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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

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(Tununiq)

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(Baker Lake)

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(Rankin Inlet North)
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(Rankin Inlet South – Whale Cove)
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Johnny Ningeongan
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Hon. Peter Taptuna
(Kugluktuk)
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Hon. Hunter Tootoo
(Iqaluit Centre)
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Iqaluit, Nunavut**Wednesday, October 27, 2010****Members Present:**

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.

Item 1: Opening Prayer

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

>>Prayer

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Good afternoon, Premier, Ministers, Members of the Legislative Assembly, and all Nunavummiut.

Item 2. Ministers' Statements.
(interpretation ends) Hon. Tagak Curley.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

**Minister's Statement 209 – 3(2):
Premier Aariak Absent from
House**

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you. Good day to the people of Rankin Inlet who are listening in to the proceedings.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to say that our Premier will not be able to attend the session this afternoon. (interpretation ends) Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation) is

on official duty travel to Rankin Inlet. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. (interpretation ends) Ministers' Statements. Hon. Lorne Kusugak.

**Minister's Statement 210 – 3(2):
QEC's 2010 Laura Ulluriaq
Gauthier Scholarship**

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you. Good day, people of Rankin Inlet and Nunavummiut.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I rise today to announce that the latest recipient of the Qulliq Energy Corporation's annual Laura Ulluriaq Gauthier Award is Dianne Iyago of Baker Lake.

>>Applause

Dianne is currently a second year nursing student at Nunavut Arctic College in Iqaluit and has been chosen as the recipient of this year's \$5,000 scholarship.

Mr. Speaker, during her first year in the program, Dianne was voted student council president by her peers and managed those duties along with the demands of her heavy course load. Dianne, like too many Nunavummiut, suffered tragedy at a young age. However, she persevered, finishing her high school education while participating in high school sports and volunteering within her community on a regular basis.

Mr. Speaker, Dianne also took advantage of some of the amazing programs offered to young

Nunavummiut, such as the Nunavut Youth Abroad program and Nunavut Sivuniksavut. It was while job shadowing during Northern Youth Abroad that Dianne had a taste of nursing as a profession. She continues to volunteer with Northern Youth Abroad as a board member and organizes events as an alumnus. Dianne plans to return to Baker Lake once she has completed the Nursing Program to help with health services in her community. Dianne believes that the economic benefits that have affected the area as a result of the mining industry will also increase demand on health services.

Mr. Speaker, every year since 2001, the corporation has awarded this scholarship in memory of Laura Gauthier, who passed away suddenly in 2000. As many Nunavummiut may remember, Ms. Gauthier worked hard to develop a made-in-Nunavut electrical utility following division from the Northwest Territories. Ms. Gauthier's work was the foundation of the Qulliq Energy Corporation.

Mr. Speaker, it is wonderful to see other young Nunavummiut following in Ms. Gauthier's footsteps and we are happy to recognize them based on their hard work and continued effort. I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering Ms. Gauthier while we applaud Dianne Iyago on receiving QEC's 2010 Laura Ulluriaq Gauthier Scholarship. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Minister's Statement 211 – 3(2): Regional Principals Conference

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to tell my colleagues about an annual event that helps our education administrators in their efforts to help shape learning in Nunavut. The regional principals conferences are an important opportunity for our school leaders to come together to learn, share best practices, and network with colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, from September 21 to 30, principals from the Kitikmeot, Kivalliq, and Qikiqtani gathered in their respective regions to learn more about the implementation of the *Education Act*, the *Inuit Qaujimagajatuqangit* curriculum framework, succeeding with district education authorities, and providing superior student support, among other topics.

Mr. Speaker, the purpose of these conferences is to foster a sense of togetherness in the Department of Education's goals of inclusive learning, quality opportunities, and a solid foundation in culture, language, and tradition.

Our regional school operations teams planned, facilitated, and hosted these conferences in their offices in Kugluktuk, Baker Lake, and Pond Inlet. Their work each and every day to shape education in our territory is truly remarkable, as is that of all our devoted and enthusiastic educators. I know this year's conference was a great success and information, policies, and procedures covered will be translated to increased learning outcomes for our students. Thank you, Mr. Speaker

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Ministers' Statements. Hon. Peter Taptuna.

**Minister's Statement 212 – 3(2):
Poverty Reduction through Public
Engagement**

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon to the people of Kugluktuk, Nunavummiut, and my colleagues here.

Mr. Speaker, I want to announce to Members of this House that on November 1, 2010, Nunavut's public engagement process for poverty reduction will begin.

Members are aware that Premier Aariak and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated Acting President James Eetoolook have written to each municipality to invite the participation of the community in the preparation of Nunavut's Poverty Reduction Action Plan. This participation will take place in three stages: community dialogues, regional round tables, and a final poverty summit.

Our community dialogues begin in November and will take place over the next four months. All Nunavummiut will have an opportunity to talk and express their points of view on poverty.

We want to hear everyone's ideas about changes we need to improve the standard of living for those most in need. These ideas will be published in a report and discussed in four regional round tables taking place in Cambridge Bay, Rankin Inlet, Pond Inlet, and Iqaluit. Those round tables will produce options for

action. These options will be considered by the government, by Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, and by our partners in the non-profit sector and in the business community. Together we will decide on a plan – Nunavut's Poverty Reduction Action Plan – at a poverty summit next fall here in Iqaluit.

Mr. Speaker, this type of public engagement initiative will be a first for our territory, and indeed, I am aware of its use in only one other jurisdiction in Canada, but we know that none of us can solve the poverty problem acting alone. Only through a comprehensive public engagement process can we ensure that all Nunavummiut can play their part. Working collaboratively, I am confident that we will succeed in achieving our *Tamapta* priority to reduce poverty. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Minister's Statement 213 – 3(2): First
Nunavut Trades Training Centre
now Open**

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to say also "hello" to all of my constituents in Arviat, and the fine people across Nunavut. Also, Mr. Speaker, I would just like to wish a happy anniversary to my colleagues and all of the members as today, I believe, is two years since most of us got elected.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in the House today to announce a significant moment in the development of our territory and the

realization of a dream that many Nunavutmiut have looked forward to for many years.

The Nunavut Trades Training Centre is open for business. For the first time in our young history, Nunavut has its own state-of-the-art trades training facility. This new centre of excellence will provide more opportunities for Nunavutmiut to study closer to home in a learning environment reflective of Inuit societal values.

Mr. Speaker, the Nunavut Trades Training Centre is currently offering Pre-Apprenticeship Electrician, Oil Burner Mechanic, Plumbing, and Trades Access programs. There are presently 33 students enrolled in these programs at the centre.

