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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

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Iqaluit, Nunavut
Wednesday, June 2, 2010

Members Present:

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

Item 1: Opening Prayer

Speaker (Hon. James Arreak) (interpretation): I would like to ask Mr. Ningark to say the opening prayer. Mr. Ningark.

>>Prayer

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

Going to our Orders of the Day. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. (interpretation ends) Hon. Daniel Shewchuk.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

**Minister's Statement 153 – 3(2): GN
Contribution to Inuit Legal
Challenge Against the European
Union Seal Ban**

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to announce

that the Department of Environment, on behalf of the Government of Nunavut, has made a contribution of \$25,000 in support of the European Court of Justice Challenge against the European Union Seal Ban. The contribution was made in two equal amounts to two Nunavut organizations that are registered as plaintiffs in the case: the Nattivak Hunters and Trappers Association in Qikiqtarjuaq and the Pangnirtung HTA. The contribution will be used to help offset the legal costs associated with the court case.

The Seal Ban Regulation, which will come into effect August 20, 2010, is directly responsible for the low sealskin prices over the past two years. The regulation contains an exemption for traditional Inuit harvesting. However, many in Nunavut believe that the exemption will be meaningless. There is widespread concern that the implementation of the exemption will not be sufficient or timely enough to counteract the negative economic impacts that have already been caused by the regulation.

An application for annulment of the regulation was filed on January 11, 2010 by a group of 17 plaintiffs, including Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami (ITK), the Nattivak HTA, the Pangnirtung HTA, four individuals from Nunavut, the Inuit Circumpolar Council in Greenland, the Fur Institute of Canada, and the Atlantic sealing industry stakeholders. If successful, this challenge will result in the complete nullification of the seal ban.

As you know, the Department of Environment has continued to support Nunavut seal hunters through the

Sealskin Purchase Program, despite the poor market conditions caused by the EU ban. I believe that any constructive action that counters this misguided ban should gain the full support of all stakeholders in the sealing industry. As such, we wish the plaintiffs success and commend the strong initiative they have taken in standing up for the sustainable, humane, and vitally important sector to our culture and economy. *Ma'na*, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Ministers' Statements. (interpretation ends) Hon. Peter Taptuna.

**Minister's Statement 154 – 3(2):
Recognition of Mike Vaydik,
retiring General Manager
Chamber of Mines**

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to take a moment to recognize an individual for his long-standing service to Nunavut and the North. That person is Mike Vaydik, now retiring as the General Manager of the Northwest Territories and Nunavut Chamber of Mines.

Mike Vaydik is well known as the face and voice of the mining industry in our two territories. Mike is a native of Yellowknife and has spent the better part of his career, nearly 40 years, involved with the resource sector in the North. Through this time, he has called many communities his home, including Grise Fiord, Rankin Inlet, Cambridge Bay, Fort Smith, and Yellowknife.

General Manager of the Chamber of Mines since 1996, Mike helped pilot the

annual geoscience meeting in Yellowknife, making it into the important forum it now is, and he has served as a director for our own Nunavut Mining Symposium. Mr. Vaydik has been an eloquent and effective advocate, helping bridge the interests of the industry and the communities of the North. We wish him all continued success into his retirement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Minister's Statement 155 – 3(2):
Provincial/Territorial Early
Childhood Education Meetings in
Iqaluit**

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): A very good afternoon, Mr. Speaker and my colleagues. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to tell my colleagues about the recent Provincial/Territorial Directors of Early Childhood Education and Care Meeting that was held for the first time in Nunavut.

This meeting brought together the heads of early childhood programming from jurisdictions around the country as well as participants from the federal government. The three-day agenda covered emerging trends, best practices, measuring quality, data collection, and providing quality education opportunities for our youngest learners and children at risk.

Mr. Speaker, for most participants, this was their first opportunity to visit our

great territory and see first-hand some of the wonderful things that our early childhood educators are doing. It was also a great opportunity to showcase some of our unique Nunavut appropriate resources for young children.

Mr. Speaker, the Department of Education believes that the start of lifelong learning begins before children attend primary school. As part of our commitment to *Tamapta*, we look to enhance our existing Early Childhood Education Program and build on our past successes. The opportunity to confer with colleagues in other jurisdictions and draw attention to Nunavut's Early Childhood Education Program is a great benefit in helping to forward our work.

Thanks to my departmental staff for all of their efforts in making these meetings a success and to make sure that our children are educated. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Minister's Statement 156 – 3(2): New Research Vessel

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to inform members that the construction of the new Government of Nunavut fisheries research vessel is underway. The vessel will perform essential fisheries related research in support of industry development and science.

Funding for the vessel was provided through the Department of Environment and Indian and Northern Affairs Canada. This vessel represents over \$2.1 million in investment in our fishing industry.

The vessel will provide a platform for the development of sound fishery science and research, which is critical to the development of Nunavut's inshore and offshore resources and to the sustainable management of those resources.

The vessel was designed in consultation with stakeholders to meet the specific needs of Nunavut. The vessel will be 64 feet in length and capable of operating in arctic waters. It will be able to accommodate eight crew, plus the captain, and will be outfitted with a variety of fishing and scientific gear.

There is much research to be done in identifying the fisheries resource potential of Nunavut's waters. This new Government of Nunavut research vessel will provide the platform to accomplish this task.

In the near future, Nunavummiut can look forward to participating in a naming challenge that will give the new vessel a suitable name. We hope this name will reflect the enterprising and innovative spirit at the heart of this new and exciting initiative for all Nunavummiut. *Ma'na*, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Ministers' Statements. (interpretation ends) Item 3. (interpretation) Members' Statements.

(interpretation ends) Member for Baker Lake, Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 229 – 3(2): Baker Lake Nunavut Arctic College Graduates

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to share a quote with Nunavut that I think is fitting for this Member's Statement. "The beauty about education is that no one can ever take it away from you." That was read by B.B. King in a *Reader's Digest* magazine.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank and show my appreciation and support for the Baker Lake Nunavut Arctic College. There are 12 graduates of the Office Administration Program. They are: Susan Amarok-Walsh, Barbara Nagyougalik, Sarah Peryour, Janice Lee Qiyuk, Sarena Attungalaa, Hattie Nanaug, Brian Pudnak, Patricia Tapatai, Mary Owingayak, Nelly Qijuajuq, and Dick Stanley Alooq, and as well, very proudly, my niece, April Aupaluktuq.

I would like to thank the administrator, Mr. Alexis Utatnaaq, for his tireless work in ensuring that programs and classes are advertised, and also administering registration of students and providing support to our community by way of providing valuable resources, our people. What he has done is provide these people with the opportunity and the structure to become empowered with the use of education.

With that, I ask my colleagues, this House, and Nunavut in offering our

congratulations to the graduates. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Member's Statement 230 – 3(2): Pangnirtung High School Exchange Trip

Mr. Komoartok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to celebrate and to commemorate an event that occurred in our community. I was hoping to see the lower grades graduate. Eight students were supposed to pass through Iqaluit all the way to Lima, Peru. They have two chaperones and they will be spending the trip down. They're going to Ottawa and they will be trying to reach Lima. They are set return on June 13 to Pangnirtung. They will be looking at the culture and the various landscapes in Peru.

I am very proud of these students and I want to announce their names: Jessie Arnakak, Danny Ishulutak, Janet Evic, Laila Evic, Lisa-Anne Eeseemali, Charlie Nakasuk, Laura Bourassa, and the two chaperones, Becky Palmer and Emily Karpik.

They have worked really hard over the year to try and raise funds to reach this destiny. They are working towards being future leaders and they have attained funding from six different departments. They have applied to a lot of these funds that have been made especially available for future leadership and again to better the lives of our youth.

It is quite obvious that these students haven't quite graduated from grade 12. Some of them have completed out of the group, but I'm not sure how many. However, we are expecting 19 new high school graduates on June 8 in Pangnirtung. Again, what we can say now is that at this day and age, the Department of Education and Nunavummiut are working hard to succeed and complete their education. This is starting to show up today, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 231 – 3(2): On Guard and On Patrol: Operation Nunaliut 2010

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to pay tribute to the participants in this year's Operation Nunaliut. As members will be aware, Operation Nunaliut is one of three major Arctic sovereignty operations conducted every year by the Canadian Forces. This year's operation took place in March and April.

I had the honour of joining our Premier, Minister Shewchuk, and the Commander of Joint Task Force North, Brigadier-General David Millar, to welcome the return of National Defence Minister Peter MacKay, General Walt Natynczyk, Chief of the Defence Staff, the Danish military's Sirius Dog Sled patrol, and the Canadian Rangers from their operations on Ellesmere Island.

Mr. Speaker, rangers participating in this exercise from the High Arctic were Ranger Jarlo Kiguktak, Ranger Eric Pijamini from Grise Fiord, and Rangers Samson Ejangiaq and Ranger Michael Qaunaq from Arctic Bay.

Mr. Speaker, I support close cooperation between federal, territorial, and local governments on issues that impact the High Arctic. The Canadian Forces play a critical role in many areas: sovereignty assertion, search and rescue, and disaster relief.

I had the pleasure of travelling with Joint Task Force North in May to the communities of Grise Fiord, Resolute Bay, Arctic Bay, Nanisivik, and Pond Inlet during their tactical recce for Operation Nanook.

Mr. Speaker, as members will recall, it was in November of 2008 that I first asked the Minister of Environment to invite the Department of National Defence to conduct Operation Nanook in my riding of Quttiktuq in order to participate in a mock oil spill.

I suggested this for two main reasons: firstly, I knew that we could use the economic stimulus of having such an exercise in our backyard. Secondly, I knew that it would prove to the rest of the world that which we already know and that is that we are not properly prepared to handle an oil spill in the High Arctic.

Mr. Speaker, I will anxiously be awaiting the after action report from this exercise. I am sure we will find that we are not prepared to clean up an oil spill in arctic conditions. Some of the issues facing us include ice conditions,

telecommunications capacity, and infrastructure deficits in the communities; deficits which range from the lack of proper docking facilities to the lack of modern health centres with the capability of responding to major incidents.

Mr. Speaker, perhaps this exercise will be the catalyst that will wake up the federal government and have them truly invest the dollars needed to properly protect our sovereignty and environment.

Mr. Speaker, at this time, I would like to ask for unanimous consent to complete my Member's Statement today. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Mr. Elliott is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Are there any nays? There are none. You may conclude your statement, Mr. Elliott.

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

Mr. Speaker, one only needs to look at one of the results from Operation Nunavut to recognize its value. The search and rescue operation that took place during the exercise is an excellent example of the importance of an increased presence in the North. The incident involving the Australian adventurer who fell through the ice while on his journey to the North Pole was described as a successful rescue mission, but everyone is painfully aware that if the rangers and the operation were not in the area participating in the exercise at the time, we would have been

mourning the loss of life instead of celebrating a rescue.

Mr. Speaker, our Canadian Rangers deserve our full support. At the same time, my constituents are proud of the arctic sovereignty that we exert daily in our communities. This is a pride that I expressed when I tabled materials in this House last June on the High Arctic Council's sovereignty campaign.

I ask all members to join me in paying tribute to this year's participants in Operation Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 232 – 3(2):
Passing of Ben Arnarjuaq and
Graduates of Ben Arnarjuaq
School**

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm not exactly sure how I'm going to word this and you may hear me speaking in two different topics.

First of all, to my fellow colleagues here at the Legislative Assembly, I would like to give notice that my constituents in Hall Beach underwent an event during April. This individual helped all of Hall Beach and also most of Nunavut. Ben Arnarjuaq passed away in April due to old age. He lived a long and fruitful life.

Most of us know his son, Simon Nattaq, who is also involved here in Iqaluit. They lost their father and grandfather.

This is something we really felt a loss since he was instrumental in helping his community and now his descendants will implement his vision. Personally, I used to ask for advice from him and his words of advice will remain close to my heart.

Be that as it may, Mr. Speaker, there is a school named after this man, Arnaqjuaq School, and that is the reason why I stated that I would speak to two matters.

We are also celebrating since there was a graduation ceremony in Hall Beach that I unfortunately could not attend. However, I would like to acknowledge these graduates: Cynthia Piialaq, Jordan Qanatsiaq, Donna Panikpakutsuk, Debbie Audlakiak, Douglas Qanatsiaq, Marilyn Qaunaq, Eric Tungilik, and Mike Akumalik.

