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**Thursday, June 3, 2010**

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**Iqaluit**

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

**Legislative Assembly of Nunavut**

***Speaker***

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(Uqqummiut)

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(Iqaluit East)  
*Premier; Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs; Minister responsible for the Status of Women; Minister responsible for Immigration*

**James Arvaluk**  
(Tununiq)

**Moses Aupaluktuq**  
(Baker Lake)

**Hon. Tagak Curley**  
(Rankin Inlet North)  
*Minister of Health and Social Services; Minister responsible for the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission; Minister responsible for the Utility Rates Review Council*

**Ron Elliott**  
(Quttiktuq)

**Adamee Komoartok**  
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(Nanulik)  
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**Paul Okalik**  
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*Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole*

**Hon. Keith Peterson**  
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(Hudson Bay)

**Fred Schell**  
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(Arviat)  
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(Amittuq)  
*Government House Leader; Minister of Education; Minister of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth; Minister of Languages; Minister of Aboriginal Affairs*

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(Kugluktuk)  
*Deputy Premier; Minister of Economic Development and Transportation*

**Hon. Hunter Tootoo**  
(Iqaluit Centre)  
*Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation; Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation; Minister responsible for Homelessness*

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**Iqaluit, Nunavut  
Thursday, June 3, 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): Thank you. Before we proceed with our Orders of the Day, I would like to ask Mr. Curley to say the opening prayer. Mr. Curley.

>>*Prayer*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Good afternoon, Premier, Ministers, Members of the Legislative Assembly, and Nunavummiut. I send my regards to the people of Clyde River.

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

**Item 2: Ministers' Statements****Minister's Statement 157 – 3(2): High Arctic Transportation Study**

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon to all of my colleagues, Nunavummiut, and especially Kugluktuk.

Mr. Speaker, I thank you for this opportunity to rise today before the Members of this House to inform them of a study my department has been undertaking this past year on the high cost of travel and transportation in our most northern communities.

The study, which is substantially complete, details the challenges the people of Grise Fiord, Resolute Bay, and Arctic Bay face in their everyday lives. It looks at how these issues are being addressed in other regions of the world with similar issues and provides options on how our government and the Government of Canada can work together to address the situation.

Mr. Speaker, we began this process with a trip to the High Arctic to hear first-hand about the issues of the region. We met with people and consulted in each of the three communities of Quttiktuq. During those meetings, we committed to a return visit to share the results of the study. I am therefore pleased, Mr. Speaker, to inform the Members of this House that we are ready to return to the High Arctic communities with those results and we are scheduling our return trip for the middle of July.

I look forward to an enthusiastic discussion on the recommendations of *The High Arctic Travel & Transportation Study* and expect the same level of thoughtfulness and insight we found on our first trip up there. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Ministers' Statements. (interpretation ends) Hon. Tagak Curley.

**Minister's Statement 158 – 3(2):  
Nursing Graduates**

**Hon. Tagak Curley:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am very pleased to announce that all five of the fourth year Nunavut Arctic College nursing students have completed their Bachelor of Science in Nursing Degree. Of the five graduates, two are beneficiaries.

The new graduates will be able to write the Canadian Registered Nurses Exam. Upon completion of the Canadian Registered Nurses Exam, nurses are qualified to work in a variety of Nunavut health care settings, including hospitals, community health centres, home care, public health, continuing care centres, and birthing centres.

Mr. Speaker, nursing positions in Nunavut have been challenging to fill, but through our Nursing Education Program, the number of Nunavutmiut employed in nursing continues to grow. Each Nunavut nursing graduate serves as a role model in their community and inspires other Nunavutmiut in choosing nursing as a career.

Mr. Speaker, the Department of Health and Social Services is committed to employing Nunavutmiut who have successfully completed the program and obtained a registered nursing licence. Four of this year's graduates will be working at the Qikiqtani General Hospital, while the fifth is looking at an alternative nursing position in the territory.

Furthermore, Mr. Speaker, as part of the employment process and to help these graduates succeed, they will be mentored

for 4 to 12 months, depending on their job assignment.

Further, Mr. Speaker, there have now been a total of 28 graduates from the Nursing Education Program and 12 of these graduates are beneficiaries.

>> *Applause*

Mr. Speaker, I would ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating the following nursing graduates on their hard work and success. By the way, Mr. Speaker, they are sitting behind me here. The first is:

- Amanda Hatch
- Ericka Mitchell
- Parniga Thibaudeau
- Harriett White
- Nancy Zurhiede

If I didn't pronounce it right, my apologies.

I would also like to take this opportunity to recognize the contributions of the Nursing Program instructors for all of their dedication and all of the individuals who have supported the students in their learning experience.

Congratulations to this year's graduates and best of luck to each of you in your new and rewarding careers.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. We congratulate all graduates. (interpretation ends) Ministers' Statements. Hon. Louis Tapardjuk.



**Minister's Statement 159 – 3(2):  
Piqqusilirivvik Staff and Student  
Recruitment**

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Good afternoon, Mr. Speaker and my colleagues. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to give an update on the *Piqqusilirivvik* Cultural Facility that will be offering programs to help pass cultural traditions, skills, and knowledge to future generations. Many years of background work on programming and the more recent construction have the facility's scheduled completion in April 2011 and Mr. Speaker, scheduled opening for August 2011. It's not this coming August but next August in 2011, so wait for a bit.

I am pleased to announce that Jonathan Palluq, originally from Clyde River, has been selected as the Director of *Piqqusilirivvik*. Jonathan was raised in camps between Clyde River and Pond Inlet and brings strong knowledge of the land and traditional skills to this new position. He will commit his energies to finalizing the development and commencing operations of the facility. I would like to welcome Jonathan, Mr. Speaker.

Following the timeline of the *Piqqusilirivvik* Status Report (March 2008) supported by its operating budget, other required staffing positions will be filled throughout 2010-11 through the GN-HR staffing process. Positions will be filled in 2010-11 include: finance manager; finance officer; manager of curriculum development; instructor, Clyde River; coordinator, Igloolik; coordinator, Baker Lake. The remaining seven positions will be staffed in 2011-12.

Mr. Speaker, once *Piqqusilirivvik* staffing is completed, students will be invited to apply from all communities of Nunavut. The selection process will ensure a fair representation of communities, age groups, men and women. Mr. Speaker, the initial application criteria will be a minimum age of 18, the ability to take instruction in Inuktitut, demonstrated interest in learning Inuit land and life skills, and strong support from the home community. In the event that more students apply than the 26 places available, a waiting list will be maintained so that they will be eligible or show their interest once again.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to providing my colleagues with further updates as this exciting initiative moves forward. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Ministers' Statements. (interpretation ends) Hon. Hunter Tootoo.

**Minister's Statement 160 – 3(2):  
Iqaluit Electrical Distribution  
Upgrade**

**Hon. Hunter Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I stand before the House today to inform my colleagues here in the Assembly about a major capital upgrade to Iqaluit's electrical distribution system.

This upgrade, from the current 5 kV distribution system to a 25 kV system will not only provide stable, cost-effective, safe, and reliable electrical service to support the growth of Iqaluit well into the next 35 years, it will also

reduce operating costs and system line losses while minimizing greenhouse gas emissions.

Mr. Speaker, this translates into improved power quality for the corporations' residential and commercial customers, as well as to shorter down times during planned and unplanned outages. This falls in line with the corporate mission to supply safe, reliable, and efficient energy through responsive and respectful interaction with all stakeholders.

The 25 kV system upgrade supports the Government of Nunavut's plan to provide more residential and service-based infrastructure and in the private sector, to meet the growing needs of Iqaluit's neighbourhoods and commercial infrastructure being erected each year.

Mr. Speaker, because of the estimated size of this project, I sought the advice of the Utility Rates Review Council that, in turn, provided me with a report recommending that this project proceed as planned. Upon reviewing the report from the URRC, I approved this project on May 5 of this year.

The Qulliq Energy Corporation has already submitted tenders for certain phases of the project. The corporation has also assured me that a communications plan has been developed in order to keep the affected customers as well as the community of Iqaluit fully informed in advance of any scheduled [disruptions] during this project.

Mr. Speaker, the 25 kV system upgrade is a fine example of the power of

forward planning and forecasting as the Qulliq Energy Corporation improves its ability to grow with Iqaluit and Nunavut as our territory develops over the next few decades. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister. Ministers' Statements. Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Rumbolt.

### **Item 3: Members' Statements**

#### **Member's Statement 237 – 3(2): Issues with Essential Services in Sanikiluaq**

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to bring attention to the fact that many of my constituents in Sanikiluaq are having major problems obtaining a driver's licence and/or a general identification card.

Mr. Speaker, as we all know, government issued photo identifications are essential for daily activities, such as driving and travelling. I believe that this government should be able to provide essential services to the people of Nunavut in a timely and efficient manner. Taking many months for this service is unacceptable.

Mr. Speaker, it's my duty as a Member of the Legislative Assembly to draw attention to issues that face my constituents and hold the government accountable if essential services are not being delivered.

Mr. Speaker, it seems that driver's licences and IDs being issued come up far too often throughout Nunavut. So I

call on the Department of Economic Development and Transportation to ensure that this essential service for the people of Nunavut is, in fact, being delivered properly and if it is not, to correct the situation as soon as possible. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Members' Statements. Member for Baker Lake, Mr. Aupaluktuq.

**Member's Statement 238 – 3(2):  
Baker Lake Youth Activities**

**Mr. Aupaluktuq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today again to congratulate education in the community of Baker Lake. Baker Lake is very proud of our students and youth, with the help of the principal, Bill Cooper, who has instilled pride and responsibility to all students with the support of teachers, teachers' aids, the Baker Lake District Education Authority, parents, guardians, and most all, volunteers.

I am very proud to announce and share with Nunavut that Ms. Paula Piryuaq has been accepted to the Nunavut Sivuniksavut Training Program in Ottawa.

Trent Aksawnee has been accepted to the Canada World Youth Program.

The high school, Jonah Amitnaaq, in Baker Lake had recent elections. It is good to see that our future leaders are being taught the system of governance. Mr. Arnold Arngna'naaq is elected as president, Alannah Ikinilik is elected as vice-president, and Theresa Alyward is secretary-treasurer.

With that, the idea of having education is also being able to leave home, Mr. Speaker, and I give great encouragement to these students who are going through Nunavut Youth Abroad: Paula Piryuaq, Donovan Nagyougalik, Tammy Kinnowatner, Alma Itkilik, and alternate Alannah Ikinilik will be going through the Africa phase for the Canada World Youth tour. The other one through the Canadian phase, Mr. Speaker, are: Trina Qaqqaq, Rene Pudnak, and alternates are: Malachi Kashla, Adrienne Iyago, and Rahabi Ango'yuaq.

As well, Mr. Speaker, Baker Lake hosted a bunch of students from Calvin Park School in Kingston, Ontario. There was an exchange trip coordinated by Denise Cooper. The students giving feedback have said that it was a real eye-opener for youth to see what the world is like outside of our region.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, this may be a bit late, but in the 2010 Skills Competition, Baker Lake took great pride in Mr. Kent dePuter receiving a gold, Rene Pudnak a silver, Surya Angaktaarjuaq a bronze, Trina Qaqqaq a bronze, Eric Perkison a bronze, Bobby Tagoona a silver, and Jay Uqayuittuq.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, it is a great privilege to show that two grade 8 students were recognized as having academic achievements; Amiq Nateela and Glen Ulliyot.

With that, I want to give congratulations and thanks to Nunavut for providing the infrastructure. It gives me great pride to stand up here in front of you and my colleagues to share the joys of education. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 239 – 3(2):  
Arrival of Yet another Grandchild**

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my constituents as well. Although they may be watching on TV, the audio is not working, but I believe they're working on that.

Be that as it may, Mr. Speaker, I rise today because on June 1, the day before, I heard that I had got a grandchild who was born on June 1 and I wasn't informed until yesterday. I want to celebrate that with my colleagues.

I don't really want to say how many grandchildren I have as there are too many now. However, I wanted to celebrate the birth of a new grandchild. He will be adopted as well as with their older sibling. This child will be adopted out, but I want to thank my child and their husband. I think a lot of us don't want to get older, but every time I have a grandchild, it makes me feel older.

Even though that child may not know who his grandfather is, I want him to know because the name is Destiny Rose and the last name will be Tanuyak. I also want to celebrate Lucie for becoming another grandmother and I celebrate with the parents. I know that you will not be keeping this child, but again, you are assisting in populating Nunavut, so I wanted to celebrate with my colleagues. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tapardjuk. Members' Statements. Member for Natilik, Ms. Ugyuk.

**Member's Statement 240 – 3(2):  
Appreciation to Kitnuna**

**Ms. Ugyuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In Taloyoak, Kitnuna has undertaken construction. They have started interviewing quite a number of people in our community to work there. There are not that many jobs in smaller communities, so I really thank Kitnuna for interviewing possible workers for our airstrip. They will be resurfacing the airstrip in Taloyoak and the lake perimeter will be worked on as well.

So I am extremely grateful to Kitnuna for interviewing people from my community for possible jobs in the summer. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 241 – 3(2):  
Additional Support for a New  
Senior School in Coral Harbour**

**Mr. Ningeongan**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to bring forward new information for the government's consideration in planning for a new senior school in Coral Harbour.

Mr. Speaker, I recognize that we are in June, the summer construction season is getting underway, and future planning is far from many people's minds.

However, if I wait until the fall to bring this issue forward, it may be too late for it to be given due consideration in the capital planning process.

Mr. Speaker, you will recall that I have raised this issue a number of times since I became MLA for Nanulik. A new school project for Coral Harbour was first identified in 2006 in the government's five-year capital plan for 2007-2011. The community has been anxiously looking forward to this new school. However, the government has since re-prioritized its capital projects and the school is no longer considered a priority. Now, basic planning for the school is not scheduled to begin until 2014-15.

