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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

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**Iqaluit, Nunavut
Friday, October 22, 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. I would like to ask Mr. Shewchuk to say the opening prayer. Mr. Shewchuk.

>>*Prayer*

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Shewchuk. Good morning, Premier, Ministers, Members, and the good people of Nunavut. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Hon. Peter Taptuna.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

Minister's Statement 195 – 3(2): High Arctic Transportation Issues

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Good morning, Mr. Speaker, colleagues, and Nunavummiut. Good morning to all.

Mr. Speaker, I thank you for this opportunity to rise today before the Members of this House to update them on the work my department is doing to resolve the high cost of transportation in

the Quttiktuq communities of Arctic Bay, Resolute Bay, and Grise Fiord.

The study we are undertaking on the cost of transportation in those communities has brought forward many issues and has presented several options to take forward. These options have now been presented to the communities. It is our hope that the three affected communities can reach consensus on a single option to take forward into a strategy.

Mr. Speaker, all Nunavummiut are affected by the high cost of transportation. The solutions are complex and usually very expensive. The study and the consultations we have undertaken have demonstrated that this complexity and expense is even more pronounced in our High Arctic communities than it is anywhere else in the territory.

Each community is unique. Their situations and aspirations may be quite different. We realize that reaching a consensus may present a challenge but we feel it is important that the communities be instrumental in defining any program we put in place.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to once again thank the people who welcomed us to their communities and contributed to the discussion on how to improve lives in the High Arctic. I would also like to thank the member from Quttiktuq for his hard work both before and during our visit. I look forward to bringing that discussion before the Members this House upon its completion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Ministers' Statements. Hon. Lorne Kusugak.

**Minister's Statement 196 – 3(2):
Qulliq Energy Corporation
General Rate Application**

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Good morning. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Today, I would like to confirm that the Qulliq Energy Corporation has recently filed a General Rate Application, or GRA. It should be noted that this is only the second GRA ever filed by QEC. The last GRA was filed in 2004. As Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation, I have forwarded the GRA to the Utility Rates Review Council by my colleague, the Hon. Louis Tapardjuk, Minister responsible for the URRC. The URRC will review the application, consult with Nunavummiut, and will submit their recommendations once the process has been completed.

Mr. Speaker, we have to recognize the fact that the cost of generating electricity in Nunavut has increased since 2004. The majority of our plants are aging, and capacity increases over the short term cannot match growth in many of Nunavut's communities. We cannot ignore these shortfalls in service requirements. A safe, reliable, and efficient energy supply is essential in the North and is the primary mission of Qulliq Energy.

Mr. Speaker, the costs associated with generating electricity continue to increase and the price of diesel fuel remains volatile. Current electricity rates do not allow for any reinvestment in the form of infrastructure for Qulliq Energy;

they do not allow for investment in alternate energy options for Nunavut and this, in turn, hampers economic development and security of supply in general.

Mr. Speaker, I understand that this will be a contentious issue and I encourage all Nunavummiut to attend the community consultations where they occur. The Utility Rates Review Council needs to hear their opinions and suggestions and concerns regarding this issue.

We need to be innovative as we look for ways to minimize our dependence on imported fossil fuels. We need to be resourceful in finding renewable, economical alternatives.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to keeping my colleagues and all Nunavummiut informed on the GRA process as it moves forward. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Minister's Statement 197 – 3(2): 2010
Summer Student Employment
Equity Program**

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to inform my colleagues of the continued success of the Government of Nunavut's Summer Student Employment Equity Program.

Mr. Speaker, the 2010 Summer Student Employment Equity Program began on April 26 and ran until September 3. A

total of 144 students were hired and 106 of them, or 74 percent, were beneficiaries. Twelve different departments and agencies participated in the summer student program and there were placements in 16 of our communities. Mr. Speaker, the employment rate of beneficiary youth in summer student positions located in communities other than Iqaluit was over 97 percent.

As is in the past, Mr. Speaker, there was significant demand for Nunavut government summer student jobs and the number of applications this past summer was far more than the number of positions available. With the cooperation of departments, students were provided with jobs in a timely manner.

Mr. Speaker, the vision of our territory created by our elders will be fulfilled through a commitment to our youth. We will create hope for the future by providing meaningful and practical learning opportunities for our growing youth population and encouraging them to take an active role in their government through employment opportunities available to them.

Mr. Speaker, the Summer Student Employment Equity Program continues to provide Nunavut's young future leaders with valuable and relevant work experience within the Government of Nunavut in a wide variety of occupations across this territory. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Minister's Statement 198 – 3(2): Update on the European Union Seal Ban

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There have been many developments on the EU seal ban since a motion was passed in our legislature in March 2009 to officially oppose the European Union ban in seal products. I would like to take this opportunity to update my colleagues on my department's efforts to oppose the EU regulation that would have effectively banned the import of sealskins if it had taken effect on August 20, 2010.

Canada and Norway launched a joint complaint at the World Trade Organization in December 2009 but were unsuccessful in stopping the European Union ban. However, the Government of Nunavut supports Canada's continued efforts to appeal the EU ban through its formal request for a Dispute Settlement Panel at the World Trade Organization.

We have also provided Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami with documentation to support a legal challenge of the EU seal ban regulation; and we have contributed \$25,000 to the Nattivak and Pangnirtung hunters and trappers associations, two plaintiffs in the case. This legal challenge caused the President of the EU Court to suspend the implementation of the ban on August 19, 2010. I am pleased to report that a ruling issued just the other day on October 20 resulted in the protection of Inuit access to European sealskin markets.

>> *Applause*

This access had previously been threatened by the United Kingdom's interpretation of the legislation, demonstrating the emptiness of the Inuit exemption. For Nunavut's seal harvesters and craftspeople, this is another step in the right direction.

An Hon. Member: Hear, hear!

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: As was echoed by my colleagues last year with their unanimous support for the motion to oppose the EU seal ban, we recognize the importance of tirelessly fighting this ban on principle.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: We remain hopeful that the legal challenge presented by ITK and others will be successful as this is the only remaining avenue that could potentially dismantle the regulation.

We will also continue to work with the federal government's deputy ministers' working group on sealing to ensure sealing interests are promoted and to participate in the creation of a national seal products research and development strategy.