They completed their high school studies and graduated. I join them in celebrating their graduation. Because the school has the name of that elder who passed away and because of the graduation, I look forward to these students implementing the future that that elder envisioned, and to use their education and work towards producing a good future. Please join me in congratulating these students. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 233 – 3(2):
Kugaaruk High School Graduates**

Mr. Ningark: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is an honour and a privilege to

recognize young people who graduated from a Kugaaruk school from grade 12. Mr. Speaker, I had the pleasure of attending such an important event. Their names are: Madeline Ihakhak, Wilfred Immingark, Tommy Karlik, John Jr. Ningark, Margaret Nirlungayuk, Vicky Qaggutaq, and Tanya Qayaqsaq. I will provide the names to the Clerk to table here.

I would like to ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating this important event. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Members' Statements. Member for Nattilik, Ms. Ugyuk.

**Member's Statement 234 – 3(2):
Taloyoak Walk against Tobacco
Use and Other Activities**

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In Taloyoak, they will be holding a walk for tobacco awareness. I would like to thank Annie Buchan for working hard on this and they will start their tobacco awareness walk at one o'clock today. I am in full support of their walk because tobacco is not healthy for your body and I would also like to thank Annie Buchan for working hard.

In the springtime, they have celebrations and games, so I wish them a great festivity. I know that they have spring games and I wish them success.

A few days ago, on Friday evening, there was a fishing derby. I thank the committee for the fishing derby for working hard. Even though we had lost a young person in our community, the

fishing derby went very well. I'm not going to announce who is going to be the winners yet, but I would like to thank David Nannuq, the chair of the fishing derby committee. He works very hard to ensure that the fishing derby goes well and is a success.

Furthermore, on Saturday, they opened the Kitikmeot Boarding Home. I wish to thank Hon. Minister Leona Aglukark, federal Minister of Health and Social Services, for inviting me. Charlie Evalik and Charlie Lyall were also in attendance. They all cut the ribbon together. I am grateful that Nattilingmiut now have a very safe and welcoming facility to go to.

Even though the boarding home is in Yellowknife, they are very receptive to patients going there. I also wish to thank Casey Adlem, the administrator, for being very receptive to the people and I know that she will continue to welcome the people. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Member's Statement 235 – 3(2): In Appreciation of the Coral Harbour Men's Group

Mr. Ningeongan (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. You are not my *Annuraaqatik*.

>> *Laughter*

Good afternoon to Coral Harbour and Chesterfield Inlet residents. The residents made us welcome when we

were visiting the community of Chesterfield Inlet, so I thank them for that.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I rise today to reaffirm my admiration and appreciation for the ongoing work of the Coral Harbour Men's Group.

Mr. Speaker, you may recall that have I spoken of this group's success before. I am pleased to report that they are continuing their good work. Recently, members of the group travelled to Baker Lake to share their experiences and to support others who would like to heal and become better people.

Mr. Speaker, the Coral Harbour Men's Group originally received support from the Aboriginal Healing Foundation. As you know, funding from the Aboriginal Healing Foundation is currently no longer available. On March 18, 2010, all Members of this House supported a motion to call upon the Government of Canada to reinstate this funding. I am very pleased to note that our colleagues in the Northwest Territories legislature have joined with us on this issue and on May 18, 2010, took the strong and courageous stand of unanimously passing a motion on the same issue.

Mr. Speaker, the Government of Canada's failure to renew the Aboriginal Healing Foundation funding is a shame. However, as the continued good work of the Coral Harbour Men's Group shows us, it does not mean an end of the journey towards healing. Sometimes the path gets more difficult to travel. Sometimes we face obstacles and hardships. But as the men in these communities have shown us, we can continue to heal and improve our lives

and the lives of those around us. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 236 – 3(2):
Graduates of Peter Pitseolak
School**

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to congratulate the graduates from Peter Pitseolak School in Cape Dorset. Education and lifelong learning are keys to success and are also the key priorities of the Government of Nunavut.

I had the honour of attending the ceremony in Cape Dorset on May 28. Last year, I had the pleasure of speaking at the graduate ceremony for 10 students. This year, I had the honour to attend the celebration on the achievements of 14 high school graduates. It is wonderful to see more and more students graduate. It was also nice to see the support and commitment of teachers, school staff, parents, and extended families.

Once again, congratulations to the 14 students of the 2010 Peter Pitseolak graduation class: Pileeta Arnaquq, Osmond Celebi, Mary Ann Corkett, Saila Namonai, Peter Ottokie, Mona Padluq, Dana Pootoogoo, Kooyoo Pudlat, Mickey Qiatsuk, Padluq Qiatsuk, Megan Ross, Ooleepika Samayualie, Isa Teevee, and James Wortman. Please join in applauding their hard work and accomplishments. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Schell. Members' Statements. (interpretation) Prior to moving on to the next item on our Orders of the Day, I wish to remind all members that when you are making your statement, you should stick to one subject and not have a long preamble.

Additionally, in our Orders of the Day, there is an item included that is always there, specifically the item, (interpretation ends) Replies to Opening Address. (interpretation) If you are going to make a long statement or you are going to be talking about more than one matter, you will have an opportunity to speak to those issues under that item, especially if you are going to be speaking longer than two and a half minutes.

(interpretation ends) Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Akulliq, Mr. Ningark.

Item 6: Oral Questions

**Question 359 – 3(2): Status of Family
Violence Shelters across Nunavut**

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In March, I ask a question to the Minister of Health. I also made a statement specifically with relation to shelters and family violence. I reminded him that there was a petition that was circulated in Kugaaruk that I tabled. I also thank the Minister of Health for working with me and providing a response with respect to this issue.

Apparently, the Hamlet of Kugaaruk is working together with that department, along with other departments, to deal with these concerns that relate to shelters and family issues. I want to raise a question to the minister with regard to these shelters. What is the status now of my previous question as it relates to the shelters in Kugaaruk? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleague for reminding us of that issue. Although we didn't meet, we provided and tabled that response to the Clerk. I believe there will be 30 plus issues and I can speak to part of it.

I want to first of all thank the volunteers who have really worked hard on identifying the facility as well as my fellow minister who allowed the use of the facility no longer being used because they set it aside for the hamlet's use. With that situation being the way it was, the response included the fact that the hamlet could take over that building and renovate it.

If they submit an actual proposal stating their intentions on how they would want to fix up that facility, we could look at dealing with the proponents. Once there is an actual proposal there, we could work with the hamlet to deal with all of the legislative requirements needed for a shelter, especially the policies and procedures. We will have to work with the *Saillivik* Policy. We can assist with the operations and maintenance budget

once we get the proper proposal in our department. Thank you.

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

Mr. Ningark: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My supplementary question, Mr. Speaker, is I noted that on May 18, 2010, the Yukon Legislative Assembly discussed at length a number of initiatives related to their Women's Directorate and related funding. During those deliberations, it was mentioned that and I quote, "The Yukon government has collaborated with the Northwest Territories and Nunavut to present a business case to the federal government to support more women shelters in the territories."

My question, Mr. Speaker, is: can the minister provide further clarification on the business case regarding women's shelters and what specifically is being requested from the federal government? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This past winter during our session, I spoke to what transpired during our Cape Dorset Cabinet Retreat.

It was included in the *Tamapta* mandate and it relates to families at risk. We have to prioritize those residents at risk, especially with relation to Nunavut. With these issues, members of the Cabinet agreed that we would set aside some funds. They set aside a larger amount of funds and I believe there five

or six shelters that received assistance. Because of this mandate, we have tried to create a foundation for more of these shelters to get approved.

However, with respect to the federal government, we haven't heard anything back and that's what I can relay to the member. Thank you.

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

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With regard to my second supplementary, we hear about this issue from Canada's government. For example, in the Yukon, the Northwest Territories, as well as Nunavut, I believe there are quite a number of shelters and they're used a lot. As a matter of fact, I believe that in Nunavut, our numbers are in the stratosphere. If you look at Canada as a whole, our numbers are skewed at the high end.

Perhaps, Mr. Speaker, the minister can respond to my question or he can notify the House as to how many Nunavummiut utilize these shelters and what kinds of programs and services and they offer to Nunavummiut. So that is my question to the Minister of Health. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, I thank the member for raising that question. I know it's a concern of his. I think a lot of us share that concern, but if we are to operate efficiently and if

Nunavutmiut dealt with all of these issues properly, we wouldn't have to have so many shelters. We know there is a role and place for them, but at this time and place, there are a lot of reasons why people need to use these shelters.

What I can state, Mr. Speaker, is that currently, there are five shelters in operation and this applies specifically to people who may need to be away from their spouses. We give them an operation and maintenance budget. Here in Iqaluit, there is a 21-bed shelter. In Kivalliq, in Rankin Inlet, there are eight beds in the shelter. In the Kitikmeot, in Taloyoak, there is also a shelter with six beds. In Cambridge Bay, there is a four-bed shelter. In Kugluktuk, there is also a four-bed shelter.

As I stated, the funds were allocated from the Cabinet and we haven't started using the new funds yet, but we are expecting that the shelter in Kugaaruk can be put forward as a proposal so that we can work with them on the operations budget and get it up and running. Thank you.

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

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My final question is with regard to the federal government. It's quite obvious that they have put together a program regarding shelters. We have heard about it and we're speaking with our federal government. It's something that we need to look at, but perhaps the minister can meet with his federal counterparts to look at how they're planning to deal with these issues and resolve these matters. Perhaps he

can update us after his meeting. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I will look into that matter and to see if we can work together with our federal counterparts. Once I find out the details, I will ensure that I provide those details to the member. Thank you.

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

Question 360 – 3(2): Status of Relocating the Medical Travel Office from Pangnirtung

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to ask a question to the same minister, the Minister of Health and Social Services.

As I told him earlier, I'm reminding him just in case he doesn't believe me afterward. I wasn't going to raise questions when they said that they were going to move the Medical Travel Office staff from Pangnirtung to Iqaluit. This is specifically with respect to the Medical Travel Office and the minister stated that they would be transferred on April 1.

However, I have been notified that the office hasn't been transferred and it's not operating properly. My question is: what is going on? They set up the new office. When will the office actually be transferred? 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. On April 2, just a little while ago, I know that I have told my staff that apparently, we're having a meeting tomorrow. When they said tomorrow, they probably meant four days. I usually think about it that way, but I'm glad that you guys remind me once in a while.

What we can say is that the transfer is proceeding. However, we couldn't transfer everything that the office required and there were a lot of little nagging issues that caused this. Again, there were people who were training, the families have to be moved, and some of the staff are undertaking training and they can't be moved until the training is over. There is also the issue of getting replacement workers.

So there are a lot of issues that we have to deal with, but what I can state is that at the Qikiqtani General Hospital, there are casual staff dealing with the travel requirements. Once the staff members have been transferred, this is where they will be transferred to. It is slowly moving ahead, but there are a lot of issues that we need to deal with. Thank you.

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

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With regard to the funds, I expect that we may have to start cutting funds, especially in areas where

the money is not going to be used. Will the funds for the office be cut if the office isn't transferred? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With regard to the deficit cuts, the budget was already approved and it will proceed. I met with the Qikiqtaaluk representatives during their meetings and we stated at that meeting that we needed to deal with medical travel for all of Nunavut.

There will now be a manager for medical travel in Nunavut for the Kivalliq and the Kitikmeot regions. That person will review all of the issues associated with medical travel in all of Nunavut. What we can state for the Baffin region is that at this time, there are two offices that are kind of separate that are working.

Once the proper training manuals have been completed, they will be transferred, but I would like to assure the member that the budget will not be impacted. Thank you.

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

Question 361 – 3(2): Status of a New Daycare Facility for Chesterfield Inlet

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

Mr. Speaker, when we last met, I urged the minister to look into the possibility of accessing federal programs and services to provide new daycare infrastructures in Nunavut. The community of Chesterfield Inlet desperately needs a new daycare building from which to deliver early childhood education programs.

Can the minister indicate whether he or his staff have looked into what federal programs or services may be available to support the creation of daycare infrastructure in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the member for posing those questions. The issue of daycares is an ongoing concern for our department, especially not having daycare workers.

In communities that do have existing daycare centres, we have provided funding support for operations and we have increased the amount that they can apply for related to operations. However, with regard to capital items and as it relates to daycare centres, our policy hasn't changed as a government. Whenever a government will create a facility towards government facilities, they include those capital funds.

We haven't set aside a lot of funds for capital projects or future daycare centres. It is an issue that we recognize and it's included in our *Tamapta* mandate as a government. However, we are still dealing with these issues and trying to

resolve them. We are still looking for funds that we can provide these daycares.

