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Iqaluit

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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Speaker

Hon. James Arreak
(Uqqummiut)

Hon. Eva Ariak
(Iqaluit East)
Premier; Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs; Minister of Aboriginal Affairs; Minister responsible for Immigration; Minister responsible for the Status of Women

James Arvaluk
(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

Ron Elliott
(Quttiktuq)

Adamee Komoartok
(Pangnirtung)

Hon. Lorne Kusugak
(Rankin Inlet South – Whale Cove)
Minister of Community and Government Services; Minister of Energy; Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation

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
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Hansard Production
Innirvik Support Services

Box 1200

Iqaluit, Nunavut, X0A 0H0

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

Website: www.assembly.nu.ca

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**Iqaluit, Nunavut
Tuesday, October 26, 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. John Ningark, Mr. Johnny Ningeongan, Mr. Paul Okalik, Honourable Keith Peterson, Mr. Allan Rumbolt, Mr. Fred Schell, Honourable Daniel Shewchuk, Honourable Louis Tapardjuk, Honourable Peter Taptuna, Honourable Hunter Tootoo, Ms. Jeannie Ugyuk.

Item 1: Opening Prayer

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

>>Prayer

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningark. A very good afternoon, my colleagues, Ministers, Nunavummiut, and the people of Qikiqtarjuaq.

Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Hon. Louis Tapardjuk.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

**Minister's Statement 204 – 3(2):
Development of the Language
Comprehensive Plan: Update**

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my constituents, especially in Igloolik, where I was notified that they are now able to follow the proceedings on television. Apparently, they had an issue whereby they were unable to get the

transmissions originating from our legislature. Therefore, I wish all residents of Igloolik a very good day, as well as my constituents in Hall Beach.

Mr. Speaker, at our last sitting, I committed to tabling Government of Nunavut's language implementation plan. However, Mr. Speaker, due to the complexity of developing the comprehensive language implementation plan, I am informing the Members of this House on the recent progress in developing our plan for the implementation of Nunavut's *Official Languages Act* and *Inuit Language Protection Act*.

The government remains committed to fully implement both Acts and the implementation process requires careful planning. As a result, more time is required to complete the implementation plan. This will allow us to undertake some immediate and necessary steps to complete our work and table the implementation plan in the Legislative Assembly at the next winter sitting.

Firstly, it has become evident that the GN requires more sufficient data about the linguistic capacity of our public service. This information is essential to implementation, and I have instructed my departmental officials to prepare, in collaboration with the Department of Human Resources, a full and complete language capacity assessment of the GN.

Secondly, Mr. Speaker, it is important to reiterate that the language implementation process is not solely a CLEY initiative; it is a GN-wide mandate. Successful implementation will be achieved only with the full cooperation and active involvement of

all departments and public agencies. That is why I will be consulting my colleagues in the coming weeks to develop a language governance structure that will better support the coordination, management, and monitoring of the implementation process.

Lastly, implementation will require adequate and sustained funding by the Government of Canada. It will therefore be vital for this government and its stakeholders to take a united stand to ensure that the Government of Canada lives up to its funding obligations. CLEY will collaborate and cooperate with our key territorial institutions and stakeholders to develop a common negotiation strategy to secure appropriate funding for implementation.

It is by working together that we can fully implement the language rights of Nunavummiut and strengthen what makes Nunavut so distinct within Canada. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Ministers' Statements. (interpretation ends) Hon. Eva Aariak.

**Minister's Statement 205 – 3(2):
Tamapta Champions**

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Good afternoon, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Progress toward our shared vision for Nunavut will only happen through our combined effort. Earlier this year, in order to ensure that our commitments to Nunavummiut are implemented, I asked all ministers to take additional roles as "Tamapta Champions." This was in addition to their roles of managing their

departments and ensuring legislation is administered effectively.

As part of that *Tamapta* Champions role, last month, the Executive Council convened a Cabinet Strategy Week. It was during that week that we received a detailed and thorough update on the implementation of *Tamapta* by all areas of our government. I thank our staff for embracing this new process – the level of detail and analysis that went into it over the summer was truly extraordinary.

I am pleased to announce that much progress is being made on the direction that we have been given. For many projects, departments are working actively together with others to reduce barriers and find efficient ways of accomplishing our goals during these tight fiscal times. Despite many challenges, our plans in the *Tamapta* Action Plan are largely being implemented and I am confident that it will show great outcomes over the coming months and years.

It is clear that we can never accomplish everything overnight, but Nunavut is on a good path towards our vision of 2030 and to completing our commitments for 2013. However, there are areas that require more attention than others.

Following much deliberation, we have given further direction to the staff of the government. Later today, Mr. Speaker, I will table that direction in the Legislative Assembly so that all regular members and all Nunavummiut will know our plans for the coming years.

Our focus over the remaining three years of this mandate will be on the following top priorities:

- Transportation
- Funding to support community self-reliance
- Poverty reduction through partnerships
- Housing
- Investment in people, with focus on children and youth

None of these are new directions, Mr. Speaker, but rather serve to refine our efforts at implementing the *Tamapta* Action Plan.

Mr. Speaker, we believe in Nunavut. We have hope for its vibrant future, built by our people pursuing their dreams. (interpretation) Through this refined focus, we hope that we will be able to reduce poverty and support Nunavummiut as they pursue their personal dreams of self-reliance. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Minister's Statement 206 – 3(2):
Support for Nunavut's Fishery**

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon colleagues, Kuglukturmiut, and Nunavummiut.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to update the House on the support of the development of Nunavut's fishery provided under my department's Strategic Investments Program.

Mr. Speaker, the turbot quota for Nunavut has increased in 2010 and is now valued at over \$37 million.

>>Applause

It is anticipated that Nunavut's total turbot quota for 2010 will be harvested. In order to realize the economic potential of our fishery, we must invest in Nunavut's fishing fleet, and I am pleased to report that my department has been working to build fishing capacity in 2010.

In March, the department contributed \$575,000 to the Arctic Fisheries Alliance for the purchase of the vessel Genny and Doug. The alliance is a partnership between the hunters and trappers associations of Grise Fiord, Resolute Bay, Arctic Bay, and Qikiqtarjuaq. The first phase of this project is predicted to add 20 offshore jobs, with a potential to grow to 70 in the following year.

In April of this year, the department approved funding of \$650,000 for Niqitaq Fisheries, the for-profit arm of Baffin Fisheries Coalition, and two of its hunter and trapper association members towards the purchase of the fishing vessel Vinlander. In August, the department approved further funding of \$300,000 to Niqitaq Fisheries to consolidate the ownership of the vessel Sikuvut.

Mr. Speaker, it is important to acknowledge the cooperation, collaboration, and advice of the Department of Environment in making these investments. These investments support key objectives of the Nunavut Fisheries Strategy, such as increased access to adjacent resources,

infrastructure, and increased participation by beneficiaries, and we are pleased to work with our partners to advance the strategy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Minister's Statement 207 – 3(2):
Confederation Centre of the Arts
Essay Contest**

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate two young Nunavummiut who have received the first and third prizes in the Confederation Centre of the Arts in Charlottetown essay contest.

Mr. Speaker, earlier this week, we heard from a representative of the High Arctic congratulating his constituent on this.

The contest was open to all grade 11 and 12 students in Nunavut and Prince Edward Island. This initiative was based on Symons Lecture of Mary Simon in the fall of 2009, and the essay topic was based on the themes of this lecture entitled, "Our Arctic – Our Canada." Carla Oyukuluk of Arctic Bay and Teresa Tufts of Iqaluit took home first and third prizes respectively.

Mr. Speaker, Carla wrote an essay titled, "Pijjusuqait (Our Past and Present)," and the judges unanimously decided she should win first place. A certificate and a cheque for \$3,000 will be awarded to Carla in Arctic Bay in the near future. Teresa's essay, "The Condition of Inuit

Identity," was awarded third place. She will be presented with her certificate and a cheque for \$1,000 upon her return from Ecuador, where she is currently travelling. And finally, Mr. Speaker, Angulalik Pederson of Kugluktuk received an honourable mention for his essay, "Nunavut's Hunting and Fishing Economies Keep Inuit Traditional Values Strong."

Mr. Speaker, this contest was an incredible opportunity to bring together students from two very different regions in exploring the themes of Nunavut, our people, and our culture. I would like to offer my heartfelt thanks to the confederation for the creation and realization of this project. I would like to say "congratulations" to Teresa, Carla, and Angulalik for their great work in presenting Nunavut on a broader stage. Please join me in praising their efforts. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Minister's Statement 208 – 3(2): New
Human Patient Simulators for the
Nursing Program**

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll try and read the right statement today.

>> *Laughter*

Mr. Speaker, I rise in the House today to introduce two new assistants who will be working very closely with the staff and students of the Nunavut Arctic College Nursing Program.

I welcome Baby Hal and his mother, Noelle, to Nunatta Campus. Noelle and Hal play a significant role in assisting Arctic College's nursing students to learn about maternal care, childbirth, and medical emergencies. In fact, Noelle has already assisted students to learn about listening to breathing sounds.

Mr. Speaker, Baby Hal and Noelle are human patient simulators. Noelle is a maternal and birthing simulator. Hal simulates a newborn baby. Mr. Speaker, these human patient simulators will provide our students with lifelike learning opportunities intended to enhance and augment the learning they experience in a clinical setting.

Developed by Gaumard Scientific, a leading manufacturer of interactive, computer-integrated human patient simulators, these units will engage our students with more realistic clinical situations in a safe and simulated environment. These unique simulation systems will assist our students in learning about critical, emergency scenarios and situations that do not occur in everyday clinical settings. They will enable all of our students to experience similar clinical situations they may not otherwise encounter until they are practicing as nurses.

Mr. Speaker, a unique and fascinating technological feature of these simulators is the ability to program them to communicate in the Inuit language. Each simulator has the ability to record sound and voice clips. Instructors can speak through Noelle using a microphone in real time, which allows our students to experience treating a patient in Inuktitut.

Mr. Speaker, the Arctic College nursing [faculty] members are very enthusiastic about using these technologies to strengthen learning of our nursing students. I would like to extend our thanks to the Department of Health and Social Services, who supported and funded the purchase of these unique human patient simulators. They will make strong and valuable contributions to providing our nursing students with training and experience that will benefit all. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Ministers' Statements. (interpretation) If there are no more, (interpretation ends) Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for High Arctic, Quttiktuq, Mr. Elliott.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 322 – 3(2): Equality in Sport

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to continue to lobby our government to give equal support to all of our athletes to participate in tournaments and meets across Nunavut

Mr. Speaker, as you will recall, last spring I again raised the issue of funding support for our athletes, especially for those who have to travel from the more remote regions of Nunavut to compete. My colleague from Hudson Bay is well aware of this issue as Sanikiluaq athletes face similar challenges to those in the High Arctic.

Mr. Speaker, on March 12 of this year the Minister responsible for Sport Nunavut provided some information in

this House on the policy for funding athletes to travel to regional or territorial tournaments. The registration fee is set at an equitable \$150 to \$175 for each sport. However, for the travel component, participants are required to pay between 5 percent and 10 percent of the travel cost.

Mr. Speaker, you do not have to be a mathematician to figure out that 10 percent of a \$2,000 airplane ticket is significantly greater than 10 percent of a \$200 airplane ticket. The amount that athletes are required to contribute towards their travel to a tournament is not equitable, depending on where they live. To attend a tournament in Iqaluit, athletes from the High Arctic would have to raise more than \$200 towards their travel whereas an athlete from Pangnirtung, for example, would have to raise \$20.

Mr. Speaker, as the golfers in our midst will know, in the sporting world, a handicap is often imposed to make things equal between competitors.

Unfortunately for our young Nunavut athletes, the 'cost of travel handicap' makes things very unequal between competitors. Athletes from the more remote communities face a huge disadvantage before they even get to the place of competition.

Mr. Speaker, as any Iqaluit hockey player will tell you, it is hard to play a fair game of hockey when one end of the arena ice is higher than the other. Fortunately, with funding support from many parties, the Arctic Winter Games Arena is now level again and the home team has an equal chance to score the winning goal.

For the soccer players out there, you all know that an even playing field is a necessary prerequisite for a safe and fair game.

Mr. Speaker, at this time, I would like to request unanimous consent to continue with my member's statement today. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Elliott is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Are there any nays? There are no nays. You may conclude your statement, Mr. Elliott.

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

For the soccer players out there, you all know that an even playing field is a necessary prerequisite for a safe and fair game. This principal should be applied to all of our sports.

Mr. Speaker, I call upon the Minister responsible for Sport Nunavut to make whatever policy changes are necessary to ensure that all athletes across Nunavut receive fair and equitable funding support for travel to regional and territorial tournaments. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 323 – 3(2):
Renovations to the Peter Pitseolak
School**

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This may be a first, Mr. Speaker. I'm

going to thank both the former government and the current government for the newly renovated Peter Pitseolak School in Cape Dorset. Mr. Speaker, some of the highlights of the school are a new drama and music room, a new art room, a completely renovated computer room, a new library, and a new daycare space.

Mr. Speaker, as we all know, having a safe environment for children to learn in is very important. This newly renovated school will not only provide a strong atmosphere for learning but will also give the students an opportunity to express themselves through art and music. Mr. Speaker, this is very positive for the students and for the whole community.

On behalf of my constituents, I thank the government and contractors for all of the hard work that went into renovating our school. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Schell. Members' Statements. Member for Akulliq, Mr. Ningark.

**Member's Statement 324 – 3(2):
Repairs to Water Pump House**

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): I apologize and thank you, Mr. Speaker. As winter arrives, of course, it's going to get colder, the days are going to get shorter, and snow will be coming in. Municipal services, such as water delivery, will become a little bit harder over the winter months.

Mr. Speaker, I had a discussion with the SAO from the hamlet and he indicated

that the pump house has been out of service for quite some time now. If the pump house is broken over the winter months, it's going to be a lot harder to service the hamlet.

At the appropriate time, I will be asking questions to the Minister of CGS to see if that pump house will be fixed so that it will properly service the hamlet of my community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Member's Statement 325 – 3(2): Visit
of Various Ships to Gjoa Haven**

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, Natilingmiut. Today, I rise to speak to issues revolving around the people of Gjoa Haven. This past summer, I went to Gjoa Haven on several occasions.

