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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Speaker

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(Uqqummiut)

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Government Services; Minister of
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Table of Contents

Opening Prayer.....	1732
Ministers' Statements	1732
Members' Statements	1735
Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery.....	1737
Oral Questions.....	1740
Tabling of Documents	1757
Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills	1758
First Reading of Bills	1758
Second Reading of Bills	1759
Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters	1759
Third Reading of Bills.....	1779
Orders of the Day	1779

A.

Daily References

Friday, March 19, 2010 1732

B.

Ministers' Statements

131 – 3(2): Career Development Officer Training Strategy (Tapardjuk)..... 1732

132 – 3(2): Atuliqtuq Nunavut Climate Change Partnership (Shewchuk)..... 1733

133 – 3(2): Occupational Training Diploma Program Delivery in Rankin Inlet, Cambridge Bay,
and Iqaluit (Shewchuk) 1733

134 – 3(2): Funding Increase for Licensed Child Care Facilities (Tapardjuk)..... 1734

C.

Members' Statements

194 – 3(2): Commending Community Justice Committees (Elliott)..... 1735

195 – 3(2): Safe Return of Ernie Etuak (Shewchuk)..... 1736

196 – 3(2): Problems Facing Homeowners in Small Communities (Ningeongan) 1736

197 – 3(2): Medical Appointment (Ningark) 1737

198 – 3(2): Montreal Canadiens and the AWG Athletes (Okalik) 1737

D.

Oral Questions

317 – 3(2): Status of New Power Plant for Cape Dorset (Schell) 1740

318 – 3(2): Status of Conservation Office in Baker Lake (Aupaluktuq)..... 1741

319 – 3(2): Addressing Concerns Relating to Health and Social Services (Rumbolt) 1742

320 – 3(2): Letter Addressing Mould in Workplace (Okalik)..... 1744

321 – 3(2): Creation of Child and Youth Advocate Office (Elliott)..... 1745

322 – 3(2): Information for Potential Homeowners (Ningeongan).....	1747
323 – 3(2): Baffin Bay Polar Bear Quota Decrease (Arvaluk).....	1749
324 – 3(2): RCMP Issues in Pangnirtung (Komoartok).....	1751
325 – 3(2): Coordination of Child and Youth Advocate (Elliott)	1752
326 – 3(2): Purchase of Units in Smaller Communities (Rumbolt)	1754
327 – 3(2): Baffin Bay Polar Bear Management (Okalik)	1755

E.

Tabling of Documents

144 – 3(2): United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change – COP15 Meeting, December 7 to 18, 2009, Copenhagen (Aariak).....	1757
145 – 3(2): WSCC 2009-2011 Corporate Plan (Curley).....	1758
146 – 3(2): Correspondence from the Hamlet of Pangnirtung and Senreq Canada Incorporated (Komoartok).....	1758

F.

Bills

Bill 24 – Legislative Assembly Statutes Amendment Act, 2010 – Notice.....	1758
Bill 24 – Legislative Assembly Statutes Amendment Act, 2010 – First Reading.....	1758
Bill 24 – Legislative Assembly Statutes Amendment Act, 2010 – Second Reading	1759
Bill 24 – Legislative Assembly Statutes Amendment Act, 2010 – Consideration in Committee.....	1760
Bill 22 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2010-2011 – Culture, Language, Elders and Youth – Consideration in Committee.....	1762
Bill 24 – Legislative Assembly Statutes Amendment Act, 2010 – Third Reading	1779

**Iqaluit, Nunavut
Friday, March 19, 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): At this time, I would like to ask Mr. Taptuna to say the opening prayer.

>>Prayer

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Taptuna. Good morning, Premier, Ministers, Members of the Legislative Assembly, and all Nunavummiut. Have a wonderful day.

(interpretation ends) Orders of the Day. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Minister Louis Tapardjuk.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

**Minister's Statement 131 – 3(2):
Career Development Officer
Training Strategy**

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you. Good morning to my constituents in Igloolik and Hall Beach.

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to rise today to announce that the Department of Education has taken the first steps towards ensuring that career development officers, or CDOs, in Nunavut received an outstanding foundation in service delivery training.

Mr. Speaker, Nunavut's CDOs assist clients in accessing the labour market as part of our territory's Adult Learning Strategy. They serve the vital role of helping Nunavummiut to realize their full potential and lead them on the course of career development.

However, Mr. Speaker, until very recently, they received no formalized training to help them in their own professional development. This has now changed in recent months as Nunavut has embarked on a Career Development Officer Training Strategy. A multi-year training strategy will lead to a Nunavut and possibly international level certification which is being developed by the department and the Canadian Career Development Foundation.

Mr. Speaker, initial courses have already begun with Nunavut Arctic College and the Department of Human Resources as partners. This training strategy is intended to be multi-year in length and successful participants will be able to receive certification in the career practitioner field.

Mr. Speaker, an investment in the success of our CDOs is an investment in the growth of Nunavummiut. This is a very positive step towards increased self-reliance and skills ability. I am very happy that my department is involved so that the people of Nunavut can become

self-reliant and have the skills ability.
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Minister's Statement 132 – 3(2):
Atuliqtuq Nunavut Climate
Change Partnership**

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to inform members of a very successful initiative led by the Department of Environment. Because of the achievements of the *Atuliqtuq* Nunavut Climate Change Partnership Project, Nunavut is at the forefront of adaptation planning in Canada.

This project consists of an innovative partnership between Natural Resources Canada, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, the Canadian Institute of Planners, and the Government of Nunavut's Department of Environment and the Department of Community and Government Services. Other stakeholders in this project include the Ittaq Heritage Centre in Clyde River and the Nunavut Research Institute.

Atuliqtuq has facilitated close collaboration between two levels of government, community planning professionals, Nunavut communities, and scientists. This project has enabled communities to take a proactive role in climate change adaptation. Furthermore, it has equipped Nunavutmiut with valuable tools, resources, and knowledge needed to adapt to the uncertainties of our changing climate.

Working at the community level, the partnership is involved in the following projects:

- Detailed landscape hazard mapping to identify constraints to community development
- Watershed analysis of drinking water supply
- Nunavut-wide sea level rise assessment
- Development of community adaptation plans that are based on Inuit knowledge, local and scientific knowledge for five pilot communities (namely Arviat, Whale Cove, Cambridge Bay, Kugluktuk, and Iqaluit)
- Expansion of the Nunavut permafrost monitoring network to ten communities spanning Nunavut's three regions.

The Department of Environment looks forward to continued work with these partners for climate change monitoring and adaptation planning in Nunavut.
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Minister's Statement 133 – 3(2):
Occupational Training Diploma
Program Delivery in Rankin Inlet,
Cambridge Bay, and Iqaluit**

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Department of Human Resources is committed to delivering continuous career development opportunities at the community level for GN staff. In October and November

2009, specific diploma programs in administration, supervisory, and human resource development commenced in all three regions.

I am pleased to announce that we have partnered with Think Training (PBBA) from Nova Scotia to deliver three diploma programs in Iqaluit, Rankin Inlet, and Cambridge Bay. In February 2010, we held two graduation ceremonies. There were 11 graduates of whom 45 percent were beneficiaries from the Supervisory Diploma Program in Rankin Inlet and five graduates of whom 80 percent were beneficiaries from the Administration Professional Diploma in Cambridge Bay. Graduation of the Iqaluit programs in all three specialized areas is scheduled for May 2010 with 58 anticipated graduates.

Those that were not able to complete all modules have been assured there will be future opportunities to complete. At the end of the first year, by October 2010, we anticipate 90 graduates from all three diploma programs.

These diploma programs were specifically designed to help current GN employees who may have the experience but not the educational component with the opportunity to receive educational recognition for their knowledge, skills, abilities, and commitment to continuing education. Four facilitators from Think Training travelled to all three communities to deliver all modules.

GN participants are required to complete group and individual exercises that provide them with applicable subject matter knowledge and practices that can be implemented in the workplace.

Administrative professionals and supervisory graduates who meet specific criteria will have future GN opportunities to attain a Canadian Administration Professional (CAP) and Canadian Professional Supervisor (CPS) designations.

The occupational training programs are open to all GN employees. In 2010-11, it is our aim to continue this partnership and provide more training opportunities across the regions.

Most importantly, Mr. Speaker, this program is an excellent example of our commitment to *Ilippallianguinnarniq: Continuing Learning* as an effective way to help develop our GN employees' administrative, human resource, and supervisory skills to better serve Nunavutmiut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Minister's Statement 134 – 3(2):
Funding Increase for Licensed
Child Care Facilities**

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I announce today that the Department of Education is increasing funding for our territory's licensed child care facilities effective April 1, 2010.

Mr. Speaker, these funds will provide an increase of \$555,000 towards funding facilities for Nunavut's youngest citizens. We have changed the funding formula model to ensure greater support toward the operations and management

of these facilities. This money will ensure that these daycares will see an increase of at least 10 percent to their operations and maintenance program contributions funding in the next fiscal year.

Mr. Speaker, these new funds can be used for any operating expenses and will directly affect the youngest Nunavummiut. There will also be \$200,000, Mr. Speaker, available for early childhood education courses which will help provide valuable professional development in this field for our youngest population.

This is the first increase to the funding of our child care facilities since 2000. I think we can all agree that this money is being well spent and that the improvements to early education of Nunavut's children are an important step in enhancing the profile of lifelong learning.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all of Nunavut's early childhood educators for their valuable and selfless contributions to education. Their efforts are not always recognized as much as teachers in the kindergarten to grade 12 school system, but their work is just as important and appreciated. I hope they find this added funding makes a difference in their programming and centres. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 194 – 3(2): Commending Community Justice Committees

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to pay tribute to the Members of the Community Justice Committee in Grise Fiord. At a community feast earlier this month, past and present members were recognized for their efforts to build a safer community.

Larry and Annie Audlaluk were recognized for their 21 years of service. Lymeekee Kakkik contributed his services for 11 years. And Liza Ninguik continues her work in community justice after 20 years of service.

The GN's Director of Community Justice, Al Hartley, was invited to the feast. In his praise for community justice committees, he stated that the committees enable people in conflict to resolve their difficulties in a productive way.

I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the important work that community justice committees do in offering traditional counselling for youth and adults who commit relatively minor offences. In diverting these less serious cases from the court system, community justice committees provide an opportunity for individuals to benefit from an approach that is more conducive to rehabilitation and reintegration than punishment.

In addition to recognizing the hard work of my constituents in Grise Fiord, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the ongoing efforts of all

community justice members in Nunavut. I ask all members to join me in applauding the many years of service put in by my community justice members and community justice members across Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 195 – 3(2): Safe Return of Ernie Etuak

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to say "good morning" to all of the people in Arviat. On March 16, Ernie Etuak left on a hunting trip from Arviat and never returned upon his scheduled return. Search and rescue was informed and called in. I would just like to say that Mr. Etuak was found yesterday safe and sound and I am glad that everything is okay. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Nanulik, Mr. Ningeongan.

Member's Statement 196 – 3(2): Problems Facing Homeowners in Small Communities

Mr. Ningeongan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to voice some concerns regarding problems facing homeowners in smaller communities.