We are still working on a lot of details, especially as it relates to capital issues. There are a lot of things you have to do in preparation prior to being able to complete a daycare centre. There are a lot of communities that are short of daycare centre space. That is all I can provide an answer to at this time, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Ningeongan (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) In April of this year, the Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami issued a media release following the national early childhood education gathering in Labrador. Can the minister update this House on how many Nunavummiut early childhood educators attended this gathering? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In regard to the actual figures, I cannot state exactly how many people were attending the meeting, but I will get back to the member on how many Nunavummiut were included in that because I don't have the figures in front of me. I would like to take his question as notice, Mr. Speaker, if you don't mind. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. The question has been taken as

notice. Oral Questions. (interpretation ends) Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. Elliott.

Question 362 – 3(2): Seismic Testing in the High Arctic

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are directed to the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Arctic College, the Hon. Daniel Shewchuk.

Mr. Speaker, the Nunavut Impact Review Board recently sent its screening decision report of May 21, 2010 to the minister. This report concerns the Geological Survey of Canada's proposal to conduct seismic testing in Lancaster Sound, Jones Sound, and Baffin Bay titled the "Eastern Canadian Arctic Seismic Experiment." Can the minister indicate when he will make his final decision on this proposed project? Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister responsible for the Nunavut Arctic College, Hon. Daniel Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the member for that question. He is absolutely correct. There is an application that has been reviewed by NIRB and they have come back to the Nunavut Research Institute with a recommendation on the screening criteria.

At present, that application is being reviewed by me and it has been held off, as the member well knows. Starting on May 31, the proponent has agreed to do further consultations with all five communities involved and as we speak, those consultations are going on, Mr. Speaker. So this application will not be

reviewed until that consultation is complete and a report is received. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the minister said, the communities of Arctic Bay, Resolute Bay, and Grise Fiord are being consulted, actually, this week. Each of my communities does not support this project. In light of concerns raised by the communities, can the minister indicate if this project will still go ahead or will it listen to the concerns of the communities? Thank you.

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

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm very glad to hear of the concerns and the views that the member has from his communities. I believe those communities will relate those views in the consultations that are taking place. They will be in that report and it will be reviewed at that time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's interesting that there is a lot of concern and talk. I was lucky enough to receive, actually, a document from DFO today. It was sent by my mayor. Just a couple of quotes are that "Seismic shooting kills plankton, including eggs, larvae of many fish and shellfish species...

There is evidence, based on laboratory studies, that fish and/or marine mammals

near an air gun array could suffer permanent hearing loss from exposure..." and this loss could affect their survival. "Whales and especially Pilot Whales may be particularly sensitive to noise created by" this activity. And, "The implications of a seismic survey across a fish or whale migration pathway are unknown." It's almost like we are not sure what it could do, but we are going to be doing it.

Is there a representative from your department travelling around with this consultation process? Thank you.

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

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The member brings out very important concerns. These concerns will be listened to and hopefully heard about and see what mitigation measures can be put into place.

To answer the question: is there a representative from the Arctic College's Nunavut Research Institute? Yes, there is a member of our staff there. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I stated yesterday in the House, many communities feel as though their concerns are not being taken into account when decisions are being made on projects throughout Nunavut. Has the minister reviewed the research licensing process and if not, will the minister commit to doing so today? Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The licensing process that is outlined in the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement is very clear. There has been consultation done with these communities prior to the application, during the application, and now after the application, it has been recommended for the screening decision.

So the process is clear. It's up to us at this point in time to recommend that further action be taken or further review be taken and that is exactly what is taking place right now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Natilik, Ms. Ugyuk.

Question 363 – 3(2): Implementation of Qanukkanniq Report Card Recommendations

Ms. Ugyuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Premier.

On October 1, 2009, the Premier was presented with the *Qanukkanniq* GN Report Card, which presented 93 recommendations, including several which focused on addressing social concerns at their roots.

Can the Premier update this House on how many of these 93 recommendations have been directly implemented to date?

Speaker: Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. Premier of Nunavut, Hon. Eva Aariak.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank our colleague for posing that question. With the *Qanukkanniq* GN Report Card, it is considered very important by this government and it has a lot of issues covered. The departments are implementing quite a number of these issues, including the ones that are in the *Qanukkanniq* GN Report Card.

I will have to look into the 93 recommendations and inform the House as to how many of these recommendations have been implemented. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Premier. Your first supplementary, Ms. Ugyuk.

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Recommendation #61 of the *Qanukkanniq* Report Card states, "Ensure that a culturally appropriate treatment centre is established in Nunavut." This is one of the priorities that I identified in my Member's Statement yesterday. Can the minister describe what kinds of additional or supporting information was provided by North Sky Consulting Group to the government with respect to this specific recommendation? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. (interpretation ends) Madam Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is one of the important issues we hear from the people of Nunavut, such as an appropriate treatment centre to be

established in Nunavut. The North Sky Consulting Group was given direction by the government on what is considered to be a priority. When we were newly elected and when we were making our priorities as a government in our retreat in Cape Dorset... the establishment of a treatment centre is mentioned in *Tamapta*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Premier. (interpretation ends) Your second supplementary, Ms. Ugyuk.

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) When will a Nunavut-based substance abuse treatment centre open its doors to Nunavut clients? (interpretation) Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you. Madam Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If the funds are available and the staff are available, we would be more than pleased to open a treatment centre, but if we do, it has to go through the government budgeting system and we have to get positions established. Since it is under *Tamapta*, it is one of the priorities of the government, but I'm sorry to say that I don't know when the treatment centre would open its doors in Nunavut, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Premier. (interpretation ends) Your final supplementary, Ms. Ugyuk.

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to know when we will get some funds to build the treatment centre and when it would open its doors. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Madam Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is part of the government's priorities and it is under discussion by this government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 364 – 3(2): New Research Vessel

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

It is nice to see that we're getting a new ship here, a research vessel here in Nunavut, and I see anything that's new here, we always need a contest, of course, to name it. Now, I am just wondering if there's an age limit or how old you've got to be to enter the contest. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the member for that question and concern. I'm not sure if he wants to enter or not, but I don't have that information in front of me right now, but as soon as criteria and guidelines are set out for the contest, I will advise all of the Members of the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On a more serious note now, I was just wondering if the crew for the ship is going to be selected from Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My understanding is that we do have training ongoing in the fisheries industry right now. It was very successful training beneficiaries and Nunavutmiut. Part of this crew will be from Nunavut and others will be scientists with DFO and other jurisdictions that will be involved too, but part of the crew is definitely going to be from Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The other question is: where is the cost of maintaining the ship going to be coming from? Is it from the Government of Nunavut or from the federal government? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At present, the cost will be shared both by the Government of Nunavut and the federal government. Their negotiations are ongoing with long-term operation funding for this vessel. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Where is that ship going to be stored for the winter? Is it going to be rented to the Canadian Navy or something like that? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The vessel is being designed to be stored on the shores of Iqaluit beach, on the shores of the Arctic. However, another option is to lease or rent the vessel out to other jurisdictions to use for research also. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 365 – 3(2): New Food Mail Program

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to raise a question to the Premier today.

We heard on the news recently from the federal government that they have created a plan with respect to Nutrition North, the new program that is replacing the Food Mail Program that will now be used by the vendors.

Based on the news, it seems like only some of the vendors will be able to get the subsidy for nutritious foods and it seems like some of the stores will not be eligible for this program. Have you checked into how the operations will run down the road in the future? That is my first question to the Premier. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the Member for Iqaluit West for asking his question. We have been made aware with the federal official coming to Iqaluit to identify how the Food Mail Program will be done. The Food Mail Program was initiated back in the 1960s and it's an old program. I am very pleased to say that it has been updated.

The concern is in regard to only some of the stores benefiting from the Food Mail Program and I have asked the same question. All of the stores could use this program if they wanted to. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are quite a few concerns expressed by business owners and they have brought them up with me at meetings. How will this especially impact those people who order their own food by mail? I would like to ask that question now as to how it will impact people who personally order their food. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Madam Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Individuals who order their food and individuals who would like to order their groceries will continue to do so. The system will not change and it will continue. The only change that will occur is that there will

be more outlets that they can order from, not just from Montreal. They can order from other outlets if an agreement is struck with the stores down south and the federal government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What I'm trying to get at here in this House is that we also identified whether a country food subsidy could be included, especially when we're talking about trading country foods between the communities. Here especially, we hardly have any caribou now but a lot of us enjoy *maktaaq*. However, it's kind of hard to get a subsidy or ship country food to different communities. How will country foods be included in Nutrition North in the future? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We work hard on behalf of country food. We wrote a letter to the federal government when they were reviewing the Food Mail Program. We included country food since it's very important to us. It is nutritious and less expensive in Nunavut. For example, some communities lack arctic char or caribou meat in some years and following the seasons.

We spoke about country foods and asked them if they can include them in the Food Mail Program. We understood that they can include country foods through

the new program that they established, but it could be used for commercial outlets only. I would like to see more opportunities.

The federal government had made an announcement that they will be implementing the new program on April 1, 2011. Prior to April 1, 2011, we will be using the same Food Mail Program until that date arrives in April. Also, part of the change is that consumers will be able to know how much savings they will get.

A committee will be established and the chair is going to be Elizabeth Copeland, but they haven't filled the other positions in that committee. When I heard that, I was satisfied with it. We will just use these in the interim until April 1 so that we at least have somebody to voice our concerns to the committee that is going to be established. If anyone feels that we need to improve or add more to this program, then they can approach the committee that is going to be established. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the Premier for providing an adequate response. I also want to further support her because when you look at it day-to-day, there are probably three food plants in all of Nunavut. There are a lot of other smaller communities, so if we're going to use that, it will only help those three food plants and communities that don't have food plants.

Therefore, I further encourage the Premier to push forward recommendations that will allow communities to create country foods. Mr. Speaker, *maktaa* is readily available in some communities, but not have processing plants. We want to see this situation improved so that all communities can benefit from this program. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Okalik. Although I didn't hear a question, you may respond, (interpretation ends) Madam Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Ordering groceries and the Food Mail Program is very important to us. The issue of inter-settlement trading for country food needs to be considered. Now that we have heard from the federal government, I believe that we have more room to include country food and to make sure that the federal government hears our concerns.

To elaborate further, they will be able to use commercial outlets for inter-settlement trade, but it does not include families sending meat out to another community to family members. We can also consider and work on that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 366 – 3(2): Fuel Supply in Pangnirtung

Mr. Komoartok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to raise a question to the Minister of Community

and Government Services,
(interpretation ends) Hon. Lorne
Kusugak.

(interpretation) Last year, we ran out of petroleum products in our community. Actually, we ran out of gasoline. Hunters couldn't go boating and Hondas and vehicles couldn't go because we ran out of gasoline. Last year, the ice broke up on June 18. Apparently, they are already boating in front of our community now and they are starting to use gas-guzzling vehicles.

I would like to see how much more prepared you are now to meet our needs to ensure that we don't run out of gasoline and how you will look to resolve that. That is my question to the minister. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleague for raising that question. In regard to the petroleum and gasoline issue both in Nunavut and in the growing communities, we are running short on petroleum products, especially before the sealift. Last year, we did go through that with your commitment to that community.

What I can state is that the Petroleum Products Division has completed a study on how we can deal with gasoline, how much is left over, and how much of it is being used. So they looking into all of the details within the community of Pangnirtung so that they don't face the

same shortages they did last year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Komoartok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister for his response. We have heard that there is going to be a strategy and that there would a tanker that would come up earlier. So my question is whether the tanker could be sent up earlier once there is no more ice.

I imagine that they could now start planning to ship the first tanker. What I'm wondering is whether the fuel tanker could come in earlier to our community this year than it did last year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, as we spoke about this issue over the winter, the member may recall that I informed him that we would try to make Pangnirtung a priority, especially for a fuel tanker to arrive into the community earlier.

However, when fuel tankers start arriving to Nunavut and if ice conditions allow, one of the first tankers will arrive in Pangnirtung. That was one of our priorities and that is still what we're planning.

If things change, I will keep the member informed, but based on my knowledge, Pangnirtung will be the first community based on last year's shortages. So the

fuel tanker will be going to that community first, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Question 367 – 3(2): New Research Vessel

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister responsible for Environment.

In regard to your Minister's Statement, you talked about the new research vessel and from Mr. Schell's questioning, you indicated that it would be based or stored in Iqaluit. Will this research vessel be used throughout Nunavut or will it be concentrating on the Baffin region? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for the question. The research vessel will be designed to be used throughout Nunavut and it's planned to do that too.