Our commitment to Nunavutmiut is to ensure that our graduates and apprentices meet the highest standards. Programs and courses offered will adhere to the national standards of red seal accreditation. Accreditation of our Apprentice-level Plumbing, Oil Burner Mechanic, Housing Maintainer, and Electrician programs is currently underway. When the apprentice-level programs begin early next year, we expect approximately 40 more students to enrol. In all, the trades training centre has a capacity to accommodate 88 more students.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank all of the staff, consultants, contractors, and skilled tradespeople who helped us make a dream come true. Working together, Mr. Speaker, we have accomplished our goal.

At this time, I would like to cordially invite my fellow members and all Nunavutmiut to join us in celebrating this historic milestone for our territory. The grand opening of the Nunavut Trades Training Centre will take place in Rankin Inlet on November 16, 2010 at 1:30 in the afternoon. To celebrate the success, we welcome you all to attend the opening event. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

An Hon. Member: Hear, hear!

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Ministers' Statements. Item 3. Members' Statements. Mr. Ningark.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 328 – 3(2): Issues in Repulse Bay

Mr. Ningark: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, would like to recognize the achievement of Dianne Iyago, I believe. This is what the dreams and aspirations of Nunavut are all about.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring attention to a number of issues in Repulse Bay. In January of this year, I received correspondence from the Municipality of Repulse Bay on these issues.

Mr. Speaker, as the Member of the Legislative Assembly for Akulliq, one of my duties is to listen to my constituents' concerns and issues and give them a voice in the House. Mr. Speaker, the correspondence that I received identified the following outstanding issues and I

would like to speak about them in the House today.

Mr. Speaker, the municipality has limited funds and cannot afford to build new housing lots. The municipality is in need of a swimming pool, snow fencing in the new subdivision, pump house upgrades, a sewage lagoon, and the ability to make gravel in the community.

Mr. Speaker, I am aware that the government has limited funding, but the issues I just spoke of are essential for a healthy and productive community.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the Municipality of Repulse Bay for this correspondence, and I call on the Government of Nunavut to take action on these issues as soon as possible. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Members' Statements. Member for Kugluktuk, Mr. Taptuna.

**Member's Statement 329 – 3(2):
Happy Anniversary (67th) to Peter
and Cecile Kamingoak**

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to congratulate Peter and Cecile Kamingoak, who celebrated their 67th wedding anniversary on October 11.

>>Applause

Mr. Speaker, Peter and Cecile live in Kugluktuk and have a large family consisting of 13 children, 42 grandchildren, and 11 great-grandchildren. In the early days, Peter and Cecile Kamingoak used their

knowledge of the traditional way of life in hunting and trapping as a means of being self-sufficient.

Mr. Speaker, when what you would call the new way of life came to Kugluktuk in the early '70s, Kamingoak worked in the wage economy for a major oil company in the Mackenzie Delta. Kamingoak went on to hold various titles ranging from carrying out duties as a liaison contact between the communities and the oil companies to carry out the duties of a foreman for base camp operations.

Mr. Speaker, I need not say too much about Cecile, she has stuck with him for 67 years, raised a big family, is well loved, and is the other side of a solid relationship that lasted this long and continues to grow as the years go by. Members, Nunavummiut, if you ever want to hear a romance story, this is it.

Mr. Speaker, it's a great honour indeed to be able to celebrate this many years together as man and wife. I would like you to join me in congratulating them and wishing all the best for many more years to come. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Taptuna. Members' Statements. Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Rumbolt.

**Member's Statement 330 – 3(2):
Addressing Poverty**

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to offer some comments and suggestions as the Government of

Nunavut and NTI take on their mission to combat poverty in Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, poverty means different things to different people. It can affect people at one time in their lives or many times. Poverty seems to be a moving target.

Mr. Speaker, our society does have measures in place to assist those who are in need. Our income support system offers a number of programs, such as social assistance that can help individuals and their families with the basic costs for food and shelter.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the Government of Nunavut for being open to making changes to the income support system. Even just a few dollars more means a great deal to those who have very little, although they continue to struggle. I would like to remind the government that one of this Assembly's collective priorities, announced one year ago, was to conduct a comprehensive review of the Income Support Program.

Mr. Speaker, I feel that we need to be more creative in how we evaluate the need for support. In order to combat poverty, we need to take everything into account.

Mr. Speaker, the income support system is heavily based on introducing or reintroducing individuals into the wage economy. When I come to this community of Iqaluit for Legislative Assembly business, I look around and I see job advertisements all over the place. In the smaller communities, especially in the non-decentralized communities like Sanikiluaq, there are just not as many

jobs, part-time or otherwise. The formal wage economy is very limited.

Mr. Speaker, in communities like Sanikiluaq, however, the traditional economy is much stronger. A hunter who brings in a polar bear feeds many people and may earn a lump sum of money that he can then put towards equipment and supplies to support his subsistence lifestyle. But if this hunter also receives assistance from the Income Support Program, he is suddenly cut off.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to seek unanimous consent to continue with my Member's Statement. Thank you.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I do recognize that the Income Support Program is a program of last resort. It is not to be considered as a permanent or ongoing source of income. However, when you are evaluating the needs of Nunavummiut, the system needs to take into account the different dynamics of the traditional economy as compared to the wage economy.

Mr. Speaker, Nunavut is unique in that the traditional economy, including hunting and fishing, plays a very important and often unrecognized role in providing for members of our society.

If the government is serious about addressing poverty, then the government has to be creative in reviewing and

developing the resources to fight it.
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 331 – 3(2):
Congratulations to Dianne Iyago**

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It gives me great pleasure to rise today to also provide my joy in realizing that as well, through yesterday's Members' Statements, I recognized youth and young adults and their familiarity with what's affecting and happening with Nunavummiut, and also the fact young people are the key for the future.

It was a great pleasure to hear the Hon. Minister Lorne Kusugak acknowledge the Laura Ulluriaq Gauthier recipient this year from Baker Lake, Dianne Iyago, who is also a nursing student. I believe we will continue to have more of these successful stories but it also is a great pleasure, not only for Baker Lake, Mr. Speaker, but also for all of Nunavut to have young Nunavummiut who are in the Nursing Program and advancing themselves and also contributing locally.

Like my colleagues in all of Nunavut, we feel education is the foundation and, Mr. Speaker, at a later date, when I receive the complete list of Baker Lake's graduates. I would like the pleasure of acknowledging their success as well.

With this, I also would like to congratulate Ms. Dianne Iyago for her success and I hope all of Baker Lake can

also enjoy this with the rest of Nunavut.
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. Members' Statements. Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Hon. Peter Taptuna.