There is quite a bit of development in that community and there were many sailboats passing through the community, including the cruise ships that wealthier tourists use to explore the Arctic. There were more ships than usual this summer.

The Department of Economic Development and the Hamlet of Gjoa Haven have developed a very good plan for tourism so that whenever visitors arrive in the community, they are treated to a show that highlights the Inuit culture, tool making, and cultural games.

They also offer items for sale to the tourists and provide pertinent information on *Amuhauq*, its background, and the history of the area.

The community of Gjoa Haven is quite busy with these activities and they worked together this past summer to deliver these services.

We are also aware that over the course of the colonial history, many ships arrived from Europe to try and traverse the Northwest Passage and many failed to reach their destination.

However, the person who was named *Amuhauq* was quite materially blessed due to being provided assistance by the Inuit of Nattilik, which allowed him to survive. The Inuit of Nattilik have the capacity to provide assistance to people in need and they are very capable when providing assistance. Their ancestors' descendants largely reside now in Gjoa Haven.

While I was visiting Gjoa Haven, there was a ship that passed through, bearing a passenger whom I recognized as having been part of a TV show. His name was "Bear" Grylls and he was taking the cruise ship from its starting point in Germany all the way to Hawaii. Apparently the ship came from Resolute Bay to Gjoa Haven and they had to fuel up. That is how much traffic that the community of Gjoa Haven is receiving these days.

What also transpired that during my trip to Gjoa Haven is that a cruise ship that made the CBC news for running aground happened to be anchored offshore prior to its incident close to Kugluktuk. I want to ensure that my colleagues are aware of this issue. I expect that we will see more ship traffic arriving in Gjoa Haven next summer.

I wish to close by thanking the residents of Gjoa Haven for their outstanding hospitality. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 326 – 3(2):
Appreciation for Pangnirtung's
Fundraising Committee**

Mr. Komoartok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I expect my fellow residents in Pangnirtung to have a productive day. You are in my thoughts.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my appreciation to the fundraising committee in Pangnirtung. Mr. Speaker, this fundraising committee raises funds for Pangnirtungmiut who need assistance during family emergencies, such as travel costs and expenses.

Mr. Speaker, the members of this committee are Joanna Nakashuk, Elisapee Nowyook, Lucy Uniakshagak, and Nancy Veevee.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, these members of the committee work tirelessly to raise funds for their activities to support their fellow Pangnirtung residents. This is especially the case when families need to travel to visit their relatives who have travelled to Ottawa for medical treatment or to other southern cities. These funds are also utilized to assist relatives' travel from other communities to attend to funerals when one of our residents has passed

away who has relatives in other communities.

Yes, we do recognize the efforts of the Department of Health and Social Services to provide assistance to people who have to travel south, including escorts. However, this policy is not always consistently followed and the funds are limited, which restricts the number of people who can be provided with assistance.

Furthermore, our Inuit organization, NTI, also provides bereavement assistance travel when families lose a relative in an outlying community, but this is also limited. They want to ensure that relatives who cannot afford to travel are able to attend to the funerals. This program is well utilized in Nunavut. However, this fund is also limited and the demand is much larger than the funds.

Sometimes, when our community is undergoing a stressful event, our committee works tirelessly to provide assistance to the people who are undergoing hardship, especially in cases where a family has lost their unit to fire. They raise funds to provide assistance to the families undergoing hardship.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of my constituents in Pangnirtung, I wish to show our appreciation to these four individuals, Joanna, Elisapee, Lucy, and Nancy, for all their hard work and also let them know how much they are appreciated by the whole community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 327 – 3(2):
Baker Lake Youth**

Mr. Aupaluktuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to extend good day wishes to all the people of Baker Lake, particularly the voters who voted me into office, especially the young people and young adults. They are quite open to providing their concerns to their legislative representative and offer their issues to my constituency assistant for my perusal. It is obvious that they are very interested in all of the sessions that are televised.

However, what I take from this is that the concerns and issues dear to youth and young adults are important to them. There are quite a fair number of intelligent youth who are interested in the operations of the government. They express their opinions on these issues, identify problematic areas, as well as recommendations for improvement and they are unafraid to express these views. That is exactly what members need from their constituents.

Whenever I go on the local radio in Baker Lake, I tend to state that the member's seat belongs to Baker Lake and its residents, and this highlights their belief in that. Furthermore, the elders and adults are always providing advice and remind me constantly not to forget their needs and of the fact that I represent them in the House.

I deliberated on this view. This is something that is dear to most youth and

impacts their daily lives. It is quite obvious that this assists me to deal with issues and a concern stemming from the residents of Baker Lake, and it is gratifying to get these views from the grassroots level.

It is more beneficial to my Constituency Assistant, Lucy Evo, as she is quite diligent in passing along information from Baker Lake to my attention, irrespective of whether she uses a landline, cell phone, email, or facsimile to the hotel. She informs me of who has called our office, what their concerns, interests, or requests are, or if they want to be provided with further assistance.

This is very touching and allows me to represent my constituents, especially the youth and young adults of Baker Lake. I wanted to voice my appreciation on the public record. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. Members' Statements. (interpretation ends) Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Hon. Tagak Curley.

Item 4: Returns to Oral Questions

Return to Oral Question 470 – 3(2): Review of the Nunavut Housing Trust

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This question was in regard to the cost of the Nunavut Housing Trust Audit, Question 470 – 3 (2). I will read the response in English.

(interpretation ends) Deloitte and Touche was the successful proponent

who performed two Nunavut Housing Trust audit reports and was engaged to perform this work for the cost of \$99,000. Deloitte and Touche was also contracted for an additional \$20,000, for a total of \$119,000 to do follow-up testing of the financial controls implemented by the Nunavut Housing Corporation. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Returns to Oral Questions. Hon. Eva Aariak.

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

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is return to Oral Question 457 – 3 (2) and the response states thusly:

(interpretation ends) Our government's involvement in the Northern Economic and Sovereignty Infrastructure Conference was coordinated by the Department of Economic Development and Transportation. The department contributed \$15,000 to the conference. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Returns to Oral Questions. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Curley.

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are a fair number of people whom I would like to acknowledge, so I will be standing for a bit to name them all.

Firstly, Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to acknowledge this individual behind me, my wife, Sally Curley, who comprises my home. Also, right beside her is one of our grandchildren. Since we have quite a lot of grandchildren, I want to recognize Meghan Netser, who is originally from Arviat and is here with her grandmother today while her school is on a break. I would also like to welcome them.

>>Applause

Also, Mr. Speaker, (interpretation ends) I am very honoured to introduce a group of people that are sitting here in the Gallery today.

Mr. Speaker, the following people have been very involved in the development of the Suicide Prevention Strategy. I personally want to thank them all and also wish them all the best as they continue to work towards this very complicated, and emotional at times, policy work. I am grateful that some of them... all of them are not here, but I will read the following names. Some of them are from NTI, but I will not try and guess which group they are from. Some are from the Embrace Life Council and also supporting staff members.

First of all, I would like to recognize:

Becky Kilabuk from Iqaluit;
 Jesse Mike from Iqaluit;
 Nathan Obit (interpretation) from NTI;
 Navarana Beveridge from QIA;
 Martha Nowdlak from NTI;
 Jeannie Mike from the Nunavut government;
 Renee Schmidt, a staff member from Living Works; and

Jack Hicks, who is the consultant and assistant for this group.

I wish to thank these individuals for their hard work, and please continue to provide your knowledge and expertise. (interpretation ends) We need you and I appreciate all of the work that you people are doing and thank you for helping us develop the Nunavut Suicide Prevention Strategy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Welcome to the Gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Ningark.

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to recognize two people visiting the Gallery. First, I wish to recognize the Mayor of Repulse Bay, Mr. Donat Milortok. The second person whom I wish to recognize was one of my colleagues during the GNWT Legislative Assembly years, Ms. Becky Mike.

She is sitting over there. Perhaps I am mistaken. I was just notified that she is the younger sister of Becky's. I apologize, so I want to say that if you are going to call your sister, Becky Mike, please pass on my regards to her and that I had acknowledged her. Thank you. My vision is no longer as acute as it once was.

>>Laughter

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Komoartok.

Mr. Komoartok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to recognize several individuals, specifically four visitors in the Gallery. One of the individuals only worked in Pangnirtung for a number of years. However, there are quite a few original residents who emigrated from Pangnirtung and who have made Iqaluit their home.

So I recognize four individuals originally from Pangnirtung and, in particular, I wish to welcome a current Pangnirtung resident, Jeannie Mike. I also recognize Becky, Jesse, Julia, and Jack Hicks in the Gallery. Thank you and welcome to our Gallery.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Welcome to the Gallery. Please feel free to come in and view the proceedings during our session as it is open to the public. (interpretation ends) Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Akulliq, Mr. Ningark.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 471 – 3(2): Repairs to Kugaaruk Water Pump House

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Earlier during my Member's Statement, I mentioned that the pump house in Kugaaruk underwent several repair efforts this past summer. Unfortunately, they could never quite figure out the issues and it was never repaired properly.

I had an opportunity to speak to the SAO of the Hamlet of Kugaaruk yesterday and he informed me that when equipment breaks down during the wintertime due to mechanical issues, it is very difficult to make repairs to the broken equipment.

Furthermore, when you look at the global picture, Nunavut has some of the most pristine and cleanest water resources, and we need to ensure that our residents are provided with adequate water services. We are also informed by the Department of Health and Social Services that personal hygiene is a must. It is now well known that sicknesses are prevalent in dirty environs and that is why we are asked to wash.

Based on these facts, I would like to direct my question to the Minister of CGS, the Hon. Lorne Kusugak. Can you task your officials to check into the issue of the pump house prior to the winter season and to ensure that repairs are made so that it can be used? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank Mr. Ningark for raising that question. I agree with your assessment that Nunavut has some of the most pristine and cleanest water in the entire world. With the cleanest water resources available in Nunavut, I still notice that people go to the stores to purchase bottled water for their tea, and so on.

It's true that in Kugaaruk, the pump house was experiencing electrical

problems. The electrician came within this month to look into the pump house to check to see what kind of electrical problem they have and how much work needs to be done. The electrical wiring that broke last summer cannot be fixed, but the electricians are looking at it right now to see how they can fix the problem. We wish to see the pump house operate all winter long. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For my first supplementary question, I am unsure as to whether the minister agreed with my assessment that this pump house will be repaired properly. Perhaps he can ask his officials to ensure that the pump house has been properly repaired prior to the end of October. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, Mr. Ningark, with regard to your question, an electrician arrived in your community who was going to inspect the pump house and to report on the problematic issues related to the pump house. He was also going to provide recommendations on how to ensure the pump house operates smoothly all winter long. Further, this pump house is also being inspected to ensure that it is winterized and can operate without problems throughout the winter.

As I stated, it is under inspection at this time. It would be preferable to indeed

see all of the repairs completed prior to month's end, but it is impossible to make that statement at this time. When the timing is right and all of the issues have been resolved that led to operational issues in the past and all required work has been completed that will allow the community to provide water services over the winter, I will report it.

I can also add, with the additional repairs required to keep it operational, it would be much preferable to order a new pump house next year so that the water lake has an operating pump house. At this time, we will continue to try and resolve this issue and my departmental officials are currently in the community trying to complete the required repairs so that the pump house can operate throughout the winter.

Hopefully I have provided my colleague with an adequate response. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That's a good response and I'm very glad that it came across clear. I'm not too sure how long we will be here in Iqaluit, but before we go back home, can the minister provide me with a report? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Yes, it will be possible to provide a written report, but at this time, I cannot ascertain what that report will contain.

At this time, I can tell you what the status of the project is and, if conditions change, I will keep the member apprised of the developments. Furthermore, I can commit to providing a written report if that is your desire.

Additionally, if any new issues arise outside of the issues I have mentioned, then I will try to inform you prior to the end of the session. As long as you are not set to leave tomorrow, I can commit to providing a report prior to the end of our session. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 472 – 3(2): Birthing Issues

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

Here in Nunavut, the department uses various processes to deal with the myriad of patients that require health care. Some patients are here for maternity reasons. However, if there are any complications that cannot be dealt with at the regional hospital, they have to be sent down south and they are sent to Ottawa in the majority of cases. Some of these cases become emergencies and we have to use medevac flights to send them out. These babies are then identified as having been born in Ontario.

Some of these individuals have been coming to me for assistance so that they can obtain their birth certificates. They did not choose to be born in a province,

but they face difficulties and challenges when they try to get their birth certificates. If you will be seeking to receive any form of support or assistance from the government, you need your identification card. We cannot get the birth certificate from Nunavut.

Therefore, they have to obtain their birth certificate from Ontario and this causes some problems.

I would like to ask the Minister of Health and Social Services how these people can use your office more to get support for these people. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understand your question. There are quite a few people who were born in Ontario and they face many difficulties trying to obtain their birth certificates. When I was in Rankin Inlet, when I sat on the other side, I used to help many people to obtain their birth certificates. Some of the individuals never received their birth certificates until they were at the age of 16 years.

I would be very pleased, Mr. Speaker, if the member can provide me with the names so that we can deal with them. I can tell you that we need to speak to the Ontario government to see how we can resolve these problems. If there was an agreement... . We are starting to hear many problems occurring. Mr. Speaker, I could ask the member if he can provide me with the names so that we can deal with them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I would like to thank the minister for his response. Although he has some of the names, the other individuals have not given me their names yet. They are just waiting for their birth certificates.

I can tell you that if you were born in Nunavut, they can obtain their birth certificates through the Department of Health and Social Services. However, when these individuals are born outside of Nunavut or in provinces, they cannot go through the Department of Health and Social Services. Therefore, they have to apply for birth certificates, they have to pay a fee, and they have to follow their policy.

Individuals out there face difficulties when they can't obtain their birth certificates, so I urge the Nunavut government to look into how they can provide support to these people. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I understand that. As I stated earlier, it's not just the Province of Ontario. It is the Province of Alberta too. When the individuals are born outside of the territory, they face many difficulties in obtaining their birth certificates. I can tell you that we need to amend the agreements with the provinces. We need to review the agreements and amend them. I can tell the member in the House

that I will report back to the House as we progress. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am very pleased that the minister is committed to reviewing this. These individuals were not born down south on purpose. These are high-risk pregnancies and in addition, they are asked to pay for the certificates. If they had been born within Nunavut, it would have been provided for them for free.