In my constituency, a number of private homeowners have indicated to me that they simply can't sell their homes given

the nature of the housing market in our small communities. In some cases, these residents have had to decline job offers with the government and other employers in larger communities because they are, in effect, trapped by their mortgages and can't leave the community.

Mr. Speaker, in my view, there are two housing markets in Nunavut: one for Iqaluit and one for every other community. In our smaller communities, many people originally bought their homes from the government itself. The government, in fact, encouraged people to take this step.

Mr. Speaker, I am a homeowner myself and I fully recognize the importance of going into homeownership with your eyes open. Buying a house is the single most important purchase any of us will do in our lifetimes and people need to be clearly aware of not only the benefits but also the risks of homeownership.

Mr. Speaker, the Nunavut Housing Corporation offers assistance for first-time homebuyers. I believe that the Nunavut Housing Corporation should provide information and counselling to applicants so that they can make fully informed decisions. If the government is going to encourage our residents to move out of public housing and staff housing, it has the responsibility of ensuring that residents know all of the facts.

At the appropriate time, I will have questions for the minister. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. Member for Akulliq, Mr. Ningark.

**Member's Statement 197 – 3(2):
Medical Appointment**

Mr. Ningark: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to inform my constituents that I will be travelling to Yellowknife for medical reasons. The appointment was booked back in February. So keeping up with the tradition of the House, making a light statement on Fridays, Mr. Speaker, I have tried to rebook that appointment in Yellowknife for the reason that I have been eating stuff that they don't want me to eat.

>> *Laughter*

That's the bad news. The good news is, Mr. Speaker, however, the transportation people and the health professionals said, "Do it now." I think that's good news because I realize that they want me to be an MLA for a little while longer. Thank you.

>> *Laughter*

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Members' Statements. Member for Iqaluit West, Mr. Okalik.

**Member's Statement 198 – 3(2):
Montreal Canadiens and the AWG
Athletes**

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Today is Friday and I would like to talk about how my Montreal Canadiens are doing. I must say since my last statement about two

weeks ago, I encouraged our athletes to not be like my Montreal Canadiens or Toronto Maple Leafs so that they can achieve and do better than our current team.

I must say that we have turned the corner just like Team Nunavut did. They got some medals and did very well at the Arctic Winter Games. I'm very proud of them and I think our Montreal Canadiens heard them because they have been winning six games in a row so far, straight, and they're going to win again tomorrow. I am very proud of both teams.

I welcome all of these wonderful athletes to our Assembly. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Okalik. Members' Statements. Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Madam Premier.

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

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Good morning, Mr. Speaker. Thank you. We are celebrating the Arctic Winter Games, which is very exciting and important to our Nunavut territory.

(interpretation ends) The Arctic Winter Games is always an exciting event for all of our youth, their parents, coaches, and the communities as well.

Of course, sports and recreation being a very important part of our lives to pursue, I would like to recognize some of the athletes from Iqaluit.

Unfortunately, some of the athletes who went to the Arctic Winter Games could not make it because they have to be in school and their coaches are the teachers. But we are proud to have the ones who are able to come here today to be introduced.

The 2010 Arctic Winter Games that happened in Grande Prairie, Alberta this month were very successful. (interpretation) The Nunavummiut are very pleased with the 49 ulus that were received by Nunavut

An Hon. Member: Hear, hear!

>>Applause

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Team Nunavut athletes competed in 11 sports categories at the Arctic Winter Games in Grande Prairie. Nunavut sent 227 representatives comprised of not only athletes but cultural artists as well. There were also 25 coaches, and the mission staff.

This morning, I would like to recognize the bantam hockey team, if you would rise, please. (interpretation ends) Todd Gardner, you can stand up. They won the silver ulus in Grande Prairie.

>>Applause

We also have speed skaters in the Gallery, if they would rise, please. For speed skating, Simon Adams was their coach and the Iqaluit speed skaters are: Angela Furjes, Alexia Galloway, Mitchell Courtney, Tyler Kirk, and Emilia Nevin. They are the speed skaters.

>>Applause

For the hockey players who just stood up, Tom Gardner is their coach and the hockey players are: Mitchel Tilley, Nate Gardner, Lodie Ipeelie, Iola Sheutiapik, Max Shoo, Matt Gardner, and Ryan Bayne.

We thank them very much for their hard work. We are so proud and appreciative of the mothers and fathers for supporting their children. (interpretation ends) Congratulations to all, we are so proud of you.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you. Welcome to the Gallery. Recognition Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to recognize a long-term resident of Arviat. Nancy Karetak-Lindell, our former MP, I welcome her very much to the House and it's nice to see her here. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you. Welcome to the Gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Okalik.

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize a couple of my constituents. Our Mayor, Elisapee Sheutiapik, welcome to the Gallery. And her other half, who is a Boston Bruins fan, Brian Twerdin, I thank him for supporting us.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to recognize a young person immediately behind me, who is a fellow Iqaluit resident and who, while competing, was injured during the

Arctic Winter Games. That was an unfortunate incident, but I am pleased that he is able to be here. Sam, I want to welcome you to the Gallery.

>> *Applause*

In addition, all of the residents of Iqaluit who are visiting the Gallery; I welcome you to the Gallery. I am proud of all of you for showcasing Nunavut to the outside world. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Okalik. Your Worship, welcome to the Gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Perhaps due to my long tenure as a mayor, whenever I hear “Your Worship” my immediate reaction is to glance over to the person saying it.

>> *Laughter*

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize my sister-in-law, Nancy, and welcome her to the Gallery. As well, the person beside her is Joy Tilley, who I also welcome to the Gallery. I am also proud that Mitchell Kukik Tilley was recognized as part of Team Nunavut. He is named after our mother. I would also like to welcome him to the Gallery. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Being from Kugluktuk, the furthest community from Iqaluit, I just can't recall the last time I recognized a visitor in the Gallery. Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize a long-term Member of Parliament, Nancy Karetak-Lindell, and she also sits on the board of the Nunavut Development Corporation. Welcome. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize a man that I have known since 1988. We first met in Chesterfield Inlet working for Northern and we've managed to keep in contact ever since and he now lives in the city of Iqaluit. I would like to recognize Mr. Mike Courtney. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Mr. Ningark: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On behalf of all of the people of Repulse Bay and Kugaaruk, it is a privilege and my honour to recognize Nancy Karetak-Lindell. Welcome.

>> *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 recognize and welcome my niece's son-in-law, Salomonie Shoo. Welcome to the Gallery. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 317 – 3(2): Status of New Power Plant for Cape Dorset

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today, I'm going to give the housing minister a break. I won't be asking him any questions, but I do have a question for the Minister of Qulliq Energy.

>> *Laughter*

I would like to know what the status of the new power plant is in Cape Dorset. Thank you.

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

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It being Friday, I had a feeling, the way he started off, that he was up to something. I thank him for allowing me to pick up my thinner binder.

Mr. Speaker, I know that the member asked questions on the status of the Cape Dorset Power Plant Replacement project in the past. I had indicated then and my

understanding of where we are today is that there are still some legal land issues that are being worked out on that.

Given that and while we're waiting for that to be resolved, there is some preliminary design work moving forward on two different designs that are potentially choices, depending on which way it goes, to be able to put into the community once the land issue is resolved. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I guess my next question is: is there funding in place for the new power plant in Cape Dorset? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Tootoo.

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I indicated, there is some funding being done for the design phase of things right now, but we will wait until they get the land issue resolved. Once that's resolved and the designs are finalized, I'm sure the board would be building that into the corporation's capital budget. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I'm just wondering with the cost of a new power plant, how that affects the General Rate Application that is going through on the power rate. Can you explain that to me, please, Mr. Speaker?

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

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think it's premature how it's going to affect the rate, but I know one of the things is it's been quite number of years since, and I think only once since the creation of Nunavut, there has been a General Rate Application by the corporation.

What the corporation does and will do in that process is to try to determine what its operating costs are and try to determine a rate that will assist or enable the corporation to be able to recover the cost of production. It's not a revenue-generating process but it's more of a cost recovery process. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I guess the next question is: is that cost borne by all of the ratepayers in Nunavut or is it just the community of Cape Dorset that will see an increase in the rate? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If memory serves me correct, I believe the way the rates are set right now are set by community. So whatever the cost of producing electricity and power in that community, those costs are used in determining what the rates are per community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 318 – 3(2): Status of Conservation Office in Baker Lake

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning to all in Baker Lake and my family, my mom.

I would like to first acknowledge the efforts made by the government and its partners to defeat the US efforts to up-list polar bears. I think it's an exceptional job and I believe that as Nunavummiut, as Canadians, it was something that's very symbolic in a way that our rights are indeed, in effect, of use and in practice. I would like to commend the department on that and I think it made us all Nunavummiut very proud.

Mr. Speaker, it is important that conservation offices in our communities be fully staffed. Can the minister update me today on the status of the conservation office in Baker Lake? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the member for that question. As I have told all of the members in the House before, the present situation in Baker Lake is that the conservation officer situation is under investigation. However, as the member knows, we have upgraded Baker Lake into a two-man posting. So there is a full-time conservation officer working that's serving the community at this time and I will update the House further when the investigation is complete. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to thank the hon. minister for that response and we look forward to a date as to when we will be able to post that other position.

Mr. Speaker, spring is in the air and summer is just around the corner. I would encourage all Nunavummiut and especially our youth to possibly look at the employment opportunities as renewable resource officers. Mr. Speaker, as you know, I believe it's a privilege to be living in Nunavut and to be employed in such a position like that to administer and monitor wildlife, and also get paid to go on the land and be provided tools.

I believe any young man or woman should reconsider having a career in the renewable resource field. I think it would be an exceptional service to all of Nunavut. Can the minister update the House today on what plans his department has to provide summer training opportunities for young people who may be interested in pursuing careers in wildlife management? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I again would like to commend the member on bringing up this topic.

As all of the members know, last year, it was a priority within my department and above mine to encourage young people to get involved in the environmental

field. We did that with great success last year. I will encourage my department to do that again and encourage that every conservation officer in every community try and hire a summer student.

I believe, as I saw today, that the members were supplied with a summer student information package. I encourage them all to take that back to their home communities and recruit summer students to work not only in Environment but in all departments of the government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. Oral Questions. Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Rumbolt.

Question 319 – 3(2): Addressing Concerns Relating to Health and Social Services

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to say “good morning” to the people of Sanikiluaq.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Health and Social Services.

Mr. Speaker, yesterday, my colleague from Akulliq asked questions about medical escorts. As I reviewed the *Hansard* this morning, I was very interested to note that the minister had indicated that Nunavut residents who are sent out of the territory for long-term illnesses are not only entitled to an escort but that one escort can be replaced by another.

Can the minister confirm that patients such as children or elders who are down south for long-term medical care are

entitled to escorts and even a series of escorts when the patient is there over a long period of time? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Minister of Health and Social Service, Hon. Tagak Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I can indeed respond to that question: It is a policy we apply both to the Department of Health and Social Services and the Nunavut Government.