Mr. Speaker, it is not clear what criteria the government is currently using to prioritize projects. The criteria used to identify a project as necessary in 2006 does not seem to apply today. It is also not clear how this government intends to improve our education system and its outcomes without investing in the necessary infrastructure first. Our new *Education Act* will not be able to meet its anticipated potential without the appropriate facilities in which to deliver it.

Mr. Speaker, teachers and staff at the current Sakku School have shared with me some very important justifications for a new school in Coral Harbour. At the appropriate time, Mr. Speaker, I shall be tabling the information that has been provided to me.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly urge the government to bring forward the new school project for Coral Harbour in its

next capital plan. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. Members' Statements. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. Elliott.

**Member's Statement 242 – 3(2):  
Establishing a Disabilities  
Portfolio within Nunavut's  
Government**

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to call upon the government to assume greater responsibility and representation for Nunavummiut with disabilities.

Mr. Speaker, as you know, I have repeatedly asked questions about services for people with disabilities across Nunavut. Often, the responses to my questions focus on the once-a-year block of funding provided to the Nunavut Disabilities Society, or on specific services or the lack thereof. Mr. Speaker, this is not satisfactory.

I am confident that many Nunavut residents living with disabilities and those who are working hard with limited resources to advocate on their behalf do not find the level of support satisfactory either. I recognize that funding is made available, but there is more to addressing an issue than just throwing money at it. In many cases, resources are so minimal that it is even difficult for them to articulate their needs much less have them met.

Mr. Speaker, on March 16, 2010, the Premier spoke eloquently and persuasively of the need for focus, leadership, and collaboration. She indicated that each of her Cabinet

Ministers would be acting as a champion for several areas of interdepartmental effort.

Mr. Speaker, I have noted that in at least seven of Canada's provincial and territorial jurisdictions, governments have appointed a champion for persons with disabilities by designating a minister with specific responsibilities for disabled persons.

Clearly, the types of disability portfolio differ from jurisdiction to jurisdiction. As we know, the unique circumstances in Nunavut would mean that a portfolio for persons with disabilities in Nunavut would also need to be unique. However, we do not have to start from point zero in addressing this gap in our Cabinet.

Mr. Speaker, later on today, at the appropriate time, I will be tabling a copy of the NWT's *Action Plan for Persons with Disabilities*. Although we have been our own territory for over ten years, we do still share many similarities in population, legislation, organization, and government structure. We should learn from the best practices applied elsewhere. We should base our proposals on models that work. What we should not do is remain inactive and complacent.

Mr. Speaker, I call upon the Premier to appoint one of her ministers with specific responsibilities as a champion for Nunavut's persons with disabilities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Member's Statement 243 – 3(2):  
Remembering Nellie Atsainaq  
Kilabuk**

**Mr. Komoartok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I rise today to send my condolences to the family and friends of Nellie Atsainaq Kilabuk. Nellie was a respected elder who recently passed away and she will be missed by the entire community of Pangnirtung. She turned 80 in February and she lived her life by helping others behind the scenes.

Mr. Speaker, Nellie was predeceased by her husband, Ipeelee Kilabuk. Ipeelee was a member of the fully elected Legislative Assembly Council of the Northwest Territories in 1975. He represented the constituency of Baffin Central.

Mr. Speaker, Nellie dedicated much of her time and effort to help those in need, including neglected children and infants.

Nellie was very involved with the Anglican Church in Pangnirtung. She participated in the church choir ever since I can remember and she was involved with the church women's auxiliary.

Nellie was also a traditional and modern seamstress. She taught her skills at the Attagoyuk School in Pangnirtung.

Nellie raised many children and grandchildren, and one of the daughters she raised has been a long-term interpreter/translator for NWT and Nunavut, Naimie Kilabuk-Bourassa. She is sitting up there in the booth.

I ask my colleagues to join me in

extending condolences to the family of Nellie Atsainaq Kilabuk and the community of Pangnirtung.  
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Komoartok. Members' Statements. Member for Tununig, Mr. Arvaluk.

**Member's Statement 244 – 3(2): High Arctic Residents Oppose Seismic Testing in Lancaster Sound**

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think we all know that the people of the High Arctic, especially the Tununig constituency, are totally opposed to the seismic study that has been planned for the Lancaster Sound. They also want find out why or for what purpose that marine area has to be tested seismically. If they are to continue with that study, they have to take utmost care.

Why do they require seismic testing when, on the other hand, they are trying to protect the environment? That has never been answered to date and we're leery about the study's purpose because Minister Jim Prentice from Ottawa stated that he is the minister of Parks Canada, but he stated that they have to undertake the seismic study in order to determine the boundaries for the proposed Lancaster Sound Marine Park. It's impossible for some of us to understand the reasoning behind that.

They know for a fact that the High Arctic people as well as the people from Pond Inlet would like to know the real reason for this study and they also want to find out why they are hiring out a

German ship to undertake this research. They also have not informed us as to how long they will be utilizing it and what kind of costs they will incur for using that ship to conduct these seismic studies. There are a lot of questions that have not been answered to date.

I will continue at the appropriate time during Question Period to pose questions to the Minister of Environment because again these are legitimate concerns and it was stated that they would try to consult with the communities prior to completing this research study, especially High Arctic residents. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Members' Statements. Member for Iqaluit West, Mr. Okalik.

**Member's Statement 245 – 3(2): Thank You for Country Food**

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today, I want to acknowledge and thank some constituents by using this avenue.

We were able to get some caribou meat from Rankin Inlet with the assistance of my colleague from Rankin Inlet North, Mr. Curley, and we had an elders' feast. I am extremely grateful for Rankin Inlet and Tagak Curley. Again, we worked together in all of these communities to work with the elders and they were extremely grateful to have some caribou meat and to enjoy that country food.

So I would like to see more cooperation and collaboration, especially where it relates to elders and country food. No matter where they come from in Nunavut, they are very appreciative of

our fellow residents. I am extremely grateful on behalf of my elders and it would be good to see more country food. I thank them for their assistance. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Okalik. Members' Statements. (interpretation ends) Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Minister Tapardjuk.

#### **Item 4: Returns to Oral Questions**

##### **Return to Oral Question 348 – 3(2): Mentoring Program for NTEP Graduates**

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is a return to Oral Question 348 – 3(2) raised on June 1 by the Member for Akulliq, John Ningark, with regard to the support for newly graduated teachers.

I informed the member that I would update him prior to the end of this session if a mentoring position will be assigned to Kugaaruk to assist the new teacher education program graduates working at the school.

I am pleased to be able to inform the member today that a position has been granted to the Kugaaruk school to assist the new graduates as they go through their probationary years. The intent of the new position is to support and strengthen their skills so that they become confident and competent educators. We really want to assist the new graduates.

We hope to start the staffing process, Mr. Speaker, within the next week so the

mentor teacher will be in place for the start of the school year in August of this year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Returns to Oral Questions. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Okalik.

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

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I want to recognize a fellow resident from Nunavut, Mr. Anawak. You probably recognize a familiar face around the community and the son of one of our former colleagues, Mr. Jack Anawak. I want to welcome him to our Assembly. (interpretation) Welcome. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome to the Gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Item 6. Oral Questions. Wait a moment. (interpretation ends) Member for Akulliq, Mr. Ningark.

#### **Item 6: Oral Questions**

##### **Question 370 – 3(2): Appeals Process**

**Mr. Ningark:** Good afternoon, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Hon. Minister for Education.

Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Hon. Minister of Human Resources.

As outlined by the Minister of Education, the program is successful, the



NTEP program and nine, I believe, out of ten were hired recently to teach in the Kugaaruk community. One particular candidate for their program, about five years ago, Mr. Speaker, was teaching. While teaching in a Kugaaruk school, she was told that if she took the NTEP program and be successful in the five-year program, in the end, she would automatically be hired without having to be interviewed.

Mr. Speaker, we just learned recently that the same teacher that was given the promise to automatically be hired if she succeeded in graduating, she has to go through a standard interviewed and whatnot, contrary to the promise made by someone, and not hired. This person, Mr. Speaker, has many potential. She has been given the 10-year long-term employee certificate and she was a language specialist in a Kugaaruk school prior to taking the program.

My question to the hon. minister, Mr. Speaker, is: is there an appeal process? Can this case be reviewed so that she can be given the opportunity to try and be hired as she was promised to begin with? That was five years ago. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Daniel Shewchuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the member for that question and concern. I would just like to outline that it is not a proper process in Human Resources to promise any individual a position on the completion of any training or skills that they have acquired. I would absolutely look into this situation if the member

would allow me to by providing me in detail the circumstances of the situation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Ningark:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the hon. minister. Here with me in my hand I have a letter from the individual that was written to the director of human resources community operations outlining that she was promised to be given the automatic hiring if successful. I will be more than happy to get this letter to the hon. minister and perhaps meet with the hon. minister some time tomorrow. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker (interpretation):** Thank you, Mr. Ningark. I didn't hear a question. So you will meet with him tomorrow.

Oral Questions. Member of Tununiq, Mr. Arvaluk.

### **Question 371 – 3(2): Seismic Testing in Lancaster Sound**

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

I would really like to point and understand, which I spoke to earlier in my Member's Statement, the 500 hours of seismic testing. They will be doing that every minute for 500 hours. If I count, there are 60 minutes in an hour; 60 times 500, I cannot figure it out, but perhaps 30,000 seismic pings will be undertaken and it will be conducted from Davis Strait in Lancaster Sound.

What we cannot understand is that here we are being pulled on one side with the polar bear quota being decreased by ten annually for four years because they're an endangered species. Isn't it more dangerous to conduct seismic testing in a marine area in Lancaster Sound? Have you looked into how dangerous or what the possible consequences there could be with seismic testing? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Daniel Shewchuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the member for the question. My understanding, Mr. Speaker, of the seismic testing, if it occurs, the sound level is 180 decibels, as my colleague had outlined yesterday.

I would just like to compare this to other noises that are made in the water. An outboard motor is 80 decibels. An inboard motor is 110 decibels. The common ships that we see transporting through the water is 200 decibels. So in relation to these activities, that is what the seismic testing, the sound that comes out of that seismic. It is my understanding when this testing takes place that it dissipates within 600 metres. The sound level is gone.

There are all kinds of mitigating factors that come into seismic testing and when it's done, these are mitigated through proper steps being taken. However, as I mentioned before, yesterday, to my other colleague, there are ongoing consultations with these concerns with the communities right now as we speak. I believe they're into their third or fourth

community today. We will review those concerns when they come out. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Arvaluk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Some comparisons. There are no 30,000 outboard motors. There are no 30,000 ships. A big ship of that nature up there is only 200 decibels compared to 100 decibels that will be blasted every minute for 500 hours. I don't think it is a fair comparison.

Minister Prentice, who is also the Minister responsible for Parks Canada, had stated that the proposed testing is just a step on the way to making Lancaster Sound a protected area. Can the minister tell me what his counterpart is saying in terms of if you do seismic work there, that's going to create a protected area? What are they trying to find in a scientific way using seismic blasting in Lancaster Sound? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Daniel Shewchuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again I would like to thank the member for those comments.

Mr. Speaker, as part of establishing any marine mammal conservation area, any national park, or any park, the information and requirement is to do seismic testing whether it's on land or water, and that is to know the resources that you have and to delineate the boundaries of the area that you would like to protect. This information is standard procedure when these areas are

formed. This information is also very important to Nunavut and Canada in acquiring and designating sovereignty areas too. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Arvaluk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm not sure what "resources" means in terms of his explanation. A resource can be anything that could be used for human consumption. Can he explain to test and to do seismic work to find what is there in terms of resources, Mr. Speaker? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Daniel Shewchuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. By resources, I am referring to mostly mineral resources, oil and gas, mapping of the area and mapping of the structure to know what kind of topography you are dealing with too. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Arvaluk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm now totally confused. I had thought that the Minister of Environment, Mr. Jim Prentice, stated that the blasting was for the purpose of determining making Lancaster Sound a protected area. Now we want to know if other resources, like minerals and oil, had been found by using seismic blasting.

Are you saying that if there is enough oil or other minerals in Lancaster Sound, it will still be open for oil and gas exploration, drilling, etcetera, and not as a protected area as was stated before by

the federal Minister of the Environment? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Daniel Shewchuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What I am saying is that the information that is received from the seismic testing is used in the criteria of establishing a protected area and this area that is under question right now is under a study; a study by the communities that are involved, a study by the federal government and Nunavut government.

There is an agreement in place that this feasibility study happen to establish this park and that is exactly what it is. This information would be used, and the community is going to have most of the say in deciding where the boundaries are of that protected area and even if they would chose to have that protected area. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Question 372 – 3(2): Improvements to Iqaluit Breakwater**

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to raise a question to the Hon. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation.

Here in Iqaluit, there are quite a number of boaters and we also get a fair number of ships that arrive in Iqaluit. They tend to have a lot of problems associated with the high tides and there is no real dock for them. That slows down and increases

the cost associated with the shipping and offloading ships.

I want to ask a question to the minister. There is a better docking facility in one part of Iqaluit and it would be so easy just to make improvements to allow it to be used by ships and it can be used even when there is low tide. If there was a bit of improvement to that existing area, it would really bring down the cost of the proposed dock. Again, we have heard the figures in the past. So I want to ask the minister about whether he can consider that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. I'm not going to say that we desperately need a marine facility here in Iqaluit. We do need them in other various communities throughout Nunavut.

Yes, we do have some conceptual designs and we have brought that forward to the city for their discussion. We did present that last January. We are hoping this month to publicize some of the evaluation assessments that have been done once we get better estimates on the actual cost of either improving the causeway and having another look at some of these other conceptual designs that were put forth. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Okalik (interpretation):** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we know that our

government is having difficulty with fiscal resources and that is probably the reason why we will not be able to complete a very expensive dock. However, there is an existing facility there that they can make improvements on and the cost would not be as extreme as some of these proposals.

This dock could be used by our boaters and local hunters. If you get a boat trailer, you can trailer your boat over to that area and then you would be able to just put it in the water without having to keep the boat in the water. It can be used by all residents in Iqaluit. So I would like to see if that is something they can take into consideration and plan for down the road. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. If anything is going to be designed in that way, it has to also benefit the citizens of Iqaluit, the residents, for hunting or recreational activities and that has got to be factored into any kind of infrastructure building like that. Also, we want to improve the offloading time for the supply boats from eight hours a day to extended hours. We're hoping that we could double that time at minimal cost.

