careful that we ask most of the questions the first time around. I wouldn't mind going the second time around, but the third time around... I think we have to limit that I'll let Minister Peterson answer that. Thank you.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Elliott for that question. Mr. Chairman, I have a long list here on some of the programs. One of them would be alternatives to violence. Dr. Podmoroff facilitates that program. It's a six-week model, twice weekly. It's a men's group again facilitated by Dr. Podmoroff. It's a six-week model and it's intended for offenders who have been convicted of sexual offences.

- There's a classroom which has an adult instructor who helps students to participate in basic literacy upgrading, general education diploma, high school credits, trades, and free trades.
- There's the Inuit cultural skills program that's facilitated by land program officers.
- There are the outpost camps that are operated in some of the communities and around Iqaluit.
- There's a drug and alcohol program which is currently on hold because the facilitator of the program is no longer available.

- There are individual counselling and psychologists, members of the local Christian Fellowship Church, and elder Susan Sammurtok, who offers individual counselling.
- There's the Katak Program; it's a special needs program for individuals who face mental health issues.
- There are recreational activities so that folks out there can get fresh air, walks, baseball, swimming, when available in the summer.
- There was a suicide intervention program, but that's on hold, so we would have to find some staff to train.
- Income tax assistance; the staff coordinates with local volunteers to help some of the inmates to complete the income tax.

So there are a number of programs available to the folks out there. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I didn't realize it was my third go around, I thought it was my second go around. As Minister Taptuna pointed out earlier, it takes a while for my original ideas to start flowing.

I just have one more question. In terms of the programs that are offered, it's great that those programs are being offered. I'm just wondering if the minister would be willing to accept the suggestion of another one. It was

something was mentioned in *Tamapta* and it's one of our homegrown programs through Nunavut Arctic College, the Prior Learning Assessment Recognition Program. Nunavut Arctic College has adapted that and has it in all of its programs. It's a way for people to get in touch with where they fit in, in their community and whatnot.

If the minister could commit to maybe looking into that program and seeing the viability of having that run as a way of supporting *Tamapta* as well as Nunavut Arctic College. Thank you.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Elliott for asking that question. I've had conversations with Mr. Elliott a few times on PLAR. It's not his first good idea; it's one of his first good ideas. He's had many good ideas.

>> *Laughter*

I meant that as a compliment right there. He is always giving me good ideas.

Mr. Chairman, yes to that suggestion, I think it's a very good suggestion and our officials will include it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Peterson. We have no more names on the list here. We will go to Justice. Branch Summary. Corrections. Total Operations Maintenance, to be Voted. \$23,527,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Move on to E-9. Branch Summary. Justice. Community Justice. Are there any questions? Mr. Ningark.

Mr. Ningark: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Some people tell me, under this activity, that the community outreach worker is funded by the *Family Abuse Intervention Act*. I would say the position is funded by the hamlets in their respective communities.

So up to this point in time, all I know is the Roman numeral print in my head. So who pays for the position and operation of the community outreach worker? Is it the hamlet or is it funded by the *Family Abuse Intervention Act*? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Ningark for that question. The CJOW positions are funded through the Department of Justice via contribution agreements with the hamlets. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Peterson. Are there any other questions? If not, we will go to Branch Summary. Justice. Community Justice. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$4,851,000. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wasn't sure where I could ask this. Maybe I could have asked it in E-7 under Court Services, but because I don't know, I'll ask under the general page.

I would like to raise the issue with the minister. In January of this year, I

received concerns from a constituent with respect to a subpoena that the constituent had received to appear as a witness in a matter in the Nunavut Court of Justice here in Iqaluit. According to my understanding, this constituent received the subpoena while they were living or staying in Iqaluit but subsequently moved back to Pond Inlet.

I'm not going to talk about the name of the constituent, but the constituent did not have the means to buy an air ticket to travel back to Iqaluit to honour the subpoena. The constituent was under the impression that charges would be laid if the constituent did not show up. The constituent indicated to me that the subpoena was delivered by the RCMP. Again, I'm being very careful not to refer to the constituent by name.