Item 4: Returns to Oral Questions

**Return to Oral Question 450 – 3(2):
Tourism Deposit Assurance
Program**

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A question was asked by the Hon. Member from Iqaluit West, no. 450 – 3 (2), on October 21, 2010 on the Tourism Deposit Assurance Program.

The question asked, Mr. Speaker, or posed was a question on whether or not the Government of Nunavut has a Tourism Deposit Assurance Program in place, and my response is, I would like to thank the member for bringing my attention to this. My officials followed up on the question and Nunavut Tourism has identified the error and removed the inaccurate information.

To be clear for the member, the Government of Nunavut does not have and has never had a Tourism Deposit Assurance Program. The Tourism Sector Development Strategy that was released last May does contemplate my department working with Nunavut Tourism to establish some form of assurance program.

As the member knows, the tourism industry is a regulated industry in Nunavut. The knowledge that we will take firm action to address operators that

are not providing adequate service provides a level of assurance to future visitors. Through our licensing and enforcement processes, we are working with our industry partners to build confidence in our tourism industry.

The question on whether the government should provide financial backstopping for tourism operators is being actively debated in the Northwest Territories right now. It was recently reported that this year, the NWT paid out over \$390,000 to cover for poor or cancelled tourist trips.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that in Nunavut, money is much better used working with our industry to ensure exceptional tourist experiences. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Mr. Komoartok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to recognize the Hamlet SAO, Ron Mongeau. He has lived in Pangnirtung for quite sometime back in the 1970s and came back to Pangnirtung after living away for quite some time. Please welcome Mr. Ron Mongeau.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you. Welcome to the Gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Anybody? Nobody. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit West, Mr. Okalik.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 482 – 3(2): Tourism Assurance Program

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to ask a question to the Minister of Economic Development with regard to the response he just provided. I am sorry but I did not quite believe the response.

(interpretation ends) We are in Nunavut, Mr. Speaker, and I object to figures being used from NWT to try and justify the decisions here in our territory. The action that I spoke of was an action by government. It wasn't an action by the proprietor or the tourists. I merely asked to maintain the confidence of the tourists who come to our territory who had been assured that there was an assurance program advertised by a tourism agency of the government.

I asked the minister: can the minister commit to reviewing this matter of compensating those tourists who want to spend their dollars in our territory? I didn't ask about a program in the NWT. I was asking about the activities taking place in our territory in Nunavut. Can the minister reconsider his department's decision on the matter of compensating these tourists who wanted to come to our territory? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. At this time, no, I'm not going to consider that. There have been no

requests from the tourists who participated in the Kivalliq expedition. No, not at this time, I will not consider that. We have no requests from them for any kind of assistance on reimbursement and whatnot. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Perhaps I will table the actual article that was in the press explaining that the tourists were left with lost dollars. I will file that at the appropriate time so that the minister can be better advised about the situation. At this point, I'll table it and come back to it tomorrow. (interpretation) I apologize. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Okalik. I didn't hear a question, so we will move on. Oral Questions. Member for Nanulik, Mr. Ningeongan.

Question 483 – 3(2): Public Housing Rent Scale Review

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

Last October, Members of the Legislative Assembly announced that one of our collective priorities for this Legislative Assembly was to “conduct comprehensive reviews of the public housing rent scale and the Income Support Program.” We stated that these reviews should focus on identifying and removing disincentives to enter into the workforce.

In March of this year, the Minister of Housing informed the Legislative Assembly that the Nunavut Housing Corporation was planning to hold a housing forum during which the issue of the public housing rent scale would be discussed. Can the minister update us today on the status of this plan and can he confirm when the housing forum will be held? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I certainly will commit to reviewing all of the commitments that have been made. Up to this time, I have not had a chance to fully being briefed on exactly what rental scale reviews have been taking place, but at the moment, I have indicated and at least contacted my officials that I would like to have the full information of the rental housing reviews in more detail.

Once the session is over, and I would like to say at this moment that in the winter session, no doubt, I would have more to say on this particular case. I know the rent issues continue to be a challenge not only for the people who are employed but as well as those who are not. So I will make a commitment to provide more information in the winter session. Thank you.

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

Mr. Ningeongan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am concerned that young working couples who are trying to start out in life should not be bombarded with

bills even before they move into their homes.

I believe that we need to review the process by which working people living in public housing are assessed rent so that the system encourages them to seek employment rather than giving up and living on social assistance. Will the minister commit to ensuring that this issue is on the agenda for their housing forum? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you. Mr. Speaker, I certainly will commit to that. I also understand fully and have shared that with the Nunavut Housing Corporation officials that we need to find ways to encourage young people to work instead of encouraging them to seek income support assistance.

Because both of them implicate... . The people involved in the industries who should be seeking work are really forced to having not to work because if they do, that would skyrocket their rent. It is not only for the working class, if I may say, Mr. Speaker. Even the elders, particularly, now have a challenge of whether or not to help out in overcrowding places. If they have someone move into their home, they are normally assessed and the housing rent goes up.

So it is an issue that we are actively working on, and I will be quite pleased to provide more information and I'll even allow members to comment on this before we finalize it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Ningeongan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last year, MLAs held important hearings on the report of the Auditor General on the Nunavut Housing Corporation. During the hearings, it was revealed that between \$11 million and \$12 million is outstanding on a Nunavut-wide basis in rental arrears and tenant damages. I believe in personal responsibility and we need to remember that this money could be used by local housing organizations to improve housing services. What action is the Nunavut Housing Corporation taking to support local housing organizations in collecting outstanding rental arrears? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again this particular case is a challenging one. It has been an ongoing problem faced by every housing association. I believe they are provided with a number of tools to collect outstanding arrears. It's very difficult one for the smaller communities, particularly to try and get all of the arrears collected when they have no means of income to provide it, and so on.

I can assure the member that we will make sure the information for collecting arrears is paid more quickly so that it doesn't escalate nor interest charges added on because in some communities, it's actually very high for some individuals. We will provide information as we make progress on it.

I certainly will undertake to find a program of claiming or at least getting rental arrears paid in some fashion. Normally a payment schedule is worked out between an individual in question and also, once the program is established, it normally would allow the individuals to remain in before being evicted. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 484 – 3(2): The Fate of Axel Heiberg Forest

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth.