The concept's cost ranges between \$20 million and \$90 million. We do have to make a decision on the best bang for the dollar that is going to best benefit not just Iqaluit but Nunavummiut because most of the supplies are offloaded here into Iqaluit and then moved further into other communities points north. We hope to have further discussions this

month with the city and the major marine carriers on coming up with a feasible infrastructure for Iqaluit and Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we are paying for it currently as all goods shipped by shippers into Iqaluit have this added cost included due to the downtime while waiting to offload that cargo. We are already paying for it. We, as a government, pay for that annually. It's quite conceivable that the government could bring down the cost by making improvements to that existing facility.

I further encourage the minister to plan for a marine facility, but I know that we won't be able to catch it this fiscal year. If they start planning now to look at more cost-effective ways to create a facility, I would like to ask the minister when this planning or review of possible marine infrastructure or docking facilities will be finished. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, that's why the feasibility study is taking a little bit longer than I expected.

This month, as I indicated, we're hoping that we can come to an agreement on what we do need that's feasible for the city, for the government, and all users, including the annual resupply that we get from our marine users and not only that but also the people of Iqaluit; the

hunters, the harvesters, the fishermen, the recreational users. That's going to be all included in the feasibility study and we're hoping to conclude that in June. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Question 373 – 3(2): Additional  
Conservation Officer for Baker  
Lake**

**Mr. Aupaluktuq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Hon. Minister Daniel Shewchuk of the Department of Environment.

Our community is expanding and with the season of hunting and fishing being close by, even doing it as we are today back in Baker Lake, our renewable resources officer is working very hard and he is working very well. He's got the support of the community.

To administer such vast land as well as the number of people coming in and out of Baker Lake and our expanding population, I would like to ask the hon. minister that we would like to state and address that Baker Lake would like to know if there are any recent plans in hiring a renewable resources officer for the community of Baker Lake. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Daniel Shewchuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the member for that question. The member

is absolutely correct that Baker Lake is a thriving, developing community. As soon as a year ago, we did expand our staffing capacity there and have now two conservation officers stationed there.

There is a vacant position there right now. I can inform the member that the staffing request has gone to the Department of HR, I believe, on May 4 and that position will be advertised and bulletined in the very near future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Question 374 – 3(2): Community Concerns about Seismic Testing in Lancaster Sound**

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are directed towards the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Arctic College and it's in regard to follow-up questions to what Mr. Arvaluk had questions in regard to Lancaster Sound and the seismic testing that's going on.

I was in communication with my mayor in Arctic Bay this morning on the consultation that went on yesterday in Arctic Bay, the HTO and the community itself, the mayor, and interested parties that showed up at the meeting all were sort of in agreement that they do not want this to proceed. I know in news articles and in conversations that QIA is not interested in having this go forward as well.

My question is: will your department listen to what the community is saying? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Daniel Shewchuk:** Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the member for his concern and question again. This seismic activity seems to be quite an important topic and it is, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to inform the member that as I stated before, we will wait until all of the consultations are done. We will review the concerns that are brought up by the community and at that point in time, we will move forward as we need to in this situation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I guess one of the things that the community wants is just assurances from the government in terms of where we're going. When we talk about Lancaster Sound and protecting the wildlife and when you hear different news-related articles and comments about oil and gas, the community becomes concerned.

Again this is a DFO project and it's on federal waters. Even if Nunavut Arctic College, the Government of Nunavut, and the communities are not interested in having this happen, they could still do it? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Daniel Shewchuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The question that the member raises is a good one. It is my understanding that any research that is

going to take place in Nunavut is under the authority of NIRB and the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement, and that requires the recommendation from NIRB that administers the land in the Nunavut settlement area. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So just for clarification, that is even within Nunavut, within federal waters? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Daniel Shewchuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again my understanding is that the land and waters within the Nunavut settlement area, which some of this project is and some is not. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My final question is in regard to the process because you had said that NIRB sort of makes the final recommendation. It is my understanding that NIRB has made the recommendation that it is up to you as the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Arctic College to decide whether this research project goes through. Is that correct? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Daniel Shewchuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Concerning the process, NIRB has recommended to me and

given me their screening criteria to make a decision. I also have the option to send it back to NIRB after a review of this consultation that is going on right now. That is an option that I do have. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Question 375 – 3(2): Appointment of New Fire Marshal**

**Mr. Schell:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister responsible for Community and Government Services.

The May 2010 edition of the *Nunavut Gazette* indicates that the government has appointed an individual to the position of Fire Marshal. This appointment is for one year and I believe it is Ed Zebedee.

Can the minister indicate if the department will be undertaking a job completion to fill this position on a permanent basis or is it one of the positions that has been identified as being frozen in order to address the Nunavut Housing Trust shortfall? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for the question. He is correct that Mr. Zebedee will be in that position until we can fill the position indeterminately. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Schell:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I recognize that it is unlikely that a minister will provide any clarification regarding why the previous fire marshal was let go and I recognize that there is always more than one side to the story.

However, the public perception is that the government simply didn't like what the previous fire marshal was saying. How will the department be able to track qualified individuals to apply for this important position given that it appears that fire marshals who raise concerns get fired? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for the question. I would like to be very clear on this answer, Mr. Speaker, that it was the individual who was released from his responsibilities and the media that have said that he was fired for those reasons. The government has, at no time, said that those were the reasons of his removal, Mr. Speaker.

I would just like to assure them that we encourage qualified individuals to apply for the fire marshal and any other position, and that they will have the full support of the government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Schell:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are a lot of positions in the government that undertake health and safety inspections of buildings,

equipment, and other facilities. What assurances can the minister offer us today that inspectors who do their job won't be fired simply because they identify problems? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Schell. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** I thank the member for the question. I would just like to reassure the member that no individual has been fired for doing their job adequately, Mr. Speaker. I'll leave it at that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Schell:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I recognize that the government may have legitimate concerns surrounding the manner in which the previous fire marshal exercised his powers. Is the minister considering to making an amendment to the *Fire [Prevention] Act* and if so, when will he introduce it? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Could I ask the member to clarify his question, Mr. Speaker? Thank you.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister. Clarify your question, please, Mr. Schell.

**Mr. Schell:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What I was basically saying is that obviously, the government probably had legitimate reasons for the dismissal of the fire marshal and maybe part of it is part of the *Fire Prevention Act*. I'm just



asking if he is deciding on changing the *Fire Prevention Act* and if so, when.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Schell. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Mr. Speaker, the individual he says was removed for doing his job, Mr. Speaker, again, we didn't release anybody for doing their job adequately.

Mr. Speaker, the *Fire Prevention Act*, the way it is right now, seems to be quite fair and clear and is being followed to the letter of the law, Mr. Speaker. I don't foresee any immediate changes needed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Question 376 – 3(2): Nursing Program Students**

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

I was ecstatic with him when he identified the students who are graduating from the Nursing Program. It seems like there are quite a few constituents who have graduated from this program. We heard that there are five who will graduate and become registered nurses.

However, I want to ask a question to the minister. How many students were there, how many do we have, and how many do we expect to graduate next year? Does he know how many possible students may apply to the Nursing

Program in the upcoming school year? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Tagak Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe it was during our winter session as well as our fall session, the students started the program. They just completed a four-year program. As I stated this winter, there were 15 or 16 students. However, as we all know, not all of the students who undertake a course graduate or pass their courses and that's the same case here.

What I want to say, Mr. Speaker, is that once I have updated that information, I will be able to inform the member on how many students will be applying and I will provide an update because some of the students who have started this fall have quit. That is the only information I can provide at this time. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was quite ecstatic that quite a number of them will be working here in Iqaluit as well as in Nunavut. However, we also hear about the challenges that graduates face in trying to work here in Nunavut when there are so many opportunities outside Nunavut even though they would benefit our territory more.

My next question is regarding the fact that we encouraged the minister to look

at trying to have pre-employment agreements with the nursing students so that they can come and work here in Nunavut. I would like to know what the status of that is with the minister. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Tagak Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The question is very clear. The issue is quite complex and challenging because again, in Canada, our people can work and be educated anywhere. They have the freedom to move. Quite a number of students go south for education and many have agreements with the college and the Department of Education. It is the freedom of all Canadians to work wherever they wish and we cannot break that human right.

We have not completed the particular process that he was speaking about, but as we saw today with the graduates who have completed their four-year course, it seems like they will be taking up positions now. The Chief Nursing Officer, Fred Monpetit, was also in the Gallery. It is quite obvious that he will be taking those graduates to work in Nunavut as nurses.

It is desirable for the students to want to work voluntarily, but I will be speaking with them. We haven't completed this initiative at the Department of Education. We are looking at providing grants to some of these nurses to ensure that they have some commitment to continue working in Nunavut, but we still haven't reached that stage quite yet. We will have to prioritize that as we

continue to have a lot of emergencies. Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Your second supplementary, Mr. Okalik. Thank you, Mr. Okalik. Oral Questions. Member for Pangnirtung, Mr. Komoartok.

### **Question 377 – 3(2): Plans for Old Health Centre in Pangnirtung**

**Mr. Komoartok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to pose a question to the Minister of Community Government and Services, (interpretation ends) the Hon. Lorne Kusugak.

(interpretation) In our community of Pangnirtung, we talked and heard about the community health centre that has been completed for the past 16 months and it will finally be open shortly, perhaps at the end of June. We will finally be able to use that health centre and we look forward to using that centre.

My question that has been raised by the hamlet is: what is going to happen with the old health centre? It still has people working in it. The community wishes to continue to use that facility because again, we are very short on office space and other community uses. In particular, the Pangnirtung Housing Association is operating in a housing unit.

If we could use the health centre, we could allow other organizations in the community to use it. There are quite a number of organizations, such as the suicide prevention group, the mental health group, and youth and elders' groups, and Pujualussait that are always looking for space. So if we could utilize

this old health centre and move them all into one facility, then they would all be able to work together.

Therefore, we would like to see this health centre continue to be available to the community. It is still in good condition. The sewage and other infrastructure are still working. I'm wondering whether or not this health centre could be given to the community instead of being destroyed. We would like to see better usage of that facility. My question to the Minister of CGS is if that is possible. Thank you, Mr. Speaker

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the member for raising that question. I share your joy that Pangnirtung will finally be able to use that new health centre and that question is a very good question.

In the past, whenever there was a new facility constructed by the government, the old facility used to be given away. However, we have to inspect a building to see if it is still useable. We have to follow the laws that relate certain facilities. For example, if the Department of Health is no longer going to use the facility, we then have to consult other government departments to see if they could use that facility.

A feasibility study needs to be conducted within our government prior to speaking with hamlets and other local organizations. There are certain legal requirements that we have to follow when we're talking about a school, a

health centre, or a prior government facility. It outlines the process that we have to follow. We will look into that process and we will provide an update, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Komoartok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister for that excellent response. I would like to know how long that process will take. Would it be some time during this year? I know that without some fixed date, it will be put off interminably. Can the minister announce when he will be able to update the community of Pangnirtung? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the member for posing that question. I will keep you updated and I will also work with your mayor as to how the process will develop. What I can state is that it will be dealt with this month. I'm not sure how speedily the process will move, but I will keep the member informed either through correspondence or via telephone. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Question 378 – 3(2): Artificial Ice Plant Study for Arenas**

**Mr. Ningeongan** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to pose a question to the Minister of Community and Government Services. It is in regard to the study that was done on the natural ice arenas in Arviat and Coral Harbour this past winter. They looked at putting in artificial ice cost-effectively during the study. I would like to ask the minister what the status of this project is now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): I'm very happy the member raised the question about this issue. During our winter session, we announced a study as to how best we could install artificial ice in the communities at the earliest possible stage. It was unfortunate that some of the delegates that we invited were unable to attend this past spring. We wanted to discuss the various ice-making techniques that could be used in the North.

I can tell the member that we will be using an ice-making process called the Thermal Siphon System that will allow the ice to form faster. It is not artificial ice but it ensures that the ground remains frozen for a lot longer wherever they are placing the ice surface. That is what we will try to use in Nunavut, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Ningeongan** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to raise another question to the minister. There was a study that was supposed to be done in Arviat and Coral Harbour. Did that study proceed? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Yes, that study has commenced and it is ongoing. However, with respect to the two communities, we will not be putting in those thermal units this summer. It is unfortunate that the two recipients of the pilot project will not get this first, but Sanikiluaq and Igloolik will have those thermal units installed. So this is just the way it was planned out based on the availability of the equipment and the fact that these two communities will have an easier time phasing into that process, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Ningeongan** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With regard to these two communities that were part of the pilot project, it seemed like they were just given false expectations. Once the pilot project had commenced, they expected that they were going to be the recipients of this new system. My question to the minister is: when will they be able to get these units? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): I regret for raising false expectations. As it is usually the case, there are a lot of expectations whenever there is a pilot project. Unfortunately, there are certain challenges that crop up and there is always reasoning that causes us to make changes. The reason why we have changed the two communities is because they were better prepared. Our plan is to include these two communities in the next phase and they are on the priority list for the project. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Question 379 – 3(2): Labour Cost of Nunavut Housing Trust**

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are directed towards the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation. For the last couple of days, we have been getting briefings from himself and also the Minister of Finance. I found it hard wrapping what questions I want to ask by putting them into four.

I would like to start by asking the minister... one of the things that he stated was that 72 percent of the costs in terms of the overrun and the overspending are due to labour. Did the money in terms of dollars that were spent on labour, did that stay in the communities? It gives it a spin as if jobs are going into the community and money is staying in the community. Did the

money actually go into the communities? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Hunter Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If memory serves me correct and I want to say for sure, but I'm pretty sure that just about all of the contracts that were left to build the units under the trust were all labour only contracts. It is my understanding that pretty much all of them went to either a local, or a northern, or Inuit owned contracting company, except for in communities where they were being delivered by the local housing organization.

