



Nunavut Canada

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NUNAVUT

2nd Session

3rd Assembly

HANSARD

Official Report

DAY 34

Monday, March 22, 2010

Pages 1781 – 1863

Iqaluit

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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Speaker

Hon. James Arreak

(Uqqummiut)

Hon. Lorne Kusugak

(Rankin Inlet South – Whale Cove)

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

John Ningark

(Akulliq)

Johnny Ningeongan

(Nanulik)

*Deputy Speaker, Chair of the
Committee of the Whole*

Paul Okalik

(Iqaluit West)

Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole

Hon. Keith Peterson

(Cambridge Bay)

*Minister of Finance, Chair, Financial
Management Board; Minister of Justice*

Allan Rumbolt

(Hudson Bay)

Fred Schell

(South Baffin)

Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk

(Arviat)

*Minister of Environment; Minister of
Human Resources; Minister responsible
for the Nunavut Arctic College*

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk

(Amittuq)

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna

(Kugluktuk)

*Deputy Premier; Minister of Economic
Development and Transportation*

Hon. Hunter Tootoo

(Iqaluit Centre)

*Minister responsible for the Nunavut
Housing Corporation; Minister
responsible for the Qulliq Energy
Corporation; Minister responsible for
Homelessness*

Officers

Clerk

John Quirke

Deputy Clerk

Nancy Tupik

Clerk Assistant

Stephen Innuksuk

Law Clerk

Michael Chandler

Sergeant-at-Arms

Simanek Kilabuk

Hansard Production

Innirvik Support Services

Box 1200

Iqaluit, Nunavut, X0A 0H0

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

Website: www.assembly.nu.ca

Table of Contents

Opening Prayer.....	1781
Ministers' Statements	1781
Members' Statements	1785
Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery.....	1789
Oral Questions	1789
Tabling of Documents	1806
Notices of Motions	1807
Motions.....	1808
Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters	1816
Report of the Committee of the Whole	1862
Orders of the Day	1863

A.

Daily References

Monday, March 22, 2010 1781

B.

Ministers' Statements

135 – 3(2): Annual Report of the NNI Appeals Board for 2008-09 (Taptuna) 1781

136 – 3(2): Northwest Passage Trail Interpretive Program (Shewchuk)..... 1782

137 – 3(2): Tobacco Quit Line (Curley)..... 1782

138 – 3(2): Education Act Implementation Update (Tapardjuk)..... 1783

139 – 3(2): NHC Program to Help Homeowners Replace Fuel Tanks (Tootoo) 1784

140 – 3(2): Minister's Task Force to Review the Liquor Act (Peterson)..... 1784

C.

Members' Statements

199 – 3(2): Tribute to Ann Hanson – Nunavut's Commissioner (Okalik) 1785

200 – 3(2): Rankin Inlet Hockey Tournament (Kusugak)..... 1786

201 – 3(2): Territorial Hip Hop Leadership Summit (Elliott) 1787

202 – 3(2): Congratulations to Kananginak Pootoogook (Schell)..... 1788

203 – 3(2): Jean Kusugak Moves to Igloolik (Curley) 1788

D.

Oral Questions

328 – 3(2): Community Adaptation Plans (Elliott) 1789

329 – 3(2): Meeting with Repulse Bay Mayor and Council (Okalik) 1790

330 – 3(2): Status of Kimmirut Runway Upgrades (Schell) 1791

331 – 3(2): Support for Nunavut Nurses (Okalik)..... 1792

332 – 3(2): Resident Medical Doctor for High Arctic (Arvaluk).....	1794
333 – 3(2): High Arctic Community Consultations (Elliott).....	1796
334 – 3(2): Pedestrian Bridge for Iqaluit (Okalik)	1798
335 – 3(2): RFP Process for NHC Initiatives (Schell)	1800
336 – 3(2): Completion of Community Consultations (Elliott)	1801
337 – 3(2): Rent Control Legislation (Okalik)	1802
338 – 3(2): RFP for SIP Panels (Schell).....	1803
339 – 3(2): Grise Fiord Power Plant (Elliott).....	1805
340 – 3(2): \$5 Million Funding for New Generators (Schell).....	1805

E.

Tabling of Documents

147 – 3(2): NNI Contracting Appeals Board Annual Report 2008-2009 (Taptuna).....	1806
148 – 3(2): Presentation by the Department of National Defence on the Nanisivik Naval Facility Project (Elliott)	1806
149 – 3(2): Child and Youth Advocate Chapter from the Canadian Paediatric Society’s “Are We Doing Enough?” Status Report (Elliott)	1807
150 – 3(2): Community Justice Committee & Family Abuse Intervention Act – Year-End Report 2008-09 (Peterson).....	1807
151 – 3(2): GN’s Response to the Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts’ Report on the Review of the Annual Report of the Information and Privacy Commissioner of Nunavut (Aariak)	1807
152 – 3(2): Speaker’s List of Outstanding Statutory Tabling Requirements (Speaker).....	1807

F.

Motions

019 – 3(2): Referral of Tabled Documents 13 – 3(2), 66 – 3(2), 99 – 3(2), and 100 – 3(2) to
Committee of the Whole – Notice (Elliott)..... 1808

020 – 3(2): Extended Adjournment – Notice (Elliott)..... 1808

021 – 3(2): Amendment of the Terms of Reference of the Standing Committee of the Third
Legislative Assembly of Nunavut – Notice (Aupaluktuq)..... 1808

017 – 3(2): Comprehensive Performance Audit of the Qulliq Energy Corporation (Okalik) ... 1808

019 – 3(2): Referral of Tabled Documents 13 – 3(2), 66 – 3(2), 99 – 3(2), and 100 – 3(2) to
Committee of the Whole (Elliott) 1813

021 – 3(2): Amendment of the Terms of Reference of the Standing Committee of the Third
Legislative Assembly of Nunavut (Aupaluktuq) 1814

020 – 3(2): Extended Adjournment (Elliott) 1815

G.

Bills

Bill 22 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2010-2011 – Culture, Language, Elders
and Youth – Consideration in Committee..... 1816

Bill 22 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2010-2011 – Human Resources –
Consideration in Committee 1835

Bill 22 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2010-2011 – Environment –
Consideration in Committee 1860

**Iqaluit, Nunavut
Monday, March 22, 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. 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): Thank you. Before we proceed, I would like to ask Mr. Ningeongan to say the opening prayer.

>>*Prayer*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. Good afternoon, Premier, Ministers, and Members of the Legislative Assembly, and a very good spring day in the whole of Nunavut.

Before we begin, I would like to welcome Gjoa Haven and Taloyoak. Today, they opened the nomination for the Member of the Legislative Assembly and we will welcome the elected member in June's session. I want Gjoa Haven and Taloyoak residents to know that the nominations have been opened for a Member of the Legislative Assembly.

(interpretation ends) Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Hon. Peter Taptuna.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

**Minister's Statement 135 – 3(2):
Annual Report of the NNI Appeals
Board for 2008-09**

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to inform the Members of the House that later in the day, I will be tabling the annual report of the NNI Appeals Board for 2008-09.

This is a follow-up to a commitment I made in response to a question from the MLA for Nattilik in December; the member asked when I would table the most recent report of the NNI Appeals Board.

The NNI Policy does not require that these reports be tabled, only that they be submitted to the Government of Nunavut and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated to be made available to the public. However, I committed to tabling the report as soon as it was available. I am pleased to report that the annual report is now complete and I will table it at the appropriate time today.

During the 2008-09 fiscal year, the NNI Appeals Board heard one appeal. The issues in that appeal were complex and ultimately were brought before the Nunavut Court of Justice, which ordered the NNI Appeals Board to hear the matter for a second time. This second appeal took place early in a current reporting year so that it is not covered in the report I am tabling. This second appeal took place early in the current reporting year, so it is not covered in the report I am tabling.

(interpretation) Finally, I would like to acknowledge the members of the NNI Appeals Board, who are appointed by the Government of Nunavut, Nunavut

Tungavik Incorporated, and Nunavut's regional chambers of commerce. These are: James Cummings of Pangnirtung, Al Lahure of Baker Lake, Barry Cornthwaite and Chris Coté, both of Iqaluit. Their efforts on the NNI Appeals Board are key to ensuring the fair application of the NNI Policy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Minister's Statement 136 – 3(2):
Northwest Passage Trail
Interpretive Program**

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to announce that my department, in cooperation with the community of Gjoa Haven, has completed the Northwest Passage Trail Interpretation Program.

The Northwest Passage Trail is a self-guided interpretive trail with interpretive stops at several points of historical interest throughout the community that tells the story of the many failed expeditions and the one successful attempt of Roald Amundsen through the Northwest Passage.

My staff and key community members worked hard to finalize the installation of new interpretive signage, the development of new interpretive literature, and the completion and erection of a commemorative cairn for the enjoyment of both the community and visitors alike.

Mr. Speaker, officials from my department will continue to work with the community and partners to improve this special place in 2010. Upcoming work will include the installation of new site amenities, such as flag poles and benches, at two of the signage locations. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Ministers' Statements. The Hon. Tagak Curley.

**Minister's Statement 137 – 3(2):
Tobacco Quit Line**

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to talk about the Tobacco Quit Line. As we all know, Nunavut has the highest smoking rates in Canada, with over half, or 53 percent, of Nunavutmiut who smoke, which is more than double the national average of 22 percent.

The Department of Health and Social Services continues to work towards reducing tobacco use and the harm it causes to Nunavutmiut. As with any addiction, you can't make a person want to stop smoking. However, as a department, we can provide support once an individual makes the decision to quit.

Mr. Speaker, in order to provide better support to those making this healthy choice, my department has partnered with Health Canada to establish a toll-free quit line service for Nunavutmiut. The toll-free line goes live later this month and will be available 24 hours a day.

When service is required in Inuktitut or Inuinnaqtun, an interpreter will immediately be brought on in a three-way telephone call to interpret the session. Our long-term goal is to secure the additional funds to train Inuit language-speaking counsellors to provide this service directly.

Mr. Speaker, this is a confidential service that combines individualized telephone counselling with educational materials. Counsellors will answer callers' questions and help them develop successful plans for quitting. Not only will the quit line handle incoming calls but it will provide additional support and increase the chance of success through support calls before and after the individual's intended quit date.

The quit line campaign theme is based on positive reinforcement and the knowledge that 'quitting is worth it.' It also features some of the great reasons to quit smoking, such as being a good role model to our youth, being healthier, living longer, and of course, saving money.

Mr. Speaker, this service is a tremendous step forward in providing support to those who wish to break their addiction with tobacco. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Minister's Statement 138 – 3(2):
Education Act Implementation
Update**

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Mr. Speaker, the new *Education Act* was

passed last summer and the implementation work commenced this summer. Since that time, much work has quietly been going on to ensure our schools reflect the new *Education Act*.

Last fall, I told the House about the principal and district education authority training session last September. I am pleased to say that since then, work has continued in our communities and schools. Department of Education staff will soon have visited all communities and schools to support change and implementation at the school level.

Mr. Speaker, there are many topics in the *Education Act* that are important, but we must implement change in an orderly fashion to ensure it is deep, lasting, and successful change. This year's work, Mr. Speaker, has focused primarily on some very important topics: elders in schools, *Inuuqatigiitsiarniq* (good citizenship) and bilingual education in the English, Inuktitut, or French languages. There will be more change to come as we continue implementation next year and in the years to come.

Also, regulations are needed for the legislation. We have begun consultations on the first regulations, including these themes: inclusive schooling, DEA finances, *Inuuqatigiitsiarniq* (good citizenship) and bilingual education regulations. The consultation tour will continue throughout this spring with the aim of having these regulations in place, Mr. Speaker, for the next school year.

There are many other activities that tie into the new *Education Act*, from training to resource development. This requires a great deal of work behind the scenes. DEAs are also working hard to

understand and fulfill their role under the new *Education Act*.

I will be pleased to provide updates in the future on the progress of future steps in this important work to support students to be engaged and successful. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you. Ministers' Statements. Hon. Hunter Tootoo.

Minister's Statement 139 – 3(2): NHC Program to Help Homeowners Replace Fuel Tanks

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to speak about a new program offered by the Nunavut Housing Corporation to homeowners throughout the territory. This new Heating Oil Tank Replacement Program will address an issue that has been raised by some of my colleagues and by Nunavummiut homeowners. This program provides assistance to homeowners to replace their heating oil tank and associated components, as well as installation, in the form of a grant of up to a maximum of \$5,000.

>>Applause

Applicants must be at least 19 years of age and there is no income limit to this program.

>>Applause

A Nunavut Housing Corporation assessment of an applicant's fuel system will determine eligibility, Mr. Speaker.

This program is an example of how the Government of Nunavut is helping prevent environmental contamination while supporting homeowners. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Minister's Statement 140 – 3(2): Minister's Task Force to Review the Liquor Act

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to provide members with an update on the ministerial task force to review the *Nunavut Liquor Act*.

I have appointed ten members who I feel best represent the interests of all Nunavummiut. Mr. Speaker, please join me in welcoming the task force members:

- John Ningark, MLA for Akulliq
- Fred Schell, MLA for South Baffin
- Dr. Isaac Sobol, Chief Medical Officer at Health and Social Services
- Elizabeth Quinangnaq, Chair of the Baker Lake Alcohol Education Committee
- Paul Kaludjak, President of Nunavut Tunngavik
- Howard Eaton, RCMP Superintendent

- David Wilman, Chair of the Nunavut Liquor Licensing Board
- Miranda Atatahak, Youth Ambassador
- Donna Adams, President of the Qullit Status of Women Council
- Esau Tatatoapik, Chair of the Arctic Bay Alcohol Education Committee

The task force will be supported by Joe Tigullaraq, former Chief Executive Officer and Chairperson of the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board. Joe has over 30 years experience working in our communities.

Mr. Speaker, we plan to have our first meeting next month. This meeting will provide members with background information and enable members to develop an action plan before we begin our community consultations.

The task force will provide individuals and organizations with an opportunity to share feedback on the Nunavut *Liquor Act* and the overall issue of alcohol in our communities. Information collected and recommendations will be included in our final report.

Mr. Speaker, I have spoken personally with each of these members and they are very excited to begin this work. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Ministers' Statements. Before we go on to our next agenda item, please note we have only two pages assisting us today. Also, we have only one Inuinnaqtun

interpreter for the balance of our sitting, so please be advised.

Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Iqaluit West, Mr. Okalik.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 199 – 3(2): Tribute to Ann Hanson – Nunavut's Commissioner

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Her Honour, the Hon. Ann Meekitjuk-Hanson, Commissioner of Nunavut.

On April 11, 2010, Commissioner Hanson's five-year term will come to an end and she will return to private life. It has been a busy five years and Commissioner Hanson has travelled extensively throughout the territory.

(interpretation ends) During her term, Commissioner Hanson had the honour of being granted the Badge of Office and the flag for the Commissioner of Nunavut by the Canadian Heraldic Authority.

(interpretation) In her ongoing efforts to celebrate the achievements of Nunavummiut, Commissioner Hanson, with the support of our government, created the annual Nunavut Commissioner's Arts Award honouring the artistic achievements of established artists.

Since the award was created in 2007, six artists have been honoured with this award. Their creative expression has been celebrated worldwide and this

award has allowed us to recognize them here in Nunavut.

It was a great honour for Commissioner Hanson to host the 22nd Conference of Lieutenant Governors and Commissioners in Iqaluit on May 29 to 31 2009. During the first day of the conference, the lieutenant governors and commissioners, their spouses and staff enjoyed private tours of Iqaluit.

(interpretation ends) It was my pleasure to work with Commissioner Hanson to create the Order of Nunavut. Commissioner Hanson agreed that the year 2009, the 10th anniversary, for the creation of the Nunavut order.

The Order of Nunavut will honour individuals who have made an outstanding contribution to the cultural, social, or economic well-being of Nunavut. It is intended to recognize those exceptional individuals who have made a lifetime contribution to our territory and their fellow citizens.

Thanks to the commitment of Her Honour Commissioner Hanson and the support of my colleagues, the *Order of Nunavut Act* came into effect January 1 of this year and I look forward to the first investiture.

(interpretation) To further recognize Nunavummiut and their efforts to support their communities, Commissioner Hanson requested that plaques be presented to the community rescue teams during community visits to honour their unselfish commitment to protecting the lives of others.

(interpretation ends) Ann Meekitjuk-Hanson has set a very high standard for

the role of the commissioner and it will be a real challenge for the next one. Let us wish her the very best on her retirement. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 200 – 3(2): Rankin Inlet Hockey Tournament

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon to Rankin Inlet and Whale Cove residents, and all of the people listening in.

Hockey is a very popular sport in Rankin Inlet. This weekend up to yesterday, children of the age group 9 and 10 played in a hockey tournament. There were eight teams: Repulse Bay and Chesterfield sent one team each, two teams from Rankin Inlet, Kangiqliniq Penguins and Kangiqliniq Stars, and also hockey players from Coral Harbour, Baker Lake, Gjoa Haven, and Iqaluit participated in the games.

Although the hockey players were small, the tournament drew huge crowds. Iqaluit came in third, while Kangiqliniq Stars came in second. The team from Arviat placed first. I would like to say that I'm very proud of them and their accomplishment. I want to thank all of the people who were involved in organizing these games and the sponsors of the hockey tournament, Mr. Speaker. Thank you and I'm very proud of the young hockey teams who played.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 201 – 3(2):
Territorial Hip Hop Leadership
Summit**

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to bring to the attention of the House the first territorial-wide Youth Leadership Hip Hop Summit being held in Clyde River from March 23 to 27. The Ilisaqsivik Society and the community of Clyde River are hosting the event, but the program has commitment and support from all across Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, at the beginning of our sitting, we saw the wonderful leadership skills demonstrated by the Canadian Cadet Organization as the 795 Iqaluit Squadron paged for us in the House.

The hip hop movement in Nunavut is another example of youth engagement that provides leadership opportunities for young people. This initiative is a territorial, five-day, intensive program where 36 participants from 13 communities across Nunavut learn to dance while also discovering themselves and their own culture.

Mr. Speaker, this does not include the hundreds of volunteers, parents, and community support workers in community hip hop movements who support local community-based hip hop crews. The youth participating in this workshop were selected by their peers for leadership skills shown in the community.

Mr. Speaker, I have been told there were more names put forward than the budget could accommodate. The selection process was intense and very competitive. It would have been nice to have everyone participate, but again, the reality of our transportation situation in Nunavut does not allow it.