When a certificate is obtained for the first time, you don't have to pay for it. I know this for a fact. I wish to encourage the minister to provide support for those who were high-risk births not to have to incur the cost for their first certificates. Maybe an agreement could be made with other governments on this issue for the future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we will look into this. If the situation needs to be corrected after reviewing it and if individuals are required to pay, I will look into that to make sure that the problem is rectified. Some individuals cannot afford to pay a fee and it is quite difficult to work with vital statistics. Sometimes they have to go through the court to identify the individual. I will look into this further and I will be able to report back to the House.

For the individuals who cannot afford to pay the fee, the Government of Nunavut

will pay the fee and I will keep the member informed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 473 – 3(2): Public Agencies Council Oversight of Crown Corporations

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Chairman of the Public Agencies Council, who is the Minister of Finance.

On June 9 of this year, I asked questions to the minister about the status of the RCMP's investigation into the loans provided by the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation. At that time, he had indicated that he had spoken with the chief superintendent who had informed him that the files were going to be delivered to the public prosecution service for further review. It is now four months later, what has happened with this file? Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister responsible for the Public Agencies Council, Hon. Keith Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Elliott for asking that question. Mr. Speaker, to my knowledge, the file is still with the Crown prosecutor's office and it was delivered by the RCMP for the Crown prosecutor to review. That is all I can tell the member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is obvious from what has happened at both the NBCC and the Nunavut Housing Corporation that our Crown corporations and agencies require effective oversight. When the minister sat on this side of the House, I recall that he was a strong proponent of transparency at the NBCC and other Crown corporations.

In June of this year, I asked about the issue of the NBCC's loans to businesses and individuals, the identities of which are not currently being disclosed to MLAs or the public. I would have thought that we would have learned our lesson by now that transparency reduces problems.

Will the minister commit to having the Public Agencies Council direct the NBCC to publicly disclose the identities of the companies and individuals that receive public money in the way of loans, yes or no? Thank you.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Elliott for that question. Of course, Mr. Elliott knows that I can't just say yes or no; it is virtually impossible. I will tell the member that I will discuss with the Public Agencies Council and the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation his request and I will try to update him as soon as possible. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In June of this year, the government tabled a letter to the former interim chairperson of the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation. This letter rescinded previous direction of the government and restored the statutorily prescribed reporting relationship between the chief executive officer of the NBCC and the board of directors. However, I note that the government is currently trying to recruit yet another CEO for the NBCC.

The job ad for this position states that the CEO is, and I quote, “fully accountable to the Minister of ED&T, the NBCC Board of Directors and the Comptroller General.” How can the CEO have three bosses and does the Public Agencies Council endorse this kind of confusion in terms of the relationship between Crown corporations and the government? Thank you.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Elliott for that question; two questions he asked actually. Mr. Speaker, I will again discuss with the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation and we will try to clarify any confusion on Mr. Elliott’s part on how the CEO can report to three bodies or persons. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for that commitment. Again we don’t want to confuse people and when you have three people to report to,

it makes it kind of hard, whether you are reporting to the right person or whether you are receiving direction from the correct person.

In June of this year, the minister tabled the most recent annual report for the Public Agencies Council. According to this document, one of its priorities for the current fiscal year was to “prepare letters of direction to the territorial corporations in advance of the finalization of memorandums of understanding.” We have not seen any of these items yet and it is clear to me from the mess at the Nunavut Housing Corporation that direction is required. Why have these items not yet been tabled in the Legislative Assembly and will the minister commit to providing them to MLAs before the end of the fall sitting, yes or no? Thank you.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I recall when I was on that side, I used to ask that question to get a yes or no, and we used to say, “yes,” “no,” or “maybe.”

Mr. Speaker, I will follow up with the member’s request and hopefully we can table those documents before the end of this sitting or we will certainly get the information to the members. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 474 – 3(2): Communicable Disease Rates

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

Mr. Speaker, yesterday, I had asked questions about the types of cancer that occur across Nunavut. I appreciated the minister's willingness to check with his officials to see what information is available.

While he is looking into this issue, I would like to ask the minister if he would also be willing to ask his officials to see what information is available regarding the incidence of sexually transmitted infections across Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister of Health and Social Services, Hon. Tagak Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I certainly will commit to providing more information on the type of information that she requested. I know that once the information is available, my officials, no doubt, will provide that information to me and I will be glad to table the reports, if any, at least an indication of the type of diseases that are prevalent in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Ugyuk: I have often heard that good decisions are based on good information. If we want to make people more aware of the risks involved in unhealthy lifestyles, such as having unprotected

sex, we need to make them aware of the high risks of catching an infection. Can the minister update this House on what plans are in place to formally publish information on Nunavut's health status, including the rates of sexually transmitted infections? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you. Mr. Speaker, I know that I can assure the members that all of the information related to sexual diseases is normally available in terms of publications at the nursing stations in communities. I know that, in some cases, many of our young people and even adults are not used to reading that kind of information, but we can only encourage them.

We are aware that there are high rates of transmitted infections and gaps in sexual health programming, but I can assure you that the department is doing all it can to provide information to the public, and we can certainly do more. I will commit that the department works with the community health committees as well to ensure that the public is provided the best possible information.

I also would like to indicate that we have partners like NTI that, through the federal programs and funding, are also providing additional information from time to time. Certainly we can partner with them in a much greater way and I will certainly commit to doing whatever I can on that. Thank you.

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

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I would like to acknowledge the good work done by the Department of Health and Social Services on the “I respect myself” campaign which focuses on sexual health. I have noted that the campaign distributes items such as condoms, but the supplies run out very fast. Can the minister update this House on what steps are being taken to continue this program and whether additional supplies will be sent out to schools and public health clinics across Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Member. Minister Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you. Mr. Speaker, I know I can ensure the member that the Public Health Agency of Canada is providing funding for that kind of program and that program will continue to be funded until July 19, 2012.

So what I can commit to the member is that more information definitely should be made available to those who have no access to computers. We do have a website that the member just quoted, www.irespectmyself.ca, but I am also well aware too that many of our Nunavut community members and citizens don't always have access to computers, particularly those who are unilingual.

I can only try and assure the member that we need to do a lot more, and certainly I will be willing to provide more information as we make progress on this. It's a huge challenge. Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) In some jurisdictions, regular updates are provided on the numbers of communicable diseases that have been reported in regions or communities. Here in Nunavut, we seem to wait until an issue, such as tuberculosis, or TB, hits the news before any numbers are reported. This often causes a panic because people don't know if there has been a sudden outbreak or if we are experiencing a temporary increase in cases.

Has the minister given any consideration to making updates on communicable diseases across Nunavut available to the public on a regular basis? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe the department is somewhat making progress in that. Even last spring, I indicated in this House that even young people were involved in attempting to provide more information to their peer groups and so on, and they've had venues like Northern Stores and NorthMart, for instance, handing out information to their colleagues and friends, and so on. I certainly will encourage that we do more in that area.

I think, during the last few years, we certainly have done a bit more in terms of making these kinds of communications a lot more available to communities. I certainly will commit to the member that the department certainly

must do more and follow up where needed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 475 – 3(2): Prevention of Home Invasions

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) My question is directed towards the Minister of Justice.

Last week, there was some disturbing news coming out of my riding that there had been a home invasion in one of my constituents' homes and that there was a rather brutal assault on one of my constituents. I understand that in this case, the perpetrators were caught, but that there is still quite a bit of concern in the community I represent about these types of incidents occurring.

Can the minister assure my constituents of what steps the department and the police are taking in our community? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Okalik for that question. Mr. Speaker, the RCMP was very diligent in investigating the incident and they made arrests. I want to assure the member and the people of Iqaluit that the RCMP takes serious crimes of this nature very... they look into it right away. They follow down every lead. I was in communication with the chief superintendent on a regular basis on it

until he informed me that they made the arrests.

I am firmly of the belief that the RCMP does an excellent job of policing in the community. If people see or recognize that there are dangerous areas or dangerous situations, they should try to avoid them and report any suspicious activity. We can't just depend on the RCMP to do the policing. It is important that we, as citizens of all of our communities, report crime and suspicious activity to the police.

Make sure that your doors are locked and if you are troubled by anyone knocking on your door, make sure you don't answer it unless you know who is there. Phone the RCMP on their operation call centre right away if you are concerned about anything. I would imagine that you shouldn't be walking late at night alone. That's obviously a great concern. You should walk with a trusted friend, or take a taxi, or get someone to drive you home. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I would encourage the minister, perhaps, that the police did more drives around my community. It would allay some of their fears. When police are present, regardless of where they may be throughout the community, it tends to prevent a lot of activity that is not healthy for our community.

Can the minister direct the RCMP, perhaps, to cruise around the community more frequently so that their presence is

felt and that the constituents, regardless of where they are in Iqaluit, feel safer throughout the community?
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Okalik.
Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Okalik for that suggestion. Yes, I can talk to the RCMP about that. I'm not privy to their daily operations and how they set everything up, but I can certainly raise Mr. Okalik's concern and the concern of the community with the RCMP. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 476 – 3(2): Equality in Sport

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister responsible for Sport Nunavut, Minister Tapardjuk.

Mr. Speaker, earlier today, I spoke of the unequal support provided to Nunavut athletes to travel to regional and territorial tournaments. This topic has been raised a number of times in the past both by myself and my colleagues.

Has the minister given any consideration to changing the policy for allocating funding for Nunavut athletes to travel to regional and territorial tournaments?
Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott.
Minister of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth, Hon. Louis Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for posing that question. In regard to funding, especially for airline and sporting events, the policy still hasn't changed and it's still the same as it is in 2010-11. We have \$1,691,000 in total that is made available for air transportation for athletes going to another community to attend sporting events.

For example, there were 246 requests from 22 communities, and requests totalled \$4,984,000 and we only had \$1,600,000 to be used specifically for those purposes. So again we were short funds, but we will keep it up and we will provide financial support to athletes who want to travel to other communities to attend sporting events.

At this moment, we are deliberating on this issue and how we can revamp it to make sure that all benefit more. Since I have a new deputy minister, we are doing a review and we will see what kind of changes we will be making, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On March 12, 2010, the minister submitted a return to Oral Question 223 – 3(2), which addressed support for our athletes. In his response, the minister stated, and I quote, "The Nunavut Soccer Association piloted an all-inclusive fee structure for regional tournaments in 2009-2010. In this format, all travel costs not accommodated through travel assistance grants were shared evenly by all participants regardless of community

of origin. This pilot will be reviewed with participants prior to consideration for 2010-11 events.”

Can the minister update this House on the success of the all-inclusive fee structure which was piloted in 2009-2010? Thank you.

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

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the member for raising that question. With regard to the return, I do not have a copy, so I'll have to take that as notice and I'll get back to him as to what the status of the report is. I want to provide factual information, so I'll have to take this question as notice and I'll have to return to the question later, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 477 – 3(2): Status of the GN-NTI Ten-Year Inuit Housing Action Plan

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) My questions are for the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

Last month, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated publicly criticized the government for its handling of the Nunavut Housing Trust and accused the government of walking away from its housing partnership with NTI under the Ten-Year Inuit Housing Action Plan.

Can the minister provide us with his perspective on the issue and can he indicate whether or not the government is still working with NTI to lobby the federal government for housing funding? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Hon. Tagak Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm not sure; I read about that particular statement in the newspapers and, really, I'm not in a position to give a perspective on that. I think it was a matter of an opinion whether or not this government has walked away from any agreement or arrangement.

This government has continued to acknowledge the support of Nunavutmiut, particularly the homeowners and every community member who are calling for increased housing, critical housing that we are trying to address, and it's also very important. In order to have healthy people, we have to decrease the overcrowding homes of Nunavutmiut, and so on.

We continue to support the principles that NTI has originally submitted to the federal government in terms of calling for over 1,000 homes. We are getting close to building 1,000 homes. The last remaining units are done. The 1,000 homes will definitely be built. We are asking for the support of all of the MLAs so that homes can be provided to Nunavutmiut, and we will not walk away from any arrangement, or commitment, or partnership with anyone on this area. It is too critical to try and

debate whether or not we have, really, an issue or not on this. Thank you.

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

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I had asked a question earlier about whether they had tried to get more housing units in conjunction with NTI and the Government of Nunavut. Have they partnered to lobby the federal government to request more housing needs for our future needs here in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With regard to this issue, we have to move forward to completion. Therefore, firstly, we are working extremely hard to ensure that the units currently under construction are completed.

Furthermore, my colleague spoke to this issue last spring when he spoke about the Affordable Housing Initiative program. We have to complete these additional units with the funding we received from the federal government. If we can complete them, we would receive the rest of the \$100 million fund. This initiative has a deadline date of March 31, 2012 and we are trying to complete this phase in order to qualify for the rest of the funding. We are almost at the stage where these units are undergoing final inspections and when we reach that stage, we have to report on the program.

The federal agencies are being communicated with on a consistent basis

and there have been a fair number of meetings between our agencies and the federal department. What I can state today is that Statistics Canada is assisting us in this regard, especially as it relates to housing data in all of our communities here in Nunavut. The housing needs survey is currently being compiled and this will definitely support our arguments in trying to get more units as it will identify the number of housing units we still need.

At this time, the report is being edited by Statistics Canada, although the data has been compiled. They forecast a smaller timeframe, perhaps some time during our winter session, where they can release that document. I will table that report from Statistics Canada in the House when the housing needs survey is completed. It will showcase our first follow-up report on housing which we will submit to the federal government immediately upon its completion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Curley. Your second supplementary, Ms. Ugyuk.

Ms. Ugyuk: I am not certain if NTI has the expertise to design and run a housing construction program, but I can see an important role for NTI and our regional Inuit organizations to make a positive contribution in the area of designing and supporting training programs for Inuit to gain skills and qualifications, especially in light of the opening of our new trades school. Can the minister indicate how the Nunavut Housing Corporation is working with Inuit organizations in this area? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can reply in this manner: with respect to the Inuit associations and organizations, I am quite familiar with the entities as well as their leaders. On a personal note, I have helped to initiate some of the organizations and this is something I am not ashamed to state. I have always stated that they are partners and that we have to work collaboratively with them.

With regard to the Nunavut Housing Corporation mandate, the funding can be used for apprentices' hours towards their journeyman certificate and the Department of Education is our partner on this issue. What our department is dealing with is practical experience and their apprenticeship hours, and this is still ongoing. There are a lot of people who have become journeymen ever since the Affordable Housing Initiative and the housing trust were implemented. There are many people who are working towards their carpenter level and we are trying to get them to reach those levels. We are also getting royalties from these trainees because they also have to have classroom hours.