Whoever the contractor was, there were strict requirements for Inuit employment on there. I know that on average, the 60 percent target for Inuit employment was met throughout the trust. As far as the exact numbers, I'm not sure, but I know on average across the territory, 60 percent of Inuit labour was met. Where the specific contractors, whether the other 40 percent across the board were local hires or tradespeople that were brought in from outside, I can't answer that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for that answer. Would you be willing to commit to providing a breakdown of where those dollars went in terms of the people who were hired? My understanding at least from what I hear from different sources and checking

into it and asking people is there were sort of two portions to it.

There were the trainers and the people who were supervising, who were qualified with a red seal, who were making a higher dollar value than the apprentices and people who were in the communities. Obviously, the apprentices were all Inuit employees in the communities, but on top of that, there were also flights into the community and out of the community. There was also sometimes rent and also food and per diems paid for.

To me, when you are looking at labour costs, if you count everything as labour costs, the pendulum swings towards a higher amount of money going out of our communities. Would you commit to providing us with a list of labour costs? Thank you.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister Tootoo.

**Hon. Hunter Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would be more than happy to do that. Again, my understanding is that the labour costs, as the member points out, in some cases where they had the skilled tradespeople that were required to provide the training and supervision to the apprentices were there and they were utilized locally. If that wasn't available locally, there may have been a requirement to find those individuals and bring them from outside the community and in some cases, outside of Nunavut.

Also, I think as he pointed out, tradespeople, it doesn't matter what trade you're in, there is a certain amount that they make. As far as apprentices go, it is my understanding that it is kind of

graduated. If you are a first year, you get a certain percentage of whatever the tradesperson earns and it changes each year as their training goes on at different levels.

I will tell the members though that the cost of transportation and accommodations relating to individuals that had to be brought in to be able to provide that training would have been included in the labour component. If someone is staying in local commercial accommodations, there is an example of where it may not show as a labour amount but those dollars actually went to a local business in the community.

I will confer with the member afterwards if he so wishes to be able to clearly make sure that I understand exactly what he would like to have me commit to provide him and commit to providing that to him. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for that answer. I guess the other thing is that when you are talking about \$60 million, it's kind of hard to wrap your head around it, but when they are saying again that overspending has happened over a matter of four years, I could see it maybe the first year, I could see the second year, but when you get into third and fourth years, you just wonder how that happens.

But then when you are saying that it is labour costs that are actually the reason for it, it makes you think, "Well, did these people or the contractors not get paid for four years?" It is my understanding that when you pay an

employee, you have Revenue Canada, you have to apply, you have to put in, and you have to get T4s. So were you not issuing or were the contractors not issuing T4s on an annual basis for these people? Thank you.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Elliott.  
Minister Tootoo.

**Hon. Hunter Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can't speak for the individual contractors that were in the private sector. I would assume that our LHOs that were doing the delivery are following Canada Revenue Agency guidelines and issuing T4 slips to the people who were working for them.

I think in the labour portion of a contract, some of these projects and I think what has taken so long for it to catch up is some of them have taken longer than expected to complete for a variety of different reasons. You don't get the final labour costs until after the project is completed.

An evaluation of the requirements under the NNI, if there were NNI bonuses paid out as a result of that; you don't find out all of that kind of stuff until after projects are completed to be able to get that final number of the amount that was paid out for labour. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for the answer. I still am a little confused and I guess I need to think through and probably read the *Hansard* tomorrow to totally understand what you're saying.

Looking ahead, it causes me some more concern because you're saying in one instance, "Well, NNI paybacks," or however you worded it. They're not hidden costs, but because projects aren't done and as we know, not all of the houses are built at this time, are you saying that the \$60 million is as of now and because the labour is not done and the houses are not totally finished, it's actually going to be higher than \$60 million? Thank you.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Elliott.  
Minister Tootoo.

**Hon. Hunter Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. No, that's not what I'm saying. I think the corporation, like I said, has now been able to look at something that wasn't being done in the past that led to this situation where the reporting that was done on the trust was expenditure reporting for that fiscal year. It didn't take into account previous expenditures, or forecasted expenditures, or forecasted completion costs on the projects as well.

We are confident with the numbers that we have now. I believe most of the contracts for the labour component of this final season of delivery have been closed, so we know what our contractual obligations are as far as labour goes in regard to that and the corporation is taking steps.

Any change orders or any changes on that are flowing through our directorate office for approval. The monitoring of all of the contracts are being done on a regular basis, it wasn't before, and ensuring that all of the district staff know that they have a budgeted amount for certain projects and those budgets are

being monitored on a regular basis.  
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister. Oral Questions. Member Nattilik, Ms. Ugyuk.

**Question 380 – 3(2): Inuit Artefact Repatriation from Norway**

**Ms. Ugyuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth.

When I was first elected, I went to Gjoa Haven and the mayor, Joanie Hadlari, asked for a visit this summer because archaeologists from Norway will be returning artefacts to Gjoa Haven. I was wondering if the minister would be able to attend this meeting while they're repatriating the artefacts. They will be raising a flag and also a plaque that acknowledges the repatriation.

So I would like to ask the minister if he would be able to attend this event in the summer. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. Minister of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth, Hon. Louis Tapardjuk.

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the member. I am extremely grateful to be invited. Once we have received a letter outlining what the event is about, whether they have invited departments, I do know for a fact that the Department of CLEY generally has limited funds to deal with a lot of these events.

I would be very happy to attend if I was invited, but I would prefer a letter inviting me to attend and then I would be

able to respond. So I would prefer to have a letter invitation because without that paperwork, I cannot confirm or deny my attendance.

What I can tell the member is that I will be expecting a letter of invitation from the member asking me to attend to this event. I would be extremely happy to attend or to at least outline my plans in that regard. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Ugyuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, you will receive a letter inviting you to attend to this event. I believe it will be a celebration in Gjoa Haven. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. I did not hear a question, but I'll leave it at your discretion to respond. Minister Tapardjuk.

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I also thank our newest member. With regard to these types of events, it is always very exciting to be invited and to represent the Government of Nunavut. Further, it is quite obvious that this will be a big event for the community.

There are also a lot of ships that want to search for the Franklin Expedition.

There is a lot of research going on and so the benefits are not just for Nunavut. There are a lot of the outside world and even outside of Canada where nations are looking at that particular area. So I would be glad to attend this event and I'll look forward to receiving that letter invitation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.



**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Are you done? Going back to our Orders of the Day. (interpretation ends) 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. Mr. Okalik.

**Item 12: Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills**

**Committee Report on Bills 009 – 3(2):  
Bill 27, An Act to Amend the  
Workers' Compensation Act**

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to report that Bill 27, *An Act to Amend the Workers' Compensation Act*, has been reviewed by the Standing Committee on Legislation and that the bill is ready for consideration in Committee of the Whole.

Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to waive Rule 68(6) and have Bill 27 immediately moved into Committee of the Whole. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Okalik. The member is seeking unanimous consent to waive Rule 68(6) to have Bill 27 immediately moved into Committee of the Whole. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Bill 27 has been referred to the Committee of the Whole.

(interpretation ends) Item 12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Mr. Elliott.

**Item 13: Tabling of Documents**

**Tabled Document 162 – 3(2):  
Designating a Ministerial Portfolio  
to Support Persons with  
Disabilities**

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I mentioned in my Member's Statement earlier today, I wish to table a copy of the NWT's *Action Plan for Persons with Disabilities*.

I encourage the Premier to give full consideration to models and best practices from other jurisdictions and to appoint one of her ministers with specific responsibilities as a champion for Nunavut's persons with disabilities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Tabling of Documents. Mr. Ningeongan.

**Tabled Document 163 – 3(2):  
Additional Support for a New  
Senior School in Coral Harbour**

**Mr. Ningeongan:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table some information provided to me by the principal and staff of Sakku School in Coral Harbour. Listed here are many reasons why a new senior school for Coral Harbour is needed in order to be able to properly deliver a full and comprehensive educational program.

I encourage the minister and his officials to consider this additional information over the coming months and before the next capital plan is brought forward. Thank you.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan.  
Tabling of Documents. Mr. Curley.

**Tabled Document 164 – 3(2):**

**Department of Health and Social Services' Response to Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated's Report on the Recruitment and Retention of Inuit Nurses in Nunavut**

**Hon. Tagak Curley:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table the following document: Department of Health and Social Services' response to Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated's Report on Recruitment and Retention of Inuit Nurses in Nunavut.

**Speaker:** Thank you. 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. Mr. Elliott.

**Item 17: First Reading of Bills**

**Bill 33 – An Act to Amend the Integrity Act – First Reading**

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Iqaluit Centre, that Bill 33, *An Act to Amend the Integrity Act*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

First Reading of Bills. Mr. Elliott.

**Bill 34 – An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act – First Reading**

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Iqaluit Centre, that Bill 34, *An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

First Reading of Bills. Minister Keith Peterson.

**Bill 28 – Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 1, 2010-2011 – First Reading**

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet and Whale Cove, that Bill 28, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 1, 2010-2011*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister. The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour, raise your hand. Opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 28 has been read for the first time.

First Reading of Bills. Minister Peterson.

**Bill 29 – Supplementary  
Appropriation (Capital) Act, No.  
2, 2010-2011 – First Reading**

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet and Whale Cove, that Bill 29, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 2, 2010-2011*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister. The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour, raise your hand. Opposed. The motion is carried. Bill 29 has been read for the first time.

First Reading of Bills. Minister Peterson.

**Bill 30 – Supplementary  
Appropriation (Operations &  
Maintenance) Act, No. 1, 2010-  
2011 – First Reading**

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet and Whale Cove, that Bill 30, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 1, 2010-2011*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister. The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour, raise your hand. Opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 30 has been read for the first time.

First Reading of Bills. Minister Peterson.

**Bill 31 – Supplementary  
Appropriation (Operations &  
Maintenance) Act, No. 2, 2010-  
2011 – First Reading**

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet and Whale Cove, that Bill 31, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 2, 2010-2011*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister. The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour, raise your hand. Opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 31 has been read for the first time.

First Reading of Bills. Minister Peterson.

**Bill 32 – Forgiveness of Debts Act,  
2010 – First Reading**

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet and Whale Cove, that Bill 32, *Forgiveness of Debts Act, 2010*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister. The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour, raise your hand. Opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 32 has been read for the first time.

First Reading of Bills. Minister Peterson.

**Bill 36 – Miscellaneous Statutes  
Amendment Act, No. 2, 2010 –  
First Reading**

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet and Whale Cove, that Bill 36, *Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act, No. 2, 2010*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister. The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour, raise your hand, please. Opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 36 has been read for the first time.

First Reading of Bills. Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Minister Peterson.

**Item 18: Second Reading of Bills**

**Bill 28 – Supplementary  
Appropriation (Capital) Act, No.  
1, 2010-2011 – Second Reading**

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was taking a break.

Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet and Whale Cove, that Bill 28, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 1, 2010-2011*, be read for the second time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister. The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill. Question has been called. All those in favour, raise your hand. Opposed. The motion is carried. Bill 28 has been read for the second time and is referred to the Committee of the Whole.

Second Reading of Bills. Minister Peterson.

**Bill 29 – Supplementary  
Appropriation (Capital) Act, No.  
2, 2010-2011 – Second Reading**

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet and Whale Cove, that Bill 29, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 2, 2010-2011*, be read for the second time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker (interpretation):** Thank you, Minister. The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill. Question has been called. All those in favour, raise your hand. Opposed. The motion is carried. Bill 29 has been read for the second time and is referred to the Committee of the Whole.

(interpretation ends) Second Reading of Bills. Minister Peterson.

**Bill 30 – Supplementary  
Appropriation (Operations &  
Maintenance) Act, No. 1, 2010-  
2011 – Second Reading**

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet and Whale Cove, that Bill 30, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 1, 2010-2011*, be read for the second time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker (interpretation):** Thank you, Minister. The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill. Question has been called. All those in favour of the motion, raise your hand. Opposed. The motion is

carried. Bill 30 has had second reading and is referred to the Committee of the Whole.

Second Reading of Bills. Minister Peterson.

**Bill 31 – Supplementary Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, No. 2, 2010-2011 – Second Reading**

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet and Whale Cove, that Bill 31, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 2, 2010-2011*, be read for the second time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister. The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill. Question has been called. All those in favour, raise your hand, please. Opposed. The motion is carried. Bill 31 has been read for the second time and is referred to the Committee of the Whole.

Second Reading of Bills. Item 19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bills 27, 28, 29, 30, and 31, and 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 15:22 and Committee resumed at 15:59*

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

**Chairman** (Mr. Okalik)(interpretation): Good afternoon. I thank all members for being here in Committee of the Whole. 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), and Bills 27, 28, 29, 30, and 31. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Aupaluktuq.

**Mr. Aupaluktuq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We wish to review Bill 27 and once that is completed, we will continue with the review of Tabled Documents 66 – 3(2), 99 – 3(2), 100 – 3(2), and 13 – 3(2). We will proceed with the Department of Health and Social Services, followed by the departments of Finance, Justice, Environment, and Human Resources. If time permits, we proceed with CLEY and the Department of Education. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. Do my colleagues agree that we deal first with Bill 27?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Bill 27 – An Act to Amend the Workers Compensation Act – Consideration in Committee**

**Chairman** (interpretation): As the Chair, I will be giving my chair to Mr. Ningeongan while we're dealing with Bill 27. Mr. Ningeongan, if you would approach the table. Thank you.

**Chairman** (Mr. Ningeongan) (interpretation): Thank you. I would like

to ask Minister Curley if he has opening comments.

**Hon. Tagak Curley:** Yes, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the opportunity to provide opening comments on Bill 27, *An Act to Amend the Workers' Compensation Act*. The proposed amendments allow for the creation of a legislative presumption that firefighters with certain types of cancers are presumed to have developed the cancer from their work.