Mr. Speaker, the idea of the summit is to have our youth leaders go back to their community to help develop more leadership skills. The physical and mental health of our young people is extremely important. This is especially true in Nunavut, where almost 11,600 residents are 16 years of age or younger. Participation in sport and other physical activities is a major contributing factor to the physical and mental health of young Nunavummiut.

Mr. Speaker, I've had the pleasure of helping to organize regional hip hop workshops and have been engaged in the development of this territorial-wide summit. I would like to recognize the youth from my communities who are participating in this summit. They are: Toby Tatatuapik, Robert Barnabas, Alisha Shooyook, Gideon Allurut from Arctic Bay; and Arqnarulunnguaq Audlaluk, Saalia Pijamini, and Michael Mucpa from Grise Fiord.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to conclude by quoting a portion of *Tamapta* that seems appropriate. "We all have a role to play in being active, healthy and happy." These youth definitely are taking this to heart.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in wishing these fine young leaders and all participants in the summit all the

best in their leadership workshop this week. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 202 – 3(2):
Congratulations to Kananginak
Pootoogook**

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to congratulate Kananginak Pootoogook of Cape Dorset. He will be receiving an award for his accomplishments in the arts this Friday at the 2010 National Aboriginal Achievement Awards in Regina.

Pootoogook is a respected elder and community leader of Cape Dorset and he is a member of the Royal Canadian Academy of the Arts. He is one of the founding members of Cape Dorset's Kinngait Studios. He was there when the studio first opened in 1959 under the name of West Baffin Eskimo Co-operative. He is well known for his prints of birds and other northern wildlife. He is also an accomplished carver.

Pootoogook's art is on display in various collections throughout Canada, such as the National Gallery of Canada in Ottawa, the Winnipeg Art Gallery, and the Art Gallery of Ontario in Toronto.

I ask all members to join me in congratulating Kananginak Pootoogook on his lifetime of accomplishments in the arts, his contribution to the community of Cape Dorset, and his

Aboriginal Achievement Award. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 203 – 3(2): Jean
Kusugak Moves to Igloolik**

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today with a certain amount of regret to talk about someone of Rankin Inlet. I would like to recognize an individual who has worked tirelessly for Rankin Inlet. Mr. Speaker, Ms. Jean Kusugak will be moving from Rankin Inlet.

I have known Jean for a very long time. She served as an interpreter during the Northwest Territories days and has worked in both territorial governments of Nunavut and Northwest Territories. She is an excellent worker who is always willing to help. Not only that, I know that she works very hard as a mother.

There was a phone-in radio show in Rankin Inlet yesterday morning dedicated to her. All day, people phoned in to express their sense of loss that one of the friendliest people in Rankin Inlet would be moving away. I would like the people of Baffin Island to know that a good friend to have will be moving to Igloolik. She is arriving here today in Iqaluit on her way to Igloolik. We are saddened that we are losing her, but we know that her amenable manner will be welcomed anywhere.

I urge you to please join me in recognizing Jean Kusugak. She is the sister of my colleague. Thank you.

>>Applause

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

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Mr. Ningeongan (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize Elizabeth Ningeongan, who I have been married to for a little over 40 years. Please welcome her to the Gallery. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. Welcome to the Gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. (interpretation ends) Item 6. Oral Questions. Item 7. No? Mr. Elliott.

>>Laughter

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 328 – 3(2): Community Adaptation Plans

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Environment, the Hon. Dan Shewchuk.

Mr. Speaker, in his statement to the House of last Friday, the minister spoke of the *Atuliqtuq* Nunavut Climate Change Partnership Project. He spoke of

the development of community adaptation plans that are based on *Inuit Qaujimaqatuqangit* and local and scientific knowledge for five pilot communities: Arviat, Whale Cove, Cambridge Bay, Kugluktuk, and Iqaluit.

Can the minister elaborate on the contents of these community adaptation plans and indicate when they are anticipated to be finalized? Thank you.

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

Hon. Dan Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the member for that question. Yes, I have met with this group. They're working on the plans with all of these communities.

I do not know the final stages that they are in and when these plans are to be implemented, but I can tell you that all of the communities are very heavily involved in the consultation with these plans. From my understanding, the consultation is going very well. The community is being included in these plans coming up. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for that answer. In his statement, the minister indicated that the climate change partnership project has been undertaken with the federal government. Can the minister indicate how these five specific communities were selected to take part in the project? Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott.
Minister Shewchuk

Hon. Dan Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As far as the selection criteria are concerned in the selection of these communities, I am not aware of the criteria that were used, but I can get back to the minister with that.

However, I do know that the plan is once these communities are finished with their plans, the intent of the plan is to have communication and adaptation plans for all communities in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for that answer. That was going to be my next question.

None of the communities in the High Arctic were chosen to participate in this year's program. As we are all aware, the prospect of global warming and the opening of the Northwest Passage may have great impact on the High Arctic. Could the minister commit to letting me know when we will be able to apply to take part in this program? Thank you.

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

Hon. Dan Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will commit to letting the member know what the plans are for the High Arctic communities. As I stated before, the plan is to have all communities in Nunavut consulted with. So I will give him the best schedule that I can provide to him. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A recent news release issued by our Member of Parliament indicated that \$1.66 million is being spent on these projects and that a number of jobs will be created. Can the minister indicate how much of this funding is going to create jobs for our residents and how much of it will be used to pay southern contractors and consultants? Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Dan Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do not have that information in front of me, but I will get the information and provide it to the member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 329 – 3(2): Meeting with Repulse Bay Mayor and Council

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I received a call earlier from his constituency assistant informing me that our colleague from Akulliq cannot be here to attend today. He also told me of a meeting that the Mayor of Repulse had with the Minister of Transportation.

The airport terminal in the community has not been renovated for quite some time and is now too small. Furthermore, air traffic into the community is expected to rise.

At the mayor's meeting with the minister last month, the minister promised to visit the community this April. Can the minister say exactly on what date he will be visiting Repulse Bay? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. I will confirm that I did meet with the Mayor of Repulse Bay. There were several items that were brought up and of course, one of them was the airport terminal. The indication was that it is way too small and it is old.

I did indicate to the mayor and the MLA of Akulliq that once I get an opportunity, I will be going over to visit that community. But in the meantime, one of my staff members is going over there to do some other pertinent work there and also check out the technical information about the air terminal building. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I didn't get a response to my question. We are not scheduled for sitting in April. My question is if the minister could visit Repulse Bay in April, it would be appreciated. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Depending on scheduling,

scheduling changes from time to time, and once there is an opportunity within the scheduling, I had planned on visiting the community. Whether it's in April or June, that is yet to be determined and confirmed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 330 – 3(2): Status of Kimmirut Runway Upgrades

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also have a question for the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation.

In regard to the runway in Kimmirut, there was \$800,000 allotted in the capital estimates for 2010-11 for the rehabilitation of the runway and apron surfaces. I was just wondering what the status is on that project. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. The status is still the same. I haven't had the opportunity to review what has been changed there, but I believe it is still the same. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In regard to the air terminal building, of course, in Kimmirut and the runway

being too short, is the minister going to be looking at doing a feasibility study in either extending the runway or looking at an alternative site? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't have that information right in front of me, but I will check with staff and get back with relevant information. I don't want to say something that may not be accurate, so I do want to get the accurate information and get back with that information to the hon. member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 331 – 3(2): Support for Nunavut Nurses

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Health and Social Services.

Last June, the Minister of Health and Social Services informed the Members of the Standing Committee on Social Wellness that of the 18 graduates of the Nunavut Nursing program, nine graduates were working as nurses for the Government of Nunavut.

Can the minister clearly describe what steps will be taken to ensure that graduates of the Nunavut Arctic College Nursing Program find employment in the Government of Nunavut upon graduation? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also want to thank my colleague for asking that question. To increase the number of Nunavut nurses is a very important priority. It is part of our long-term retention and recruitment strategy. We will stick to this strategy because we want more nurses who are Nunavummiut employed in our territory.

I'm not exactly sure where we are at this point in terms of employment figures, but at the time when we were before the standing committee, there were 16 students in the program, though I'm not sure exactly if all 16 of them have since graduated given that some may have dropped out for various reasons.

We want to see more of those who are taking either the three or four-year program successfully graduate so that we may increase the number of Nunavut nurses employed in our territory. Thank you.

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

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is not cheap to see students through graduation and these costs, in most cases, are incurred by the government. The Akitsiraq Law Program was very successful in that the law students who graduated stayed in the territory to work after graduation.

When the minister appeared before the standing committee, I urged him to make sure that all graduates of the nursing program find employment upon completion of their training. Will the minister give us an update on the status of his commitments since and tell us how he will ensure that Nunavut nurses stay in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My department can say with certainty that at this point in time, we don't have enough aboriginal nurses working in our territory. However, we must also realize that it was only 50 years that the ship, C.D. Howe, used to come up to provide basic medical services to Inuit and that people were relocated to places like Iqaluit because there were no medical facilities in the smaller communities in 1959.

Up until the creation of Nunavut in 1999, we didn't even have regional hospitals other than in Iqaluit. We have now constructed three hospitals in Cambridge Bay, Rankin Inlet, and Iqaluit. We look forward to the day when all Nunavut patients can be treated in our territory rather than being sent down south for treatment. It is my hope that the situation will get better soon as air services improve.

As to the status of the student nurses, they have yet to complete their program. However, regarding the government's current policy, we will have to make changes there so that nurses who graduate have every opportunity to secure employment up here. I will

inform the House when we start the policy review. Thank you.

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

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We will monitor the progress closely.

It's obvious that even though the new nursing graduates can find employment here, there is a clear need for additional policy support and mentorship programs to assist these new nurses as they get into the nursing profession.

What additional support will be offered in the future so that these graduates no longer have to give up and quit their jobs? Their duties don't give them a lot of choices. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want everyone to know that we fully support our nursing students.

\$100,000 has been set aside for them in our department's budget for training, for financial and administrative support, as well as for their living expenses. This program is ongoing and will continue. We gladly welcome each successful graduate to our department. We will continue to work with them to ensure that they have a safe and friendly work environment.

We are always open to suggestions for improvements like cultivating potential student nurses at the high school level.

The Nursing Program has high academic standards. Unfortunately, students are coming in requiring academic upgrading before they can enter these types of programs. We will be working together with the Department of Education to do something about this. Thank you.

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

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister. Union representatives for nurses have raised the issue of the need for creating a new bargaining unit or a local union for nurses in Nunavut. Can the minister update this House on what has been done to support such a move to create a new bargaining unit? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In my estimation, we have made improvements. Since the recruitment and retention strategy has been implemented, all the nurses-in-charge positions in every health centre have been filled. Also, there have been improvements made in the housing benefit for employees. These are huge improvements, but we can say that there is always room for improvement.

I know that the nurses have very good union representation and I'm sure my colleague will be working with them. We are open to suggestions on improving the system not only through union negotiations but through other means as well. Thank you.

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

Question 332 – 3(2): Resident Medical Doctor for High Arctic

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Health and Social Services.

I have been asking for and keep expecting to see a replacement for the doctor who left Pond Inlet a while ago. A little over two years have passed since that doctor was transferred and yet, we have not seen a replacement for her.

I was reviewing your funding allocations in this year's appropriations, but I did not see any funds to get a replacement of that position in our community of Pond Inlet. My question to the minister is: has the doctor's position for the High Arctic region been cut? Thank you.

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

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can understand where the member is coming from. Unfortunately, my deputy minister gave me a briefing that the position was transferred to Iqaluit. This position is currently situated in Iqaluit.

However, in my discussions with the deputy minister, we noted that we will keep the matter open for reconsideration because we want to continue this service for the North Baffin region and in particular, the High Arctic communities.

This issue is still under consideration at this time. We need to consider how to move forward on this since your community is not the only one impacted by this decision. There are three other communities in the High Arctic that needs this service.

Due to these factors, we are still reviewing the situation to see how we can best resolve this issue, but at this time, I cannot state with certainty when or if this position would be reinstated. Thank you.

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

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are five High Arctic communities, Mr. Speaker.

It is unfortunate that the hamlets were never informed that this position had already been transferred. I'm sure that there were compelling reasons for the doctor's position to be transferred, but I know she personally did not want to leave. Her ultimate decision was that she wanted to be closer to her family, so her position was transferred. Nevertheless, we were led to believe that she would be replaced right away. Why did this not happen?

If we look to the other regions of Nunavut, such as Kivalliq and the Kitikmeot, these two regions have hospitals serving their regions. In the High Arctic, there are five communities with comparable population of both the Kivalliq and Kitikmeot combined. This doctor's position served five communities: Igloolik, Clyde River, Pond Inlet, Arctic Bay, Resolute Bay,

and Grise Fiord. These communities comprise the High Arctic region.

It is an extremely expensive proposition to send patients out to Iqaluit just to see a doctor, but there is currently no other alternative. The prohibitive cost of medical travel was one of the reasons why this position was originally created. I would like the minister commit to reinstating the doctor's position for the High Arctic as soon as humanly possible. Thank you.

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

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can tell the member that we will do our best to try and reinstate that position. As stated earlier, we are still reviewing the position that was transferred to Iqaluit and how best to serve the more remote parts of the Baffin region. The doctor was in your community for quite a number of years and my hope is that we will be able to find such a replacement for her.

I want to announce that I will be touring some of the northern communities where this issue will definitely be raised again. I commit to informing the member when we have finalized the schedule for our tour. The deputy minister and I have discussed that we have to visit the High Arctic communities. Thank you.

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

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can assure the minister that our communities will be

hospitable and welcoming. We look forward to his visit to our region and our community leaders will definitely want to have a meeting regarding this matter.

We want to keep the communities informed about any changes regarding nurses that are stationed in the communities. Unfortunately, most of them do not have the training of physicians and doctors, especially in diagnostics. As it now stands, medical issues that ought to have been diagnosed much earlier, such as diabetes, cancer, high blood pressure, etcetera, are missed because only doctors are qualified to make such diagnoses. Some patients are misdiagnosed and neglected unnecessarily, sometimes only seeing a doctor when it is too late to save the patient.

The High Arctic communities want a doctor closer at hand so that he/she can make regular community visits and be able to refer patients for further diagnoses or treatment. I urge the minister to consider this matter properly. When he comes to visit our communities, will the minister be open to discuss this meaningfully with the residents? If he agrees with their needs, will he then commit to an immediate reinstatement as the matter warrants it? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you. I also thank my colleague. I cannot give an affirmative answer right this minute, but I realize where you're coming from.

There are 11 medical staff in the Qikiqtaaluk region currently on contract. We have been told by our physicians that this helps shorten waiting times for appointments. We are also looking into using the telehealth system to do diagnoses and such.

I will make sure that I get properly briefed on the issues before I visit the High Arctic communities. I will keep the MLA for Quttiktuq informed of the dates as they are established. We will take note of your questions and keep them in mind. Thank you.

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

Question 333 – 3(2): High Arctic Community Consultations

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Community and Government Services, the Hon. Lorne Kusugak.

Mr. Speaker, I had the privilege of getting home to my constituency over the weekend. It was a short visit but afforded me the time to be given an update by many of my constituents.

Mr. Speaker, in regard to the Nunavut Community Infrastructure Sustainability Plan that the minister's department is responsible for, I was shocked to find out that in my communities of Grise Fiord, Resolute Bay, and Arctic Bay, the consultants only spent one day in each community doing their workshop. In Committee of the Whole, when asking questions to the minister about this, he said that the consultants would spend

adequate time in the communities, whether it is two weeks, one week, or three days.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister assure the House today that the consultants have spent enough time in all communities to document the current infrastructure in every community and assess the needs of every community? Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister of Community and Government Services, Hon. Lorne Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleague for the question. The consultants have assured us that they would be spending all of the time required in the communities in order to be able to do a full assessment of the communities' needs. As I told my colleague in the Committee of the Whole, they were going to do that and to the best of my understanding, that that is what they're doing. I can only assure him that much. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for the assurance. My next question, Mr. Speaker, is if he could explain a little bit more in detail what the exact purpose of these plans are for. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the member for that question. It is exactly the same question he asked when we were in COW. I thought at the time that we gave him pretty detailed information

of what they were. It's exactly what it outlines, it's to get as much information in the community as we can get so that we could find out what the community has, what the community's needs are, and so on.

I don't know exactly how much more detail he wants than the details we have given him in COW and in other question periods. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that answer because that's exactly what I want to hear. I know my communities are excited about getting these documents to be able to find out and I'm curious too. With having three communities, it is hard to know what GN assets are in the communities, knowing what hamlet assets are in the communities, what mobile equipment is there, and stuff like that. So to have a document in my hand to be able to read, understand, and learn what my community have, that is what I'm looking for.

With that being said, could the minister commit to sending me an electronic copy of the Nunavut Community Infrastructure Sustainability Plan for each of my three communities of Grise Fiord, Resolute Bay, and Arctic Bay as soon as it is finished? Thank you.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you. I am glad my colleague is excited. You can imagine the kind of excitement we have if the departments and the government

needs that information. So I'm glad he's excited because I am quite excited about it also and so are many of the people in our departments and throughout the Government of Nunavut.

It's going to take some time, of course, to get all of the documents done; there are many communities to go through. At such time when the document is complete and accessible, I'm sure we will make it available to those that need the information that is within the document or documents that will be available once this whole process is done. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for that answer. I imagine the rest of my colleagues are as excited as I am.

My last question is: will the minister commit to tabling all of the Nunavut community infrastructure sustainability plans on the first day of June when we sit? Thank you.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: No, I can't commit to that, Mr. Speaker. His colleagues do look a lot more excited than he is though about the documents which are forthcoming. But no, I can't commit to something like that, Mr. Speaker. I don't think we can commit to that kind of deadline only to be come back at on June 1 saying, "Where's the stuff?" So no, I can't commit to that right now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 334 – 3(2): Pedestrian Bridge for Iqaluit

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

On February 24, the minister took part in an announcement that was made regarding access road and bridge projects that will be undertaken in Nunavut. I was glad to hear that Gjoa Haven, Cambridge Bay, Arviat, Coral Harbour, and Resolute Bay will have bridges built.

The minister is aware that Iqaluit has been asking for the construction of a bridge for a while now. Why wasn't my community included in that federal program? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. I can't recall that far back, but I will double-check. I believe that Iqaluit is in the process of getting a bridge through the parks program.

As you know, Economic Development and Transportation has many priorities. We're working on a number of different infrastructure needs and a bridge is further down the list of priorities, but I do believe that there is a bridge that has been considered through the Department

of Environment's operations on parks.
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With respect to the issues identified by the minister, he speaks of the benefits for the users, such as traditional activities, including harvesting and berry picking trips.