I would like to ask the minister to outline in general terms what happens in these circumstances and to clarify what written policies exist with respect to covering the cost for witness travel. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Arvaluk for the question. It's my understanding, Mr. Chairman, that if a person is in another community and they're subpoenaed by the court to appear at a trial, then the court will pay for those travel costs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Peterson. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So if there is a written policy

concerning the costs of witness travel, will the minister commit to tabling them in the House? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Arvaluk for that question. Mr. Chairman, we will look for that information and provide it to Mr. Arvaluk. Thank you.

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

Mr. Elliott: You sounded so down, "Mr. Elliott."

>> *Laughter*

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I only have one thing to say and I was going to say in terms of community justice outreach workers, I think they are a tremendous idea. I know in my community, the lady who is hired to do it does amazing work. She is writing proposals, she's meeting with people after hours, and she started an after school program for young kids. I just want to say, I know at least in my communities, they are working. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. I think that was a comment, but if you want to comment on that, Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Elliott for that compliment of the lady. We have a lot of people throughout Nunavut in all communities, in Iqaluit and the regional centres, who work very hard and are dedicated to providing good programs and services to Nunavummiut. The

example of the lady that Mr. Elliott uses is a good one.

As the Minister of Justice, I appreciate all of the work that everybody does for all of us. I just sit here and defend the department. I'm not working as hard as some of the people out in frontline, so your comments are well taken. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Ningark: For the record, like my colleague from Quttiktuq, I have every respect for the community justice worker in my community. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Ningark. That was just a comment. We will go to E-9. Branch Summary. Justice. Community Justice. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$4,861,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: We will go back now to page E-3. Department Summary. Justice. Detail of Expenditures. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$78,052,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Do all of the members agree that the Department of Justice is concluded?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: I would like to thank the minister and officials. Do you have any closing comments, minister?

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank yourself and members of the committee for your great questions and your good suggestions today. As I said, the Department of Justice is open to any good ideas that we can consider. We have taken your opening comments seriously. We will hopefully address all of your concerns and keep you updated throughout the coming fiscal year.

I would like to thank my officials for being with me here today and I thank my other officials who were in the Gallery who have been observing. They all worked really hard to contribute to this day.

Again, I thank all of the staff in the Department of Justice and some of our other agencies, like the Nunavut Legal Services Board and the Human Rights Tribunal. They're probably going to be very busy now because of Mr. Elliott's questions. I hope not.

>>*Laughter*

I would like to assure Mr. Ningark that we will make sure that his community justice outreach worker hears about the strong support for the work she does in Kugaaruk. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Peterson. I also would like to thank yourself and your officials for showing up. I would like get the Sergeant-at-Arms to escort the minister and the officials out, please.

We're going to take a five-minute break so that Minister Peterson can prepare for the Department of Finance budget.

>> *Committee recessed at 17:30 and resumed at 17:38*

Bill 22 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2010-2011 – Finance – Consideration in Committee

Chairman (Mr. Ningeongan): I would like to call the committee meeting to order. I would now like to ask Minister Peterson, responsible for the Department of Finance, to make his opening remarks.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman and members. The Department of Finance 2010-11 business plan and priorities include:

- Fully implementing action plans from the September 2009 Auditor General's reports to the Legislative Assembly with respect to the departments of Finance and Health and Social Services;
- Conducting the minister's task force on liquor and implementing the recommendations that will flow from that review;
- With our territorial colleagues, negotiating a territorial formula financing agreement to be implemented in 2014 that is reflective of the needs of the North in general and Nunavut in particular. In this regard, we will be paying close attention to our "Gross Expenditure Base" to ensure that it reflects our needs as closely as possible;
- Fully implementing the joint Canada-Nunavut strengthening financial management \$23 million program, with priorities that impact virtually all lines of business in Finance. Finalizing this initiative on time and on budget will form the computer network foundation and financial process framework for all other government priorities;
- Paying close attention to the budgeting process itself. Over the next three years, we will refine our budgeting procedure from A to Z to make it more reliable and timely;
- Maintaining our continuous improvement process in internal audit using our risk-based audit approach. The appropriate mix of assurance services will be fully executed based on the plan. Over the course of the planning cycle, we will conduct a review of our internal audit systems, programs, and practices to ensure that they remain fresh and represent the leading edge of internal audit standards;
- In association with the Department of Human Resources, developing and implementing a new leave and attendance program. Implementation will include a comprehensive training regime – one that will ensure the success of the new program.