As the member knows, it's a priority of the government to expand our new fishing industry not only to the Baffin region and the coastal waters of the Baffin region but also in the Hudson Bay area and in the western Arctic also. The research vessel will be used all across Nunavut.

We, as a department, are expanding our exploration by hiring staff in the Kivalliq and Kitikmeot regions of Nunavut. So

that is our goal, to expand the fishery industry throughout Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for his response. I didn't see it in the Minister's Statement, but when do we anticipate this vessel coming into service? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The vessel completion date of building it should be in November. It will come into service not this summer but the following summer. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given the fact that this vessel won't come into service for another year, will your department be conducting any kind of surveys with HTOs to find out what kinds of species of fish are being harvested at present in communities, Mr. Speaker? Thank you.

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

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The plan is exactly that, it is to start the planning now on what research will be conducted involving the HTOs, DFO, the jurisdictions, and the fishery industry of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 368 – 3(2): Social Advocacy Office

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday, I said in my Member's Statement that I was going to look forward to working with the new Member from Nattilik, Ms. Ugyuk, and I really like the questions that she is asking.

My questions are directed towards the Premier and are based around the social advocate's office. I'm wondering if the Premier could give us an update as to what has happened since the last time we were in the House when I was asking what was up with that office. Thank you.

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

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I would also like to thank the Member for Quttiktuq for asking the question. We are still working on this issue. The Social Advocacy Office is to improve the lives of people, for example, policy and services, and to provide more social programs.

The Social Advocacy Office has been established within EIA and we are now working on hiring administrators. Ever since the member asked me that question last March, I believe, there have been four positions. Two positions are currently filled, the manager and the director. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for those answers. I guess the next question would be in terms of your business plan and what is hoped to be done this year. With the lack of ability to fill those positions, is that going to slow down some of these programs that you are talking about? Thank you.

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

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We're going through with our plan and it seems like it won't change. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Within the business plan, it speaks of the completion of the Suicide Prevention Strategy. As we reviewed the O&M in the last session, there were a lot of different departments, not just EIA, that was... within the business plan, it actually said that they would be implementing the Suicide Prevention Strategy.

I'm just wondering if you could give us an update. Is the strategy completed? Are the government departments following through on implementing that? When will you table that? Thank you.

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

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Department of EIA was the lead for the

Suicide Prevention Strategy and we contracted an individual. The contract is now over and the Department of Health and Social Services has now taken on that responsibility. During this session, I will provide more updates on this issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I didn't quite hear. Is the strategy actually complete? Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you. Madam Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): The GN, NTI, and Isaksimagit Inuusirmi have jointly worked on the Suicide Prevention Strategy. I will look into that to find out where they are at now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 369 – 3(2): Seismic Testing in Lancaster Sound

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation.

I think we all know or most Nunavummiut know that Pond Inlet doesn't want seismic blasting to be carried out in Lancaster Sound. Is this an actual research initiative that has been undertaken to do seismic testing in Lancaster Sound? Thank you.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. That depends on the permitting status, as my colleague had indicated, the Hon. Minister of Environment.

The seismic work that is proposed by the proponent is approximately a 1,700-kilometre line. The majority of the work that is being done is over 100 kilometres away from any community. The new technology that is being used is about 180 decibels compared to the more devastating effects that they used in the early 1970s.

At this time, the project is subject to permitting by various organizations, including NIRB. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Why is it then that in the 1970s, they did blasting in carrying out their seismic studies? Are those seismic studies not good enough that they are required to do more blasting? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Throughout the years, technologies change. One of the proposals for that area is a marine conservation area. One of the requirements is that a biological,

ecological, and geological survey be done pending approval of anything. All of these are necessary requirements to be done before any agreement is reached for such areas as a marine conservation area, national or territorial parks. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): I don't think I got the response or I don't quite understand it. When they do a seismic study, are they going to find out how many fish and narwhal pods there are or are they trying to find undersea petroleum resources? Can he clarify that for me, please? Thank you.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. No, the seismic testing is not for determining the number of marine animals that are within the area. The seismic testing is exactly that; the mineral potential, oil and gas potential, and so forth. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So the purpose of the seismic survey is to find out what kind of minerals there are and to determine how much oil and gas reserves might be there. In other words, if there is enough oil for the purpose of production in the future, it will not be set aside as what you want to call a marine mammal protective area. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Whether that may be the case or not, it is up to the people of Nunavut to decide whether the area becomes a marine conservation protected area or for other uses, such as mineral, oil, and gas extraction, but that is determined by the people of Nunavut.

The exercise of seismic requirement is a requirement before any conservation area is declared a conservation area. It is part of the feasibility study to indicate and determine where the boundaries are going to be for any area that is going to be managed or considered as a conservation area, national park, or territorial park. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Good timing, Mr. Taptuna.

>> *Laughter*

Item 7. Written Questions. Mr. Komoartok.

Mr. Komoartok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If my colleagues do not mind, I would like to return to Item 5 of the (interpretation ends) Orders of the Day. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Komoartok. Mr. Komoartok is seeking unanimous consent to return to Item 5, Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Are there any nays? There are none. We have returned to Item 5. Mr. Komoartok.

Revert to Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Mr. Komoartok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleagues. I want to recognize these young people who came in after we had recognition of visitors. They are both from my community of Pangnirtung, but they live in Iqaluit and they go back and forth between Pangnirtung and Iqaluit.

It is quite obvious that they will be future community leaders. They work really hard to complete their education. Kanayuk Karpik and Solomon Ryan are currently watching. Let us celebrate their accomplishments today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

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

Item 13: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 161 – 3(2): Considerations Regarding an Open Market System for Annual Sealift – Summary Report – December 2009

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table the following document: Considerations

Regarding an Open Market System for Annual Sealift – Summary Report – December 2009. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Tabling of Documents. Item 14. Notices of Motions. Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 16. Motions. Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Item 19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Tabled Documents 13 – 3(2), 66 – 3(2), 99 – 3(2), and 100 – 3(2) with Mr. Okalik in the Chair.

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

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House recessed at 15:05 and Committee resumed at 15:36*

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

Chairman (Mr. Okalik)(interpretation): Good afternoon. I would like to call the committee meeting to order. In Committee of the Whole, we have the following items to deal with: 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 wish to continue with the review of the tabled documents as noted: 66 – 3(2), 99 – 3(2), 100 – 3(2), and 13 –

3(2). We will start with the Department of the Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, followed by the Department of Health and Social Services. If time permits, we would like to proceed with the departments of Finance and Justice, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. Are we in agreement that we first deal with Tabled Document 66 – 3(2), 99 – 3(2), and 100 – 3(2)?

Some Members: Agreed.

Tabled Document 066 – 3(2): 2008-2009 Lease Activity Report – Consideration in Committee

Tabled Document 099 – 3(2): Contract Activity Report 2008-09 – Consideration in Committee

Tabled Document 100 – 3(2): Procurement Activity Report 2008-09 – Consideration in Committee

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. We can start off with the meeting. I'll ask our Premier, Eva Aariak, to make her opening comments. Ms. Aariak.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman and members of the committee. It is my pleasure to make an appearance before you as Premier and Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs.

As you have already heard from Minister Kusugak, the Government of Nunavut believes we receive the best value for public dollars spent through competitive bidding processes.

I am personally committed to transparent and accountable contracting and have already directed my department to reduce the use of sole source contracting as much as possible. Even our government is trying to use fewer sole source contracts as much as possible so that we can hire qualified people in our departments and to make sure that they provide programs and services.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my opening comments. I will be pleased to answer any questions the members may have about the procurement and contracting activities of the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs in the 2008-09 fiscal year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Premier Aariak. Are you going to be bringing any officials to the witness table with you? Premier Aariak.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Yes.

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

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): They have agreed. Sergeant-at-Arms, if you can escort the Premier's officials in, please.

We are on page 5. The staff is at the witness table. Madam Premier, if you can introduce your officials, please.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my right is Markus Weber, Deputy Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, and to my left is Scott Marriott

from Corporate Affairs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Premier. I welcome your officials. I'm sure that my colleagues will have questions and we will just continue the rules from yesterday. For your information, you have 10 minutes to speak. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to start first by commenting about my opening comments yesterday. I did provide them to Minister Kusugak as he requested yesterday. I want to point out that those were actually my comments that I had prepared and not comments of the Committee as a Whole, just so that the understanding is out there. Thank you.

My first question is: the government's most recent annual report on procurement activities indicates that your department awarded a \$72,000 contract in 2008-09 for the services of Nunavut's chief devolution negotiator. It's contract C1350. Given that your department's current business plan indicates that formal devolution negotiations have not yet started, what services did the individual actually provide to the government? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Ms. Premier, can you try and respond?

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have a negotiator who is Tony Penikett. (interpretation ends) Tony Penikett had to negotiate the protocol, not the devolution negotiation but the protocol, with the Government of Canada.

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Premier. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So the contract was actually for developing the process for the protocol. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Ms. Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Yes. (interpretation ends) When we are working on a protocol, we have to ensure that we are taking the right steps in developing the protocol and we need someone to do that, which would be Tony Penikett. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Premier. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In your department, how many people are actually hired on as full-time staff members to handle the file of devolution? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Ms. Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My deputy, Markus Weber, will respond. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Premier. Mr. Weber.

Mr. Weber: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. All together, there are seven person-years, or seven positions, in the

Devolution Division. Currently, four of those are staffed. We have an acting director and three other staff members currently working there. The negotiations are not currently ongoing, but we hope to get them going this year and we will be working actively towards that. So we will be staffing that division this year. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Weber. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. You had mentioned that there are seven person-year positions but only four [are filled] and you also mentioned that devolution actually hasn't started in terms of negotiations. It just makes me wonder. What are those four people doing and why couldn't they have handled the work? Did they not have the expertise that was required to do the work? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Ms. Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Markus Weber will respond.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Weber.

Mr. Weber: Thank you. The expenditure, the \$72,000 contract, was for the 2008-09 year. The activity level was somewhat different than it is now. It wasn't just a matter of research, there were also ongoing negotiations. There weren't negotiations of a devolution agreement; there were negotiations around a devolution protocol, a protocol for how the negotiations will proceed. All parties were active in that process,

including the GN but also NTI and the federal government.

Mr. Penikett was hired as a consultant because of the specialized expertise that he brought to the position. We will re-examine as we enter into negotiations. When the federal government has a negotiation protocol, we will again look at whether this is done by a consultant or by staff. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Weber. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The government's most recent annual report on procurement activities indicates that your department awarded a \$29,900 sole source contract in 2008-09 to the Conference Board of Canada to prepare a report on the economic and fiscal impact of devolution. Your department's Devolution Division has, as you mentioned, seven positions but four of them are filled. Why did the government need to hire an outside organization to do the work? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Who would like to respond to that question? Premier Aariak.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): My deputy, Markus Weber, will continue to respond to these questions.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Weber.

Mr. Weber: Thank you. At that time, the staffing of the division was actually fairly good. We have grown the size of the division by creating some new positions in anticipation that we will need to negotiate very soon.

But at the time, we needed the Conference Board of Canada for some specialized expertise. The focus of the research that they did was primarily on ensuring that we get a framework for devolution that will give us a net fiscal benefit for this territory and that was the extent of the work that they did. They were not at the table with us when we were negotiating the protocol, they did some specialized research. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Weber. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, my limited knowledge of devolution and how it works: when you talk about the economic and fiscal impact of devolution, does this research include, actually, once it's in place and money starts coming and flowing to the territory for different things, a plan of how to spend that money properly?

I'm just thinking ahead with the Nunavut Housing Trust and things like that, that we wouldn't want to have an influx of money and not be able to handle it. Is research covered under that in terms of what you are doing with research? Thanks.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. (interpretation) Mr. Weber, you don't mind answering? Mr. Weber.

Mr. Weber: Thank you. The focus is on ensuring that there is a net fiscal benefit to Nunavut. We don't want devolution to cost us money. We want to exercise control over our land, so that is the focus ultimately. In the very long term, there may prove to be a positive fiscal benefit. At that point, we will have to ensure that

we use those resources appropriately, but the research currently is not focused on that.

