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**Wednesday, October 20, 2010**

**Pages 2503 – 2565**

**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)  
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(Tununiq)

**Moses Aupaluktuq**  
(Baker Lake)

**Hon. Tagak Curley**  
(Rankin Inlet North)  
*Government House Leader; Minister of Health and Social Services; Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation; Minister responsible for Homelessness*

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(Quttiktuq)

**Adamee Komoartok**  
(Pangnirtung)

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak**  
(Rankin Inlet South – Whale Cove)  
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**John Ningark**  
(Akulliq)

**Johnny Ningeongan**  
(Nanulik)  
*Deputy Speaker, Chair of the Committee of the Whole*

**Paul Okalik**  
(Iqaluit West)  
*Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole*

**Hon. Keith Peterson**  
(Cambridge Bay)  
*Minister of Finance, Chair, Financial Management Board; Minister of Justice*

**Allan Rumbolt**  
(Hudson Bay)

**Fred Schell**  
(South Baffin)  
*Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole*

**Hon. Daniel Shewchuk**  
(Arviat)  
*Minister of Environment; Minister of Human Resources; Minister responsible for the Nunavut Arctic College*

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk**  
(Amittuq)  
*Minister of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth; Minister of Languages; Minister responsible for the Utility Rates Review Council*

**Hon. Peter Taptuna**  
(Kugluktuk)  
*Deputy Premier; Minister of Economic Development and Transportation*

**Hon. Hunter Tootoo**  
(Iqaluit Centre)  
*Minister of Education; Minister responsible for the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission*

**Jeannie Ugyuk**  
(Nattilik)

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**Iqaluit, Nunavut****Wednesday, October 20, 2010****Members Present:**

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

**Item 1: Opening Prayer**

**Speaker** (Hon. James Arreak): Thank you. Before we proceed, I would like to ask Mr. Elliott to say the opening prayer. Mr. Elliott.

>>*Prayer*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Elliott. A very good afternoon, Ministers, Members of the Legislative Assembly, and residents of Nunavut. It's gratifying to see so many visitors in our Gallery.

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

**Item 2: Ministers' Statements****Minister's Statement 188 – 3(2): Arts and Crafts Development Program**

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Good afternoon, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, Nunavummiut and Kugluktuk.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring attention to an important program

offered by the Department of Economic Development and Transportation that targets our arts and crafts community.

The Arts and Crafts Development Program provides funding to artists and arts organizations for projects that encourage and strengthen the arts and crafts sector in Nunavut.

There is funding to purchase raw material and art supplies, such as small carving tools, soapstone, or fur. In order to help artists to market their work, there is funding available for the creation of promotional material, websites, or for table fees at craft fairs.

One of our more popular funding activities is for artist travel. The program will contribute to national and international travel costs for artists who have been invited to participate in gallery or arts events and showcases. Recent success stories include the visit by Andrew Qappik and Jaco Ishulutaq of Pangnirtung to London, England.

>>*Applause*

For projects that may not fit into existing categories, there is a special funding schedule for pilot projects that demonstrate imagination. There are also separate funding streams for arts organizations. In addition to marketing support for arts organizations, there is funding to create or renovate shared studio space.

Mr. Speaker, to guide and inspire the next generation of Nunavut artists, there is funding available to bring the talented artists of Nunavut into classrooms to share their skills and run arts training and workshops.

Mr. Speaker, the Arts and Crafts Development Program represents a part of our commitment to the implementation of *Sanaugait*, the Government of Nunavut's arts and crafts strategy. We aim to empower artists and arts organizations to help grow this important sector and ensure that it continues to prosper. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Thank you. Ministers' Statements. Hon. Daniel Shewchuk.

**Minister's Statement 189 – 3(2):  
Improvements for Research  
Capacity in Nunavut**

**Hon. Daniel Shewchuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In February 2009, the Government of Canada announced \$11 million of funding from its Arctic Research Infrastructure Fund to construct a new headquarters building for the Nunavut Research Institute in Iqaluit and to establish four research support facilities in the communities of Igloolik, Cambridge Bay, Rankin Inlet, and Arviat.

Mr. Speaker, this is very positive news for the Nunavut Research Institute and the Nunavut Arctic College. This initiative will extend and enhance our ability to support scientific research in all three regions of our territory. Mr. Speaker, this new infrastructure will provide the Nunavut Research Institute with greater capacity to support the many scientific researchers working across Nunavut each year.

This February, the former home of the Nunavut Research Institute was torn

down, paving the way for construction of their new facility. Construction began in the spring and the new headquarters is expected to be fully operational by the beginning of the New Year.

Mr. Speaker, construction of new research support facilities was contracted to Tangmaarvik Inland Camp Services of Baker Lake. Tangmaarvik engaged the services of local employees from the community during the installation of these facilities. I would like to commend them for their support in providing employment opportunities for our local tradespeople.

All four research support buildings in the communities have been successfully delivered by sealift, with final installation taking place this fall. We are currently in the final stages of preparing each building for use.

In addition to supporting Nunavut Research Institute's current research activities and services in the health, natural, and social sciences, the research support centres will assist in facilitating stronger relationships in the science community. The official openings are planned to take place in each community before March and we hope that each of you will be able to attend. *Ma'na*, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Minister's Statement 190 – 3(2):  
Coalition of Nunavut District  
Education Authorities**

**Hon. Hunter Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today in recognition of members of the Coalition of Nunavut District Education Authorities (DEAs) who are here in the Gallery today. DEA members from most communities are here in Iqaluit this week for their annual general meeting and professional development conference.

Mr. Speaker, the Coalition of Nunavut DEAs is an important partner of the Department of Education in our work towards implementing and enhancing educational outcomes for our students. The coalition is a not-for-profit organization that supports and aids the work of all of the community district education authorities in their vital efforts at the community level.

Mr. Speaker, I had the pleasure of delivering opening comments at their meeting earlier this week. The staff at the Department of Education are busy this week presenting to the DEAs about elders in our schools, the *Inuuqatigiitsiarniq* policy on positive school environments, and the work involved in developing the regulations for the Nunavut *Education Act*.

I would like to thank the members of the Coalition of Nunavut DEAs for their dedication and innovation over the last few years. Please join me in recognizing their efforts and applauding their significant contributions to education in our territory. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Ministers' Statements. If there are no more, we will go to Item 3. Members' Statements. (interpretation ends) Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. Elliott.

**Item 3: Members' Statements**

**Member's Statement 298 – 3(2):  
Summer Events in Grise Fiord**

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to inform the House about two important events that recently took place in Grise Fiord.

As members may recall from our sitting in June, I announced that I would be dividing my time this summer between the three communities that I represent in the Legislative Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, in August of this year, I had the opportunity to host Auditor General Sheila Fraser on the occasion of her visit to Grise Fiord. As I noted when she appeared before us last month, the entire community was pleased that she took the time to experience living in one of our small communities. We had a number of productive meetings with local leaders that provided her with a first-hand insight into the challenges facing our small and isolated communities.

Mr. Speaker, as you know, addressing the high cost of living in the High Arctic has been one of my top priorities. The replacement of the federal Food Mail Program with the new Nutrition North Canada Program is an issue that all Members of the House are paying close attention to.



Mr. Speaker, I can't think of an issue that's more fundamental to our residents' well-being than their ability to access nutritious food at affordable prices. I know that the Auditor General's office is well aware of the importance of monitoring this federal program to ensure that it benefits our residents and communities.

Mr. Speaker, the second event that took place was the unveiling of the monument to the High Arctic exiles that took place in Grise Fiord on September 10. I want to thank all of our ministers who took the time to attend this ceremony and I would like to take this opportunity to ask all members to join me in paying tribute to the community of Grise Fiord. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 299 – 3(2):  
Nunavut Community Wellness  
Project**

**Mr. Ningeongan:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to congratulate the communities of Coral Harbour, Clyde River, Igloolik, Arviat, Kugluktuk, and Kugaaruk on the successful development of community wellness plans.

Mr. Speaker, representatives from these communities have gathered this week in Iqaluit to share their community wellness plans. Later today, at the appropriate time, I will be recognizing a number of organizers and participants who are joining us today in the Visitors' Gallery.

These six communities are part of the Nunavut Community Wellness Project, a pilot project aimed at improving the coordination and collaboration of federal and territorial programs and services at the community, territorial, and federal levels so that programs are more holistic, inclusive, and responsive to community needs. Mr. Speaker, it is my hope that this pilot project can be the stepping stone towards the development of community wellness plans in all Nunavut communities.

I call on the project's partners, the Government of Nunavut, the Government of Canada, and Nunavut Tunngavik to do all they can to support the implementation of the newly created wellness plans.

Mr. Speaker, I ask members to join me in congratulating the communities on their success. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 300 – 3(2):  
Opening of New Medical Boarding  
Home**

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also wish to welcome the visitors to the Gallery.

I rise today to thank the Minister of Health and Social Services as he sent invitations to me and my colleagues here in Iqaluit to tour the newest facility called Tammativvik Medical Boarding Home during its grand opening. Further, he allowed us an opportunity to speak to

the audience and I was caught slightly unprepared, but I thank my colleague, Mr. Curley, for providing that opportunity to speak during that grand opening. Our Premier was also present at that opening and I extend my thanks to the Premier as well.

The patients from the outlying communities travelling for medical travel to Iqaluit now have an excellent boarding facility and our government finally had a chance to conduct a grand opening ceremony. It is gratifying to see that our patients, who are already experiencing traumatic events, do not have to worry about their lodgings when they travel to Iqaluit.

However, I also spoke to Mr. Curley while I had the opportunity about the issues surrounding our southern facilities. I occasionally go to Ottawa to visit and I usually take the opportunity to greet people who are down in Ottawa for medical purposes. Some of the patients sporadically experience problems, especially with respect to elderly patients.

I have been informed that the mattresses are quite stiff and too hard for some of the patients who have to sleep in them. The other complaints I have heard are that when people move the bed in another room, you can hear the movements quite distinctly, but that may be due to the age of the metal frames and wheels. This is an issue that has been brought up from time to time and I am relaying this information while I have the opportunity.

Further, Inuit feel more at home when there is country food available and many Inuit crave their food. Additionally, we

also like to cook our food and rarely do we overcook our food, but that complaint about overcooked food has been raised previously.

I do tend to visit the minister where I usually take the opportunity to relay the concerns of my constituents who have returned from that facility. I already provided that information to him, but I also wanted it in the public record so that the people who conveyed their concerns to me will know that I did not just listen and store their concerns. I will always try to represent their concerns to the government so that we can look for improvements to the services provided to our people. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 301 – 3(2):  
Graduates of Qiqirtaq School**

**Ms. Ugyuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to welcome all visitors to the Gallery. Last summer, I was invited to the community of Gjoa Haven to attend to their graduation ceremony and I wish to congratulate the following students who graduated from the Qiqirtaq High School:

Scott Aaqquq, Aaqquq's adopted son.  
Annie Illihiituq, Illihiituq's adopted daughter.

Cathy Uugaq, Tavvik and Anthony's daughter.

Trevor Tungilik, Christine and her husband's child.

Robert Porter, Peepee's grandson.  
Stanley Porter, Ipuittuq's grandson.

Marvin Aqittuq had graduated in the year prior to last year, but since he did not want to be the sole graduate of that year, he waited until there were more graduates and he became part of this year's graduation class. He was celebrated as an earlier graduate and was acknowledged for his patience in awaiting his graduation certificate.

It was a very moving ceremony that we attended, wherein the graduates celebrated their achievement. My husband and I both attended. I would like to extend my congratulations to the students who graduated from the Qiqirtaq High School and I am grateful that they achieved their goal of completing high school. I also thank the teachers, DEAs, the teachers association, the high school principal, as well as the elementary school principal.

I also would like to thank the people who hosted the community feast that was held after the ceremony. It was wonderful to see children working and helping people while wearing white uniforms as they served the people. I thought that was so remarkable. I also would like to congratulate the students in Gjoa Haven again for graduating. Thank you.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. Members' Statements. (interpretation ends) Member for Iqaluit East, Eva Aariak.

**Member's Statement 302 – 3(2):  
Welcome Coalition of DEAs**

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say "good afternoon" to my constituents. I also would like to welcome all of the visitors in the Gallery.

As Members of the Legislative Assembly, we work hard on education and social issues. These are the people here who work behind the scenes and I would like to thank them for attending the meeting. I also would like to welcome them again for working hard on educational and social issues because these issues have a direct impact on all Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Thank you. Members' Statements. Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Kusugak.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to extend a welcome to the visitors in the Gallery.

I want to take this opportunity to acknowledge an individual from Whale Cove who seems to always be on a committee or council. He is a member of various organizations and continues to represent his community's wishes. We rarely get visitors from his community, so I want to take this opportunity to extend a heartfelt welcome and recognition of this individual from my riding. Mr. Manu Nattar, welcome to the legislature and I am thankful that you were able to visit the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Mr. Ningeongan** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to welcome the visitors, but since I do not have time to mention all of them, I want to acknowledge several of the visitors.

First of all, I wish to acknowledge a resident of Iqaluit, James Arreak, who has been one of the lead facilitators of the issues I voiced in my Member's Statement. He has been involved in quite a few meetings in our community and on this issue.

I also wish to recognize my fellow Coral Harbour residents, Marlene Jar and Ida Nakoolak, who are also here for the conference I alluded to in my Member's Statement and they are part of the group dealing with that matter. I recognize both of them.

I also recognize several individuals, but I do not know all of the people present in the Gallery attending this conference.

I really am sincere in my apology, Mr. Speaker, since I inadvertently missed a constituent from Chesterfield Inlet who is sitting across from us. I do acknowledge the individual but for the life of me, I cannot recall his name, so I apologize for that. I would like to ask the person to stand so that people can see whom I am referring to as the person from Chesterfield Inlet I am recognizing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome to the Gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Arviat, Mr. Shewchuk.

**Hon. Daniel Shewchuk**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, would like to recognize a visitor in the Gallery and that's Hattie Alagalak, the wife of the former MLA from Arviat, David Alagalak. I would like to recognize her for her very dedicated and hard-working efforts in being a member on the Arviat District Education Authority. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome to the Gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. (interpretation ends) Member for Kugluktuk, Mr. Taptuna, did you have your hand up? No? Okay. Ms. Ugyuk.

**Ms. Ugyuk** (interpretation): I would like to acknowledge an individual because I recognize my uncle from Taloyoak, Iola Taqulik. He is a member of the DEA in Taloyoak. He is my uncle and I do love him. He is the younger brother of my father.

Also from Gjoa Haven, Jackie Ameralik is a member from the DEA and is also the chairman. He is here for meetings. Also Renata Rousseau, I would like to acknowledge that individual who works in Taloyoak providing the nutrition program. Sorry, she works in Gjoa Haven. In Taloyoak, she runs the nutrition program and works with the Inuit.