Mr. Speaker, several years ago, researchers discovered the fossilized remains of an ancient forest in the High Arctic. The ongoing preservation of these fossils has been threatened by industry and tourism alike. Can the minister clearly describe what steps his department has taken to protect this important part of Nunavut's geographic heritage? 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. I also thank my colleague from the High Arctic for raising that question. When talking about this issue, the belief was that these islands used to be further south when the ancient forests were formed. It is part of CLEY's mandate, but the proposal that was submitted last year for preservation

of the forests also conflicted with the coal development proposal. There was a permit application, but due to the complaints sent to the agency reviewing the proposal, the application was denied.

A proposal is currently being drafted that will look at this matter and what options we have, such as a museum for showcasing the artefacts. Further, options for preserving or protecting the ancient forest, such as designating it as a territorial park, is currently under deliberation. I can only state that it is finally under consideration. I cannot state how we will be better able to preserve these ancient forests, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In a recent news article, it talks about tourists from cruise ships landing at the area where these forests are and actually removing pieces of the forest as souvenirs. It goes on to state that more than half of the 200 fossilized trees are no longer there. Does his department travel with the cruise ships to ensure that these things are not happening, or what does his department do in terms of making sure that these places are not being disturbed? Thank you.

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

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want it completely understood that the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth is primarily mandated to deal with archaeological artefacts and

traditional ancient sites. We deal mainly with archaeological issues of our forefathers. However, with respect to natural resources, such as the ancient forests which are not man-made and which occurred naturally, are dealt with by a different department.

However, with regard to the question about the cruise ship that went up to the Petrified Forest this summer and where the passengers were purported to have grabbed samples, I have not heard of any reports about that incident. I will have to research that and return to the member. I also want to know about this. So I will have to take this question as notice in order to find out about what the situation was and whether this actually occurred, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Mr. Elliott, your question has been taken as notice and the minister will get back to you. Oral Questions. Member of Hudson Bay, Mr. Rumbolt.

Question 485 – 3(2): Governance of the Nunavut Housing Corporation

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

The Auditor General's 2008 report to the Legislative Assembly on the Nunavut Housing Corporation stated, and I quote, "The Corporation does not have appropriate governance practices in place to promote good management. The Corporate Executive Committee does not fulfil all of its roles and responsibilities for governing the organization strategically."

As I recall, when Nunavut was first created, housing used to be a part of the Department of Community Government. It was later carved out of the department and became a fully standalone Crown corporation. It may be time to rethink this decision.

In light of the problems with the Nunavut Housing Corporation, is the minister considering changes to the corporation's governance structure and, if so, what specific changes are being considered? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We certainly welcome the discussion on the governance structure and if one or more members have any ideas about how best the governance structure should be. That's the kind of discussion we want. Certainly this item will be discussed by the cabinet and the issues related to the governance will definitely be brought in to the executive.

But the first priority that we are working on as we attempt to get controls in place is to ensure that the finance division of the Housing Corporation is set up once and for all. Without good governance as well as good financial controls in place, it is difficult to have an effective Crown or not corporation working to serve the mandate. With respect to whether or not the issue is being considered, we are, and the priority at the moment is to get the finance division working properly so that we can get on.

With respect to the other issues that the member asked, I think they need broader planning, whether or not they should be, whether or not there is even cost savings if it were to become a department. Thank you.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's not yet clear whether financial management positions that are currently located in the corporation's Arviat headquarters are going to be recentralized to Iqaluit. Can the minister explain the process that will be used to make that decision? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you. Mr. Speaker, I think the question with respect to the finance division has been well discussed by the Auditor General. The member already indicated the report sent in by the Auditor General that the second part is the audit that was dealt with, which the Committee of the Whole will be addressing today, certainly indicates that decisions certainly may have to be made with respect to centralizing to the management as well as to the directorate. That process is working its way to the Financial Management Board.

Once the cabinet has decided which route to take, I'll be prepared to make a statement. Certainly the option always is status quo, which I don't believe will serve the Nunavut public today. Thank you.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The government's Public Agencies Council is responsible for developing letters of expectation and Memorandums of Understanding with the government's Crown corporations and agencies. When will the Nunavut Housing Corporation's letters of expectations and MOU with the government be tabled in the Legislative Assembly? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That responsibility lies with my colleague. Once the MOU has been issued, we would certainly review it and it will be the Minister of Finance who would table that document. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 486 – 3(2): Work on Public Housing Units

Mr. Komoartok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

We were informed that the units currently under construction seem to be in jeopardy because there is a lack of funds to finish these units. Previously last year around December, the construction of the units was suspended until February.

What are the plans now for this year? I believe that every community has construction projects ongoing. What are the plans of the department to deal with these units? Are they going to have another break during Christmas? I would like to know more about this, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Komoartok. Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, (interpretation ends) Hon. Tagak Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With regard to the contractors, it is an ongoing process. There are quite a few projects that were delayed due to lack of funding, but the negotiated contracts and some that are going through the housing association had to be approved by the cabinet as to whether they can take that route.

However, we are expecting that the contracts we currently have, which were deliberated upon by cabinet and approved, I am expecting that the funds will be disbursed in a timely manner. I would like to see them continue to cover up these units. The only barrier that may slow down the construction is the winter snow. Once the contract has been awarded, the construction will proceed. Thank you.

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

Mr. Komoartok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am very happy to hear that response because the people working will have a hard time supplementing their income. The fact

that they will be working over the winter is good news.

With regard to the workers who were working on the construction projects, I went to speak with some of the workers and they gave their opinions on how it has created larger expenses. The biggest problem they stated was outside workers who came into the community who incur hotel expenses, tickets, and things of that nature.

My question to the minister is: can you not research these communities to check a labour pool so that you do not have to import workers into all of these communities and incur additional expenses? Again, we are going to have to look for cost-cutting measures. It would be prudent to look at the communities and find what kind of labour pool they have and what skills they have so that we can employ as many workers as we can in the communities and not have to import outside workers.

I would like this particular issue researched by the department. So my question to the minister is: will they be researching this further, Mr. Speaker? Thank you.

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

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That is a very good question. With regard to the contracts with the Nunavut Housing Corporation and the cost overruns, we have been dealing with that issue through cabinet for a while. The cabinet has tasked the Nunavut Housing Corporation to look at lower contracts

and to lessen expenses, especially with relation to expenses incurred for importing workers, such as hotel fees and travel costs. We have also been told that hotels are not the only options and that there should be other options.

Wherever possible, we are expecting that the contractors, if they are not hiring local workers, they will have to argue why they have to incur extra costs because we are asking them to prioritize the hiring of local workers. This is something that we will continue to work on down the road, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Mr. Komoartok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I totally understand the response of the minister. Be that as it may, more people in the community would be able to work, but the biggest problem is that every time they have an issue with the local workers, they just start hiring workers from the outside. Are there any alternatives? It seems like the contractors are not hiring locally and we want to be able to have an option, or an ombudsmen, or middleman who we can talk to deal with the contractors. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With regard to his question, I believe there is a project manager responsible for every community. I believe there is a community development officer and there is a district office in Cape Dorset

that handles most of these projects. I am unsure as to who the person is that directs that department.