The financial promise of devolution lies quite some time into the future. The exercise of control over our land is the primary focus at this point, but the research that we did do was to ensure that that financial promise that is far into the future happens and that in the meantime, we don't have a net fiscal loss. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Weber. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Would the Premier be willing to commit to tabling the report that was produced? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. (interpretation) Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This was done quite a while back and we will look into it and provide the information to the House. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Premier. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My next question is in regard to contract C1286. The government's most recent annual report on procurement activities indicates that your department awarded a \$48,000 sole source contract to Circumpolar Consulting in 2008-09 for "devolution division special projects." Your department's devolution division again has people hired. I'm just wondering why the government needs to

go out and sole source a contract for this. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In response to your last question, you wanted information on the negotiation aspect of it tabled in the House. We have to look into that again because its content is in negotiation. We cannot devolve all of the negotiation information to the House and that's why we have to review the negotiation part of it.

Markus will also respond to his question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Premier. Mr. Weber.

Mr. Weber: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That particular contract again related to devolution activity and the primary focus of that was around capacity building. Capacity building is an argument that is always brought forward for the reason that devolution should not happen, but on the other hand, it's also a reason that devolution should happen.

We were doing some anticipatory research to prepare us for what, at that point, was expected to be a very short timeframe for negotiations. The government at the time thought that there might be an opportunity for negotiations to begin in the immediate future. Despite the fact that we had staff, we needed additional help and that was the purpose of those consulting contracts. Aside from the chief negotiator who still remains on contract,

these other contracts are no longer in existence.

We will re-examine whether we can do things with staff or whether we need specialized advice at times. This is a very specialized field and requires specialized knowledge. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Weber. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The government's most recent annual report on procurement activities indicates that your department awarded a \$25,700 sole source contract in 2008-09 to the Nunavut Development Corporation for Nunavut Day coasters and bookmarks. Why did the department not issue a public tender or RFP for this contract? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Elliott. (interpretation ends) The contract referred to is C1192 for the benefit of the witnesses. (interpretation) Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Sometimes if we need to do things on an emergency basis, we have to ask the same contractor. We are trying to stop sole source contracts within our department. Other departments are now working hard to keep away from sole source contracting, but in emergency situations, we do sole source contracting. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Premier. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I understand that in emergency cases, like

we had the example of the Pangnirtung Bridge and whatnot in an emergency case, but was the government not aware of when Nunavut Day was? Thank you.

>> *Laughter*

Chairman: Yes, Mr. Elliott.
(interpretation) Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): It is evident that it was planned and on top of that plan, they wanted to do more work. They provided celebration gifts to all communities in Nunavut during that time. After I saw that, I told them not to do that again if at all possible. I thank my staff for listening to my advice. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Premier. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The other concern that I had was this specific sole contract. It's nice to know that the Nunavut Development Corporation was used and hopefully, the coasters and bookmarks that came didn't have "Made in China" on them.

What I would hope to see is that we've got a lot of artists and different people in the communities who could have used funding and shown artwork from across Nunavut. Thank you.

The government's most recent annual report on procurement activities indicates that your department awarded a \$60,000 sole source contract in 2008-09, that's contract C207, to Hill and Knowlton for consulting services. What specific services did this company actually provide to the government and

is the government still using this company to do work? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): First of all I thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Hill and Knowlton is used as a general retainer for our office to get information and research with respect to relationships with other governments, (interpretation) especially down in Ottawa. The company is down in Ottawa. We have to work with the federal government within the Department of EIA and we use that consulting service. I hope I am clear. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Premier. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have just gone through four different examples of sole source contacts that the government has given. For these contracts, we had learned yesterday that CGS has nothing with contracting with another department. Each department does the contracting and the evaluation of contracts themselves. Within your department, who gets to make the decisions for sole source contracts? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The deputy ministers are responsible for dealing with that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Premier. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At the same time, we were also told that the deputy minister does sign them. Is it the deputy minister as well who writes up the activities that will be done under each of the contracts or are there other people within your department that do that? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Who can respond? Madam Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. According to the services that we need to provide, the deputy minister usually is responsible. If they require assistance, they can jointly work together.

I do want to supplement that, as I stated in my opening comments, we're trying to reduce the use of sole source contracting as much as possible. Sometimes when it's necessary, we do sole source contracting. We're now trying to reduce the use of sole source contracting. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Premier. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is it also the deputy minister's responsibility to evaluate the contract in terms of were the objectives met, or was the contract successful, did the government get the value for its money? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you. The deputy minister would be responsible to sign off contracts. The

staff in other departments can set those up, but the deputy minister is the head. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Premier. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wanted to ask questions on contract C209. The government's most recent annual report on procurement activities indicates that your department awarded a \$61,920 sole source contract in 2008-09 to Aarluk Consulting to prepare a proposal for an energy strategy. What was that for? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With regard to that contract, it is part of the *Ikummatiit* Energy Strategy work to prepare towards the completion of the strategy. This strategy is to look at energy issues. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Premier. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So you are saying that the *Ikummatiit*, which was finished in September of 2007, they are taking that sort of report and coming up with a strategy to implement it within the government. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you. We have already tabled it in

the House and I would be pleased to give you a copy. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Premier. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just for clarification, are you saying the strategy is finished and it was tabled in the House? I have a copy. Is this what you are talking about? So you are saying that Aarluk Consulting prepared this. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are working on it and right now, we are getting help from Aarluk Consulting. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Premier. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: So I'll go back to my original questions. Help with what? What exactly are they helping you with? Creating the strategy that is going to be implemented, or what are they helping you with? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) The work is on the implementation plan of this strategy. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Premier. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm assuming that since the money was given to Aarluk between the fiscal year of 2008-09, the work is done, the implementation plan is done. Will you be tabling that as well? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is quite a large document and it takes more than one individual and other departments to review it. It is not completed; we are still working on it. The Department of EIA is working with other departments. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Premier. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So is the Aarluk Consulting part of this finished? Did they get paid their \$61,000 or is that not done as well? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't deal with the day-to-day operations as the Premier, so I will have Markus Weber respond to that question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Premier. Mr. Weber.

Mr. Weber: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't have the exact details of the number of dollars spent. This was the award value of the contract. I don't have the exact number of the dollars spent on that contract.

The work of creating the implementation plan is continuing and it is an interdepartmental initiative, largely with staff participating. The consultant element is ancillary. It's the Department of EIA that's involved through the Energy Secretariat and is coordinating the implementation plan, but the Department of Community and Government Services and the Nunavut Housing Corporation especially are also actively involved in creating a plan for implementation of that strategy. It's our hope that we can get that done this fiscal year. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Weber. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. You had mentioned the Energy Secretariat. Why did the staff in that department not perform this work? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Mr. Weber.

Mr. Weber: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At the time, there was only a very limited number of staff, and these are very complex and technical implementation plans. The strategy speaks generally to what the government will do in terms of energy awareness and energy conservation. The plans are very detailed and they entail exactly how we will conserve energy in government owned assets, for example. So it requires very technical and detailed knowledge. For that reason, the consultants were retained to assist with the work. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Weber. Are there any other questions? Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In previous answers, the Premier said that on certain occasions when it's an emergency, they use sole source contracts and because of special technical... for devolution, certain people are hired. So you are telling me that Aarluk Consulting has special technical people on energy conservation and performing duties involving energy and those types of activities? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Who would like to respond? Mr. Weber.

Mr. Weber: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again I don't have the details of the expenditures on this particular contract, so I can't give the member information on exactly who was involved, but we could provide some information on the details of the implementation planning to the member afterward. Thank you.

Chairman: The actual amount is \$61,920.31. Is that the amount that we are talking about? Is the proposal for an energy strategy that was sole sourced to Aarluk? Is that correct, Mr. Elliott?

Mr. Elliott: That's correct. That's the information I was given and I am a little shocked that the information is not available because I know that when we put the motion forward back in March, we made it aware to all government departments that we would be discussing the contracts that had been awarded in the 2008-09 fiscal year. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Elliott.
(interpretation) Ms. Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation):
Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The \$61,920
is a sole source contract and we don't
know if we have paid out that total
amount. We don't have the breakdown
of what has been paid out. (interpretation
ends) It doesn't mean that the whole
amount has been spent to date.
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr.
Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you.
Are there any more questions? Mr.
Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
Again, I'm glad we are doing this
exercise because it brings up more
questions. You are saying that your
department puts out and does a sole
source contract for \$61,920, and then it
could actually carry over more than one
fiscal year where you don't actually
know how much money is being paid
out to a consulting firm? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Elliott.
(interpretation) Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation):
Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We use the
usual contract process. If we award a
contract for a certain amount limited to a
particular number, we keep it under and
if we go over, then there has to be an
amendment to that contract so that the
numbers that are going over would go
through that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you,
Premier. Mr. Elliott, one more question
then Mr. Arvaluk afterwards. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
With that being said for this particular
contract C209, yes, I would like to see
the final results, what came of it, and
how much was actually put in. Again,
what I'm trying to do is get an
understanding of how the government
gives out the contracts and awards them.

To me, if it's very specialized and
technical, like you said, and we want the
best type of report or the best type of
strategy for the money that we are
paying, you would think that for that
type of specialized... rather than sole
source, you would want to go out and
request for tender or something so that
you can get people from outside of the
territory or maybe people from within
the territory coming and getting the best
people for the job. Not that I'm saying
that you didn't, but that's my
understanding of how the process works.

So if you could commit to getting me
that information, it would be great.
Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you,
Mr. Elliott. (interpretation ends) I didn't
hear a question but a request for a
commitment to provide more
information on this and why it can't be
advertised to get the best price and value
for our dollar. (interpretation) Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation):
Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would be
pleased to give an update in the House as
we keep stating that the government
should be transparent and accountable. I
will be pleased to give the House an
update once that is complete.

In addition, I would like to emphasize
that we are trying to decrease the

number of sole source contracts and if at all possible, we will be open to the public out there, not only the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs but also in the other Government of Nunavut departments. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Premier. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I didn't understand part of Mr. Elliott's question. For further clarity, if I use the example of the \$61,920 sole source contract, as Mr. Weber stated, the contractor is paid a retainer. For example, if you complete this portion, you will be paid so much and then another amount after a certain meeting of a deadline. Is there a difference between them? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Who will respond? Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If it says "retainer" in English, maybe we will have to use a different word. A contractor only gets paid after the completion of a project or program. There is a ceiling to the amount of money that a contractor can be paid. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Premier. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Whether it is Aarluk or someone else, there is quite a number of contracts awarded called service contractors hired by the government. Some of them are contracted for years. Can they not be

hired as employees? It appears that some are even given housing as they are contracted for very long periods of time. Can they not be hired as employees or are you not at all able to find someone to fill those positions?

My question is: the money is spent for contracts as the expenses are already included within the contract, but if the contractor will be contracted for years, is it not cheaper to hire an employee? How come you have contractors for long periods of time instead of hiring someone as an employee? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am very pleased that it was brought up. It is a firm that has been contracted for a long time. We are currently looking at the contract to see if we can hire employees instead. We will only contract them until they complete their contract. Once they have completed their contract, it will be the end of the contract. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Premier. Are there any questions? I don't see any other hands up. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is going to be a completely different question. Here we have contracts C1249 and C1486 in regard to media monitoring services that have been awarded to two contractors. They provide media monitoring services to the government. Is your department

getting good value for the \$338,350?
Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe they have been contracted for a long time. Nowadays, as we are able to seek information immediately through the Internet, we are in the process of evaluating whether our employees could research information themselves as we can access these easily through the use of modern technology. This is a good example of how we can lessen the amount of contracts that are awarded. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Premier. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Yes, I understand exactly where you are coming from. The Premier obviously understands that we have too many sole source contracts.

I will just use contract C1182 as an example. Your department awarded a \$25,000 sole source contract for catering services. Why did your department not issue a public tender for this contract instead of sole sourcing this contract for the provision of catering services?
Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Looking at all of this information, as I stated earlier, we are trying to decrease the amount of sole source contracts and it is going to be

one of our priorities in this government.
Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Premier. Are there any questions? Mr. Schell.

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Aarluk Consulting's current newsletter indicates that the company "recently began an exciting project with GN's Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. The project is a limited scope review of the Department which is incorporating the Government's new Government Liaison positions that are to be created in every community, as well as the repatriation of the Corporate Services functions back into EIA from the Department of Finance."

Why can't your department perform this work itself? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Schell. Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will have my Deputy Minister, Markus Weber, respond to the question. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Premier. Mr. Weber.

Mr. Weber: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that question; it's a very timely question. The reorganization of the department has become necessary, primarily to incorporate the government liaison officers, and the priority that has been put on getting that work done within this fiscal year.

Our department, unfortunately, has had considerable difficulty with staffing of senior positions over the last year. We do have a number of directors in place, but also a number of acting directors, and we will be relying on those people to complete the work that was begun by Aarluk.