Mr. Chairman, the presumption for firefighters, full-time, part-time, and volunteer, will recognize that firefighters who have certain types of cancers after working as firefighters for specified periods developed those cancers from their work. Eight Canadian jurisdictions currently provide for a legislative presumption for firefighters as the Northwest Territories Legislative Assembly passed legislation which came into force on February 26, 2010. Regulations will list the cancers and the required length of employment as a firefighter for the presumption to apply.

Secondly, Mr. Chairman, the proposed amendments allow greater flexibility for appointing qualified individuals to the position of Governance Council Chairperson.

The proposed amendment will allow the minister to appoint a director to the Governance Council for a total period not exceeding nine years. The chairperson provides a leadership role; increasing the time limit of service on the Governance Council gives the minister options to ensure the Governance Council has effective leadership. The bill does not seek to

modify term lengths. That is, the minister can still appoint a director to a maximum term of three years. The proposed amendment allows the minister to reappoint a director for up to two additional three-year terms.

Just before I conclude, Mr. Chairman, we have earlier today, the appearance before the Full Caucus. I would just like to remind all of you that Anne Clark, the Present/CEO, is present, Derek Dinham, Vice-President of the Nunavut Operations, and also Amy Groothuis, General Counsel from WSCC. We also will have sitting in the Gallery Susan Hardy, who has worked hard to bring this legislative proposal before the committee and also throughout the committee process.

I will be prepared to appear and respond to the questions from the members, if any. Thank you.

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

**Hon. Tagak Curley:** Yes, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Curley. Does the committee agree to bring in the witnesses?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. (interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the minister's officials in.

Minister Curley, you have already stated the names of your officials, but if you would introduce them.

**Hon. Tagak Curley** (interpretation): Here with me at the witness stand starting with my right is Madam Anne Clark, President and CEO of WSCC, and on my left is Amy Groothuis, General Counsel of WSCC. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Curley. Does the Chair of the Standing Committee on Legislation have comments? Mr. Okalik, proceed.

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As Chair of the Standing Committee on Legislation, I am pleased to make opening comments as we begin consideration of Bill 27, *An Act to Amend the Workers' Compensation Act*.

Mr. Chairman, as you are aware, a new *Workers' Compensation Act* was introduced and passed in 2007. This legislation replaced the statute that was inherited upon division in 1999. The standing committee recognizes that the continuation of a shared Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission between Nunavut and the Northwest Territories has created a unique situation for the legislatures in both territories.

Over the years, the passage of amendments to one jurisdiction's statute has resulted in a need for the other legislature to take action to ensure that the Acts in both territories remain parallel with one another. This is a unique situation in the country. The standing committee looks forward to pursuing open lines of communication with its counterpart committee in the Northwest Territories in order to ensure that dialogue takes place with respect to any future proposed amendments to the legislation in either territory.

Mr. Chairman, the standing committee is in support of the proposed amendments to the *Workers' Compensation Act*. During the minister's recent appearance before the standing committee on the occasion of its clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 27, members took the opportunity to raise a number of concerns and questions.

Mr. Chairman, the committee noted that when the Northwest Territories Legislative Assembly considered its version of this bill earlier this year, MLAs proposed an amendment to broaden the definition of firefighter to also include part-time and volunteer firefighters. The bill that we are considering today in Nunavut reflects this change and members applaud the recognition of the needs of part-time and volunteer firefighters.

Members also note that Bill 27 allows the government to make regulations prescribing the minimum period of time that a firefighter must have been a non-smoker for the legislative presumption that is provided for in the legislation to apply. Members questioned the minister and his officials with respect to this matter and were advised that the regulations are in the process of being drafted. The standing committee looks forward to reviewing these regulations.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening comments. I am sure that my colleagues will have questions of their own. The standing committee recommends the passage of Bill 27 to all members. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Okalik. Before we proceed, I would like to remind members of the following:

according to Rule 77(1), you have 10 minutes to speak, and according to Rule 77(2), subject to the discretion of the Chair, a member may speak more than once to a matter under discussion but not until every member wishing to speak has spoken.

Are there any general comments? Mr. Aupaluktuq.

**Mr. Aupaluktuq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the hon. minister as well as the guests at the witness table. I appreciate the opening comments that the minister has provided on behalf of the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission.

In the second paragraph of your opening comments, as a formality, I would like to ask, as well, which eight of the Canadian jurisdictions, aside from NWT, has passed legislation for the presumption of firefighters to be able to qualify for application of coverage? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. Minister Curley.

**Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation):** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We spoke about the eight jurisdictions, including the Northwest Territories, that have put in place pieces of legislation that deal with fire protection, although they are voluntary firefighters. These are: Ontario, British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, and Nova Scotia. New Brunswick is also included as well as NWT. I believe this is what you were requesting.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Curley. Mr. Aupaluktuq.

**Mr. Aupaluktuq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation) I would like to ask a question about your opening comments. In your opening statement, you stated that the legislation that you will be using to deal with the volunteer firefighter is sometimes classified as part-time. What kind of requirements do they need to become classified as part-time firefighters? Will this include insurance or health and medical costs? How many years will they have to be firefighters before they qualify for benefits? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. Minister Curley.

**Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation):** As I understand your question, how many years does the firefighter have to have worked in order to qualify, with regard to the kind of stipend that they may be getting, we cannot provide details, but with regard to what you spoke of the presumption, I am not sure how to state it in Inuktitut, but perhaps they could be eligible for the insurance. Our legal counsel can speak about the length of time that you asked about. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Curley. Ms. Groothuis

**Ms. Groothuis:** Thank you. It differs for each of the different type of primary site cancers and the regulations will set out the period of time for each type of cancer. They're draft right now, but as an example, I can tell you that if a firefighter were to develop primary site brain cancer, what we're recommending is that they have been a firefighter for a period of time of 10 years. All of the periods of time are based on scientific



and medical literature as it dates back a considerable period of time, but it will be contained in regulations. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Aupaluktuq.

**Mr. Aupaluktuq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess as a formality too, I would like to ask how long of a term must a firefighter be on a brigade in order to be considered for application under this. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. Ms. Groothuis.

**Ms. Groothuis:** I think that that follows probably from the previous question and answer. Again, what the presumption is looking at is the total period of time that the firefighter has been fighting fires, regardless of whether they have been in the brigade or volunteer, and it will be based on, as I said in the regulations, the period of time that is set out in medical literature that draws the presumption between the type of cancer and the amount or level of exposure expressed in years. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. I have no other names. So therefore, we will now proceed to the clause-by-clause review of the bill starting with page 1. Bill 27, *An Act to Amend the Workers' Compensation Act*. Clause 1. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 2. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 3. Agreed? Mr. Arvaluk.

**Mr. Arvaluk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am not sure if it is in clause 3, but I had a concern that there seems to be some missing coverage. I am happy for the firefighters who will get this coverage. I recognize special needs to have that kind of coverage because of the type of occupation that they have.

I always worry about omitting or the lack of coverage for hunters who are part-time hunters, weekend hunters, whatever you call them. These are the most active people who are working from 8:30 or 9:00 to 5:00 for five days and they only have the weekend to hunt. If they were to get injured on a hunting trip, they would not only be able to hunt again but they would not be able to work either. Is this somehow covered in the legislation, that they may be eligible? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. (interpretation) We are concentrating on the firefighters at this point. Perhaps you can clarify your question, Mr. Arvaluk.

**Mr. Arvaluk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On clause 3, I think it was mentioned that there would be regulations governing the eligibility criteria for fireman's coverage, what they would be covered for, and the regulations would be prescribed instructions.

I guess my question is: is there some regulation in there that allows the weekend hunters, part-time hunters, whatever you want to call them, who supplement their income and food through hunting... is there some sort of coverage like that also in the legislation?

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. This is outside from what we are discussing at this time. However, Minister Curley, I'll leave it at your discretion if you want to respond to his concern.

**Hon. Tagak Curley:** Yes, Mr. Chairman, (interpretation) I can respond. As I spoke to earlier today when we were in the legislative committee with regard to hunter support programs, they are also processed, but the Nunavut government is guided by the Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of Nunavut and the hunters if they got hurt while hunting.

Due to the fact that this is a separate piece of legislation that deals specifically with hunters, it's at our discretion as the Nunavut government whether we want to change that particular application. It is not included in this particular legislation. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Curley. Mr. Okalik.

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) During the minister and his officials' presentation this morning, we were told that there would be a prescribed regulation for defining a non-smoker and a person that had quit smoking and that it would be regulated on a basis of the number of cigarettes that the individual had.

I was a bit confused because I used to be a smoker and I have no idea how many cigarettes I may have smoked. I'm sure

it would be a bit difficult to enforce if that is going to be the definition, the number of cigarettes an individual may have smoked in the past. It is something I find a bit confusing. I would like to get a further explanation, perhaps, on the proposed regulations on defining a non-smoker. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Okalik. Minister Curley.

**Hon. Tagak Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Part of it was responded but for the record earlier today, a lot of these have been studied in health studies and a lot of these schedules are based on past history. The president will speak in more detail on how that applies. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Curley. Ms. Clark.

**Ms. Clark:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The medical evidence sets out whether or not a person is a smoker or non-smoker and the doctors' way that was explained to me is that they speak in terms of the number of cigarettes, cigars, or pipes smoked in a lifetime before they would consider a person a non-smoker.

I understand that when doctors examine an individual, they can tell or guess by the symptoms that person has and the way a disease develops whether or not that person is a smoker, or a recent smoker, or never has been a smoker. So they look at the medical evidence that comes along with the individual.

The regulations themselves are very specific because medical science tells us that they can speak in those terms and

they can assess on those terms. I read you some numbers this morning about how many cigarettes would be considered a non-smoker just to give you a good level of detail that the scientific evidence gives us.

The regulations that we propose here are the same regulations that we proposed in the Northwest Territories and are now in force and effect there.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Ms. Clark. Mr. Okalik.

**Mr. Okalik:** I have no idea. It just boggled my mind when the numbers were put forward. I just found it rather confusing how one could perhaps be defined as a non-smoker by the number of cigarettes because I don't know of any individual that actually counted the number of cigarettes that they may have smoked. It may be a guesstimate of some sort.

I was a light smoker for a few years and I have no idea how many cigarettes I may have smoked, so that part I just cannot comprehend. If a doctor can tell me how many cigarettes I may have smoked by examining me, that's great.

>>Laughter

I would like to know that so that I can decide, "Oh, okay, I don't meet this definition and I meet this other definition." (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Okalik. I didn't hear a question in your comments there. However, Ms. Clark, do you wish to respond to his comments?

**Ms. Clark:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you. Perhaps I could add a little more information to help clarify that. Medical practitioners or our health care providers will classify us as non-smokers after a period of time of not smoking depending on how many cigarettes we smoked when we were smokers.

So for example, if I was a smoker and I smoked less than seven cigarettes per week, so if I report that I smoked a cigarette a day, then if I go six years without smoking, then I'm the same as if I had never smoked. So it's that type of evidence that they will use. If I smoked on average 40 cigarettes per day, then it would take me 28 years of non-smoking to be at the same level as a non-smoker, as someone who never smoked.

So it's that type of language that they use to describe our risk of developing these cancers and the more we smoked, the longer it will take to bring us to a point where we're at the same risk of developing cancer as someone who never smoked.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Ms. Clark. I can just see people calculating already.

>>Laughter

We will get back to clause 3. I don't have any more names. Mr. Schell.

**Mr. Schell:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess my question goes into the smoking part here too because we have been told years ago that second-hand smoke and third-hand smoke was just as harmful as actually smoking. I have never ever smoked in my life, but I sure was around a lot of people who did. How would that

affect the person proving that he is a non-smoker? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Schell. Minister Curley.

**Hon. Tagak Curley:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think we must keep this in perspective that if any member of my colleagues here devolve... thank goodness we have heard of anyone contracting cancer yet, but I think we're talking about that particular type of disease and not really just trying to prove whether you are a smoker or a non-smoker unless you have a case along with your claim for compensation.

I'll let our president comment on that further. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Curley. Ms. Clark.

**Ms. Clark:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Whether or not you were exposed to second-hand smoke would not come into play under these regulations. I think it's important to remember that what we're talking about in this amendment and in the regulations is a presumption and it's not proof. So being a firefighter doesn't automatically prove that your cancer was work related.

If there is something else that caused the cancer, then that evidence will come into play. What it does is that it releases an extraordinary burden from people who have worked as firefighters for a specific period of time. So all of those other things will come into play, but there isn't any contemplation that the people will be disadvantaged because they happened to be in an environment where there was second-hand smoke.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Ms. Clark. Getting back to clause 3. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Clause 4. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Do members agree to Bill 27 as a whole?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Do members agree that pursuant to Rule 62(2) that Bill 27 can immediately be placed on the Orders of the Day for third reading?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. I would like to thank the minister and his officials. I would like to ask Minister Curley if he has any closing remarks.

**Hon. Tagak Curley:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the support for the legislation. This is a very important legislation for firefighters, volunteer or part-time, and whatnot. I think it gives long-term and more security for those in the unlikely event sometimes, you know, that something does happen. We want to make sure that the people who are impacted, for instance, the ones that we just dealt with, have some sort of protection for the future.

For that, we appreciate all of your support and I would like to thank all of the officials here, Anne particularly, as well as our legal counsel here. (interpretation) Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Curley. Thank you for having your witnesses here. (interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses.

Mr. Okalik will now be the Chair of the Committee of the Whole.

**Chairman** (Mr. Okalik)(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan, for giving me a rest. Thank you.

Yesterday, the Department of Health and Social Services was at the witness table. Would you like to proceed with the same department?

**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): They have agreed. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the officials, if they are here, and the minister to the witness table.

Thank you, Sergeant-at-Arms. The minister is now at the witness table. For the record, please introduce your witness, Minister Curley.

**Hon. Tagak Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On my left is (interpretation ends) Deputy Minister

Alex Campbell. (interpretation) Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Curley. I would like to remind my colleagues of the following: according to Rule 77(1), you have 10 minutes to speak, and according to Rule 77(2), subject to the discretion of the Chair, a member may speak more than once to a matter under discussion but not until every member wishing to speak has spoken.