We are always on the look out for best practices of administration in order to provide the best services possible to Nunavutmiut. We do not want to short-change our residents in this area. What I can state is that we try and resolve these issues on a case-by-case basis. It is too difficult and complex to boiler-plate these matters.

There are two types of escorts that qualify. The first is medical escorts, such as nurses or other medical professionals, but the request comes from medical personnel. The other type is client service escort, which comes directly from the program.

If the person is emotionally/psychologically incapable, a minor, an elder, or is functionally illiterate, then they require assistant. This type of escort does not specifically require a request from the medical profession. Our Department administers this part. We have a report available that outlines these different categories.

With respect to the secondary issue which relates to the need for a relief for

the client service escort, I apologize for not noticing the question. I can respond to this question now.

If a client service escort requires a relief, as I said in my earlier factual statement, the first escort may be relieved by another escort if the treatment for the patient is long-term. However, if there was a need for escort relief, our policy states that a request has to be approved by Deputy Minister.

As I said earlier, this is approval process is done on a case-by-case basis. This is especially true if the case is a complex or challenging one. The persons making the request usually need and expect a quick response. Yes, we want to provide the best service we can and where possible, we will select the best options to provide service to Nunavutmiut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for his response. In cases where family members are denied the opportunity to be with their children who are down south for long-term medical care, can the minister clarify what process should be followed by family members who wish to appeal the decision denying their travel? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is impossible for me right now to reply to this question specifically. But I will look into it and

get back to the member when I get that information.

In cases where individuals are denied, as I said before, we deal with these appeals on a case-by-case basis. We try and get as much information for each case. We know that children are sent down south for long-term medical care.

I cannot respond to that question just now because I don't have the details in front of me. I would like to provide the correct information to the member. I'll take the question as notice. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you. Mr. Rumbolt, your question has been taken as notice. So therefore, I'll move on to the next member. Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit West, Mr. Okalik.

**Question 320 – 3(2): Letter
Addressing Mould in Workplace**

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I tabled a letter from a fellow Iqalummiuq who has had a very difficult time in trying to work in one of the office buildings here in Iqaluit. I want assurances from the Minister for Human Resources that she will not be punished for expressing her unfortunate situation. Before I proceed, I would like to ask the minister for assurances on this matter. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I mean, of course, I can assure the member that it's this government's policy that everybody has

the right to be open and be transparent about any issue with their employment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) The letter is, I believe, self-explanatory and the situation has been carrying on far too long for all concerned. I'm asking the minister if he can intervene and assist with the employee. She is not the only one, unfortunately.

So I would like to get an explanation from the minister how these can be settled in a far more expedient matter for the benefit of our employees and our own government because we're short of employees who can do their work in this government. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would just like to inform the member and of course, he knows that I'm not going to talk about any specifics of any case. In general, there are processes that have to be followed under the collective agreement in HR and I assure him that those processes are being followed. We will, as in any case, try and expedite cases to come to a peaceful and responsible resolution in all cases. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

employers, usually, they have a duty to accommodate and in this case, unfortunately, the individual is still waiting to be accommodated by our government to find a safer environment to work in. Can the minister facilitate the situation? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In all cases where we have situations like this, there is an avenue to accommodate employees. We need that process to be respected and followed. For that to happen, we need an accommodation letter from the employee requesting the accommodation that they may choose or want. With that, we would need a clearance from a medical doctor advising us what safe working conditions that employer can work in so that we can place them properly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 321 – 3(2): Creation of Child and Youth Advocate Office

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask a question about the creation of a child and youth advocacy office for Nunavut. I believe that my question should be directed to the Premier.

Mr. Speaker, it is the Premier's prerogative to assign portfolios and responsibilities to the Members of her Executive Council. The *Tamapta* Action Plan, which was tabled by the Premier

on December 7, 2009, states on page 20, "During this mandate, the government will also create an independent child and youth representative who will report to the Legislative Assembly."

Will the Premier now clearly state for the benefit of this House which Member of the Executive Council has the responsibility to answer questions in this House regarding the creation of an independent child and youth representative for Nunavut? Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Premier of Nunavut, Hon. Eva Aariak.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleague for asking that question. With respect to that specific question, it is in the *Tamapta* mandate as one of the goals we hope to achieve. Social wellness is a very important priority of this government.

Due to the priority level, this matter will not be handled solely by any one Department. There are different aspects to this priority that fall under the mandates of several different departments.

For example, Health and Social Services has responsibility for part of that mandate, as the Hon. Curley reported yesterday, or perhaps it was the day before that. The same member asked the Minister about the Department's action plans regarding this matter.

The Poverty Reduction Strategy, as another example, is also under review in terms of this priority by the Department of ED&T. As well, the other

departments are involved as per their particular responsibilities.

We do not want to approach this by having a single department working alone on this. We prefer to tackle this issue through interdepartmental collaboration. This is how we envision this being implemented, by interrelating each of the different Departments' mandates and responsibilities.

(interpretation ends) I guess if I want to say it in English, we don't want to tackle social issues in a silo fashion. Many departments are addressing that collectively.

The social advocacy office will initially address four main items, such as gender and diverse issues, which is very much ongoing, suicide prevention is also ongoing that is housed at EIA at this point and will be taken over by Health and Social Services, children and youth advocacy, as well as policy work in the areas of physical disabilities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have noted that one of the government's tactics to avoid answering questions is for ministers to pass off questions to each other. By the time I have gone through my three supplementaries, I have gone through three ministers and I still don't have an answer.

If this were a game of hockey, Mr. Speaker, and I know that many of my colleagues like to talk about hockey on Fridays, then you can imagine how upset the fans would be if their team just kept

passing the puck around and nobody took a shot on goal.

At this rate, if the government can defer things from year to year, then they will be able to make it through the whole term without having to address some issues at all. To continue with my hockey analogy, Mr. Speaker, their score would not be the high one.

My question, Mr. Speaker, is: what assurances can the Premier provide to this House that the creation of an independent child and youth representative office will happen during the mandate of this government? Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Madam Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With respect to the matter he raises in his question, we are currently working on it. Bear with us that we need to be cognizant that anything related to social wellness cannot and must not be handled without forethought.

We are trying to plan and roll out this properly by outlining our goals and objectives in our action plans for legislative reform. We must not be hasty in drafting this type of legislation. If it were possible, we'd also love to see this completed overnight. But this is the real world. We must work and plan together collaboratively in terms of legislation and policy on social issues.

We are working very hard to deal with this important issue. Our government is working on this issue. The proposed advocacy office will be directed to work

on policy development. We are currently advertising for the position of a child and youth advocacy director and this is open until March 31. We are constantly working hard on this process. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the Premier update this House on whether any steps have been taken to determine the legislation requirements for establishing an independent officer which answers to the Legislative Assembly? Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Madam Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, they would work on that through the planning of the legislation. We envision that the child and youth advocacy office will be an independent one and it will become an independent office. That's what we are planning and the government will work on that. It will become an independent entity and that's part of our planning. They are inside our planning. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I guess it is Friday today. I lost track of my questions. Can the Premier update this House on any discussions that have been held with independent officers representing the interests of children and youth in other jurisdictions? Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you. Madam Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think the member had already heard how the Department of Health and Social Services is working on that. They are doing consultation to on that in Nunavut communities in regard to social issues and this is just a beginning, it's on its initial stage. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Nanulik, Mr. Ningeongan.

Question 322 – 3(2): Information for Potential Homeowners

Mr. Ningeongan: Thank you Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

In my Member's Statement, I noted the importance of providing clear information to potential homeowners in Nunavut so that they are clearly aware of both the benefits and risks of homeownership.

When residents apply for such programs as the Nunavut Down Payment Assistance Program, what information or counselling does the Nunavut Housing Corporation provide to them? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the member for raising that question. Mr. Speaker, in every region through the district office, it's our program staff in the regions who deliver homeownership

education and counselling to clients who are looking to get into the homeownership programs.

There are a wide range of things and just about everything is looked at. They go everywhere from industry acronyms to insurance, mortgage, mortgage information, mortgage terms. There is a whole area that they look at as far as homeownership, as far as the purchase, the cost estimates. They take a look at whether someone is financially able to be able to purchase, operate, and maintain a unit. The whole budgeting process for it is looked at and explained and gone over with it.

Also, the whole step-by-step process with the stuff with CMHC and the mortgage insurance, and all of the different requirements are there; loan insurance, homeowner's insurance. They are also counselled or explained on how a bank or a lender would look at them, explaining to clients how the bank would look at their net worth, their income, and their credit rating, everything like that that would determine their eligibility for a mortgage. They are taken through the whole transfer of title and land process.

So there is a very in-depth and substantial work done with clients who are looking to get into homeownership because one of the goals of the corporation and the government has been encouraging for a year even before division for individuals who can afford it to get into homeownership. Also, looking at it, we want to ensure that the clients who we do assist to get into homeownership are prepared and ready to be there so that they know what they're getting into. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Ningeongan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In my Member's Statement, I noted that a number of constituents have fallen into situations where they have tried to sell their homes but simply cannot because of the very small housing market in our small communities. Does the Nunavut Housing Corporation provide any kind of assistance or advice to Nunavut homeowners in these kinds of situations? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Tootoo.

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If an individual or a former client is in a situation like that where they wish to put their home up for sale and they approach the district office and the program staff for any advice on what things to look for, one of the things I know that usually is mentioned to an individual is if they're on, for example, NDAP, or EDAP, or whatever program they received assistance on, those types of programs are forgivable over a certain period of time and there may be an outstanding balance on that. So they're explained.

If you sell and you still owe a certain percentage of that money back to the corporation because you didn't fulfill your commitments over the length of the unit... so different things like that. I'm sure the program staff would look at it and also look if there are other clients looking to get into homeownership from that community to try and match that up as well.

I assume if an individual approached our staff, they would assist them however

they could through that process. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Ningeongan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the minister: to date, have there been any cases here in Nunavut that have fallen into this kind of situation and how many of them have so far been assisted or helped in this type of situation? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't have the specific numbers of individuals who have faced that situation. I don't even know if we're aware of all of the individuals who face that situation if they don't come forward and discuss it with or look for assistance from our staff.

Mr. Speaker, I know we do have programs for seniors, elders who are in homeownership, looking at ways that they, based on their pension income, can no longer afford to maintain a house. There are different options that our staff will discuss with them, either buying back the house, or transferring it to another family member, or selling it.

There are a number of different options that are looked at for individuals, by seniors and the disabled person on fixed incomes who have problems or can no longer maintain the unit that they live in based on changes that have happened in their lives. Those are instances where they're all looked at on a case-by-case basis and in every case. After explaining all of the options and all the pros and

cons of everything, it's the client that has the final say. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 323 – 3(2): Baffin Bay Polar Bear Quota Decrease

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The people of Nunavut celebrated when the Minister of Environment announced that the proposal for an international ban on the polar bear had been defeated.

But, with respect to the planned Baffin Bay polar bear quota reduction by ten per year over four years, the Minister didn't indicate what changes he would make to that decision. What will be happening with the Baffin Bay polar bear quotas? Thank you.