Aarluk's contract was conducted in a very short timeframe and we received the results from all of the interviews. They independently interviewed our staff to get some details of how staff would envision the reorganization being pulled together. That information is now being used and the department itself will be preparing submissions to Cabinet and to Financial Management Board as well to complete that reorganization, so it was a very limited scope review. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Weber. Mr. Schell.

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Why did your current business plan not inform MLAs that the department is considering the repatriation of the Corporate Services function back into EIA from the Department of Finance? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Schell. Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have had issues with the Department of Finance and we have to constantly keep monitoring it. When we come across issues and not catch them right away, it exacerbates the problem. We had a meeting to see if we can address this.

If Markus has anything to add, I would like him to supplement my answer, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Premier. Mr. Weber.

Mr. Weber: Thank you. The repatriation of Corporate Services is about the internal functions, the human resource function, the financial processing function, contracting elements are there as well, assistance with contracting and procurement and with budget analysis, budget variance.

All of those functions were previously within the Department of EIA. They were transferred to the Department of Finance. We are currently studying whether we will transfer those back to the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs.

The business plan doesn't normally get into those internal workings. In addition to that, this is not a firm plan at this point; it is something that the department may be recommending to the Executive Council as something that we would like to do. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Weber. Mr. Schell.

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Was Aarluk Consulting awarded this contract through a competitive bidding process and if not, why not?

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Schell. Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This was done through a standing offer, but I

wouldn't know how to say it properly in Inuktitut. Perhaps I should say that it's pre-approved. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Premier. Perhaps if we were to term it in Inuktitut, we would say "waiting to pounce."

>> *Laughter*

Are there any questions? Mr. Schell.

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The government's most recent annual report on leasing activities indicates that the government's lease for the Commissioner of Nunavut's residence in Iqaluit expires on March 31, 2020. The annual value of this lease is \$66,000. At the end of the 20-year lease period, the government would have paid \$1.32 million. Why doesn't the government simply purchase the house? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Schell. Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is the way it was set up, to lease or rent units for this government. It is a matter we can look into, especially to see if it would be more economical to purchase these facilities. This is a good question and we will need to research it further. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Premier. Are there any questions? Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know the Premier had mentioned that the

intention of her department was to reduce the number of sole source contracts and she had also mentioned that it was up to the deputy minister to administer those sole source contracts.

In terms of contracts that are given out or requests for proposals, since CGS isn't involved and I really want to understand this, so in your department, is it the deputy minister's responsibility to put these advertisements in the newspapers and decide what can't be done by different people within your department, not other people's department but your department?

Who does the advertising for requests for proposals? Who reads the tender documents or the documents for contracts and does the evaluation and stuff like that? Is that the deputy minister's responsibility or are their people within your department who are paid to do that? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Which of you would like to try and answer the question? (interpretation ends) I think we got a briefing by CG&S that they do that, but if you want to confirm that, Mr. Weber.

Mr. Weber: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The sole source specifically that the member referenced is the responsibility of the deputy ministers. A sole source can be entered into if the deputy minister of the line department authorizes it.

The actual process of contracting is conducted by the Department of Community and Government Services. Their Procurement Division looks after all of the administrative details. After the advertising, they help to coordinate the

review to make sure that they're fair, transparent, and accountable awards of contracts.

The line department that needs the services sets the criteria for what it is that they need. So the Department of EIA, for example, would enunciate exactly what it is that they want from a consultant, what the final product should be, how much work needs to be conducted, and who would be involved.

The Department of CGS does all of the other administrative details and helps the line department accountably and transparently award those contracts to outside firms. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Weber. Are there any questions? Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that explanation because I definitely misunderstood. When the minister said yesterday that he is only in charge of his department and when we were asking government-wide questions about different evaluation processes, he said it wasn't his department's responsibility. I misunderstood that, so I thank you for that clarification.

In terms of a sole source contracts, let us go back and if we went to the contract C1350, which was the devolution negotiator, within your department, you said, "We don't have the specific skills and the ability to do this, so we need to get it done fast. We want a sole source contract." You, as Madam Premier, the deputy minister of your department would then say, "This needs to be done. Fill out the paperwork and send it off to CGS." Is that correct? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Elliott. (interpretation ends) On this one, I am surprised it is a sole source. I recall advertising this and awarding this contract, so I don't know how it became a sole source, this particular contract anyway. (interpretation) Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. These contracts are difficult to understand, so perhaps if we could designate a person to explain them for us... (interpretation ends) Those are more day-to-day details kind of things in terms of contracts and so on. I am just suggesting that if members feel that they need more information on those kinds of things, then we can provide information to the members. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Minister Kusugak has his hand up.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): You said that you misunderstood what I said yesterday. We responded as best as we could and gave details. If there was some misunderstanding, it is probably his own personal responsibility. It was not my fault that he misunderstood. He only misunderstood if he did it wilfully. The things that I said yesterday in my statement were completely true as far as I could tell. I just want everyone to know this. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Kusugak. You were not the only one, we got all of that information and it wasn't your department's fault. Going to our agenda. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Along the same lines as Mr. Schell's questioning, is the

house that is rented for the commissioner \$66,000 per year? Why is it that when she is working for the federal government, the Government of Nunavut is paying for it? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Who wants to address this question? Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The house is also where the office is. It is a residence as well as having official functions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Premier. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The commissioner is not an employee of the GN but is the appointee of the federal government. Why is it that the territorial government is paying for the rent? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Commissioner of Nunavut is jointly funded by the federal government and by the territorial government. The house is not just a residence but there is an office there as well. Markus Weber can explain the details of that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Premier. Mr. Weber.

Mr. Weber: Thank you. The commissioner is indeed appointed by the

federal government and all of the salary and benefits of the commissioner are paid for by the federal government. The space is a combination of residential and office space. It is shared by an administrative officer. There is an assistant that is a Government of Nunavut employee to assist with all of the administrative burdens of getting Executive Council's decisions signed off by the commissioner and decisions of this House as well.

So for that reason, there is a mix of who pays for which elements. This lease, in particular, is split. The cost of it is actually \$33,000 territorial and \$33,000 federal. We have entered into the lease, I understand, but a portion of those costs are paid for by the federal government; half of those costs are paid for by the federal government. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Weber. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We also heard on the radio and in the media about a statement made by our new commissioner that she will be living in Kugluktuk. When she has made the decision to stay in Kugluktuk, will the house still be paid for by the Government of Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We all know that we have a freshly minted commissioner and she has only been on the job for a few days, so a lot of these

issues are still up in the air. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Premier. Mr. Elliott... I'm sorry. I thought you had your hand up. I guess you were moving your arms around. I'm sorry, but that's why I acknowledged you.

Are there any further questions for EIA? There are no more names on my list. I will now give you an opportunity to make your closing remarks, Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. For all of the questions, I hope we provided good information. If more questions arise, we are open to your questions. Thank you for giving us an opportunity to appear before the committee.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Premier and your officials. Sergeant-at-Arms, if you could escort the witnesses out.

We are now finished with this department and we will deal with the next one, but we will take a five-minute break if you don't mind. Thank you.

>>Committee recessed at 16:38 and resumed at 16:53

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you for coming back. We can now resume our meeting. We will now move on to the Department of Health and Social Services. You can now proceed with your opening comments, Minister Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The statement I am going to read is quite lengthy and complicated, so I will be reading in English.

First of all, I would like to thank you all for attending to this meeting, especially since some of the services we provide are quite complex, but they have to be heard by Nunavutmiut for their benefit. I will read them in English.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Chairman, the Department of Health and Social Services is committed to supporting and sustaining an effective and efficient publicly funded health care and social services system that provides equitable access to appropriate services for all Nunavutmiut, consistent with Government of Nunavut priorities and directions.

The Department of Health and Social Services has close to 1,000 positions, most of which are highly skilled and technical. In the ideal world, we would like to have close to 100 [percent] capacity. However, that is not the case and there are times when we must rely on the work of contractors in order to meet this commitment. This is not unique to health care and it is not to Nunavut – the use of contractors to fill roles in health departments is common practice throughout Canada and the alternative is to cancel services and in extreme, unlikely cases, close health centres elsewhere.

During the fiscal year 2008-09, Health and Social Services awarded 276 contracts over \$5,000, totalling \$75.3 million. Of the 276 contracts, 90 were contracts awarded through the tendering

process and totalled \$47.3 million, or 63 percent of all contracts over \$5,000.

I recognize, Mr. Chairman, that the use of contractors and particularly the use of sole source contracts is a major concern of the Legislative Assembly, the Government of Nunavut, and of course, Mr. Chairman, my department.

The Department of Health and Social Services has and continues to aggressively address the issue of contracts. Consequently, Mr. Chairman, the department has issued directives to the senior management of the department outlining their requirements of the government's policy, programs, and services to ensure public trust and accountability and to ensure that we are prudent fiscal managers with respect to public resources. To that end, Mr. Chairman, the department will cease all non-urgent, non-emergency, and non-clinical contracts once they have reached their expiration date.

Mr. Chairman, the Department of Health and Social Services recognized its growing dependence on sole source contracts. In order to alleviate this situation, we, with the assistance from the Department of Community and Government Services, have recently issued a request for proposals to establish standing offer agreements for a variety of consulting requirements. This should significantly decrease our dependence on sole source contracts. However, Mr. Chairman, I should point out that due to the critical and timely nature of our work, this department will, at times, continue to need the services of sole source providers.

The department has issued constant reminders to all senior management and managers that there will be no sole source contracts approved by the department, unless, of course, it is a matter of health and safety of the people of Nunavut.

Mr. Chairman, the department has taken a number of steps, short and long term, to reduce the dependence on contract services and the department will continue to aggressively work with the Department of Human Resources to fill the critical, indeterminate positions.

The department will work with the help of the Department of Human Resources, the Department of Education, Arctic College, and other accreditation education and training institutions to provide ongoing training for staff as required to do their jobs.

Further, Mr. Chairman, the department will review all current contracts to determine value for money and work performed.

Also, Mr. Chairman, the department has hired a full-time, indeterminate contract manager and contracts administrator to assist and to provide ongoing advice and monitoring of contracts process in the department.

The department will also continue to work with the Department of Community and Government Services to ensure that proper contracting and procurement processes are adhered to in accordance with the Financial Administration Manual and contract procedures and regulations.

Mr. Chairman, the department is committed to work with the Department of Finance to continue to improve the financial management, systems, and processes of the department to ensure public transparency and accountability of its budget.

Lastly, Mr. Chairman, the Department of Health and Social Services is totally committed to fixing the concerns regarding contract management and administration. But I should emphasize that this has taken and will continue to take some time for dedicated and concentrated attention by senior management of the department.

Mr. Chairman, (interpretation) if you have any questions, I will be able to provide responses to them and I thank you for the opportunity to address the committee. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Curley. (interpretation ends) I think your department needs some lessons on spelling. We noticed some errors and typos throughout your text. Minister Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley: I note that as well. My apologies, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Curley. (interpretation ends) Minister Curley, do you have witnesses that you would like to join you before us? Minister Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): My deputy minister is here, so if the DM could go to the witness table. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Curley. Do you agree that the he can bring a witness to the table?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Sergeant-at-Arms, could you escort the witness in.

Thank you, Sergeant-at-Arms. Minister Curley, please introduce your witness.

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The person on my left is the only witness here at this time and he is (interpretation ends) Deputy Minister Alex Campbell. (interpretation) He has been the longest serving deputy minister in the department. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Curley and your deputy, and welcome. Are there any questions or comments? Your first question, Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for your opening comments. It actually looks like your department is making some interesting changes into how you do business.

The first question is in regard to your agency nurses. Just so that I know clear in my head, agency nurses are contracted out and there is actually a contract for them paid to a contractor and then the agency nurses are actually paid through the contractor. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Who can respond? Minister Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's my understanding that the agency nurses and social workers are contracted to the agencies and the agency is the employer of these contracts. All of the pay and benefits and the rest are the responsibility of the agencies themselves. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Curley. I would like to provide an opportunity for comments on the opening comments. Mr. Ningark would like to ask some questions. Mr. Ningark.

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the opening comments on page 3 at the top of the page, it states that "... there will be no sole source contracts... unless, of course, it is a matter of health and safety of the people of Nunavut." With the H1N1 virus in remission, will this free up some resources of the department? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningark. The H1N1 is called *Nuvannaaluk* in Inuktitut. Minister Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This will definitely assist our initiative. The H1N1 drive was quite expensive. Most of the contracts we are referring to from last year stem from the 2008-09 fiscal year. It is stemming from these previous contracts.