For 2010-11, the staff complement of the Department of Finance remains

unchanged at 209, as reflected in our six lines of businesses:

- Advisory and Administrative, with a budget of \$1.2 million;
- Policy and Planning, with a budget of \$3.1 million;
- Financial Management, with a budget of \$3.1 million, up slightly from 2009-2010;
- Internal Audit Services, with a budget of \$1.2 million;
- Comptrollership, with a budget of \$14.2 million; and
- Centrally Administered Funds, with a budget of \$34.7 million, an increase of about \$1.6 million from 2009-2010.

The total budget allotment for the Department of Finance is \$57.5 million for 2010-11, an increase of \$2.6 million from 2009-2010. That increase is made up of about \$1.1 million in compensation and benefits, \$1.5 million in forced growth in Centrally Administered Funds, and a reduction of about \$200,000 in contract services.

Compensation and benefits are increasing as a result of mandated wage increases and projected staffing levels. Forced growth in Centrally Administered Funds includes \$600,000 for general insurance premium increases, \$700,000 for medical travel for GN employees and their families, \$200,000 for capital leases, which is the result of a change to the accounting treatment for this type of lease.

Once again, as was the case for 2009-2010, the department is budgeting compensation and benefits to anticipated actual expenses.

In summary, Mr. Chairman, the department will continue to play its central agency role, in addition to supporting initiatives of other departments and territorial corporations.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This concludes my opening comments. I would be pleased to take questions.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Yes, Mr. Chairman, 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 witnesses in.

(interpretation ends) Minister Peterson, for the record, please introduce your witnesses.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my right is Mr. Peter Ma, Deputy Minister of the Department of Finance, and to my left is Chris D'Arcy, Assistant Deputy Minister of Finance. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Peterson. Does the Chairman of the Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations have opening comments? Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to provide opening comments on behalf of the Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts on its review of the 2010-11 main estimates and 2010-13 business plan of the Department of Finance.

The standing committee notes that the department's proposed 2010-11 operations and maintenance budget of \$57,469,000 has increased by approximately 5 percent since the introduction of the department's 2009-2010 main estimates. The number of positions in the department is remaining stable at 209.0 PYs.

The standing committee applauds the minister for demonstrating restraint in this area given the tendency of too many other departments to increase the number of positions in their organization charts every year, despite not being able to fill a significant portion of their existing jobs.

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

In 2003, the Government of Nunavut announced the establishment of a Crown Agency Council to address issues related to the government's relationship with its major Crown corporations and agencies. During the Second Legislative Assembly of Nunavut, the government began the practice of providing annual ministerial letters of expectation to Crown corporations and agencies in order to establish priorities and provide direction with respect to their operations and initiatives.

The department's 2009-2010 business plan indicated that the Crown Agency Council has been replaced by a Public Agencies Council. It indicated that "in 2009-2010, our relationship with the territorial corporations will be strengthened and formalized through a Memorandum of Understanding process that will clearly define the roles and responsibilities of both the GN and each territorial corporation." However, no 2009-2010 MOUs have been tabled in the Legislative Assembly.

The department's proposed 2010-13 business plan indicates that one of its priorities for 2010-11 is to "Finalize and execute Memorandums of Understanding with all territorial corporations regarding governance, roles and responsibilities." The standing committee looks forward to the timely tabling of these items in the Legislative Assembly.

The standing committee also urges the minister, in his capacity as the Chair of the Public Agencies Council, to ensure that the corporate business plans and annual reports of all of Nunavut's major Crown corporations, including the Qulliq Energy Corporation, are tabled in the House on a timely basis. The standing committee also notes its concern with respect to the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation given the Auditor General of Canada's recent denials of opinion of its financial statements.

On April 1, 2009, the most recent Report of the Auditor General of Canada to the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut was tabled in the Legislative Assembly. The standing committee held hearings on this report last fall. The department's 2010-

13 business plan indicates that the government's action plan to respond to the Auditor General's report was proposed, "completed and then discussed at the Standing Committee in the fall 2009. This will be implemented during the next three fiscal years." The standing committee will hold the government accountable for its progress in this area.

Mr. Chairman, the tabling of the government's annual public accounts continues to be an issue of concern. The public accounts for the 2007-08 fiscal year were not tabled in the Legislative Assembly until November 25, 2009. The Government of Nunavut's interim financial report for the 2008-09 fiscal year was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on December 8, 2009. The public accounts for 2008-09 have not yet been tabled.