Mr. Speaker, our government will continue to work with determination to protect this vital part of Inuit culture and economic well-being. *Ma'na*, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Ministers' Statements. Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Kugluktuk, Mr. Taptuna.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 309 – 3(2): Millie Kuliktana

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm going to be reiterating my Member's Statement from yesterday upon several requests that I got from my constituency and other folks from Nunavut.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise again today to speak about a great community leader who has given her time throughout the years in providing leadership within our community through her work on the hamlet council and through her volunteering efforts on such things from organization the Nattiq Frolics to spearheading the formation of the Tahiuqtiit Society, which is a non-profit organization that sponsors local training for youth and other community members.

Mr. Speaker, Millie Kuliktana plays a vital part of our community and has been involved in the school system from working as a classroom assistant to her role as a teacher and, most recently, in her role as a director of school operations for the Kitikmeot region. Millie has also worked diligently with the youth of our community and has opened up her home on a number of occasions as an alternate to the streets.

As many of you have heard, Millie's health has taken a turn for the worse, having developed a very rare, life-threatening lung disease, which has put a halt to much of her beloved activities within the community. After being hospitalized for two months this fall, she has been allowed to return home to

Kugluktuk until January, at which time she is ordered by her doctors to relocate to Edmonton for an ongoing monitoring and treatment.

Mr. Speaker, this weekend, she will gain a new daughter-in-law, as Quinton and his fiancé, Laila Auttuq, from Igloolik have moved their wedding date up to allow Millie to celebrate it with them.

>>Applause

She also gets to celebrate Christmas at home with family, many relatives, and many friends within Kugluktuk.

Millie is unable to continue her employment and will be going on a long-term disability leave, and so it will be a great loss to education and to Nunavummiut and, of course, Kugluktuk.

Please recognize Millie Kuliktana with me this morning for her dedication and her commitment to education, and her personal commitment and desire to see better lives for Nunavummiut and Kuglukturmiut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Nattilik, Ms. Ugyuk.

**Member's Statement 310 – 3(2):
Arnavit Nipingit Conference**

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This summer, there was a conference held here in Iqaluit hosted by *Arnavit Nipingit*, where we met to discuss women's issues and debated various matters. The women want the

government to reconsider some issues they consider important. If you look at the outside of a box, it does not show what is inside of just by viewing it from the outside.

We would like the leadership of Nunavut to consider another group similar to the Qulliq Status of Women Council specifically geared towards men. The question was raised why men are not represented by a group that can advocate on their behalf. They would like this idea revisited, especially in light of the fact that men are being ignored.

We should not just be sending our men to the court system. Men comprise the largest percentage of suicides here in Nunavut. Men require an advocacy group that can represent their interests, especially with the fact that without support, men will continue to be on thin ice, so to speak.

In order to ensure that men are not abandoned and to ensure that they have a brighter future, the consensus was that a group should be created. Like some of the programs offered by the women's groups, in order to have a better future, healing programs are offered to start healing women so that they can get a better future. We see this impact, but yet it seems men are not included in these healing programs.

There are more men here in the House. However, men in Nunavut are being placed in hardship and stressful situations. Today, women are the ones who seem to be succeeding and it seems more women are becoming the heads of the households and the major wage earners in our communities in Nunavut

and in Canada. I wanted this to be understood. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. (interpretation ends) Members' Statements. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. Elliott.

**Member's Statement 311 – 3(2):
Congratulations to Carla
Oyukuluk**

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to congratulate one of my young constituents for having achieved national recognition.

Mr. Speaker, Carla Oyukuluk is a senior high school student at Inuujaq School in Arctic Bay. Carla was recently awarded first place in the Prince Edward Island Confederation Centre of the Arts Essay Competition.

Mr. Speaker, students from Prince Edward Island and Nunavut were invited to write essays related to the 2009 Symons Lecture that was given by Mary Simon, President of ITK.

Carla's essay was entitled Our Past and Present. Mr. Speaker, in reading her essay, it became clear to me that this thoughtful young woman is truly an example of what we mean when we say that the youth are our future. I am going to share some of her thoughts with the House today.

Mr. Speaker, Carla's essay touches on a number of important themes: the value of education, the need to bridge the gap between generations, and the challenges facing our territory in the future. What

she writes in her essay would fit in well with the issues that we consider in this House.

Consider what she has to say about education: "If I want to go to college or university, I am worried that I may not be prepared enough. One good advantage of living in Nunavut is that the Government of Nunavut financially supports students who attend college. The Inuit need this benefit in order to train and be educated for positions that people from the south now fill."

Mr. Speaker, Carla is clearly well aware of how decisions made in the international sphere affect us here at home. She notes that "One of the basic Inuit values is to have a respect for wildlife and it matters that the animals do not suffer when we hunt them. Like Mary Simon, I think people in Canada and abroad need to understand more about the Arctic and the Inuit. It's difficult for me to understand why people feel it is wrong to hunt seals."

Mr. Speaker, I spoke about the human dimension of arctic sovereignty earlier this week.

As a young resident of the territory, Carla knows that the decisions that we make today will impact her life and the lives of her generation tomorrow. She notes that "The weather in the Arctic has changed so much over the past few years. I can see it happening myself and not just through my grandparents' eyes. Sometime soon, the Northwest Passage will be open. Oil spills and exploration of the Arctic environment will likely threaten the wildlife and habitat we depend on."

Mr. Speaker, at this time, I wish to request unanimous consent to continue with my Member's Statement. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Mr. Elliott is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Are there any nays? There are none. Please proceed, Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

At the appropriate time, I will be tabling a copy of Carla's essay and I encourage all members to read it with care. I would also like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to her teacher, Paulette Campbell.

I ask all members to join me in congratulating Carla for making us proud. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 312 – 3(2):
Climate Change – Inuit
Perspective on Isuma TV**

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Good morning. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to say "good morning" to my constituents in Igloolik. They are apparently not watching the proceedings on TV, but it is working in Hall Beach, so I extend good morning wishes to all Hall Beach residents.

The reason why I rise this morning is to share my pleasure on a video that was just released. We are often notified about climate change impacting the globe and

that a lot of researchers state that climate change is causing global warming. I believe a couple of years ago, Al Gore, the former Vice-President of the United States, made a video speaking about climate change and global warming.