With regard to brainstorming about these issues, I cannot really respond about that, but what I can state is that if you write anywhere or if you call to the office, we will try to respond to you. That is why I find it hard to respond to the member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Thank you, Mr. Komoartok. (interpretation ends) Oral Questions. Member for Akulliq, Mr. Ningark.

Question 487 – 3(2): Issues in Repulse Bay

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I talked earlier in my Member's Statement about the request by the Hamlet of Repulse Bay in January. I also met with the Minister of CGS regarding this issue.

The arena, snow fence, as well as the water lake pump house, including the sewage lagoon, and in particular, the rock crusher were amongst the eight items requested by the Hamlet of Repulse Bay. I spoke with the mayor and apparently not even one of their requested items was submitted to the community. We met with them in January.

If the minister can not respond now, I would like to find out the status of these requests from the Hamlet of Repulse Bay. So I would appreciate it if he could respond prior to the end of this session. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation):
Thank you. I thank my colleague for
raising that question. There are quite a
few items requested by the Hamlet of
Repulse Bay and, as a matter of fact, all
communities in Nunavut. I believe the
items you listed as concerns are shared
throughout Nunavut. The problem is a
lot of this equipment is getting old and
dilapidated and it's getting harder to
replace them.

If I could speak to the snow fencing,
nowadays we have snow fencing. In the
old days, we never even bothered to try
to stop the snow because that was part of
being in the North, but in the modern
day, snow fencing does play a role and
they lessen the cost of snow removal.
They are especially useful when there is
an emergency. Nowadays with water
delivery services, sometimes the water
lake or even the houses are unreachable
when there's a lot of snow on the road.
These items are still currently being
dealt with.

Although we cannot actually give dates
as to when we can move them, it is
something that we have discussed with
you, as well as the Repulse Bay mayor. I
believe it was this spring where we
heard about the concerns from the
community and yourself. We spoke
about where it would come from and
how it would be set up. A lot of these
little details are being worked out. That
is where the situation is at.

With regard to the water lake pump
house, the water lake is a fair distance
away and we are still studying as to

which option is the better one, whether
to leave the water lake where it is, or if
there's a way to improve it, or whether it
would be cheaper to build a water line
right into the hamlet.

There are always pros and cons for every
project. At this point, they're being
studied. While it's under review, I
cannot state one way or the other
whether anything's happening, but
hopefully, prior to the end of this
session, I will have an opportunity to
speak with you. Whenever you have an
opportunity or when you have time
available, I can come by and speak to
you about these issues. Thank you, Mr.
Speaker.

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

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank
you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the hon.
minister for providing that update. I'm
hoping that the minister can discuss this
with his officials in the Kivalliq region,
as well as the engineer, who are
responsible for the projects. Perhaps the
minister or his deputy can request this
information from the engineers. I would
like to get a written report on the status.
It's very hard to deal with an issue or to
plan a response when there is no paper
trail. Perhaps after the minister has
checked into this matter, he can provide
a written report on the status of these
requests to the Hamlet of Repulse Bay
and not to my attention. I would prefer
that he just copy me on that. Thank you,
Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): The population in Repulse Bay is growing, so it would be almost impossible to send them all a letter.

Yes, it's possible. I have already started drafting correspondence based on your request yesterday for more information before the end of the session. I believe I will have a whole load of information to submit to you before the end of the session. In fact, I will ensure that I buy a new pen to write all of the information. I have no qualms about providing that information, so I will provide you with that information. Further, if the Hamlet of Repulse Bay wants more information, I can send them a report.

I will speak with you about setting up a meeting after I find out exactly what you're requesting. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In our government, as well as with most governments worldwide, due to the high numbers of people to service, there is sometimes a representative who deals with their concerns. The hamlets also use a representative to represent their interests. When would you be able to send that correspondence? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Within the member's question, he outlined some of the items he wanted

information on and that he referred to in his Member's Statement. When he presented his question, he added a few more items that he wanted an update on. So if I could compile the entire list or actually once I have the time to ensure that I have the entire list, I will be able to respond to you before the end of the session.

I know that these are legitimate concerns. Perhaps if you could identify all of the issues, then I can respond. I will not provide a deadline for providing the response. However, I can tell you that I will be able to provide a written report once I know the entire details of the items that you have requested. I need to gather the issues and status updates, and once I have them, I will send that information to you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 488 – 3(2): DEA Elections Following New Education Act

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

I would like to ask the minister of the fact that the DEAs' last election did not follow the new *Education Act* that states that all DEA positions should have been open for re-election in the first election following the passing of the Act. That was in their last election.

The minister of the day claimed that this was because all but three communities only held a by-election. Since none of these DEAs actually announced a by-

election and, in fact, held their elections on the same day of the regular election, these DEAs actually violated the new Act, and the minister of the day supported this violation. This means that most of the DEAs are illegal and invalid.

Is the current minister aware of this issue and can he explain why he allowed this violation to continue even though he had ample time to correct this disregard for a new *Education Act*? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to again thank the member for raising that issue. I know he did in the past.

Mr. Speaker, the information, as provided to me, is there was apparently some over-enthusiasm, if you want to call it that, in some of the communities. They had thought that their requirements for having those elections start last year rather than this year happened. They were actually one step ahead of the game. So I would say that they were proactive in having those elections. I understand also that the department did meet with officials in those communities and did explain the process to clear up the misunderstanding. That's the information that I have. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So was the minister trying to tell me that all of the DEAs are actually legal in

Nunavut and there was no violation of the Act? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I indicated, the DEA elections outlined under the new *Education Act* are requiring them now to have staggered terms.

Mr. Speaker, in the past, every year, there was an election for the entire board of directors of the district education authorities. One of the concerns that were raised during the consultations on the development of the *Education Act* was the fact that, with the additional roles and responsibilities that the DEAs are taking on, they felt there was a need to have more continuity at the local level to be able to transition so that not everybody was changing at once. That was the reason why they are moving to a staggered election.