Mr. Chairman, the 2009 Report of the Auditor General noted that "the underlying cause of the Government's lack of progress on our previous recommendations is its limited human resource capacity. Simply put, there are not enough qualified financial staff to properly carry out basic financial functions."

The department's proposed 2010-13 business plan indicates that two of its goals for the 2010-11 fiscal year are to "Promote training and development across all financial groups in the GN including the administrative, technical and professional levels" and to "establish and implement a professional training regime to enhance the financial expertise of the territory at all levels." The standing committee looks forward to holding hearings on the Auditor

General's 2010 report, which will address the issue of human resources capacity in the government.

Mr. Chairman, an issue with government-wide implications is the growth of the public service since the creation of Nunavut in 1999. According to the Government of Nunavut's main estimates and departmental business plans for the 2004-05 fiscal year, the total number of positions across the government was approximately 3,040 PYs, not including the Qulliq Energy Corporation's positions. The total number of PYs in the government has increased to approximately 3,890 in the 2010-11 fiscal year. This is an increase of around 850 positions, or 25 percent, in just five years.

However, this growth is taking place even though the government's overall vacancy rate remains between 20 and 25 percent. The minister's recent Budget Address noted that there are approximately 900 vacant positions across the government. Departments continue to add new positions to their organizational structures even though it is clear that they continue to face challenges in filling their existing jobs.

Mr. Chairman, we must recognize that the bureaucracy cannot grow forever. This is an issue that the minister, in his capacity as the Chairman of the Financial Management Board, needs to review. It is also important to note that almost one-third of the government's total spending is on compensation and benefits for its own workforce. Every dollar that is added to pay new government employees is a dollar less that is available for such things as financial assistance for students to attend

university or new capital infrastructure in our communities.

Mr. Chairman, during the minister's appearance before the standing committee, members raised a number of concerns regarding the issue of liquor management, which falls under the administrative jurisdiction of the Department of Finance. Responsibility for support to the Liquor Licensing Board was transferred to the Department of Justice in the 2007-08 fiscal year.

The standing committee supports efforts to strengthen the working relationship between the Department of Finance and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police with respect to information-sharing initiatives that are intended to combat the illegal sale of alcohol by bootleggers.

The standing committee recognizes that on December 8 of last year, the minister announced that a task force to review the *Liquor Act* will be established. The standing committee looks forward to ongoing updates on the status of the task force's work.

In communities where voters have chosen through plebiscite to establish alcohol education committees, the standing committee supports efforts on the part of the department to provide training and support for these bodies, while recognizing the need to review whether their core mandate should be focused on controlling access to alcohol or providing counselling services that might be more appropriately delivered by other entities.

The standing committee notes that the issue of allocating revenues that are received by the government from fines

imposed under the *Liquor Act* to alcohol education and treatment programs remains worthy of consideration. This praiseworthy idea was raised by the minister himself during the previous Legislative Assembly.

On November 25, 2009, the Minister of Finance tabled the government-wide annual reports on grants and contributions made by all departments during the 2007-08 and 2008-09 fiscal years. The standing committee applauds the minister for tabling these important reports and looks forward to future years' reports being tabled in a timely manner.

Between the 2004-05 and 2008-09 fiscal years, the government spent over \$1.2 billion in grants and contributions. The standing committee recommends that the minister, in his capacity as the Chairperson of the Financial Management Board, consider the establishment of a government-wide framework for measuring and evaluating the results of the government's grants and contributions expenditures.

On November 1, 2007, the provisions in the *Qulliq Energy Corporation Act* providing for the creation of an Affordable Energy Fund came into force. Its purpose is to "subsidize the cost of energy or otherwise make energy more affordable."

According to the Government of Nunavut's Energy Strategy, *Ikummatiit*, which was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on October 30, 2007, this fund is to be managed by the Department of Finance. However, the department's 2010-13 business plan does not make any reference to the Affordable Energy

Fund. The standing committee looks forward to the government clarifying its plans in this area.

On September 17, 2008, the Government of Nunavut's new Public-Private Partnership Policy was tabled in the Legislative Assembly. The policy states that the GN "believes that a cooperative approach to building infrastructure through public-private partnerships can be an appropriate, efficient and effective use of Nunavut's resources to deliver services."