We will continue to work with those organizations throughout this year. It seems certain that we will be able to provide status reports on partnering with the organizations and the initiatives that we are trying to implement between these Inuit organizations and the Nunavut Housing Corporation. As the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, I plan to work with these organizations and can discuss

these issues with them at any time.
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) As we all know, NTI is currently suing the federal government and is asking for \$1 billion in damages. In the event that NTI's lawsuit is successful, perhaps some of that \$1 billion could be used to build more housing. Would the minister consider making this suggestion to NTI's leadership? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you. Mr. Speaker, I can only commit to providing the information on some of the comments that have been made.

Certainly this part of the cabinet here cannot direct the Inuit organizations or any other private institutions out there, including businesses. So we can only communicate whether or not they would be willing to invest in some of the housing units, but it would depend on their management as well as what kind of priorities they have for Nunavutmiut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 478 – 3(2): Update on Projects

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

Is the new office building in Iqaluit and the white elephant residual heat project the reason for the proposed 19 percent rate increase? 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. Thank you, my colleague, for that question. Just those two very issues only and only those two? No. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I guess my next question is: what are the costs for the office building in Iqaluit and total cost for the residual heat project in Iqaluit to date? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't have that kind of fine detail before me, Mr. Speaker. I'll have to look into that and get back to my colleague on that kind of detail. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Are you recovering any costs from the residual heat project by selling the power produced from residual heat back to the customers in Iqaluit? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I said, I will get back to my colleague with the details on that question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 479 – 3(2): Update on Trigram Building Lease

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) This is unusual. Thank you, my colleagues. (interpretation) I want to ask a question to the Minister responsible for Community and Government Services so he can stand again if he can.

We have heard, at least in my constituency office, about the Trigram Building. I am not sure what the Inuktitut name is. It's in regard to the Trigram Building that is utilized by our public servants. The lease is scheduled to end on March 13, 2013 and the annual lease payment is \$662,760 as is shown in the financial statements. Is the government preparing alternatives or options to get a new office building to replace the Trigram Building in the upcoming future before the lease expires? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you for getting me to rise; I have been tired of sitting. Thank you, Mr. Okalik, for asking that question.

With regard to the government and the buildings which we lease as government offices, as we near the end of the lease agreement dates for them, we conduct studies as to whether or not they would remain in those office buildings. Alternatively we look at whether they are required to move to a different building and either to a larger or smaller building. We have to look at all of the factors related to office rental.

At this current time, the lease end date is still a while away, but I know that as we get closer to that date, we will be conducting studies and looking at where we can make improvements and the leasehold improvements that we may have to make. However, we conduct a study of all the required issues before we change offices. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I tried to ask that question immediately since I would like the department to start planning to change the office building currently leased out as it has caused health issues in the past. The Trigram Building has a history of respiratory issues amongst the workers due to mould. In knowing that this has been the case, I do not want the

government to have to rush if it becomes an emergency.

So I would first like to ask: are you going to be planning a possible replacement in the immediate future? That date will reach us quite soon. I further encourage the minister to start planning so that they have an alternative to the Trigram Building, perhaps even a new building. At the very least, they should have a building that is much more worker friendly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Okalik, for awakening us towards the issues that we have to keep in observation when we are dealing with office buildings.

As I told the member previously, I believe it was at our June sitting and the mould issues that the member raised, they did not find any mould and they cleaned out the pollution. Also, in February, they conducted another study to determine air quality in the Trigram Building. They did not find any deleterious or harmful substances in February, according to the engineering firm there. I do not want the workers there to be fearful of that office.

As we get closer to the end of the lease date, we will start our preparations at an early stage. Again I would like to thank you for waking us up to those facts. As we get closer to March 2013, I'm sure the member will again stand up to remind me about this office building. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Thank you, Mr. Okalik. Oral Questions. If there are no more... . (interpretation ends) Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. Elliott.

Question 480 – 3(2): Poverty Strategy between GN and NTI

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are directed towards, I believe it would be the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Minister Taptuna.

In regard to the recent news release that came out about NTI working with his department on the poverty strategy, with some of the questions that Ms. Ugyuk had in terms of NTI going into agreements with the Government of Nunavut and then either funding being accessed or work being done and not both parties working out a specific agreement in terms of a terms of reference, has the Government of Nunavut worked out a Memorandum of Understanding with NTI on the poverty strategy and outlining how they are going to work together? Thank you.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. At this time, there is no real agreement in writing, a formal agreement, but that's upcoming.

During the news release that I did together with the president of the Qikiqtaaluk Inuit Association... . It's ongoing work. Of course, in that particular instance of getting together to

discuss the process of the Poverty Reduction Strategy, it's ongoing and we intend to keep that dialogue going with our partners. Of course, that includes NTI, the RIAs, and the non-profit and business organizations out there. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, the other example would be the Suicide Prevention Strategy in terms of the Embrace Life Council, NTI, and the Government of Nunavut working together. It was great in terms of having the three organizations work together. You get more ability and more skill sets working together to come up with a better strategy or come up with a better way of doing business. To me, I hope this is the way that the Government of Nunavut will work towards, you know, working together.

In that regard, could the minister explain how he sees NTI helping out with this project? Thank you.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again I thank the member for that question. Our intention is to do public engagements rather than public consultations as the member is well aware. Through public consultations, there is more or less at the end, the end product is still the government that makes the final decision.

Poverty is a very complex issue that this government alone cannot deal with. So we do have assistance from NTI and

through that, we are going to be engaging in public forums rather than public consultations. That way, we will have more input from regular folks who are out there, communities, and non-governmental organizations. Throughout that process, we will have more input from Nunavummiut on helping us come up with a poverty strategy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again I thank you for the answer. One of the things I would like to see is... . With what Mr. Curley was alluding to yesterday in terms of it would be nice to have organizations like NTI and the regional Inuit organizations working together and doing consultations on these instead of hiring consultants from the south so that you have people who are from Nunavut, who are Inuk, who have the *Inuit Qaujimaqatuqangit* values to be able to put them into this sort of a strategy.

So will your department and members of your department be going around to the different communities to do the consultations in terms of the first round of community dialogues or will a consultant be hired to go around and do this work? Thank you.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the minister responsible for that strategy, I am a co-chair of the committee with other co-chairs from the non-profit organizations, including NTI and businesses out there. I am the co-

chair and we do have several other people who are identified from other organizations as co-chairs. Yes, we will be going around to these other communities to start the process of discussions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do not think the minister answered my question about whether consultants would be hired, but I have another question that I would like to ask that seems more important in terms of... . I've got one question left.

The Poverty Reduction Strategy is under your department, but it is also under the umbrella of the social advocate's office. Could he explain to me today how you will be working with the social advocate's office to make this all fit? Thank you.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. For hiring consultants through this public engagement process, that's exactly what we are trying to do so that we can avoid that. We will have input, solutions, and action plans coming from Nunavummiut rather than consultants from out there. How we are going to engage the social advocacy group is through discussions, meetings, planning, and coming up with ideas and plans to deal with the situation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Oral Questions. Mr. Elliott.

Question 481 – 3(2): Devolution Negotiations

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are directed towards the Premier there concerning the Northern Economic and Sovereignty Infrastructure Conference, and thank you for answering the questions that I had asked before.

Although regular MLAs, as myself, couldn't afford to attend this event, it was about \$1,000, I think, a shot to be able to attend this conference, I had the opportunity to read the Premier's keynote address that she delivered. I noted that she addressed topics that I have spoken about on many occasions, including sovereignty and devolution.

We have seen that the GNWT and the federal government have made progress in negotiating an agreement in principle regarding devolution. The Prime Minister's parliamentary secretary also spoke at this conference. Can the Premier update us today on whether she spoke directly with him about devolution and, if so, what is the federal government's current position regarding devolution negotiations with Nunavut? Thank you.

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

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for raising that question. Every time I have an opportunity to speak to the Prime Minister and/or the INAC minister, I always bring up the issue of devolution, devolving jurisdiction, and there is something I always bring up. Just recently, I had an opportunity to

speak with the INAC minister about devolution and that devolution is a priority for our government here in Nunavut. I have continued to maintain communication with those ministers. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. From listening to the news coverage about this event, it sounded like the message that Ottawa came up to give us was that it's time to tighten our belts. I think there was also some reference to the fact that maybe the tap is being turned off. This was in direct contrast to what the Premier spoke about in her keynote address, which emphasized the need for federal investment to bring us up to the standards enjoyed by other Canadians.

Can the Premier indicate to us what the reaction of federal decision-makers was to her speech? Thank you.

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

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am very happy that I was invited to speak as a keynote speaker. Through that opportunity, we were able to voice our concerns about various issues and I used that forum to remind delegates that everything that requires capital as well as infrastructure hinge on the need of this government to prepare for devolution. There has been no response to the positions outlined in my keynote speech. However, I will continue to maintain our message about Nunavut's needs.

With respect to the Nunavut government, we are open for negotiations and we are working hard towards self-sustaining abilities. We are basically waiting for the terms of reference on the negotiations. Our partnership with Nunavut Tunngavik is also available for negotiation. Out of the three parties, two are ready for negotiation. It is only the federal government who are not ready and they have yet to appoint the chief negotiator. We have been pushing them to make that appointment in order to get the ball rolling. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for that information. Under her Department of EIA, there are seven people who work in the office on the file of devolution. I was just wondering if she could spend a little time expanding on the roles of these seven individuals and what they are doing in terms of bringing forward the file of devolution. Thank you.

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

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With regard to the staff and their positions, a lot of them are vacant. I believe we have two or three workers. I'll have to check the number of staff.

However, the director has been very busy in trying to push along the devolution file and has been working since January 2009. They started preparing the consultation process, especially on the need to become self-

sufficient and the need to communicate this fact to all Nunavummiut. We have to ensure that we educate our public and public servants, and that this committee needs to be on the same page on this particular issue. This process has begun.

With regard to communication, a communication strategy has been prepared. Furthermore, in regard to the communication strategy, it is now very important to let the federal government know about our wishes on devolution. The federal government has treated this issue with little priority to date. What we want to do is to use the communication strategy to better communicate with the federal government.

We have created an initiative. I will be creating a recording in Inuktitut. I already finished a recording in English, a recording that will be aired throughout all community radios that explains what devolution is. We also plan to publish documents and other published materials to be made available to the news media.

The group that has been working on devolution has been working hard even though all positions are not filled. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For my final question, I'm just curious to find out: how does the Premier respond to comments that if we are unable to handle \$200 million in terms of a Nunavut Housing Trust program, how will we be ever able to handle a program such as devolution? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation):
Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to add that when speaking with the Prime Minister's Office, he wrote that when approaching where we are heading, we should not aim to inherit everything all at once, (interpretation ends) as in a phased-in approach, non-fiscal, phased-in approach.

(interpretation) We have maintained our position that we want to conduct a phased-in approach to deal with devolution. We responded to the Prime Minister's correspondence, which I alluded to in a previous statement about the newest INAC minister. This was good to hear from our discussions with the newest INAC minister.

This will not occur overnight. It's quite obvious that it will be a fairly lengthy process as devolution is geared towards greater self-sufficiency. In the Yukon and the NWT, it took many years of negotiations before they were finally able to reach this stage. The Yukon has completed that and the NWT has reached an agreement in principle. It is only by undertaking this process can we move forward.

If we look at the housing issue, although we may have funding problems, we know we're making corrections. We are now able to resolve a lot of the problems that created this issue and we have prepared to make improvements in our system.

Now with regard to devolution, we really have to deal with this because it's a big priority for our government. As it

takes a fair number of years to realize the progress, we will be too late if we don't initiate it now.

Pretty much the whole globe is looking at the Inuit homeland's freshwater and marine area, and we have to ensure that we are able to manage our own lands and resources before everyone else makes those decisions for Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Premier. We will be going back to our orders of the day as question period is now over. (interpretation ends) Item 7. Written Questions. Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Item 10. Petitions. Item 11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees. Item 12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Hon. Tagak Curley.

Item 13: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 224 – 3(2): Nunavut Suicide Prevention Strategy, September 17, 2010

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table the Nunavut Prevention Strategy, September 17, 2010. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Can I have the documents brought forward to the table, please.

Tabling of Documents. Hon. Peter Taptuna.

Tabled Document 225 – 3(2): Nunavut Arts and Crafts Final Report, June 2010

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table the Economic Impact Study: Nunavut Arts and Crafts Final Report, June 2010. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Tabling of Documents. Hon. Peter Taptuna.

Tabled Document 226 – 3(2): Nunavut Development Corporation's Annual Report for 2009-2010

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table the Nunavut Development Corporation's Annual Report for 2009-2010. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Tabling of Documents. Hon. Eva Aariak.

Tabled Document 227 – 3(2): Refined Direction from Cabinet Retreat 2010

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I am pleased to table the document "Refined Direction from Cabinet Retreat 2010." (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Tabling of Documents. Hon. Lorne Kusugak.

Tabled Document 228 – 3(2): Qulliq Energy Corporation's Ninth Annual Report 2009-2010

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to

table the following document: the Qulliq Energy Corporation's ninth annual report for the year 2009-2010. Inuktitut, Inuinnaqtun, and French will be distributed as soon as possible. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. (interpretation ends) Tabling of Documents. Hon. Louis Tapardjuk.

Tabled Document 229 – 3(2): Nunavut Public Library Service 2009-2010 Annual Report

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table the first Nunavut Public Library Service 2009-2010 Annual Report. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Tabling of Documents. Hon. Keith Peterson.

Tabled Document 230 – 3(2): Grants and Contributions 2009-2010**Tabled Document 231 – 3(2): Interim Financial Report (unaudited) March 31, 2010**

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have two documents to table.

I am pleased to table the Department of Finance's grants and contributions report for 2009-2010.

I am pleased to table the Interim Financial Report (Unaudited) March 31, 2010. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Tabling of Documents. (interpretation) If there are no more, we will move on to another

item. (interpretation ends) Item 14.
Notices of Motions. Mr. Ningeongan.