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

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the member for that question so I can clarify things. As I spoke to the Baffin Bay before, nothing will change. The decision made by me and the government with the decreases coming in at 10 a year will continue. The Baffin Bay situation is different than what has been decided at CITES. CITES will now allow European countries and other countries that do not ban export into their countries to continue to support hunting polar bears in Nunavut.

The Baffin Bay is a distinct population, a population that we have to manage and show our management actions. I have lobbied the federal government by us doing what we have done for them to lift that ban that they have placed on the Baffin Bay. We will see where that goes.

However, I'm encouraged too that by the time 2013-14 comes around, it will have a new population estimate for Baffin Bay and we can deal with it at that time on our management actions. So that is our choice right now, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I understand that there are no plans for any changes regarding the Baffin Bay polar bear quota reductions, and that there will be a decrease of 10 animals per year over four years. This totals to a reduction of 40 polar bears from the quota, all told.

Will the Minister elaborate as to why he did not follow the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board's recommendations to put the reductions in force starting next year? What are the reasons why the Minister wants to initiate these reductions immediately? Thank you.

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

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We decided as a department and as a government to start the decrease a year sooner, this fiscal year, so that we can manage our population responsibly and show to the parties that were involved with polar bear management that we are taking

action. The sooner we take this action, the sooner we will come to a beneficial agreement for Nunavut and the sooner we may be able to lift the ban on the polar bears from Baffin Bay. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Why do you feel that the NWMB decision to start the reduction a year from now was not good, sound management of the polar bear quota? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I stated, we decided to implement this a year earlier than recommended by NWMB, but it should be noted that one point in NWMB's recommendation is that they had recommended that we start this actually this year too. But we are doing this, as I stated, for us and our conservation of sustainable harvest of polar bears in Baffin Bay and that we are going to manage our population properly. The sooner we deal with this, the sooner that we can get this ban lifted off the Baffin Bay. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) I would like to ask the Minister if he still plans to visit the three affected communities of Pond Inlet, Clyde River, and Broughton Island in early April of this year: Will you be traveling to these communities to talk

about the export ban? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. Yes, that is the plan. We will be going at the end of March or the beginning of April to visit all of the affected communities.

At that time, as I spoke before, we will be working with the Department of ED&T to advise the people in the polar bear industry and the outfitters in the communities on avenues that they can explore other businesses. I think that at that point in time too, we should encourage our outfitters and the people involved in our outfitting business to target Canadians and Canadian hunters to come and sport hunt our polar bears as there is no restriction on them doing so. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 324 – 3(2): RCMP Issues in Pangnirtung

Mr. Komoartok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Justice, (interpretation ends) the Hon. Keith Peterson.

(interpretation) In our community of Pangnirtung, we have RCMP staff housing and offices that were built in the 1960s which make them 40 plus years old. When renovations and retrofit are required for these buildings, the RCMP

members have to move house elsewhere temporarily. I ask the Minister: When will we get new RCMP staff-housing units and offices? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the MLA for that question. Mr. Speaker, as I indicated in the past, I have regular meetings with Commanding Officer Steve McVarnock of the RCMP. I believe he has visited all of the communities in Nunavut since he started last July. He's taken an assessment of all of the detachment buildings in the various communities and also assessed the inventory of all housings available for all of the officers.

I believe he's working very diligently with his officials to determine how and which detachment offices should be replaced and update the housing needs in the communities. I don't have the detailed information, but I can certainly raise that concern with the commanding officer the next time I meet him. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Komoartok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Without a doubt, these units need to be replaced.

In our community, we are served by only three officers who are always busy. We know that they have a lot of calls to handle, whatever time of day and night. We know that they sometimes sacrifice sleep to do their jobs properly. With

their heavy workload, they have no choice but to go to the office each day. I know that this is a challenge that they are facing since they are short staffed.

I would like to ask the Minister if he is willing or not to assign additional RCMP Officers to the three we already have in the Pangnirtung detachment. Has his Department ever discussed this possibility? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I again thank the member for that question. I can't say with any certainty.

Again, Commanding Officer McVarnock is assessing the local detachments. He is thinking of very creative ways to move personnel around, working with his budgets and with the amount of personnel he has across the territory. I can't say with any certainty if there will be an increase, but again, I'll certainly talk to the commanding officer about it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 325 – 3(2): Coordination of Child and Youth Advocate

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to go back to my line of questioning before to the Premier and I hope she appreciates where I'm coming from with my questions in the sense that I want to get a really good, firm understanding of the child and youth

representative position and how the government is working towards this.

I would hate to see all of the hard work that has been done in the past and all of the hard work that will be done over the next couple of years, and then run out of time. The mandate of the government is pretty hefty and there are a lot of social issues that are being dealt with. So I wouldn't want to see something like this fall off the table because legislation doesn't go through or other things. There seems to be a lot of legislation that's going to be coming forward in terms of reviewing it and having it go through the House.

In my last line of questioning, she misunderstood what I was asking in terms of she interpreted that I was asking what government departments within her government were doing to work towards that. I was asking whether her department had gone outside of Nunavut to talk to the Northwest Territories and other jurisdictions like the Yukon because there are offices like that set up across Canada in every other province and territory, except one.

So I was just wondering if her department has talked to other jurisdictions outside of the GN to get some ideas and other views on how they run their offices. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Premier of Nunavut, Hon. Eva Aariak.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Yes, this is all part of the research that is happening right now. Thank you.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the minister mentioned, different government departments are working and gathering, I guess Justice, Education, and Health and Social Services. With different departments working together, we found in the past sometimes that they're trying not to work and she said, silos, but at times, when you're working with the whole department, it's hard to communicate between different departments.

What mechanism is in place to make sure that communication is kept up between, let's say, Health and Social Services and EIA or EIA and Justice? Is there some type of mechanism in place to make sure that that communication flows freely? Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Madam Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. All the Deputy Ministers belong to a committee that meets regularly to share and discuss information. This committee was struck some time ago. They discuss issues facing them in their respective departmental responsibilities so they are aware of the challenges facing the other departments and of the issues that require collaboration.

Further, we, the elected officials, are constantly briefed on these issues. We meet as a Cabinet to deal with these issues. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My next question is: how often will her department, after consulting with all of the other departments, report back to us as regular members and give us an update as to progress that they're having? Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you. Madam Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I did not get the member's question. What was it? I believe your question is how we will report to the regular members. If you could clarify your question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Premier. Please clarify your question, Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was just wondering in terms of how often EIA would report back to regular members on the progress of the child youth representative. Will it be once a year when we get the business plans and where it states the objectives or would we get regular updates? Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you. Madam Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I doubt if we will be reporting on this on an annual basis. I have noticed that you have been frequently asking these types of questions over the year.

We are in the planning stages with this. I recently made an announcement of our plans. My Ministers will form an intergovernmental committee to deal with this, and we will be putting out information releases as we progress so that the people of Nunavut will be kept

informed on what this Government is doing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Premier for that answer. I guess part of the reason why I was asking that question was maybe giving her a break from me asking all of the questions all of the time, but I will keep asking the questions.

My final question: has your department had conversations with the Speaker or the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly in terms of how this independent body will be set up? Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you. Madam Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, I would like to thank the member for asking that question. We are doing a review and after the fact-finding mission is completed, we will decide how it would operate. I have yet to talk to the Speaker about it.

I want to make it clear to my colleague that we are doing research at this point. We're also looking at other jurisdictions to see how they've set up their advocacy offices and to see what sorts of roles and responsibilities these offices are given.

I also want to make it clear, Mr. Speaker, to my colleague that this requires patience. We want to see a made-in-Nunavut set up, one that is people- and user-friendly. We believe that there is a lack or inadequacy in representation of child and youth rights, so we would like to set up an office that is culturally

responsive from the start. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Rumbolt.

Question 326 – 3(2): Purchase of Units in Smaller Communities

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation. They're some follow-up questions to what Mr. Ningeongan was asking earlier.

In cases where you have communities where there are no markets for housing and people are unable to sell their homes because of the lack of markets, would the Housing Corporation consider buying these houses for use as public housing? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for asking that question. Mr. Speaker, as I indicated to Mr. Ningeongan, the government is trying to encourage homeownership in communities. I say that the first step that we would look at is to try and find another potential homeownership client in that community to move into homeownership if an individual wanted to get out for whatever reason. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At present, I do believe it's costing about \$350,000 to build a single family unit in communities. In communities where there is no market for housing, some people are selling their units for as low as \$60,000 or \$80,000. So I'm trying to find out why the Nunavut Housing Corporation wouldn't consider buying them back, investing a little money to upgrade them, and end up with a unit a lot of cheaper than building new ones. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for bringing that out. As I indicated earlier, the first priority for the corporation would be to try and find another client seeking to get into owning their own home into their own home. So that would be the first priority.

Also, as I indicated earlier, in certain circumstances where that's not possible, in some cases, they're based on the circumstances of the specific situation. There have been cases in the past where if there is no other alternative, then a unit is just going to sit there and go empty or whatever.

Again, based on the individual circumstances around that situation, the corporation could and has in the past taken all of those different factors into account. In some cases, they purchased a unit and either turned it into a public housing unit or a staff housing unit, depending on the requirements in the community.

Again, Mr. Speaker, as I indicated, that's something that's done as a last resort. We want to try and get people into homeownership. Again, it's based on the circumstances. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 327 – 3(2): Baffin Bay Polar Bear Management

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I want to follow up on my colleague's questioning on the issues in your riding, Mr. Speaker.

(interpretation) This is a CITES issue that touches upon what our government is doing in dealing with polar bears of Baffin Bay. I want to ask the Minister of Environment about his plans to get the export ban lifted. This ban was imposed by the federal government to exact commercial and economic sanctions for harvesting our polar bears. What is our government doing to get this ban removed? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. As I explained before, Mr. Speaker, the ban that is imposed on the Baffin Bay population has nothing to do with the CITES decision that was made yesterday.

I would just like to explain that we have implemented our conservation requirements and reduced the total

allowable harvest in Baffin Bay for sustainable and management reasons. Now that we have done that, I have written a letter to Minister Prentice. I am encouraging him to revisit this situation in Baffin Bay and to lift that ban.

I would just like to add though, Mr. Speaker, that the decision that was made yesterday is very good for Nunavut. We are very proud and happy of that decision in that it will allow all other communities in Nunavut that share the other 12 polar bear populations that we manage the opportunity to continue sport hunting and provide economic benefits. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I am very pleased with the outcome of yesterday's decision of the international community. At the same time, it doesn't do much for your riding, Mr. Speaker.

As the ban is enforced in your communities today, the longer that it stays in effect, your communities lose out. Those hunters who could be proud hunters today and earning their own way will be relying on our government for assistance and welfare. That's not a good way to make a living.

So I'm asking our government to continue to pursue this matter to reopen the export of polar bears, from your riding in particular. Can the minister assure us once again that he will continue to lobby the federal government and our MP to reverse this decision? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for the question. Yes, I can make that assurance that I will continue to lobby the federal government, the federal Minister of Environment, and our MP in lifting the ban on the Baffin Bay polar bear. I will encourage them as much as I can and as I have said, we feel that we have taken steps to manage the polar bear population sustainably and I will continue that pursuit. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I want to thank the minister for making that commitment and I look forward to getting copies of correspondence that he may have written on this matter.