The long-term residents of Iqaluit have waited a long time for a bridge over the Sylvia Grinnell River so that they can access other areas of their traditional land use areas, either for hunting or berry picking purposes on the other side of the river. They are still waiting today for the bridge to be built. With respect to the bridge that the minister referred to, hunters will not be able to utilize that bridge.

How will Iqaluit residents be included in the discussions on construction of bridges when his department identifies bridges in Nunavut the next time? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. The majority of priorities that were identified for the Department of Economic Development and Transportation weren't necessarily a bridge for Iqaluit. I know that was discussed in the past, but my understanding and in the past, it was about the bridge that the Department of Environment was going to be putting in for the parks program.

I believe that there were adjustments and modifications made to the bridge where ATVs can pass through there, but I don't have that information. At this time, the department hasn't identified Iqaluit as a priority for building a bridge. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I recall that we were told that we should try and build a bridge in a different location. I assumed that once another location had been identified, a bridge was going to be built in Iqaluit. The original residents of Iqaluit are just left to eye the other communities with envy. I would like to ask the minister when they are going to put the bridge in the capital plans. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again I've got to say that there are a lot of infrastructure priorities that the department deals with. I indicated last year that there may be a possibility of putting that into the system where we can look at it. I believe that one of the issues that were brought up was a different location, but we haven't followed up with that and the reason being that there are so many infrastructure priorities.

I believe that there are some other possible modifications to the bridge that was approved for the Sylvia Grinnell River, but prioritizing and selecting a location for a different bridge altogether

hasn't been done yet. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Do I hear correctly that the bridge that was to be built by Environment Canada has been approved so that hunters will be able use that bridge? Did I hear that correctly? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can't say that for a fact, but I understand that there is some safety features put in there so ATVs can actually go across for emergency situations, but I'm not sure about the full extent of the usage. I'll have to get back to the member on that once I get all of the details. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 335 – 3(2): RFP Process for NHC Initiatives

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Housing and it's going back to that he had always mentioned that there was an RFP process done for the SIP panels, etcetera. My first question is that I would like to know what papers it was advertised in. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Housing Corporation, Hon. Hunter Tootoo.

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm not exactly sure, but I would assume, for sure, that it would have been advertised in all of the local northern papers and quite possibly, it might have been advertised in some local southern newspapers as well. I know for sure that it would have been advertised in the northern papers, but I'm not sure if it was actually advertised in the southern papers or not. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to know how many RFPs were sent directly to suppliers on the initiative of the Housing Corporation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know that the corporation received 12 proposals from different proponents. I'm not sure if they gave out more packages and that or not, but I know that there were at least 12 proposals received from different proponents on that specific RFP. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't think he answered my question. I wanted to know how many were sent out directly to suppliers as an initiative from the Housing Corporation, apart from

those that were advertised in the paper.
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As far as I'm aware, the process is if an RFP is put out there and there's a request for proposals, then whoever is requesting it will get a copy of the proposal that has been put forward. As I indicated, I don't know how many were sent out, but I know that 12 were received. If the member wishes, I will find out how many were actually sent out versus how many were received. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I would like to know how many responses you received from the ads that were in the paper and how many responses you received from the direct invitation from the Housing Corporation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Tootoo.

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I had indicated, there was an RFP that was put out and I believe it was put out in June of 2009. It advertised an RFP for SIP panel, or structural insulated panel, constructed single family dwelling units.

As I had indicated, I know that there were 12 proposals received. I will confirm with my staff at the corporation how many actual proposals were sent out if it is different than the 12 that were received. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. I would like to inform the members that I have no more names on my list. I said I have no more names, Mr. Elliott.

>> *Laughter*

Mr. Elliott.

Question 336 – 3(2): Completion of Community Consultations

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wanted to go back to my line of questioning before to the Minister of Community Services... Community and Government... CGS. It feels like Friday, Mr. Speaker. I just want to add that I hope that the minister appreciates my line of questioning.

The government and the Premier are pushing for self-reliance. To me, these plans are going to be instrumental in having our communities come to this. I want my communities to have all of the tools and resources possible to get what is needed. I feel that it is my role to work towards using these plans to leverage the funding needed for infrastructure needs in my communities. That's why I keep asking these questions, Mr. Speaker. I can appreciate why the minister did not want to commit. He knows I would stay on top of it and be asking him on the first day if they weren't.

At the same time, I'm a little confused because originally, they were supposed to be done on March 31. What my question is a consultant was told after April 1, 2009 and contracted to do this for the year of 2009-2010. The work gets done as of March 31, 2010 and payment is received. You would think that the documentation and everything would be

done by March 31, 2010. Is this not the case in this situation? Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister of Community and Government Services, Hon. Lorne Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I really appreciate the line of questioning. I think we all have the best interests of Nunavummiut in mind. I think the whole idea behind this work that is being done is so that we, as a government, can best prepare and deal with the needs of every community in Nunavut. I'm hoping that this work that is being done is going to be a benefit to everybody and I hope this isn't one that will collect dust at the end of the day.

But to commit to tabling it in June is something that I just can't do because if it's not ready, then I will have failed in that commitment. It may very well be ready, but if it's not ready at that time, then I will not have fulfilled my commitment. So because of that, I can't commit to that deadline. I will assure him that when it is available for discussion or to be seen, when the document or documents, whatever they may turn out to be, are ready, then they will be. I just can't make that commitment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Okay, then again, I guess the question is getting towards: in terms of the consultant that was contracted to do it, have they asked for an extension to provide the services to you then? I'm sure there was a contractual obligation to

get the work done in a certain time period. Thank you.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Not that I'm aware of, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 337 – 3(2): Rent Control Legislation

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I'm having a good day so far. I would like to ask the Minister for Housing.

At this point, I understand we are challenged in a lot of ways in dealing with housing issues and one of them is public housing. At the same time, we're trying to facilitate ways to get more opportunities for Nunavut residents. One area that has been raised to me from fellow Nunavummiut is that perhaps we could look at rent control legislation to try and regulate rents so that we can encourage more tenants to move to private housing, for example.

Can the minister see if he can examine rent control legislation for Nunavut? (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think I have heard that

question before. In the previous Assembly, I think it came from me.

>>*Laughter*

Mr. Speaker, I'm not sure if I'm the appropriate minister to look at that or whether it would be the Minister of Justice or not, but I will commit to the member to sit down with my colleague, the Minister of Justice, and determine if this is something that we would look at or not.

Mr. Speaker, I know, as far as the Housing Corporation is concerned right now, we just deal with public housing and the rent control that the member is talking about is more of a private sector, non-government thing that we don't have control over.

Hopefully that satisfies the member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 338 – 3(2): RFP for SIP Panels

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the housing minister.

I'm going to go back to the RFP that was put out for these SIP panels. I would like to know what the criteria were for it. Was it listed as an RFP document and if it was, was it altered? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am very happy that the member asked me another question on this because after further reviewing the information, I do have the number of proposals that were sent out. There were 31 proposals that were requested by the different proponents. However, only 12 were received.

Mr. Speaker, my understanding of the process is it was in a request for proposals that was sent out. I don't know if there were any amendments made to that, but if there were any amendments made to that proposal, they would have been sent out. According to the process, it would have been sent out to all of the people who requested proposals so that they're all looking at the same thing. It would have been done in a timely way to make sure that they all could take any possible changes, if there were any, into consideration before submitting their proposal. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My next question is: was the lowest bidder accepted on the proposal? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Tootoo.

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't know what the numbers were from all of the 12 that were received, but a request for proposals, even with a tender, doesn't necessarily mean and I think it says in the bottom of it that the lowest is not necessarily received.

Mr. Speaker, I know that this is something that the corporation wanted to make sure was done properly. So as a result, after receiving the 12 proposals, they were reviewed by our design team and they had narrowed it down from the 12 to five proposals. Once they had narrowed it down to the five proposals, I believe in July of 2009, the team actually went to each of the sites of those five proponents to evaluate the capacity of each one in order to be able to deliver the product that was being requested. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My issue here is if the lowest tender was not accepted, was Cabinet involved in making the decision? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The member said the lowest tender. I just want to clarify that it wasn't a tender; they were proposals that were received. When they did the site visit, if they went or looked at the lowest one thoroughly, they could have said that they had no possibility of being able to deliver the product that was being requested.

The design team, after evaluating all of the proposals, not looking at the price, was more looking at the product that was being requested, being the structural insulated panel single family dwelling units, and which proposal had the best opportunity to be able to provide the best product. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So I'm assuming by what the minister is saying that all of the 12 that had put in proposals had the same structure that they were bidding on. It was the same panels, there weren't different panels, and it was all the same type that had a fair assessment as to what they were looking at. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can't speak to what each of those proposals contained. However, Mr. Speaker, what I can speak to is the fact that what the proposal that was put out specified is what we were looking for.

Some of those proposals may have come back not complying with what the corporation was looking for in their design, so I can't speak to what each of the proposals contained. Quite possibly, it could have been some proponents or some of the proposals that said, "Well, instead of this product and instead of making it like this, maybe we can try something else like this." I don't have that information. I don't know. I didn't go through each of those proposals myself.

But I can say, Mr. Speaker, that the design team thoroughly evaluated all 12 proposals that were received, narrowed it down to five, and then went forward from there in picking what they felt was the best proposal to provide the product that was requested. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 339 – 3(2): Grise Fiord Power Plant

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I hope the minister hasn't gotten too comfortable in his chair. My question is for the Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation, the Hon. Hunter Tootoo.

I have questions regarding the power plant in Grise Fiord. Last spring, with the annual runoff of melting snow, it saw water flow through the power plant. I am wondering if his department is aware of this situation. Thank you.

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

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the member for raising that question. Mr. Speaker, the corporation is aware of that situation and in fact, Mr. Speaker, when I had the pleasure of attending the Baffin mayors' meeting here in Iqaluit, the mayor from his community raised that exact same issue to find out if we were aware of it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My next question is: has anything been initiated to rectify this situation? Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Tootoo.

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to inform the member, as I informed the mayor at the time too, that there have been steps taken to hopefully eliminate that problem.

However, given the fact of the actual location of the plant right in the middle of a rut in the middle of town, if you want to call it that, steps have been taken to try and eliminate that from happening again on a temporary basis. In the future when it comes time for looking at a replacement plant for that community, they will be looking at an alternate location so that we won't run into that problem. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 340 – 3(2): \$5 Million Funding for New Generators

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Qulliq Energy.

When that \$5 million was announced for replacing generators in Nunavut to put more fuel efficient generators in, how did the corporation come up with which communities they were going to replace those units in? Thank you.

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

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my understanding that in that process, our engineering team, through the evaluations that were done on the existing equipment that is out

there in the communities, determined that those were the priorities. They brought those forward to the board of directors and they would have been approved by the board of directors.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I can say that I think the issue of some of these plants in different communities requiring upgrade and maintenance is something that may not have been looked as closely in the past as it is now. The corporation is looking at focusing on what its core business is and that is keeping the lights on in the communities.

So given that mentality, they reviewed the entire infrastructure that it has in the communities, prioritized them, and brought the list to the board of directors, and that is how it would have been chosen. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My next question would be I think there were eight communities that are receiving new generator units. Are those eight communities the ones that have the oldest generator units in the system? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Tootoo.

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't know if it's the oldest. In some cases, it's a capacity issue and in some cases, there could be some serious problems or some potential serious problems in the community.

As far as the actual age categorizing of all of the plants, I don't have that information, but if the member likes, I

could get that to him if he wishes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Thank you, Mr. Schell. Oral Questions. 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. Peter Taptuna.

Item 13: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 147 – 3(2): NNI Contracting Appeals Board Annual Report 2008-2009

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table the following document: NNI Contracting Appeals Board Annual Report 2008-2009. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Tabled Document 148 – 3(2): Presentation by the Department of National Defence on the Nanisivik Naval Facility Project

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table a copy of a presentation that was given last month by officials from the Department of National Defence concerning the proposed Nanisivik Naval Facility Project. This presentation was prepared for special meetings held with the Hamlet Council of Arctic Bay, Government of Nunavut officials, and Inuit organizations. Included with it is the Inuit Participation and Engagement Plan from Worley

Parsons Westmar, the architectural and engineering consulting firm hired to engineer the facility.

I encourage all members to review the material with care. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott.
Tabling of Documents. Mr. Elliott.

Tabled Document 149 – 3(2): Child and Youth Advocate Chapter from the Canadian Paediatric Society’s “Are We Doing Enough?” Status Report

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table a chapter of the Canadian Paediatric Society’s status report on Canadian public policy and child and youth health. The chapter addresses child and youth advocate initiatives across Canadian jurisdictions.

Mr. Speaker, I would note that in answer to the underlying question “Are we doing enough?” it is quite clear that Nunavut, the Northwest Territories, and PEI have all demonstrated a poor record to date in addressing the need to establish an independent child and youth advocate. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott.
Tabling of Documents. Hon. Keith Peterson.

Tabled Document 150 – 3(2): Community Justice Committee & Family Abuse Intervention Act – Year-End Report 2008-09

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table the following document: Community Justice

Committee and *Family Abuse Intervention Act* – Year-End Report 2008-09. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Tabling of Documents. Hon. Eva Aariak.

Tabled Document 151 – 3(2): GN’s Response to the Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts’ Report on the Review of the Annual Report of the Information and Privacy Commissioner of Nunavut

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table the following document: Report on the Review of the Annual Report of the Information and Privacy Commissioner of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Tabled Document 152 – 3(2): Speaker’s List of Outstanding Statutory Tabling Requirements

Thank you, Members. I wish to table today a list of outstanding statutory tabling requirements. This list is current as of the end of the March 19, 2010 sitting of the Legislative Assembly. Thank you.

Tabling of Documents. Item 14. Notices of Motions. Mr. Elliott.

Item 14: Notices of Motions

Motion 019 – 3(2): Referral of Tabled Documents 13 – 3(2), 66 – 3(2), 99 – 3(2), and 100 – 3(2) to Committee of the Whole – Notice

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Tuesday, June 1, 2010, I will move the following motion:

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the Hon. Member for South Baffin, that Tabled Document 13 – 3(2): *Return to Written Question 2 – 3(1)*; Tabled Document 66 – 3(2): *2008-2009 Lease Activity Report*; Tabled Document 99 – 3(2): *Contract Activity Report 2008-09*; and Tabled Document 100 – 3(2): *Procurement Activity Report 2008-09* be referred to the Committee of the Whole for concurrent consideration.

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

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Notices of Motions. Mr. Elliott.

Motion 020 – 3(2): Extended Adjournment – Notice

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Wednesday, March 24, 2010, I will move the following motion:

I MOVE, seconded by the Hon. Member for Amittuq, that notwithstanding Rule 4, that when the House concludes its present sitting in Iqaluit, it shall be adjourned until June 1, 2010.

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

Speaker: Thank you, Member. Notices of Motions. Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Motion 021 – 3(2): Amendment of the Terms of Reference of the Standing Committee of the Third Legislative Assembly of Nunavut – Notice

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Tuesday, June 1, 2010, I will move the following motion:

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the Hon. Member of Tununig, that the Terms of Reference of the Standing Committees of the Third Legislative Assembly of Nunavut be amended to provide the Standing Committee on Social Wellness with oversight responsibility for Nunavut Arctic College.

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

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

Item 16: Motions

Motion 017 – 3(2): Comprehensive Performance Audit of the Qulliq Energy Corporation

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

(interpretation ends) WHEREAS Members of the Legislative Assembly have raised serious concerns regarding

the financial, billing, contracting, procurement, leasing, and human resources management practices of the Qulliq Energy Corporation;

AND WHEREAS the Qulliq Energy Corporation has not yet made available its annual business plans for the 2008-09, 2009-2010, or 2010-11 fiscal years;

AND WHEREAS chapter 6 of the Auditor General of Canada's 2004 report to the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut contained a number of observations and recommendations regarding the operations of the Qulliq Energy Corporation;

AND WHEREAS the extent to which the corporation has addressed these observations and recommendations is not clear;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the Hon. Member for Tununig, that the Legislative Assembly recommends that the Executive Council of Nunavut, pursuant to section 47 of the *Nunavut Act*, advise the Commissioner of Nunavut to request the Auditor General of Canada to undertake a comprehensive performance audit of the financial, billing, contracting, procurement, leasing, and human resources management practices of the Qulliq Energy Corporation and report therein to the Legislative Assembly as soon as practicable;

AND FURTHER I MOVE that the audit also examine the extent to which the Qulliq Energy Corporation has or has not addressed the recommendations contained in the 2004 Report of the Auditor General of Canada to the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut.

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I am very pleased to have the opportunity to speak to my motion today and I would like to thank my colleague from Tununig for having seconded it.

Mr. Speaker, I will use my time today to clearly outline for the House the reasons why this motion deserves unanimous support. I believe that all members will ultimately conclude that opposing the motion would not serve the public interest.

Mr. Speaker, as you are aware, Members of this House have raised serious concerns and questions regarding the operations of the Qulliq Energy Corporation. I will take a moment to cite these examples.

As a number of my colleagues have noted during our current sitting, annual reports on the contracting, procurement and leasing activities of our major Crown corporations, including the QEC, have not been tabled in this House in a timely manner. We have no idea how much they have been spending or what they have been spending it on.

Mr. Speaker, as of yesterday afternoon, the most recent business plan available for the corporation on their website was for 2007-08. As MLAs, we have not yet been provided with the corporation's business plans from 2008 to today. We have no idea what they are planning to do.

Earlier in the session, I raised serious questions concerning the corporation's human resources management practices. A number of these concerns have been brought to my attention by courageous Inuit employees of the corporation who were not afraid to speak out. We have no idea of how the corporation will address these issues beyond issuing nice, congratulatory statements in our Assembly.

We know that the corporation wants to build a new corporate office building here in Iqaluit, despite the fact that its headquarters are in Baker Lake.

We know that residential and business customers have raised concerns with their MLAs about the corporation's pattern of billing.

Mr. Speaker, as the QEC gets ready to bring forward its General Rate Application, now is the proper time to examine its actual operations.

Mr. Speaker, an important report was presented during this Assembly to our committee on oversight. My colleagues on the committee noted that the importance of periodically following up on audits should be conducted on the past so that we can rest assured that their operations are "sound and prudent," in my colleague's words.

As some of my colleagues will recall, chapter 6 of the Auditor General of Canada's report to our Assembly exposed a number of serious issues for the corporation. As it has been over half a decade since this report was considered, I am confident that we can and should look at their operations further.

Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased, pursuant to Rule 59, to give all my members the opportunity to demonstrate their commitment to accountability and sound, prudent financial management by calling on all members to support this motion. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. To the motion. Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also want to thank the mover and the seconder for the motion.