Item 14: Notices of Motions

Motion 029 – 3(2): Extended Adjournment – Notice

Mr. Ningeongan: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Thursday, October 28, 2010, I will move the following motion:

I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet North, that notwithstanding Rule 4, that when the House concludes its present sitting in Iqaluit, it shall be adjourned until February 22, 2011 for the winter sitting.

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

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

Item 16: Motions

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

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

Motion 029 – 3(2): Extended Adjournment

Mr. Ningeongan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet North, that notwithstanding Rule 4, that when the House concludes its fall 2010 sitting in Iqaluit, it shall be adjourned until the winter 2011 sitting, which shall commence on February 22, 2011.

Further, that at any time prior to February 22, 2011, if the Speaker is satisfied, after consultation with the Executive Council and Members of the Legislative Assembly, that the public interest requires that the House should meet at an earlier time during adjournment, the Speaker may give notice and thereupon the House shall meet at the stated time in such notice and shall transact its business as if it had been duly adjourned to that time.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. The motion is in order. Question has been called. All those in favour of the motion, please raise your hand. Opposed. The motion is carried.

Item 16. Motions. (interpretation ends) Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Hon. Keith Peterson.

Item 18: Second Reading of Bills

Bill 44 – An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act – Second Reading

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet South and Whale Cove, that Bill 44, *An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act*, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill amends the *Income Tax Act* to reflect amendments made in the federal Act respecting the addition of the concept of “shared custody parent.” The bill also clarifies certain provisions and corrects minor errors. 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 44 is referred to the Standing Committee on Legislation.

Second Reading of Bills. Hon. Keith Peterson.

Bill 45 – An Act to Amend the Labour Standards Act (Minimum Wage) – Second Reading

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet South and Whale Cove, that Bill 45, *An Act to Amend the Labour Standards Act (Minimum Wage)*, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill increases the minimum wage in Nunavut to \$11 an hour. 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 45 is referred to the Standing on Committee on Legislation.

Second Reading of Bills. Hon. Keith Peterson.

Bill 46 – An Act to Amend the Senior Citizens and Disabled Persons Property Tax Relief Act – Second Reading

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet South and Whale Cove, that Bill 46, *An Act to Amend the Senior Citizens and Disabled Persons Property Tax Relief Act*, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill clarifies the definition of eligible property. This bill clarifies the powers of the Minister of Finance to declare an individual tax exempt. The bill also corrects errors. 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 46 is referred to the Standing Committee on Legislation.

Second Reading of Bills. Hon. Keith Peterson.

Bill 47 – International Interests in Mobile Aircraft Equipment Act – Second Reading

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet South and Whale Cove, that Bill 47, *International Interests in Mobile Aircraft Equipment Act*, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill implements the 2001 *Convention on International Interests in Mobile Equipment* and the *Protocol to the Convention on*

International Interests in Mobile Equipment on Matters Specific to Aircraft Equipment. 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 47 is referred to the Standing Committee on Legislation.

Second Reading of Bills. Hon. Keith Peterson.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet South and Whale Cove, that Bill 48, *Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act, 2010, No. 3*, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill corrects inconsistencies and errors in certain Acts of Nunavut and corrects references relating to the Northwest Territories. 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 48 is referred to the Standing Committee on Legislation.

Second Reading of Bills. Hon. Peter Taptuna.

Bill 49 – Agricultural Products Marketing Act, Repeal – Second Reading

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the hon. member from Arviat, that Bill 49, *Agricultural Products Marketing Act, Repeal*, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill repeals the *Agricultural Products Marketing 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 49 is referred to the Standing Committee on Legislation.

Second Reading of Bills. Hon. Keith Peterson.

Bill 50 – Nunavut Outfitters Liability Protection Fund Act, Repeal – Second Reading

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the hard-working Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet South and Whale Cove, that Bill 50, *Nunavut Outfitters Liability Protection Fund Act, Repeal*, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill repeals the *Nunavut Outfitters Liability Protection Fund Act*. 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

and Bill 50 is referred to the Standing Committee on Legislation.

Second Reading of Bills. (interpretation)
If there are no more... . Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I request unanimous consent to go back to section 5 of the *Orders of the Day*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Our colleague would like to go back to Item 5, Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Are there any nays? There are no nays. We have returned to Item 5, (interpretation ends) Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Peterson.

Revert to Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize and welcome Chief Superintendent Steve McVarnock of the “V” Division RCMP for Nunavut to the Gallery.

Mr. Speaker, the chief superintendent is no stranger to the North; he has been here a few times and he recently arrived to command the “V” division in July of 2009. He has been to all communities in Nunavut. He is very hard working and dedicated. Also, he works closely with the Suicide Prevention Strategy that my colleague mentioned.

One thing I noticed about the chief superintendent is that he cares for the people of Nunavut, he cares for the communities, and he cares for his office. The only thing negative he has is that he is not an Edmonton Oilers fan and I’m okay with that. Welcome to the House.

>>*Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Welcome to the Gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Item 19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other... oh, I’m sorry. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Schell.

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize Chris Farris here with First Air. Thank you.

>>*Applause*

Speaker: Thank you. Welcome to the Gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Schell.

Mr. Schell: I would also like to recognize Rick Lefebvre with First Air there. Thank you.

>>*Laughter*

>>*Applause*

Speaker: Thank you. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Item 19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bills 38, 39, 40, and 41 with Mr. Schell 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 15:33 and Committee resumed at 15:59*

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

Chairman (Mr. Schell): I would like to call the committee meeting to order. In the Committee of the Whole, we have the following items to deal with: Bills 38, 39, 40, and 41. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We would like to continue with Bill 38 and commence the review of the Nunavut Arctic College, followed by the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut. After that, we will proceed with the review of Bill 39, Bill 40, and Bill 41. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Do members agree that we proceed with capital estimates for Nunavut Arctic College?

Some Members: Agreed.

Bill 38 – Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2011-2012 – Nunavut Arctic College – Consideration in Committee

Chairman: I would now like to ask Minister Shewchuk, responsible for Nunavut Arctic College, to make his opening remarks.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman. Thank you very much. Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to be here today to present the 2011-12 capital estimates and update you on the capital planning being done by Nunavut Arctic College. As the only post-secondary institution in the territory, Nunavut Arctic College plays the central role in providing Nunavutmiut with

adult learning programs and services. Our core business is training for employment. This addresses the *Tamapta* goal: “Through Nunavut Arctic College and its partners, we will increase post-secondary opportunities in all occupational categories from career training to professional education.”

Starting in 2010-11, Nunavut Arctic College receives an annual capital budget for minor projects. The 2010-11 budget is funding a technical assessment and design to resolve the shifting foundations at the old married student residence in Iqaluit. It will also fund improved handicapped access and office capacity in the old administration building in Cambridge Bay. Future budgets will be used to further renew college facilities.

The fall marks the opening of Nunavut’s new trades training centre in Rankin Inlet. The facility was handed over by the contractor on September 1. The new centre expands Nunavut’s capacity to train housing maintainers, oil burner mechanics, plumbers, and electricians. The trades training [centre] will be officially opened on November 16.

An Hon. Member: Hear, hear!

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: All Members of the Legislative Assembly are invited to join in the celebration.

Arctic College’s roots are in the community learning centres. The new community learning centre in Qikiqtarjuaq is almost complete. The students will move in this fall. The 2010-11 capital estimates provided funding to start planning new community learning

centres in Grise Fiord, Whale Cove, and Iqaluit.

Child care is a major challenge for many Nunavutmiut trying to advance their education. *Tamapta* states, "We will diligently examine possibilities for adding daycare space to new capital projects." Part of the planning for new community learning centres will include an appraisal of the child care services needed by adult students.

Nunavutmiut wishing to take career training programs not available in their home community are accommodated in Arctic College's regional campuses at Cambridge Bay, Rankin Inlet, and Iqaluit. Mining is becoming a major employer in Nunavut. Planning is proceeding on a mine training centre at the core of a proposed consolidated Kitikmeot campus in Cambridge Bay. The centre will train mine workers, millwrights, and welders. The campus will also provide space for expanded teacher, nurse, and human service education. To support this program expansion, the project will include accommodations for single students and a daycare centre.

Two important projects under construction are not part of these estimates. In 2009, Nunavut Arctic College received \$11 million from the federal Arctic Research Infrastructure Fund for the replacement of the old headquarters of Nunavut Research Institute in Iqaluit. The old facility is being replaced on the same site with a larger, more modern, and more energy efficient facility. It will enable Nunavut Research Institute to expand its research activities and services in the health, natural, and social sciences. The new

facility will be ready for occupancy early in 2011. Also funded are: four field research support units being installed in Arviat, Cambridge Bay, Igloolik, and Rankin Inlet.

Also in 2009, Arctic College received \$2.2 million from the federal Knowledge Infrastructure Program and \$2.76 million from the Government of Nunavut for the Cyber Infrastructure Project. This project will improve telecommunications connectivity and establish the communication network required to make online learning and research accessible to Nunavutmiut throughout Nunavut. This project is scheduled to be complete by March 2011.

Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to be here today to discuss Nunavut Arctic College's capital estimates for 2011-12. I welcome your questions and advice. *Ma'na*, Mr. Chairman.

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

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

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

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Sergeant-at-Arms, can you please escort the witness in.

Minister Shewchuk, please introduce your witness.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have with me here today sitting on my right is Mr. Dan

Vandermeulen, the President of Nunavut Arctic College. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Does the Chair of the Standing Committee on Social Wellness have comments? Please proceed, Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. 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 Nunavut Arctic College's proposed 2011-12 capital estimates. Nunavut Arctic College's proposed capital budget for 2011-12 is \$100,000, which will be allocated towards minor capital projects, including upgrades and renovations to current facilities.

Mr. Chairman, Nunavut Arctic College is Nunavut's central agency for providing adult educational opportunities from basic upgrading, to training programs to opportunities for career development. Given the desperate need to improve the abilities of Nunavummiut to be self-reliant and independent, members of the standing committee are of the view that the limited amount of funding proposed for Nunavut Arctic College for 2011-12 allows for very limited progress in the upcoming year towards reaching our goals for the future.

Mr. Chairman, Nunavut's community learning centres are the frontline resources when it comes to addressing issues, such as literacy, numeracy, and the promotion of skill sets that can improve an individual's employability and progress towards training or career-

oriented programs. In order to address poverty and other social issues, investment in community-based learning is critical.

Although funding had previously been allocated in 2010-11 towards planning for new community learning centres in Grise Fiord, Iqaluit, and Whale Cove, committee members were disappointed not to see these projects included in the college's capital plans for 2011-12. The standing committee was, however, pleased to note that the new community learning centre in Qikiqtarjuaq is almost complete.

Mr. Chairman, the three regional campuses of Nunavut Arctic College located in Iqaluit, Rankin Inlet, and Cambridge Bay have seen a number of infrastructure developments over the past several years. The standing committee congratulates the minister and officials from Nunavut Arctic College on the most recent successful initiative, the completion of the Nunavut Trades Training Centre in Rankin Inlet. Members look forward to updates on the implementation and success of the various training programs to be offered at this facility.

Mr. Chairman, the largest share of the college's 2011-12 capital funding request for minor capital will be allocated to resolving problems with the foundation of the married student residence in Iqaluit. Many students attending Nunavut Arctic College in Iqaluit are accommodated at the Federal Road residence in Iqaluit and members were surprised to note that the minister had very little information regarding the status of this facility, including its age. Members encourage the minister to

closely monitor the status of all student accommodations and to address student concerns in a timely manner.

Mr. Chairman, committee members have noted that the Mine Training Centre project for Cambridge Bay's Nunavut Arctic College Campus is not included in the college's 2012-16 five-year capital plan. However, during his presentation before the standing committee, the minister did indicate that planning for this project was ongoing with monies to be carried over from the current fiscal year. Standing committee members encourage the minister to continue in his efforts to secure funding for this project, possibly in partnership with the federal government or other entities. The mining industry has already demonstrated its potential in providing jobs and income to Nunavummiut.

On a final note, Mr. Chairman, standing committee members have noted Nunavut Arctic College's success in accessing federal infrastructure funding for the construction of the new Nunavut Research Institute, which is just down the road from us here in Iqaluit, and for the college's territory-wide telecommunications network.

Committee members would welcome the opportunity to support the college in further efforts to secure infrastructure funding that will support adult education across the territory.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening comments on the proposed 2011-12 Capital Estimates of Nunavut Arctic College. I am confident that my colleagues will wish to offer further comments of their own. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: 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 department's estimates. Do members have any general comments? Mr. Ningark.

Mr. Ningark: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just came from this month, the month of October, I attended the Kitikmeot Inuit Association's meeting in Cambridge Bay and I was pleased to hear from the presidents of the organization and the Kitikmeot Corporation that the mining industry is developing in the Kitikmeot region.

There is a great potential, Mr. Chairman, for young people to take advantage of the development and there is a great potential for training. I am very happy to hear that the Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College stated that mining is a major employer in Nunavut, I think mostly in the Kitikmeot region.

We appreciate, Mr. Chairman, that there is a mine training facility in Cambridge Bay, not only with a classroom but also accommodation for students. On behalf of the people of the Kitikmeot region, I would like to state my appreciation of the minister for making sure that we have the facilities that we need for the young students.

I am hoping that some of these accommodations will be able to accommodate families of maybe three or four. A lot of times, in the region, I am told by young people who wanted to attend programs and training programs but not able to bring their families because of not having accommodation for their families.

So we appreciate the efforts made by the Minister of Arctic College and his officials. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. I think that was a comment, but if you want to comment on that, Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would just like to make a comment that I totally agree with the member's statement, and it is very important that adult learning is accessible to all communities and all Nunavutmiut across the territory. I just would like to say that he says and encourages us, in our planning stages of any new facilities, to develop them with family residences and also with daycares. That's very important that we do that and we are going to do that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Okalik.

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to welcome the minister and his official. During the appearance of the minister and his officials before the committee, I asked them about the old residence. It is now currently used for Arctic College students who board there. I know that it is much older than I am, but I would like to know exactly what year that building

was built. That was my previous question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We do have the exact year, and we sent the letter to the regular member and he hasn't received it yet. I don't have a copy of that exact letter, but the residence is between 55 and 60 years old, as far as I can recall, but the exact year that it was built and the age of it, there is a letter going to him. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Okalik.