Another matter that became obvious is that the international community is in support of our initiatives and our sound management practices in polar bear issues.

The proponent of this ban, the United States, is now under scrutiny. For example, the current president said he will work with international bodies to make sure that international efforts are working properly. So the international community has said, "Look, the issue of polar bear bans should not be enforced."

The current US administration has put a ban on our polar bear exports to their country. Can the minister recommence a campaign to open the border with the

United States in exporting polar bears and polar bear products to their country? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I share the member's concern. I wish we had control and jurisdiction to open what's imported to the United States, but we don't. However, saying that, we will continue to educate the public across the world, not only with us, my department and our government, but with the good work we have been doing with NTI, ITK, and all of the Inuit associations involved.

At this point in time, I would just like to thank those groups and congratulate them and all of us for working together on the polar bear situation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Currently, the United States is the only country that banned the import of polar bear products and polar bear skins, so we are prevented from getting sport hunters from their country. I would like to make sure that our government continues to press this matter so that more opportunities are created for all Nunavummiut, sports hunts, and other activities relating to polar bears. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The member is right. There is also Mexico that has a ban on polar bear products. However, we will continue, as I said before, to educate and encourage people on how our polar bear management system works. We will continue to lobby that countries allow their people to hunt polar bears in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Item 13: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 144 – 3(2): United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change – COP15 Meeting, December 7 to 18, 2009, Copenhagen

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I would like to table the following document: United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change – COP15 Meeting, December 7 to 18, 2009, Copenhagen. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Premier. Tabling of Documents. Hon. Tagak Curley.

**Tabled Document 145 – 3(2): WSCC
2009-2011 Corporate Plan**

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table the following document: WSCC 2009-2011 Corporate Plan. Thank you.

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

Tabling of Documents. Mr. Komoartok.

**Tabled Document 146 – 3(2):
Correspondence from the Hamlet
of Pangnirtung and Senreq
Canada Incorporated**

Mr. Komoartok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table today a copy of a letter from the Hamlet of Pangnirtung regarding the Pangnirtung solid waste improvements and a copy of a letter from Senreq Canada Incorporated regarding the Senreq's closed-loop gasification technology.

As a courtesy, I would like to inform the Minister of Community and Government Services that I will be posing questions on this issue in the near future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Komoartok. Tabling of Documents. Item 14. Notices of Motions. Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Mr. Elliott.

**Item 15: Notices of Motions for First
Reading of Bills**

**Bill 24 – Legislative Assembly Statutes
Amendment Act, 2010 – Notice**

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Monday, March 22, 2010, I will move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Iqaluit Centre, that Bill 24, *Legislative Assembly Statutes Amendment Act, 2010*, be read for the first time. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 16. Motions. We will wait a moment.

Motions. Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek consent to waive Rule 62(1) so that Bill 24 can be read for the first time today. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. The member is seeking consent to waive the two-day requirement so that Bill 24 can be read for the first time today. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Mr. Elliott, please proceed.

Item 17: First Reading of Bills

**Bill 24 – Legislative Assembly Statutes
Amendment Act, 2010 – First
Reading**

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Iqaluit Centre, that Bill 24, *Legislative Assembly Statutes Amendment Act, 2010*, be read for the first time. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour, raise your hand. Opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 24 has received first reading.

First Reading of Bills. Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek consent to waive Rule 62(1) so that Bill 24 can be read for the second time today. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. The member is seeking consent to waive the one-day requirement so that Bill 24 can be read for the second time today. Are there any nays? There are none. Please proceed, Mr. Elliott.

Item 18: Second Reading of Bills

Bill 24 – Legislative Assembly Statutes Amendment Act, 2010 – Second Reading

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Iqaluit Centre, that Bill 24, *Legislative Assembly Statutes Amendment Act, 2010*, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill amends the provisions respecting the indemnities of members in accordance with the Report of the Independent Commission. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill. Question has been called. All those in favour, raise your hand. Opposed. The motion is carried. Bill 24 has received second reading. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek unanimous consent of the House to waive Rule 67(2) and have Bill 24 moved into Committee of the Whole. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. The member is seeking unanimous consent for Bill 24 to proceed directly in Committee of the Whole. Are there any nays? There are none. Bill 24 is referred to the Committee of the Whole.

Second Reading of Bills. Item 19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Thank you. (interpretation) Please remain seated until lunchtime and we will commence with Committee of the Whole with Mr. Schell as the Chairman. We will be dealing with Bills 14, 21, 22, 23, 24, and 25.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

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

Chairman (Mr. Schell): I would like to call the committee meeting to order. In Committee of the Whole, we have the following items to deal with: Bills 14, 21, 22, 23, 24, and 25. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We would like to review Bill 24 and continue with the review of Bill 22 and the main estimates for the fiscal year 2010-11. We will continue with the review of the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth. If time permits, we will proceed with the review of the Department of Human Resources. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Are we in agreement that we deal with Bill 24?

Some Members: Agreed.

**Bill 24 – Legislative Assembly Statutes
Amendment Act, 2010 –
Consideration in Committee**

Chairman: I would now like to ask Speaker Arreak to make his opening remarks. Could the Sergeant-at-Arms please escort [the Speaker] to the witness table.

I would now like to ask Speaker Arreak to make his opening remarks.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am very pleased to have the opportunity to appear today before the Committee of the Whole on the occasion of its consideration of Bill 24, *Legislative Assembly Statutes Amendment Act, 2010*.

As you will recall, the establishment of the first Independent Commission to Review Members' Indemnities, Allowances, Expenses and Benefits was announced on March 27, 2009. The commission held a total of five meetings. A public call for submissions was issued shortly after the commission's establishment. Although interested individuals and organizations were provided with three months to make submissions, none were received, Mr. Chairman. The final report of the Independent Commission was tabled in the House on December 8, 2009.

I would like to take this opportunity to publicly thank the members of the Independent Commission for their work. The responsibility of making recommendations concerning the remuneration for elected legislators is a challenging one, Mr. Chairman. As members will appreciate, there is no perfect approach to determining the appropriate level of compensation for

the unique positions in which we and other Canadian legislators and Parliamentarians serve.

However, I would like to emphasize the process undertaken by the Independent Commission was transparent and comprehensive. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all Members of the Legislative Assembly for their careful consideration of the Independent Commission's recommendations.

Mr. Chairman, I believe that the Independent Commission deserves praise for having recognized that any system of remuneration for elected legislators must be sufficiently reasonable so as not to deter well-qualified individuals from standing for public office while also being fair, transparent, and affordable.

I am pleased to take this opportunity to note for the public record that this bill implements the recommendations of the Independent Commission in a manner that takes into account the impact of the current collective agreement between the Government of Nunavut and the Nunavut Employees Union. I also wish to note for the public record that these proposed amendments to the *Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act* enhance the fairness and transparency of our system of remuneration by eliminating additional pay for meeting attendance.

Mr. Chairman, all members recognize that the current economic climate requires us to make decisions that are both responsible and of course, affordable. I would note that the Management and Services Board, in its consideration of other matters that the

Independent Commission recommended be further reviewed, has decided the members' living and constituency allowances should not be increased at this time and will remain linked to the duty travel rates that are provided to members of the public service.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening remarks. I look forward to responding to any questions that my colleagues may have. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman and fellow members.

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

Speaker: Yes, I do, Mr. Chairman.

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

Some Members: Agreed.

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

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

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my right is Mr. John Quirke, the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We're going to Bill 24, *Legislative Assembly Statutes Amendment Act, 2010*. Clause 1. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 2?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Does everybody agree with clause 3?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Does everybody agree with clause 4?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Go to Schedule on the next page. Do you agree with Schedule C, Indemnities and Allowances?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 5. Does everybody agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 6. Does everybody agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Do members agree to Bill 24 as a whole?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Pursuant to Rule 62(2), do members agree that Bill 24 can immediately be placed on the Orders of the Day for third reading?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: I would like to thank the Speaker and his official. What is the wish of the committee and does the Speaker have any final comments?

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At this time, I would just like to thank you for passing the bill right away.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the Sergeant-at-Arms escort the Speaker and the witness out.

We're going to take a break now until one o'clock. Just make sure everyone is back here for one o'clock.

>> *Committee recessed at 11:50 and resumed at 13:01*

Bill 22 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2010-2011 – Culture, Language, Elders and Youth – Consideration in Committee

Chairman: The committee will come to order. Minister Tapardjuk, do you have witnesses that you would like to bring to the table?

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk: Yes, I do.

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

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Does the Chair of the Standing Committee on Social Wellness have comments? Please proceed, Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to deliver the standing committee's opening comments as we begin consideration of the 2010-11

Main Estimates and Business Plan of the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth.

The Standing Committee on Social Wellness has had the opportunity to meet with the minister and his officials. The minister was able to provide an update on his department's proposed expenditures for the 2010-11 fiscal year.

Members noted that the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth is proposing to increase its budget for 2010-11 by \$2,671,000. This is an increase of approximately 12.6 percent from the 2009-2010 fiscal year. Approximately 80 percent of this amount is accounted for by an increase of \$1.1 million for the *Taiguusiliuqtiit* Branch and an increase of \$1 million for the upcoming *Piqqusilirivvik* Cultural School in Clyde River. The remainder of the increase is mostly in the area of compensation and benefits.

The standing committee notes the creation of a new *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* Branch in the department. This newly created branch has two divisions, the *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* Division and the *Piqqusilirivvik* Division. In the 2009-2010 fiscal year, these two divisions were located in the Directorate Branch.

Mr. Chairman, members are pleased to note that the department is in the process of hiring staff for *Piqqusilirivvik*, the new Inuit Cultural School in Clyde River. During his appearance before the standing committee, members raised the issue of establishing a governance framework. The minister advised the standing committee that *Piqqusilirivvik* will have a board of governors.

The minister tabled the *Piqqusilirivvik* Status Report on March 3, 2008. The status report states that “the principle user group that will participate in *Piqqusilirivvik* programming will be individuals who have at least basic Inuit language skills, and possess a strong desire to enhance their knowledge and understanding of traditional Inuit language, culture and heritage.” Members are interested in the recruitment process and would appreciate further information on eligibility requirements and application procedures.

The standing committee looks forward to ongoing updates on the progress of the development of *Piqqusilirivvik* as scheduled in the “sequence of events timeline” provided in the status report. The department’s business plan indicates that the opening of *Piqqusilirivvik* is scheduled for April 1, 2011.

During the minister’s appearance before the standing committee, members emphasized the importance of continuing efforts to collect oral histories from elders across Nunavut. The minister expressed his wish to collect oral histories from elders in each Nunavut community, but that there is no strategy to do so. The department’s business plan indicates that a priority for the 2010-11 fiscal year is to develop a strategy to ensure that this important work take place. The minister affirmed that the development of a sound strategy to collect Inuit traditional knowledge and oral histories is a priority for the 2010-11 fiscal year.