However, the Department of Finance's 2010-13 business plan does not make any reference to the GN's new P3 Policy. The standing committee recommends that next year's departmental business plan clarify the government's plans with respect to its P3 Policy.

In June of 2008, the Legislative Assembly passed the *Nunavut Outfitter Liability Protection Fund Act*. In the same month, the Legislative Assembly approved \$4.0 million to establish the Nunavut Outfitter Liability Protection Fund, which has been established as a revolving fund to provide assistance to outfitters who are subject to third party liability [claims.] \$1.0 million of the funding was provided from the GN and \$3.0 million came from the Government of Canada's Community Development Trust.

The Act came into force on October 1, 2008. On June 15, 2009, the minister tabled the first annual report under this legislation. The standing committee encourages the departments of Finance and Economic Development and Transportation to work closely together

in evaluating the success of this program.

Amendments were passed to the territorial *Payroll Tax Act* in 2006 to increase the GN's payroll tax rate to 2 percent. The government estimates that it will raise approximately \$17 million in 2010-11 from the payroll tax. It is not clear what percentage of payroll tax revenues is raised from the government's own employees and what percentage is raised from workers in other levels of government and the private sector. The standing committee recommends that the minister begin the practice of tabling an annual report on the administration of the *Payroll Tax Act* to account for such issues.

The Department of Finance is responsible for administering the territorial *Tobacco Tax Act*. The government estimates that it will raise approximately \$11.9 million in 2010-11 from tobacco taxes. Nunavut's tobacco taxes are among the highest in the country. However, it is unclear if increases in tobacco taxes have actually had an impact on reducing smoking rates in Nunavut.

This is an issue that would benefit from evaluation by the Department of Finance and the Department of Health and Social Services. The standing committee is also aware that the potential health benefits of increasing tobacco taxes must be balanced with the risk of creating a black market for illegal tobacco products as a consequence of excessive tax increases.

The GN's Fuel Tax Rebate Program was originally announced in the 2006 budget. It provides incentives for mineral exploration and development, and

provides for a fuel tax rebate for commercial harvesters and outfitters. On June 15, 2009, the minister tabled the most recent annual report on the administration of the program. The standing committee looks forward to next annual report being tabled in a timely manner.

Mr. Chairman, the department's proposed business plan indicates that one of its priorities for 2011-12 is to "Improve forecasting and budgeting. A review of the existing Main Estimates and Capital Estimates process will focus on ensuring funding approved for Capital captures the associated O&M costs. Consideration will also be given to consolidation of the Main Estimates and Capital Estimates."

The standing committee urges the minister to clarify whether he intends to introduce the government's annual main estimates and capital estimates at the same time during the annual budget cycle. As a number of Members of the House will recall, the practice of introducing the annual capital estimates in the fall of each calendar year was undertaken in order to address concerns related to such matters as sealift deadlines.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening comments on the 2010-11 Main Estimates and Business Plan of the Department of Finance. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. As per Rule 6(1), I now recognize the clock and will report progress to the Speaker.

Thank you, Minister and staff. I would now like to ask the Sergeant-at-Arms to

escort the witnesses. We will see you tomorrow.

Speaker (interpretation): Going back to our Orders of the Day. Item 21. Report of the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Ningeongan.

Item 21: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Mr. Ningeongan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Bill 22 and the main estimates, and would like to report progress. Also, Mr. Speaker, I move that the Report of the Committee of the Whole be concurred with. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. There is a motion on the floor. Mr. Shewchuk is the seconder. The motion is in order. All those in favour, raise your hand. Opposed. The motion is carried.

Going to Item 22. Third Reading of Bills. Item 23. Orders of the Day. (interpretation ends) Mr. Clerk.

Item 23: Orders of the Day

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A reminder to all members, there is a meeting of the Full Caucus tomorrow morning at ten o'clock in the Nanuq Room.

Orders of the Day for March 17:

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
 - Bill 15
 - Bill 16
 - Bill 17
 - Bill 20
 - Bill 25
 - Bill 26
 - Bill 27
18. Second Reading of Bills
19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
 - Bill 14
 - Bill 21
 - Bill 22

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
Wednesday, March 17, at 1:30 p.m.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 18:07*