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Wow, I did not know it was that old. It's still being utilized today. However, it is used only by people who have no other alternative but to live in that residence. Is the Arctic College making plans to look at other sources of accommodation? That building should not be used since it is getting old and Arctic College has finished construction of the new residence near the college. What are the minister's plans on building a new residence? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As the member indicated, it's a very old facility. However, it's a facility that we have available to us and that we need to use it at this time. The main floor is used for programming and delivery of courses and instruction in the Arctic College. We realize that the

facility is very old and we would like to plan for the future into replacing that facility at some point in time.

Part of the planning and part of the feasibility of a new location is tied in with the development of a new airport, also. Because a new airport may mean that they acquire that space where the residence is at present, we would look at some partnership in trying to replace that facility at that time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Okalik.

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for his response. I boarded in that building in the past, so I am quite familiar with the building. It provided an essential service in those years, but we have to look at the new infrastructure and new buildings.

My question at this time is about the funding that has been allocated. There is only \$100,000 set aside for Nunavut Arctic College and they were in the plans last year for Iqaluit, Whale Cove, and Grise Fiord. My question is: could the minister give us an update on what's happening with those community learning centres? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The funding that was allocated for the planning and design for those three projects, as the member listed, is exactly what's happening. The planning and design phase is being done this year. Once that is done, we will have

better costing of all of the facilities to be constructed into the future. It is a priority of Nunavut Arctic College and me, as a minister of the college, to pursue those avenues of getting those buildings built, and that's what I will do. I will, of course, need government approval, cabinet approval to move forward, but I intend to make that a priority of mine, as the Minister of the Arctic College. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Okalik.

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I like what I heard. It is very good to hear that the minister has made those plans. I want to assure the minister that we will lobby with the government to make sure those activities are carried through. Those are the issues that I wished to speak to at this time, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. That was just a comment. Mr. Komoartok.

Mr. Komoartok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This was partially referred to by my colleague, but I wanted to ask a question about the old residence.

It is a very old building as I lived there for two years and that's about 40 years ago already that I have not returned. I did not expect to enter it again, but I have had to visit on several occasions. The paint is still the same, the smell is still lingering, the floor is still the same, and it is not very scenic. It seems to have never changed even up to today.

We still have students living at the old residence and some students from Pangnirtung are living there. One of the

students passed away in that building just recently. Ever since that residence was opened, there have been a number of suicides. Residents talk about ghostly encounters with invisible spirits and I believe that they are true because we hear occasionally about ghostly encounters.

I would like to find out about the closure date of this building. It has been well utilized by our people, but in some ways, I think it's best to completely construct a new residence. There are some people from Nunavut who had bad experiences at the student residence while they were there, but not all people underwent those experiences. I am urging the minister and his officials to look for an alternate building or to build another facility to house the students because that building is decrepit and I would like to hear about the closure date.

As per some of the comments, that old residence is quite dilapidated. I just wanted to add that further to my colleague's comments. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. I think that was just a comment there. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On the first page of the opening comments, the minister was talking about the old married student residence in Iqaluit. I just wanted clarification. Is that the Q units or the one that is known as the Q units? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is correct, it is

known as the Q units, yes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Could he elaborate in terms of what is happening with the shifting of the foundation? Are the piles sliding out or is it built on sand? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are assessing why they are shifting and waiting for a technical assessment to see exactly why they are shifting. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Before that residence was built, was there not a technical assessment done on that beforehand? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, there was a technical assessment when it was built, but there are things that happen for no reason at all sometimes, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The new family residence that is there, it's behind it in the same location. Is the technical assessment going to look at that new area as well or are we going to have similar problems with the new facility that is being built? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, there will be no technical assessment done on that other area. We are just looking at where there is a problem occurring right now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. But before that new area was built upon, there was a technical assessment done on that, so we shouldn't have the same problem. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, there was and there was on the one that is shifting now, but we can't guarantee anything into the future, but yes, there was. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It would be like Mr. Tootoo's crystal ball from before.

In terms of students that you have this year, how many are in... . There was a mention made to the old res. How many students are in the old res., how many are in the Q units, and how many are in the new family residence? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We don't have those

exact numbers right now, but we would be more than willing to offer that information to the member in a letter.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess one of the questions I was trying to get at was: is the residence sufficient enough for the number of students we are having applying to go to the programs? Is everyone being given a house or are we going to run into problems with needing more facilities? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. All of the facilities that we have for housing in Iqaluit are full and there is more demand than we have available. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the third paragraph of his opening comments, he was talking about the new trades training centre in Rankin Inlet and the grand opening is on November 16. When do we anticipate having students involved? Are there students in the program already and people accepted? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, there are students in the new trades centre, there has been for some time, and there are four programs being offered there right now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In terms of Grise Fiord, is the project dollars that were allocated for this year... ? Is that going to be a capital carryover project so that it will be in next year's? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The member is right. That will be carried over until we have access to the hamlet office that needs to be vacated. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On page 2, the minister was talking about the \$11 million that came as federal dollars for the Arctic Research Infrastructure Fund. I'm just wondering if he could give us an update as to... he didn't in his member's statement. Is there any idea of when the building will actually open? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's good to report that the building is on schedule, on time, and on plan. We're shooting for an opening of the building some time before the end of March 2011. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In terms of what the new facility has to offer, is there laboratory space for

researchers, office space for researchers, office for the Nunavut Research Institute, and are there accommodations there as well? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The member is quite right. There is laboratory space, there is office space, there are research areas, there's everything that you want to do when you're doing science and research on something. There is no accommodation in the facility. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. How many researchers can the facility accommodate at one time? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My understanding is it can accommodate approximately eight to ten researchers at one time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Originally when the funding was announced and in terms of the information that we were given, it was my understanding that it was just going to increase the research capacity here in Iqaluit. But in his opening comments and also in his Minister's Statement, he had talked about four field research support units in Arviat, Cambridge Bay, Igloolik, and Rankin Inlet. I was

wondering if the minister could expand on those facilities. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, those facilities are in the communities. I believe they are all constructed. The facilities in Arviat and Igloolik are accommodation facilities for researchers who go there. In Cambridge Bay, they are laboratory facilities that researchers can use. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So these are sort of funds that were channelled through the \$11 million to go to those communities. I guess I'll start with Arviat. In Arviat, are these attached onto the community learning centre or is there already a research facility in Arviat? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, they are independent buildings. They basically look like double-wide trailers and they are built on their own, so they are independent of any building. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So in Igloolik as well, they are double-edged trailers. Is that like an Atco trailer? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I suppose you can compare it to an Atco trailer, but I did see the one in Arviat completely constructed and it does not even look like a trailer or a double-wide trailer when they are completed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In Arviat and Igloolik, how many researchers do they accommodate? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe the accommodations are adequate for four researchers in each of those units. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In Arviat, where would those individuals who come into town to do research do their research? At the community learning centre, or is there an actual research building for them to work in? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am not a researcher, but there is available space in the units to do various degrees of research. A lot of research that I have seen that goes on is done through the HTO and with the HTO facilities that are provided, whether it is outside or inside, and community

freezers are involved too. The researchers will be accommodated through an application process that is looked after and run by the Nunavut Research Institute in Iqaluit here. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For Cambridge Bay and Rankin Inlet, you said that there were laboratory facilities that were built. Is that within the community learning centres or were those separate trailers with lab facilities? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, they were separate facilities just like the accommodation facilities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. How did your department or how did the corporation decide on Arviat, Cambridge Bay, Igloolik, and Rankin Inlet as the communities to receive the infrastructure? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Historical information provided information on where, typically, most of the research was taking place and that is how the locations were decided upon. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Do you have dollar values for each of the communities, how much went to each of the communities, or was it the same amount for each community? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We don't have those numbers in front of us, but we can definitely get the numbers for the member. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the second last paragraph where the minister is talking about the Knowledge Infrastructure Program and the idea of improving telecommunications and connectivity for establishing a communication network, what types of programs will the college be offering in terms of online learning? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The first thing we do is have to get this program completed and the fibre optics in place. We are working with Community and Government Services and doing that under the timelines that we have under the infrastructure fund.

As far as programming, there is going to be many. I cannot comment on that at this time because there will be consultation with the communities on what type of programming will be

provided in certain communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It says that the work will be completed in March of 2011. That's only five months away, which, to me, I would hope that the college would have some programs in mind as to which ones would be offered online.

I know that a lot of concerns that my colleagues have raised is with the fact that, a lot of times, there are people within the communities who want to learn and further their education and move on but don't necessarily want to leave their community. This type of technology is an excellent way to be able to allow them to be able to learn at home and be able to get their qualifications that we're always talking about in terms of the Auditor General's reports and build the capacity within the communities.

I'm just a little shocked that there isn't any foresight in terms of planning of the programs. I know Arctic College has a lot of programs that are excellent programs that probably could be transferred to online or be delivered online. I'm just wondering if the minister could possibly look into or maybe comment on what specific programs he would target to have offered within the communities online. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We do have foresight and

we are looking to the future. We do have committees struck that are working on this as we speak, into seeing what programs we are going to provide online. So there is nothing established and written in stone, and I think it would be premature for me to comment on what I think the types of programs that should be offered online. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I could offer a couple of suggestions. I think the Prior Learning Assessment Recognition Program is just about ready to be up online and be able to be delivered in an online capacity, so that might be a place to start. Another one possibly would be the pre-trade math and science course that's offered to be able to get people ready to be able to become apprentices.

Again, there have been millions of dollars spent by the Nunavut Housing Corporation to try and get our apprentices into the trade fields. So that might be a possibility of where the minister could start looking in terms of programs to be offered online. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I welcome the member's suggestions and we will take that information with us. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In terms of any new facilities that are being constructed, I guess there is the Qikiqtarjuaq one that's going to be opening. Does that have daycare facilities? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, it does not have daycare facilities. It was an addition to the existing school, so it does not have daycare facilities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome to the Hon. Minister of Nunavut Arctic College and Nunavut Arctic College President.

I am very pleased to see in the minister's opening comments on paragraph 5, the recognition of child care for those advancing in education. It's a fact that if Nunavummiut can provide and support child care, it simply allows more Nunavummiut to have the opportunity to further their education as well as advance in the workplace knowing child care is available. As it is, too few Nunavummiut have the resources to advance and child care is a critical component.

With that, child care can and will contribute to advancement if and when child care is implemented. I am glad to see that the minister and his department is considering child care for those who are choosing to advance their education. It was just a comment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. That was just a comment, but if you want to comment on it, Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As has been mentioned by several ministers, we understand and acknowledge that child care is a very important part of adult learning. That is why we have the commitment, when we do any future planning with learning centres or any infrastructure from the college for adult learning, that we consider doing a child care assessment in the community and see what needs are met or needed, and try and meet those needs and provide child care for adult students into the future. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. I have no more names on my list for general comments. We will now proceed to the page-by-page review of the departmental estimates starting with page B-3. Finance. Branch Summary. Centrally Administered Funds. Capital Expenditures. Total Capital Expenditures. \$100,000. Details on B-4. Any questions or comments? Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: We will go back to page B-2. Department Summary. Finance. Capital Expenditures. Total Capital Expenditures. \$100,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Speaker: Is the committee agreed that the Department of Finance on behalf of the Nunavut Arctic College is concluded?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Does the minister have any closing comments? Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I do. Thank you. I thank all of the members for their input into the Arctic College. I know we have very little capital here this fiscal year.

However, as Mr. Elliott has shown, adult learning is very much of a concern to him and I think it is to all of us across Nunavut. Adult learning is very important. We see a more increased demand for that type of learning and we are addressing that need through the Arctic College. I think it's very important that now we can offer adult in all 25 of our communities and move towards higher education, better education, and more skilled people.

So thank you very much, Mr. Chairman and your members, for having us here today. Thank you.

Chairman: I would like to thank you for appearing here and answering the questions. I would like to ask the Sergeant-at-Arms to escort the minister and the witness out.

Sergeant-at-Arms, can you bring the Speaker to the witness table.

I will now ask the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut to make his opening remarks.

**Bill 38 – Appropriation (Capital) Act,
2011-2012 – Legislative Assembly
– Consideration in Committee**

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I have opening comments to make. It is a pleasure for me to appear before you and members today to present the proposed 2011-12 Capital Estimates of the Office of the Legislative Assembly.

As members will note, the 2011-12 Capital Estimates of the Office of the Legislative Assembly amount to less than 1 percent of the Government of Nunavut's total planned capital spending for the coming fiscal year. Our capital budget continues to be modest and responsible.

The Assembly's capital estimates for 2011-12 continue to include an annual allocation dedicated to planning for our long-term vision of a new facility.

Our other priority areas for the coming fiscal year include ongoing investments in equipment, furniture, and fleet renewal for the Assembly and members' offices, in addition to further enhancements and upgrades to the Legislative Assembly's audiovisual, *Hansard*, and information technology systems.

That concludes my opening remarks, Mr. Chairman. I would be pleased to answer any questions that members may have. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Do you have witnesses that you would like to bring to the table? Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I would like to bring in witnesses.

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

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Mr. Speaker, please introduce your witnesses.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my right is John Quirke, the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut, and to my left is Mike Rafter, Director of Corporate Affairs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Before we proceed, I would like to remind members of the following: according to Rule 77(1), you have 10 minutes to speak. I suggest to members that whenever possible you ask your detailed questions during the page-by-page review of the department estimates. Do members have any general comments? Mr. Okalik.

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Additionally, I want to thank the Speaker and his officials for presenting their report in front of the committee. Prior to moving on to our page-by-page review, I want to make some additional comments.

A constituent, a person with disabilities, came to my office whereby they noted that the public entrance was not conducive for people with disabilities

since it was not easily accessible for people with wheelchairs.

First of all, I would like to thank the officials because they identified parking spaces for people with disabilities immediately as a pressing need, which should be within close proximity to the public entranceway. I would like to thank the officials for identifying that pressing need immediately.

However, the ramp that lowers to allow people in wheelchairs to enter in and out of the vehicle has to be repaired. I was wondering if this ramp will be repaired in the short term so that everyone who wishes to enter may do so at their leisure. We want this facility to be open to all of the public.

I wanted to ask these questions while the officials are presenting before the committee. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have included these items in our plans, as well as all of the items that need to be repaired or replaced. We also hear from the members about issues that need to be addressed. Thank you. I will have the Clerk respond to your question.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Clerk.