Mr. Chairman, the minister tabled an Elders Strategy on November 23, 2005. During his appearance before the

standing committee, the minister advised members of the department’s continuing efforts to develop a new Elders Strategy. Passing on traditional knowledge was one of the recommendations that appeared in the 2005 Elders Strategy. Members applaud this recommendation and continue to stress the importance of addressing the need to pass on traditional knowledge to children. There is a widespread, increasing dissatisfaction with the amount of elements of Inuit heritage that remain in the present day culture of Nunavut youth.

During the minister’s appearance before the standing committee, members also stressed the importance of including elders in the Government of Nunavut’s current review of the *Liquor Act*. The minister advised the standing committee that he intends to bring this suggestion forward at his next meeting with members of the *Inuit Qaujimaqatuqangit Katimajit*.

Mr. Chairman, as all members are aware, the *Official Languages Act* and the *Inuit Language Protection Act* were passed in 2008 and the *Official Languages Act* received parliamentary concurrence in June 2009.

As was stated in the Committee of the Whole during the most recent consideration of the department’s main estimates in June 2009, the standing committee recognizes that these two new pieces of legislation raise a number of complex issues and that both will require a number of years to be fully implemented. The standing committee once again indicates that the issue of language services provided by federal government bodies and federally regulated entities is also very complex

and the extent to which these entities will comply with territorial official language legislation remains unclear.

During his appearance before the standing committee, the minister advised members that the language legislation implementation plans are progressing as planned. As part of the process of setting priorities for implementation of the two new pieces of language legislation, the Nunavut Language Summit took place during the second week of February of this year. The standing committee looks forward to the tabling of the first annual reports on the two Language Acts, which will include details on the status of the implementation plan. As announced by the minister in the House on December 3, 2009, he will, in his capacity as Minister of Languages, present a “comprehensive implementation plan” to the Legislative Assembly in 2010. The minister stated that this plan will identify all the “resources needed to effectively implement and administer” both pieces of language legislation.

The standing committee will continue to monitor the development of the new Inuit Language Authority, *Taiguusiliuqtiit*, created under section 15 of the *Inuit Language Protection Act*. The *Taiguusiliuqtiit* was established as a branch of the department in the 2009-2010 fiscal year. According to the department’s business plan, it is scheduled to become an “independent public agency at arm’s length from the GN by September 18, 2011.”

Members note the appointment of *Taiguusiliuqtiit*’s first five members was announced in a GN news release dated November 18, 2009. Members also note the appointment of the chairperson and

vice-chairperson as announced in a GN news release dated February 11, 2010.

As it did when the minister appeared before the standing committee in 2009, members once again engaged in an exploratory dialogue with the minister about the possibility of using one writing system in Nunavut. The standing committee looks forward to monitoring progress made on this long-standing issue, including input contributed by the Inuit Language Authority.

During the minister’s appearance before the standing committee, members discussed the need to provide support to municipalities in their efforts to comply with the new official languages legislation. Members were pleased to be informed that the department is able and willing to assist municipalities with these matters.

Mr. Chairman, members raised the issue of fundraising for the new heritage centre during the minister’s appearance. Members look forward to receiving more updates on the status of the Nunavut Heritage Centre. The standing committee also notes that the department’s business plan indicates that a project brief for the heritage centre “will be completed in January/February 2010.” Members look forward to reviewing this project brief as soon as it is tabled in the House.

As all members are aware, the department’s Culture and Heritage Branch is responsible for delivering the Archaeology Program. The department’s business plan states that this program “promotes the protection, conservation and appropriate investigation and interpretation of archaeological sites in

Nunavut. It achieves these goals by administering archaeological and palaeontological research in Nunavut, and by assisting various regulatory agencies controlling land use activities that threaten archaeological sites.”

During the minister’s appearance before the standing committee, members raised the issue of a potential conflict between palaeontologists and Weststar, a mining company that is looking at initiating an exploration project to test coal deposits on Ellesmere Island.

On March 10 of this year, the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation indicated in the House that the Nunavut Impact Review Board rejected the project proposal by demanding that it be modified or abandoned.

During his appearance before the standing committee, the Minister of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth indicated that his officials are aware of the conflict between the mining company and palaeontologists. The minister stated that his departmental staff will be keeping abreast of the situation.

Mr. Chairman, during the minister’s 2009 appearance before the standing committee for the review of the draft 2009-2010 main estimates and business plan, members were pleased to note that the department was working on a report that will provide information about sport and recreation programs for Nunavummiut. Members continue to look forward to the tabling of this report.

During the minister’s most recent appearance before the standing

committee, members were very pleased to be advised that the minister is looking at the need for more swimming pools in Nunavut. The minister informed the standing committee that his department is commencing discussions regarding this matter with the Department of Community and Government Services.

The standing committee also notes that on March 8, 2010, during question period, Premier Aariak committed to reviewing “whether all responsibility for sport and recreation should be transferred back to Community and Government Services.” Members look forward to receiving updates on this matter.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my opening comments. Other members may have their own comments and concerns as we proceed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. Minister, for the record, please introduce your witnesses.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On my left is my Acting Deputy Minister, Naullaq Arnaquq, and on my right is Mike Rudolph, who works on the budget for the Department of CLEY. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Before we proceed, I would like to remind members of the following: according to Rule 77(1), you have 10 minutes to speak, and I think everybody is familiar with Rule 77(2), so I’ll just go to next one here... I suggest to members that wherever possible you ask your detailed

questions during the page-by-page review of the departmental estimates.

Do members have any general comments? Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Mr. Aupaluktuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the minister and his officials for appearing before the Committee of the Whole. In your opening comments yesterday, you stated that we have to preserve, develop, and enhance our culture, heritage, languages, and healthy living opportunities. Of course, our young people will be most impacted by our actions in these areas.

It is common knowledge that Baker Lake is uniquely an inland community. The community of Baker Lake has at least five distinct cultures: *Havvaqtuurmiut*, *Ahiarmiut*, *Aallirmiut*, *Ukkuhikhalimmiut*, and *Hanningajurmiut*. These are truly distinct groups and cultures although they exist in the one and the same community. Also, a demographic survey was done where it was found that Baker Lake is home to the highest number of the elderly in all of Nunavut. I heard this on the radio.

We usually get a few eco-tourists coming through our community in the summer months. We have an Inuit Heritage Centre in the community with financial support from CLEY. The people who visit our community can learn about the people of Baker Lake at the centre and about the uniqueness of its population make-up comprising of distinct groups of Inuit in Nunavut.

We want to promote our culture to develop and enhance it. I just wanted to

say that the people of Baker Lake are very proud of their Inuit heritage and culture. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. Minister Tapardjuk, would you like to comment on that? I think it was just a comment.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank my colleague from Baker Lake. Our department is working very hard on the culture and heritage centres. We want to be available to assist in any way we can. I'm very glad that Baker Lake is going to be home to one of the satellite campuses for the cultural school to make sure that the cultures out there remain visible to the whole of Nunavut. I would like to thank the member for stating that the Inuit Heritage Centre in Baker Lake is benefiting from our monies. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Tapardjuk. Any other comments there, Moses? No. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome, Minister and your officials. We all know that your department has the leadership role in preserving and developing our language and culture, as well as in the concerns of youth and elders. In this mandated role, CLEY helps promote not only aboriginal people in general but especially Inuit societal values and cultural pride in our Inuit traditions and language. We are well aware of this role.

I am a strong believer that people should know of history, how contemporary events unfold from the past and end up with what we have today. All things

happen this way. We are all aware now that the federal government did not have our aspirations in mind when they invoked a policy to assimilate Inuit by sending Inuit children to the residential school in Chesterfield Inlet. This was also the case in federal day schools and mission schools.

We all know that Inuit children were not allowed to speak their mother tongue in these schools. Some of us here went through that experience even in our communities where we went to school. We also know from Inuit sources that some people were sent off to school when they were six years old and not come home for years, leaving school only when they were old enough or had attained grade 9 level. There are many Inuit in the Kitikmeot region and the western Arctic who lost their mother tongue as a result. They left being fluent in their language, but returned home having lost their language.

The goal of the federal government at the time was to assimilate aboriginal people by way of these hurtful policies that cut off the connections that children had to their culture, language, and traditions. They tried to assimilate aboriginal people into the White society and to destroy all vestiges of the original culture and language in the children. The theory was that once the aboriginal children were assimilated, the fiduciary responsibilities of the government would cease since they would no longer have a distinct culture and language.

This fact goes back to when Canada was first being settled by Europeans where treaties with the First Nations peoples were negotiated: land for social services. The federal government promised that

they would be responsible for all of the educational needs, health care, and the provision of food rations. Additionally, they were given \$5 per annum.

Today, looking back to the way things were, Inuit perceptions at the time was that *Qallunaat* were intellectually superior and deserving of respect, especially the federal representatives and teachers. In retrospect, the people whom we thought were so wise were actually quite ignorant and prejudicial towards Inuit. They had no inkling of what the future held in store for Inuit or that Canada would eventually usurp Inuit cultural images as part of its distinctive makeup as a country.

Today, Canada states that it is proud of the Inuit culture, that it is the steward of the Inuit language, that it recognizes the aboriginal right to hunt, fish, and trap, and that these rights are protected by the Constitution. These eventual developments were not obvious to anyone at the time.

Inuit have a lot to be proud of today. This applies to all Inuit groups in Canada, from Labrador, Northern Québec, Nunavut, the western Arctic, and elsewhere. We have had to fight tooth and nail to protect our language, culture, and traditional values. No one, especially not the federal government, but us have worked to protect our distinct identities.

The end of the long, dark tunnel is in sight. Nunavut got its own government on April 1, 1999, granting Inuit of Nunavut the powers to initiate their own legislation reforms more specifically geared towards protecting our language and culture by ensuring that government

services are available in Inuktitut for Inuit.

Although Inuktitut was recognized as one of the official languages back in the old NWT days allowing interpreters to assist Inuit MLAs in their work, there was never any legislation for preserving and protecting the Inuit language. Inuktitut was but one of 11 recognized languages, but not as an official language *per se*.

I believe my allotted time is running out, Mr. Chairman, and I am trying to conclude my statement as fast as possible.

We must not forget that if we do not invest in this department properly, we are depriving the Inuit language, culture, our youth and elders their rightful legal status and protection. Not doing the right thing would mean that we are abandoning these issues as our predecessors in prior governments did when they followed their assimilation policies in trying to destroy the culture and language of aboriginal peoples.

Due to these reasons, we have to very carefully draft up the implementation and be very practical in ensuring that the Department of CLEY has enough resources to be the proper stewards of the Inuit language. I imagine it will be partly covered in the schools, the Department of EIA, and others, such as HTOs and the Department of Environment.

Nonetheless, if the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth was to implement everything to its ideal level and was able to conduct all of its

operations in the Inuit way, it still leaves many issues to deal with.

As an example, even if we were to institute a common written language from one end of the Inuit world to the other, from Greenland to Alaska to Labrador, we would still require the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth to remain in existence. Perhaps we may have to revise parts of their mandate since we adapt the departments to meet our current needs and certain departments tend to become redundant, unnecessary, and are usually dissolved. However, we always have to keep in mind that this particular department will always have a role, particularly down the road, since we will be in a precarious position that other regions are currently in.