Mr. Speaker, the reason why I rise today is because we, as Inuit, use our elders as a foundation and they are asked about their observations regarding climate change. The elders have presented their knowledge, and we worked with Zacharias Kunuk, who partnered with Ian Mauro. They filmed elders from Pangnirtung, Iqaluit, Resolute Bay, and Igloolik about their observations of the effects of climate change.

Though starting tomorrow, the video will be available on Isuma TV's website and will be available for viewing. The video is in Inuktitut, and Zack Kunuk is a very good and well-renowned filmmaker. There will be another video outlining the Inuit perspective on how climate change is impacting the Arctic. The video outlines the most notable observations that elders have noted and their recommendations to meet the challenges for the future.

I am very proud of Isuma TV and Zach Kunuk and Ian Mauro, so please join me in congratulating them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Tapardjuk. Members' Statements. Member for Rankin Inlet South and Whale Cove, Mr. Kusugak.

**Member's Statement 313 – 3(2):
Rankin Inlet Graduates of Maani
Ulujuk School**

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you. My sister is in Igloolik and I would have said hello, but unfortunately they are not hearing the proceedings.

I would like to say “good morning” to the residents of Whale Cove and Rankin Inlet. Tomorrow during Saturday, I know for a fact that they will be out hunting in Whale Cove and Rankin Inlet. I envy them so.

In Rankin Inlet this summer, I was invited to attend a graduation ceremony and it was very gratifying. There were a lot of graduates at the Maani Ulujuk High School. The parents were very happy and proud of their graduating children. A lot of our students are very skilled and capable, and I want to acknowledge them today. In Rankin Inlet, they celebrate the graduation in August.

There are 22 graduates and they are: Sinead Anderson, Hilary Angidlik, Leroy Bruce, Joseph Qajaaqjuaq Curley, who is the son of my colleague from Rankin Inlet, Lisa Dunkerley, Tyler Gatehouse, Tracy Ford, Amelia Ipkornerk, Hilary Irwin, Simeonie Makpah, Jacob McLeod, Harry Niakrok Jr., Kyra Nokkitok, Crystal Nukapiak “Pataa,” and my beloved grandson’s dad, Mike Nukapiak, Kimberly Okalik, Andrew Uuyukuluk Pilakapsi, Robbie Sateana, Kalai Pilakapsi, Nellie Pissuk, Robert Simik, and Tyler Tattuinee.

Let’s be proud of these graduates and we hope that they are successful in their chosen careers. I support them as

Nunavummiut since they are our future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 314 – 3(2):
Letter from Young Constituent**

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to continue on some of the perspectives that the youth have because they have valuable insight which can help us in our deliberations today.

Our grandchild will be arriving and I want everybody to know that I’m busy this weekend. Apparently my grandchild went to Baker Lake to visit my wife’s relatives and they were looking after our grandchild, and this was due to bad weather.

Now, the youth in the high schools write essays and letters to the members and throughout the year and I tend to read these letters.

(interpretation ends) “Dear Tagak Curley, my name is Marie Tiriaq Qasalluaq. I am 15 years old in grade 10. I am a resident of your riding, Rankin Inlet North.”

That’s a good place to live.

>> *Laughter*

I can tell you that.

“I am writing you this letter to tell you that Rankin needs a better place to live.”

I'm going to shorten it.

"It is also expensive to go down south to watch a movie. We need a better hangout place and a bigger one due to the population raise in Rankin Inlet that has a snack bar and a part to relax with iPods and finish the sleep we needed the night before.

I also wanted to see a hip hop crew to train us how to dance because, at the teenage dances, there are a few dancing and to make it more interesting to have a dance-off after a busy day.

Rankin Inlet residents will be happy to see a better community grow because, if this ever happens, people from other communities will hear about this and might want to move here. They might want to see their relatives whom they miss dearly."

This is one I want everyone to mark. Note it.

"Bigger communities equal better communities. More jobs equal happier people."

At this time I thank you for your time and reading this letter. I hope to hear from you in the future. (interpretation) I will be responding to the author via correspondence. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 315 – 3(2): Dialectal Differences of Inuit

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today being Friday, I would like to use part of our usual practice in the past.

In the past when I was a young adult, I had to go the hospital in Montreal. At that time, we used to combine Nunavut and Nunavik Inuit in the same boarding home in Montreal. I was there and there was an elderly Nunavik resident who was unilingual, who asked me to come to the store with him.

His dialect was new to me, so I was trying to emulate and say "yes" in the Northern Quebec dialect. I said "*Auka*," which I found out retroactively means no. The elder just sat down and although I was trying to get ready, he just sat down and I supposed he didn't want to go, so I just sat there. We had sat for about an hour and he came back to me, "Let's go to the corner store, shall we?" Again I said "*Auka*." I would get ready because I thought I was saying yes, but he would just sit down.

The next day, I asked another Nunavik resident that I was wondering why that elder would ask me to go to a store and I would say "*Auka*" when I was trying to say "yes." He then told me that that means no and that I kept saying no to the elder. When I finally realized that, I asked how they say "yes." He said, "*Aa*." That's how we say "yes." I was so regretful of turning down that elder who kept requesting me to go to the store with him. When I finally went out with that elder, I told him about it.

Even though we're all Inuit, we have slightly different dialects and slightly different customs, so we have to be open to other clans. This was one that really showed me the difference. I am very happy to relate that story to you now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Okalik. Members' Statements. (interpretation ends) Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit West, Mr. Okalik.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 455 – 3(2): The Use of Plastic Bags in Nunavut

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will be raising a question on an issue that is not new. I know, Mr. Speaker, that this is relevant to you since you used to raise questions in regard to this matter. The issue that I would like to raise is the stores' use of plastic bags. We are learning about the effects of these plastic bags and that they have a long life when they are on the land. Some of these materials take between 100 to 1,000 years to degrade.

When plastic bags are broken into smaller pieces, they can be ingested by animals, such as fish and birds. The animals mistakenly assume that these bits are food, so they ingest them. Due to these materials in their systems, it then causes illnesses in these animals. Again, these are the animals on which we depend. I know that we have not reached that stage yet, but we will eventually

reach it, as we have seen the impacts in the southern environment.