Also two individuals from Kugaaruk, one of them is not here, Beatrice

Apsaktaun, who is here attending from the school in Kugaaruk, and also Ovide Alakannuark, who has been a Member of the Legislative Assembly. I am sure everyone in Nunavut knows him. I do would like to acknowledge those two individuals who are visiting us today. Thank you.

>>Applause

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

**Hon Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize people from my constituency. I would like to recognize Soloman Nasook from Hall Beach. As Inuit people, we name differently. Although his name is Suulumuuni, I call him Tumuluuni. I also recognize Louise Haulli from Igloolik. Right beside that individual is the High School Principal, Vince Pickett. Welcome. The individual was here, but I don't see the individual from Igloolik who is attending the same meeting, Aime Panimera. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. (interpretation ends) Member for Cambridge Bay, Mr. Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As everybody knows, it's not very often that MLAs from the Kitikmeot get an opportunity to welcome people from the Kitikmeot to the House.

I would like to recognize a friend, neighbour, co-worker, Bessie Joy. She is sitting over against the far wall. She is a tremendous person. Over the years, Mr. Speaker, she has helped me do research on Inuit special constables. We were successful in identifying three constables with headstones. She was responsible for organizing a number of IQ days for our office building.

I remember one in particular. A couple of years ago, we went out to Kitiga Lake. It was 40 or 50 below. It was very cold. The weather didn't seem to bother them. Her brother was working with a t-shirt drilling holes for us while the rest of us were shivering in our parkas. It was a lot of fun.

I welcome Bessie to the House and wish her all the best in her work with the DEA. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Okalik.

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Although I recognize every one of you here, I know you are busy. I thank you for coming.

I would like to first of all acknowledge a person from my constituency who is a coordinator for our DEA, Nikki Ejeesiq. Welcome to the Gallery.

Although this individual is not from my riding, Mr. Speaker, this individual is from your riding. I would like to welcome Mary Killiktee. She now lives in Qikiqtarjuaq. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Schell.

**Mr. Schell:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, I would like to acknowledge Mr. Lyta there from Kimmirut, he's here and Mary Kellypalik from Cape Dorset. Thank you.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome to the Gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Baker Lake, Mr. Aupaluktuq.

**Mr. Aupaluktuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to welcome all of the visitors in the Gallery.

Because education is one of our foundations we require in order to plan for our upcoming future, I would like to thank this individual from Baker Lake who is representing the local DEA, Bill Kashla, and I want to recognize him as he is present here. I know that Bill has continually been in support of the residents of Baker Lake.

In order for people to get the context of this statement, yesterday, I made a Member's Statement outlining the need for education as our foundation because we feel the impacts of your work and it is visible to our residents. I would like to thank you all for your important work and I also would like to acknowledge my fellow Baker Lake resident, Bill Kashla. Thank you.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Thank you. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. Elliott.

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I always find it's very hard trying to find people from my community. I have Mary Kalluk behind me over here from Resolute Bay who is the DEA chairperson. As well, she is a former colleague, Nunavut Arctic College adult educator in Resolute Bay. As well, Esau Tatatoapik should be here as the DEA chairperson for Arctic Bay, but I don't see him. Liza Ningiuk is the chairperson in Grise Fiord, but I don't see her as well. Maybe weather kept them from coming. I would like to recognize those people. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome to the Gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. (interpretation ends) Member for Iqaluit Centre, Mr. Tootoo.

**Hon. Hunter Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm going through individuals that I acknowledged in my Minister's Statement, but for some of the people that are here, their representatives are unavailable to be here.

I would like to recognize Jeeteeta Merkosak, the Chair of the DEA Coalition. She's in here sitting over there. Also, Mr. Speaker, Annie Siutinar from Repulse Bay is here. As well, Alice Ladner is sitting in the Gallery too. Alice and Jeeteeta were both instrumental in developing the new *Education Act* through that process. I would like to recognize them in the Gallery. Also, the individual helping to

facilitate their conference going on here this week is Meeka Mike. She came into the Gallery and I would like to recognize her and welcome her. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Mr. Komoartok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I stand today to firstly state that the DEA chairperson cannot attend, although I would have acknowledged the person if they had attended.

I would like to take this opportunity to recognize an individual who was a member of the DEA back when I was a member of the DEA. Some of the same members who were there in the DEA are still present, and I know that they are diligent in representing their community and interests. Please continue to fulfill your mandate as your role in the community is indispensable.

I also wanted to take this opportunity to recognize an individual with whom I went to school with down in Churchill where we attended classes. His name is Jaycob Jaypoody and he still looks the same as when I last saw him.

Further, I would encourage all the visitors to the Gallery to continue representing their communities. In this forum, we are all residents of the same territory and we urge you to continue representing your communities as you do a commendable job. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. I hope I did not miss anybody. At this time, I would like to give Mr. Ningeongan another opportunity while he has the chance. Mr. Ningeongan.

**Mr. Ningeongan** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, I forgot to recognize an individual from Coral Harbour who is the chair, Mr. Leo Angootealuk, especially my in-law, Mrs. Annie Siutinar. Now I can sleep in peace. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Laughter

>>Applause

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

I would also like to recognize visitors. Although this individual was already recognized, he is the Chair of the DEA in Clyde River, Mr. Jacob Jaypoody. Welcome to the Gallery.

Also, Jacob Gearhead is the Director of Iisagsivik. You are familiar with him. Welcome to the Gallery. Most of the men in Clyde River are named Jacob.

Also, one of the counsellors at the Mamisarvik Centre is Joana Qillaq. Welcome to the Gallery.

Also someone who was already recognized from Broughton Island is Lizzie. Welcome to the Gallery.

Also, one who was already recognized, my namesake, James Arreak. He carries a good name. Welcome.

A very warm welcome to you all. Always feel welcome at the legislature whenever you come to town.

>> *Applause*

(interpretation ends) Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Baker Lake, Mr. Aupaluktuq.

### Item 6: Oral Questions

#### Question 438 – 3(2): Uranium Development in Nunavut

**Mr. Aupaluktuq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Premier, Madam Eva Aariak.

In June of this year, I presented a petition that had been signed by over 140 people from Baker Lake, Arviat, Chesterfield Inlet, Rankin Inlet, and Iqaluit. The petitioners had requested that a public inquiry be held into the wisdom of allowing uranium mining in Nunavut.

In her government's response to the petition, the Premier rejected this request in favour of hiring consultants to undertake a study on uranium mining and hold a public forum on the issue of uranium development. Can the Premier clearly state for the record today why she decided on this course of action? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the member for asking that question. I had received two documents from the member and I gave them a great deal of thought.

First, I looked at exactly what public inquiry means and the other avenue that we call the public forum. I first had to fully understand what each meant and how it would affect the people whom we represent. We then concluded that the public would be fully consulted with greater participation through a public forum. We chose that to ensure that Nunavummiut would be given a chance to participate the most. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Aupaluktuq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The government's response to the petition that I presented indicated that "Nunavummiut will be invited later this year to a public forum" on uranium development. Can the Premier tell me today exactly where and when this public forum will be held? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We chose to hold a public forum in order to include all three regions, meaning the Baffin, Keewatin, and Kitikmeot regions, so that everybody is given an opportunity to voice their concerns and to make their views known. I also would like to add that even if they don't make their



thoughts known, we would also give an opportunity to the consultants to tell us exactly what uranium development entails.

I would like to give everybody an opportunity by way of a public forum or by computer, and also to listen to the proceedings by way of radio, telephone, and other media. The Minister of Health and Social Services is also seeking public input by various means of communication, through computer and public forums. That is how we want to do it so that we involve as many people as possible. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Aupaluktuq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's imperative that everybody in Nunavut voice their concerns and share their concerns as well in regard to public health versus development.

In regard to that, Mr. Speaker, on March 14, 2007, the Government of Nunavut's mineral exploration and mining strategy was tabled in the Legislative Assembly. That document indicates that \$100,000 would be spent on public consultation towards developing an [unambiguous] "GN position on uranium of use both to investors and Nunavummiut related to uranium exploration and development."

Can the Premier tell me today whether or not the Government of Nunavut actually has a formal policy on uranium and, if not, when will the policy be approved and tabled in the Legislative Assembly? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Nunavut government does not presently have a policy in regard to uranium development, but they use a six-point principle and this was announced in 2007.

In regard to the 2009 mineral exploration and mining strategy, it states that the Nunavut government would draft a policy on uranium mining in the future. That is what we are moving towards and that is why we are doing a consultation prior to putting together a policy statement within that mining strategy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Your final supplementary, Mr. Aupaluktuq.

**Mr. Aupaluktuq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In her response to the petition that I presented, the Premier stated that the Government of Nunavut "believes that the existing Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) regulatory process... is a comprehensive, inclusive and effective means of evaluating mining projects in Nunavut..."

As the Premier is aware, the Qikiqtani Inuit Association was successful this summer in obtaining an injunction to stop seismic testing in the waters of the High Arctic, despite the fact that NIRB had been involved in the process leading up to the testing.

Can the Premier explain why the government has so much confidence in

NIRB? I just want to have a formal understanding for the record. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. Madam Premier.

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Government of Nunavut is going ahead with NIRB in supporting the project and what they have concluded from the review of the project. NIRB was, after all, created under the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement. Furthermore, the Nunavut Impact Review Board has four representatives; one each from NTI, GN, and the federal government, and as a legally mandated body, they deal with very important issues. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Question 439 – 3(2): Status of Special Constable Program**

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Justice.

Mr. Speaker, history shows us that special constables have provided support and assistance to regular RCMP members in the North for well over 60 years. Special constables have performed a wide range of functions using their skills and expertise in the northern setting.

Mr. Speaker, the Department of Justice's 2010-13 business plan indicates that a pilot program to create a new troop of Inuit special constables got underway in 2010 and that in 2010-11, the candidates

would be receiving special training. Can the minister provide an update on how many candidates have been recruited to date and what is the current status of this pilot program? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Elliott for asking the question. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Elliott is aware I am a strong advocate of the Inuit Special Constable program. The pilot project was initiated two years ago or a year and a half ago by former Chief Superintendent Marty Cheliak.

The plan with the pilot project was we hoped, in four or five years, to establish a troop of 32. The business case was developed calling for 32, but initially the RCMP is going to fund internally and find five recruits. That process is taking a little bit of time. They have identified 15 candidates, put them through the recruiting process, the tests, questionnaires, and other recruiting processes, and they have narrowed it down to, I think, five now. I think, first, the plan is that the four or five, or whatever it works out to, will be taken into a depot in Regina in November of this year.

That is the current update. If the member wishes, I could provide a more detailed update when I talk to Chief Superintendent McVarnock. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The role of special constable recognizes

and takes advantage of the close ties that these individuals have to the land, the communities, and the people of the North. Can the minister update this House on how his department will work with the RCMP to determine which communities' special constables will be assigned to once they begin to perform their duties? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you. Minister Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Elliott for asking that question. Mr. Speaker, we do have regular discussions with Chief Superintendent McVarnock about a number of RCMP issues.

I believe the RCMP will determine primarily where the new recruits will be placed. Obviously we don't want them to be put into a situation where there is only a two-person detachment. Very likely, they will go into communities where there's a larger detachment where they can learn and gain some experience before being relocated to other communities in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In recent years, a number of media stories have described situations where law enforcement professionals who have been assigned to their home communities have faced unexpected difficulties, often as a direct result of the additional expectations and pressures placed on them. Can the minister describe what consideration has been given to ensuring that newly trained special constables are not assigned to

work locations where the demands on them will be unrealistic? Thank you.

**Speaker:** Thank you. Minister Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I again thank Mr. Elliott for asking that question. I appreciate that he is concerned about the success of the Inuit Special Constable program.

Mr. Speaker, Chief Superintendent McVarnock is well aware of our concerns in that area. He is not going to put his officers, experienced or otherwise, into situations that are beyond their capabilities to handle. I will leave the operational decisions to them, but they are well aware that we want to ensure the success of the program.

After all, this is a pilot program. We're hopeful that we will eventually have 32 Inuit special constables. The success of the four or five who go through the program will determine the success of additional recruits in Nunavut. It's in all our best interest to ensure that the folks succeed when they come out of depot. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the minister commit to looking into this matter a little bit more? He has mentioned that he would talk to commander of the RCMP and has assured us that they will not put RCMP members or special constables into these positions, but in the past, obviously they have.

With some of the news articles that have come out and some of the comments by

Crown lawyers saying that they worked within situations that were unrealistic being in their home communities, I was just wondering if the minister could commit to looking into this a little bit more before they are put in situations that are unrealistic. Thank you.

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

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I again thank Mr. Elliott for the question. I will assure the member that I will raise his concerns with the RCMP. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Question 440 – 3(2): Baffin Island Caribou**

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Different issues come up and some of them are unexpected, but today I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Environment because it's especially affecting our community. We have had no caribou. Especially over the last few years, we have not seen a caribou. If I do see one, I wouldn't know what it is at the first sighting.

I would like to ask the Minister of Environment about what types of studies or if they are studying the migratory routes. Even if somebody gets a caribou around here, we're a little bit shocked because there are none around. This question is directed to the Minister of Environment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Minister of Environment, Hon. Daniel Shewchuk.

**Hon. Daniel Shewchuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That's a very good question and a very important topic about caribou in Nunavut. I would suggest maybe that the member come to the Kivalliq region and go on a hunting trip on the land, and then he probably would get a caribou. It is a very serious topic and we have several different populations of caribou throughout the territory distributed through the three regions in Nunavut. As we all know, caribou is one of the mainstays of country food in the territory.

The Department of Environment is presently in the stages of having a draft caribou strategy in place. Consultation is presently taking place. It was just completed in all three [regions.] There is going to be further consultations done in the communities at the HTO level with the officers and the regional managers. The strategy will include research on caribou and prioritizing research on caribou throughout all of Nunavut. It will comprise of working together with communities on research and involving all communities.

We understand it's a very important issue and it is across the territory, and we are going to work together with communities to address those concerns and find out as much as we can about the health of our caribou herds across the territory. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the

minister. I am very pleased that there is going to be some research done on the caribou species. It seems to be very important, especially today, because I was brought up when there was numerous caribou around here. It's a little bit shocking to be out in this time today. That is one of the major changes we see today. Today, we are using binoculars and having no luck in seeing any. This is very different today.

I have heard, and I am not trying to be against mining close to our community, they use helicopters and planes which create noise. This is thought to be one of the reasons. People walking on the land looking for caribou find people looking for minerals instead. I think we have to deal with this issue and put some kind of strategy in place. That was the reason for my question to the minister. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Daniel Shewchuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That's exactly what we intend to do through this caribou strategy and involving all user groups and communities in the strategy. The strategy hopefully will be developed and completed by next spring, at that time, which I will share with all of my colleagues and members.