Let's proceed from there. Who has further questions? Mr. Aupaluktuq.

**Mr. Aupaluktuq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also want to thank the hon. minister for being here as well as Deputy Minister Campbell. I want to thank you for the answers that you had provided in our sitting yesterday. I had two questions that I wish to ask and this is specific to telehealth.

With regard to procurement activities, the government's most recent annual report states that your department awarded \$495,000 as a contract to a company for a telehealth expansion project. What specific results did this project achieve? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Tagak Curley** (interpretation): Thank you. I will ask my deputy minister to answer the question. It would be of tremendous help if you can clarify the contract number. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): I apologize, Minister. The contract number is C1506.

They haven't found the page yet. It is contract number C1506. You haven't found it yet? C1506. Does someone have a bingo? They are still looking for the contract number. Have you found the page yet? (interpretation ends) If you look at the procurement activity, it could be on page 98. Mr. Campbell.

**Mr. Campbell:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that question. In 2008, we had funding approved with Canada Infoway to embark on a project to do electronic health records for Nunavut. It was a four-year process. This is going to be expanding our services in providing a more electronic health records management system for Nunavut. The project will expire in 2013. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Aupaluktuq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also want to apologize to my colleagues and the witness here for not providing the contract number. This one basically does not have a contract, but it is a question that I would like to ask in consistency with the telehealth program.

It was started during the term of the First Legislative Assembly and it was originally intended as a cost-saving measure. To date is there any indicator as to how the telehealth program costs the government? Have you been able to calculate what cost savings have been achieved? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Campbell:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The member is correct that the telehealth process itself was to eventually provide a more efficient way of diagnosing some of our patients in the communities. We haven't done an analysis on how much savings that have afforded the government at this time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My first question is: the government's most recent annual report on procurement activities indicates that your department awarded a \$90,000 contract in 2008-09 to an individual to prepare a "Report on the State of Health in Nunavut." It's contract C1373 and it's on page 93 of the procurement activity report book. So it's contract C1373. What did this report conclude and will you commit to tabling it in the Legislative Assembly? Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Who is available to answer the question? Mr. Campbell.

**Mr. Campbell:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the question. We are in the process of doing an inventory of all of our facilities and all of our services that we are providing in the communities.

We had hired Dr. Marshalton to travel to all communities with a couple of his colleagues to visit all of the health centres. A report of that process is being developed right now. We have an inventory that has been developed by Dr. Marshalton. We are in the process of doing the report from that work as well.

This will eventually lead to the department making recommendations to the Minister of Health on the level of service and the model of health service delivery that would be provided by Nunavut, a model that we don't currently have in Nunavut.

A number of times, there have been some commentaries made both by the Auditor General as well as members and the public that we don't have a strategy for health. So this is in the process of getting our homework done and hopefully, we will be developing a strategy and recommending it to the minister and the Executive Council. At some point, the strategy will likely be tabled, but the minister would be the one to decide that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I understood the deputy minister correctly, he said that the report is not done. Again, this was for the 2008-09 fiscal year and then we have a 2009-2010 fiscal year. The work was done over a year ago and I am presuming the person was paid to do the work. Are you saying that his work was done, it sat for a year, and eventually they will get to do a report on it? Thank you.

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

**Mr. Campbell:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just wanted to clarify that we initiated that work approximately a year ago. The work is ongoing and yes, we have received some draft reports from the work of the consultant. We also

have another consultant working on the report and that report is in draft as we speak right now. The department is currently working with consultants to review the details of recommendations in the report that are being provided, but again I must emphasize that that has to go through the normal process of Cabinet as well as eventual approval. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again I just wanted some clarification on what the deputy minister had said. I know that in the opening comments of the minister, he said that they were going to cut back on contracting and sole source contracts, and whatnot. If I understood what the deputy minister said, they hired a consultant to do this report on the Report on the State of Health in Nunavut. That person finished their work and now they have another contractor working on finishing the report, or is there a full-time person who is a Government of Nunavut employee that is working on that report in your office? Thank you.

**Chairman:** I think the deputy said consultant, so I would imagine it is a non-employee as well. Minister Curley.

**Hon. Tagak Curley:** Thank you. I certainly don't want to be misunderstood either. I think the goal of the government and not only our department, I think we have heard even from our Premier, we have been challenged to try and see wherever we can reduce the use of consultants. We certainly will do that provided that we have the in-service ability.

I did indicate in my opening comment that there are times when we have no choice but to use expertise that are available in Canada for that kind of work. Health issues are very complex issues. Not many of us are able to analyze and carry out a review so that we could have a more effective case when dealing with federal government commitments or funding requirements.

I am not at all proud to say that we will no longer require any outside work. That has never been said and it is absolutely essential sometimes. We completed these reports, particularly when dealing with the short or long term health needs of Nunavut. As we go into the complex side of a technological age, we are certainly a lot more behind than some jurisdictions.

I will let Mr. Campbell respond further to this particular detail of the contract. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. (interpretation ends) Minister Curley, we are on C1373, Report on the State of Health in Nunavut, and the deputy minister explained that this contract was done and that to complete it, they've had to hire additional consultants. Mr. Campbell, can you confirm that, please.

**Mr. Campbell:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are looking at their contract reports for 2008-09. We had started this process over a year ago. We had engaged expertise, such as Greg Marshalton and Dr. Greg Marson, to do the state of the health care in Nunavut. That work is still ongoing. The commitment was, as indicated here,

\$90,000. We have not paid that full amount of the contract as of today.

Related to that work, we also had consultants work on providing us with some recommendations and doing research across Canada and internationally on the type of health care that could be a model that we can use for Nunavut. At the same time, I have been very clear to people that we hire that we will need to *Nunavutize* that information once we have that info. That particular contract is not on this list. It would be on the next list of contracts.

The minister had indicated yesterday that we will cease and desist all current contracts. There are current contracts that are not on this list that we will be reporting on again next year. We do have also some full-time staff monitoring and managing that project. I have been personally involved in making sure that the work is being completed because I understand the challenges that are facing our Department of Health.

We have been here many times, as members would know, to try and develop some strategies. We have been asked to prepare a more comprehensive health strategy for Nunavut. So that is where we are leading with this process. We will be providing some recommendations to the minister once that work has been completed and then the minister will take it further. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That leads to my next question. Could you give us the reason why you're



unable to perform this work within your department? Is it because the positions or qualifications aren't available? If you could answer that. Thanks.

**Chairman:** Mr. Campbell, you're on for the delivery of health, I understand. Mr. Campbell.

**Mr. Campbell:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The member is correct. Part of the reason is we don't have the capacity. We haven't had the capacity in the department. I should indicate that at one point, our vacancy was as high as 38 percent in the department. I believe we are running at 24 percent vacancy right now. We are doing much better.

However, the work still needs to be done. The demands are still out there. We are still being expected to deliver on strategies. We are still asked to come forward with a recommendation on a health system delivery for Nunavut. For that, I have to use expertise outside of the department to make sure that we deliver on the instructions that I have received from the minister to have some strategy in place. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that explanation. The reason I'm asking those questions is I'm trying to, in my mind, think, as we go through this process of these contracts and whatnot, whether your department is sort of saying that you need more PYs or whether you need more specialized people in different departments. It sounds like it's a skill set that's missing,

not necessarily the PYs that are missing. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister Curley.

**Hon. Tagak Curley:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the question, but we're not dealing with the vacancy issue right now.

The deputy minister indicated that it's due to the shortage of particularly the senior level of personnel in our department in order to get this important work done, which is really quite critical not only to our Cabinet but also we need that baseline information for the state of health in Nunavut. That is critically quite important.

I can assure the member that it's something that my colleagues not only in the Cabinet but FMB as well continue to look at ways to improve delivery and so on. We are just anxious to get this report done so that we can actually see where it's going. At the moment, I don't want to tie it up with a particular number of positions.

This and that position being vacant, we're doing every possible effort in the department to try and fill the senior level positions in our department. I indicated yesterday that the average amount of time required to fill a position, from an administration position to the executive level and whatnot, takes six months. In most cases, it is because the process is not that easy. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Curley. From what I understood in your earlier comments, you're not in the business of writing reports and drafting policies,

really, because you're focused on delivering health. That's why you had to hire outside contractors for this purpose. So that's the direction, I believe, we were going. Mr. Elliott.

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that explanation. Again I'm looking at it broader than just Health and Social Services. I'm thinking towards some of the stuff that we're going to be doing probably in September when the Auditor General is here, going through the HR evaluation and the audit in terms of why are we not filling human resource positions and why are we not able to staff.

It sounds like what the deputy minister was saying is that we have the PYs, but we don't have anyone hired in the position to do the specialized stuff, to be able to write the reports properly or whatever that needs to be done to be able to access and provide the services. Again, if we're ever going to work toward Article 23 and having people from Nunavut and Inuit in there, we need to look outside of just fixing it. I guess that's the other thing that I'm trying to get a grasp of.

My personal thinking, in some departments, is that you're pushing so hard to do and meet the mandate of what your department is supposed to do that there are so many vacant positions. I can see why sometimes a sole source contract is so much better than going through the whole process because you need that done right away, you've got so many things on the go and you need to get things done.

I'm looking at a broader picture to see, as people who decide, what we can do to

help out the department. That's where my angle is coming. I don't know if the minister wants to comment on that. That's not really a question, but I do have more questions. Thank you.

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

**Hon. Tagak Curley:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for the opportunity. I appreciate the member. I think you are beginning to see the picture of how complex the issue is that the health department is mandated with.

With respect to the state of health, it's really quite critical that we have a state of the conditions or a report that has assessed other jurisdictions as well. I can assure the member that this is not just in-house because this one is so complex that we are interested not only in our own jurisdiction but we want to see other jurisdictions.

The members have been asking whether we are getting value for the money we have been using and making the best use of the best practices in other jurisdictions. That is happening with this particular report.

I had to sign on to a travel requirement. They wanted to look at Greenland, for instance, and how they deliver to isolated communities and carry out their health program. I think that is going to be useful information not only for the Cabinet but as well as for the Members of the House.

I'll leave it at that and I appreciate the comment that he made. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The government's two most recent annual reports on procurement activities indicates that your department awarded over \$240,000 in contracts to a single individual to provide communications consulting and to act as your department's director of communications. Why can't your department hire a full-time person to perform this function? Thank you.

I was going to give out the contract numbers. There are quite a few contract numbers. There are: C173, C185, C190, C196, C199, C1345, so there are quite a few. Thank you.

**Chairman:** It adds up to \$240,000 according to the member. Mr. Campbell.

**Mr. Campbell:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that question. We have been having a difficult time as a department and I can attest, across the government, that finding qualified directors of communications to work in departments, one of the issues that we are facing is the payment of the amount or the salary level that we are paying for expertise at that level. There are high competitions for communication consultants.

With that being said, just to clarify again, the \$240,000 accumulated total is an amount that was committed under the contract. We're still going to figure out how much we actually spent on that particular contract. The individual did work for the department. We have since hired a communications specialist. We are still in the process of recruiting for a

director of communications for the department. That position remains vacant; the communications specialist right now is acting as the director of communications. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** From my understanding, it was a request for proposals that you went through to hire the individual. Mr. Elliott.

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that explanation. I almost think we should talk to the HR minister to come up with buttons that say "I'm a Government of Nunavut employee" that they can wear because I met this individual and thought she was a GN employee, or maybe we should give out "I'm a Contractor" buttons so that we know the difference of whether they are a contractor or GN employee.

I think at this time, Mr. Chairman, I will wait and let other members ask questions. Thanks.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Elliott. We are in department three and we have five other departments to go. Which other member would like to ask questions on health? Are there any other questions on health? I do not see any further arms other than Mr. Elliott again. Mr. Elliott.

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just didn't want to be accused of asking all of the questions.

Contract C1410, the government's most recent annual report on procurement activities indicates that your department awarded a \$127,265 sole source contract in 2008-09 to an individual to provide Territorial Health Access Fund program

leadership services. What did this contract achieve and why couldn't someone within your department perform that work? Thank you.

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

**Mr. Campbell:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just going back to my answer yesterday, I believe this was the same question that was asked, we did hire a consultant first of all to provide some leadership around the THAF file. As members know, THAF is \$21 million over five years. When I joined the department three years ago, we had spent about half a million dollars of that target.

I wanted to develop a strategy to aggressively identify some strategic projects that could be done under health to use up some of that money. So the person that we have consulted provided that financial analysis and financial reporting of the task itself on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was just going through because the question wasn't asked yesterday. The question that was asked yesterday was on C1483 and C201, which was a sole source contract for \$344,000 relating to the Territorial Health Access Fund. This one was a separate one to another individual and it just sort of says it's for "THAF Program Leadership Services." This one is specifically for the financial end of it. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Campbell:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do apologize, Mr. Chairman, but can I get that number again and the page number, please, and then I can respond properly. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Mr. Elliott, can you do the bingo announcer thing again? Mr. Elliott.

**Mr. Elliott:** The one that I was asking for today is actually on page 94 of the procurement book. It is contract C1410. It is titled, Territory Health Access Fund program leadership services. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Page 94 of the big book and it's the item number was identified, awaiting confirmation from the deputy. Oh, we've got bingo. Mr. Campbell.

**Mr. Campbell:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just to continue with my answer, this person was hired as well to provide some ongoing leadership on that file. It was a person that we had travelling into the different regions to assist with the preparation of some of their financial auditing as well as acting, in one case, as a regional director. As well, this person was developing some of the proposals that would be considered under the THAF funding program. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have some questions in terms of the contracts that you do. The \$209,000 for a contract like this, you said that they travel around the different communities

and consult, and whatnot. Does the Government of Nunavut, with a contract that large, cover the airfare for that person and also their hotel and per diems or is this included within the contract? Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Elliott. (interpretation ends) The question is: is it all-comprehensive, all-inclusive package or is it just basic salary? Mr. Campbell.