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The one item that we are waiting for is an estimate and whether it can be done this year on the ramp itself where it has to be turned completely around or whether we can cut part of the ramp and have another part added onto it in the parking area. I am just waiting for

that information and if it can be done before the snow flies, we will do it. If not, then it will be one of our first projects as soon as spring comes up. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Okalik.

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I just noticed outside that it is snowing today, so I guess we will wait another year, but at least it is in the plans. So I appreciate the fast action by the staff of the Assembly for trying to accommodate one of my constituents. It is not just my constituent; there are other good Nunavummiut who should have access to our building. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. I do not have any more members on my list for general comments. Now we will proceed to page-by-page review of the department estimates starting at page A-3. Office of the Legislative Assembly. Branch Summary. Assembly Operations. Capital Expenditures. Total Capital Expenditures. \$980,000. Details on A-4. Any questions or comments? Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: We will go to page A-5. Office of the Legislative Assembly. Branch Summary. Independent Officers of the Legislative Assembly. Capital Expenditures. Total Capital Expenditures. \$12,000. Details on A-6. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Now we will go back to page A-2. Department Summary. Office

of the Legislative Assembly. Detail of Expenditures. Capital Expenditures. Total Capital Expenditures. \$992,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Does the committee agree that we have concluded with the Office of the Legislative Assembly?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Does the Speaker have any closing comments?

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, my colleagues. Here at the Legislative Assembly, we are trying to renew the equipment and furniture. We are also trying to keep our equipment updated. Now that our capital estimates have been approved, I thank you as we will be able to deal with these issues. I thank my officials for being here with me.

Chairman: I would like to thank the Speaker and his officials. Will the Sergeant-at-Arms please escort the Speaker and officials out.

Bill 38 – Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2011-2012 – Consideration in Committee

Chairman: Members, please refer to Bill 38 in your white legislation binders, and that's Bill 38 in your white legislation binders. We will go to page 1. Bill 38. Alright, we will go back to Bill 38, *Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2011-2012*. Clause 1. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 2. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 3. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Go to the Schedule on the next page. Schedule. Vote 2: Capital. Total Capital. \$122,476,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Total Capital Appropriation. \$122,476,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Now we will go back to page 1 and we will go to clause 4. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 5. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Does the committee agree to Bill 38 as a whole?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Do members agree that pursuant to Rule 62(2) that Bill 38 can immediately be placed on the orders of the day for third reading?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Now we can go to Bill 39, *Supplementary Appropriation (O&M) Act, No. 3, 2009-2010*. I would now like to ask the Minister of Finance,

Mr. Peterson, to make his opening remarks.

Bill 39 – Supplementary Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, No. 3, 2009-2010 – Consideration in Committee

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman and members. I am pleased to present Bill 39, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 3, 2009-2010*.

Bill 39 addresses additional funding requirements for the previous fiscal year, 2009-2010, where currently approved appropriations have been exceeded as of the date of the 2009-2010 interim financial report. The funding requirements are:

- \$7.0 million to the Department of Health and Social Services for out-of-territory hospitals;
- \$600,000 to the Office of the Legislative Assembly for the Members Retiring Allowances Fund; and
- \$214,000 to the Nunavut Housing Corporation for the Oqota Homeless Shelter for Men in Iqaluit.

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

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Do you have witnesses that you would like to bring to the table?

Hon. Keith Peterson: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

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

Some Members: Agreed.

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

For the record, Minister Peterson, please introduce your witnesses.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Mr. Chairman, to my right is Deputy Minister Peter Ma and to my left is Jeff Chown, Director of Expenditure Management with the Department of Finance. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Do members have any general comments? Mr. Okalik.

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I know that we will get into the details, but before we get there, I just wanted clarification on the Oqota Homeless Shelter here in Iqaluit. I believe there is already core funding provided, so what are these additional dollars for? That is what I would like to clarify first. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Okalik for that question. Those are additional expenditures incurred during 2009-2010. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Okalik.

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Did the rates provided to the shelter go up or was there capital that had to be expended? What was the purpose of the increase? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Okalik for that question. The additional funding, I believe, is O&M to allow the Salvation Army to continue to operate the homeless shelter for men from April 1, 2009 to December 31, 2009. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Okalik.

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) So I take it that the rates have gone up for the shelter to be operated by the Salvation Army. Are those rates going to be adjusted for future years? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't have the information that the rates increased, just that the costs of operating that facility increased. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Okalik.

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) From what I understand, the costs have

increased by \$214,000. How much are we talking for the operation of the shelter at the moment? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can Mr. Okalik clarify his question? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Okalik.

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) According to the minister, the rates were increased for operating that facility. I understand that the facility already gets core funding from our government. Has operating the facility gone up by \$214,000? So that's tacked on to what's provided already to the Salvation Army, for example. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The information I have only indicates that operating expenses increased. I have no information on increased rates. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Okalik.

Mr. Okalik: Mr. Chairman, there is no explanation as to why this amount has gone up. So what are we supposed to approve if we don't know? I just want to get an explanation as to why it has gone up. Operating has gone up. How? We will probably be asked to approve additional dollars for future years. It

would be nice to get an explanation because we go through a budget exercise and explain what the money is for. That's all I ask, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate Mr. Okalik's question. Costs have increased. I'll just read the bullet here that may provide some information. The audited financial statements to December 31 were provided and additional funding requirements of \$214,000 were identified over and above the core funding. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Okalik.

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) We have seen the value of auditors of late. How wonderful they work sometimes. It's nothing against auditors; I just wanted to get an explanation on... .

I'm sorry? I'm trying to speak, Mr. Chairman. I would appreciate some support there.

Anyway, I just want to get to the bottom and find out what the money is needed for, what increases have taken place, and it would be nice to get an answer. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Yes, we've got to keep it quiet here. He's asking a serious question. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate Mr. Okalik's

questions. Unfortunately I don't have the audited financial statements in front of me. We can get those audits to him and certainly we can provide him detailed information to review. If I had that stuff here, we would certainly be able to give him that information. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Okalik.

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Okay, I just wanted to get an answer. We have been asked to approve these line items and everybody knew that we would have to vote on these. It would have been nice to have some information to be able to vote on these. That's all I ask. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again I appreciate Mr. Okalik's concern. If you give us time to get the audited financial statements, we can provide that information to Mr. Okalik. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Any other comments on the opening statements? I have no more members on my list. We will now proceed to the page-by-page review of the supplementary estimates starting with page 4. Operations and Maintenance. Office of the Legislative Assembly. Not Previously Authorized. Expenditures on Behalf of Members. Total Expenditures on Behalf of Members. \$600,000. Total Department. Not Previously Authorized. \$600,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Now we will move on to page 5. Health and Social Services. Operations and Maintenance. Not Previously Authorized. Health Insurance Programs. Total Health Insurance Programs. \$7 million. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Total Department. \$7 million. \$ 7 million. Not Previously... sorry. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was just wondering, in regard to the \$7 million, if the minister could explain what some of those expenses went to in terms of out-of-territory hospitals. Is it specifically billed by hospitals and why did it take so long? Thank you.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Elliott for that question. Mr. Chairman, I believe the departments of health in different provinces and territories have what you call reciprocal jurisdictional agreements. In other words, if we send someone to a hospital in Alberta, they would eventually bill the Government of Nunavut's Department of Health and Social Services for the out-of-territory costs.

Quite frankly, some of the bills come in way after the accounting period and, in some cases, I don't know, 12 to 13 months. It is not a situation that is unique to Nunavut; it happens to all of the jurisdictions. That's essentially what happens. They are out-of-territory costs

that hospitals are going around and billing us, and now we are paying the bills. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My understanding of the Non-Insured Health Benefits, do we not, as the Government of Nunavut, put the money out for these expenses and then ask to be reimbursed, or send that to the Non-Insured Health Benefits and then get that money back? If that is the case, then why would we need the money? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Elliott for that question. Mr. Chairman, not all of the bills would be Non-Insured Health Benefits. Mr. Chairman, just further information on my earlier comments, 61 percent of the invoicing and payments occur after the end of January, so it is quite late. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is there a timeline in terms of how long we have to be able to claim claims under the Non-Insured Health Benefits to get the money reimbursed back to the Government of Nunavut? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Elliott for that question. I believe that you have six months after the fiscal year to get your

claim in to Health Canada. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With that said and the time it took for the other jurisdictions to bill the Government of Nunavut, is there anything that the Government of Nunavut is doing in terms of Health and Social Services to make sure that those bills come in before the cut-off date? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Elliott for the question. Mr. Chairman, the Department of Health and Social Services is starting to track the services that are requested a lot better. So they know to call the other provinces for the invoices so that they can pay them. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Peterson. Mr. Curley, would you like to make a comment?

Hon. Tagak Curley: Yes. Thank you. I think the minister is doing a good job here. There are interdepartmental committees that work together with the provinces and certainly our finance officer behind me is well aware of that. She had worked previously with the Manitoba government.

With all of the provinces like Alberta, Ontario, as well as Manitoba, there are various working groups that try to ensure that billings and final billings are sent in time, but provinces also have financial

staffing challenges. We are not unique in this part of the world here.

They are doing everything possible to try and have all of the billing arrangements sent in time, but it is complex. I have been briefed on the fact that they are attempting in every way to try and keep the provincial health systems sending bills on time, but with the challenges that we face as well, financial reporting systems are in such a way that it is also quite complex occasionally.

That's why the minister indicated to us that it takes about 60 days after the billing dates and closing of the accounts that we finally would get the bills. So that's part of the whole reason, but we are keeping tabs on trying to improve the arrangements we have with the provinces. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: I was finished with my line of questioning, Mr. Chairman. That was Mr. Ningeongan. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Ningeongan.

Mr. Ningeongan (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The question I would like to ask was partially answered. After the Auditor General audit and in her report, she noted that the Department of Health and Social Services has continually gone over budget and has required supplementary funding. I was trying to read the information in front of me, so I did not pay attention as to whether this question had already been asked.

Mr. Chairman, I want to get information as to what types of action the government has taken to curb the overspending by the department. That is the question I would like to ask. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Ningeongan for that very good question. Mr. Chairman, I would like to defer that question to the Minister of Health for a detailed answer. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you. Again this is a very complex situation. It is quite complex to break even at the end of the year, obviously, with health. A lot of it has to do with unexpected increased health services that we have, including medical travel, medevacs, and all of that. This is a huge, what I would call the large, financial situation that we normally face.

At the same time, the resources that we have in Nunavut are really quite limited as to how much we can spend with each department. The Department of Health and Social Services, at every call letter throughout with the financial budgeting process, we tried every year to accurately put forward a budget, but like many departments as well, we have to normally settle with what we have.

In many cases, it's really not enough to what we think we need throughout the year and predictably, at the end of the year, we will fall short of the actual costs that we incurred. If we had enough

resource revenue, we would be able to have more cushions with our budgets. So that is normally the main point or part of the reason that I'm attempting to explain.

We have a number of actual spending that we normally use throughout the previous years, but in the end, it's what is available with all of the departments that normally dictate to us exactly how much we are allowed to spend in the year. At the end, again, unforeseeable costs and financial situations occur. Therefore, that particular kind of example comes through. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Ningeongan.

Mr. Ningeongan: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the fact that we talk about complexity and so on as our rationale not to go moving forward, it seems at times. The expectation is that the government really ought to try and go beyond that.

As regular MLAs, we're trying to ask question and we're trying to become an instrument in becoming part of the solution rather than being part of the problem. So I think the expectation is what initiatives are being rendered after the Auditor General had come by and suggested that corrective measures be done.

If we're going to be told every time that it's so complex that we're not able to do anything, it really doesn't sit well with me. We're expected to go beyond that as a government. We're expected to dig further with our counterparts, the federal government, if we are finding we're

coming short of money that we actually need.

Mr. Chairman, what I have the most trouble with too is that we keep hearing that there are shortages of staff to enhance and become effective. So I would think that rather than using complex factors as a rationale to keep going back to the same measure every time, it's beginning to bother me a little bit.

So I would very strongly suggest that, perhaps, a stronger effort is needed by the cabinet to pursue and present the real issues more aggressively. That is just a comment, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Peterson, would you like to comment on that?

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate Mr. Ningeongan's comments. He makes some very good comments. They are well taken.

I would like to share with members that, as the Minister of Finance, I have had conversations with my colleagues across Canada. All of us agreed to a person that health care costs in all provinces and all territories are unsustainable. One of my colleagues from Saskatchewan, the finance minister there, asked Minister Flaherty that we have to start putting on a national agenda to discuss and find solutions.

I know my Deputy Minister, Mr. Ma, attended a recent conference in Halifax with the Deputy Minister of Health, for example, to find out first hand what

some of the issues are and what some of the possible solutions are.

I know that the Department of Health is working very hard to nail down their costs. They are implementing better tracking methods in the department. They are going to electronic health records. They are starting to identify price and volume changes. I believe Minister Curley will be tabling, at some point, a report on the work that his department has done to respond to the Office of the Auditor General's recommendations. We have talked about this in the past. I know that when I was a regular member, we used to ask the same questions.

It takes a while to move systems over, but it is happening. I know my officials in the Department of Finance are working closely with officials in the Department of Health to put better systems in place to track the expenditures, and then pay the bills faster and identify possible over-expenditure areas before the year-end happens. It used to be in the past where we had to do supplementary appropriations after the fact to pay the bills for the previous year, and we're getting away from that. It's happening, but I know it's just not happening fast enough.

Certainly, as finance ministers across Canada, we're very concerned about the escalating health care costs in all of our jurisdictions and we have to find some solutions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Ningeongan.

Mr. Ningeongan: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just a point that I'm trying to make to the Minister of Finance is that when I was President of NAM, I used to get a reluctant feeling from our own territorial government when I tried going to Ottawa to lobby for Nunavut municipalities.

For example, I was using the per capita basis funding formula that the federal government used. It was not adequate for Nunavummiut and it was not adequate for our population. We have a very small population versus maybe Ontario or Quebec. They would get a good chunk of their money, but for a population for the territory, we only got very minimal dollars and nowhere near meeting the actual costs that we have to render to be able to run programs and so forth.

So all I'm saying, Mr. Chairman, is that I think more visitations to Ottawa should be made, perhaps, as government reps to lobby and make Ottawa realize that it's a very basic funding formula that we're seeking, not overly strange compared to what our southern neighbours have to live by. So we're not asking for anything extraordinary, we're just basically trying to convince Ottawa to provide us the needs that we actually have to have in order to be able to function properly as a government.