I would like to raise this question to the minister with regard to some of the stores because they are now using materials that are more biodegradable and that can disappear. Although they are a low number, there are some stores that are still using plastic bags. How can the Minister of Environment encourage these stores to stop utilizing these plastic bags? 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. The member brings up a very good point that we have talked about in the past. As we all know, all of our communities have this problem that he outlines, and we have all seen that about these bags in the dumps being blown all over and onto the land and into our oceans. It's a very important thing that we look at and we are looking at it.

In 2008, Mr. Speaker, the department initiated an anti-litter project to encourage the use of reusable shopping bags. At that time, we distributed four reusable shopping bags to each household in Nunavut; 9,200 bags were distributed across the territory. This was a very successful campaign, and we do see some of these bags being used in the community and I encourage to people to use them more. If we need to get more bags out there and people request for them, we will.

We recognize that there are businesses that have the use and are initiating the

use of reusable bags and we encourage that to continue. I say “yes” to the member requesting that I encourage and write letters to businesses that aren’t using reusable bags. I will do that. I think it’s a very important campaign.

I think all of us have a responsibility here though, including hamlets and individual people, to use reusable bags and to encourage their stores and businesses to switch to reusable bags too. Again, this issue and this problem will be part of waste management strategy plan that we are working of with Community and Government Services. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Those of us who are bilingual and those who can utilize the Internet were learning a lot about these materials. In talking about plastic bags, they will continue to degrade the environment, and they have drastic impact issues, but it’s the unilingual people who do not know the impact of plastic bags. They’re really impacting our environment and polluting it.

I would like to further encourage the Department of Environment that, if they could do a public education system or information system on plastic bags, they could talk about the impact of plastic bags on the environment. I know that Inuit are concerned about oil spills, but these plastic bags come from oil. They are made from the by-products of oil, so we our littering our environment.

Our unilingual Inuit have to be taught about the impacts of plastic bags on the

environment, so I’m wondering whether they have a public education campaign ready. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This has been done through the anti-littering campaign and through distribution of our shopping bags to all households in Nunavut. Information did go out in both English and Inuktitut. However, if there is a need and demand for any communication that we do send out there, we can do that in both languages, Mr. Speaker. Thank you very much.

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

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I related earlier, there are more and more stores that are using biodegradable bags here in Iqaluit. This is very meaningful to me because it’s visible. I keep trying to remind the stores, “Keep it up. Let’s try to make your care for the environment visible and reducing or reusing materials.” Although these materials cost a bit more and the cost to them have an impact, their concern about the environment is more important to them.

Therefore, my question to the minister is: perhaps we should make that mandatory to take out the plastic bags so that the cost of the grocery bags will be equal. It seems like we’re rewarding the people who buy these cheaper plastic bags with this effort. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I agree with the member. This is a very important issue and if we can reduce the use of plastic bags and switch to biodegradable, reusable bags, that's what we strive to do. I will tell the member that I will make an effort to contact all businesses in Nunavut and encourage them to do that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again I refer back to the stores that I'm very proud of because, although this is not a very big issue, these small business owners who are working hard to make a profit have included biodegradable plastic bags, even though it's costing them.

I think it's important that we acknowledge small business owners who have a very big concern about the environment and are doing something about it. We should offer them recognition maybe by achievement certificates or offer awards of those sorts. I would like to further encourage the Minister of Environment to, perhaps, publicly recognize private businesses that are showcasing their efforts to protect the environment. So I would like to urge the minister to do such an initiative. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I absolutely will take the member's comments into consideration and recognize the proper people.

However, at this opportunity, I would like to encourage all Nunavummiut to use the bags that were supplied to them in their households and to specifically talk to each individual business in their communities and voice their concerns about these plastic bags and how they are blowing all over the land and how detrimental they could be to the environment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 456 – 3(2): Uranium Development in Nunavut

Mr. Aupaluktuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker and I say "good morning" to you. I also wish to extend good morning wishes to the residents of Baker Lake and I hope they have a wonderful day.

Prior to my raising this question, I wanted to note that the person that our hon. colleague, Tagak Curley, referred to, Marie Tiriaq Qasalluaq, shares the same Inuk name as I do. It was very pleasing to hear what she requested from the minister. According to *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit*, our namesake forecast that the Inuit named after him would be fluent in English. My fellow namesake is already smarter than I am, as she showcased with her letter.

(interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Premier.

I would like to follow up on some of the questions that I asked earlier this week concerning the government's response to the petition that I presented in June of this year concerning uranium mining in Nunavut. I'm looking forward to getting some clear answers on behalf of my constituents.

As I noted earlier this week, the government plans to hire consultants to study the issue of uranium mining and hold a public forum on the issue. In which communities will the public forums be held and on what dates will they take place? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): I also say "good morning" to the people in Iqaluit East as well as Nunavut residents.

I thank you for raising that question, my hon. colleague. With regard to the operations of the research, it has been outlined. At this point in time, we're not sure whether they are going to be feasible, but we have conducted a feasibility study. At the start of the 2011 calendar year, they will be conducting that study. They will be in these communities in the Baffin, the Kivalliq, as well in the Kitikmeot. They will be conducting studies in all the communities of the regions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would recommend the Premier identify which communities in

those three regions would be visited or entertained as well.

Mr. Speaker, in one her replies to my questions that I asked on Wednesday, the Premier informed the House that the Minister of Health and Social Services "is also seeking public input" on this issue.

I want to take a moment to pay tribute to the Minister of Health's exceptionally distinguished record on this issue, including his past service with the Northern Anti-Uranium Coalition.

Can the Premier tell me how the Department of Health's review will be coordinated with the upcoming public forums? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To provide more detail about the communities in these three regions, in Iqaluit, Baker Lake, and Cambridge Bay, they will be conducting these studies. These three communities will be where they conduct the study.

However, with regard to the question you just phrased now, I just used that as an example. If he misunderstood it, I was just trying to state that this research will be used through different avenues. The data will be used by different research, for example, through telephone calls, email surveys and/or personal visits.

With regard to the computer survey, I was just referring to that as another option. In that same medium, the

Department of Health and Social Services is conducting a survey and they will be trying to incorporate more people through the telehealth initiative.

Now, with regard to the policies and when they're trying to develop rules and procedures on issues related to uranium mining, it doesn't really deal with that particular issue. The health issues are not really related to that, but the questions for the survey regarding uranium mining have just been developed now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. No doubt that the departments of Health and Social Services and Environment will be contributing as well.