When I ran for office in my community, I expressed quality of service to enhance quality of life to my community as well as Nunavut. My mandate and directive is for my constituents. Many have come forward and have asked me to ask of real issues and matters that pertain to the issues of Qamani'tuarmit and it is my job to ensure that this also applies to all of Nunavut.

In my December Member's Statement before Christmas break, I welcomed all skills to Nunavut to enhance service delivery in all areas of Nunavut's professions. I expressed that it is a privilege to work and live in Nunavut and that I asked that all remember that there are protocols, etiquette, procedures, Code of Ethics, Code of Conduct, vision and mission statements in place to ensure service to clients directly and indirectly is of quality. I would stress that all departments, corporations, organizations, and businesses that the general public is aware of history, actions, and communication at community, regional, and territorial levels.

As public officials, it is our job to scrutinize, enquire, and also to contribute to resolving issues that may affect all Nunavummiut in all areas. This applies to all areas of administration practices, procurement of bills, employee travel and claims, hiring practices, retaining employees, staff housing, authorization and approval procedures. These are just some examples that I hope that we can resolve to best service the people of Nunavut and all of the clients directly and indirectly as well.

I do acknowledge the sincere hard work that all staff and management do in the departments, but collectively, we all must exercise transparency and accountability to ensure that we have best practices as a whole and collectively to practice accountability and to all constituents, communities, and Nunavummiut. I guess what we are being held accountable for by the general public is to ensure that we are, in turn, accountable and transparent as a government.

I do support all of the staff and members of the Qulliq Energy Corporation, but I also want to stress as well that this motion will best service Nunavummiut. With that in mind, it is up to us as public officials to enhance service of delivery and that also means becoming aware and educated in terms of what the issues are and where we can fix things.

Mr. Speaker, as a result, I fully support the intent and I'm in favour of the motion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. To the motion. Mr. Tootoo.

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's like a déjà vu day today. Mr. Speaker, I remember, I believe it was February 22, 2005, when I moved almost an identical motion over there calling on the Auditor General to do a comprehensive audit on the Qulliq Energy Corporation.

Mr. Speaker, at that time, the government of the day made comments like, "It's already being done right now through the normal course of the audit that get done annually by the Auditor General of Canada." The government of the day then said, "That's what's occurring. We don't need the motion. It's moot." The government of the day then also indicated that they believed, in their opinion, that the motion was more like window dressing.

Mr. Speaker, I think that when that motion was made on February 22, 2005, I want to make it clear that at that time, it was defeated by the government of the day. The regular members at the time supported the motion, but it was the government of the day that defeated that motion for an audit to happen.

Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased that the member has made that motion. I myself and I'm sure my colleagues will be supporting the motion.

Mr. Speaker, I know that since this government has been in place, the corporation has gone under a lot of changes. We've got a new president and CEO, as well as many other senior managers. Mr. Speaker, I look forward to the audit identifying some of the things that the corporation has done and I'll list a few of them.

Mr. Speaker, as a result of the last audit that the member talks about in 2004, something that's happened is there has been a comprehensive employee survey completed to get a clear understanding of the internal status of the corporation. The senior management was actually asking its staff to tell them what they thought of how things were going and welcomed that feedback from its employees.

There has been an implementation of a budgeting system that instils accountability and consistency; a complete analysis of old financial processes resulting in the redesigning of the processes used, all of the previously dormant diamond financial system, to produce meaningful and accurate financial reporting; the recruitment and selection of a high-level chief financial officer talent to lead the change and improvements within finance and to create a sustainable finance department; the realignment of the board of directors to include the expertise in financial management; and revenue accounting and billing are being completely restructured.

Mr. Speaker, also, there have been management and the HR department that designed and implemented a corporate performance management program that provides all employees at all levels their positional expectations and goals and holds each person accountable for achieving their expected results. Mr. Speaker, it's my understanding that this system is being looked at to be used by other entities within the GN.

Mr. Speaker, as I said, a lot of this hard work has not been easy for the corporation staff, but I have talked to

them and I'm sure they welcome this audit to be able to identify the successes that they have made and the strides that they have made to act on the way things were in the past and move forward.

I look at it and they look at it as if it will be a positive reinforcement for them, for the hard work that they have done and what they have been trying to do to improve things so that the corporations runs much more effectively and efficiently.

Mr. Speaker, it will also provide them with an opportunity, as any audit does, if there is anything else that they can do to try and improve things, they would look forward to that feedback coming back in the audit so that they can further improve the way that the corporation is going.

So, Mr. Speaker, with that, I would like to thank the mover and seconder for that, and hopefully everybody supports that motion this time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

An Hon. Member: Hear, hear!

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. To the motion. (interpretation) I have no more names on my list. Does the mover of the motion have any last reply? Mr. Okalik.

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I am very pleased that the minister is quite open to supporting this motion. If we recall, there had just been an audit in 2004. So a year later, another audit did not make a whole lot of sense at the time. I am very pleased that my

colleague is more than willing to support this motion.

Further, I had never seen an entity so far that hasn't tabled plans for the last three years now, so that's something that I think raises some question marks for everyone and red flags everyone that look, perhaps there has to be something taken to make sure that things are going okay when plans aren't being tabled in a timely matter.

So with that, I appreciate the support of all of my colleagues in this Assembly, and I look forward to getting the job done so that we can move on and find ways to improve all of our entities as a territory. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Okalik. The debate is now closed. We will now vote on the motion. All those in favour, please raise your hand. Thank you. All those opposed, raise your hand. There are none. All those abstaining. Thank you. Please note that the motion was carried unanimously.

>>Applause

(interpretation ends) Motions. Mr. Elliott.

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

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

Motion 019 – 3(2): Referral of Tabled Documents 13 – 3(2), 66 – 3(2), 99 – 3(2), and 100 – 3(2) to Committee of the Whole

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleagues.

WHEREAS the Government of Nunavut's most recent annual reports on its procurement, contracting and leasing activities have been tabled in the Legislative Assembly;

AND WHEREAS similar information concerning the Nunavut Housing Corporation's activities has also been tabled in the Legislative Assembly;

AND WHEREAS Members of the Legislative Assembly have raised a number of concerns and questions with respect to these activities;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the Hon. Member for South Baffin, that Tabled Document 13 – 3(2): *Return to Written Question 2 – 3(1)*; Tabled Document 66 – 3(2): *2008-2009 Lease Activity Report*; Tabled Document 99 – 3(2): *Contract Activity Report 2008-09*; and Tabled Document 100 – 3(2): *Procurement Activity Report 2008-09* be referred to the Committee of the Whole for concurrent consideration.

Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. The motion is in order. Question has been called. All those in favour, raise your hand. Opposed. The motion is carried.

Motions. Mr. Aupaluktuq.

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

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

Motion 021 – 3(2): Amendment of the Terms of Reference of the Standing Committee of the Third Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

WHEREAS the Terms of Reference of the Standing Committees of the Third Legislative Assembly were adopted by the House on January 26, 2009;

AND WHEREAS the Standing Committee on Social Wellness presently has oversight responsibility for the Department of Education and the Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts presently has oversight responsibility for Nunavut Arctic College;

AND WHEREAS it is desirable for both entities to fall under the oversight responsibilities of the same standing committee;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the Hon. Member for Tununiq, that the Terms of Reference of the Standing Committees of the Third Legislative Assembly of Nunavut be amended to provide the Standing Committee on Social Wellness with oversight

responsibility for Nunavut Arctic College.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. The motion is in order. Question has been called. All those in favour, raise your hand. One moment, please.

(interpretation) Thank you.

(interpretation ends) To the motion. Mr. Aupaluktuq.

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

Mr. Speaker, as I noted in my motion, the terms of reference for the standing committees of the Third Legislative Assembly were adopted by the House on January 26, 2009. Our committees have been in operation for just under 14 months and it is appropriate that we be prepared to make periodic adjustments to their structure and responsibilities.

As I noted in my motion, the Standing Committee on Social Wellness, which I have the honour of serving as Chair, presently has oversight responsibility for the Department of Education. However, a different committee has had oversight responsibility for Nunavut Arctic College. In discussions with my colleagues, we have concluded that it would be desirable for the same committee to have responsibility for both the Department of Education and Nunavut Arctic College.

As members are aware, Nunavut Arctic College's main estimates, capital estimates, and business plan are now considered separately from those of the Department of Education. Although different ministers are responsible for the college and the department and although the college's capital estimates are formally appropriated through those of the Department of Finance, the responsibilities of the Department of Education and Nunavut Arctic College are closely related.

Accordingly, the passage of this housekeeping motion will make the appropriate change to our committees' terms of reference. I am confident that both the department and the college will welcome this change given that it will help our members to strengthen their scrutiny of both the department and the college. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour, raise your hand. Opposed. The motion is carried.

Motions. Mr. Elliott.

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

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. The member is seeking unanimous consent to deal with his motion today. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Please proceed, Mr. Elliott.

Motion 020 – 3(2): Extended Adjournment

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Amittuq, that notwithstanding Rule 4, that when the House concludes its present sitting in Iqaluit, it shall be adjourned until June 1, 2010.

Further, that at any time prior to June 1, 2010, if the Speaker is satisfied, after consultation with the Executive Council and Members of the Legislative Assembly, that the public interest requires that the House should meet at an earlier time during adjournment, the Speaker may give notice and thereupon the House shall meet at the time stated in such notice and shall transact its business as if it had been duly adjourned to that time.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. The motion is in order. Question has been called. All those in favour, raise your hand. Opposed. The motion is carried.

Motions. Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Item 19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bills 14, 21, 22, 23, and 25, Tabled Documents 13 – 3(2), 66 – 3(2), 99 – 3(2), and 100 – 3(2) with Mr. Schell in the Chair.

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

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

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.

>> *House recessed at 15:31 and
Committee resumed at 16:01*

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

Chairman (Mr. Schell): I would like to call the committee meeting to order. In Committee of the Whole, we have the following items to deal with: Bill 14, Bill 21, Bill 22, Bill 23, and Bill 25, and Tabled Documents 13 – 3(2), 66 – 3(2), 99 – 3(2), and 100 – 3(2). What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Aupaluktuq.

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

Chairman: Are we in agreement that we continue with the main estimates for Culture, Language, Elders and Youth?

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Chairman: Minister Tapardjuk, do you have witnesses that you would like to bring to the table?

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Yes.

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

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Minister, for the record, please introduce your witnesses.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my left is the Acting Deputy Minister, Naullaq Arnaquq, and to my right is Doug Stenton, Acting Assistant Deputy Minister of CLEY, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: We're on F-6 right now. Are there any questions? Culture, Language, Elders and Youth. Branch Summary. Taiguusiliuqtiit. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$2,040,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: We will go to the next page. Branch Summary. Culture, Language, Elders and Youth. Culture and Heritage. Are there any questions?

An Hon. Member: Under F-7?

Chairman: Yes, F-7. Culture and Heritage. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. During my general opening comments, I alluded to Inuit societal values and our cultural identity as items that can only be protected by Inuit. In my opinion, only Inuit can

present these values and identity. Since these issues were originally voiced by Inuit approximately 40 years ago, it is finally becoming a reality. However, the reality still is that the majority of these items are largely undocumented and unwritten.

Firstly, I wish to ask this: do you work on these issues as part of the development of curriculum within the Nunavut Arctic College literature development system? I would like to cite this example. Quite a number of individuals have had their profiles written up, perhaps five of us. These profiles were written up by Mr. Dent, including his father who assisted him. He informed me that these profiles are just sitting on a shelf at Arctic College and have never been distributed at all since there is no money to publish and disseminate these profiles.

Therefore, I would like to ask a question with regard to the community libraries. Has there been any attempt to train Inuit librarians in the communities? I would like to see them taught about Inuit history and historical books containing references to Inuit, Inuit culture and traditions written by non-Inuit authors. In particular, I would want them to search for books that speak about Inuit culture, language, or traditions.

There is a weekly article in the *Nunatsiaq News* written by Kenn Harper, *Taissumani*, that we can peruse. It talks about Inuit historical figures as well as Inuit assistants who were instrumental to the early arctic explorers. None of these articles are even available in our communities, specifically the ones referencing Inuit.

I would cite the example of the Greenlanders who were hired to look after the RCMP officers in the High Arctic. Another example pertains to the family of Panikpakoochoo. I do not wish to name individuals, but this is just information. This family, amongst others, was prominent in assisting the RCMP and the government when they were attempting to showcase Canadian sovereignty by creating the High Arctic communities of Resolute Bay and Grise Fiord.

There were quite a number of Pond Inlet Inuit families who were hired to work with the relocated Inuit about the Greenlanders in the High Arctic, where there are fish, where there are walrus, where there are polar bears. Canadians were taught by the Greenlanders. We are not interested in those stories.

Personally, I have been privy to the stories told by others. I would like to then ask: is your department attempting to teach the local librarians about the history of Inuit or books that reference Inuit and whether you have access to a database outlining these important, historical books? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With respect to your question, I will ask Doug, the Assistant Deputy Minister to my right, to respond in detail regarding public libraries and what training strategies and funds we may have available. He is much better able to provide details on this matter.

Nonetheless, Mr. Chairman, I would like to elaborate with respect to any person who wishes to publish literature in Nunavut. We are allocated funds by Ottawa that is allocated for language materials and these funds are geared towards Inuktitut language projects. They can apply for funding through that program if they were interested in writing history books and also if they wanted to write about Inuit societal values. That kind of funding is available.

Mr. Chairman, through you, if you don't mind, I would like to have Doug answer the question regarding libraries and distribution of library books, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Stenton: Mr. Chairman, we currently support 11 community libraries in Nunavut through the Culture and Heritage Division. One of the priorities that we have identified for the coming year and have been working on this in the past as well is to increase the number of books by Inuit authors and books written about Inuit.

Our staff in Baker Lake and Iqaluit would be more than happy to take advice and direction on how we might achieve that goal, but we have funding allocated each year to build our library collections and we have certainly have identified this as a priority. Thank you.

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

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that answer. Especially since most of these librarians

in our communities are not trained in anthropology and they are not trained or specialized in Nunavut literature, they need a lot of help from your department to determine what other relevant materials that even our schools may be interested in and what would be good materials that are relevant to their community for the purpose of the local people to read it and for the tourists to glance through, "Oh yes, there is such a book about the people in Pond Inlet and I wonder where I could get it."

These kinds of information are needed, especially if we are going to be talking about taking our pride back. We always talk about how we have a very rich history, but it is non-existent in our communities. As we progress faster with the computer age, we should be able to access that real quick. However, we are spending our energy not finding these things but finding other things that are on the Internet that are not necessary relevant to our communities. So if they could be made available, even through a website of what books are available around the world relating to Nunavut and its people, it would help. That is just a comment right now.

My other question, Mr. Chairman, is... I hope the minister knows about this one. In your 2010-13 business plan, you did not mention about archaeological field school in Hall Beach that was well received in past years. We talked about that. Does this program still exist? Did it happen in 2009? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): I will have Doug Stenton answer that question, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Stenton: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The field school training program in Hall Beach did not continue in 2009. We had a very successful three-year run at that program. It was well received by the community and it was very successful in terms of the kinds of information that were recovered through the excavations.

In agreement with the Inuit Heritage Trust, with whom we were partnering in the delivery of this program, it was agreed that we would evaluate the results of the three years of work and adjust our plans for future training. So this year, we will be meeting again with Inuit Heritage Trust to discuss where we are going to take the program next. Thank you.

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

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This program was an ongoing program for the same students that has taken place three years in a row or new students every year. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Stenton: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With one or two exceptions, Mr. Chairman, I believe they were new students each year so as to provide as many opportunities for youth to become involved in the project. Thank you.

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

Mr. Arvaluk: So if a student had taken last year's program, he or she does not necessarily take it the following year. Is that correct? Thank you, *Iksivautaaq*.

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

Mr. Stenton: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's correct, Mr. Chairman, although there were, I believe, one or two students who demonstrated particular aptitude, interest, and skill in the work, so they were invited back for, I believe, a second season. Thank you.

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

Mr. Arvaluk: Can you tell me who was taking this archaeological program exactly? Were they Arctic College students or high school students, for example? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Stenton: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I apologize, Mr. Chairman, I don't have all of the details of the participants. They were not, to my knowledge, Arctic College students but high school students and young people from the local community as well. I believe the Inuit Heritage Trust played a lead role in identifying and bringing the students to the project. Thank you.

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

Mr. Arvaluk: Is it taken as part of a credit course for the high school? (interpretation) Thank you.

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

Mr. Stenton: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again I apologize, I'm not entirely clear on whether it was for credit or not, but I would be happy to look into that. Thank you.

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

Mr. Arvaluk: When he looks into that, can he also inform us that if it was a credit course, then what are the students doing now in the meantime to get the additional courses if the program is not running now. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Stenton: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll certainly commit to do that.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. A recent CBC news article reported that different scientists concerned about fossils on Ellesmere Island that could affect coal mining. The results of that story... I guess I envisioned the proposal from Weststar Resources Corporation rejecting the company's proposal. I'm just wondering if you had an update as to whether Weststar is putting in another proposal. Thank you.

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

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you. Doug Stenton will respond to that question as well, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Stenton: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't have an update; I requested one this morning. I spoke with a number of my staff to see if there had been an update with respect to the proponent's, in this case, Weststar Resources, next steps with regard to the NIRB recommendation. We don't have any new information at this time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If you could keep us informed when you hear more information. The reason I ask is because a lot of my constituents are really concerned in terms of the area up there and preserving it. I know that Weststar Resources was actually talking about working with researchers and palaeontologists to sort of work in cooperation. So it would be nice to be informed about that.

My next question is in regard to the department's draft business plan indicates that one of its priorities for 2010-11 is to "Initiate design phase for the Nunavut Heritage Centre." I'm just wondering if we could get an update on that status. Thanks.

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

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This will go ahead. We have completed the project brief and there is funding made available. There is a budget for this within this year, 2010-11. We would like to table the design of the Nunavut Heritage Centre in Nunavut and they have been completed. We have completed the project brief and it will go ahead, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In terms of the building itself, is the location, the lot, and the area that the heritage centre would actually be constructed on, is that area secured and in place? Thanks.

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

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Mr. Chairman, we have identified the location and we have been working closely with the Department of Community and Government Services. We have identified the building location and the lot, but there is a bit of a problem. There is a navigational poll in the area where we wanted to build and you can't build higher than the post that is up over there. Therefore, we will have to discuss the matter. However, I can tell you, Mr. Chairman, that we have already identified the lot or the building location.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In recent years, there was information in the business plan about the fundraising

activities and how the building was going to be sort of paid for. I was just wondering if the minister could give us an update on how that's going, whether the plan is still to have a comprehensive fundraising initiative. Thank you.