I agree with the member that caribou are very important but so is economic development and sustainability in all communities, and there is a balance to be had in between. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Our traditional foods are very important to us and we would like to preserve them. The minister has indicated that they've got a caribou strategy. Are you going to be including the people of Nunavut when you are putting this strategy together? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Daniel Shewchuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we will. They have been included already. We have had consultations in the Kitikmeot, the Kivalliq, and the Baffin region and representations from all communities. All HTOs were involved, the chairmen of all the HTOs, and there will be ongoing consultation with them.

I would be pleased to say at this time too that all Nunavutmiut can contribute to this caribou strategy online on the Department of Environment website. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister. I had asked when you are going to complete this strategy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Daniel Shewchuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Our target to complete the strategy is the end of March 2011. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Question 441 – 3(2): Review of the Nunavut Housing Trust**

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

I am going to try and lift a few more rocks today and see what I can find underneath them.

>>*Laughter*

My first question for the minister is this: how much did the GN or the Nunavut Housing Corporation pay the accounting firm of Deloitte and Touche for the report that it submitted on the Nunavut Housing Trust? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Hon. Tagak Curley.

**Hon. Tagak Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I apologize. This is one thing that we didn't find under the rock. I will have to look at the information and get into the details to see how much was paid to the accounting firm. I agree with the price we pay for it because they found a lot of things. I can't give you the exact dollar figure that was paid to Deloitte and Touche, but I will when I do have the information. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Ningeongan:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When I was reading the report, I noted that the firm interviewed a number of the corporation's current employees. However, it would seem to me that if you're trying to get to the bottom of things that happened in the past, you need to talk to the people who made the decisions in question. Did the accounting firm interview the former president of the Nunavut Housing Corporation and other former senior executives and, if not, why not? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. Minister Curley.

**Hon. Tagak Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Following the terms of reference and the mandate, I am sure that all was covered.

I think there were three main issues that they covered: the capacity issue when they were looking at the management; the accounting system at the headquarters and at the regional level, what the accounting process was in between those two; and also the database that was being used at that time. Those were the three categories that they focused on. The report is quite long and they call focus on those three categories.

I can't really answer if they did talk to the former executives because it wasn't an inquiry. We were looking into why we went over on the budget, but Deloitte and Touche, I'm sure, were following their mandate and their terms of reference. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Ningeongan:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday, the minister indicated to the House that the accounting firm conducted its work over the telephone rather than taking the time to actually go to the Nunavut Housing Corporation's offices in person. As we all know, when the Auditor General does her work on behalf of the Legislative Assembly, her staff examine files and talk face to face with the people who are working in the department that is being audited. Can the minister clearly explain why this was not done in this case? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Tagak Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I stated in my response, Deloitte and Touche was given a mandate and their terms of reference were to look at why they were expended. The finance audit was done by the same firm and it indicated that they complied with accounting standards.

However, there was another tasked project on the side and this was for 275 to 285 units set aside for the Affordable Housing Initiative. When this was included in the review, they started to research the reasons for the overage in the costs of construction. They delved into the records to see what the reason was for the budget overruns. I spoke to some of the reasons.

It was partially the fault of the regional offices and headquarters not communicating. The positions that are responsible for the estimates are separated between the regions and headquarters. The finance department is

situated in Arviat since that is the headquarters of the department. The headquarters personnel are situated in Arviat, along with the finance department, but the main headquarter positions are located here in Iqaluit. That formed part of the web of miscommunication and exacerbated the problems faced by staff working out of various communities.

What I want to find out is why there were no consultation trips between the staff from these offices. I will have to conduct some more research into this issue and once I have found the reasons for this misappropriation, I will return to the House to report on the matter. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Ningeongan:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) Thank you, Minister Curley, for your response. (interpretation ends) Before I was elected to the Legislative Assembly, I closely followed these proceedings back in Coral Harbour. I remember that when the minister was on the regular members' side of the House, he had raised the idea on more than one occasion on holding a public inquiry into issues of concern.

Given the magnitude of this issue and the fact that the Housing Corporation finds itself needing a further \$50 million on top of the \$60 million that was discovered earlier this year, will the minister consider holding a public inquiry into this whole mess? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. Minister Curley.

**Hon. Tagak Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With respect to this, firstly, as part of our initial meetings with the Nunavut Housing Corporation, we explored the units currently under construction and these total 285 units. These units are in demand already by residents and in Rankin Inlet, the residents want these units completed as a priority.

Ever since 2006, which was the start of this Nunavut housing initiative to construct 725 new units, this process has continued and construction has been completed on quite a number of units. We have units under construction and near completion. Last year, the federal government allocated additional funds for more units under the federal Affordable Housing Initiative which totalled 285 units. These units are already in high demand.

Many residents want more units constructed. The units that have been completed have been allocated to the residents who are most in need. With respect to this matter, we have undertaken this initiative and we have no choice but to complete their construction. All of our constituents have stated that housing is a priority and they want to start allocating these units as soon as possible. Further, we also know that we still have a huge portion of our population requiring housing. We will make it a priority to complete the construction of the remaining units.

With respect to why we ought to try and determine the reasons for the overage in the budget allocated for this project and

the initiative in this process, personally, myself and the staff tasked to research this matter continue to look for the reasons why we ought to conduct a more thorough investigation or if we even need to go that route. We are still contemplating all of our options. We are also looking to see if there were any instances of financial mismanagement or even criminal acts. To date, we continue to reflect on these options.

In my opinion, I do not think members of the cabinet are in support of that. However, I do know that the other side is in support of this initiative and I believe it is in your purview if you wish to conduct a more thorough investigation to get answers for our fellow Nunavutmiut. Thank you.

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

#### **Question 442 – 3(2): Review of the Nunavut Housing Trust**

**Mr. Schell:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm just going to continue with Minister of Housing here.

Mr. Speaker, I was advised yesterday by the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation to forget about the issues facing the corporation, but I can think of the 110 million reasons why we need to remember.

Mr. Speaker, Deloitte and Touche's review of the Nunavut Housing Trust included 19 formal recommendations for improvements at the corporation. Can the minister tell us if he would be able to table an action plan during this sitting to respond to these recommendations or is



this something else that's going to be forgotten? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Schell. Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Hon. Tagak Curley.

**Hon. Tagak Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank my colleague for asking the question. I thank him for reminding me because we almost forgot it. We're going to be very pleased to table the information on the action plan and we will be able to respond to each of your questions. I am sure that my colleagues over here would like to know what we were doing about it. I can tell you that we're working on everything. Also, let's not forget the units that have to be constructed or are being constructed in your communities. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Schell:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. One of the issues that I have been raising in the House is concerning the corporation's use of structural insulated panels. I note that the review report indicated that the accounting firm did examine some drawings of the housing units. I remember a year and a half ago when we were in Calgary, the former Minister of Housing had mentioned that were going to be sending a SIP unit and a stick built unit to Arviat. They were going to build them side by side and determine what the difference is in constructing them.

My question to the minister is: what were the results of this test? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Tagak Curley** (interpretation): Thank you. That is an excellent question and further, it is true that Nunavutmiut need to know which is preferable. Once I have checked into this matter further, I will inform the member of my findings. However, I want the members to know that we also have more issues to deal with which pertain to the mandate of the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

In reference to the matter the member brought up, as an example, pre-constructed units or SIP panels, and that is how I would say it in Inuktitut, the standards for the SIP panels are still being developed. I believe that we constructed some units that were not up to code this past winter. I have tasked staff to look into this matter further, at least as an internal investigation of the NHC, to see whether we followed code or not with these SIP panels. When standards are available, it is always more prudent to comply with standards.

We are still looking into the matter as to whether the first units constructed followed standards or not. I will be pleased when the results are presented to me once the investigation has been completed on these initial units and I will ensure that I report on the findings. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Schell:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My next question is: are these two units included in the 285 units that were sent or were these over and above that? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you. Minister Curley.

**Hon. Tagak Curley** (interpretation): I don't have the details in front of me. I will look into it so that I can provide the information to the member. Thank you.

**Speaker:** Your final supplementary, Mr. Schell.

**Mr. Schell:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. One of the issues identified in the review report is theft of materials. Has the NHC been able to determine the exact extent of the losses over the past two years as a consequence of theft? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Tagak Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We did indeed look into the issue that was mentioned. We have continued to monitor the matter once concerns were submitted.

We have also consulted with the public and quite a few presenters made this out to be a huge issue. When we actually conducted our investigation, we found it to be a minor issue. If it had been a major issue regarding theft of construction materials, more communities would have voiced their concerns as most of the communities are small enough that people would know about a resident who, all of a sudden, had a surplus of construction materials.

Where and when we have found instances of theft, we have been notified by the RCMP about these cases. Some of the instances were so minor that the RCMP had no recourse but to abandon the case. That is the reason why we have

difficulty understanding the public perception that a major theft had occurred resulting in this massive over-expenditure. The incidents we have found are not numerous nor were there many communities that experienced this problem.

What I can state is that if we totalled the equivalent costs to replace these materials, it is definitely not even in the millions. I was briefed that we have had one or two cases where a couple of two-by-fours were taken over the course of the winter and many of these materials were in the open where they could have been stolen. I do not think that the theft factor resulted in the huge increase we are debating today. Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Natilik, Ms. Ugyuk

#### **Question 443 – 3(2): Mine Training and Drug Testing**

**Ms. Ugyuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to Minister Taptuna in regard to mining.

KIA held a meeting in Cambridge Bay just recently and one of the issues revolved around mine training. There were going to be 22 students signed up for the mine training and these positions were in great demand. There were four students who passed this course and they were able to continue to BC for further training. Only 4 out of 22 students passed this course, even though many Inuit want to work in a mine.

Most of us are aware that a lot of Inuit face food shortages at home due to not

having employment. They are living in poverty and experience hunger due to their inability to afford the groceries at the stores. When Inuit turn 18, the social assistance they are provided with is never enough to purchase groceries for the month and that is how expensive groceries are. That is how prevalent poverty is in Nunavut. Many of these people applied for the training, but they were rejected and a result was that they are asking questions as to the reasons for their rejection.

I would like to know if the mining companies have the authority to conduct blood testing on potential workers to check for drugs. This was one of the most asked questions. They want to know if this is a legal requirement. Are they able to do that without the proper consent and conduct drug testing through their blood? If these people do indeed have drug issues, then how can we provide support so that they are able to obtain employment and become more self-sufficient so that they can leave the social assistance program?

I believe that Inuit are given an opportunity to improve their future by having employment. When Inuit are barred from employment opportunities, they are stuck in a life of poverty with no chance of improvement. That is my question, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you. Minister responsible for Mines, Hon. Peter Taptuna.

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for that question. It is very difficult when you speak about young people getting tested before they go take the training courses and actually

working in a mine. It's rather mandatory, most companies do that nowadays, and I understand that at the KIA AGM, there was a lot of that happening. There are a lot of young people who do get trained up but rejected for work because of these tests.

Now, other parts of your question there was that... . Within this department, we do support the mine training round table and it's to bring in organizations so that we could actually kind of coordinate the type of mine training that the regions and communities need. For that matter, we do support the initiatives in mine training.

Although, there is another factor there when you indicated that there are groceries that are involved in there, but maybe I'll come to that when you pose your question a little more clearly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Ugyuk** (interpretation): Yes, I'll try and make myself clearer. The people who were rejected, do they have any place to go or any goals that they can go to, like if they want to further their education or if they want to stop taking drugs? We understand that when we need help with our personal issues, we can be provided with support. Is there some kind of support mechanism for these people who were rejected to take the training course? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank you for that question. At this time, I don't have any indication or information that there are other alternate ways of dealing with some of these trainees who are rejected because of the tests that these companies do have. I believe that's more or less a personal choice.

For the most part, these tests are being conducted before these trainees actually get to the sites. For the most part, they are right at home within their communities, but alternate assistance being provided to them, I'll have to check into that and get back to the member on that, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

#### **Question 444 – 3(2): Nunavut Caribou Strategy**

**Mr. Komoartok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to continue in the same vein of questioning that was pursued by my colleague from Iqaluit West, Mr. Okalik, posed to the Hon. Daniel Shewchuk, the Minister of Environment.

As I understood it, in March 2011, you will have completed the caribou strategy that will outline the plans and research to go into the caribou population study. However, as per my colleague's earlier remarks where he identified the areas around Iqaluit and Pangnirtung as having had no caribou for the past three years, many hunters have had to go extreme distances and they are not

always successful in their hunts. We have not experienced this in the past, but only in the last few years have we started experiencing this hardship.

Due to this reason, I would like to ask the minister: with respect to this community consultation tour you alluded to in your Minister's Statement as occurring in March 2011, if this process is shorter than that time period and it is finalized in this calendar year, will he commit to a population study? I want to know if this will result in a new caribou population study or if there would be other research initiatives that would occur, especially here in the Baffin region where it seems that our caribou have left their usual haunts.

Will you be conducting a caribou population study this upcoming fiscal year? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Daniel Shewchuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question in regard to the caribou strategy, an important document we're all looking forward to seeing. When this strategy is complete, it will be produced to everybody. It will pertain to the management of caribou across Nunavut.

As I stated before, all user groups are involved in the creation of this strategy, including all communities on Baffin Island. We do understand that the Baffin Island caribou is a very important issue and a high priority issue. So once the strategy is completed, research will be prioritized on that with involvement of all communities across Nunavut to

where we need to see where research needs to be done on caribou. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Komoartok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I totally understand his statement that the research has to continue.

With regard to the importance of caribou and caribou meat to our people, it used to compose the majority of the food consumed by our community members, as well as those from Iqaluit and perhaps in all of Baffin Island. However, the caribou are no longer in areas that are in close proximity to the communities. We no longer have herbivore meat available close by the communities and we do not have too many other species we can trade for caribou, at least with respect to terrestrial species.

More residents are consuming seal meat to supplement their diets, including char and other species, such as bearded seal, as caribou meat is a rarity nowadays in many communities. That is why I want to ask the minister this question: when communities are experiencing hardships in obtaining country food, can the government provide assistance to the communities, either as a subsidy or freight subsidy, to allow our residents to order caribou meat from other communities, such as in Rankin Inlet or Coral Harbour?

In particular, we have been assisted by other communities I mentioned, especially when we celebrated Canada Day, whereupon caribou meat was

ordered from Rankin Inlet and we are very grateful for that. It seems that we will have to look for these types of assistance, at least in our community. I want to ensure that my fellow residents are able to consume country food, especially meat that we crave.