Public health and well-being is a priority foremost for all Nunavummiut, and it's something that we all based on as a culture, that we have been here for thousands of years, and public health and well-being has always been the mandate of our people in order to survive amongst various skills and abilities.

Mr. Speaker, I wanted to ask as well... . The Premier told us on Wednesday that the government is going to be hiring consultants to "tell us exactly what uranium development entails."

As we all know, different consultants bring different perspectives to an issue. Some people are pro environment while others are pro mining.

Can the Premier tell us exactly who will make the final decision concerning the consultants that will be hired; the Department of EIA, the Department of Economic Development, or the Department of Health? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The researcher who will be checking on a number of topics in this survey will be utilizing experts in the field of uranium mining. We will also include representatives of the mining industry. As well, in particular, we will try to deal with groups that are extremely concerned about uranium mining and advocacy groups. We will also be looking at Canada-wide groups. I am not sure how to pronounce it properly in Inuktitut, but they are also requesting for information from the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission.

There are different avenues and different parties that we will be requesting for information from, both those who are pro mining and pro environment. Also, as a government, we don't want to unilaterally deal with this issue. If we did that, people would state that we are either pro mining or pro environment.

That's why we're trying to use an outside agency that has no connections to anyone in Nunavut to conduct the study because it would be a more objective finding. So once the questionnaires have been completed, we will be reviewing the findings resulting from this survey. The findings will be

presented to the Government of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Perhaps, at a later date, the Premier will be able to advise this House on who will make the final decision on this process.

For my final supplementary, Mr. Speaker, I would like to say to the Premier that she told us on Wednesday that the government is now moving towards developing a formal policy on uranium development. Who will actually be writing the policy, consultants or public servants? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Madam Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's quite obvious that the findings of the study will showcase the perspective of Nunavut residents as it relates to uranium mining.

With regard to the policy and the preparation of this mining strategy, this is called a plan. It states that we should be providing guidelines or regulations for Nunavummiut. It is obvious that the department dealing with this will be the Department of Economic Development and Transportation. They deal mainly with strategic direction papers.

Again it rests on getting the information from that survey because it will highlight the direction that we need to go. At that time, I will be happy to report on the

findings of the survey and convey it to you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 457 – 3(2): Northern Economic and Sovereignty Infrastructure Conference

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Premier and they concern the recent Northern Economic and Sovereignty Infrastructure Conference that was held earlier this month. I noted that the GN was listed as a platinum sponsor on their list of sponsors. Can the Premier tell us today how much the government's contribution was to receive this status? Thank you.

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

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will take this question as notice and get back to the member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Premier. Mr. Elliott, your question has been taken as notice. Oral Questions. Member for Natilik, Ms. Ugyuk.

Question 458 – 3(2): Nunavut Schools' Attendance Policies

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Education.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I appreciated the reply to my written question regarding school attendance

rates in Nunavut. However, the response has raised more questions about what is being done right now to address attendance issues in Nunavut's schools. I am greatly concerned that, in the time it takes to transition from old policies to new ones, as required under the new *Education Act*, we are going backwards instead of forwards.

The response to my written question indicates there may be further delays in the requirements to have attendance policies in place. Can the minister advise this House on what steps are being taken in the short term to address this very serious issue? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister of Education, Hon. Hunter Tootoo.

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for the question. Mr. Speaker, I know that's a very important issue. It's something that was echoed to me by all of the chairs of the DEAs when I met with them twice earlier this week.

Mr. Speaker, the department is developing a new student records system and that's something that we are using to hopefully keep better track of what the rates are. I think one of the other things that were mentioned is that we need to do and we are looking at ways to get more information out to the parents.

One of the suggestions that were made to me at that meeting earlier this week by one of the DEA chairs was, once the attendance policies are developed by the local district education authorities that are provided to the regional school operations, that we would share those. I would be happy to share those with the

government offices in every community so that the parents who are working see exactly what the community policy is and are reminded on a more regular basis, "This is what it is. So please ensure or check that your child is in school."

So there have been some collaborative work and ways with the DEAs, and we looked at working with other departments to try and help curb this situation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Your first supplementary, Ms. Ugyuk.

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) The Department of Education has introduced a number of programs to encourage students to stay in school, such as the Young Parents Stay Learning Program that the minister spoke about yesterday. Can the minister describe what role attendance plays in determining whether or not a student will be promoted to the next grade level after the completion of a school year? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Tootoo.

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can't get into the exact details of that, but I'm sure that there are standard requirements for any student to be able to move forward in the education system, from one grade to another, and the need for curriculum that needs to be learned and that's taught and learned at certain standards to be able to move forward.

As far as the exact weight that is applied to attendance as far as whether or not someone moves forward, I don't have

that particular information, but I would be more than happy to get my departmental officials to provide it to me and I would be more than happy to provide that to the member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Your second supplementary, Ms. Ugyuk.

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) It is important that a consistent system be used to record and measure attendance in all schools and across all regions in Nunavut. Can the minister advise this House as to when his department will have completed its new student information system and what the timelines are for its implementation? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Tootoo.

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will get the exact dates of exactly the work that has been taking place to progress. I know it's something that has taken some time to develop and implement.

I totally agree with the member, and I think that's one of the things that's outlined with the new *Education Act* is that the policies in regard to attendance or something that are important, we have been working with the local DEAs in each community to develop those policies. The department has held workshops in assisting and helping to draft those policies with the district education authorities in each of the regions. As far as exactly when that system will be running, I will again provide that information to the member. I know it's something that there's work

in progress and moving forward on them.

As far as the exact date as to when we hope to have that implemented completely, it's something... as I said, there is a lot of consultation back and forth, not only within the department but the regional school operations and each of the communities' DEA organizations. I'll get that information and provide it to the member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Your final supplementary, Ms. Ugyuk.

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we feel for the children. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, attendance rates for the 2009-2010 academic year were not available when the response to my written question was prepared. A quarter of a year has gone by since then and we are now close to 2011. Are the 2009-2010 attendance rates for Nunavut's schools now available and, if they are, would the minister commit to tabling them at the earliest opportunity? (interpretation) Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Tootoo.