Back in our day, television was the main opponent in the battle to retain our language and to keep it strong. In those days, the schools were our main battleground because that was part of the fight to try and retain our language. These days, we are inundated with technological gadgets, such as computers and the Internet, video games, and other digital tools that require a different language. We will have to very carefully protect the CLEY department in its implementation of the *Inuit Language Protection Act* if we are to maintain our language and culture in the face of this entire onslaught against the Inuit.

Due to these reasons, we expect that the establishment of the facility that is being constructed in Clyde River, the *Piqqusilirivvik* School and its associated satellite offices in Igloolik and Baker Lake, will take advantage of the local

resources we already have, such as adult education in the communities.

What I am trying to state here, Mr. Chairman, is that we have success stories we can emulate, such as the Nunavut Sivuniksavut program in Ottawa that is geared towards teaching the entire history of Inuit, from their roots in West to the present day status, which includes the Inuit political battle to attain Nunavut. We were informed that part of this curriculum is being adapted to be taught in our high schools and I believe it was specifically geared towards grade 10.

Just like that example, once the cultural school and its satellite campuses in Igloolik and Baker Lake have been established, it will develop into a larger system. That is why I mentioned the adult education schools that exist in all communities. I believe that we have to make preparations to ensure that the Inuit specific curriculum developed can be taught in our adult education schools. The courses could be held in a central database and as the need arises, these could be dispersed to other communities.

Inuit themselves, especially those who have never completed their education, are not going to showcase their culture because they do not see the importance or the nobility of the Inuit culture. All they are aware of is that living that lifestyle is amongst the hardest livelihoods since it entails constant work. For those of us who went through the school system and are aware of the literature based system of the western societies can see the prospect of Inuit losing their language and culture.

That is why we seemingly are the final defence against this onslaught against our culture. We have to be the ones who pave the path and prepare the route for those to follow. We have to ensure that we properly fund these initiatives.

My allotted time has run out, Mr. Chairman, so I will stop at this point and direct my questions to the minister as we review the rest of the departmental estimates. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. I think that was just a comment there. Anybody else? If not, we will go page-by-page. Sorry. Mr. Okalik.

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a question about lottery booths. You never know what the office hours are and you have to kind of guess whether it's open or not and go there and take a chance. What kinds of procedures are there for operating lottery booths? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you. I thank my colleague for asking that question. We sent out a letter to the management that people have been complaining about the lack of clarity of the business hours of the lottery booth. We will look into the matter further to see what the status is now and whether they have made any improvements.

However, our officials from the Department of CLEY have already looked into this matter and they have been informed that their staffing issues had largely been resolved. Mr.

Chairman, we will ensure that the lottery booth issue is revisited here in Iqaluit, where it is housed in the NorthMart store, to see if we can resolve these concerns, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Ningeongan (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is not a question *per se* but rather, I have some comments while we are discussing this subject. I wish to talk about Coral Harbour and the caribou harvest. I have always been optimistic about and a believer in the commercial caribou harvest even when it was first proposed. I was always optimistic believing there is a future and market for the product.

When I was the Mayor of Coral Harbour, several Inuit, who are traditional hunters, took advantage of their traditional knowledge to earn some extra income from the commercial harvest. They were very pleased that they were able to utilize their knowledge and earn some income doing work in the great outdoors. This commercial harvest suited them, especially because it required hunting and outdoor skills that they already possess and practice. This allowed them to conduct the commercial caribou harvest more effectively. They were able to fulfill their sense of cultural pride while earning a living and additionally, it was something they already loved to do.

This was very inspiring since those individuals were able to support themselves. If those people had to apply for welfare, then they would have been deprived of their sense of pride as they would not be able to showcase their

skills and abilities. I have also noticed these factors and that is why I believe that this should be taken into consideration, that within the Inuit culture, specifically with regard to traditional activities, you don't require a university degree or even a high school diploma to be knowledgeable in certain categories.

In the past decades, we've had to withstand the push towards the focus on the western scientific standards and research styles. In some circumstances, it was the only way to ensure that the initiative was successful. With the preservation and promotion of Inuktitut, the abilities of our own experts in the Inuit world, irrespective of whether they are a traditional hunter or if they can teach traditional skills, such as igloo building or other cultural practices based on the Inuit lifestyle, are slowly being recognized.

It would be preferable to have these skill sets recognized since they would no longer be on the sidelines but participating in teaching their skills to the next generations. I would love to see this type of teaching position become a full-time position, not just a part-time position. It would ensure that these people have a sense of cultural pride, especially when we talk about protection of language and culture as seemingly separate. The details should include some of these action items I have mentioned.

Taking pride in one's culture and good self-esteem are very important to Inuit, but when it is partnered with the lack of funding, it stops these activities. The pride that would have been felt is lost simply by having to go the social

assistance route. This is what I have noticed in the past: what could have been a basis for cultural pride is lost simply due to these activities not being funded. I would really like to see this detailed out, funded fully in our future as well, especially since it would allow our hunters, elders, and the like to teach our younger generations because we should be able to retain that knowledge for a few more generations.

Mr. Chairman, for example, I was one of the managers in teaching survival skills with the help of elders. Inuit have a lot of traditional knowledge, especially elders, about all of those things. It is only because they weren't asked that they didn't bring out all of their knowledge. I was very proud that I had learned a lot more of the Inuit culture, child rearing practices, and getting prepared for the future. There are a lot of things in there in both men's and women's perspectives.

I hope that there is more promotion of such subjects and not only focus on language as it is already protected. There is also the Inuit culture that we have to be proud of and integrate that into some of those programs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wanted to add some general comments as well in terms of this department's roles and responsibilities. It kind of adds onto what Mr. Arvaluk was talking about in terms of some of the responsibilities and the roles that I see and hope that the department will be able to follow through on, one of them being, obviously, the language in the

Official Languages Act and the Inuit Language Protection Act.

I have been asking questions in the House, which I don't know if, sometimes, people wonder why I'm asking such questions. To me, as a government, if we're going to make this work, we need to be the driving force behind making sure that employees are able to offer services in the official languages that we're saying we're going to provide by legislation. Otherwise, we're just paying lip service to do something. I think that's happened too long, where we said this is what we're going to do and this is what we want to see happen. Now the legislation is actually there, so we need to make sure that we're onside and showing the people out in the communities that this is what we believe in. That's why I keep asking the questions.

I find sometimes I'm kind of embarrassed that I don't speak Inuktitut. I have tried for many years and I am hoping that with the new committees that are set up, it might provide employees who are either unilingual in Inuktitut or unilingual in English to receive the training they need to be able to speak. I remember year after year, when I worked for the college, asking to be sent down for an intensive Inuktitut course and because of operational requirements, I was not allowed to go.

I tried and try as much as I could to learn as much as I could. Unfortunately, I can understand more of the spoken Inuktitut. Actually listening to it, I can understand it, but speaking it, it comes out the wrong way. I need some more coaching on that. To me, I would hope that the government, as they continue to move

along, especially with this department, is helping people in the communities to be able to learn the Inuit language.

At the same time, I am very proud of the youth in my community. They continually work towards supporting the Inuit language. They are always trying to produce resources and materials. I tabled the artist booklet that was produced by them in the House the other day. The minister did a Member's Statement about applying for funding through his department. That's where they get their funding just about on a yearly basis to help. One year, it was puzzles. The next year, it was memo boards and fridge magnets.

What our youth are saying is, I think, they will rely on the government to a point to be able to help with the preservation of the Inuit language, but it really begins at home. It begins around the kitchen table. It begins when they're young. That's sort the resources that they create, family resources to be used year after year within the family. So I'm really hoping that his department will continue to support programs like that.

At the same time, in terms of what Mr. Arvaluk was talking about and also what Mr. Ningeongan was talking about in terms of preserving Inuit culture, there is the *Piqusilirivvik* Cultural School. Definitely, I have questions and concerns about that.

To me, sometimes working in education, I know a lot of our young people who have tremendous and amazing land skills. Having spent a long time in the K to 12 school system, there is no way of quantifying, or addressing, or showing the value of the knowledge that they

have. To me, that's what I'm hoping the cultural school will be able to bring out. Some of the people who end up attending it will be able to feel proud of what they have done and what they have accomplished, and then they will have some type of a way of recognizing that.

I know a lot of times, people refer to possibly similar things as what happens with Nunavut Sivuniksavut, but again, I think, with what we will be doing in Clyde River, there is a lot more opportunities to bring that home and have the communities take pride in who they are and what they do.

At the same time, I know some of the support that seems to be happening. If you talk about what the Inuit Broadcasting Corporation is doing in trying to develop a new media centre, hopefully the government will continue to support activities like that. I know ED&T has already mentioned and talked about providing support for the Nunavut film industry, but what we do need is to make sure that there is Inuit language programming that's on the air.

I believe Mr. Arvaluk was talking about Internet and he was also mentioning about TV. It seems that all of our young people are continually bombarded day after day by English and the mass media out there. So it's nice that departments such as yours are able to support that.

One of the other issues that I find kind of interesting and will be ongoing is that idea of the writing system and what type of writing system we should have. In terms of respecting our elders, at least in the High Arctic, syllabics are something that people want to keep. It's the writing

system that the elders know. I'm not sure how that's going to be addressed.

In the conversations that you're having with some of the meetings that have happened and the language summit that happened in February, it's a start. But in fairness to everyone and in the way we work, the government, with consensus and the way Inuit decide on things, maybe the possibility of a plebiscite to decide what type of writing system we're going to go with, that may be the way to go or may be something that the government could think about.

I guess the final part of your department that I would like to comment on and I have asked questions before in the House about this, I'll be really interested to find out in terms of sports and the ability for our youth to continue to travel and participate. Any time any of our youth get out of the community to get a better sense of who they are, because they are immersed in different cultures and they meet other people, they actually get a sense of thinking about who they are in reflection on who they are meeting.

I applaud, actually, the idea of what the Nunavut Soccer Association is doing in terms of sharing the costs for flights for people and our youth to travel. I think that would be a more fair way, especially for the communities in the High Arctic and the high cost that we pay for transportation, and a better way for our youth being able to participate in those types of activities.

At the same time, sometimes I question the way teens are actually picked and whatnot. I know it was great to see the hockey team here this morning and my

understanding is that the way that team was chosen was through invitation. Again, by invitation, that kind of takes away the fairness in terms of all of our young people trying out and actually participating to be able to get on that team.

With that, Mr. Chairman, I'll ask more of my detailed questions during the page-by-page. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. I have no more names on my list for general comments. We will now proceed to the page-by-page review of the departmental estimates starting with page F-4. F-4. Culture, Language, Elders and Youth. Branch Summary. Directorate. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$3,038,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: We will go to F-5. Branch Summary. Culture, Language, Elders and Youth. Official Languages. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$3,494,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: We will go to F-6. Culture, Language, Elders and Youth. Branch Summary. "Taigutsiliuqtiit" (Taiguusiliuqtiit).

>> *Laughter*

Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$2,040,000. Agreed? Mr. Arvaluk.