I think there was just some confusion as to when they started, but I can assure the member that all of the DEAs are legitimately set up. I believe the nomination period for the upcoming elections for... . These very valued and important individuals in the communities who care about participating in the development of education in their communities will have an opportunity to be able to put their names forward in the upcoming election. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. According to the Act, it says that all

DEA positions should have been open for re-election; it doesn't say staggered election. So have you changed the Act or are you just not following it? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Act has not been changed. That is what is in place and that is what we are moving forward with. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the minister commit to correcting this violation and make sure that all DEAs follow the new *Education Act* and the whole, proper elections by opening all positions up for election, with the exception of three communities that are actually legal, of course? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. May I could just ask the member if he could reiterate what the except for the three communities that are actual... I didn't understand or didn't hear what he said there, so if I could ask him to repeat that. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Schell, the minister is seeking clarification on your question. Mr. Schell.

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, according to the minister of the

day, he had claimed that all but three communities only held a by-election and apparently the other ones didn't. According to the new by-law, they are the only ones that were legal because they actually held a by-election. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Tootoo.

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I indicated earlier, there were a number of... Those three communities that the member mentioned, there was some confusion over how the elections... Some of those communities thought that it was supposed to happen last year rather than this year. That has been explained and clarified to those communities.

I understand that, in some of those communities, it's because they had a complete, full slate of vacancies or in some cases where they had a shortage where they didn't have a full slate of members. So the community had looked at having elections to be able to fill the vacancies on the board.

In some cases, there were not enough candidates who were running to fill the board, so individuals would have been acclaimed to the positions and also work by those individuals in those communities to solicit other individuals to assist in the very important work that they do in the communities and to appoint individuals to the board so that they could have a functioning district education authority in their community to carry out the very important work that they do. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 489 – 3(2): NHC Tender for Staff Housing Furniture

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) In the spring session, we went through a painful exercise of cutting costs throughout the government to try and accommodate the shortfalls of the Housing Corporation. So my question will be to the Minister of Housing.

Subsequent to that cutting exercise, I came across a tender from the Housing Corporation to supply furnishings to all staff housing units in every community for furnishings, with a closing date of June 4 of this year. Subsequent to that tender, I witnessed a fire sale taking place of furnishings in my riding last month.

So my question to the minister is: if the furniture is okay for the public to have, why did it have to be replaced at a time when we're cutting costs throughout the government? Why do we replace furnishings that are reusable for the members of the public but not good enough for the staff housing units?

Where do the priorities lie for the Housing Corporation? So I would like to ask the minister: why, at this time, did the staff housing units need new furnishings? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't know why. That's my answer.

Each department and the public, and generally from what I know, the governments normally have a standard five-year use of furniture. Let alone furniture, as well as vehicles and whatnot, any major government equipment, other than probably maybe heavy machineries or whatnot, normally, routinely, go through the tender process and so on. So I would have to find an explanation for those kinds of items.

My guess would be too that we could probably extend the use of these furnishings for a longer period, but I don't know. I will have to provide that information later. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I thank the minister for his honesty and not being able to explain the circumstances on why this took place at this time. I will file this tender from the Housing Corporation with the minister so that, perhaps, he can try and look into this matter further.

While the minister is looking into this matter, can he commit to also finding out how much these new furnishings cost and how much they were able to recover from my constituents and from other communities on the resale of the furnishings that weren't good enough for the staff housing units? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the question and also reminding me of what went on. I normally don't go to any house sales or sales of any kind, so I have no understanding exactly what occurred. My colleagues may have.

But what I want to assure the member is that once I get the information and figures on exactly what the amount of the tender that was issued in June was, I will let the members know. I understand that they were awarded to contractors or whatnot throughout Nunavut and I'll be pleased to provide that info once I have it. Thank you.

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

Question 490 – 3(2): General Rate Application

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are directed towards the Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation.

The Hon. Lorne Kusugak, last week, read a Minister's Statement regarding the Qulliq Energy Corporation's general rate application. He stated that their latest one was actually filed in 2004. In discussions with constituents, there seems to be some confusion as to how we go about putting forward a general rate application.

It's being perceived that certain individuals within the Qulliq Energy Corporation are trying to find ways of

paying for certain projects that aren't working very well. I was just wondering at this time, in terms of educating the House and the listening public, if the minister could explain how a general rate application is prepared. Thank you.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for the question. For the general rate application to remain consistent with the corporation's review requirements, the QEC completes assessments to determine the rates needed to cover operating expenses, meet capital expenditure requirements, service data, and provide a fair return on equity. The corporation hasn't done that since 2006, Mr. Speaker. Thank you very much.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday, Mr. Schell asked similar questions in regard to the QEC. He specifically mentioned the new facilities that are being constructed here in Iqaluit and also the Iqaluit heat recovery project and asked how much that is affecting the general rate application. The minister sort of acknowledged that that was part of it. I was wondering if he could explain how big of a part that is playing in terms of the general rate application. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It all encompasses into one, I

guess. We have old, aging equipment in every municipality. Old power plants need to be replaced. We have more employees, we have recurring costs, and really, the rate increase hasn't happened for years. So when you put all of these things together, the QEC feels that there needs to be a rate increase, but it takes into all of the above.

I couldn't be able to tell you that because of this building that means we're going to ask for this much of a percentage, but when you think of the increase in employees, increase in salaries, the need for replacing of equipment, power plant equipment and otherwise, and all of these things out there, prices of everything have increased, so too for the corporation. The corporation feels that it's with these causes that they're requesting an increase, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for that answer. In terms of the heat recovery project that's happening here in Iqaluit and how that affects the general rate application, originally I believe the project was estimated to be \$3 million, but now Mr. Schell was actually mentioning that it was over \$13 million. I'm wondering if you have a dollar figure as to how much that is costing. Thank you.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Yes, like I told our colleague beside you yesterday, I said I would look into the actual cost of that. I have never heard of the \$3

million, or \$13 million, or whatever million dollar cost, but I have told him that I would get back to him on that, and I'll get back to him and you on that as soon as I get the kind of detail you are looking for.

The heat recovery program is just being used to use excess heat from the power plant to heat government buildings that are close to the facility. I don't know off the top of my head the exact cost of it and I said I would get back to him on it, and I will do that. I will let Mr. Elliott know the same thing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As well, I have heard in speaking with different people that the heat recovery project does not actually function as well as it should be. Is the minister aware of how the project is moving along? Is it functioning as it should be or are there problems with it? Thank you.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have asked my staff to let me know about the details on that whole project, so I will include it in my response when he asks me again in a couple days. I am looking into that right now; that is part of the answer that I am looking for. Is it working great? Is it working okay or is it not? We are looking into that right now so that I can give him a fair answer. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Question 491 – 3(2): NWMB
Appointments**

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to direct my question to the Minister of Environment.

As you may be aware, I have kept returning to this issue time and again, and I believe we are heading into the third year with this matter that relates to Nunavut. I have kept asking about the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board appointments made by the federal government, Nunavut government, and Inuit organizations.