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The member thinks like me. I asked that same question, where are they and when will they be ready. They will be ready soon and as soon as they are available, I will provide them to the member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 459 – 3(2): Problems with Annual Sealift

Mr. Ningeongan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) Prior to my question, I would like to say “good morning” to Chesterfield Inlet and Coral Harbour residents, as well as all Nunavummiut.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the Minister of Community and Government Services.

Earlier this month, I attended the meeting of Kivalliq mayors in Rankin Inlet. One of the issues that were discussed during these meetings was the problems that our region has been facing this year with its sealift services from NTCL.

On June 8 of this year, the minister tabled the government’s most recent annual report on the dry cargo resupply program. The report states that “the Kivalliq region receives GN contract service by NTCL out of Churchill and out of Montreal by NSSI.” I should mention that Coral Harbour has been particularly frustrated, as NTCL has cancelled its service to the community for the last two sealift seasons.

In light of the problems that our region has been facing, is the government reviewing its current arrangements for the annual dry cargo resupply in the Kivalliq? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We were able

to attend the Kivalliq mayors meeting and the meeting proceeded smoothly.

With regard to the barges in the Keewatin, they were delayed significantly and when they conducted a safety inspection on the tugs that were supposed to pull the barges, they noted that there were problems and safety issues. They said that the boat was not seaworthy. It caused a two-month delay for the cargo arriving to the Kivalliq.

That has impacted a lot of communities. It had delayed a lot of materials that were supposed to arrive for constructing new units. It has impacted a lot of our operations. It has increased costs. Units that would have been covered over are just starting to get the materials delivered to the communities.

Our officials are looking at the issue and we want to ensure that this situation does not occur again, where a tug is considered not seaworthy. We will be discussing the matter with the company as we do not want to see another lengthy delay in next year’s sealift. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Ningeongan (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have also personally noted in the Kivalliq region and in the communities that would have received the barges that there were a lot of problems caused due to the lengthy delay this summer and fall. It’s impacted a lot of projects. The service has been horrendous. Using Chesterfield Inlet’s sewage lagoon as an example, it was supposed to be constructed and worked

on this summer and a couple of other projects have been delayed due to this shipping fiasco.

I know that the minister has spoken to it, but I also want to raise a question again. Will his department conduct a thorough review to ensure that whatever problems that caused this issue are rectified and to identify which projects that would have been completed have been delayed due to this shipping issue? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Our officials are very concerned about this, not just our departmental staff but the whole government structure which has been impacted in our region by this shipping issue.

Even private businesses and small companies that would have expected their barge had to start shipping some of the materials by airfreight. It's really impacted a lot of residents, especially small business owners who incurred extra expenses because of an issue that the government is not responsible for. It has impacted CGS and other various departments.

This is unacceptable, especially for private businesses. If they were to look after this particular barge and they followed the schedule, even if their food is less okay... but when they're delayed a couple of months, that really impacts the communities and all of the projects. We have heard all of the issues and concerns that have been expressed to us.

My departmental staff will conduct a thorough review, and we will outline what projects have been delayed and what projects will now have to be deferred. We will look into the issue you have raised in your question. I cannot state at this time what day we will have completed this review. However, this concern that you are unhappy with is something that is causing us consternation as well and we will look into it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Ningeongan (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want the minister to note that I'm unhappier than you because my community hasn't even received a barge yet. As you stated, yes, indeed, the small business owners are impacted as well as individuals who were expecting sealift. They are very unhappy with NTCL and barge hasn't arrived into some of the communities yet.

Whenever a contract is agreed to, the contractor has to monitor the contract to ensure that they are following the contract or the conditions. So I want to remind the minister that the contractor is not fulfilling their services and that they have to be looking at offering this contract to another shipping company.

Perhaps that is something that his department can look at because of the large impact it has had in the Kivalliq. There are a lot of private businesses and individuals who have been impacted. Can you perhaps look at a better service provider for the contract in the Kivalliq region? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you. With regard to the contract the member referred to, there is usually a clause. At least last year, they fulfilled their contract and this year, although they have had a lot of problems with the shipping season, we are unsure what plans they have or what corrections they have made to ensure that this does not occur again.

I know that my departmental staff will be asking those kinds of questions. We will conduct a review as to how we can make improvements in this for the next shipping season. It's sometimes very hard to accept these now because they are beyond our control, but we are looking at other alternatives to try to resolve this issue.

We will conduct a very thorough review because we do not want to experience the same problem again. If it seems that these problems will resurface, then I will ensure that I inform the House and the members prior to the shipping season and I will inform them as to what direction we will take. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Ningeongan (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The minister just stated last year that it proceeded smoothly. As I stated earlier, Coral Harbour never even received a barge last year and I wanted to ensure that the minister noted that.

Now I would like to ask my last question to the minister. With regard to this contract, what is the status of the contract to date? How far does the contract run? I would like to find out how long NTCL has the contract for. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): According what I understand and have heard, there was a plan to extend the contract for another year. We can do so as there is a provision in there. If that will stop, I'll let them know, but based on my understanding, we can extend it for one more year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 460 – 3(2): Government Response to Motion Calling for a Comprehensive Performance Audit of the Qulliq Energy Corporation

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to direct a question to our Premier. The Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation stated that they will be having a general rate review, so I would like to ask a question to the Premier.

Mr. Speaker, in our session on March 22, 2010, all of the members agreed that they would ask the Auditor General to review the QEC, both their fiscal procedures as well as the contracting protocols, and to see whether their employment was proceeding effectively.

I'll raise a question to the Premier based on that.

I believe last year in June, I asked whether our government had requested the Auditor General to conduct an audit of the QEC. We were told by our Premier that she did not know and she tasked another minister to look into it. However, I want to raise that question again today. Has our government requested the Auditor General to conduct an audit on the QEC based on the regular members' recommendations so that they can look into the operations of the QEC? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe the last question was (interpretation ends) whether I have asked for an audit of the Qulliq Energy Corporation. (interpretation) I'm not sure whether he asked for an audit or whether he recommended an audit. Can he confirm that or clarify it? Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Premier. She wants you to clarify your question, Mr. Okalik.

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I raised this question previously to the Premier. In this House, the Premier provides the government direction and the regular members requested that the Auditor General conduct an audit on the operations of the Qulliq Energy Corporation. Has the Premier asked the Auditor General to conduct this audit, yes or no? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for clarifying that. With regard to this issue, it's being handled by QEC and the Minister responsible for QEC can better respond to that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation, (interpretation ends) Hon. Lorne Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Perhaps the member for Iqaluit West can rephrase his question so that I can understand what he's talking about. Thank you.