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

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Yes, we have discussed the comprehensive fundraising issue and also the design. Once the design phase has been completed, we will bring it back to the federal government because the federal government will have to pay for part of the construction of the heritage centre. Once the design phase is completed, we will then go ahead with construction.

We have already spoken to the federal representative of Nunavut, our MP. Also, we have spoken to the Senator for Nunavut in regard to this. They expect to be notified once the design phase has been completed to request funding from the federal government and we will expect to see this completed. Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, Inuit Heritage Trust, and the Nunavut government are all working together to try and come up with funds to initiate this project.

This will be initiated once we have completed all of those things that we need to complete, such as the project design and the operations and maintenance part of it. Once that has been completed, we can bring it to the federal government to look for funding for the construction part. It will need to acquire that funding from the federal government. That's how it is, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Tapardjuk. We're going a bit off course here. We're kind of discussing capital, we're talking O&M here. So I would like to make sure the members try to keep to O&M, please. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Then I have no more questions because mine are leaning down the road of capital. I will stop now. Thank you.

>>Laughter

>>Applause

Chairman: We will go back to Branch Summary. Culture and Heritage. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$4,494,000. Does everybody agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: We will go to Culture, Language, Elders and Youth. Branch Summary. Elders and Youth. Are there any questions? Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Your department's 2010-11 main estimates include \$450,000 in contribution funding for elders and youth facilities, perhaps buildings. Can you describe what kinds of facilities will be eligible for this funding? Thank you.

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

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Perhaps I'll have Doug clarify this, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Stenton: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The department provides funding for elders and youth facilities for such things as there may be a youth group in a community or an elders group that wishes to get some new space and there may be a building, for example, that requires some renovations. It could be electrical, it could be plumbing, and it could be any kind of similar work that's done.

So we provide contribution funding through our grants and contributions program to bring the buildings up so that it could be used for the purposes identified by the group. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): In regard to your department's draft business plan for 2010-11, we talked about the need to develop a strategy for collecting Inuit traditional knowledge and oral history. How soon can this strategy be implemented? Will elders from all across Nunavut be interviewed as part of this project and when will this start? Thank you.

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

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have put in a request for funding for this project as a lot has already been done in collecting oral histories and traditional knowledge in the communities over the years.

We will continue recording and documenting traditional knowledge and oral histories. We plan to hire young people to do these interviews with elders. We hope to start planning in the coming fiscal year to develop work plans for the project. Currently, we are developing plans and schedule for the recording of the interviews. We hope to have this completed this year.

Another one of our goals is to distribute information to the local libraries regarding sharing material that they might have. This is still being dealt with at this stage and we do not have the final outcome worked out. With respect to the strategy and vision that will direct the work of recording our elders, we have not finalized it and therefore, we have not worked out the details.

With regard to our current activities we are planning for this summer, we will be going to Baker Lake, Arviat, Chesterfield Inlet, as well as other communities to discuss that. Mr. Chairman, we have actually completed those visits. However, we have tried to consult as many communities as we can since every community is unique. We limited it to four communities at a time and we will continue with this project.

Currently, we have recorded many elders, but we would like to record many more elders and include what categories or what themes these recordings will fall under. So we need to draft up our strategy to guide these recordings as well as what the end result would be, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Based on your detailed response, does this \$1,050,000 budget item fall under this strategy we are now talking about for recording Inuit elders?

To clarify, would the funds be directly allocated to the communities and based on the number of elders to be recorded, you would then set aside a certain amount? I'm not clear as to where the strategy falls under, so my question is: do the activities you outlined fall into this \$1,050,000 fund? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, it's included in there for the collecting of Inuit traditional language and oral history, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): In 2005, you tabled an Elders Strategy. You mentioned it, but you tabled an Elders Strategy. Your department's 2010-13 business plan states that "New Elders Strategy was completed October 2009." When will you table the new Elders Strategy which was completed in October 2009? 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 that

question. It will go ahead because we have to look at protection for the elders.

The Elders Strategy is completed, but we will have to show it to the *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit* Committee. The committee probably came in today and they will start their meeting tomorrow. During the meeting, they will be looking through the Elders Strategy and make any changes if there is a need.

At the next sitting of the Legislative Assembly, we will be tabling the Elders Strategy at that time. Even though it's almost complete, it would have to go through the *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit* Committee. We are looking at possibly releasing it at the spring or fall session. It's being completed and is in its final stages, but we still have to submit it for approval by the *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit Katimajit*. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just have some questions about the elders' societies or elders' committees across Nunavut. My understanding is that every community has one. Is that correct? Thank you.

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

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): There are some elders' committees, but I don't believe every Nunavut community has such an entity. We can look to see which communities have elders' societies or committees, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My question is: in terms of every community having their own local elders' society or group, is there an overarching one for all of Nunavut in terms of a chairperson or an executive council that they have to help with the organization of all these elders' societies across Nunavut? Thank you.

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

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): With respect to these elders' societies and groups, it only applies to those organizations that do not have Nunavut-wide associations. However, what I can state is that they hold monthly teleconferences to discuss issues sent to them by our department. These consultations are administered by our department when they have to consult with the local societies or associations.

What I can tell the member is that the majority of elders' committees have representatives who partake in these monthly teleconferences and the issues dealt with are concerns, obstacles, or barriers facing elders. This is primarily due to the fact that we do not have a representative Nunavut-wide association for the elders' groups in Nunavut.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is this something that the Elders Strategy is going to look at or touch upon in terms of one of the things they're going to look into, the idea of an overarching structure?

The reason I ask is it just seems like in terms of accessing funding, I know even with in your department, before organizations can actually receive funding, they have to be set up through Nunavut Legal Registries, then they have to have some sort of reporting body, and they also have to have some type of insurance.

I find the two groups that we are trying to support, elders and youth, that is something that is found to be difficult in terms of accessing funding because that is not done. Is the strategy looking into that part as well? Thank you.

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

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that question. Every year, the Department of CLEY gives \$2,000 in financial support to those entities in the communities so that they can have some money for operations and maintenance.

However, we have not made any plans in setting up a Nunavut Elders' Society, but I believe that could be one of the questions that will be asked at the IQ Committee that is starting their meeting tomorrow. This group is the link for the elders' societies or committees.

The IQ Committee is a consulting group where it is open for the government to ask them questions if they need advice. It is like an advisory group. Usually, the elders have representatives sitting on that board, but it's not a representative board, so to speak. They are more of an advisory council than anything else, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that answer. Again just some of the concerns that I have had from some of the elders in my communities in terms of being able to access funding and not having the proper structure. I know, again, for the elders, it is a foreign sort of structure that they have a hard time working within. Maybe that committee that you are talking about might be a good way to handle that.

I wanted to shift to youth and my question is similar to what the elders... does every community within Nunavut have a youth committee that is linked or affiliated with your department, CLEY? Thank you.

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

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): There are some youth committees in the communities, but I can't tell you if every Nunavut community has a youth committee or council. Even if that is the case, the Department of CLEY gives \$2,000 for youth councils. It is a grant for youth committees. Every month, we have teleconferences with the youth committees. To date, we will have to find out if there's a Baffin youth group.

We would like to hold a conference if these monies are approved for 2010. We would like to see a major conference with elders and youth participating. So we would like to see a major conference held this year for both elders and youth, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is excellent and great to hear. I just wanted to add a suggestion that QIA has youth committees. I can't speak for the Kivalliq or the Kitikmeot, but I know that the Qikiqtani Inuit Association has a youth department and they are having a meeting this week of all of the youth groups from across the Baffin here in Iqaluit at their office. So that might be a good contact to work together instead of having duplicate youth committees in communities and causing confusion. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. That was just a comment. I have no more names on the list here, but I would like to remind members of my right, that they must wait for me to call the total O&M before they agree.

So we will go back to Culture, Language, Elders and Youth. Branch Summary. Elders and Youth. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$2,279,000. Does everybody agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: We will go on to Branch Summary. Culture, Language, Elders and Youth. Sport and Recreation. On F-9. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$5,477,000. Are there any questions? Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation) The Nunavut Association of Municipalities recently passed a resolution concerning access to adequate funding to ensure properly

supervised swimming pools or facilities with nationally certified lifeguards in every community in Nunavut. What is your department doing to address the demand for swimming pools in communities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Sorry, I believe that is a capital question and we're on O&M, but if the minister wants to answer it, he can go right ahead if he wants to. Minister Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you. We have monies available for swimming pools or facilities, such as for the training of lifeguards to make sure that there's safety in the pools. We will have money available, but we are not responsible for infrastructure or the building of facilities, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll rephrase my question so it's not capital. On F-9, under Sport and Recreation, I don't know how many PYs they have here, but there is \$1,383,000 for compensation and benefits. Do we have anything there for planning projects for swimming pools in coordination with CGS?

Let me put it another way. Because more and more communities are demanding swimming pools in most of the Nunavut communities, we have to look at it because of the demand. We're going to have to start planning. Are you and CGS talking together about developing and meeting the need of swimming pools in Nunavut communities? Thank you, Mr.

Chairman. I tried to not make it a capital question.

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

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Minister of Community and Government Services and I have started discussions on this. The Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth provides support on an annual basis for the maintenance or renovation of an existing building to make into a swimming pool.

We have monies available for those types of projects, but my colleague, the Minister of Community and Government Services, and I are just starting to have discussions on the possibility of putting aside funds on an annual basis for swimming pools. We're having initial discussions, but we have not come up with a concrete plan yet. In 2010-11, we would like to proceed with having monies available before we come up with any concrete plan, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't know if the last one will be a question or just a comment. There was a concern that the whole lot of money is being spent on compensation and benefits for government operations when we're trying to serve 25 communities.

Also, in your distribution of the O&M budget, you have \$10,767,000 on compensation and benefits. You have salaries of over \$10.5 million to look after whatever you are doing in CLEY.

The Sport and Recreation is always having a hard time accessing funding. In fact, I think my colleague from the High Arctic was talking about sometimes the eligibility is unfair depending on what part of Nunavut you come from. I think this has to be looked at.

Are we serving our people to the best of our ability in comparison to the salaries we pay to our employees to look after the meagre funding for the communities' benefit? It's just a comment, but we have to be careful how much we are paying just to serve the community needs and sometimes proportionately, it doesn't seem right, especially for the smaller communities. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. I think that was just a comment, unless you want to comment to that. Mr. Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): For compensation and benefits, it has nothing to do with our department. That is for your information. Through negotiations, the Nunavut Employees Union and the Nunavut government arrive at an agreement for compensation and benefits. As the government, we have to go by the agreement. We don't have an alternative and that's why there is an increase in there.

However, we want to approve all monies requested by communities through our grants and contributions, but there is a review process that we go through and we have a committee that reviews those requests. We try to make sure that every community in Nunavut has access to this, but we do have a procedure that we follow when we review grants and

contribution requests. I wanted that to be known, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Tapardjuk. I have no more names on the list here. Branch Summary. Culture, Language, Elders and Youth. Sport and Recreation. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$5,477,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: We will go to F-10. This will be interesting. Culture, Language, Elders and Youth. Branch Summary. IQ, but I'll try it here. *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit*.

>> *Laughter*

>> *Applause*

Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$3,010,000. Are there any questions? Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The timeline in the status report of the cultural school indicates that students will be selected during the 2010-11 fiscal year. Is there any application process in place for prospective students and if so, what are the application procedures? Thank you.

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

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): With respect to that matter, we will be trying to resolve these issues this fiscal year. As a matter of fact, my department is currently developing a strategy to deal with that challenge.

The first priority we need to implement is to fill the positions that are outlined in our planning documents for the *Piqqusilirivvik* Cultural School in Clyde River. We still need to hire an executive director who will be responsible for the project. Once it has been filled, things should start to progress. We have made an advertisement through newspapers and other advertising mediums, but once we do have someone in place, we can start progressing from there. This is our number one priority at this time.

Once the executive director is hired, he/she could then start hiring the necessary staff below him/her, as per the member's question regarding the process. However, Mr. Chairman, I can say that they are currently in the works and that the *Piqqusilirivvik* Cultural School in Clyde River is slated to be completed for spring 2011. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As indicated in the standing committee's opening comments, the status report for the cultural school states that the principle user group that will participate in 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.

Beyond these eligibility requirements, what other requirements are there for prospective students? I guess to what Mr. Okalik was pointing out in terms of two people possibly here who might be interested in going, which one of them

might be myself, would I be eligible to go? Thank you.

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

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): My Deputy Minister, Naullaq, will respond to the question, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Arnaquq.

Ms. Arnaquq (interpretation): Thank you. With respect to the member's question, any person from Nunavut who wishes to attend the *Piqqusilirivvik* Cultural School and who is approved by the enrolment committee could attend.

One of the requirements listed in the planning document is that a prospective student has to be able to speak in Inuktitut. The basic requirement just states that you have to be from Nunavut and be able to speak in Inuktitut to attend the school.

It is obvious that we may have to delineate more criteria that would apply for prospective students over the course of this year. This would have to be looked at and detailed out further down the line in consultation with the committee and the staff.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's good to hear. So there's hope that I might be able to go some day.

>>*Laughter*

Upon completion of those studies at the cultural school, will students have a

diploma or a certificate of some sort? Thank you.

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

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): I wonder how best to respond to that particular question.

When we first started this process, one of our colleagues, actually the Member for Tununig, elaborated on Inuit educational categories. He stated that in the old days, Inuit used to say to young men that only after he was able to complete an igloo all by himself could he entertain thoughts about marriage.

If my memory serves, I believe that he stated that at the beginning of the Legislative Assembly. With regard to young ladies, they first had to be able to sew a complete set of clothing or when they were able to complete a task that the elders had identified, they would be considered capable women

Part of the Inuit traditional cultural aspects, which I believe is good practice, is that Inuit used observation to first observe, emulate the task, and then practice using hands-on experience and practices.

In the western societal knowledge requirements, they first have to undertake theoretical classes in university even without any hands-on experience and just study the literature on that subject. They are given a degree once they have completed the theoretical learning; all of this training without once having done any actual hands-on or on-the-job training. This is a primarily paper training exercise since all of their

knowledge is theoretical and is only a literature based educational system.

I wish to have this point understood. This school will have as its foundation and it will be founded on Inuit culture, language, and accumulated knowledge. This is something Inuit have wanted to see established for the longest time. We expect to have any person who has passed through the doors of that school graduate with a sense of cultural pride and identity.

To this day, ever since the western educational system was thrust on Inuit, it has always been the non-Inuit who were always in control and in charge. It got to a point where Inuit were patronized about their culture, language, traditions, and knowledge. Their attempts at assimilating Inuit almost ended up extinguishing our unique culture and language. The Prime Minister even had to issue an apology a couple of years ago because of this attempt to destroy aboriginal cultures.

The elders of Nunavut have always maintained that the reason why Inuit from Nunavut fought so hard to attain their own territory was to protect our Inuit culture and language and to repatriate our self-governance and determination so as to be able to manage our own affairs.

If you asked me what kind of paper acknowledgement these students will get, my answer would be this: yes, they will get a large amount of acknowledgement, but most of it will be captured in their hearts' essence. Once they return to their home community, they will be better able to serve their fellow Inuit, they will have self-

confidence, and they will no longer be put off by paperwork. They will be able to handle their future with pride and become more self-reliant. This is what constitutes an equivalency of the western diploma in my opinion and this is what they will have as a measure of their newfound skills and abilities.

Nunavut Sivuniksavut in Ottawa has been in existence for quite a number of years and many students who have graduated from that program have a sense of self-respect, cultural identity and pride, and they are no longer fearful of any challenges they may face. Many of these graduates have moved on to top echelon management jobs and are capable of handling heavy responsibilities.

This is the type of graduate we would like to see coming through the doors of the *Piqqusilirivvik* Cultural School, much like the successful graduates of the Nunavut Sivuniksavut program who do not get an actual certificate or diploma after completing their courses.

That is how we envision this *Piqqusilirivvik* Cultural School system to be set up like, that this school is outside of the territorial educational system and is an independent school that is geared towards areas of studies that Inuit want taught, including the types of courses that Inuit consider relevant for people who live in the North as well as traditional knowledge courses.

This was an Inuit ideal and the reasons for this stem from our experiences within the western educational system. Inuit wanted a school that would teach Inuit history, language, culture, and knowledge. This is something Inuit have

pushed for and our government will try to implement this fully, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

>>Applause

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that explanation because that's what I was hoping to hear. Again it goes back to what I have been talking about constantly with the fact that, with working in the education system, I see students who, they always say, fall through the cracks, but they're not really falling through the cracks. They're learning tremendous land skills.

The European way of K-12 gives them a diploma when they're in school, K-12, but if they're out on the land and not in school and they're out learning land skills and have tremendous land skills, there's no way of quantifying that. Again my questions are geared towards making sure that and it's great to hear you say that when people finish at the cultural school, it's great to know that they will know who they are, know where they're going, and hopefully find work. So that's great to see.

Again getting back to one of the things that we tell at least our young people in the community about, you know, for Inuk males, learn how to hunt, provide for your family, and go out on the land. The ones that spend all of their time out on the land, when they're old enough to not go out with elders anymore or go out with family members and they want to go out on their own, they seem to get a slap in the face. They can't get a job because they don't have a grade 12, so

they can't get the money to buy the gas, the ski-doo, the oil, the rifle, and the bullets.

In a way, we set them up to fail. We give them these expectations to be a part of what they want to do, be a part of the Inuit culture, to go out on the land, and then we don't give them the skills, or the paper, or the confidence that you're talking about to actually go there. So it's great that there's going to be a place where individuals can do that.

Thank you for that explanation and I'll keep asking questions about that because again I want to make sure that when these people finish... you mentioned Nunavut Sivuniksavut. They do get a certificate when they're done and that certificate means something. It usually means you get a job with the government or NTI. As well, they receive university and college credits. So it's great that that's happening.

My next question is I understand that students from all over Nunavut may be participating in studies at the cultural school. Who will cover the costs for flights for the students from their home community to Clyde River? Thank you.

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

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Let me first clarify this matter further. As the member was referring to a diploma or similar paperwork acknowledging their completion of courses, such as you would receive upon completing grade 12, just like the formal education facilities that offer a diploma or certificate upon completion of their

studies, the *Piqqusilirivvik* Cultural School will entail that graduates would receive a paper acknowledgement of their involvement, but it will not be a universally recognized certificate. It will be more of an acknowledgement that you have taken courses at the school.