**Mr. Campbell:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Some of the contracts vary from consultant to consultant. In some cases, it's all-inclusive. The contractor or consultant would look after their own arrangements and look after their own meals, accommodations, and travel to the communities. In some cases, we would pick up some of the accommodations. In some cases, we would pick up the travel to the communities.

So depending on the specific arrangement with the contractor, there are different arrangements that are made. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Campbell. The question was: on this particular contract, is it all-inclusive or is it not? Mr. Campbell.

**Mr. Campbell:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't know the particulars, but I can certainly provide that information to the member. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** We have a commitment. Mr. Elliott.

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was just going to comment. With some of the answers that we've gotten in terms of people or ministers not having the information and the ability to answer the questions with contracts, I'm not quite sure why they wouldn't, knowing that when we left session before that we would be asking specific questions within this book.

To me, I would hope that all ministers would have sort of told their deputy ministers and people below them that they need to have the contracts and the information available because regular members would be asking questions. So I don't know sometimes whether we can accept answers like that, but I guess we will have to because we don't have the answer today.

My next question is: in terms of sole source contracts and what we were told about sole source contracts, it's up to the deputy minister and doesn't involve CGS with how it works. I hope I have it correct today; I know I was corrected yesterday.

So in terms of all of these sole source contracts that have been given out, it would have been you, as the deputy minister, who would have been signing off on these? Thank you.

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

**Mr. Campbell:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The answer is yes, I would be the one signing off on the sole source contracts, but there is a process leading up to my signature on that contract.

The initiator of the contract makes recommendations to their manager and then that manager makes recommendations to their director. The director makes recommendations to the ADM and then the ADM makes recommendations to me whether to sign off, whether the sole source is fully justified or if there is enough justification to proceed with the sole source.

So there are checks and balances along the way at various points. The contract itself could be denied, but at the end of the day, the member is correct that the deputy minister does sign off on the sole source contracts. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The next question I was trying to get at... I don't know. Sometimes when I ask questions, it seems like people become offended or upset and think I'm after certain things or getting to something. To me, I think, as a former GN employee, I remember, in my position, being frustrated with some of the things and the capabilities of what I had and what I couldn't do.

I guess the deputy minister could answer or couldn't answer this question, but as the person who is signing... if we, as the Legislative Assembly or Cabinet, are going to help out, I know you were willing to tell us, sort of, when we were doing budgeting how frustrating it is to provide the level and quality of care that we give to Nunavummiut all across the territory with the limited funds that we have. I guess again, if you could share with me.

I'm trying to get a picture of when you're doing and you're trying to hire people and you're trying to get the work done and you've got to go through the contract process, what makes you go to sole sourcing. The reason I'm asking that is because if things are changing within in department, if you're too overburdened and if things are too stressful, then nothing is going to change, and then in a year, we will be looking at a whole bunch of more sole source contracts. So if you could just help me out with that, it would be great. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Elliott. I think the member is expressing a concern that there are far too many sole sources for this particular department than we realized. I can point to any page and look at the Tobacco Reduction Strategy, "sole sourced." We understand that there are some immediate things that have to be taken care of and some things we can plan.

So Minister Curley, I will give you your explanation. (interpretation) Thank you.

**Hon. Tagak Curley:** I'm not sure which one I am going to respond to now. I think there has to be some guidance from you to... I think the Rules of the House are clear that we are not to address specifically, with respect to parliamentary reference, to whether I should address that as he was you or Mr. Elliott for that matter. I just want a bit of a clarification on that.

I think that if we had known that every item in the... it would probably help, when the motion was introduced, to table a report that every item, line by line, was going to be asked a question

rather than the principle of it and so on. In view of time, I think our deputies and staff continue to try and respond to that from the principle of the contract and the reason behind it, the intent of the contract, and what exactly was the purpose of it. To try and find out exactly the details of it is sometimes very complex with the numbers.

We have indicated in the House in my opening remarks that we are not satisfied with the number of contracts the department issued. I think that position is clear. This has been a long-term practice of the government. It's like trying to break down a tradition that has become pretty well entrenched in some cases, but we are taking steps to climb down. We have directions all the way from the Premier to cut down on sole sourcing and whatnot or any kind of mode of the contracts that are available to the departments through our contracting administration guidelines. We will adhere to those.

In order to specifically address the member's question, we will not refuse to answer a question. If it takes a bit of time to provide a response, we will do that. There are some questions that take a bit of time and I would ask him to be sometimes maybe remember, Mr. Chairman, to be patient and we are being patient. We will provide that information. If it is not at our fingertips, we will provide the information. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Curley. (interpretation ends) We look forward to a written question asking for specific information on all of the sole source contracts when we are in regular session, I guess. The next

question I have is Ms. Ugyuk for the time being. (interpretation) Mr. Elliott, I'm sorry. Mr. Elliott.

**Mr. Elliott:** I know Minister Curley answered part of the question to what I had said and I thank him for that because I remember when we first started, he sort of took me aside and gave me some advice that I have taken to heart and it was that I should do my homework. I understood where he was coming from in a sense that to stay on top of things, you have to keep going and pushing.

But I had actually asked if the deputy minister was willing to sort of answer or maybe I'll give him a chance to let us know some of his frustrations and how he is dealing with things within his department, again maybe to give us a better idea of what some of the deputy ministers are dealing with out there on a day-to-day basis. We are not there to see how they have to deal with these situations. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Elliott. (interpretation ends) I didn't hear a question on that. I will turn to Ms. Ugyuk.

**Ms. Ugyuk** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Contract number 131, the government's most recent annual report on procurement activities indicates that your department awarded a \$1.8 million contract to FSC Architects in 2008-09 for a project named "Three Health Centres with Staff Housing - Repulse." Will there be repeat costs for this contract for planning and design if it is used in other communities besides Repulse Bay? For which other communities are the other two health centres planned and for when?

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. Who will respond? Minister Curley.

**Hon. Tagak Curley:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thought that was a question earlier from the Member for Quttiktuq. It was something about how I was dealing with the pressures that the department faces. Obviously, I cannot share some of them here because we're not dealing with micro issues here. These are complex.

As the minister responsible and the senior members of the department, we continue to address and try to save money wherever possible and we will take measures to start controlling contracts. We believe that we share the concerns of the MLAs that there are just too many. I specifically, in my opening remarks, Mr. Chairman, quoted exact figures on how much we have awarded contracts based on sole source and other contracts that are beyond the \$5,000 level.

Mr. Chairman, we will continue to try and do the best we can and be transparent with these things. I have indicated that to my officials and the deputy has taken a number of measures and steps to ensure that all of our directors as well as the program managers better reflect the concerns not only of the Members of the House but as well as the Cabinet. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Curley. On C131, Mr. Campbell.

**Mr. Campbell:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for asking that question. The answer is yes, the design of the health centre will be

modelled under that one design that is being developed by the architects. The project is being managed through CGS. As you have noted, it is went through a request for proposals process. I would like to indicate to the member that the three health centres are currently on the capital plan. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Campbell. Ms. Ugyuk. Thank you. (interpretation ends) We are on health. Are there any further questions on health? Mr. Elliott.

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Contract C216, the government's most recent annual report on procurement activities indicates that your department awarded a \$73,000 sole source contract to a company to conduct a "Waste Management Investigation." Was this a public health issue and what did this investigation conclude? Thank you.

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

**Mr. Campbell:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do have the number. I'm just referring to my notes. Thank you. I'll be just a few seconds here.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you to the member for that question. There is a report that was developed. I'm assuming the report has been completed and the report would be available on record. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Campbell. (interpretation ends) Are there any further questions? Mr. Elliott.

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Do you have the specific information on



what the waste management investigation was? What ended up happening with that information? Was it a clean up? Was it a spill? Was it needles being lost or something? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Mr. Campbell.

**Mr. Campbell:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again I have to apologize. I didn't bring the whole files with me on the list. I don't know the details of it. I assume it is an investigation that we have commissioned and the report is available. Again I can provide that information to the member. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** We did provide this in advance that we would be asking these questions. I don't know how much further we can go at this point because we tabled the motion last session explaining that we will be asking these questions. We appear to be going in circles. Mr. Elliott, do you want to still pursue questioning? Mr. Elliott.

**Mr. Elliott:** Yes, I do, Mr. Chairman. Thank you. Contract C1427, the government's most recent annual report on procurement activities indicates that your department awarded a \$148,800 sole source contract in 2008-09 to an individual to provide a and it's classified as "Stakeholder Engagement & Communication Plan." What specific departmental initiative was this project related to and what results did the contract achieve? Thank you.

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

**Mr. Campbell:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The consultant in this case was part of a team that was also hired to provide some consultation and provide some advice on the Nunavut stakeholders into the eHealth project that I talked about earlier. We're working with Canada Infoway on establishing a health records management system for Nunavut. That's part of that process. That work has been completed.

I can indicate that the information is on file and that the work has been completed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The minister talked about a consultation or a stakeholders meeting that occurred. I believe he did a member's statement in the House. It was a meeting that was done in December, I believe it was, and what he ended up saying is in regard to questions that I was asking about, the *Child and Family Services Act*, which leads up to the formation of the child and youth advocate's office. In terms of that stakeholder meeting that happened in December, was that organized by your department or was that a sole source contract as well? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Mr. Elliott, can you identify the contract in the procurement book that you're referring to because that's before us, that is what we are dealing with. Mr. Elliott.

**Mr. Elliott:** No, it's not in the 2008-09. It would be in the 2009-2010, which actually won't be tabled probably until next year. Thank you.

**Chairman:** So it is not in the book, we can't deal with it. Do you have any further questions, Mr. Elliott?

**Mr. Elliott:** Well, at times, we have been asking questions and getting information and the minister has been stating that things travel year, over year, over year and reports don't get done. I figured that it would be nice to know whether this was done by the department or not. I don't know. Also, it is fresher in people's minds. Maybe the minister or the deputy minister would have the answer to that question. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Curley.

**Hon. Tagak Curley:** Thank you. Mr. Chairman, the first event that was held really was about a three or four-day event.

In order to bring at least our Inuit people who are community representatives who have a long history of dealing with social and culturally related issues, it really required facilitators who are bilingual. In that particular instance, we did hire a very small sole source contract for two individuals to help each other in presenting and keeping the discussion going. I think I will be tabling that report shortly and it will give you a bit of an idea exactly how that particular project is shaping up.

The small contracts that I mentioned are not ongoing, that that was the end of it. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Curley. We are on Tabled Document 66 – 3(2), Document 99 – 3(2), Document 100 –

3(2). So are there any further questions on those? Mr. Elliott.

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The government's most recent annual report on procurement activities indicates that your department awarded a \$117,300 contract in 2008-09 to an individual to provide "Consulting Services for Human Resource Management." What did this project achieve? I'm wondering if this is addressing some of the needs in terms of human resource issues within your department. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Campbell:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again I have to ask the question as to what page number and which contract that the member is referring to. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Campbell. Mr. Elliott, can you please identify the contract number once again.

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This time, yes, I do have the contract number. It's C228.

**Chairman:** "Consulting Services for Human Resource Management," page 55. Mr. Campbell.

**Mr. Campbell:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We do have a number of projects that this particular consultant had performed for the department, including looking after and setting up the office of the director of human resources for the department.

Again I have to keep re-emphasizing here that some of my senior management positions are vacant. The director of HR position remains vacant after nine months. The work needs to continue as a department. Expectations are put on me to be aggressive on the Nurse Recruitment and Retention Strategy. There are expectations on the department that we be fiscally responsible for what we do as a department. I'm not able to do that with the resources that we do have in the department.

There are people who work in the human resource unit of the department, but they don't have that expertise at the time. The position is there; we're just not able to attract people. We had interviews twice and both times, the three people who were offered the position turned it down. That being said, the person was also responsible in providing some advice to me on re-organizational structures. There were two people who were involved.

One other consultant was involved in going through all of the PYs and making sure all of the PY numbers, all of the VS1 forms and the P2K information were all reconciled. With close to 1,000 employees, that takes a lot of work and detail. I just don't have the peoplepower to do all of that work, so there will be these contracts that you will see and appear here. The consultant in this particular case is no longer a contractor at this point in time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Campbell. I believe we have six more departments to go. We're on day 3 and we have just finished two so far and we're on

department 3. Are there any further questions? This contract was RFP'd and publicly advertised for the best possible, I'm sure. Mr. Elliott.

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My next question is: in terms of what you have just said in answering my question, are those senior positions now filled or do you still have quite a few vacant positions? Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Campbell.

**Mr. Campbell:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That particular position is still vacant. There are a number of positions that are also vacant. In most cases, I encourage that we do have people acting in particular positions when there are vacancies. At the same time, we have to understand, members, that we don't want to burn out the existing staff. We need to hire some outside expertise as needed at points.

With that, we do have a vacancy. As I said earlier, we have a vacancy rate of about 24 percent currently. We are aggressively trying to hire into those full-time positions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Campbell. I believe you said that you advertised this twice already. I believe that they're trying, but it's challenging.

Are there any further questions? Mr. Elliott.

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't know, I guess the Chairperson feels that it was answered, but to me, I don't think it was answered to the way I

was asking. The reason we're being told that there are all of these sole source contracts and the highest number of sole source contracts for the Government of Nunavut at 42 percent, the minister is assuring us that they will not continue to do this and follow this practice. What I'm asking is: do you have the manpower to fill these positions that are specialized or are we going to have to continue to sole source? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Mr. Elliott, you are referring to C228 in your line of questioning. That particular contract is a request for proposals, it's not sole sourced. That's what the deputy was saying. Minister Curley.

**Hon. Tagak Curley:** Thank you. The member sometimes alluded what was said by the minister and so on. I think we have to deal with the responses in good faith, in my opinion, because when providing a response, we're not commenting in a legal fashion. Generally, we feel we're not and you're going to have to hold me to this particular one. We say certain responses to the questions on very complex issues.

We made a commitment that we will reduce the number of contracts and that the direction has been provided, and that is the position of my department. We are serious in ensuring, wherever possible, that the work will be carried out internally. We also made it clear that where we don't have an expertise for the work required, we have no choice, from time to time, to go through the contract process. That is something that we cannot commit to responding to.