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

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It seems like we're just expending the minutes and I may need a new day in order to get the response I want.

I tried to raise this question to the Premier because she is directing the government and that's why I raised the question to the Premier initially. In our legislature, all members agreed that they wanted the Auditor General to conduct an audit on the general operations of the Qulliq Energy Corporation. What is the status of this audit request? Have they been requested to conduct an audit on the QEC operational issue, yes or no? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation, Hon. Lorne Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I regret that he had to ask another question. I will conduct research into the responses required for his question and I will take it as notice. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. The question has been taken as notice. Oral Questions. Member for South Baffin, Mr. Schell.

Question 461 – 3(2): Status of New Power Plan for Cape Dorset

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Hon. Minister of Qulliq Energy, Lorne Kusugak. I would like to know the status of the new power plant that was announced to be built four years ago in Cape Dorset. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The issues relating to the power plant location and land for the desired location of the power plant is still under discussion, Mr. Speaker. Thank you very much.

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

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The power plant replacement has been talked about for over 20 years. Mr. Speaker, I don't think Christopher Columbus has anything to do with the

construction, but possibly his son did. It's old and in dire need of replacement. I'm afraid the same situation could happen as what happened in Rankin Inlet last year. So I encourage the minister to replace the power plant much sooner than later. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I don't disagree. I hope that the legal dispute that's happening with the Municipality of Rankin Inlet and the ownership of the buildings and the lot issues can be resolved expeditiously so that the work can begin on the power plant in Cape Dorset. I agree with the member, and I hope that he can work with the municipality to ensure that the land issue could be resolved quickly so that we don't have power issues in Cape Dorset for too much longer. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think you were referring to Cape Dorset; you had mentioned Rankin Inlet in your power plant replacement.

I realize there are some land issues, but I can guarantee the minister one thing that it's not my issue; it's the hamlet that has the issue with it. So I just want to correct him on that, that I realize the hamlet has an issue with certain things on the land there. Hopefully it will get rectified here shortly. Thank you.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If the member misunderstood me, I did say that the hamlet has issues with the land relating to the issue. We hope that that will be resolved quickly so that we could begin the work to build the power plant in Cape Dorset. It's just legal matters that are holding us up at this point. Once those are solved, we can take a step forward. Hopefully that will be resolved in the not too distant future before the second coming of Christopher Columbus. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Laughter*

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

**Question 462 – 3(2): Qanukkanniq
Recommendations on Education**

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say “good morning” to the people of Nattilik. It's just a little past nine over there. I am sending my regards.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Education; I'm not done with you yet this morning.

Mr. Speaker, almost exactly one year ago, the *Qanukkanniq* GN Report Card was presented to the Government of Nunavut. The first nine recommendations of that report addressed the status of education in Nunavut's schools.

Recommendation #5 of the report recommended the following:
“Benchmark the content of made-in-Nunavut curriculum against other

jurisdictions to ensure that educational standards in Nunavut are comparable in quality to other jurisdictions.”

Can the minister advise this House on what steps have been taken to address this recommendation and, specifically, what steps have been taken to benchmark grade 12 graduation standards against other jurisdictions? Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. Minister of Education, Hon. Hunter Tootoo.

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I again thank the member for that question. It's another question I was asked when I was discussing with the DEA coalition and the DEA members. I think, by the member asking the question, this reinforces how important an issue that is all across the territory.

Mr. Speaker, the department is preparing to pilot what will become its territorial-wide grade 12 social studies assessment tool. This project assessment will consist with the beliefs about student assessment articulated in the foundation document with Nunavut's newly developed comprehensive assessment strategy. They intend them to be fair, more valid measures of ways of measuring student knowledge and skills than the Alberta grade 12 standardized tests for social studies exams that were there in the past.

Once this project assessment is done, I would be more than happy to share the results of that with the member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Your first supplementary, Ms. Ugyuk.

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) The concern that Nunavut's grade 12 diploma does not meet the same standards as grade 12 diplomas from other jurisdictions has been raised by parents, students, and some of my colleagues in this House. Can the minister provide an update on what specific measures have been taken to address this concern directly? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Tootoo.

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think the member has indicated that there is a different standard and level of education. She is quite correct, that is something that I myself have raised concerns about in the past and I have heard, right from day one, that those are concerns that have been raised or I have heard other members in this House raise those concerns.

Mr. Speaker, if they are checking in and asking that same question to the department, then, I think, again that's the same question that I faced earlier this week. I would like to thank those individuals who asked me that question up there for preparing me for this. It's good practise and hopefully I can give the same answer here today.

Mr. Speaker, one of the issues is not so much the different level of standards, but as far as one of the things that we are seeing as a result of having the varied levels and areas is that a lot of it has to deal with the courses that the individuals are taking. Mr. Speaker, there are three different levels of English and math that students could take. There is the higher

academic one, the middle one, and then the lower one.

Mr. Speaker, one of the things that the department is doing is I had the pleasure, as a parent, in finding out first hand this fall, when I went to the high school here with my daughter who was just going into grade 10, where they called all of the parents of the students going into the high school system to a meeting at the school. The principal and the educators were there and they explained exactly what the difference was if you took the 10, 20, or 30, or whatever the numbers of the different levels of courses, and what you would get. Let's say if a student wanted to move into a university-level program, it's these level courses that you need to take. I found that that experience... I mean, it's the first time that I have been through that as a parent and I thought that was great.

So those are some of the things that are being done out there and hopefully that's going to be implemented more throughout the territory in the schools and the communities so that the students and the parents understand the ramifications of the choices in the courses that they do take and what they can achieve with those courses. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Your second supplementary, Ms. Ugyuk.

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Recommendation #9 of the *Qanukkanniq* Report stated, "Develop anti-truancy and anti-drop-out campaigns, and eliminate social promotion."

There is a concern that some students graduate from grade 12 simply because they go to school and attend regularly. Socially promoting a student through to grade 12 will only set them up for disappointment in the future. How do the minister and his department address the issue of social promotion, especially as it affects graduation rates? Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. Minister Tootoo.