Due to this, we have to keep in mind that it was not only the medical professionals nor the doctors and nurses that were contracted out. Even our administration level staff positions are contracted out,

such as within the finance department, or even to ensure that our operations continue, especially where we cannot fill the positions we are required to have. We have to contract out certain positions to ensure that our department operates smoothly.

That is what we mean when we talk about these contracts, but the member's statement will definitely assist us as well. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Curley. To the opening comments. Mr. Ningark.

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I apologize, but it is to the comments. I went ahead even though the microphone was off. Even if I blow on it, it may not turn off.

I would like to refer to one paragraph, perhaps it is the second or third paragraph. It states that "The department will work with the Department of Human Resources, the Department of Education, Arctic College... to provide ongoing training for staff." I imagine that this will help to alleviate the shortfalls we experience if these students could have a position awaiting them once they have graduated.

If this means that they will be graduating in the coming years, we hope that they will alleviate some of the demands for contracts as they come on stream. We have to ensure that our people are trained and have a career to work in or even a future position when they graduate. Will these types of details be taken into consideration when they are looking at creating new positions in his ministry? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Minister Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With respect to what the member was speaking to, the statement is an expression of his support for the work undertaken by our department. I thank him for his constructive comments.

However, with regard to the paragraph's contents, we understood it to be defined in this manner. At least, in my personal assessment, I meant it this way. In our department, we have perhaps a thousand positions listed in our organization chart, but there are about three hundred positions currently vacant. Some of these positions have been contracted out. In certain cases where a staff member was either too young or not capable enough, we had to undertake training for these staff members. We had to contract out the trainers who could train these staff members to fulfill their duties in their positions. That occurred this year.

Even my predecessor ministers had to fill out their department with contracted qualified workers from outside Nunavut who could train staff while undertaking their contracted work. Some of these contracts were fairly large and due to this reason, within our department, my deputy minister and I have discussed how best to resolve these challenges.

Our position is that we ought to be looking at qualified, trained Nunavutmiut who can fill these positions. After all, our department is not a training centre and is meant to fulfill government obligations with respect to health. Whether these positions are in the finance or administration sectors, or

even computer technicians, we should be looking at the best trained and qualified Nunavutmiut to undertake these positions and that is what we meant by that. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Curley. Are there any questions to the opening comments? Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to welcome the minister and his deputy, Mr. Campbell.

I noted that it was not included in the opening comments, but an issue that is dear to my heart was conspicuously absent. I really wanted to see this issue spoken to even if it is not included in the opening address, but maybe he can respond to my question regarding surgeons especially, also called specialists. I would like to discuss cancer specialists who deal with cancer patients. I wonder if these are a separate category since they are generally self-employed. Do they receive payment only after they have completed their work?

What I am trying to enquire about is: do you have a process in place where you pay doctors promptly? Many of us have heard that sometimes the health department is consistently late in making payments. Perhaps this applies to the government in general, that contract payments take too long to be paid, which exacerbates the problem we have in getting contractors to work for our government since they are not being paid promptly and they no longer wish to continue with their contracts.

My question is this: do you pay your contractors promptly, especially with

regard to those professionals who are looking after Nunavummiut? We would not want them to deny medical services to our people, especially the medical professionals in the south. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will ask my deputy to provide a response to that question. Prior to his response, I would like to mention that in some of these specialized services, evaluations were done on those services.

Here I am not referring to surgeons but other doctors who specialize in certain practices or services. We also have people who evaluate our service provisions. Once their reports are evaluated to determine if those reports are adequate, they are awarded contracts. On occasion, I have been told that sometimes, the period it takes to receive payment takes too long, especially with regard to certain specialized services.

I will now refer the question about surgeons and doctors to Alex, my deputy minister, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Curley. Mr. Campbell.

Mr. Campbell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thanks to the member for asking the question. We do continue to have our challenges in filling the positions in the finance and administration area. I can't tell you with full confidence that we are not going to continue to have some minor problems in payments of invoices to our providers.

However, I can assure the member that we continue to review the concerns that have been raised by people who have not been paid, including other providers on their invoices. That is an issue that we take very seriously and we continue to monitor to make sure that the specific concerns that are raised for non-payment are addressed immediately.

We do have our finance and administration section that does the analysis and preparation of the documents. The actual payment of accounts is done by the Department of Finance and we do have an MOU signed with them to make sure that our accounts payable are addressed accordingly. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Campbell. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you for the answer. The invoices probably go through you, especially for those professionals who provide services to Nunavummiut, whether they come here into Iqaluit, or to communities, or the patient attends specialized treatment in the south. I assume that you see all of the invoices.

Would you consider enclosing sort of a generic letter requesting if the invoices have been paid timely and if not, to contact you directly because you want to pay them timely so that they continue to respect the patients of Nunavut? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Mr. Campbell.

Mr. Campbell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that question. I

have a simple answer, yes, member, we will make sure that we are prudent and address some of those outstanding issues that we do have with our providers.

Yes, I will consider providing a generic letter in the payments to ensure that they contact the appropriate person in the department to make sure that the payments are made within a reasonable time that are paid under the FAM manual. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Campbell. (interpretation ends) We are in opening comments. Any further? Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also want to welcome the Hon. Minister Curley and Deputy Minister Campbell. In your opening comments on page 3, the second last paragraph is noted as saying that “The department will review all current contracts to determine value for money and work performed.”

I just want to state in response to the opening comments that there is a general feeling out there from Nunavummiut and members would like to see some permanent positions filled. All departments have vacant positions. The health sector is in crucial and dire need of filling indeterminate positions to provide effective services. That much the department knows as well because we members have often, in the House with legislation, provided the view that effective services are crucial.

We understand there are some obstacles and some barriers, but it is also up to us as legislators and also with the help of our departments, such as Health and

Social Services, that we have to bridge those vacant positions to ensure that we are able to provide quality service and in turn, improving the quality of life.

I am glad to see the minister is here and has always been open-minded as well as being able to provide feedback. If he is not able to provide some information, he has always been courteous enough with the members to provide some later concrete information with the members in question.

With that, I just wanted to make that statement, Mr. Chairman. Thank you very much.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. (interpretation ends) That was a comment. Are there any further questions or comments on the opening remarks? (interpretation) To the opening comments. (interpretation ends) Mr. Elliott, you're up.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wanted to go back to some of the replies I got in terms of the agency nurses and the contract that is given out. I believe it was Minister Curley who said that they are not actually employees of the Government of Nunavut but they are employees of the person who is contracting them.

In terms of the nurses, has the department sought any legal counsel on the issue of things like malpractice? If something goes wrong in the nursing station and if there was an investigation, then who is actually to blame? Is it the Government of Nunavut or is it the contractor? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Elliott. (interpretation ends) Me, I get blamed for everything.

>>*Laughter*

Minister Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We will have both departments respond to that. Really, I think the Department of Justice should also be involved in responding to that question.

I can tell you that throughout Canada, not only in Nunavut, most of the contractors, particularly the government, pretty well, normally these days, will ask for a waiver of liability for any risks associated with huge work. So for instance, they will want to have that waiver signed by the government and considered before they enter into an arrangement. There is a proper legal word for that, but my deputy will likely respond to that.

The only way that I can give you some hint of that is most of the contacts of this nature will include that request for that risk associated taken on by the government. I will have my deputy at least respond to some of that. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Curley. Mr. Campbell.

Mr. Campbell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you to the member for that question. In follow-up to the minister's response, yes, there is a standard clause in the contracts that provide some liability on the part of the provider in the event that things go

wrong, in this case, at the health centres or wrong with the contract that they would be liable for that service. So we continue to monitor all of the contracts to make sure that that provision is included in there.

The onus as well is on the provider or the contractor to make that there is liability insurance provided on these contracts that we issue. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I was going to say that you seemed to get blamed for everything and I just don't understand it.

My question to the minister is: the government's most recent annual report on procurement activities indicates that your department awarded a \$161,250 sole source contract in 2008-09 to an individual to provide administrative and support systems development. What specific services did this individual provide and why couldn't your department's own employees do this work? It's contract C1439, so C1439. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Who can respond to the question? Minister Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley: Before Alex picks on the details of that, I think, in my opening comments, I alluded to the fact that the department is committed to working with Human Resources to try and activate and at least fill the critical positions that the department has in order to provide that service. When there

isn't a service available to provide basic, for instance, administrative work required of critical positions at the executive level, eventually, like I responded to one question earlier in the opening remarks, we end up including a training component to it so that the individual hired will provide that service to more junior service staff that are available.

I think members should also know that it takes a huge amount of time to fill a position. If there is an indeterminate position, it takes a minimum of six months to fill that position. I said a minimum of six months and in most cases, it takes a year to fill that position once it's advertised and so on.

So the puzzle doesn't always fit just right. There is a whole case scenario that we can mention, but it's because of the lack of services available within the department that the contract services are entered into to provide basic services, but I'll let my deputy respond specifically to that service. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Curley. Mr. Campbell.

Mr. Campbell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you to the member for asking the question. The staff that we currently have on the IT unit in the department provide general support services to the department as a whole on regular maintenance and some troubleshooting kind of responsibilities.

In saying that, there are specific requirements for IT purposes. Some of the hardware and software that we do purchase require some specialized delivery mechanisms and technical skills

that these providers provide training to our staff. IT, in general, is an area that we do contract out on a regular basis for specific specialized areas. So that's one of the reasons why we do that, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Campbell. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So if I understand what you're saying with the combined answers of Mr. Curley and the deputy minister, the person who was contracted in this position... the skills were not available within your department and this person had the skills and is now teaching someone within the department the skills so that you would be able to not contract anymore, you would actually be able to hire. Thank you.

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

Mr. Campbell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The member is correct. There are a number of reasons why we would contract out, either we don't have the capacity in-house to provide that service and technical support to the system and to staff, as well, the other reason is, of course, we don't have the technical skills in the staff to perform those tasks. The third reason is that we do have, as I said, more general support that's provided by the current staff that we do have right now to the whole department.

There will be times that we will require technical skills to provide training. Yes, once training is provided to my staff, the onus is on them to continue to improve their skills and as well, provide that

support to other staff in the department.
Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
We're now in June 2010 and this individual is currently listed in your departmental staff directory. Is the individual now a full-time employee of the department and a member of the public service? Thank you.

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

Mr. Campbell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can I request that the member repeat specifically which contract that he is referring to on the list, please? Thank you.

Chairman: It would be the second last page of the Health and Social Services contracts and the contract referred to is like ten contracts down, C1439. For the benefit of the deputy, there are no page numbers on these contracts. If you go through the health department's contract listing, it should be the second last page.

So there's the individual identified and according to the member, this individual is in the staff registry and a contractor is listed. So the question is if the individual is now an employee and no longer on contract.

Mr. Campbell, I hope you have found it. It's 1439. I feel like a bingo announcer at this point, repeating the number. Mr. Campbell.

Mr. Campbell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm sorry, I probably need

new glasses. I thank the member for that question.

In this particular contract, contract number C1439 in the amount of \$161,250, the person was hired to provide records management services for the department initially. The person was also hired to provide training to some of our junior staff in the department to provide administrative and financial support to the department. In a more recent time, the person in question has been hired on a casual basis as of April 1 of this year to provide executive support to my office. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Campbell. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again what you are saying is that she is not actually a full-time employee, she is still on contract. Thank you.

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

Mr. Campbell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is correct, Mr. Chairman. Just to repeat, the person now is on casual, she is not on contract. As of April 1, 2010, the person is providing casual service to my office as an executive coordinator. That position remains vacant as the current incumbent in that position is on an internal transfer assignment to an executive secretary position. At some point in time this year, that position will be advertised and the competitive process will take place. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Campbell. Are there any further questions? Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The next question is in regard to contract C1483, C1483. I feel like I'm doing bingo too. It's on page 95 on the same page.

The government's most recent annual report on procurement activities indicates that your department awarded a \$292,250 sole source contract in 2008-09 to an individual to act as a financial consultant for the Territorial Health Access Fund. What specific services did this individual provide and why couldn't your department's own employees do this work? Thank you.

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

Mr. Campbell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for asking that question. One thing that should be clarified here is that some of the amounts that are reflected in the listing of contracts are the total awards of the contracts. The actual expenditure of the contract is still... I'm not quite sure where that one is at, but that type of information is, in fact, available.