Can the minister identify today whether or not his department can offer these types of assistance programs to residents in the Baffin region or if there are no discretionary funds available? I would like to know if this is a future matter we may have to deliberate on. Can he offer any assistance to these people? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Daniel Shewchuk**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At present, there are no programs in place to subsidize the inter-trade of country food, although we feel it's a very good idea: the communities that do have an abundant of one species trade with another community that doesn't have that species. We think it's very important that we do that and we involve airlines to do that to provide cheaper freight rates for this to happen. As I said, at present, there are no programs within government, or that I know of with NTI or Inuit organizations that provide that type of service. Actually, I think we do have a small amount of funding that is targeted for Baffin communities that provide very little support to that effect.

As far as the strategy is concerned, we have done some work on North Baffin caribou. There have been collars spread out and collars in 2008-09. The collar information tells us where these caribou

move, where they migrate, where they are at certain times of year, and where their calving grounds may be, so it is very useful information. Our plan into the future will be to do that with caribou on the South Baffin Island to see what kind of movement there is. As we all know, caribou move vast distances and at certain times, they are very hard to find. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Komoartok** (interpretation): I wish to thank the minister for that informative response. Further, I, too, would like to see this type of program set up for inter-community trade in the Baffin region.

It seems that our caribou are not just off wandering around but have migrated to different areas. When the caribou have settled into an area, our hunters generally are able to find them. In the past, caribou herds would wander into close proximity of the communities and sometimes they were even a nuisance. However, in these last three years, the evidence is quite overwhelming that there are no caribou in the immediate vicinity of any community.

Last winter, hunters from Pangnirtung were forced to hunt on the south side of the peninsula, which is the northern extent of the Iqaluit hunters. Some hunters go back and forth between the communities and these hunters saw no caribou anywhere between the two communities.

This summer, a resident had to charter a plane to go caribou hunting near Iqaluit from Pangnirtung. However, even with

all of their searching, they were unable to find any caribou in those areas. The lands closer to Pangnirtung have no caribou even though hunters continue to search for them close by. There are hardly any caribou in the northern parts of our hunting areas. When they are found, they usually are able to catch only a few. This has transpired all year, in the winter, spring, and summer, and to date.

I would like the government to take all of these concerns into consideration when they are formulating a position on this matter. It is quite obvious that the communities will require some form of assistance to allow our people to eat these meats. We are at an intersection here in the Baffin region. With the caribou in the far interior, it is getting harder and harder to find caribou close by. Therefore, if this situation deteriorates further, then we will have to take some action.

I just wanted to provide support with my comments. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Komoartok. Although I did not hear a question, Mr. Shewchuk, I'll leave it to you to respond.

**Hon. Daniel Shewchuk**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think that's a very good idea and it deserves being looked at. I think we should look at it through our co-management partners with NTI and Inuit associations to see if we could assist in that regard in any way, including airline services too. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Question 445 – 3(2): Nunavut Housing Trust**

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are directed to the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, the Hon. Tagak Curley.

It seems like we need to do a shift here. It seems like the regular members have more information than he does on certain issues regarding the audit and the report of Deloitte and Touche.

It mentions a number of problems in the report about controls on ordering of materials. These were not in place and contributed to some of the overspending. It further mentioned that the corporation still may have trouble because of human resource capacity issues. Does the minister feel that this issue has been taken care of confidently in terms of the ordering process? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Tagak Curley:** Thank you. Mr. Speaker, I think, in short, I say even with some qualifiers, that the answer is yes. The materials that are heading to the communities all may have reached the communities already. We don't have any other public housing or any housing units that we're currently ordering right now, whether it would be for next year or not.

So that question is really kind of difficult for me. I have been careful in responding to some questions because there are some qualifiers for every question asked by the regular members in that because

we don't know what's going on. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The minister just said he doesn't know what's going on. I was wondering if he could clarify in relation to what you do not know what's going on. Thank you.

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

**Hon. Tagak Curley:** Mr. Speaker, I'm just responding to his question. You alluded to the fact that you guys may have more information over on the other side or not. No. I mean we have the same information and we have the same report.

I hesitate in responding affirmatively, or this way, or that way. For instance, when we are comparing prices with the SIP units and stick units, we're going to have to wait until the projects are completed [to see] whether or not the costs are the same or not. Are we going to take, for instance, consideration of the manufacturing plan that was established down in Ottawa? They may be quicker, for instance, to erect in a community, but that doesn't mean they are cheaper. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for that explanation; that sort of clarifies. But I'm still a little concerned about the ordering process and how the Nunavut Housing Corporation will be purchasing

materials. As everyone is well aware, we don't want any more overspending. With the project that was as big as the Nunavut Housing Trust and the affordable housing, you can sort of see how some things are going to be missed and some things different sizes, a piece of copper pipe of certain size needs to be ordered at a different size.

Could the minister confirm... ? I had heard that in Hall Beach, they were receiving a five-plex with the SIP units and a single dwelling home. All of the materials came on the sealift and unlike Arctic Bay, where we have piles in the ground, they put theirs on a space frame and the space frame did not come in with the house. Again, to me, I can see little things not being ordered and you know, different things coming in and not coming in, you know, maybe screws and nails and things like that. But when you've got the frame of a house not being in there, is that true that the space frame did not come in on sealift and it had to be flown in on a Herc? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Tagak Curley:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would have to confirm whether or not that is the case with respect to the specific community, but I think we all now understand fully that there were a number of weaknesses with the project management as well as cost control.

The report spent a lot of time mainly on the cost control difficulties and the fact that human resources capacities are all over Nunavut. I'm using that expression because the directorate is here in this

town, headquarters is in Arviat, and the finance people are all in Arviat. Therefore, this creates a problem because the information technology that is currently provided is not able to adequately provide information to the directorate on time. The server just isn't able to provide that. Despite the fact that they do have the software able to do so, the technology can't process it nor deliver it.

So we have a number of challenges with respect to all of these questions, but I will provide the member with respect to Hall Beach probably in more detail as soon as I get it. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for that commitment. In terms of the report that was presented to us and it's on the website itself, will that information be shared with the Office of the Auditor General? I know she had some comments and concerns saying that they were concerned because the Nunavut Housing Corporation was audited. Has that information been passed on to them for evaluation? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Tagak Curley:** Thank you. Mr. Speaker, personally I don't know whether she received a copy, but she was in town about the same time as the report was made public. My colleague, the Minister of Finance, may be able to provide more detail on that, but I'm sure that she is keenly following the whole events of this whole process. Thank you.



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

**Question 446 – 3(2): Baker Lake Municipal Landfill**

**Mr. Aupaluktuq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my questions to the Minister of Environment, Hon. Daniel Shewchuk.

Mr. Speaker, during yesterday's question period, I asked questions concerning the conditions of Baker Lake's municipal landfill. Mr. Speaker, I am sure the minister will not be surprised by my first question. Can the minister indicate when the Baker Lake landfill was last inspected by the Department of Environment and what were the results of the inspection? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Daniel Shewchuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I cannot indicate those dates when it was last inspected, and I believe it would not be inspected by the Department of Environment anyway. The responsibility of licensing a landfill facility is under the jurisdiction of the Nunavut Water Board. Any licences that are issued are enforced by Indian and Northern Affairs Canada. They are responsible for any enforcements or inspections done of these facilities.

However, if there is a need for a landfill to be inspected on an immediate basis, we would absolutely assist in that regard with our conservation officers or

environmental protection officers in the regions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Aupaluktuq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am glad to see that they absolutely can assist us with the concerns for Baker Lake and Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question in regard to the GN recently announcing in a news release that "The Department of Environment and the Department of Community and Government Services (CGS) are working together to examine Nunavut's solid waste management practices as a whole. ... The strategy will examine a number of options for solid waste management for the territory, including recycling, incineration, gasification."

When will this Nunavut-wide solid waste strategy be completed and when will it be tabled in the House? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Daniel Shewchuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know our departments are working together and the lead is Community and Government Services on the solid waste strategy. I cannot comment when it would be done or tabled in the House. However, I would like to tell the member that the Department of Environment, in conjunction with the Municipal Training Organization, is in the process of developing a hazardous waste management course for all municipal

landfill operators in the communities.  
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Aupaluktuq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The hon. minister partially answered this, but I wanted to ask for the record. Mr. Speaker, I want to ask the hon. minister: how will the GN work with municipalities on this issue? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you. Minister Shewchuk.

**Hon. Daniel Shewchuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again as I stated, we will provide training to municipalities in some respect. Also, they are a very important and integral part in developing the strategy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Aupaluktuq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question again is: how much will the strategy cost and how much of this is going to be used to pay consultants? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you. Minister Shewchuk.

**Hon. Daniel Shewchuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I cannot provide that information at this time, but when we find out that information, it will be provided. Thank you.

**Speaker:** Thank you. Going back to the orders of the day. Item 7. Written Questions. Item 8. Returns to Written

Questions. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Mr. Okalik.

### **Item 9: Replies to Opening Address**

#### **Reply to Opening Address 003 – 3(2): Mr. Paul Okalik**

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On March 18 of last year, I had the honour of delivering the first reply to the opening address that was made at the beginning of the current Legislative Assembly. A few will recall that I offered a number of reflections and cautionary observations on the direction that the government appeared to be taking in its first months.

Mr. Speaker, that was over a year and a half ago. We have now reached the midpoint of the government's life and it is appropriate that we can take the opportunity to measure its performance to date. This exercise will help all of us at our own determinations concerning what should be done in advance at the second half of our mandate.

Mr. Speaker, as you will recall, the cabinet issued a news release last month which included a one-page list of what had claimed to be its most significant accomplishment since taking office. By doing so, the government has invited us to evaluate its process. I will gladly accept this invitation, Mr. Speaker.

(interpretation ends) Let's get started. The first accomplishment on the list is described as the Whale Cove Community Hall. I absolutely agree that it is excellent news that the good people of Whale Cove have an important new facility in their community. I certainly remember with pride the day on which

the previous government approved the initial funding for this capital project and I thank the government for recognizing this accomplishment.

Mr. Speaker, the second item on the list is the new driver's licence and general identification card. Again, I distinctly remember when the initial funding for this project was approved by the previous Legislative Assembly and I again thank the current government for reminding us of this fact.

Mr. Speaker, I must confess that reading this list of accomplishments was, in some ways, a pleasant trip on memory lane. The new women's correctional facility, the new community learning centre in Pond Inlet, the new Kivalliq Health Facility, the new Pangnirtung Health Centre, the new medical boarding home in Iqaluit, and the new continuing care facilities in Gjoa Haven and Igloolik are all excellent projects that were all conceived of and started during the time of the previous government and Legislative Assembly. Again I thank the current government for reminding us of this very fact.

Mr. Speaker, I could also spend some time in reflecting on other work accomplished by the previous government that is acknowledged in this wonderful list that was produced by this current government.

For example, as a number of members who are present here today will recall, the passage of the *Midwifery Profession Act* by the Second Legislative Assembly was one of the key statutes that we brought forward. I am pleased to see that this good work is continuing.

However, Mr. Speaker, in reviewing this list, I am forced to ask some questions. I see that the current government is now claiming that its accomplishments include taking action against the European Union ban on the import of seal products. This claim would be laughable if it weren't so insulting to our Inuit hunters.

Mr. Speaker, if this was actually the case, why did the Premier not speak and vote in favour of the motion that my colleague for South Baffin introduced in this House earlier? Does taking strong action against the European Union include abandoning our friends and allies in Newfoundland and Labrador at meetings of the Council of the Federation where the issue of trade relations with the European community is on the table?

As members will recall, the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador, which has been fighting vocally and visibly on behalf of its sealers, has refused to endorse the comprehensive economic and trade agreement negotiations process with the European community until its concerns are addressed. However, instead of joining with the province, our government took the easy path, simply for the sake of a smiling photo opportunity.

Sadly, Mr. Speaker, it appears clear to me that this current government's definition of taking action is to cut a cheque for someone else to fight our battles. Perhaps there is fear that if we speak up on behalf of Nunavummiut, we will stop being invited to nice receptions and ceremonies. However, Mr. Speaker, I know from experience that you actually earn more respect if you speak vocally

from a position of principle. This is a lesson that appears to have not been learned by the current government.

Mr. Speaker, I also see that the current government is taking credit for the Eeyou Istchee Land Claims Agreement. This one made me wonder. If this government is so committed to respecting land claims obligations, why did it flagrantly ignore the concerns of the Inuit of the High Arctic and the Qikiqtani Inuit Association in relation to federal attempts to conduct seismic tests in our waters? Why did the Qikiqtani Inuit Association have to go to court in order to obtain an injunction to stop this testing? Why did our government not stand with the Inuit on this very important matter?

Mr. Speaker, when it comes to explaining some of these government actions, it makes you question why they made those decisions. And we fail to get answers to these very important questions of the day.

Maybe someone on the other side of the Chamber can explain to us why this so-called list of accomplishments conveniently neglects to mention that the government has been found by the courts to be acting in bad faith in its negotiations with our hard-working teachers here in Nunavut.

Maybe someone can explain to us why there is no mention of the government's record on Inuit employment and why there is no celebration of these figures. Come to think of it, Mr. Speaker, the answer to that question is there is nothing we need to celebrate.

The recent hearings that took place in this Chamber on this issue of capacity of our public service are a troubling one for me, Mr. Speaker. I was astounded at the inability of the lead government witness to provide coherent answers to some very basic and simple questions and I was shocked at the fact that the government's own legal arguments, all of which are on the public record, revealing that it is now trying to pass the blame for its own shortcomings onto the federal government. Although my colleagues and I tried to get answers on this point, we discovered that a gag order had been issued and imposed by the current government.

Mr. Speaker, on April 1 of last year the opening address for our current session was delivered in this House. I would be remiss if my reply to this opening address did not take the time to reflect on the extent to which its promises and commitments have been fulfilled.

I reread this quote and document earlier today and one of the first things that caught my eye and attention was the reference to the Akitsiraq Law School. As members will recall, this was one of the programs established by the previous government to provide Inuit with the education and training to succeed in today's complex world.

Sadly, Mr. Speaker, we are moving backwards, as is evidenced by this government's refusal to fund a second program to enable up to 25 Inuit to earn their law degrees, despite the fact that it is only being asked to invest less than a million dollars per year, a figure that doesn't even come close to 1 percent of this government's annual budget.

Mr. Speaker, I find such decisions to be inexplicable and disheartening. Although the government's plan to create approximately 25 utterly redundant government liaison officer positions will require millions of dollars in ongoing annual expenditures, it rejects the opportunity to make a real investment for our future.

Mr. Speaker, here's the choice: do we add 25 unnecessary positions to the bureaucracy or do we invest in 25 new Inuit professionals? I know what choice I would make, Mr. Speaker. The government's choice, however, saddens me.