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

Language Authority... (interpretation ends) see how it's easy to say it?

>> *Laughter*

(interpretation) What is the *Taiguusiliuqtiit* Language Authority seeing in the school curriculum, or others, or in any legislation? Can you tell us exactly what this language authority committee is working on? Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you Mr. Arvaluk. Minister Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the member for asking the question.

The *Taiguusiliuqtiit* Language Authority has five members with Elijah Erkloo as the Chair. The office is just starting up and getting established, but the authority has already held one or two meetings. To date, Mr. Chairman, we are still seeking to fill the key positions of director of the language authority office and other staff. Once we have filled these positions, the language authority should start operating as a functioning body.

Finding office space has had its own difficulties as space in the current offices of the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth is at a premium. We were able to find space for the new office. The present status is that it is going through planning stages.

Mr. Chairman, we believe that by spring or summer, we will have filled the positions. The first tasks will be to review the *Taiguusiliuqtiit*'s terms of reference. After that, the office could

then focus on its functions to develop terminologies and such. The *Taiguusiliuqtiit* Language Authority will then decide how they can utilize Inuit language in the government, in the justice system, and in the Legislative Assembly.

We want to standardize the terminology because the terms from other communities vary from each other. So the *Taiguusiliuqtiit* Language Authority has to work on the terminology and standardization of terminology.

In regard to the standardization of the writing system, once the official languages of Nunavut have been recognized, which are Inuktitut, English, and French, the *Taiguusiliuqtiit* Language Authority will discuss and deal with the standardization of language and writing systems, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation) I see that the *Taiguusiliuqtiit* Language Authority is requesting 7.0 PYs. I believe you said that some of the positions have yet to be filled. How many positions have been filled to date? Thank you.

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

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have had two positions filled and these positions are being filled by due process, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under page E-5 for 2009-2010, hamlet councils would have to adhere to the provisions of the *Inuit Language Protection Act* and that hamlets will also have to lend their support for this legislation. Can the minister explain how funding will be arranged or what process that the hamlets will have to follow to adhere with this legislation? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the member for that question. With respect to those issues, we have identified that certain provisions apply, such as service provision in Inuktitut and interpreter usage during their council meetings, since there is usually no funding for an interpreter.

Questions such as: should we fund a position for the hamlets to deal with all of the documents that may need to be translated into either language, either as part of their operations or during their council meetings? Details include the need for both languages on their billing invoices, such as those for water, sewage, and so on. These are identified in our implementation plans, especially just prior to this legislation being put into force.

What expectations do we have with regard to the hamlets? What needs do they have and what can be funded towards their fulfillment of the legislation? These are some of the details that are identified as to how we would assist the local government and it is

listed clearly in the implementation plan, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Ningark: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation) I would like to ask exactly what the term “*Taiguusiq*” means. (interpretation ends) Is it “terminology” in English? I think so, knowing that *Taiguusiliriji* means “able to recognize what the Inuktitut term means,” right?

(interpretation) Mr. Chairman, to elaborate this further, in the Kitikmeot region, we have dialects that are quite different than what we have in the Baffin region. Our dialects are also different from the Kivalliq region. In my riding, we are in the area that was originally called the Netsilik region where Kugaaruk is and the area also includes Taloyoak and Gjoa Haven. These three communities are in fairly close proximity to each other, Mr. Chairman, but even they have subtle differences in dialects.

What are your thoughts on this issue, Minister of Languages? If I were to transliterate his title in Inuktitut, would it be the minister of all official languages? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): With respect to his question, I doubt that these communities would lose their distinctive flavour and dialect since their particular dialect would be taught in their local schools. Given that all students must be functionally bilingual

by graduation, I do not think that our regional dialects will be adversely affected or lost in this respect.

The *Taiguusiliuqtiit* Language Authority, however, is mandated to review all government documents, the operational documents of the Legislative Assembly, court documents, and practices of interpreters to ensure consistency and quality standards. The Inuit Language Authority will be tasked to come up with standardized terminology.

For example, when I was growing up, we used to call paper “*Alilajuuq*” but today I call “*Paippaaq*.” When I was growing up, I called sugar “*Siuraujaaqtuq*” but today I call it “*Suka*.” When I was a child, I used to call soap “*Irmusik*” but now I call it “*Uasautik*.”

These are different terms which we used to use when I was growing up. I know that if we continue to use these terms consistently, I’m not going to forget the terms unique to the Igloodik dialect. I believe and expect that no Nunavummiut will lose their own unique dialect as long as they are committed to keeping it strong.

I believe that once we get the language legislation and the protection of the Inuit language in place, we can have meaningful discussions on dialect issues. I know that in Greenland with their own Home Rule Government, they use a single dialect for political and administrative purposes. Even though they have different dialects, they use a standardized language in certain areas.

The northern and southern parts of Greenland have different dialects, but when they conduct their parliament and in schools, they use a standardized dialect for government and administrative operations. That is our vision here and that the *Taiguusiliuqtiit* Language Authority will make all of this possible through terminology development, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With respect to the Legislative Assembly, when members are making statements, irrespective of whether the member is from the Kivalliq, the Kitikmeot, or the Baffin region, the public listens to our proceedings.

When we wish to speak in a language other than English, and this applies anywhere in Nunavut for elected officials, we may use our own Inuktitut though we may have different dialects. This allowance is part of our parliamentary tradition. Here in this House, the interpreters’ component is very important so that we are not put out by speaking in either language.

Regardless of whether you are from the Baffin region, the Kivalliq region, or the Kitikmeot region, we all depend on the interpreters to bridge our linguistic differences. To this day, this government relies heavily on interpreters going back to when we were part of the Northwest Territories. At least I, myself, use the interpreters to do my work here. When I want to speak in Inuktitut or when I’m uncomfortable speaking in English, I

make use of them to this day here in the Nunavut territory.

With respect to the *Taiguusiliuqtiit* Language Authority, I was wondering whether the interpreters are involved in the developmental process. I believe that they should be fully involved in the process, especially when it comes to standard terminologies. We have always depended on the interpreters in doing our business even prior to Nunavut becoming a reality.

Are there plans to involve professional interpreters in this process? I believe the proper term in the *Taiguusiliuqtiit* Language Authority applies especially to them. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): I'm not sure I understand what he means by involving interpreter/translators and I need clarification on that.

The *Taiguusiliuqtiit* Language Authority committee members are appointed because of their experience and commitment to the Inuit language. We try to have unilingual Inuktitut-speaking people in the language authority so that they can provide advice to the government, the Legislative Assembly, and court services on language issues.

Once the terminology work has been started and established, the authority will start dealing with setting up training workshops on the proposed terminologies. For example, we have held terminology workshops for the interpreters in the past. We want to start considering our options for future

interpreter/translators programs through Arctic College.

But your question was in regard to how the interpreter/translators will be involved in the *Taiguusiliuqtiit* process. Perhaps you can clarify your question so that I can provide you with an adequate response, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Ningark: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It appears that my colleague from Amittuq and I both were born and raised in Repulse Bay. We have some misunderstanding although we speak the Inuktitut dialect.

My question to the hon. minister is: do we have representation on *Taiguusilirijit*, if you will, from the Nunavut Language Bureau who speaks the Inuktitut language? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Well, the question is still unclear to me. We appoint five members to the language authority based on their experience in the area of the Inuit language. As an example, we appointed Edna Elias as a member for Kitikmeot. She has worked in the language field for many years and she has been an interpreter/translator. We don't look specifically for interpreter/translator experience, but we look at their overall experience in the field.

I'm beginning to doubt that we fully understand each other or that we are talking about the same thing.

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

Mr. Ningark: Well, Mr. Chairman, I kind of planned that. In Nunavut, we have different dialects. When we speak Inuktitut, we don't really understand each other. To me, the Nunavut Language Bureau means... because the majority, about 80 percent, of the people in Nunavut are Inuit, obviously, the spoken language is Inuktitut.

I want to know if any of the interpreters who spoke Inuktitut at all who are in *Taiguusilirijit*, board, or group, or whatever you have. This is critically important, Mr. Speaker, that people who interpret for the Legislative Assembly, even though they have different dialects, are included in this *Taiguusilirijit* group. That's what I was trying to say.

(interpretation) Have you involved the Inuktitut interpreter /translators when the meetings are held by this *Taiguusilirijit* committee?

(interpretation ends) Just like what I have said, you know, we have different regional dialects. Even people from the same region but live in different communities may not have the same dialect. I'm wondering if any or all of the interpreters have the representation in the *Taiguusilirijit* group. I think the minister understood what I'm trying to say. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you. The *Taiguusiliuqtiit* Language Authority doesn't represent any one group in particular. The government established this language authority because the desire for it was expressed by many people from all quarters. The membership requirements put consideration for past experiences only. We did not think about representation by sector.

We established the language authority without considering whether the members would require the assistance of interpreters to conduct their meetings. Where they require it, they will invite the services of interpreter/translators or anyone who they believe can help them in their assigned tasks, whether it is language instructors employed by schools or interpreters. If the authority requires further clarification on any terminology that other regions use, they will invite those people.

However, I want the member to understand that there are five appointed members and they don't represent any region. It's based on their merit and their experience. If they require the assistance of interpreters or others, they can invite them to work with them, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Tapardjuk. I'm going to let Ningark finish his comments before I report progress. Go ahead, Mr. Ningark.

Mr. Ningark: I think you have, Mr. Chairman, read my mind. I was going to say that, in recognizing the clock, I don't have any more questions. Thank you.

Chairman: Alright, I do recognize the clock here and we will continue where

we left off on Monday. On my list, I have Okalik and Elliott, and that will be the order on Monday.

I would like to thank the minister. Could the Sergeant-at-Arms please escort the minister and his officials out. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you. Going back to the Orders of the Day. Report of the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Schell.

Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Bills 22 and 24. I would like to report that Bill 24 is immediately ready for third reading. Mr. Speaker, I move that the Report of the Committee of the Whole be agreed to.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Schell. There is a motion on the floor. Is there a seconder? Mr. Kusugak. Thank you. The motion is in order. All those in favour, raise your hand. Thank you. Opposed. The motion is carried.

Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. Mr. Elliott.

Item 21: Third Reading of Bills

Bill 24 – Legislative Assembly Statutes Amendment Act, 2010 – Third Reading

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Iqaluit Centre, that Bill 24, *Legislative Assembly Statutes Amendment Act, 2010*, be read for the third time. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. The motion is in order. All those in favour, raise your hand. Opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 24 is ready for assent.

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

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A reminder that there's a meeting of the Management and Services Board at half past two in the Tuktu Room and a reminder that on Monday morning at nine o'clock, there's a meeting of the Regular Caucus in the Tuktu Room.

Orders of the Day for March 22:

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

15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions
 - Motion 17 – 3(2)
17. First Reading of Bills
18. Second Reading of Bills
19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
 - Bill 14
 - Bill 21
 - Bill 22
 - Bill 23
 - Bill 25
20. Report of the Committee of the Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills
22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you. This House stands adjourned until Monday, March 22, at 1:30 p.m.

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 14:10*