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, that's great, another question I had practise with earlier this week. Also, Mr. Speaker, I thank the member because that's an issue that I used to raise here when I was sitting on that side of the House.

Mr. Speaker, one of the things is that the department does not support social promotion or retention. Under the new *Education Act*, Mr. Speaker, the whole emphasis is on continuous progress, so we're looking to try to keep students to continue learning at their pace. So I think that's the important thing that they are trying to... I think there are studies that have been done to show that neither moving someone along when they're not ready or retaining individuals behind a year don't help that individual out at all.

We're looking at innovative ways to be able to try and meet the needs of the individual students with the individual learning plans so that there is a continuous progress in their learning. That's one of the things that the department is working on to be able to hopefully... that would be something to find ways to attract and retain these students in the system and also to get them to continually keep learning so that

they are always learning something and hopefully keep their interest in the school.

Some of the program enhancements that are done in the schools have included things like IT workshops, on-the-land programming, artists in school, and other special interest areas they look at trying to adapt some of these individual learning plans towards the individual student's needs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Your final supplementary, Ms. Ugyuk.

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Over the summer, the Minister of Education kindly provided Members of the Legislative Assembly with copies of his department's consultation documents relating to the proposed Inclusive Education Regulations to accompany the new *Education Act*. One of the main criticisms of inclusive education is that it supports social promotion. Can the minister describe what kind of input has been provided by stakeholders on this issue and what consideration has been given to changing the proposed regulations as a result of that input? Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. Minister Tootoo.

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. One of the things that I think initially with the development of these regulations are hoping that it would be something that could be done quickly to be able to try and move forward on the implementation of the new *Education Act*.

Mr. Speaker, I think the department, as a result of some of this feedback, has realized that, in the development of these regulations, in order to do a good job at it, they have regulations that everybody, the department, the stakeholders, the DEAs, and the communities are comfortable with what's being put forward in the regulations. That is something that the department is now saying, "This is something that is actually going to take us two to three years to complete." So there is continued dialogue back and forth on these regulation developments with the department, with the Coalition of Nunavut DEAs, and with the DEAs themselves in the communities.

There's a continual back and forth, and I cannot remember if it's the second or third phase of reviews that's gone on so far. So there is continued back and forth feedback as revisions are made based on the feedback received from the stakeholders. Once those provisions are made, they are sent back to the stakeholders for further review. It's either the second or third round that they're going through right now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Item 7 on the *Orders of the Day*. Written Questions. Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Item 10. Petitions. Item 11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees. 12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. Elliott.

Item 13: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 211 – 3(2): Carla Oyukuluk's Essay, Pijjusuqait (Our Past and Present)

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Further to my Member's Statement, I am pleased to table a copy of Carla Oyukuluk's first place winning essay submitted to the Prince Edward Island Confederation Centre of the Arts Essay Competition. I encourage all members to read this essay and be inspired by the potential and insight of our youth. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Tabling of Documents. Mr. Curley.

Tabled Document 212 – 3(2): Nunavut Housing Trust Project Status Summary, September 30, 2010

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As promised during the Nunavut Housing Corporation appearance in Committee of the Whole, I am pleased to table the Nunavut Housing Trust Project Status Summary, September 30, 2011. (interpretation) Thank you.

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

Tabled Document 213 – 3(2): Journal of the Northern Territories Water and Waste Association, September 2010

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table a copy of an article from the September 2010 journal of the Northern Territories Water and Waste

Association. The article is in regard to wastewater sampling challenges in Grise Fiord and other northern communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Tabled Document 214 – 3(2): Schedule for the Student Loan Fund for the Year Ending March 31, 2009

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe I'm meeting one of our statutory requirements here today by being very pleased to be able to table the Schedule for the Student Loan Fund for the year ending March 31, 2009. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Tabling of Documents. I do have documents to table.

Tabled Document 215 – 3(2): Election Nunavut 2009 Annual Report of the Chief Electoral Officer

Tabled Document 216 – 3(2): Nunavut Information and Privacy Commissioner Annual Report 2009-2010

Tabled Document 217 – 3(2): Integrity Commissioner Annual Report April 1, 2009 to March 31, 2010

Tabled Document 218 – 3(2): Office of the Languages Commissioner Annual Report 2009-2010

Thank you, Members. I wish to table today the 2009-2010 annual reports of the Chief Electoral Officer, the Information and Privacy Commissioner,

the Integrity Commissioner, and the Languages Commissioner. Thank you.

Tabling of Documents. Item 14. Notices of Motions. Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Hon. Keith Peterson.

Item 15: Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills

Bill 47 – International Interest in Mobile Aircraft Equipment Act – Notice

Bill 48 – Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act, 2010, No. 3 – Notice

Bill 50 – Nunavut Outfitter Liability Protection Fund Act, Repeal – Notice

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have three notices of motions for first reading of bills.

Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Monday, October 25, 2010, that Bill 47, *International Interest in Mobile Aircraft Equipment Act*, be read for the first time.

Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Monday, October 25, 2010, that Bill 48, *Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act, 2010, No. 3*, be read for the first time.

And finally, Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Monday, October 25, 2010, that Bill 50, *Nunavut Outfitter Liability Protection Fund Act, Repeal*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Minister Taptuna.

**Bill 49 – Agricultural Products
Marketing Act, Repeal – Notice**

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Monday, October 25, 2010, that Bill 49, *Agricultural Products Marketing Act, Repeal*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 16. Motions. Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Item 19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Mr. Schell.

**Motion 026 – 3(2): Early
Adjournment**

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Pursuant to Rule 36, I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Hudson Bay, that the House adjourn for the day. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Schell. The motion to adjourn early is in order and is not debatable. All those in favour, raise your hand, please. Opposed. The motion is carried. We will proceed directly to Item 22 on our *Orders of the Day*. Item 22. *Orders of the Day*. Mr. Clerk.

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. *Orders of the Day* for October 25:

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
 - Bill 44
 - Bill 45
 - Bill 46
 - Bill 47
 - Bill 48
 - Bill 49
 - Bill 50
18. Second Reading of Bills
19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
 - Bill 38
 - Bill 39
 - Bill 40

- Bill 41

20. Report of the Committee of the

Whole

21. Third Reading of Bills

22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you.

This House stands adjourned until
Monday, October 25, at 1:30 p.m.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 11:38*