Mr. Speaker, while I am on the subject of government liaison officers, I must admit that one of the real successes of this government has been to provide strong and unwavering support for the consulting industry. As we have seen in recent months, consultants have benefited tremendously from the current administration. Although the government has only recently gotten around to advertising for the director of the government liaison officer office, I do note that a nice contract was provided to a consulting firm to do some kind of work in relation to the project.

However, Mr. Speaker, it is hard to describe such routine functions of government as being visionary accomplishments worthy of our continued confidence. I see no inspiration in this document, only gaps.

Many of my colleagues have raised important issues and ideas. So where is the independent child advocate about whom a number of my colleagues have spoken eloquently on many occasions?

Where is the progress on devolution? Where are the Nunavut-based substance abuse programs and services? Where is the action on suicide prevention? I could go on, Mr. Speaker.

I conclude my observation that the time for celebration on accomplishments has long passed. It is now incumbent upon us to decide whether the government is being led along the right path in a decisive manner that reflects the aspirations and needs of Nunavummiut.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank you and my colleagues for allowing me this opportunity to share my beliefs and expectations. *Qujannamiik, Merci, Koanaqqutit, Uqaqtittijii.*

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Okalik. Replies to Opening Address. Item 10. Petitions. Item 11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees. Item 12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Hon. Eva Aariak.

### **Item 13: Tabling of Documents**

#### **Tabled Document 204 – 3(2): Letter of Instruction to the Commissioner of Nunavut**

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As promised during the spring sitting, I am pleased to table the Letter of Instruction for the Commissioner, (interpretation ends) Hon. Edna Elias. (interpretation) The document is now available and so I am tabling it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Tabling of Documents. Mr. Elliott.

**Tabled Document 205 – 3(2): The Genesis of NHC Cost Overruns – A Personal Analysis**

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table a document which was emailed to MLAs from a former manager of design and development employed with the Nunavut Housing Corporation in Arviat. Mr. Speaker, this document sheds some inside information into the problems with the Nunavut Housing Trust. Thank you.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Tabling of Documents. Item 14. Notices of Motions. Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. 16. Motions. 17. First Reading of Bills. Hon. Keith Peterson.

**Item 17: First Reading of Bills**

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek the consent of this House to waive Rule 62(1) so that Bill 42, *Forgiveness of Debts Act, 2010, No. 2*, can be read for the first time today.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister. The minister is seeking consent to waive Rule 62(1) so that Bill 42 can be read today for the first time. Do members agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Speaker:** Thank you. Minister, please proceed.

**Bill 42 – Forgiveness of Debts Act, 2010, No. 2 – First Reading**

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleagues. Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet and Whale Cove, that Bill 42, *Forgiveness of Debts Act, 2010, No. 2*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

First Reading of Bills. Hon. Keith Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek the consent of this House to waive Rule 62(1) so that Bill 43, *Write-Off of Assets Act, 2010-2011*, can be read for the first time today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister. The minister is seeking consent to waive Rule 62(1) so that Bill 43 can be read today for the first time. Do members agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Speaker:** Thank you. Mr. Minister, please proceed.

**Bill 43 – Write-Off of Assets Act, 2010-2011 – First Reading**

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank colleagues. Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet and Whale Cove, that Bill 43, *Write-Off of Assets Act, 2010-2011*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister. The motion is in order. All those in favour, raise your hand, please. Opposed. The motion is carried.

First Reading of Bills. Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Hon. Keith Peterson.

### **Item 18: Second Reading of Bills**

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek the consent of this House to waive Rule 62(1) so that Bill 42, *Forgiveness of Debts Act, 2010, No. 2*, can be read for the second time today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister. The minister is seeking consent to waive Rule 62(1) so that Bill 42 can be read today for the second time. Do members agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Speaker:** Thank you. Mr. Minister, please proceed.

### **Bill 42 – Forgiveness of Debts Act, 2010, No. 2 – Second Reading**

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleagues. Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet and Whale Cove, that Bill 42, *Forgiveness of Debts Act, 2010, No. 2*, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill authorizes the forgiveness of debts in accordance with section 25 of the *Financial Administration Act*. 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 and Bill 42 has been referred to the committee on legislation.

Second Reading of Bills. Hon. Keith Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek the consent of this House to waive Rule 62(1) so that Bill 43, *Write-Off of Assets Act, 2010-2011*, can be read for the second time today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister. The minister is seeking consent to waive Rule 62(1) so that Bill 43 can be read today for the second time. Do members agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Speaker:** Thank you. Please proceed, Minister Peterson.

### **Bill 43 – Write-Off of Assets Act, 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 43, *Write-Off of Assets Act, 2010-2011*, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill authorizes the write-off of assets in accordance to the sections 24 and 82 of the *Financial Administration Act*. 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 and Bill 43 has been referred to the Standing Committee on Legislation.

Second Reading of Bills. Item 19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bill 38 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 15:26 and  
Committee resumed at 16:05*

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

**Chairman** (Mr. Okalik)(interpretation): Good afternoon. We have quorum and we can start the Committee of the Whole. We will start with opening comments. Mr. Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We would like to continue with Bill 38 and start with the review of the Department of Health and Social Services, followed by the Nunavut Housing Corporation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. We will deal with Bill 38 and the capital estimates for the fiscal year 2011-12. What is the wish of the committee? Do you agree that we have Department of Health and Social Services appear before the committee?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Bill 38 – Appropriation (Capital) Act,  
2011-2012 – Health and Social  
Services – Consideration in  
Committee**

**Chairman** (interpretation): They have all agreed. Minister Curley, you can now begin with your opening comments. Minister Curley.

**Hon. Tagak Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to take this opportunity today to present the 2011-12 Capital Estimates for the Department of Health and Social Services. This year, the Department of Health and Social Services is requesting a capital budget for 2011-12 of \$34.9 million.

Mr. Chairman, I am very happy to say that the first year of the construction costs for the replacement of the Repulse Bay Health Centre in the amount of \$15.6 million are included in the proposed 2011-12 capital plan. The department will be working with the Department of Community and Government Services to issue the tender documents in early January 2011 and expects to award a construction contract in early April 2011.

While the Department of Health and Social Services remains committed to replacing the health centres in Taloyoak,



Arctic Bay, and Cape Dorset since the health centres are aging, other competing priorities within the Government of Nunavut makes it a challenge for us to start construction on these important projects in the same fiscal year.

Mr. Chairman, in 2010-11, as part of the government's fiscal action plan to address the shortfall in the Nunavut Housing Trust program, the department agreed last spring to temporarily return carry-forward budgets of \$2.5 million and \$6.0 million from the Qikiqtani General Hospital furniture, fixtures and equipment and renovation budgets. These funds are now being replenished in the department's 2011-12 capital estimates.

The department remains committed to improving health services in Nunavut. As such, we are requesting \$9.4 million in the 2011-12 capital budget in order to upgrade the old Baffin Regional Hospital to optimize clinical space and accommodate support functions in conjunction with the new Qikiqtani General Hospital here in Iqaluit. My department will upgrade the old hospital to offer many of the essential clinical services that were not transferred to the Qikiqtani General Hospital.

As a department, we ensure that medical equipment, mobile equipment, and furniture meet minimal standards – reducing the risk to patients and staff and keeping up with changes in program delivery and increases in demand for services. In order to meet these standards, we are requesting \$700,000 for minor projects to be used to replace failing or out-of-date medical and dental equipment and vehicles. Replacing equipment and vehicles that have a

history of frequent and high repair costs will result in some savings. Sometimes it seems like we need to replace equipment when they need repair. However, an exact amount is difficult to calculate.

Our health infrastructure is aging. In fact, in most of the communities, 60 percent of our health centres are 20 years old or older. Until we are in a fiscal situation that enables us to move forward with replacing some of this infrastructure, we must ensure that funds are allocated for upkeep, repairs, and renovations to keep our buildings in good condition.

Mr. Chairman, in order to properly maintain and provide minor repairs to our current facilities, we are requesting \$700,000 for small capital. These funds would be used for repairs, such as boiler replacement, ventilation system improvements, and the replacement of obsolete communications technology. We need to replace the boiler ventilation system. The Department of CGS is responsible for repairs. After they do their study, they make recommendations for improvements or replacements.

In the meantime, we are celebrating the successes from recent years' capital plans, including the new Pangnirtung Health Centre, which opened its doors earlier this summer.

Mr. Chairman, I look forward to your support and I welcome questions from the members. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Curley. Would you like to have officials with you at the witness table? Minister Curley.

**Hon. Tagak Curley** (interpretation): I would like to have the deputy minister and the finance comptroller to appear with me. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Curley. Do my colleagues agree to have the minister accompanied by his officials at the witness table?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

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

Thank you, Sergeant-at-Arms, for escorting the witnesses in. Minister, although we know the individuals, you need to formally introduce your witnesses. Minister Curley.

**Hon. Tagak Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my right is Deputy Minister Alex Campbell and also to my left is our Finance Comptroller, Debora Voth. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Curley. Welcome. Before we proceed, I would like to ask the Chair of the Standing Committee on Social Wellness if he has any opening comments. Mr. Aupaluktuq, I believe you have comments to make. Mr. Aupaluktuq.

**Mr. Aupaluktuq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to welcome Minister Curley as well as his officials.

I am pleased to provide opening comments on behalf of the Standing Committee on Social Wellness as the Committee of the Whole begins its

consideration of the proposed 2011-12 Capital Estimates of the Department of Health and Social Services.

Members note that the department's proposed capital budget for 2011-12 is just under \$35 million. This is the biggest capital budget brought forward by Nunavut's Department of Health and Social Services since 2003-04, although members recognize that the department's actual expenditures for the past six fiscal years have all differed considerably from the approved budgets for those years.

The standing committee has noted that supporting documents provided with the department's proposed capital budget often lacked detailed and up-to-date information. The committee recommends that substantiation sheets and other such supporting documentation be updated prior to standing committee review.

Mr. Chairman, over the past decade, the Government of Nunavut invested considerable sums of money in major infrastructure projects, including three new regional health facilities and two new 24-hour continuing care facilities in Gjoa Haven and Igloolik. While the standing committee approves of the intent to provide and deliver more medical services at home, here in Nunavut, there is a concern that the new facilities are still not being used to their full capacity.

Committee members urge the minister to refocus his efforts on ensuring that as many Nunavummiut as possible can receive the appropriate care and services in the new Nunavut health facilities. Ultimately this will reduce the need for travel, accommodation, and health

services outside of the territory and the associated costs. And, perhaps as importantly, providing Nunavummiut with the ability to receive as much health care as possible close to their homes and families will have a beneficial effect on the overall state of health and well-being across the territory.

The department's proposed capital budget for 2011-12 includes funding for three infrastructure projects and two blocks of funding for minor and small capital projects. Two projects relate to continuing work on the Qikiqtani General Hospital complex, including ongoing renovations to the former Baffin Regional Hospital as well as the purchase of furniture and equipment. It appears that funding allocated for these purposes in previous years was transferred or re-profiled and is being replaced in the upcoming year.

The department's third infrastructure project for 2011-12 is the ongoing health centre replacement project for Repulse Bay. Three other health centre replacement projects have been identified for future years funding. The standing committee continues to encourage the government to provide regular updates directly to the communities and members on the planning, progress, and timelines for these projects. The standing committee has previously noted the department's cost-saving initiative of using the same health centre design for three of these projects. The committee cautions the government to pay close attention to costs that may arise from community-specific modifications or alterations to the design features of this multi-use plan.

Members encourage the minister in his efforts to work with his federal counterparts to identify any possible additional infrastructure funding that could support and accelerate his department's capital plans. Committee members have noted that the federal government has previously provided additional health centre infrastructure funding for First Nations communities and strongly urge the government to pursue any options that may exist to access similar health centre infrastructure funding for Nunavut's predominantly Inuit communities.

Mr. Chair, the Department of Health and Social Services includes two blocks of non-specific funding in its 2011-12 capital estimates. One of these blocks of funding is for small capital projects, such as repairs to buildings and emergency situations. The other is for minor projects including the purchase of new equipment and vehicles.

With respect to small capital projects, standing committee members have identified serious and outstanding repairs required at some community health centres and ask the government to commit to addressing these issues in a timely manner in the upcoming fiscal year. The standing committee appreciated the minister's willingness to look into the issue of providing support to community-based family violence shelters which are in need of repair. While it is recognized that most of these facilities are not government assets, the department's Saillivik policy does commit to supporting family violence shelters in meeting minimum structural and environmental standards.

With respect to minor capital projects, the standing committee continues to look forward to updates regarding new medical equipment purchases, such as dialysis machines, MRI units, CAT scanners, and cancer treatment equipment. The committee recognizes that trained staff will be needed in order to offer services in these areas and encourages the minister to work with his cabinet colleagues to promote and support the education and training of Nunavummiut in the related health professions.

Adequate road transportation for medical clients remains an issue in many communities and the standing committee appreciates the minister's efforts to evaluate his department's mobile equipment status across the territory. The committee encourages the minister in his efforts to contract local private businesses to provide the necessary services.

The standing committee continues to look forward to receiving details of small or minor projects that have been identified and prioritized for the upcoming fiscal year as well as a listing projects on which such funds were spent in the previous fiscal year.

Mr. Chair, that concludes my opening comments on the proposed 2011-12 Capital Estimates of the Department of Health and Social Services. I am confident that individual members will also have questions and comments as we proceed. (interpretation) Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

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

I suggest to members that wherever possible you ask your detailed questions during the page-by-page review of the departmental estimates. Are there any general comments? Mr. Aupaluktuq.

**Mr. Aupaluktuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wish to thank the minister again, as well as to welcome his officials.

Whenever the members have to travel to Iqaluit for a session, we occasionally have to go for medical appointments. I went there recently and the level of care provided by the nurses and the doctor was very professional. I thank all of the health care staff at the hospital.

In the minister's opening comments, he stated that many of the health facilities in Nunavut are aging. That seems quite self-explanatory since I have referred to this matter in statements in the House.

I have also referred to the fact that Baker Lake is experiencing an economic boom due to the development of the mine near our community. The population in the Kivalliq and in Nunavut is increasing. We are experiencing an influx of Inuit who are moving to Baker Lake to take advantage of this economic opportunity.

One of the issues to keep in mind is that Baker Lake has the highest number of elders resident in our community in Nunavut. What exacerbates the problem

is that the health centre is now too small to accommodate the number of patients and furthermore, it is set too high. Many patients complain about the chairs in the waiting room, saying that they are too hard since they are wooden chairs. Also, the stairs are too steep and people with canes complain that they have difficulty accessing the centre due to the stairs.