Mr. Chairman, with respect to an earlier issue I spoke to regarding the curriculum currently under development for the *Piqqusilirivvik* Cultural School, we are heavily into developing the materials as we would like to have all of the relevant materials completed and available for the opening of the school in the spring of 2011. That gives us about a year and a half.

It will be quite complex and challenging to pull this off, but it will become easier once we have hired an executive director who will handle the day-to-day operations. We are trying to rush this through since it all hinges on getting this position filled. Once the position is filled, many of these operational issues will be able to be resolved and dealt with. Most of these are under comprehensive review and deliberation by certain parties.

As of yet, we do not have the operational details to be able to answer those types of questions. Currently, we are more in the planning stages of this process. Once the executive director has been hired, and we are trying to fill this position as soon as possible, we will be able to start dealing with the myriad of duties that have to be completed, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that answer. I might get the same answer for this question, but I'll ask it anyway. Will there be a cost to students wanting to attend this course? Thank you.

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

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At this point, my answer is no. That is not how we envision this particular process of charging the students.

Perhaps at about the same time next year, in 2011-12, when we are reviewing the main estimates for the next fiscal year, many of the details will be included, such as the tuition costs for the students, costs for the staff as well as for school operations. We would like to see them in the next O&M estimates, but at this time, we don't have that information until we hire the executive director, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. During the ministerial appearance, you indicated that the cultural school will have a board of governors. Can you give some details on how the board of governors will be structured? Thank you.

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

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Before I respond, let me clarify this: the *Piqqusilirivvik* School is designed to house 26 students. That is the capacity.

The other aspects of his question pertain to the operations of the *Piqqusilirivvik* Cultural School, who would be in charge of managing the school, whether this will be through a board of governors, and what type of arrangement it has with the territorial government.

One thing that has to be identified by those involved in the territorial government side handling the cultural school is that it will be at arm's-length from our government. During the initial stages, much of the work is being handled by the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth until the school itself becomes operational.

These are some of the things we have deliberated on as being part of the operations, including having a board of governors, like the Arctic College, or whether we would institute similar by-laws. Those are details currently under review.

With respect to the *Piqqusilirivvik* Cultural School, at least based on what we have prepared to date, it will be under the auspices of the CLEY department's assistant deputy minister and this will be the case during the first year of operations.

Further, once the *Inuit Language Protection Act* is in force, it's something we see being handled in partnership with this *Piqqusilirivvik* Cultural School. Part of our vision, especially with regard to the *Taiguusiliuqtiit* Language Authority, is that they would be the lead agency initially. This may change as they become more independent.

Once the *Piqqusilirivvik* Cultural School is operational, we foresee it becoming a

partner down the road. At this very initial stage, we feel that it is best handled from the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth. However, it seems obvious to us that we may have to draft up legislation specifically geared towards this school.

I imagine that in order to have this school funded by government, they will require a legislative mandate. Currently, due to it being under the authority of the CLEY department, which we hope to relinquish down the line, the kinds of details we still need to flesh out, such as the by-laws as well as the governance system, have to be worked out, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Tapardjuk. We will give this one more try here now. Culture, Language, Elders and Youth. Branch Summary. Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit.

>>Applause

Mr. Okalik, I'm sorry.

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): I regret to inform you that you still have much to learn, so I will just keep raising my hand so you can keep practicing the term. Again I state *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit*. Please keep trying to pronounce it properly

I would like to ask this question next as I am in total support of the initiatives of the culture, language, elders and youth department, that they are trying to protect as we are losing bits and pieces of our Inuit culture and language daily, especially when we lose one of our esteemed elders.

Academia circles maintain that we have different dialects, but our language is more similar than dissimilar. Some of our original dialectal terms have been adapted since we no longer live traditional lives in Nunavut. We have all taken different paths towards the ideal of Nunavut although we are all from Nunavut.

I would like to mention this particular group of people in our community that have asked me to look into how we can assist them further. My constituents have asked for more information as they feel they have much to contribute to those who are undertaking the preparations.

I know that the minister had met with the Tusaqtuut group. I would like to know if you have any plans to work with Tusaqtuut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is on *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit*.

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

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you. We have provided past support through grants and contributions to this group. Secondly, whenever a proposal is submitted, it seems prudent to try and assist the groups that are collecting terminology or accumulated knowledge.

As we commence the preparation stages of this initiative, we have been holding meetings with the regional representatives from Baker Lake, Igloolik, the IQ committee, and other people involved in the process. These are the stakeholders we are currently working with as these two communities will be impacted and they will also have satellite campuses once the

Piqqusilirivvik Cultural School becomes operational. During the planning process, we have created a planning committee comprised of elders and other groups we consult with.

We will continue to support the Tusaqtuut group in their work. When a proposal is accepted, we will also fund their projects as the collection of their terms will be beneficial to our department, curriculum developers, and others. Mr. Chairman, we will try to assist this group in every way possible where we have the mandate. We know for a fact that any results of their projects will be very useful to our department down the road. So yes, I can agree to this, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): I don't know some of the dialects here although I am from the Baffin region. I just heard a new term, *Nuqinnganiaqtuq*, when you're hunting seals through the seal hole during the dark winter months. All those traditional hunting terms are coming up and I don't want to lose those old terminologies. That group is going to be really beneficial and I wish your department all the success. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Okalik. I think that was just a comment. I don't have any other names on here. Culture, Language, Elders and Youth. Branch Summary. IQ. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$3,010,000.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: We will go back to F-3. Department Summary. Culture, Language, Elders and Youth. Detail of Expenditures. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$23,832,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Are members in agreement that we have concluded Culture, Language, Elders and Youth?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Does the minister have any closing comments?

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you. I would like to thank everyone for making me welcomed. Tomorrow night, the *Inuit Qaujimaqatuqangit* Committee will have dinner with us. We're so proud of that group because they provide a lot of assistance to the government.

On the main estimates, the new initiatives that we're pursuing through are the *Inuit Language Protection Act*, the implementation of the *Official Languages Act*, the *Piqqusilirivvik* Cultural School, and our heritage centre. We still need a lot of more work on those projects.

I want to tell the members that the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth is very sensitive to the members' wishes and I am very pleased every time I receive their support. It encourages us to complete these projects knowing that it's very important to the members and Nunavummiut. I want to thank you for passing the main estimates

for our department. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister and your officials there. Would the Sergeant-at-Arms please escort the minister and the officials out.

Now we will be moving over to HR with Paul Okalik as Chair. Thank you.

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

Chairman (Mr. Okalik)(interpretation): Thank you, Fred. (interpretation ends) Mr. Schell, you're improving very rapidly, so you've got hope.

>> *Laughter*

The next one I have in terms of departments is the Minister for Human Resources. Minister Shewchuk, you have the floor.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: *Ma'na*, Mr. Chairman. *Unnuksakkut*, Members of the Committee of the Whole. I am pleased to appear before you and your committee today to present the proposed 2010-11 main estimates and 2010-13 business plan for the Department of Human Resources.

Mr. Chairman, the Department of Human Resources has been allocated a budget of \$22,830,000, which represents a 2 percent increase, or \$463,000, over last year's budget. This increase is the result of salary and benefits adjustments. The Department of Human Resources has a complement of 104 staff, which includes 16 Sivuliqtiksats intern positions

that are assigned across many government departments.

Mr. Chairman, our goal is to provide programs and services to client departments and to support priorities that are consistent with *Tamapta* and the report card released in the fall of 2009. These documents provide the direction needed to lead in the development of Nunavut's public service through excellence in human resources management.

Mr. Chairman, in the 2010-11 fiscal year, the Directorate Branch, which provides overall management and leadership in the core areas of strategic planning, policy research and development, and financial management, has been allocated 16 percent of the department's 2010-11 budget. We will continue with our efforts to revitalize the *Public Service Act* and will collaborate with stakeholders to address the language of work requirements of the *Inuit Language Protection Act*. The Department of Human Resources will continue to make incremental improvements to the human resources information system.

The Staffing Branch develops recruitment and staffing procedures and guidelines and manages centralized recruitment and staffing services for all departments of government and has been allocated 23 percent of the department's 2010-11 budget. We will continue in our efforts to improve our recruitment services, staffing processes, and retention activities. I am pleased to inform the Members of the Committee of the Whole that \$950,000 has been allocated to the Summer Student Employment Equity Program. I

emphasize that this program is an integral part of the development of Inuit youth to gain practical and meaningful work experience in the public service.

The Community Operations Branch, which is responsible for the delivery of departmental programs and services of three regional offices located in Igloolik, Rankin Inlet, and Cambridge Bay, has been allocated 14 percent of the department's 2010-11 budget. The branch represents the department's community operations arm and will continue to identify, develop, and deliver departmental staffing, training, and job evaluation services at the regional/community level.

The Job Evaluation Branch is responsible for job evaluation which determines pay ranges for the purposes of salary administration. In addition, this branch provides assistance to government departments in job description writing and organization design. The Job Evaluation Branch has been awarded 4 percent of the department's 2010-11 budget. In an effort to ensure that job evaluation results are fair and consistent across government, this branch will be evaluating the job evaluation monitoring system. Additionally, in the 2010-11 fiscal year, this branch plans to collaborate with the Corporate Services Division in the implementation of the job evaluation module of the human resources management system.

The Inuit Employment Planning Branch is responsible for providing leadership for initiatives designed to increase and maintain Inuit employment in the Government of Nunavut to a representative level and has been

awarded 4 percent of the department's 2010-11 budget. A key objective for the 2010-11 fiscal year is to develop an evaluation framework with key performance for the Government of Nunavut. Concerted efforts will be made to complete a GN-wide Inuit Employment Plan that will concentrate on the development of GN-wide initiatives.

The Training and Development Branch provides advice, assistance, support, and training programs to other departments in the training and development of staff and has been allocated 30 percent of the department's 2010-11 budget. My department, in partnership with the Department of Finance, has created a training fund to provide additional training opportunities for GN employees and public agencies. This training fund consists of two segments; one for specialized training (training specific for specialized areas) and the other for program development (develop technical, job specific competencies). Ultimately, this training fund will result in the following outcomes: improved program/service delivery, increased technical/professional knowledge and expertise, and licence/certification achievement. I am pleased to report that \$2,092,000 has been allocated to the Sivuliqtiksat Internship program to provide professional development opportunities to Inuit and assist our departments in meeting their Article 23 requirements.

Finally, the Employee Relations Branch, which provides labour relations support and training to all GN departments and agencies, has been allocated 9 percent of the department's 2010-11 budget. The branch will continue to deliver and

develop wellness, safety, performance management, and attendance management programs to improve the well-being of employees, address performance management and attendance issues, and ensure safe working conditions for all employees. In the next fiscal year, the Department of Human Resources will commence negotiations for new collective agreements with the Nunavut Employees Union, which expires on September 30, 2010, and the Qulliq Energy Corporation, which expires on December 31, 2010.

The Department of Human Resources understands the dynamic and complex nature of service delivery to a growing and vital public service. Our efforts and the successes of our program service delivery are of interest and importance to all Nunavutmiut. We are deeply committed to all of the people we impact and we will not lose sight of the responsibility we have.

Mr. Chairman, thank you for your consideration. I would be pleased to answer your questions. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. Do you have any witnesses that you would like to bring to the table? Mr. Shewchuk.

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

Chairman (interpretation): Do members agree to bring in the witnesses?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): They have agreed. Sergeant-at-Arms, can you escort the witnesses in, please.

Thank you, Sergeant-at-Arms. The witnesses are at the table now. For the record, minister, please introduce your witnesses. Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to introduce my witnesses. To my right, I have Melinda Janes, Assistant Deputy Minister of Human Resources. On my left, I have Aluki Rojas, Deputy Minister of Human Resources. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. I would like to welcome you and your officials. The Chair of the Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts, Mr. Arvaluk, can now make his opening comments.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): 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 Human Resources.

The Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts 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 operations and maintenance expenditures for the 2010-11 fiscal year.

Members noted that the Department of Human Resources is proposing to increase its budget for 2010-11 by \$463,000. This is an increase of

approximately 2 percent from the 2009-2010 fiscal year. The main estimates indicate that this small budget increase is exclusively in the area of compensation and benefits for each of the seven branches of the department.

Mr. Chairman, the GN's collective agreement with the Nunavut Employees Union expires in September of this year. During the minister's appearance before the standing committee, members were advised that the department is in the process of canvassing GN departments in order to identify issues that need to be addressed. The minister also stated that the Nunavut Employees Union is expected to contact the Department of Human Resources in the near future as both parties move forward in the collective bargaining process.

The collective agreement between the GN and the Nunavut Teachers Association expired on June 30, 2009. (interpretation ends) Mr. Chairman, the members encourage both parties in their ongoing efforts to achieve a renewed agreement with the Nunavut Teachers Association.

Mr. Chairman, according to the GN's quarterly Inuit Employment Plan reports, the number of casual positions reached an all-time high of approximately 1,200 in December 2007. Members recognize that the number of casual positions has subsequently decreased and has remained below 600 since December 2008.

Members believe that the use of casuals to fill positions on a long-term basis remains to be an issue that needs to be addressed. During his appearance, the minister expressed concurrence with this

position and indicated that the department is reviewing the issue.

Mr. Chairman, the *Public Service Act* was inherited by Nunavut upon division. The standing committee notes that over the last several years, the department's business plans have repeatedly referred to the need to review the *Public Service Act*. A priority regarding required amendments to the *Public Service Act* has appeared in every year's departmental business plan since the 2003-04 fiscal year.

In reference to the review of the *Public Service Act*, the department's 2008-09 business plan stated that "Policy work and legislative drafting almost complete." The standing committee looks forward to substantive progress being made on this issue and expects to see the new legislation during the life of this Assembly.

For several years, the development of a Code of Conduct has also been an ongoing priority of the department. During the minister's appearance, he advised the standing committee that a "Code of Values and Ethics" will be tabled in the Legislative Assembly in the 2010-11 fiscal year.

The need for whistle-blower protection legislation in Nunavut was once again raised during the minister's appearance. Members were pleased to be advised that the department is developing a set of procedures for whistle-blower protection. The standing committee looks forward to further detail on the whistle-blower protection process once it is fully developed.

During his appearance before the standing committee, the minister also advised members that alternative dispute resolution programs will be looked at as part of the review of the *Public Service Act*.

According to the GN's 2007-08 Public Service Annual Report, 670 GN employees received a bilingual bonus as of March 31, 2008. During the minister's appearance, a member of the standing committee suggested the introduction of a trilingual bonus for GN employees who use all three languages on the job.

The standing committee continues to encourage the department to develop objective tests for evaluating language proficiency within the public service. Members note that the Inuit Language Authority that has been established under the *Inuit Language Protection Act* may soon be ready to assist with this task. Section 17 of the *Inuit Language Protection Act* provides that the Inuit Language Authority "may develop, review, recommend or administer surveys or tests that evaluate Inuit Language proficiency..."

The standing committee notes that the department's 2006-07 business plan indicated that a draft of a new "Language Incentive Program" had been completed. The 2010-11 business plan indicates a priority for the 2011-12 fiscal year to "Develop and implement a language incentive policy for the GN." Given the importance of complying with the *Inuit Language Protection Act*, the standing committee encourages the department to make progress on this matter.

Mr. Chairman, the standing committee recognizes that the department has a lead role in developing initiatives designed to increase and maintain Inuit employment in the Government of Nunavut.

According to the department's quarterly employment reports, 888 beneficiaries were employed by the GN in January of 2000. A total of 1,459 beneficiaries were employed by the GN in September 2009. While members appreciate that this represents an increase of 64 percent, members also note that the total number of beneficiaries employed by the GN has been relatively stable since December 2006.

Taking into account all filled positions, members note that the overall Inuit employment rate in the GN has remained between 50 percent and 52 percent since 2007. The 2010-13 business plan indicates that the government has set a new target for 54 percent or more of all filled positions to be filled by beneficiaries by March 31, 2011. In order to reach this goal, at least 266 new beneficiary employees will need to be hired.

Members note with concern that the target of 54 percent is not intended to be achieved across all occupational categories. As in past years, the standing committee recognizes that more than 90 percent of the GN's administrative support positions are filled by beneficiaries. Members remain concerned that less than 30 percent of the GN's currently filled senior management, middle management, and professional positions are occupied by beneficiaries.

Mr. Chairman, the standing committee notes that the GN's Priority Hiring Policy expires this month. The policy provides that NLCA, or Nunavut Land Claims Agreement, beneficiaries who meet the qualifications of a given position have priority over other candidates. The standing committee firmly supports this policy and members look forward to the tabling of a renewed policy.

In addition to this policy, the GN's hiring process provides for the consideration of current GN employees as well as Nunavut residents with a minimum of one calendar year residency before applicants from other jurisdictions. In previous years, members have urged the minister to consider increasing the minimum of one calendar year residency to five calendar years.

Mr. Chairman, the standing committee continues to stress the importance of the GN's Summer Student Employment Equity Program as it provides valuable work experience for Nunavut youth. Approximately 1,300 students, 76 percent of whom were beneficiaries, have participated in this program since 2001.

The standing committee noted with concern that during the summer of 2009, six communities did not benefit from the program and several communities had only one or two students participate. Members were pleased to receive a commitment from the minister to better inform all communities about the GN's summer student program.

Mr. Chairman, the standing committee notes that as of September 2009, the GN's overall vacancy rate was 23

percent. This remains unchanged from December 2008. In previous years, the GN's overall vacancy rate had consistently been approximately 20 percent. Given the department's central agency role in providing human resources management advice and services, members believe that the department has a role to play in addressing the ongoing vacancy issue in conjunction with the increasing number of positions across the Government of Nunavut.

Mr. Chairman, the issue of the impact of housing on GN employee retention has been an ongoing concern. In 2008, the GN announced a rollback of staff housing rents to January 2007 levels. The standing committee encourages the department to continue to work with the Nunavut Housing Corporation on this issue, including a review of the GN's Staff Housing Policy, which, as members understand, remains in place.

The GN's 2010-11 business plan indicates that the government-wide retention rate was 82 percent in the 2008-09 fiscal year, which is up slightly from the 2007-08 fiscal year, when the retention rate was 80 percent. The standing committee also encourages the department in its efforts to develop a government-wide recruitment and retention strategy as outlined in its list of priorities for the Staffing Branch in the 2010-11 fiscal year.

Lastly, the members were pleased to receive an update from the minister during his appearance on how the training and development funds were used. In this matter, the standing committee was also pleased to receive another update earlier this month via

correspondence from the minister. In the interest of transparency and accountability, members look forward to further updates as more of the funds are used.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening comments. Individual members may have their own concerns and comments as well. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. You should take a break as you have finally finished making opening comments.