For the past two years, they have been waiting for an appointment of the chairperson. Again, this is causing barriers with the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board management of our wildlife. So therefore, what has the Minister of Environment done to lobby the federal government to ensure that this appointment is completed? I would like to ask that question first. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is of great concern to us as a government and the Department of Environment for that chairman seat to be vacant for this long. As the member recalls, last fall, I had written to then the Minister of INAC, Minister Strahl, voicing our concern about this vacant position and encouraging him to have

somebody appointed into that position on behalf of the federal government.

The Nunavut Wildlife Management Board is one of the central roles in wildlife management in making decisions under the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement, so it is a very important concern to us. Recently, with the new Minister of INAC, I am currently drafting a letter to Mr. Duncan indicating our same concern and we would like to see this position filled as soon as possible. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have personally also written to the minister that he identified at the federal level. Can the Minister of Environment inform us whether they have been presented with a report as to why it takes so long for these appointments to be finalized for Nunavut, especially with the wildlife issues that are piling up awaiting a decision? So my question is: has an update been provided by the federal government as to why Nunavut has to bear the brunt of the delay of these appointments? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have not received any reports back why it is taking so long to fill this position. However, in my communication with Minister Duncan, I will ask that question.

I know in our department and working with NWMB, it is very important that we have that position filled and we are as frustrated as anybody else, but we all do need clarity and we will try and find that out for the member and for the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Thank you, Mr. Okalik. Oral Questions. (interpretation ends) Member for South Baffin, Mr. Schell.

Question 492 – 3(2): Student Funding

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Education.

Can the minister explain why there are only two communities that are funded and paid for the high school academic stream required for students to enter university, while the remaining 24 communities are not funded and the parents of students who wish to go to university must fund the academic stream courses themselves? These courses are on average \$500 per, with as many as six courses per year for the last two years of high school.

Can the minister explain why Nunavummiut are supposed to pay for, and how our young aspiring students are supposed to succeed in the face of this kind of adversity and inequity with the two have communities? To top it off, these courses are not even supported by teachers in the communities. The students must take them in distant learning courses through Alberta Learning. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. I think one of the things, as far as I am aware, all of the schools in Nunavut are funded through a funding formula and through the Department of Education. The specifics on how exactly and what each school decides what programs they want to offer are things that are decided upon at a community level, not only with the staff in the schools and with the DEAs as well.

So that's my understanding. If the member can provide me with something different, I would be more than happy to look into it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Schell: I don't think that this has anything to do with whether the DEAs or the local school wants to teach it.

The only two communities that are funded are the two large communities, Iqaluit and Rankin Inlet. None of the other communities are getting it, so I don't think there is any funding available for it. With our need for more education in Nunavut, I think we should seriously be looking at doing this because a lot of the families can't afford to and it's a disadvantage to the students who want to take these courses but can't afford to. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Tootoo.

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I indicated and just

reiterated, it is my understanding that schools are funded by formula. Something that was raised as an issue and that I have raised as an issue for many years is one of the things that we need to look at doing is move away from the same way that we fund schools on a per capita basis, which is how it's done right now. I know, in some cases, some schools or DEAs look for third party funding for certain specific programs that they want to offer in their communities.

As I indicated to the member, if he has something that shows me different, I would be more than happy to take a look at it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. He is referring to per capita. If that's the case, why isn't Arviat getting it? They've got more children, I think, in school than Rankin Inlet does. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Tootoo.

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think the member is a little bit confused as to my response.

I said all of the schools are funded and that's how they are funded. That formula that they are a part of is based on the student enrolments and the population within the school. All of that is taken into account when the funding allocations are provided, whether it be for what programs they offer, the number of staff and the educators that are required based on the enrolment populations, that are re-looked at every

fall after the intake year. As far as I'm aware, that is how all of the schools are funded. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would recommend that the minister look at funding some of these programs for these communities because we're trying to get students into universities. That's our big problem with filling a lot of our jobs. So how is it possible when the government itself and the Department of Education are not even interested in funding it? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think, as the member's view on things or of his view that the government is not interested in helping our young people succeed and achieve excellence in education, I would disagree with the member and say that that's exactly what we are doing. We're implementing the new *Education Act*. We're trying to find ways to be able to attract and retain students in the system.

If you look at some of the graduation rates, I think it would show that there is some success in that area. If you look at the number of students who are moving on to post-secondary education, those numbers are increasing. This government is committed to providing tools to our young people to be able to achieve excellence in education and move forward.

So again, if he thought that, I just want to clarify that that is not the case. The

government is interested and doing everything it can within the resources it has available to it to be able to provide the quality education to all Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. (interpretation) Please note that question period is now over. Mr. Komoartok.

Mr. Komoartok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to ask my colleagues for unanimous consent to return to Item 5 in the *Orders of the Day*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Komoartok. The member is asking for unanimous consent to return to Item 5, Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Are there any nays? There are none. Mr. Komoartok, you may proceed.

Revert to Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Mr. Komoartok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to welcome our community's long-serving wildlife officer. Furthermore, he is my nephew who is also serving as the Mayor of Pangnirtung. I would like Sakeasie Sowdloapik to be welcomed to the Gallery. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome to the Gallery. (interpretation ends) Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Item 7. Written Questions. Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Item 10. Petitions. Item 11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees. Mr. Elliott.

Item 11: Reports of Standing and Special Committees*

Committee Report 004 – 3(2): Recommendations for Amendments to the Rules of the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut and Other Matters

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have the honour today of presenting the first report of the Third Legislative Assembly's Standing Committee on Rules, Procedures and Privileges.

I would like to begin by expressing my appreciation to my committee colleagues for the collegial manner in which we worked together. The recommendations in the standing committee's report reflect the unanimous consensus of the committee.

Mr. Speaker, I will take this opportunity, for the benefit of all Members of the House and the listening public, to highlight the standing committee's conclusions and recommendations. I am confident that all members will concur that these recommendations will serve to enhance our deliberations.

The standing committee's first recommendation is a housekeeping measure to simplify the process by which House Bills that are introduced under the authority of the Management and Services Board are considered by the Legislative Assembly. I would emphasize that all Members of the Legislative Assembly will continue to have a number of opportunities to scrutinize House Bills.

*See Appendix for full text of Committee Report 4 – 3(2).

The standing committee's second recommendation will serve to clarify the process by which standing and special committees report back to the House with their findings on bills and other matters.