I am just commenting on this and I am very pleased that the minister is stating that the majority of the health facilities in Nunavut are aging. I just wished to remind you not to forget the health centre in Baker Lake. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. That was just a comment, but Minister Curley, you have the option of responding to the comment. Minister Curley.

**Hon. Tagak Curley** (interpretation): Thank you. They are very clear and understandable. We took note of what the Member for Baker Lake just stated. Once the mining development started occurring in the community, it was evident that their work had increased. We will inform them and keep them abreast.

During the standing committee review just recently, we spoke to the issue that the facility is not safe for people with canes or in wheelchairs. We discussed that matter. Once I hear more about it, I will let you know.

The Nunavut-wide director was supposed to be replaced following his passing. However, the individual who was going to be the replacement resigned before starting the position. So,

at this time, we are short-staffed. I just wanted you to know. We won't be short staffed for long. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Curley. Are there any more general comments? Mr. Schell has his hand up.

**Mr. Schell**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's in regard to Repulse Bay getting a replacement health centre and then you've got comments in your opening statement there that Taloyoak, Arctic Bay, and Cape Dorset are on the list.

As we all know, Cape Dorset has the oldest health centre in the system there that hasn't had major renovation and there is nothing going to be happening with it until at least 2014-15 and that's not even construction. I'm just wondering if you've had a chance to look at it and see if that could be speeded up to an earlier date or if there is no way that it can be done any earlier. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Tagak Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are aware of the fact that the health centre in Cape Dorset is aging. The Department of Community and Government Services made a report last year on the aging facilities and their maintenance, and the department is in support of these. It was not included in the five-year plan previously because we still have not constructed those facilities in the three communities which are in the five-year capital plan.

Once the one in Repulse Bay is completed, they will move on to Arctic Bay and Taloyoak. Once those three facilities are completed, we will have to look more closely at the health facility in Cape Dorset. We have not set aside any funding for the design of the new health facility for Cape Dorset and we will keep you informed of when they will be coming out. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Schell:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The main reason I'm bringing that up is that three or four years ago, it was in the planning stages to be replaced and then it went off the radar, similar to Johnny's school in Coral Harbour. So that's the reason I'm bringing it up. Originally it was planned to be done and then all of a sudden, it's back on down the list there. So I'm a little worried about it, but I guess I'll wait and see what happens. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Schell. When the minister made an appearance before our committee, I suggested that he just start the projects and working from his other housing department, they just start and just bill other departments for the work. So that's what I suggested, that we carry out all of the work anyway. Anyways that was just a comment from Mr. Schell.

Mr. Elliott had his hand up. Mr. Elliott.

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On page 2, again with Arctic Bay being one of the communities on the list for a health centre as well, I know there are competing priorities. I was just wondering if the minister could explain a

little bit more in terms of the capital planning process for his department. How do you decide who goes to the top of the list?

Repulse Bay obviously went to the top of the list for some reason and then at one time, Arctic Bay was on the list, it was removed from the list, it was second in line, and now it's third in line. So I don't know what happens in terms of... the building is still there and the nurses are still working and they are still overcrowded. If anything, like you said, it's aging, but what determines how you choose? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Tagak Curley** (interpretation): Thank you. I understand your question clearly. I don't remember when we changed the plan. With respect to the five-year plan, the Kivalliq portion was behind schedule. So when a plan has been delayed for a year, the priority is the first item in the capital plan. However, if the funding was inadequate... .

There was no funding for health centres last year because there were more serious priorities, such as education and schools. For example, this past summer and current fiscal year, Repulse Bay is the first priority after having been constantly delayed. Perhaps the member can help me find out when they have been slated for Repulse Bay after the member, John Ningark, was elected. The plan is to start working on the Arctic Bay project next year. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that reply. I was hoping, maybe, to get some more in terms of when CGS was talking about capital planning and stuff like that, they look at the age of the building and possible... I guess what Mr. Aupaluktuq was talking about with stairs.

I know that in Arctic Bay, there are problems underneath the facility where the actual CGS workers cannot get in to work on the sewage tanks and the water tanks. There are also the leaks in the roof and different things like that.

I was hoping to get some more substantial answers in terms of how you pick and choose in terms of what the priority is or how do they determine that. Obviously Repulse Bay was in the most need, but how did you determine that was of most need? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Tagak Curley:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think that the member fully understands that there is a capital planning process which involves various intergovernmental committees. It also involves CGS and so on, but also within our own health department, we always had a capital planning director. That position has been vacant, but it does not impact on the plans that the department has with respect to the five-year planning process, which has been established and pretty well guides the cabinet for proceeding with funding that is being allocated each year.

But one thing for sure that the member knows is that at least the plans and the architectural designs are fully completed with Arctic Bay. We're not at all juggling anything whether or not they should come first or whatnot. We're sticking with the five-year plan. As far as the other administration, how they were juggling those capital projects, I cannot respond to that, but my deputy may help me a bit on that if you choose to do so, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Campbell:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thanks for that question. We do work with CGS intimately in this process. CGS is our technical advisor to all departments when it comes to capital projects.

Part of the system process includes the age of a facility itself, the number of repairs that need to be made, the state of the building itself, and the ability of that facility to provide the program support that the community is looking for. So we do a whole list of criteria and we do have work with CGS. They do the technical assessment, they do the report back to the department, and then that's when we make the determination as to which of those priorities should be in place.

We do work with the process is what I'm trying to say and we do go through a series of criteria working with CGS. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that explanation. I was originally given my information from one of the budget speeches in 2008 where it had said that this would be happening and then also I know the Premier at the time went to Arctic Bay with the MLA at the time and was announcing that it would be built. So, again, the community is still a little shocked that it went from 2008 to 2014 now. I was hoping to find out what actually made those changes.

On page 3, you were talking about the health infrastructure aging, and whatnot, and we had CGS before us yesterday. In terms of the money and the dollars they are spending on their RECAPP program, do you input your information for all of the assets that are owned by Health and Social Services? Is that put into that program as well? Thank you.

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

**Mr. Campbell:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The simple answer is yes, we do work with CGS, as I said, quite closely in determining the technical requirements of our facilities. We work with CGS and request them do inspections of these facilities.

As a matter of fact, we have been working with CGS quite closely on the other member's question regarding Cape Dorset about the state of that facility. We will be working with CGS on bringing an estimate on repairs to that facility itself in the next year.

So we do work closely with the system in trying to facilitate the process. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One of the things when we were, I guess it was a week and a half ago, in Arctic Bay when we had the Nunavut community integrated infrastructure meeting, it came up. The number one priority was a health centre for Arctic Bay. The hamlet has, again, the power lines, has a road in there, and everything is ready for it to go once it's approved in the budget on the year that it is supposed to happen. But the other concern was with the community thinking ahead in terms of 5, 10, and 20 years, there was a concern or a question about the facility. Once the old health centre is finished, will that be turned over to the hamlet or what are the certain plans for buildings once that happens? Thank you.

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

**Mr. Campbell (interpretation):** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Yes, we do maintain the building as a government. The CGS is the ultimate owner of all our facilities. Usually the first right of refusal is the departments of the government and if the departments of the government don't want the building, then it goes to the hamlet itself. It is shared that way so that the public organizations would be given first priority over acquiring those buildings. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Campbell. Any further questions? Mr. Elliott.

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One of the things that the hamlet could do is actually write to your department



and ask for the process to start now if it is four years in the making and could actually have it happen in tandem. Is that correct? Thank you.

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

**Mr. Campbell** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Yes, that is correct, with a proviso, of course. Again I should reinforce that the first refusal would be government departments if they require such a facility there, and then it will go to the hamlet in this case. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With our MP, Leona Aglukkaq, being the Minister of Health for all of Canada, we have a tremendous ally on our side to push for infrastructure. If we have aging infrastructure, what has your department done in the past year in terms of talking with Ms. Aglukkaq, or sending letters, or having meetings with her in Ottawa? Is your department constantly pushing?

Again, we are approving about \$115 million worth of infrastructure and if we are building three of these health centres, that is roughly \$90 million. It is a huge investment. Have you been pushing, down in Ottawa, for this? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Tagak Curley:** Thank you. That is a very important question. I think it's a question that should be raised at every opportunity, not only by the cabinet

ministers but also by the MLAs whenever they can find time to speak with our federal counterparts and also including our senators, if at all possible. I can say to the members that the cabinet has done whatever we could, including our Premier, raising the issue of infrastructure requirement even to the Prime Minister.

Recently, not only Nunavut has now begun to see tremendous increased costs at all levels, whether it be infrastructure, but health costs throughout Canada. I will ask my deputy to explain a bit about what the provinces are asking the federal government to do because in view of the recent federal health ministers' meeting, the escalating health costs were really out of control throughout Canada.

There is a tremendous push now by our counterparts to lobby the federal government to put some extra funds for health-related costs as well as infrastructure. Recently, again I joined federal officials at meetings in Halifax who tried to scope out some ideas for seeking extra funding. We are not alone in this area and we are doing everything we could.

But I think the member fully understands as well that federal ministers seem to be saying that they don't have any room to put any more extra funding in view of the economic situation. Very recently, last week, the Minister of Health was here and on this very topic, she indicated that the faucet has stopped flowing and that kind of thing. I don't know what that means, but I'll leave it to the member to interpret that.

We appreciate all of the help that you're giving us in lobbying the federal

government. I have seen copies of your correspondence and I compliment you for that, and I urge all of the other MLAs to do the same. I think we should get a bit of a provincial scene of this. I missed that one due to the cabinet strategy the other day. I was not able to go, but my deputy was attending that and he has the most up-to-date picture of where the provinces are standing with respect to all of these issues. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Curley. Are there any further questions? I believe Mr. Campbell was going to give a supplementary. Mr. Campbell.

**Mr. Campbell** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Yes, just very briefly, Mr. Chairman, the minister just outlined that there was a meeting last week in Halifax that I attended. It was a meeting of CEOs of health organizations, including deputy ministers of health, to talk about the challenges of health expenditures across Canada. This is in preparation for the Health Accord which is expiring in 2014 and what to strategize around that with the federal government on developing our game plan and business case to access more funding.

The federal government, to this point, hasn't been very receptive to providing funding to health facilities in particular. We did provide our own list of requirements when the call letter came out to ask for provinces and organizations to submit into the federal fund that they were doing at the time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Further questions? I don't see Mr. Elliott anymore. Ms. Ugyuk

**Ms. Ugyuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In referring back to the contents of the 2011-12 capital estimates, it seems that some of the capital items for Taloyoak have been deferred.

Specifically, with relation to this issue, ever since the Nunavut government was created, our community has been requesting a new health centre. Why is this capital project being deferred once again? Based on this continual deferral, it seems that the Nunavut government is not cognizant of the growing needs of the residents of Taloyoak. We have been requesting this facility for a very long time. It even went as far as a design plan for a new facility as well as its capital construction costs. They expended funds to get the design plans for the centre.

The local council of the Hamlet of Taloyoak continually prioritizes the health centre as a much needed facility, but it seems like our request for a new health facility is turned down every year. It has reached a point where we have lost hope for a new health facility. Taloyoak residents only see that our capital projects are continually deferred and delayed, and the health centre is always taken out. My question is: will the department actually undertake this project as it is outlined in the timing plans for the year 2013-14? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Tagak Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I understand

exactly where you're coming from. If we had money, we would build all of these health centres all at the same time.

For example, at the beginning of the last fiscal year, we didn't build one health centre at all. If we had money last year, we would have built one in Repulse Bay. Once that was completed, we would have moved on to Arctic Bay. The third priority has always been Taloyoak. We haven't made any changes, but we have to delay them because we didn't get any more funding. We're not juggling the monies, but we wanted to make sure that the architectural drawings were completed.

I would like to have my deputy minister respond to the reason for the delays, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Campbell** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) The three health facilities, including Taloyoak, Arctic Bay, and Repulse Bay, have always been the priority. As members would know, over the past several years, the three of them have always been in our capital plans. The issue has been the affordability of delivering those capital plans. There have been financial issues that everyone is aware of, as the minister says, that we can't build all three health centres in one year. We have to cash flow the dollars to do that, as well as construction companies are few and far between these days. So the capacity of delivering the facilities is also an issue. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Ms. Ugyuk** (interpretation): I wanted to ask this question: since the creation of the Nunavut government in 1999, I wanted to know why we were the third community slotted to get a health centre. Thank you.

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

**Hon. Tagak Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think that we can all recall that the previous government had set a priority to build the health centres for the bigger communities.

The new Qikiqtani General Hospital took several years to be built. The Cambridge Bay Health Centre will be getting utilized more by Kitikmeot residents. For example, patients who have medical appointments now go to Cambridge Bay instead of Yellowknife. They also built a centre in Rankin Inlet. Those were the three big projects. They are not just servicing the local people, but they are servicing the region. Now that those three are completed, we are looking at the smaller communities. Of those three, Repulse Bay has always been first in line.

The reason why we are always short of money is not just the health budget. We are also competing with the Department of Education and the Department of Community and Government Services, such as for what the hamlets are asking for. There is approximately \$90 million to \$100 million set up for capital projects a year for the whole of Nunavut. When they are not given a portion of

that, the monies are slotted to build the schools.

That is why I named the three communities. Once Repulse Bay and Arctic Bay are complete, Taloyoak will be the third one. They are in the capital plans at this time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Ms. Ugyuk** (interpretation): If the construction is started in both Repulse Bay and Arctic Bay and is delayed again, then would we be further delayed as well? That is how I understand it. It is like a domino effect. If they are delayed, then we are delayed further. Thank you.

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

**Hon. Tagak Curley** (interpretation): Thank you. It is only when we are not given the money that there would be a delay in the construction. If you agree to this budget, then Repulse Bay will go ahead. Those other two communities are in the five-year capital plan. We can't make any changes once it is agreed to in the House. I don't see a delay at this time unless an emergency situation arises. So that is the direction we're taking and we're not going to be making any changes at this point. Thank you.

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

**Ms. Ugyuk** (interpretation): I have another question. The nurses and the social workers are in your department and they are short of staff housing in the Kitikmeot region. With the building of

these health centres, are they going to come with adequate staff housing, or how is it going to work?

Some people are reluctant to work when they don't have adequate staff housing and they don't want to share accommodations with another employee. I would like to get an answer to that one. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Campbell**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is a dilemma that we have in all of our staffing requirements. There are a number of communities where there are staff housing shortages and it's been a bit of a challenge trying to fill the nursing positions as well as social workers in these communities.

We continue to work with the Housing Corporation to identify our priorities for those communities. I know the housing crunch in the Kitikmeot particularly is an issue. We are trying to hire positions there with no housing. So that is just an overall challenge that we, as government departments, have and we need to work with the Housing Corporation to identify our requirements.