Are there any general comments? Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the minister's opening comments, there's no page numbers, but I think it is page 2. He said there was \$950,000 that has been allocated to the Summer Students Employment Equity Program. In comparison to last year, is it an increase or a decrease in dollars and if so, how much either way? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. (interpretation ends) That would be the second page of the opening comments, first paragraph. Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The dollars that are allocated are the same as last year; there's no increase or decrease. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The deadline for the summer student program, I do believe, is some time in April and most students don't think about jobs until June. What is your department doing to ensure that all communities are aware of the summer student program? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The member is right, but the deadline is for the departments to submit their requests for summer students. The summer student application or the "allowability" for the student to apply is open; there is no deadline. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm not quite sure how this works, but I'll try and understand what you said by an example, I guess. So if a department from the GN in a community wants a summer student, that department has to apply before April or whatever the deadline is. Am I correct? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: That's what the minister said. So do you want to apply? Okay. Are there any other questions? Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Once a student applies for this program, how long is the process before the student is informed of whether he has a summer job or not? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Very good question, Mr. Rumbolt. Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Usually, that process happens very quickly as there is a central location in every region where a summer student must register and then the request from the departments in the communities come out and they're matched up with the student. It usually happens very quickly. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the Hon. Minister Shewchuk for being here as well as Ms. Janes and Ms. Rojas.

I believe this committee as well as our departments all have to work together. At the end of the day, our mandate is to provide services to our constituents, employees, and staff in the different departments.

Mr. Chairman, I just want to direct the hon. minister and his staff in regard to opening comments on page 1, third paragraph. If I may quote the last paragraph there in terms of *Tamapta*, it reads, "These documents provide the direction needed to lead in the development of Nunavut's public service through excellence in human resource management."

With that, on page 2, first paragraph, halfway, in the opening comments, "We will continue in our efforts to improve our recruitment services, staffing processes, and retention activities."

On page 2, again on the last paragraph, halfway down, it's noted that "In an effort to ensure that job evaluation results are fair and consistent across government..."

And then on page 3, the last paragraph, it's noted that "On the next fiscal year, the Department of Human Resources will commence negotiations for new collective agreements with the Nunavut Employees Union, which expires on September 30, 2010, and the Qulliq Energy Corporation, which expires on December 31..."

And finally on the last page, second paragraph, it states, "We are deeply committed to all of the people we impact and we will not lose sight of the responsibility we have."

I am glad to see that the department is open and willing to see about what can be resolved in order to enhance employment in Nunavut to provide the best services. I think it would be a comment just to be aware that different managers and different departments are perceived by the public to be... forgive me, I'm trying to find the right word. The public wants to ensure that there are best practices being followed and that there is protocol in place.

I want to ask the minister in regard to his opening comments how the Job Evaluation Branch will actually help Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. Minister Shewchuk, would you like to respond? Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the member for asking that question. One of the main responsibilities for the Job Evaluation Branch is to ensure that there's fairness and equality in all jobs and job competitions that are taking place. So it's a matter of being open and transparent to all of these things and ensuring that all of the processes are followed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am glad to hear that. I think people feel comfortable hearing that from the Minister of Human Resources.

I believe some of my colleagues will probably ask questions or I will by page-by-page, but I wanted to ask: have there been many people coming up with human resource or Nunavut Employees Union grievances?

I don't know if this is the appropriate format to ask, but I just wanted to ask with regard to NEU and HR, how well you guys work together and if the people in between that you represent don't fall between the cracks. So I am asking about Nunavummiut to see how well they're represented by NEU and HR. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the member for that question and I do have that information here thanks to my great witnesses. In 2009-2010, there were 39 grievances as of March 1, 2010; 30 with

the NEU, 6 with the excluded employees, and 3 with the Nunavut Teachers Association. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. Are there any further comments or questions?
Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Suffice it to say, Mr. Chairman, I apparently still have some comments to make.

I would like to put forward this question even though it was not mentioned during the opening comments, but many Inuit want to hear about the reasons for certain developments, such as the appointments to boards and agencies by our Cabinet. There are not very many qualified people who can serve on these boards here in Nunavut.

If we were to conduct an assessment of qualifications out of the 30,000 plus residents, then perhaps less than 500 individuals would qualify as productive board members who can be appointed by our Cabinet. However, many of these qualified people currently work for the different levels of government. On top of that, they are appointed by the Cabinet to be part of that board.

I have heard from many people who expressed concerns and that raises a question I want to ask. With respect to the public servants who work for the government but are appointed to sit on these boards, can the appointment be overridden by their direct supervisor? An example is that a supervisor could state that the person has too much on their plate and therefore, cannot attend to a meeting even though their appointment

is directly from the Cabinet or Premier. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Does anyone want to answer that question? Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll have Deputy Minister Aluki respond to that. Thank you.

Chairman: Ms. Rojas.

Ms. Rojas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will try to respond according to your question. If any public servant wishes to undertake further duties outside the purview of their position, they have to submit the request to their deputy minister who would then make their decision as to whether that individual can be appointed to that position.

The deputy minister has to quickly conduct a review of the request, ascertain whether the appointment would create conflict of interest for the person requesting the appointment, and make their determination based on whether a conflict of interest is created or not. In cases of conflict, the appointment would be denied.

That is generally how the letter to the applicant would be and this would all be conducted prior to the appointment of that person. I hope that was understandable, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Rojas. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I understood her

response, but I'm asking about those who are appointed already. We hear that they're denied permission to attend those meetings because of responsibilities. Usually, these people are appointed by Cabinet or the Premier. I'll have to use an example. Using anyone as an example is actually not a good idea.

>> *Laughter*

I wanted to talk about employees who have a lot of responsibilities with government and they're not all working in high level positions. These individuals can be denied leave from their day jobs by their place of employment or supervisor even though they were appointed by the Cabinet itself.

For example, if they're a member of the Credit Corporation or the Power Corporation, there are quite a number of them who have been appointed. Can they be denied leave to attend to their appointed board meeting? What rules are in place or what type of process do they have to go through? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. The individuals had been appointed already, but they were denied to take leave from their day jobs by their supervisor. That is the question. Who would like to respond to that question? Mr. Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the member for that question and it is a very good question. Before appointments are done to boards, this is why this has to be looked at very closely too, whether there is any conflict with the person in the position they're dealing with the

government being appointed to the board, if there may be conflict.

Also, what's very clear here is before a person is appointed, the people appointing that person have to understand that the first and primary obligation is that employee work for the government and if there is operational needs that that person needs to be there, that should be number one. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. Are there any questions? Mr. Ningeongan.

Mr. Ningeongan (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is part of Mr. Rumbolt's question, but I would like more details. In the chairman's opening comments, the minister indicated to the members that he would provide more information regarding the summer student program.

When we had a meeting with the minister, he indicated that the regional offices are also responsible in some ways to keep the information out there. We heard that there were six communities that participated in the program in 2009. Have you made changes to the program so that all Nunavummiut can participate in the Summer Student Employment Equity Program? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that question. I do recall that question in the standing committee. We are going to ensure that that happens. As you well

know, all of the MLAs have received packages. Also, it has been sent to all of your offices in your communities. We're going to ensure that every department is aware of the summer student program and we will also make sure that our regional centres are informed that they also contact all communities.

What maybe the member needs some clarification on is that the central offices are the ones that accept applications from the students and they are placed from central offices, but we are going to make sure and ensure that all communities know about the summer student program. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. Are there any questions? Mr. Ningeongan.

Mr. Ningeongan (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm sure that there will be information to the communities because we have been lobbying the government, but my question is: aside from just being given information, will all communities participate without any community being left out? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We will, as I committed to, do our best to make sure that all communities are aware of the summer student program and how it works. I would like to just challenge all of my colleagues and all of the MLAs in Nunavut to go back to their respective communities and make sure that

information get out to the public also. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. Are there any questions or comments on the opening comments? Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just wanted to add onto some of Mr. Arvaluk's comment in terms of leave and the employees, civic leave in particular.

I know I have been pushing the cadet movement and whatnot and I know in the past, especially with applying for leave, because of the collective agreement and the way it's worded, it seems like at times, our GN employees who actually volunteer a lot of their time after hours to make sure this program works are not being given leave to travel with youth on different activities.

Could you explain to me what the official stance is from your department on this? Is it seen as a benefit? My understanding of what the civic leave is it's a benefit to the community as a whole. To me, it's shown repeatedly that the cadet program does that. Thank you.

Chairman: As a former cadet, I have a bias for this. So should I declare bias?

>>Laughter

Yes, it's a great initiative and I hope the minister will change the policy. Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I do know about the member's concern because we have dealt with it quite a bit lately. Just to be

clear, I'll outline the leave in regard to cadets. Cadets are not stipulated in the collective agreement at present, but with the new agreement coming up, this is something that should be pointed out from the union side to be bargained about.

We, as all of us at the Department of Human Resources, encourage people to volunteer and we don't always have to pay people to volunteer. However, people use common sense. I think the sense here is that to be either given or denied leave, it's up to the supervisor and again it comes down to operational requirements of that person's job first and foremost being with the government and providing those duties.

But in all reasonable cases, I believe that leave would probably be authorized. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. (interpretation ends) Are there any further questions or comments? Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is a problem. There are some volunteer coaches in our communities who are not given permission to leave because they work for the government or a company, for that matter. But as a government, I think our policy should be broad enough. I think it's even stated in the *Tamapta* or some other document, "For the betterment of our communities, betterment of Nunavut."

The program, such as a junior soccer team, 10 to 12 year olds have to be coached and chaperoned by government employees most of the time because the

government is the biggest employer. That policy has to be reviewed so that there's enough flexibility that these scout leaders, coaches, etcetera, especially for children, are given some free time when it's necessary to go and coach, or chaperone, or whatever voluntary responsibilities they have been given.

I would like to ask the minister then: will the review be given to adults who volunteer their time for the development of the children in our communities that includes everybody who is participating in the activities, whether it's scouts or skill development, etcetera? (interpretation) Thank you.

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

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for raising that point again. Again I would just like to stress the fact that I understand what the member is saying. I also would like to say that in regard to providing services and coaching children, which are very important too in communities, in very few cases is leave not negotiated and given, so it does happen quite consistently.

However, there are cases where operational requirements of that person in their duty and their job with the government require them to be there. If there is a case that they feel very strongly about and they need to take leave and go with that soccer or hockey team, then there are other options of annual leave, volunteer leave, and other things that happen on their own time.

I would just like to say that I do understand his point and in the majority of cases, leave is granted for community members to get involved in supporting children. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. Are there any more questions on the opening comments? No one has their hand up. We will go to the main estimates on page D-4. Human Resources. Directorate. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$3,587,000. Mr. Aupaluktuq has his hand up.

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In June 2004, the minister appeared before the Committee of the Whole stating that the issue of whistle-blower protection will be addressed in the new *Public Service Act*. Can you give us an update as to what stage in development is the whistle-blower protection with the *Public Service Act*? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Very good question, Mr. Aupaluktuq. In most cases, it's not even a part of the *Public Service Act*, for example. It's elsewhere, so I don't know why it has to be tied here. Minister Shewchuk, you have the floor.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have said that we will coordinate that with our *Public Service Act* and we're working on that. Just to add to that, we are having difficulty with the *Public Service Act* in actually acquiring somebody who is very skilled and knowledgeable to lead the development for the *Public Service Act*, but we're pursuing that avenue.

I would like to say this about whistle-blower legislation, as I committed to the House before, that it absolutely will be included and it will be included with all consultation of all parties involved so that we come up with the right wording of it and the right level it should be. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. Are there any questions on this page? (interpretation ends) We're at D-4. Operations and Maintenance. \$3,587,000. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Human Resources. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$5,234,000. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: I'm no minister.

>> *Laughter*

Thank you, *Iksivautaaq*. I think this question was asked by the Member for Pangnirtung at one time and especially in the Priority Hiring Policy, we talked about that a little bit. It's quite significant and it's very noticeable in the decentralized communities that if you have buddies in the south and you get them up to Pond Inlet, you hire them as casuals and then put them on permanent basis a couple of months later.

This has become very common because I think there's a provision in there that if you have been a casual hire, when the actual position is open in the competition, you have the priority over other candidates if you have been a

casual already or something along that line.

Will you be developing a more realistic policy under the Inuit Employment Plan that is not happening right now in our decentralized communities?

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you to the member for that question. What I think I understood in what he was saying is that southern people are coming up and acquiring casual jobs just by being in Pond Inlet and gaining experience. Obviously, if you have casual work, you will gain experience and hopefully that experience will lead to other employment. It may even lead to other causal employment.

However, I would like to stress this fact that when casual hiring does take place, the Inuit employment policy is still valid. So that is in place and an Inuit beneficiary with the same qualification or the qualifications needed for that position would be the first one to hire. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. (interpretation ends) I think the point that Mr. Arvaluk was trying to make is that it's people who are in the know of the supervisor who get connections, then get put on as casuals, and then somehow magically become indeterminate employees. I think that's where there's a question mark of those employees. In the small communities, it's a lot more obvious that it happens.

So that's where Mr. Arvaluk was trying to make [his point]. Minister Shewchuk, you have the floor.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you for the clarification, Mr. Chairman. Now I do understand you more.

We have a very tough time stopping people from bringing people from the south to visit or be in Pond Inlet, or whatever the case may be. That's very hard to mitigate. I suppose if there's a concern of friends being hired of supervisors and people in the government in managerial or supervisory positions, the relevant department and I should know about that and we can possibly check into that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I understand and agree with the minister. In fact, I agree with the whole hiring policy. There's nothing wrong with that.

I'm talking about a practice here, a practice that happens when I think the headquarters... I mean that a lot of people out of Igloolik work for human resources and I think they screen them too. However, it's the people in decentralized communities. I'm using Pond Inlet as an example and it's probably in some other places too.

It's the direct supervisor of that department who has a whole lot of influence as to who they want to hire for their department, not so much the human resources department from Igloolik that will have no knowledge of who people

are in Pond Inlet, or Pangnirtung, or Rankin Inlet, or other decentralized communities.

But those who are in the community who would become direct supervisors have a full knowledge of what's going on and they stress the importance of hiring who they want. I would like to see, I don't know, belts tightened or some other prevention of misuse of the hiring system. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you very much. That is a very good point that you bring out because it does apply to all communities across Nunavut and I know in my home community too that that feeling and that thought is out there.

I suppose, Mr. Arvaluk, what we can do is try and monitor the situation more closely and train and encourage our people better in the skills and the qualifications in which we do our hiring practices so that they are knowledgeable about what should happen and what shouldn't happen.

However, I still would like somebody feeling like that to have some place to go and identify that situation to the hiring department or to HR. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Yes, I think this is a clear example where you might be working under the person that is doing it, so you're in a tough spot in those cases.

Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wanted to elaborate on the line of questioning Mr. Arvaluk was mentioning in regard to casuals. One department has been said by the general public that some friends are being hired on a casual basis, as to what Minister Shewchuk was alluding to. Next, the public finds this casual hire, a friend of a friend, if you will, is hired for a job that was not advertised.

There are two instances where wives of other agencies had jobs lined up by the time they arrived to a community; no advertisement, no locals, no beneficiaries. Many qualified people I know applied but had no interviews and had been screened out. Even for those who are hired, there are even perceived practices of favouritism or where strings were pulled to get certain family in certain positions.

I make no apologies for my statements, Mr. Chairman, for the integrity of my line of questioning applies to what my constituents and others have brought forward. I don't do this in a personal manner; I do it in a professional manner, as I have been elected to ask these questions.

My question for the record is: what is the minister's position on casual employment practices? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq, for that question. It is a very good point again.

My thought on casual employment hiring is that it's definitely needed. We have set our targets and we have reduced our casuals, which I am very proud that we have done in the last year or year and a half. There is absolutely a definite need for casual hiring, though, to fill vacancies and provide services where we need to provide those services even though we have vacant positions in communities.

However, casual positions are just that. They should be casuals. I feel that when we have a position vacant and we hire a casual, we should initiate a permanent competition at that same time so that that casual is just a short-term fill. And I agree with that.

As far as the situation you are relating to that may have been happening in your community, I encourage you very much to share that information with our department so that we can follow up on that. I encourage all employees across Nunavut that are experiencing those same things happening to them, they need to go to people and tell people. We need to know that so we can fix things. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. Are there any further questions? (interpretation ends) We're on D-5. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under the government's Priority Hiring Policy, Nunavut Land Claims Agreement beneficiaries who meet the qualifications required for a position will be given priority over all other applications in job competitions. The government staffing procedure gives the next level of priority consideration

during job competitions to Nunavut residents before southern applicants.

However, only one year of residency in the territory is required to be considered a Nunavut resident. It has been suggested that this period of time be extended to five years. During your appearance before the standing committee in June, you stated that you needed to consult with your officials before determining your position as minister on this idea. I'm just curious to find out what your position now is on this issue. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. (interpretation) To the question. Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I haven't really consulted with my officials in a forum to this date yet. I think it is going to take much more consultation with my officials and actually look at other jurisdictions and other information before we can even come with a suggestion of any type of position to take on this.

I think in other jurisdictions, it is one year, maybe at tops. I know in other residency standards, I mean for instance to be a resident under the *Wildlife Act*, you have to be in Nunavut for three months. It used to be two years at one point in time and it was shortened up to three months. So I think there needs to be more conservation, talk, and consultation on this issue. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. (interpretation) Are there any further questions? (interpretation ends) Are there any further questions? Thank you.

I have one on casual hires. How long does a person have to be casual? Is there a limit? At some point, the person has to get hired indeterminately. That's one that has been back and forth for some time. Has there been a final policy on that? Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. You're bringing up a very good point. Casuals are generally hired on a period for four months. They can be hired up to a one-year period. There can be a request for an extension of a one-year period on top of that too. When that has happened, it has to be approved through the deputy minister of the department and for anything over a year, the Deputy Minister of HR with written endorsement from the union for that to be allowed to happen.

Again there are casuals out there that are longer than that. There is no question about it. We all know that too. We have actually addressed the situation to some respect and we have eliminated some of those casuals and done direct appoints into positions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Are there any further questions on D-5? (interpretation) Human Resources. Staffing. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$5,234,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Human Resources. Community Operations. Total Operation and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$3,213,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Human Resources. Job Evaluation and Organizational Design. Total Operation and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$923,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Human Resources. Inuit Employment Planning. Total Operation and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$793,000. Do you agree? Are there any questions? Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We spoke briefly on this issue in regard to the opening comments.