Having said that, we're not going to mislead the House or anything, you

know, because that is not something that we will strategize on as a department. We will commit to continue to work towards reducing the amount of contracts that become, in my earlier remarks I had said, traditional, in a long ways, sort of conventionally used by the department.

We also have made it clear that Nunavut is only ten years old. Unlike the NWT, they have not had to restructure, reorganize, and relocate completely for the work the whole of the Government of Nunavut is faced with. We are a much decentralized system.

Sometimes I don't think some members appreciate or if they do, they don't mention the fact that this young territory has faced very traumatic and very challenging situations where we must, at the same time, be expected to deliver the same or comparable services, particularly the health program, compared to other jurisdictions.

That is not always going to be the case. We will see disappointment, but we will do our best, Mr. Chairman, to try and respond to the needs of Nunavutmiut even though we are challenged in every aspect of the way. We are not discouraged. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Curley. (interpretation ends) Are there any more questions on health? I don't see any more hands. (interpretation) Thank you. (interpretation ends) We can move on to the other department. (interpretation) Minister Curley, do you have any closing comments?

**Hon. Tagak Curley:** Thank you. Mr. Chairman, I think it is important that I do that to acknowledge the contribution of all of the members and I say that with respect to all of you, that you have provided some guidance and direction to our department. We will take these suggestions seriously.

Mr. Chairman, there are a number of points that I would like to address at the moment. Number two, I would just like to emphasize that Nunavut is a young territory, as I alluded to earlier. We are still in the process of developing our own personnel with the skills and if I may say, bilingual as well and expertise critically needed to provide ongoing quality services to Nunavutmiut and people generally.

Three, there are many areas of my department requiring highly technical and professional expertise, including medical experts that is not yet available within the territory. These skills often require many years of higher education and wide professional experience, experience that is still in the developing stages in Nunavut.

Four, at the present time, Mr. Chairman, my department must fulfill its mandate of providing the full range of critically required and nationally mandated as well health services and address the urgent social services needs of our people. We can not compromise in addressing the medical needs of our people, the needs of women and children in crisis, or improving the quality of life for our elders.

Five, Nunavut is a unique region with unique needs and unique people, if I may say. There are no ready-made solutions

to many of the issues we face. This is the reason that as we grow and develop, we must make use of the best knowledge and skills available.

Number six, as we grow our corporate knowledge and develop a pool of experienced Nunavutmiut, I can assure the Members of the Legislative Assembly and the people of Nunavut that we will rely less and less on outside contract services. Mr. Chairman, the sooner the better.

Number seven, the Department of Health and Social Services will continue to follow financially sound practices of utilizing the SAO and competitive RFP and public tender processes and will adhere to all best practice guidelines for sole sourcing of contracts.

(interpretation) Thank you for your assistance today. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Curley. Thank you, Mr. Campbell. Sergeant-at-Arms, if you would escort the witness out, please.

We can then move on to another department. Minister of Finance, (interpretation ends) Minister Peterson, you have the floor.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman and members. For 2008-09, the value of the contracts issued by the Department of Finance accounted for 2 percent of the overall government total. With respect to the number of contracts issued, the Department of Finance was 5 percent of the government total.

Of the 75 contracts issued in 2008-09, 63 percent, or 41, of the contracts were for the government's annual insurance premiums and the purchase of liquor products through the Nunavut Liquor Commission. These two activities accounted for \$3,494,817 out of \$5,528,065 issued in contracts.

Other contracts issued by the department were to support the government's initiative on strengthening financial management. The contracts issued in this regard cover a range of areas, such as the preparation of the public accounts and the development of a training manual for program managers.

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

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson. Do you have officials that you would like to bring to the witness table? Minister Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Yes, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson. Does the committee agree to bring in the witnesses?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. They have agreed. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the officials in.

Thank you, Sergeant-at-Arms, for escorting the officials in. Minister Peterson, if you can introduce your witnesses.

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

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson. Colleagues, do you have any comments to the opening remarks and/or to the contents of the bill? There is a hand raised. Mr. Ningark.

**Mr. Ningark:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the hon. minister for the opening comments. On the third paragraph concerning "... contracts issued by the department were to support the government's initiative on strengthening financial management," I believe that would be from a recommendation of the Auditor General that was given to us about a year ago or so. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Ningark for that question. Mr. Ningark, that was an initiative that was started in 2006 and I believe it is in response to initiatives like this, where Committees of the Whole ask questions. The Auditor General of Canada and the Government of Canada has had concerns, so they provided us with \$23 million to undertake a number of initiatives to strengthen our financial management across Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Ningark:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the hon. minister. Since the strengthening has taken place, have you seen any positive results from such initiative? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Ningark for that question. Yes, there have been some noticeable changes. The preparation of public accounts has been faster. I remember asking many of those questions about the preparation of public accounts. They have been reduced from about 19 months to a much shorter period, which is pleasing the Auditor General of Canada.

There has been significant progress in updating the Financial Administration Manual and there is work underway to implement a faster computer service or connectivity across Nunavut. We're hoping that when that is all complete, things will be significantly improved in terms of some of the financial information. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Peterson. (interpretation) Are there any questions to the opening remarks? I don't have any names. Perhaps we can proceed with the page-by-page review. (interpretation ends) Are there any questions on the details or particulars of the Department of Finance? Mr. Schell.

**Mr. Schell:** The government's most recent annual report on procurement activities indicates that your department awarded a \$303,000 contract in 2008-09 to one individual to provide consulting

services. This was the largest contract awarded to a single individual by the government during the entire 2008-09 fiscal year.

This individual's website indicates that the services provided to your department included providing "advice and support services for the planning for and implementation of selected improvements in systems, policies and practices to facilitate strengthening financial management within and across the government."

What steps is your department taking to hire more full-time accountants so that it does not have to rely on \$300,000-a-year consultants to perform such key functions as finalizing the territory's annual public accounts? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Schell. For the benefit of the minister and his fellow witnesses, C253 is the contract number. Minister Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Schell for that question. I have some notes here and I'll just read them into the record here.

I was referring to the individual as part of a larger contract which was part of a federally funded building financial and information capacity project for strengthening financial management for the Government of Nunavut. I just referred to that.

The contract was to provide financial support for the financial reporting section of Finance in regard to the completion of non-consolidated financial statements as well as the consolidated

financial statements for 2006-07. The total value, of course, spent on the contract for 2008-09 was \$318,621.85. So that individual's name was there as part of a larger contract. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Peterson. Mr. Schell.

**Mr. Schell:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is referring to contract number C244. The government's most recent annual report on procurement activities indicates that your department awarded a \$186,180 sole source contract in 2008-09 to a former senior employee of the department to provide consulting services. Exactly what kinds of services did the individual provide and couldn't the department hire one or two full-time employees for that amount of money? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Schell. Minister Peterson

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I again thank Mr. Schell for the question. The details is it was a contract that was originally let as part of a response for proposing and it was subsequently extended as the work on the Financial Administration Manual was not completed and that was in 2006.

The contractor was previously employed by the government where he held a certain position. I don't want to name the position because it will identify the individual, but it was responsible for the FAM. So he had in-depth knowledge in the areas that FAM needed for improvements and he also understood the respective regulations which should

have been considered before FAM change can occur.

Again the contract was one of the components of the strengthening financial management project that was paid through the federal government's building financial information capacity funding. Fifty-two FAM directives were rewritten and approved in 2008-09. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Peterson. Mr. Schell.

**Mr. Schell:** Mr. Chairman, this is referring to contract C203 and C1467. The government's most recent annual report on procurement activities indicates that your department awarded \$282,000 in contracts in 2008-09 to a company called CiRam eSolutions to assist the department in its financial reporting. Exactly what kinds of services does this company provide and why can't the department do the work itself? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Schell. Minister Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Schell. I'm going here at rapid fire trying to keep up with the questions on contracts.

That was a two-part contract; CiRam, \$56,000 and there was \$225,000. It was a contract investigating reporting options to increase system functionality of the Personality 2000. The system is commonly referred to as P2K and Free Balance. P2K is the government's current payroll and human resources system and Free Balance is the financial operating system that we rely on.



The work that CiRam does focuses on improving the reporting of both the P2K and the Free Balance finance system. Again, it's a project. It's a component of the strengthening financial management initiative and it's partially funded through the federal government's building financial information capacity.

I would stress that it is very important that we do build our financial capacity and that this funding is subject to DIAND budget approval annually and also by the Financial Management Board, and then we provide our reporting to Indian and Northern Affairs Canada. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Peterson. Mr. Schell.

**Mr. Schell:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will just change the pace a little bit here.

Each year, the government's liquor commission awards hundreds of thousands of dollars in contracts to breweries, the Liquor Control Board of Ontario, and other suppliers. The liquor that is purchased from these suppliers is resold from the government's two liquor warehouses in Iqaluit and Rankin Inlet. How will the government ensure that this year's contracts do not include any liquor from the European Union? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Schell. Minister Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** I anticipated that question from Mr. Schell.

>> *Laughter*

I can assure Mr. Schell and the House that there won't be any liquor purchased from the European Union. I think the order has already gone in and I have been assured by my officials that those products weren't on the order. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Peterson. I'm sure the member will test the system when sealift is in place.

>> *Laughter*

Are there any further questions on finance? Mr. Elliott.

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When the Minister of CGS was before the committee, I asked this question and he said it would be best to ask this question to the Minister of Finance.

In April of 2004, the Government of Nunavut filed a lawsuit against NTCL for approximately \$7.5 million to recover costs incurred by the government for its "bad gas" compensation program. In March of this year, the Nunavut Court of Justice issued a judgment in relation to this matter.

Without discussing the specifics of this case, when does the government anticipate that it will be finally resolved and is it satisfied that NTCL has successfully addressed the problems with gasoline quality that led to this lawsuit being filed? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Elliott for that question. Fortunately, I read the same

newspapers that he does, so I anticipated that question as well. I did read a story in April and of course, my officials at the departments of Justice and Finance were both interested in that. They have been following up on the “bad gas” lawsuit.

I have been advised by my Deputy Minister of Justice that there is a teleconference actually on June 7 to talk to the lawyers and insurers to discuss the progress of the case. I can't tell you when or if it will be concluded, but I can say that it is quite lengthy. So when we get an update, we can provide that at a future sitting. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Peterson. On this matter or another matter? Another matter? Okay. Mr. Elliott.

**Mr. Elliott:** Another matter, yes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

As well when Minister Kusugak was before us, it was the Deputy Minister, Ms. Lausman, who mentioned about the accountability process that is involved and your department is part of that as the Department of Finance. Could you explain how your department is involved?

Again I am trying to learn the whole process of how contracts work and whatnot. This is not sole sourcing, but it was part of the funding and accountability. Thank you.

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

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Elliott for that question. Of course, the Department of

Finance, being a central agency department to the government, we provide a range of services to all government departments.

The accountability, providing financial advice, direction to adhere to the Financial Administration Manual, the *Financial Administration Act*; we encourage all departments to come to us when there is doubt about anything in the financial processes that they are pursuing. That is throughout Nunavut. Whether it's here in Iqaluit or the regional offices in Rankin Inlet, Cambridge Bay, or Igloolik, we provide payroll services and a whole range of services.

As I said, being a central agency department, it is our responsibility to ensure that the *Financial Administration Act* is adhered to. Sometimes it is difficult because you will have people that misinterpret the FAM directives, the policy, or the Act and/or they interpret their way and we have to clarify it for them. So we work very closely with the Auditor General of Canada as well, who periodically comes up to audit certain departments or public agencies, or will audit an initiative that is underway in a department.

We have the Internal Audit Services that perform a range of audits - performance audits, compliance audits, forensic audits, and operational audits. That could be at our discretion, but quite often and more frequently, it is at the request of the departments themselves that we come in there and help them out to assist them with financial and accounting processes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you for that explanation, Minister Peterson. Are there any further questions on this finance matter? Any finance questions? I don't see any more hands. Minister Peterson, would you like to make closing comments? Minister Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank my colleagues here. I continue to stress that the government has to be held accountable and be transparent. I think Moses mentioned to many of us the other day, Member Aupaluktuq, to be honest about how we conduct our affairs and this is a good exercise, going through and talking about contracts in the past. I think we're all learning a lot on both sides.

I know the government officials in all departments have done a tremendous amount of work to put together briefings for ministers and review policies and contracts. We received direction from the Premier to reduce the use of sole source contracts as much as possible. We still have to be cognizant that we will rely on a number of contracts to deliver programs and services, but I think this is a good exercise.

In closing, I would like to thank my officials from the Department of Finance and the people who have supported them to put all of this briefing together for us. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson (interpretation ends) and your officials. We have concluded Finance and I would like to recognize the clock. We will go into other departments tomorrow.

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort his officials out. 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 Bill 27 and Tabled Documents 66 – 3(2), 99 – 3(2), and 100 – 3(2) and would like to report progress and that Bill 27 is ready for third reading. Mr. Speaker, I move that the Report of the Committee of the Whole be concurred with. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): There is a motion on the floor. The motion is in order. Is there a seconder? Ms. Ugyuk is the seconder. All those in favour, raise your hand, please. Opposed. The motion is carried.

(interpretation ends) Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. Item 22. Orders of the Day. Mr. Clerk.

### **Item 22: Orders of the Day**

**Clerk** (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Orders of the Day for June 4:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

6. Oral Questions
    - Tabled Document 100 – 3(2)
  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
  18. Second Reading of Bills
    - Bill 32
    - Bill 33
    - Bill 34
    - Bill 36
  19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
    - Bill 28
    - Bill 29
    - Bill 30
    - Bill 31
    - Tabled Document 13 – 3(2)
    - Tabled Document 66 – 3(2)
    - Tabled Document 99 – 3(2)
  20. Report of the Committee of the Whole
  21. Third Reading of Bills
    - Bill 27
  22. Orders of the Day
- Thank you.
- Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you.  
This House stands adjourned until June 4 at ten o'clock in the morning.
- Sergeant-at-Arms.
- >>*House adjourned at 18:01*