What we're doing now in the health centres as part of the design is including apartments in those facilities. That is why it is costing us a little bit more money to construct the health facilities. As an example, the three that we're talking about now, there are going to be apartments attached to those units. That's one way of addressing some of those challenges. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Ms. Ugyuk** (interpretation): I would like to know if there is going to be housing provided in Taloyoak specifically. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Campbell:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again I can't give a definite answer to that question. What I can say, though, as I said in my previous answer, is in the design for the Taloyoak Health Centre we will provide instructions to the design people to include apartments in that unit to house at least the nursing staff. That's a commitment I can make. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Campbell. I have no other names on my list. We can now review the capital estimates. Go to page F-3. Directorate. Health and Social Services. Capital estimates for 2011-12. Total Capital Expenditures. \$34,861,000. Details are on page F-4. Are there any questions? Mr. Aupaluktuq.

**Mr. Aupaluktuq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under F-3, "Under the authority of the Minister, the Directorate provides leadership and direction to the department and monitors health and social service program delivery to the public, including health and disease surveillance."

Mr. Chairman, this is a comment followed by a question. There are concerns shared at the regional and, in fact, territorial level of delivery of service due to the result of what is

viewed as weak communication between health centres regionally and territorially and the department offices, such as inquiries, requests, consultation, callback, and a clear understanding of policies and procedures. There needs to be clearer directive and understanding of policies to best serve quality services and, in effect, enhance quality of life to all Nunavummiut.

Can the minister ensure that all levels of communication at Health and Social Services are responded adequately so that accountability and fundamental delivery of health needs are addressed? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. That is more for operations. We are dealing with the capital estimates and I don't believe the minister or the staff is set up for those types of questions. To the capital estimates. Ms. Ugyuk.

**Ms. Ugyuk** (interpretation): I would like to ask about the shelters that are funded by your department. In Taloyoak, we have a women's shelter that has been closed for quite some time due to lack of funds. Could Taloyoak access some of the \$700,000 in order to fix the problem and reopen the women's shelter? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Tagak Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We can take it into consideration, but I cannot commit to it at this time. It would be best if either I or my deputy minister receive correspondence so that we can then consider it. It would be good if you have

the Taloyoak hamlet write to us in order to get the process going because I want to help as much as I can. I would appreciate receiving correspondence about that. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Curley. Are there any more questions? We are on the capital estimates for the Department of Health and Social Services. We are on F-4. Total Branch. \$34,861,000. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): You have agreed to that figure, so we can now go to the capital estimates on F-2. Detail of Expenditures. Capital estimates for 2011-12. Total Capital Expenditures. \$34,861,000. Does the committee agree that we have concluded Health and Social Services?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): We have concluded with the Department of Health and Social Services. I now give the minister an opportunity to make his closing remarks. Minister Curley.

**Hon. Tagak Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank you for your questions. It gives us a clearer picture of what the needs are in Nunavut. If you would like any more information, we are always available. It's quite hard because dealing with health facilities and infrastructure is quite challenging. Only because of your support can we proceed with some of the projects that we would like to do beginning April 1. I will conclude with that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Curley. I would like to thank you and your officials. Sergeant-at-Arms, if you would escort them out, please.

We have concluded with the Department of Health and Social Services, so we will now move on to the Nunavut Housing Corporation. It's the same minister with that portfolio, so I'm sure that he is readily available. We will give them a few seconds to get prepared. Minister Curley, if you have your opening comments ready, you now have the floor. Minister Curley.

### **Bill 38 – Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2011-2012 – Nunavut Housing Corporation – Consideration in Committee**

**Hon. Tagak Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The corporation's capital plan... I'm sure there won't be any questions, so I'll just start my opening comments.

The corporation's capital plan for 2011-12 has been set at \$23,894,000 from the Government of Nunavut and additional funding of \$4,290,000 from Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC), for a total capital budget of \$28,184,000.

The 2011-12 capital estimates main highlights are:

First, the Nunavut Housing Corporation's funding for the modernization and improvement (M&I) retrofit to the LHOs, the Fire Damage Replacement Fund, the Mobile Equipment Fund, and the Seniors and Disabled Persons Preventative

Maintenance Program remain at approximately the same level as last year.

The corporation has responded to requests for more staff housing by adding the funding for the new school in Clyde River, as well as additional units for the new correctional facility in Rankin Inlet.

The corporation has also responded to homeowners by providing a new Heating Oil Tank Replacement Program (HOTRP).

The corporation continues to renovate older staff housing units in communities with the greatest needs.

I am pleased to report that the Nunavut Housing Trust delivery is proceeding with the last of the 725 units.

Construction on the housing units is continuing despite challenges in prior years. I believe the ship has already arrived to the communities. We have learned lessons from these challenges and have remained flexible to suit community circumstances. In addition, the material for the new 285 units funded by the CMHC Affordable Housing Initiative has been delivered. We were able to award labour contracts to complete 60 units, as well as a contract to shell in 115 structural insulated panel units (SIPs).

Funding for the CMHC affordable housing units have been appropriated outside the capital estimates process and has not been included in the information provided today.

Mr. Chairman, as previously announced by Minister Peterson and myself,

changes to this plan is already in process. FMB has authorized the Nunavut Housing Corporation to redirect \$10.9 million in funding from the plan you have in front of you for use in completing the 285 affordable housing units.

I'm not too sure if you're going to have questions, Mr. Chairman, but that concludes my opening comments. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Curley. Minister Curley, do you have any witnesses you would like to bring to the table?

**Hon. Tagak Curley** (interpretation): I would like to invite the president and the finance comptroller. Thank you.

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

**Some Members:** Agreed.

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

Thank you, Sergeant-at-Arms, for escorting the officials in. We probably know who the officials are, but we need their names stated for the record. Minister Curley, please introduce your witnesses. Minister Curley.

**Hon. Tagak Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my right is Alain Barriault and to my left is Lori Kimball, Finance Comptroller. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Curley. You just mentioned Alain Barriault's name. For the record, Alain Barriault is the President of the Nunavut Housing Corporation. Welcome. Thank you. The Chair of the Standing Committee on Community and Economic Development has opening comments. Mr. Rumbolt, you may proceed.

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to welcome the minister and his officials to the witness table here today.

I am pleased to provide opening comments on behalf of the Standing Committee on Community and Economic Development as the Committee of the Whole begins its consideration of the proposed 2011-12 Capital Estimates of the Nunavut Housing Corporation. Members note that the corporation is proposing to spend \$23,894,000 for the 2011-12 fiscal year. The corporation's capital budget was \$27,269,000 for the 2010-11 fiscal year and its budget was \$18,546,000 for the 2009-2010 fiscal year.

Mr. Chairman, the ongoing shortage of housing in Nunavut's communities is an issue of significant concern to all Members of the Legislative Assembly.

In May of 2009, the Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts held hearings on the Report of the Auditor General on the Nunavut Housing Corporation. The committee presented its report and recommendations in June 2009. Members urge the corporation to provide ongoing updates on the status of its responses to these recommendations.

On January 26, 2009, the former minister announced in the Legislative Assembly that the Nunavut Housing Corporation would be undertaking a housing needs survey. During the new minister's recent appearance before the standing committee, members were advised that the survey has been completed and has been sent to Statistics Canada. Members look forward to reviewing the findings of the survey and encourage the minister to table it in the House at the earliest opportunity.

Mr. Chairman, the Nunavut Housing Corporation administers a significant number of programs to assist homeowners and potential homeowners in Nunavut. Members note that the corporation is proposing to spend \$4,616,000 during the 2011-12 fiscal year for its various homeownership programs. The corporation's capital budget for homeownership programs was \$4,116,000 for the 2010-11 fiscal year and its budget was \$2,116,000 for the 2009-2010 fiscal year.

The number of Nunavummiut benefiting from these homeownership programs has increased significantly, as is illustrated by the increase in the number of approved applications for Nunavut Housing Corporation programs. Members have been informed that approximately 171 applications have been received this year to date. Members look forward to receiving ongoing updates on the corporation's homeownership programs.

On March 22, 2010, the former minister announced in the Legislative Assembly that the Nunavut Housing Corporation will be providing a new Heating Oil Tank Replacement Program. The



corporation is proposing \$500,000 in funding towards this program in its 2011-12 capital estimates. Members support this new program to assist homeowners with the cost of purchasing new fuel tanks and encourage the minister to include a breakdown of the corporation's spending on this initiative in its next annual report to the Legislative Assembly.

Mr. Chairman, the Nunavut Housing Corporation's proposed capital estimates for 2011-12 includes \$5.75 million in funding for new staff housing units associated with the new Rankin Inlet Correctional Centre. The Nunavut Housing Corporation's proposed capital estimates for 2011-12 also includes \$2.61 million in funding for new staff housing units associated with the new Clyde River Cultural School.

An additional \$2,280,000 for GN staff housing has been budgeted, although the corporation has not yet identified the communities in which the units will be constructed. Members support the construction of new units in communities where there are shortages of housing for frontline education and health staff. The committee also notes the importance of the Nunavut Housing Corporation working closely with departments to ensure that budgets adequately account for the incremental operating costs that accompany new units.

On September 21, 2010, the Nunavut Housing Corporation announced that \$50 million will be required to address the shortfall in the Affordable Housing Initiative. The announcement indicated that the Nunavut Housing Corporation "will reallocate \$11 million to this

construction program from other areas of its budget, and the Government of Nunavut will fully offset the remaining costs..."

During the minister's recent appearance before the standing committee, members were advised that the Nunavut Housing Corporation would be considering the reallocation of \$10.9 million in funding from its proposed 2011-12 capital estimates towards the shortfall. It was suggested that this might include funding from its fire replacement, staff housing, and modernization and improvement/retrofit budgets. Although the standing committee recognizes the pressure on the Nunavut Housing Corporation's budget, members note the importance of properly maintaining existing housing units.

On September 15 of this year, the Cabinet issued a news release following its Iqaluit retreat. This announcement included a list of what the government described as its most significant accomplishments of the past two years. One of the accomplishments included in the list was the completion of the "Condition rating of all public housing units..." Members encourage the minister to table this information in the Legislative Assembly at the earliest opportunity as it will undoubtedly be of use in determining where the Nunavut Housing Corporation needs to allocate its maintenance and improvement resources.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening comments on the 2011-12 Capital Estimates of the Nunavut Housing Corporation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. (interpretation ends) I must say that you are learning to deliver much better as you progress, so keep up the good work.

Before we proceed, I wish 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.

I suggest to members that wherever possible you ask your detailed questions during the page-by-page review of the departmental estimates. Do members have any general comments? Mr. Schell.

**Mr. Schell:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On the second page there of his opening address, he had mentioned that Minister Peterson himself had made changes to the plan we have in front of us and FMB had authorized the Housing Corporation to redirect \$10.9 million in funding. I would like to just... if you could explain to us where that funding is coming from. Are there some capital projects that are going to be cancelled or where is that \$10.9 million coming from? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Tagak Curley:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, that is the figure that we announced in order to meet the construction season we have for this coming year to address the shortfall that I indicated to the standing committee. I'm going to have a detailed outline

exactly what amount they are from our finance officer. So I would like your permission, Mr. Chairman, to have Ms. Kimball explain exactly which items have been proposed to cover the \$10.9 million. Thank you.

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

**Ms. Kimball:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's basically four items: the \$2.28 million for regular staff housing is one of the items; \$6,342,000 for M&I's; we still get \$4,290,000 from CMHC for M&I, so we usually have over a \$10 million budget, so we would just be covering that in half; \$1 million for fire damage replacement and with that what we are doing is deferring actual replacements and just doing the smaller damage out of prior year funding and spreading it over two years; and we have half a million dollars for M&I's for staff housing units. Again, we're just deferring some repairs and some staff housing units, but we're comfortable that that won't impact the usability of existing staff housing units. So that's it.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Ms. Kimball. Mr. Schell.

**Mr. Schell:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I find it a little alarming that you would be taking a pile of money out of M&I's because I know, in most of the communities, there are a lot of older housing units that need to be fixed and it would definitely help with the housing shortage. So I would like to know the reason for... Is it that they don't spend the money in some of the communities? Obviously I can understand why they didn't spend the money in some communities because LHOs were doing

the construction, so they didn't have the time, but I think the need is there for M&I's. I would like him to explain why they cut it out of M&I's. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Tagak Curley:** Thank you. Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the concern and the question. I think the member knows that the Nunavut Housing Corporation faced tremendous challenges this year, not only to try and raise some funds to cover the last remaining dollar amount that we require, to be specific, \$50 million, but we also had within the same fiscal year earlier this year to find \$60 million.

In order to complete the units, we felt it was our obligation as the Nunavut Housing Corporation to at least help out with sacrificing some of the costs that we asked Nunavutmiut to give up in raising \$50 million. It was a choice and for that, Mr. Chairman, I would like the president a bit more whether or not we're going to be able to maintain housing units in Nunavut with that amount being allocated to cover part of \$50 million. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Barriault:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The funding for M&I's that we are looking at deferring, as Ms. Kimball has pointed out, is a portion of the overall allocated budget. So there was still, I believe, over \$4 million to deal with priority replacement programs. In addition to this, through regular operating and maintenance funds, the

LHOs have abilities to do work through work orders. So it would be a matter of prioritizing which repairs are required the most and that way, the most critical items can still be addressed. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Barriault. Mr. Schell.

**Mr. Schell:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In your opening statement, you stated that you had enough money here, which we all know, basically, to complete 60 units, which is 12 five-plexes included, to shell in 115 of these SIP units, and you are using \$10.9 million from your own funding to subsidize this. My next question is: how are you going to finish these units in the near future? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Tagak Curley:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Even as we speak, the units are being completed in most communities throughout Nunavut. The construction schedule that has been established continues and the order delivery system that we are dealing with will continue to be implemented. All of the units have been tendered throughout and pretty well, the contractors are now... at least shelling the units continue. We still have to finalize the \$50 million portion part of it and that is in the works right now. The construction continues as of today.

Surely by next spring, most of the units should be completed before long, and the most important thing is that these units be completed and transferred to the local housing authorities. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Schell:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess my question is: where is the money going to come from to complete these units? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Tagak Curley:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think the members pretty well understood that the government as a whole has committed to completing that.

Having said that, Mr. Chairman, the Minister of Finance will, before long, announce exactly how he is going to find some funds to complete the units. The commitment is there to complete these units and find \$50 million. We have already indicated that we will put at least \$11 million, to round out the figure, towards that. I think the most important thing is that the question should be answered by the Minister of Finance. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Curley. We await the outcome of where they are going to find the \$49.9 million. Thank you, Minister Curley. Mr. Elliott.