In order for GN to achieve its stated goal of 54 percent Inuit employment across all occupational categories by March 31, 2011, it will need to recruit and hire more than 500 qualified new Inuit employees within the next 15 months. If all positions are not filled, the GN needs to hire more than 200 employees.

Does the government expect to meet the target of 54 percent and if not, can the minister tell me if the government will set a more realistic target? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that question. We are in the process of also developing a new Inuit Employment Plan that will try and meet those targets. However, we feel confident because the information that says that we are going

to reach this target by 2011 is coming from departments telling us that they have very good confidence and faith that they can fill these positions with Inuit employment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think there is also a consideration for the cultural differences of what they call first impression. I think there has to be some kind of orientation also with the supervisors, especially direct supervisors in some divisions.

If that person is really rough... you know, how we used to treat green horns and rookies in the army and also in a hockey game or any other employment in the mining, etcetera, we really treated these rookies to a really rough time. If that practice happens in my community, that person who was just being hired would quit right away. He or she wouldn't be able to stand that.

However, if that person is impressed that their immediate supervisor is a really nice person who wants to work with that person and if that new supervisor becomes sour after six months of the year, the person who has been hired or was happy probably would stay anyways because they have become knowledgeable about this job and wants to stay.

So those kinds of considerations have to be given to encourage that first employees of the government are impressed and want to work.
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do think the points the member makes are very important. Just in some regards you know, as I said, the departments are coming to us with these targets and we do have faith in them too. Just to add to that, we would implement our Priority Hiring Policy in all competitions.

We hope to gain a lot of skilled workers through our summer student employment program. You know, we put effort on that last year and we will again this year. Hopefully that will encourage a lot of young people to get into the different fields that we offer in our government.

We will continue the casual employment and beneficiaries will be hired in casual employment. We have Sivuliuqtiksat Internship program which we are moving forward to. That is again going to benefit our Inuit employment targets. We have scholarships that we give out to people to achieve higher education levels.

So with all of these things combined and more programs that we can coordinate and initiate, we hope to reach that target. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. Are there any further questions? (interpretation ends)
We are at Inuit Employment.
(interpretation) Total Operations and Maintenance. Mr. Arvaluk, I'm sorry.
Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just a quick one. There seems to be a discrepancy between different decentralized communities and the Iqaluit Inuit employment planning. What is the real reason that Inuit employment is lower in Iqaluit than other communities? What is the reason behind that? (interpretation) Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. (interpretation ends) It's a very good question. It has been too low for some time. Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think the main reason for that is that Iqaluit being the capital, there are a lot more technical and professional level positions here that the skills are not held by beneficiaries at this time to fill those positions. That's a big part of the contribution to that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Are there any other questions on this page? Thank you. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Last one. We knew quite some time ago that we will need Inuit employees to serve the Inuit, especially those who are unilingual, right at the outset.

We also knew that when we started going to school in the mid to late 60s, education was so simple that we even declared that all of the Inuit would have university degrees in whatever field they wanted to take because they were given a warm place with three square meals a day. What more kind of a life would you want?

Where I grew up with my old man, my father, it was tough education, very tough education and then something went wrong. When I came back from the south educated and trying to push for a Nunavut government, Nunavut territory, the land claims agreement, etcetera, then when I got home, everybody was dropping out of school. Something went wrong. Employments that could have been had by the Inuit at the time were not held by them.

Now we're in a little bit of a dilemma of trying to recruit under our own programs that the federal government did not pursue and now we're pursuing them. Do you have any plans in recognizing this, that you will have a better employment plan that is fresh, new, and applicable to our unique territory? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for his statement and concerns. He brings up some very good points. To reach these levels and the targets we have set, I think it's going to take time.

A good example of that is the NTEP program that we have in place. That NTEP is very successful now. That started in the 1970s and it has grown to what it is today and it's very good, which again goes back to what the member said how proud he was when he was a child and when he was going to school and what he had.

I think that a huge contributor to what we have now is that we really need a

solid foundation in education right from middle school to high school to post-secondary education so that we really can educate and give the skills to the people of Nunavut and the beneficiaries in Nunavut so that they can take over the roles and all of the government jobs and reach that 85 percent target as soon as we can. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. Are there any questions on this page? No one has their hand up. Operations and Maintenance. \$793,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Training and Development. Total Operations and Maintenance. Are there any questions? Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was hoping at this point that the minister could expand a little bit more on the \$2 million that went from the Department of Finance to his department in terms of training and meeting some of the objectives of what the Auditor General's report said. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Are you talking about the Sivuliqtiksat dollars, I believe, that the minister commented on in his opening comments, the \$2,092,000? No, it's a different one? Okay, sorry about that. Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think the member is referring to the money, the \$2 million that we got from Finance. Is that right? Okay, I can read all of this out, I'm not sure... do you have a copy of it in your

plan at all? But I think you got a letter with this one. I'll tell you that nothing has really changed. The updates are the same, except that the money is basically all committed now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm referring to the \$2 million that the Department of Finance found and gave to his department and which I asked oral questions about, which was then referred to and told that in HR, I should ask it, so I'm asking it now.

If the minister could tell us where it is in the business plan because I haven't found it, but maybe I overlooked it. No, I did not receive a letter outlining all of the programs of where the money went. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. That's last year's \$2 million that you're asking about. There was \$2 million set aside for training last year. Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll read this out. There was a letter sent out to the chair of the committee, so you will be receiving a letter with your answer in it, but I'll read it out to you.

There's \$1 million in the Specialized Training Program.

- Justice, Level of Service/Case Management Inventory, there was \$45,197 spent;
- Justice, Motivational Interviewing, \$20,147;

- Justice, Successful Management in Northern Corrections Environment, \$29,000;
- Justice, Justice of the Peace Training Plan was \$132,395;
- Health, Sterile Sanitation Equipment and On-Site Training, \$23,630;
- Piloting Consulting Skills Training, \$92,200;
- Coroner Training Plan, \$54,800;
- Bailiff Training Plan, Justice, \$72,365;
- Management Training, QEC, \$72,365; I'm a little off; I think these lines are...
- Community Care Workers Orientation, Gjoa Haven, \$6,400;
- Environment, Environmental Assessment Training, \$92,730;
- Project Management Training with Health, \$30,550;
- Environment, Fur Grade Training, \$4,045;
- Health, Community Care Workers' Orientation, \$14,640;
- QEC Briefing Note Training, \$13,700;
- Health, IEHR Training (Electronic Health Records Training), \$51,143.

So that's the \$1 million of the \$2 million. The other \$1 million for program development is:

- HR Diploma, \$42,000;
- HR Administrative Professional Diploma, Iqaluit, \$48,000;
- HR Administrative Professional Diploma, Cambridge Bay, \$55,500;
- HR Supervisory Diploma in Iqaluit was \$19,000;
- HR Supervisory Diploma in Rankin Inlet was \$61,500;

- Education and Career Development Strategy, \$523,000;
- Finance, Canadian Payroll Association Training, \$72,000.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. Any more details that you want, Mr. Elliott? Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The reason why I was asking the question is because we're still in this fiscal year. My understanding was the money that was the \$2 million was actually supposed to be for financial management training. I guess that's not the case. Thank you.

Chairman: Okay, Mr. Elliott. Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, I don't think that it was supposed to be just for financial management. It was split up into two different programs there. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I must have a misunderstanding because I seem to remember that the Minister of Finance was promoting this program as filling some of the deficiencies that the Auditor General's report was saying with the problems within Finance and within the government in terms of managing the financial dollars within our government. The training for the \$2 million was to go to help straighten out and teach people bookwork and record

keeping skills so that money is managed better, but I must be misunderstanding.

My next question is: in terms of this training, this is for GN employees, correct? One of the questions that a lot of the regular members keep bringing up is the fair distribution of sports activities and whatnot. So was this training done all across Nunavut? Training was done was in Arctic Bay, Grise Fjord, and Resolute? Was it just in decentralized communities? Was it just the big communities, like Iqaluit, Rankin Inlet, and Cambridge Bay? Thank you.

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

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll just get Aluki to respond to that. Thank you.

Chairman: Ms. Rojas.

Ms. Rojas: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to respond to your previous comment about it being used for financial management. I think when we first got the money at the Department of Human Resources, we were already into the fiscal year, so we had to figure out, "How are we going to spend the \$2 million within the fiscal year and not surplus it," because that will come back to bite you, as you probably know.

So we talked in the Building Capacity Committee with the deputy ministers about how are we going to allocate this \$2 million and we decided at the time that \$1 million could be used for specialized training and \$1 million could be used for program development.

Currently, in this fiscal year, we have committed \$72,000 in program development for the Canadian Payroll Association training which will be working towards some finance training and the intention is, in the coming years, to develop program development with the Department of Finance for a financial management program.

Because we haven't spent a lot of the portion of the \$2 million this year, it doesn't mean that we won't be spending more money on it in the coming years. But at the time, it seemed like we could get a bigger bang for the buck, so to speak, because we had already started work on other areas. So you may understand with program development, it takes quite a while to develop any programming.

To the other point in terms of... Mr. Chairman, if you could remind me what the other part of the question was, please.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Rojas. The question was: where was the money spent? Was it just in Iqaluit or was it scattered throughout the territory in the little communities and just decentralized communities? That was the other question. Ms. Rojas, you have the floor.

Ms. Rojas: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Looking at this list, we didn't get it outlined which communities they were going to be held in, but I can see that there was the community care workers orientation held in Gjoa Haven and in Igloolik.

In terms of other programs that HR has developed, such as the HR Diploma and administrative professionals, those are

being offered in the regional centres of Cambridge Bay, Rankin Inlet, and Iqaluit. Government of Nunavut employees from other communities can fly in to participate in that.

I would like to reiterate that because it was the first year and we were trying to get these monies out to departments, I think this coming year, we will probably have much more interest and people will become aware of it with the word of mouth that there is this specialized training fund at the Department of Human Resources and we will probably start getting more and more proposals. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Rojas. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's getting late, so I had to think for a minute there too, "What was the second part of my question?"

>> *Laughter*

I guess I'm going to have to start getting some questions to the Minister of Finance too about how they are managing and teaching some of their employees' financial management because he's gone a year without answering them. I was under the impression that this was the auditor's way of helping with some of the deficiencies in the Auditor General's report for financial management for his department.

My next question is actually geared towards more of what Mr. Arvaluk was talking about in terms of a lot of people in the community having different skills and different skill sets that aren't really

recognized by formal certificates and whatnot. That's the Prior Learning Assessment Recognition Program. What is your department doing with sort of implementing that? Thank you.

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

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the member. The member brings up a very good point with PLAR and I know he has been part of that program for quite some time. We are very much interested in that.

We will use the PLAR system in regard to competitions in the workforce. In fact, it's going to be more incorporated. Now we ask for relevant experience and equivalencies in a competition, but with the PLAR process and the documentation of individuals, it's going to be very helpful in the competition process and we will use it. We are also working with Nunavut Arctic College in the development of this too. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just in keeping with that, has your department thought about... again right now, an employee or someone applying for a job or whatnot could actually have their portfolio and try to apply for a position with that. Thanks for explaining that.

In terms of training and development of employees who are already GN employees, if they want to actually take some time to do this as part of their

professional development, is your department willing to maybe give groups of, let's say, office staff and CLEY wants to do this, they could take that time and do it as an office thing or Finance... I'm not sure what all of the decentralized ones are, but is that possible? Is that something your department is thinking about? Thank you.

Chairman: Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, it's something that we would be very interested in. I think that the way you're outlining it is it could be coordinated and what it really is it's almost similar to a job evaluation or a performance appraisal that's being done to understand what your needs are and what your training needs are in your career development and your enhancement. So I could see those two meshing up together, but we are interested in pursuing that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. Are there any further questions on Training and Development? Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$6,952,000. Are you agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Human Resources. Employee Relations. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$2,128,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): You can now go back to D-3. Human Resources. Detail of Expenditures. Total Operations

and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$22,830,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Are you in agreement that the Department of Human Resources is concluded?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Shewchuk, if you have any closing comments, you have the floor. Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I do have closing statements.

First of all, I would just like to thank all of the public servants out in Nunavut who have contributed to this territory and worked very hard to come to where we are and to continue to work very hard to develop our territory moving forward in the future.

I would like to thank all of my colleagues here for their effort and their contribution today. I think that all of us understand that Human Resources has some very big challenges ahead, but we are up to that challenge.

We just had an Auditor General's report tabled the other day. It's going to be in-depth and we're all going to have a chance to review that and go through that report with the Auditor General.

Out of all of these processes, I hope that we can come up with a stronger Department of Human Resources and stronger departments in the government and all of the departments to deliver the

services to all of our population in a better fashion.

I would like to thank Aluki and Melinda for being here with me today and their hard work and effort into providing us this information. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Shewchuk and your officials. (interpretation ends) Aluki Rojas, I understand that you are moving on to another department. Congratulations and all the best in your new responsibilities.

(interpretation) We have concluded this department. We will then move on to the Department of Environment, again with the same minister. He will have to get prepared.

Sergeant-at-Arms, if you would escort the officials, please. Thank you once again.

(interpretation ends) We can now go on to the Department of Environment, and I think the minister is just catching his breath. You can now put on your other hat and do your other responsibilities. Minister Shewchuk, you have the floor.

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

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to be here today in front of the committee to present the Department of Environment's business plan and main estimates for 2010-11.

Mr. Chairman, the Department of Environment's proposed budget for 2010-11 is \$20,139,000. This is a net increase of \$141,000 from our 2009-2010 budget due to the changes in employee compensation and benefits.

By partnering with other organizations and institutions wherever possible, the department has been very successful in maximizing the impact of our dollars. In the 2009-2010 fiscal year, we were able to obtain an additional \$2,712,000 from outside organizations for various projects administered by the department. We expect that we will be equally successful in leveraging funds for 2010-11.

In order to ensure that the funding we have provides real benefits to Nunavutmiut, the Department of Environment's business plan and corresponding main estimates are based on the priorities and goals outlined in *Tamapta*, with a particular focus on environmental stewardship and supporting sustainable economies.

We will also continue to uphold the specific obligations and areas of responsibility under the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement that are directly related to the management of resources, as well as a number of territorial, national, and international obligations and commitments. As you see, a significant portion of our overall budget goes to ensuring that we meet those obligations.

Stewardship of Nunavut's environment wildlife are key areas of responsibility for the department.

We work in partnership on the co-management of terrestrial wildlife in Nunavut. We also have environmental protection responsibilities, which include inspection and enforcement under the *Environmental Protection Act* and pollution prevention. We are also the GN lead for land use planning in Nunavut and provide input on the environmental assessment of potential developmental projects.

In 2009, my department worked on close to 200 requests from the Nunavut Impact Review Board and the Nunavut Water Board for minor and major environmental screening and assessment on industrial and other proposed activities in Nunavut.

The Department of Environment is also responsible for ensuring that any spills of hazardous materials in Nunavut are cleaned up according to acceptable standards. In 2009, my department responded to 146 hazardous materials spill incidences. Of these, 127, or 87 percent, were from petroleum product spills which collectively amounted to 54,000 litres.

Mr. Chairman, few people would have heard about these incidences because my staff responded quickly and professionally and before they became newsworthy events. It is due to the diligence and professionalism of my staff that much work of the work they perform on behalf of all Nunavutmiut goes largely unnoticed.

Mr. Chairman, my department is in the process of developing an overarching strategy to provide guidance on the consistent and comprehensive management of what may well be

Nunavut's most valuable resource – caribou. One of the department's top priorities for 2010-11 will be to finalize the Caribou Strategy and begin implementation.

For the past several years, the Department of Environment has been working to help Nunavutmiut adjust to the potential changes caused by climate change. We have been working with our partners to develop community-specific adaptation plans. We also expect to finalize a Nunavut Climate Change Adaptation Plan in the very near future.

Mr. Chairman, our parks and special places contribute to a number of the basic needs identified in *Tamapta*, including stewardship of our environment, access to the land for personal growth, opportunities for fun, recreation and cultural activities, and pride in our culture and who we are.

In the 2010-11 fiscal year, we will advance our development plans for potential parks in the non-decentralized communities of Kugaaruk and Clyde River and commence feasibility studies for a possible park in Sanikiluaq. In addition, we will look at the potential of having the Back River nominated as a candidate Canadian Heritage River.

The Department of Environment supports community-based sustainable economies through parks and the tourism opportunities associated with them, as well as through our support for the development of viable and sustainable fisheries, sealing, and fur sectors.

We will continue to work closely with our partners to lobby for greater access

to fishery resources and greater investment in fisheries infrastructure, and to support the rapid development of this important sector of our economy. In 2010-11, we will focus on implementing offshore and inshore fisheries research priorities outlined under the Nunavut Fisheries Science and Research Agenda.

We will also continue to work with harvesters and the fur industry to support hunters, develop markets, and actively represent Nunavut's interests at national and international levels.

Mr. Chairman, *Tamapta* encourages education and training opportunities for Nunavutmiut. In the 2010-11 fiscal year, DOE will implement modifications to our In-house Field Officer Trainee Program in order to encourage recruitment of more beneficiaries as enforcement officers in conservation, parks, or environmental protection.

Based on what was said during the GN Report Card exercise, we will be redeveloping our communication approach, including the development of an updated communications strategy and environmental education plan, as well as a comprehensive approach to national and international messaging on environmental issues.

Mr. Chairman, my department's 2010-11 main estimates and business plan support the delivery and achievement of the department's mandate and the vision of *Tamapta*. Our plan is centred on providing support to strategic and important areas within our operations and in doing so we ensure the funding provided to the department provides real benefits to all Nunavutmiut. *Ma'na*, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. (interpretation ends) I think you need a lesson from your seatmate on how to cough properly in this day in age.

Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In recognition of the clock, I would like to report progress at this time, please. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. There is a motion on the floor. It's not debatable. All those in favour. Against. Abstained. Carried. (interpretation) Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Going back to our Orders of the Day. (interpretation ends) Item 20. Report of the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Okalik.

Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole

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

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

(interpretation ends) Item 21. 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. Orders of the Day for March 23:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions
8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to Opening Address
10. Petitions
11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motions
15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions
17. First Reading of Bills
18. Second Reading of Bills
19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
 - Bill 14
 - Bill 21

- Bill 22
 - Bill 23
 - Bill 25
 - Tabled Document 13 – 3(2)
 - Tabled Document 66 – 3(2)
 - Tabled Document 99 – 3(2)
 - Tabled Document 100 – 3(2)
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 Tuesday, March 23, at 10:00 a.m.

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 19:03*