The person in question with an 18-month contract was hired to provide financial support services to the department. Due to our almost 100 percent vacancy rate in our Corporate Services headquarters at the time when I started at the department, there was very little support in Corporate Services.

The person provided ongoing support to the regional office. The person also provided support to the THAF funding program, initiating a process where we were requesting business cases from staff to make sure that we accessed the

Territorial Health Access Fund so that we can use that effectively in the department.

The person in question again has recently been moved on. He is no longer a contractor of the government; he has been hired on a casual basis to set up the Medical Travel Office for the territory. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Campbell. Further questions? Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If this individual who was contracted moved on to the territorial travel part, then who is handling the financial consultation for the Territorial Health Access Fund? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Campbell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that question. That is an important part I missed out, sorry about that.

One of the other requirements of that position was to train a beneficiary to take over that liaison role eventually. There is a beneficiary in that position currently on a part-time basis. The person chose to be on part time on a casual, it's not on a permanent, but a beneficiary is looking after that part of the liaison now with support from my office and other offices of the department. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Campbell. Further questions? The next one I have on the list is Ms. Ugyuk.

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The government's most recent annual report on procurement activities indicates that your department awarded a \$48,500 sole source contract in 2008-09 for an individual to develop a best practices model for Inuit shelters, contract C200.

On May 18, 2010, a Cabinet Minister in the Yukon government announced in that territory's legislature that the Yukon, NWT, and Nunavut governments have been working together to present a business case to the federal government to support more women's shelters in the territories. Was this contract related to this initiative? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. Who is going to respond? Minister Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you. (interpretation) I would prefer that you would inform us of which contract number you are talking about. Mr. Campbell has that information and he will respond. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Curley. Mr. Campbell.

Mr. Campbell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you to the member for that question. When we were developing the policy around the shelter program, which was approved by Cabinet almost a year ago, to provide for shelters in Nunavut, we had hired an individual with some experience in women's shelters and the development of women's shelters to travel into the

communities to provide some consultations.

Particularly in the sites where we do have the shelters established right now, the person did travel to Taloyoak, as well as Kugluktuk and other communities to meet with the people there and to identify some areas that they needed to address when it comes to women's shelters.

The individual is no longer on contract. The results of the work that was done by this individual was fed into the recommendations that I provided to the Executive Council to develop a policy around women's shelters in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Campbell. Ms. Ugyuk.

Ms. Ugyuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Will you commit to tabling copies of both the best practices model for Inuit shelters and the tri-territorial business case concerning women's shelters in the Legislative Assembly? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. Which one of you will respond? Minister Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Our policy that was approved by the Cabinet, as Alex stated, it was one year ago. We called it the *Saillivik* Policy because we didn't want to call it *Qimaavik*.

As I stated earlier, we had a retreat in Cape Dorset almost two years ago and at that time, we were given funding and made a change to our legislation. As I stated earlier, we have five shelters in

Nunavut. Just last year, we set up a program. Mr. Chairman, I will be able to table that document in the House. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Curley. Ms. Ugyuk.

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I understood the statement you made with regard to the five safe houses, but I want it known that the shelter in Taloyoak has not been opened for a year. The question that I would like to ask is: (interpretation ends) why was this contract awarded on a sole source basis? (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. Mr. Campbell.

Mr. Campbell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that question. We will be reviewing the situation in the community of Taloyoak. We have been having some challenges in getting the services provided by the safe shelter there.

We will be working with the community, as the minister had committed to earlier to work with the communities, to develop proposals around safe shelters in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Campbell, the question was: why was this contract, C200, sole sourced? That was the question. Mr. Campbell.

Mr. Campbell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I apologize for that. As I indicated earlier, the person in question had very good experience in the development of models, particularly in

an aboriginal community, for safe shelters in Canada.

As a department, we wanted to get the policy developed as Nunavummiut were asking for policies from the department in the area of safe shelters. So we did seek out individuals across Canada with some expertise in providing this service. In this case, we provided a sole source contract to this individual. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Campbell. Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to return to Ms. Ugyuk's comments and add a supplementary.

Within the same contract, C200, it states that these are Inuit shelters. Why are they called Inuit shelters? The minister stated in Inuktitut the term *Ikajuqtauvik*. Why doesn't it just stop right there? This contract C200 outlines that here, to develop a best practices model for Inuit shelters. Is this not applicable for all Nunavummiut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With regard to the naming of these shelters, the community can give them a name that they prefer. If they wish to call them *Qimaaviit*, it's entirely up to the community. However, with regard to the policy which outlines how we fund these shelters or where they can provide proposals for funding, it's called the

Saillivik Policy. The name is not important.

As per John Ningark's statement today, his community tabled a petition this winter. The petition from Kugaaruk is not a proposal and it outlines the community's position. They do qualify for funding if they would like to create a shelter. The barrier was that there was no existing facility available. Our response to that petition from the community was sent to the hamlet council whereby we asked what type of shelter they want and which departments need to be involved. We will work with the community to develop that shelter.

However, with regard to what the local preferences are for the naming of a shelter, we leave that entirely at their discretion. Thank you.

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

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, that may be the case, but I'm asking about this departmental contract name under contract C200.

I have no concerns about local naming preferences, but it states here, (interpretation ends) "to develop a best practices model for Inuit shelters." (interpretation) As an example, if we were to look at names, we could state "a model for Nunavummiut shelters" since that applies to all of Nunavut and not just Inuit. This seems to be stating that only Inuit require shelters.

That was what I was trying to get at when I queried you about the names of the shelters. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. (interpretation ends) The question is the title is the issue. This is an open territory for everyone, where it's not just Inuit who have to go to shelters from now and again. Mr. Campbell, do you want to explain this?

Mr. Campbell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that statement and question. It was just likely an oversight on our part in naming the work that needs to be accomplished there. We do fully appreciate and agree that it shouldn't be just an Inuit shelter. We take that and we will ensure that any other contracts or any other work that we do will be more from a public government perspective. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Campbell. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm asking for clarification purposes under contract 1440 on page 95 in the (interpretation ends) Government of Nunavut Procurement Activity Report. (interpretation) There is a sole source contract for \$162,800 to Gloria Penner in Nunavut. If it's the same individual, I thought she was from Winnipeg. Why does the location state Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Mr. Campbell.

Mr. Campbell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm in the same boat as the other member. I don't know. That's why the description is Nunavut territory. The only information that I can provide is that it's to provide Nunavut-wide

services. In fact, that premise is in Winnipeg providing specialized services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are quite a few location identifications of simply Nunavut. That means these are usually Nunavut-wide services that most of them are located in the south. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Mr. Campbell.

Mr. Campbell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Member. In most cases, you are correct. It provides for Nunavut-wide service outside of the territory and in this case, Winnipeg. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Campbell. (interpretation ends) It looks like we annexed Winnipeg.

>> *Laughter*

Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Maybe a new Area 7.

Mr. Chairman, perhaps I could suggest that whenever the locations are identifiable within Canada, we identify those locations according to the place of service where the contracts are being awarded. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Who would like to respond? Mr. Campbell.

Mr. Campbell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we will provide that type of specific information to the Department of CGS when we are preparing the reports for tabling. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess that will also be instructed by CGS to all other departments to have a specific location when a contract is awarded with an address of that contractor. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Mr. Campbell.

Mr. Campbell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Member. Yes, as I have indicated, we will provide that clarification to CGS. I will also provide the instruction to my staff to make sure that if we have contracts, they identify what community the contract is at so that it's not misleading the members and if it's not in the Nunavut territory. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Campbell. I take that it's noted that if a consultant is from outside the territory, the address of the consultant will be identified and whatnot. So I think that's pretty clear. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: I don't have any problems there on the part of the government. A contract which has nothing to do with health but contract 1422, Heavy Equipment Operator Training, it says southern Canada. Although the vendor is located in Ontario, it simply says

southern Canada. There is inconsistency of locations and things like that. So it would be nice to have... we know where Ontario is. Southern Canada is pretty big, so I think that identifying the area would be a good idea. (interpretation) Thank you. That is all.

Chairman: Very good, I just heard a comment. Are there any other comments on health? Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the opportunity to ask questions here in regard to health. Keeping the time in mind, I will try to keep my questions short and if need be, I would like some time to continue on with further questions if we are not with the department.

In regard to procurement activities, the government's most recent annual report on procurement activities indicates that your department awarded a \$210,000 sole source contract to an entity named Mainiqsijit for "counselling services." What specific counselling services did this entity provide to your department? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. Minister Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you. Perhaps if the contract number can be provided, Alex can provide a response. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Curley. (interpretation ends) The number is C1461. I repeat, C1461. Is there a bingo yet? C1461. Okay, there is a bingo. Mr. Campbell.

Mr. Campbell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm going to have to get that information on that particular contract, Mr. Chairman, and get that information back to the member. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Campbell. Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the response. As well, I look forward to that response. I do have a couple of questions if time permits. I want to clarify, Mr. Chairman, if there was a specific question asked of agency nurses before I continue on so that I don't repeat a question that a member may have asked.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. (interpretation ends) No, there were general comments addressed towards agency nurses, but I didn't hear a specific question on that matter. Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I apologize to the Chair as well as the witnesses for not providing that contract for the last statement.

I do have a question that is not listed in the activities. The question is: the 2007-08 annual report in the activities indicated that the department awarded over \$3.4 million in contracts for agency nurses. However, the government's 2008-09 annual report does not contain any information on expenditures for agency nurses.

I had asked a written question last year in the House and a written reply was provided, but I want to ask as a formality in the House, for the record: did the Department of Health and Social

Services spend any money on agency nurses in 2008-09? Thank you.

Chairman: Maybe they stopped because they're not listed anymore. Mr. Campbell.

Mr. Campbell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the member on that question. Yes, definitely we did incur some costs related to agency nurses in this particular year. I am not certain why it is not reflected as the contract providers on this listing here. Again, I can provide that information on the listing of those contracts.

I can also suggest that we did do an RFP in that year to the interested proponents to provide their fees and services that they would provide as well. So there are about eight of these agency contractors that are on our standing offer agreement. If nothing else, they should be appearing on the contract list that was tendered out. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Campbell. Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At this time, I will only have one more question with respect to the time. This is an inconsistency with agency nurses.

Earlier this year, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated released a report on the recruitment and retention of Inuit nurses in Nunavut. With the opening comments, I had mentioned as well that there needed to be some indeterminate positions being filled and how sensitive it is under Health and Social Services as well as health care.

With this report, I wanted to ask if this report was prepared by Aarluk Consulting. Has your department also used Aarluk Consulting to review the issue of recruitment and retention of nurses? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. Who would like to respond? Mr. Campbell.

Mr. Campbell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that question. The report that was tabled by NTI was a report that they received federal funding on. We did participate on the steering committee in preparation of that report, but at the end of the day, NTI owns the report and they contract that report to a certain provider.

To my knowledge, we haven't used Aarluk Consulting particularly on evaluating and analyzing the agency nurse contracts nor the recruitment of nurses. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Campbell. Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the witness there as well for providing that information.

I do have some further questions in regard to telehealth, but in the meantime, I will concur them for another time with respect to the time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. Are you wanting to move to report progress? Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Yes, Sir, I would like to report progress. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. (interpretation ends) There is a motion on the floor to conclude this for the day and it's not debatable. To the motion. All those in favour. All those opposed. The motion is carried.

(interpretation) Thank you, Minister Curley and Mr. Campbell. Sergeant-at-Arms, if you can escort Mr. Campbell out. We will continue our meeting tomorrow. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Going back to our Orders of the Day. 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 Tabled Documents 66 – 3(2), 99 – 3(2), and 100 – 3(2) and would like to report progress. Also, Mr. Speaker, I move that the Report of the Committee of the Whole be concurred with. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Okalik. There is a motion on the floor. Is there a seconder? Mr. Tapardjuk. The motion is in order. All those in favour, 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. A reminder of meetings for

tomorrow, there is a meeting of the Full Caucus at nine o'clock in the Nanuq Room, followed by a meeting of the Standing Committee on Legislation at eleven o'clock in the same room.

Orders of the Day for June 3:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions
8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to Opening Address
10. Petitions
11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motions
15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions
 - Motion 23 – 3(2)
17. First Reading of Bills
 - Bill 28
 - Bill 29
 - Bill 30
 - Bill 31

- Bill 32
- Bill 33
- Bill 34
- Bill 36

18. Second Reading of Bills

19. Consideration in Committee of
the Whole of Bills and Other
Matters

- 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, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned until Thursday, June 3, at 1:30 p.m.

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 18:02*