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One of the questions I have, actually, it was not mentioned in your opening address, but I don't see it anywhere. It was something that was announced by the former minister when we were doing capital last year and it was the new office space and the building that is happening here in Iqaluit. I think there was \$5 million allocated to that. I was wondering if you could give us an

update as to what is happening with that building. Thanks.

**Chairman** (Mr. Ningeongan): Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Mr. Barriault.

**Mr. Barriault:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The status of that building is that it is completed and we are now occupying the building. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Was it built on time and within budget? Thank you.

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

**Mr. Barriault:** The building was pre-existing and as such, it was a purchase, not a construction. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Then I guess my next question is in regard to... . There has been talk about seven positions moving from Arviat to here. Is there adequate space for those positions in terms of office or will they be requiring additions onto this building? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Tagak Curley:** Thank you, *Iksivautaaq*. Thank you. I think, in terms of the space, I would like the president to explain further exactly the layout of the current facility and respond. If that were to happen, we still have to make the decisions on making it conditional. If

that were to happen, the president would be able to provide that response. So I will leave it to him right now, back to you, Chairman.

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

**Mr. Barriault:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There is currently room within the new office building of the Housing Corporation. Some of the space that we have within the building right now is used as storage but has been wired with connections so that it can be easily converted into office space as well, so there is definitely sufficient space. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My last question in regard to that office space and whatnot is: are they still leasing from the Parnaivik building where they used to be or is that totally out of the picture? I think it was explained that that would be a cost savings, so it wouldn't be an added expense. Thanks.

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

**Mr. Barriault:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Nunavut Housing Corporation is no longer leasing the space in the Parnaivik building. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On page 2 as well, just I guess some

more questions in regard to what Mr. Schell was asking because I may be a little bit slower in figuring this out, but... okay.

There are 725 units that are totally constructed and finished and that was the end of the Nunavut Housing Trust and there would be no more money, or dollars, or labour allocated to that project. Is that correct? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Elliott. (interpretation) Which of you would like to try and respond to that question? Minister Curley.

**Hon. Tagak Curley:** Thank you. I will respond in this way: since 2006, 725 units that were mandated by both the CMHC and the Nunavut government, most, if not all, of these units are complete, 725, but there may be some deficiencies and whatnot and still some work that have not been transferred directly to the housing groups yet but pretty soon, no doubt about it.

In terms of the 285 units of affordable housing, yes, most of these are now being completed or at least shelled in so that they can be completed throughout the winter. But in terms of the exact details, I want the president to separate the two so that the information the member needs will be correctly presented. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Barriault:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Of the Nunavut Housing Trust houses, there are still some that are in the process of construction as we speak. We will have this fiscal year the

bulk of those units completed. There are still some that have not been awarded yet for a number of reasons, but those are more exceptions than anything. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just find it strange that after overspending \$60 million and then overspending another \$50 million, after constantly being asked questions in the House, after having an audit which was not really an audit but a report done, you are still using words like some and bulk of the work.

You can't tell me how many of the 725. After all of the work that has been done, all of the problems that we've had, all of the concerns that MLAs have brought up, you don't have specific numbers in terms of 718 are totally finished and totally done and turned over to the LHOs, and two are 45 percent done.

Again, it just adds to that whole, "How did the audit get finished?" Were you on the phone with people in Arctic Bay saying, "How many of those houses are done up there? Well, they are almost all done." They put "almost" in the checkmark as being finished. You have no exact numbers to be able to tell me today in terms of what of the 725 are done.

My next question was going to be: if there are five houses still that need to be built, well, then what is the cost for these houses to be built? Again, I know another problem that is happening is deficiencies, which you mentioned in terms of leaks in the houses and

problems with having to fix things that weren't properly built.

Could you first clarify if you have exact numbers for us? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Elliott. I would caution that we stick to the capital before us. The report itself is separate and it was just tabled today. If you want to discuss it further, it will have to be on another time. Minister Curley, the question is: how many are done? Minister Curley.

**Hon. Tagak Curley:** Thank you. Mr. Chairman, I will be pleased to table the exact details. I don't think we can do it here right now, but I would like to table that information on exactly what the status of each units are. That will take a little more digging into and getting the paperwork out to him. All of us will have the same information. I think we can do that during these processes. I will commit to doing that.

In terms of trying to answer a question on the construction season that was awarded last year and so on, I think we need to be very cautious exactly how we respond to you. The reason I say that is we are experiencing cost overruns. Cost overruns means there is a shortage of funds that the Assembly had had to provide extra money to build the units, and so on.

The shipping season doesn't allow us to complete units now that were delivered since the ice breakup. There is such a thing as a construction season which is very limited. If you look at the construction season, exactly 100 to 200 last remaining housing units were awarded. It takes about a year and a half

sometimes for some communities to complete them. In some cases, in one season they do so, but that goes to the most experienced contractors.

In previous years, I think the member will understand that the local housing authorities, in some cases, were awarded units to build and obviously that created a bit of a challenge with the Nunavut Housing Corporation. By and large, I think many of the projects that they started last year are pretty well ongoing at the moment.

In terms of my remarks with minor inspections that are normally carry out for every section of the houses, which are normally done by independents, whether it be architects or engineers for all that matter, or mechanical, normally we don't turn these units over until all of these inspections are done. This is what I referred to, not major deficiencies but deficiencies that these inspectors will indicate.

If you need more information, I will be pleased to provide you in detail, but I think the Chairman has indicated some of the questions raised are administration. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Curley. I am sure that you will be on for another day tomorrow, so we will give you the time tomorrow to come up with the project and where they are. I'm sure you've got able officials who can review that quickly and figure that out. Mr. Elliott.

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I beg to differ. I think my questions are quite relevant because we are dealing with capital, we are dealing with

building buildings, and if the corporation that is responsible for building these buildings does not forecast properly how the money is being spent when they are telling us buildings are going to be built, then how do I know that I am passing a realistic budget?

So I don't understand why my questions are not relevant in the sense that we have been doing this since 2006 and we are finding out there are some real problems. You say right in your statement here that "We have learned lessons..." Obviously you have not learned lessons because you don't have numbers to provide to be able to forecast properly, which is what the problem is.

So I don't know why my question is being worded or being told that it is not relevant. Again, you would think that after all of these things that have happened, you go, "Okay, we've got 18 houses that are not built." Roughly that could be \$10,000 a house and you could obviously have an estimate as to how much this is going to cost. So I will, in good faith, hopefully get that information tomorrow, as Mr. Okalik has pointed out.

Some of the other questions that I have are... . The 285 units, that is the affordable housing project because... . Again, with the 725 houses that were built and the \$260 million price tag that was put on them, I thought we were done and over with it, and that project was over and we are now onto affordable housing. Now we have to worry about overruns more on the Nunavut Housing Trust. At the same time, we have to worry about overspending, which you had mentioned

there is going to be overspending for the affordable housing.

There are 60 units that are going to be complete, that's good, I like that number, and 115 are going to be shelled in. To me, if I did my math correctly, that means there are 110 that are going to sit over the next year in crates somewhere. Is that correct? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Elliott. I was cautioning the member about alluding to a report that was submitted. That was the only caution that I provided to the member. I had no issue with the status of the units that were supposed to be completed at some point. I believe the minister will undertake to table those, where they are at tomorrow, hopefully when we deal with this again tomorrow. Minister Curley, would you like to clarify?

**Hon. Tagak Curley:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, with all due respect to the member's privilege, I will in no way impede that whatsoever.

I responded mainly to the Chairman's ruling that some of the questions posed were what I would call O&M related and therefore, the Chairman indicated that. So I want to restrict my comments to what the standing committee or the current Committee of the Whole is being asked to do. We will provide more information, which will lead to more questions, no doubt, and I think we will have all of that by tomorrow.

With respect to your last question, we shall address those in more detail. At the moment, I would feel more comfortable by having the exact status of each

community. I think it will help us. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The question was: am I correct in that 110 of the SIP units under the Affordable Housing Initiative will be sitting in crates for the next year or construction season, as Mr. Curley put it? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Tagak Curley:** Thank you. Mr. Barriault will respond to those details. Thank you.

**Chairman (interpretation):** I apologize, Minister Curley. Mr. Barriault.

**Mr. Barriault:** Yes, Mr. Chairman. The balance of the houses that have not been awarded will indeed remain in crates over winter and hopefully for a spring start-up. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With the problems that have been reported in the past with theft of materials under the different projects, has there been any consideration put into that in terms of what would be left after the winter season? Thank you.

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

**Mr. Barriault:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We've had no reported theft



of full crates of materials to my knowledge. By keeping the materials in the crates and ensuring that they are secure, we should not have an issue with theft as well. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With a lot of the people I have talked to in the communities, my understanding is that construction would probably end in December and then people would be gone. Who will be, like you said, maintaining security for these crates after that time? Is it going to be something that the LHOs will be taking on as a responsibility? Thank you.

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

**Mr. Barriault:** If the member is referring to materials of work in progress, that material is in the hands and the responsibility of the contractor who has a labour contract. Remaining materials that have not been assigned to a contract are placed in an area in the community and, as the member suggested, the local housing organization, as a partner to the Nunavut Housing Corporation, would keep an eye on that material as well and report any problems. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As some of the new controls that have probably been implemented in terms of all of the... . Again, you said that some of the contracts have not been awarded and some of the contracts have. Each

community is probably different, but are we guaranteed that all of the materials have landed on the beach and someone has, in every community, taken inventory of every piece that is there even though a contract wasn't awarded?

I'm thinking, again, ahead that if it didn't come here now and it's missing, if someone opens up a crate, it's eight months from now, and says, "Oops, the boiler is missing," or something, I'm sure that they are going to say, "Too bad. Why are you coming back to me in eight months and why didn't you tell me this when it landed on the beach?"

So has an inventory been taken not just of the 60 units that are being constructed or the 115 that are being shelled in but the other 110 that are sitting in crates? Are those crates being opened up and checked to make sure that the inventory is there? Again, we're talking possibly millions of dollars worth of stuff disappearing or not being there. Thank you.

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

**Hon. Tagak Curley:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the question. Thanks for providing some ideas. But I think the member should know that we have a pretty good construction industry in Nunavut. I don't really truly believe, with respect to the possible thefts that were alluded to, I don't think it's widespread.

I think there are very minor things that have been mentioned in the report. At least the management report, is what I call it, is not... the management part of that report is really subject to a lot of

questions further, which we and myself have no way of getting back to them and ask some questions about it because I don't speak to the auditors and so on.

In terms of the construction industry, they are responsible for the details of security once they receive the possession and so on. We will make sure and ensure that they do itemize crates and whatnot. My understanding is, as one having to work there, that we do tend to itemize because there are such things as manifests involving claiming all of the material, whether they came in to town or not.

That will continue and I don't know whether we need extra major initiatives to do that, but we will advise them that they will do that. If they are taking a break, we want to make sure that the materials are secured. (interpretation) Thank you.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that. I wasn't actually alluding to theft; I was just alluding to possible "misordering," or ordering of too many items, or just pieces that were missed.

One of the other things I don't quite understand again is there are 110 houses that are sitting in crates in various communities across Nunavut and I still don't actually understand where that money is coming from for the labour to pay for those. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Elliott. (interpretation) Which of you would like to respond? Mr. Barriault.

**Mr. Barriault:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In terms of where the money is coming from for the completion of those units, as Minister Curley has indicated earlier, the Minister responsible for Finance will be addressing that. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In terms of the \$50 million we are talking about that will be used to build those 110, is it \$50 million? Is that the dollar figure we are talking? Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Elliott. (interpretation ends) Yes, it looks like \$39.9 million will come from finance somewhere. Mr. Barriault.

**Mr. Barriault:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, that is what we have been reporting. The \$50 million is the additional funding that will be required for the full completion of the 285 houses. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Barriault. Any further questions? I have Ms. Ugyuk on the list. Ms. Ugyuk.

**Ms. Ugyuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The two communities are written here for staff housing and looking at Taloyoak, there was no staff housing provided. When are we going to be slotted to have staff housing built? Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. We still haven't gotten to the capital estimates. We are dealing with the opening comments right now. I'll allow the question to be answered

this time, but you will have an opportunity to ask questions once we go to the page-by-page review of the capital estimates. Would someone like to answer the question? Mr. Barriault.

**Mr. Barriault:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At this point, there is no new construction of staff housing in Taloyoak that is scheduled. However, through our staff housing allocation committees, we have a forum whereby different hiring departments can bring forward their needs and that way, the Nunavut Housing Corporation can work with those departments to address those needs. Thank you.

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

**Ms. Ugyuk** (interpretation): I apologize. I was just looking at these and I think it would be best if we go directly to the line-by-line review.

There are teachers and nurses who have no staff housing. When is it going to be announced that there is going to be staff housing provided for employees of the departments of Education and Health and Social Services? We are hearing repeatedly that there is a shortage of funds. I would like to know if there have been any requests from the departments of Education and Health and Social Services to the Nunavut Housing Corporation for staff housing in Taloyoak. Thank you.

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

**Hon. Tagak Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't see it

here in the budget that we are dealing with, but what I can say is when we were in the health department, I heard the same question. I can tell you that the departments of Education and Health have to ask us how much staff housing they need and that is given to the Housing Corporation. Only then and if they are approved can we set aside some funds to build staff housing for teachers and nurses. If you have a shortage of staff housing, it's deliberated and then the budget is put together to decide how many staff housing units they need to build in a particular community.

I think it's best to go directly and see exactly how many staff housing units are going to be built in any community as they are not in the capital plans right now. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Curley. Are there any more questions? Ms. Ugyuk finished her line of questioning on that, but there are still names on the list of members who wish to ask questions.

At this time, I would like to recognize the clock. I thank you for now, minister and your officials. The Committee of the Whole will now adjourn for the day. Thank you, Minister Curley and your officials. Sergeant-at-Arms, if you could escort them out, please. Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. 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 38 and the capital estimates for the coming year, and would like to report progress. Also, Mr. Speaker, I move that the Report of the Committee of the Whole be agreed to. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Okalik. There is a motion on the floor. Is there a seconder? Mr. Rumbolt. Thank you. All those in favour, raise your hand. Opposed. The motion is carried.

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

**Item 22: Orders of the Day**

**Clerk** (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A reminder for meetings tomorrow, at 8:30, there is the Standing Committee on Legislation and at half past ten, a meeting of the Full Caucus.

*Orders of the Day* for October 21:

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

9. Replies to Opening Address
10. Petitions
11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motions
15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions
17. First Reading of Bills
  - Bill 39
  - Bill 40
  - Bill 41
18. Second Reading of Bills
19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
  - Bill 38
20. Report of the Committee of the Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills
22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

**Speaker:** Thank you. This House stands adjourned until Thursday, October 21, at 1:30 p.m.

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 18:00*