So therefore, I urge the minister and cabinet members to focus in on this effort to see what other avenues are there to try and keep moving. I don't mind merry-go-round riding and whatnot, but it gets tiring after a while. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Ningeongan for urging us to do more in Ottawa. I believe the Minister of Health does quite a bit of lobbying. I'll be doing lobbying. I know the Premier does as well.

I recall just last year when we were lobbying as MLAs, we passed NAM's resolution to ask the federal government to extend the territorial health assistance funding and extend it by two years to allot us some time to make some alternative arrangements for when that funding winds up two years from now.

We do have the Minister of Health for Canada as our MP, she's well aware of our situation up here, and I know she reads the *Hansard* from the Legislative Assembly every day. I'm sure when she reads tomorrow, she will be well aware of Mr. Ningeongan's concerns and our concerns here with the requirement for additional health care costs for Nunavut. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just one quick question with regard to the \$7 million from out-of-territory hospitals. Do the Department of Finance or Health and Social Services have any kind of accrual system set up so that, at the end of the year, you can better estimate these out-of-territory costs, so that budgeting can be more accurate, so that we can spend less money or there will be less dollars showing up in supplementary appropriations? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Rumbolt for that question. Mr. Chairman, that's exactly what the Department of Finance and the Department of Health are trying to do right now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. They are doing it right now, so they have not been doing it in the past. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Rumbolt for that trick question. It has been going on in the past but not as well. As I said, we are trying to improve, and that's to put a better tracking systems in and making the phone calls based on the information so that Health gets the bills in a more timely fashion. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Maybe just one last comment. I have been involved with audits for the last number of years, many years, and it is common practice for auditors to accrue all of their expenses as much as they can by March 31.

So it only makes sense that if somebody is out in hospitals, whether it is in Edmonton or anywhere in southern Canada, that the department is keeping track of these people or any kind of

happenings that's out in other territories. I think we just need to have a little more common sense at the end of the year and, if we know these expenses are coming up, at least accrual a lot better than what we are doing.

It's just a comment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Rumbolt for that question. I totally agree, Mr. Chairman, but the Department of Health has to make the phone calls to find out what bill they may anticipate receiving. That's what we are trying to work towards. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. We will continue with page 5. Total Health Insurance Programs. \$7 million. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed

Chairman: Total Department. Not Previously Authorized. \$7 million. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed

Chairman: Go to page 6. Nunavut Housing Corporation. Operations and Maintenance. Not Previously Authorized. Nunavut Housing Corporation. Total Corporation. \$214,000. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just had some questions that sort of fall upon what Mr. Okalik was asking earlier during the general comments. This

specific organization is funded annually and it receives core funding annually. Is that correct? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Elliott for that question. I believe it did receive annual funding. It used to be through the Department of Education. There was approximately two hundred thousand dollars, but it wasn't specifically earmarked for shelter funding, and then that funding was transferred to the Nunavut Housing Corporation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In terms of being fiscally responsible and whatnot, do we just hand that core funding over to them or do they have to create a business plan with a budget and a forecast of what expenses they will have for the year? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Elliott for that question. Mr. Chairman, they do prepare a business plan. It goes to the Nunavut Housing Corporation and they will review and approve it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is there a process for accurately... ? Again with what is happening with the Nunavut Housing Corporation and now

we are having to allocate more funding, I am just wondering if this going to be a recurring thing that keeps happening in terms of having to give out more funding. How do they decide that the budget is accurate and the funding is the exact amount that they are forecasting? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Elliott for that question. I agree that a proper budget would help.

In this particular case, the Salvation Army operated it and then they gave notice that they were going to cease operating it, but they were running a deficit, so a new society was created to take over. The \$200,000 core funding was exceeded, then the Housing Corporation chipped in with \$120,000, and then the audited statements required an additional \$214,000.

So the costs became quite high and you will see further on that it is still quite high for the homeless shelter. I am not sure what the significance of that is, if it's improper budgeting or an increase in the services to homeless folks in Iqaluit. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. I don't have any other names here for questions, so we will go to Total Corporation. \$214,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Total Corporation. \$214,000. Not Previously Authorized. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Go back to Schedule on page 2. Schedule 1. Operations and Maintenance. Operation Maintenance Appropriation. \$7,814,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Go to Bill 39 in your white legislation binder. Bill 39, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 3, 2009-2010*. Clause 1. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 2. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 3. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Go back to Schedule on page 2. Schedule. Supplementary Amounts Appropriated for the Fiscal Year Ending March 31, 2010. Vote 1: Operations and Maintenance. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$7,814,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Total Supplementary Appropriation. \$7,814,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Go back to clause 4. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 5. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 6. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 7. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Does the committee agree to Bill 39 as a whole?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Is the committee agreed that pursuant to Rule 62 (2) that Bill 39 can be immediately placed on the orders of the day for third reading?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Does Minister Peterson have any closing comments on Bill 39?

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the members for their good questions and scrutiny on Bill 39. We will certainly make sure that officials will get the concerns that you raised and work on them.

I believe, at some point, Minister Curley, particularly on the Department of Health, as I mentioned, he will be tabling a document in response to the OAG's recommendations. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Bill 40, *Supplementary Appropriation (O&M) Act, No. 3, 2010-2011*. I would now like to ask the Minister of Finance, Mr.

Peterson, for his opening remarks on Bill 40.

Bill 40 – Supplementary Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, No. 3, 2010-2011 – Consideration in Committee

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and members. I am pleased to present Bill 40, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 3, 2010-2011*.

Bill 40 will appropriate an additional \$34,893,000 of operations and maintenance funding. Items included in this appropriation are:

- \$28.5 million to the Department of Health and Social Services to fund a proposed budget shortfall in various programs;
- \$2.5 million to the Department of Justice to increase contributions to the Legal Services Board to fund a projected budget shortfall;
- \$2.5 million to the Department of Education to fund a projected budget shortfall in the Financial Assistance for Nunavut Students program;
- \$530,000 to the Office of the Legislative Assembly to fund a projected deficit under the Members Retiring Allowances Fund;
- \$300,000 to the Department of Environment through a transfer of funds from its Vote 2 Recycling Equipment project in

order to fund a projected shortfall in the Department of Environment's operations and maintenance budget;

- \$295,000 to the Nunavut Housing Corporation to provide funding to the Oqota Homeless Shelter and the Sivummut House Shelter in Iqaluit;
- \$280,000 to the Department of Community and Government Services to fund the purchase of additional bandwidth previously funded through Industry Canada; and
- \$100,000 transferred from the Department of Health and Social Services to the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs to reallocate the Nunavut Disabilities Makinnasuaqtiit grants and contributions budget.

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

Chairman: Thank you. Do members have any general comments on the opening statement? I guess there are no comments on it, so we will go to the page-by-page review of the supplementary estimates starting with page 4. Office of the Legislative Assembly. Operations and Maintenance. Not Previously Authorized. Expenditures on Behalf of Members. Total Expenditures on Behalf of Members. \$530,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Total Department. Not Previously Authorized. \$530,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Go to page 5. Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. Operations and Maintenance. Not Previously Authorized. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In regard to \$100,000, it looks like it's a shift from Health and Social Services to EIA. I was just hoping to get some more information on this. I know I have questions in the House about the Nunavut Disabilities Society. Is this going under the new social advocate's office? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Elliott for that question. Yes, it is, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. How will this change service delivery? Is everything the same as it was before? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Elliott for that question. Mr. Chairman, moving the disabilities file into the Social Advocacy Office will ensure a more structured and holistic response to the disability-related

issues, which he is a tireless advocate for. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the minister explain how, by moving it into that department, this will be achieved? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Elliott for that question. Mr. Chairman, given the level of detail that Mr. Elliott is seeking, I'll ask the Minister responsible for the Social Advocacy Office to respond to his question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: I guess the question is for Madam Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is all part of trying to streamline the areas that need to be streamlined because before, it was managed out of Health and Social Services. Because we now have a Social Advocacy Office which deals with policies, and so on, in regard to social issues and wellness, it seems that it would be the best fit to put it under the Social Advocacy Office. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank you for that answer. In the past, \$70,000 was more or less a contribution agreement that was signed over to NTI and then the services were provided, which mostly provided the wage for an individual to work. Is this the same sort

of thing that is happening? Maybe if you could expand.

I know you had mentioned something about working it under the social advocate's office umbrella in terms of other meetings going on, in terms of how the services could be provided better to Nunavummiut who have disabilities. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Elliott for that question. I'll ask the Premier to answer that question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Madam Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is the same amount of dollars that were housed in Health and Social Services; we are simply moving it to the Social Advocacy Office. We are always, forever, trying to improve issues certainly with disabilities, and so on, and we are in conversation with the independent social disabilities office in trying to address the needs that are out there. It is an ongoing process to help improve the system that we serve. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In terms of doing our jobs better as MLAs, if someone comes to our office and would like information regarding disabilities and wheelchairs or wheelchair accessibility, do we contact EIA, or Health and Social Services, or the Nunavut Disabilities Council? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Elliott for that detailed question. Again I'll have to ask the Premier to answer that question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Madam Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak: It depends on the need. There are services that are provided for the kind of disabilities that are required. The independent disabilities office is also available. For the services of the Social Advocacy Office, that will be a good start to start inquiring in terms of the needs that an individual may be asking. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In terms of the social advocate's office, someone has been hired to help organize that office, create policy, and do research. Is everything in terms of that office or all of the pieces to that office under one roof in one building where they can go access it? Is the Nunavut Disabilities Society inside the social advocate's office within EIA or are they sort of spread out in different areas? Thank you.

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

Hon. Eva Aariak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Nunavut disabilities independent office has their own office outside of EIA and the Social Advocacy Office exists with employees who deal with policy development, and so on, so it

is a separate office from the Nunavut disabilities office. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Go back to Total Directorate. \$100,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Total Department. Not Previously Authorized. \$100,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: ... (inaudible)... Not Previously Authorized. \$100,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Go to page 6. Justice. Operations and Maintenance. Not Previously Authorized. Directorate. Total Directorate. \$2.5 million. Do you agree? Mr. Okalik.

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wish to ask a question to the minister. The Legal Services Board receives a large funding contribution annually and this additional funding request is quite large. What is causing the shortfall? Was there an increase in the number of court cases? I would appreciate it if the minister could provide more information on what the reasons for this additional funding are. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Okalik for that question. Mr. Chairman, historically

legal aid has been underfunded. I believe, years ago back in 1999, it was a fifty-fifty split between Canada and Nunavut, and it's the same with all provinces and territories. Over the years, the expenses and costs have increased, and the Government of Canada's share has not and the Government of Nunavut has had to step in and increase their share.

What has been happening in the last couple of years is there has been an increase in criminal law and family law requests. For example, we have 14 folks charged with homicide, 9 assaults; they are very expensive cases to try. The folks do seek legal aid to defend them. There has been an increase in family law cases with families and parents seeking legal aid and support with child apprehension or child custody cases. There is currently a backlog right now of 150 of those cases.

So there is a general increase and there is general awareness out in all communities in Nunavut. It has been increasing in the last several years that you are going to require a lawyer to represent you and people are going to the lawyers. To provide those services, we need increased funding to hire lawyers and pay for some of the other costs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Okalik.

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do not mind the reasoning, but we need to look into reducing our expenses, especially those related to government operations since we need to look at how we can decrease these expenses.

This is something we could use to ensure that the Department of Justice is effectively utilizing the lawyers and the court system. We have to look at ways to deal with issues, aside from the constant court cases we are dealing with today. We should be trying to provide assistance to the families who are experiencing legal issues and not just lean on the court system. They should be utilizing Inuit traditional ways.

This is just a comment that I wanted to make. Perhaps the department and the staff can learn from this process. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. It is just a comment, but Minister Peterson, do you want to comment on it?

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate Mr. Okalik's suggestion. To the credit of the Department of Justice and the justice committees and elders and youth out in all of the communities, there are people working towards that, trying to divert people from the justice system. I know certainly in my community of Cambridge Bay, the justice committee there is very active in doing that.

Unfortunately, there are people who do need to seek lawyers to help them if you get charged with homicide or assaults. That is what legal aid is for. You do need to have the best of legal aid defence that you can to defend you. Again, with family law, it is very complex as well. If you have children who are being apprehended, for example, you should have a lawyer helping you. A parent or even a child can seek a lawyer to represent them. It is complex. There is work being done at the community level

to divert people from the justice system, but there are people who do need lawyers in criminal and civil legal aid, and it is not just in Nunavut where this is occurring.

I was at the federal/provincial/territorial justice ministers' meeting in Vancouver two weeks ago and we called on the federal minister to increase the assistance to legal aid. We actually pressed him and said that Nunavut has unique circumstances. We are the only jurisdiction in Canada where there are no roads connecting the communities, so it is very expensive to operate in Nunavut.

Mr. Okalik's comments are well taken and I will reinforce his comments in discussions with my officials. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With respect to the time, at this time, I would like to move to report progress. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. We have a motion on the floor to report progress and the motion is not debatable. All those in favour of the motion. All those opposed. The motion is carried. I will now rise to report progress.

Minister Peterson, we will get the Sergeant-at-Arms to escort you out of witness table.

Speaker: Thank you. Going back to the orders of the day. Item 20. Report of the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Schell.

Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Bills 38, 39, and 40, and would like to report progress and that Bills 38 and 39 are immediately ready for third reading. And, Mr. Speaker, I move that the Report of the Committee of the Whole be agreed to. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Schell. There is a motion on the floor. Is there a seconder? Mr. Ningark. The motion is in order. All those in favour, raise your hand. Opposed. The motion is carried.

Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. Item 22. *Orders of the Day*. Mr. Clerk.

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Clerk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A reminder that tomorrow morning at 8:30, a meeting of the Standing Committee on Legislation.

Orders of the Day for October 27:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions
8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to Opening Address
10. Petitions
11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees

12. Reports of Committees on the
Review of Bills
13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motions
15. Notices of Motions for First
Reading of Bills
16. Motions
 - Motion 27 – 3(2)
17. First Reading of Bills
18. Second Reading of Bills
19. Consideration in Committee of
the Whole of Bills and Other
Matters
 - Bill 40
 - Bill 41
20. Report of the Committee of the
Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills
 - Bill 38
 - Bill 39
22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you.
This House stands adjourned until
Wednesday, October 27, at 1:30 p.m.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 18:02*