The standing committee's third recommendation enhances the transparency of our Assembly's proceedings by introducing a new item on the order paper of the day: *Responses to Petitions*. The introduction of this item will help enable the public to be clearly aware of the government's responses to petitions that are presented by Members of this House on their behalf. The standing committee is also recommending that a number of amendments be made to existing provisions in the Rules to provide clear limits on the number of extensions that can be granted to returns to oral and written questions. This measure will serve to strengthen the accountability of the government to the Legislative Assembly.

The standing committee's fourth recommendation proposes to amend the *Rules of the Legislative Assembly* to more clearly define the periods of time in which the legislature will sit during any given year. The standing committee is recommending an approach that will balance the goal of achieving more planning certainty with the need to preserve reasonable flexibility to accommodate the business before the House. These changes will improve the transparency of our proceedings. I would also note that the standing committee has made a number of related recommendations concerning such matters as sitting hours and public

holidays, including explicit recognition of Nunavut Day in our Rules.

The standing committee's fifth recommendation concerns the use of portable hand-held electronic devices, laptop computers, and other technologies in the Legislative Assembly's Chamber and committee rooms. The standing committee's deliberations on this issue recognized the importance of our institution's keeping pace with technological change, while preserving important elements of order and decorum. The standing committee will conduct an evaluation of the application of the Speaker's new guidelines and report back to the House at the spring 2011 sitting of the Legislative Assembly with our final recommendations on the use of hand-held electronic devices, laptop computers, and other technologies in the Legislative Assembly Chamber and committee rooms.

The standing committee's sixth and final recommendation addresses the issue of translation of House documents. These recommendations will serve to increase the number of items that are available in Nunavut's official languages, while ensuring that House business is not impeded as a consequence of delays in obtaining translations of documents.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to conclude by thanking all members for the valuable contributions and comments that have been received by the standing committee in the course of its deliberations.

Pursuant to Rule 91, I move that the report of the standing committee be received and adopted by the House, entered into the record as read, and its recommendations for amendments to the

Rules of the Legislative Assembly deemed to have been accepted, effective the first day of the winter 2011 sitting of the Legislative Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Do members agree that the report by the standing committee be received and adopted by the House, entered into the record as read, and its recommendations for amendments to the *Rules of the Legislative Assembly* deemed to have been accepted, effective the first day of winter 2011 sitting of the Legislative Assembly? Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Speaker: Thank you. Item 11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees. Item 12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills. Mr. Okalik.

Item 12: Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills

Committee Report on Bills 016 – 3(2): Bill 35, Licensed Practical Nurses Act

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I wish to report that Bill 35, *Licensed Practical Nurses Act*, has been reviewed by the Standing Committee on Legislation and that the bill is ready for consideration in Committee of the Whole.

Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to waive Rule 68(6) and have Bill 35 immediately moved into Committee of the Whole. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Okalik. The member is seeking unanimous consent to waive Rule 68(6) and have Bill 35 immediately moved into Committee of the Whole. Do members agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Bill 35 has been referred to the Committee of the Whole.

Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills. Mr. Okalik.

Committee Report on Bills 017 – 3(2): Bill 37, Tobacco Damages and Health Care Costs Recovery Act

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker and my colleagues. Mr. Speaker, I wish to report that Bill 37, *Tobacco Damages and Health Care Costs Recovery Act*, has been reviewed by the Standing Committee on Legislation and that the bill is ready for consideration in Committee of the Whole.

Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to waive Rule 68(6) and have Bill 37 immediately moved into Committee of the Whole. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Okalik. Our colleague is seeking unanimous consent to waive Rule 68(6) and have Bill 37 immediately moved into Committee of the Whole today. Do my colleagues agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Bill 37 has been referred to the Committee of the Whole.

Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills. Mr. Okalik.

**Committee Report on Bills 018 – 3(2):
Bill 42, Forgiveness of Debts Act,
2010, No. 2**

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker and my colleagues. I wish to report that Bill 42, *Forgiveness of Debts Act, 2010, No. 2*, has been reviewed by the Standing Committee on Legislation and that the bill is ready for consideration in Committee of the Whole.

Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to waive Rule 68(6) and have Bill 42 immediately moved into Committee of the Whole. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Okalik. Our colleague is seeking unanimous consent to waive Rule 68(6) and have Bill 42 immediately moved into Committee of the Whole. Do our colleagues agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Bill 42 has been referred to the Committee of the Whole.

Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Mr. Okalik.

Item 13: Tabling of Documents

**Tabled Document 232 – 3(2): Turfed
Outfitter Fights Back**

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) As per my commitment to the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, I am tabling an article from *Northern News Services Online* dated October 25, 2010, “Turfed outfitter fights back.” (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Tabling of Documents. Mr. Peterson.

**Tabled Document 233 – 3(2): Report
#1 on Status of Action Plan**

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table Report #1 on the Status of Action Plan on the Report of the Auditor General of Canada to the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut - 2009, Management Practices – Follow-up on the 2005 Report to the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut; and Recommendations by the Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts dated March 2010. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Tabled Document 234 – 3(2): 2010
Annual Report Utility Rates
Review Council of Nunavut**

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to

table the Utility Rates Review Council's 2010 Annual Report, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Tabling of Documents. Mr. Peterson.

Tabled Document 235 – 3(2): Fuel Tax Rebate Program Annual Report, 2009-2010

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table the Fuel Tax Rebate Program Annual Report for 2009-2010. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Tabled Document 236 – 3(2): Nunavut Arctic College Annual Report 2009-2010

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table the 2009-2010 Annual Report for Nunavut Arctic College. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Tabling of Documents. Item 14. Notices of Motions. Mr. Ningeongan.

Item 14: Notices of Motions

Motion 030 – 3(2): Special Sitzings of the House – Notice

Mr. Ningeongan: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Friday, October 29, 2010, I will move the following motion:

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet North, that the Speaker be granted the authority to recall the House and set its sitting days and hours for the purpose of

holding special sittings during the month of November 2010.

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. Elliott.

Item 16: Motions

Motion 027 – 3(2): Referral of Tabled Documents 207 – 3(2), 209 – 3(2), 210 – 3(2), and 212 – 3(2) to the Committee of the Whole

Mr. Elliott: Motion 27 – 3 (2): Referral of Tabled Documents 207 – 3(2), 209 – 3(2), 210 – 3(2), and 212 – 3(2) to the Committee of the Whole

WHEREAS the Nunavut Housing Trust experienced a \$60.0 million shortfall;

AND WHEREAS the Affordable Housing Initiative experienced a \$50.0 million shortfall;

AND WHEREAS these shortfalls have seriously impacted the Government of Nunavut's fiscal position and its ability to establish new programs;

AND WHEREAS Members of the Legislative Assembly have expressed significant concerns regarding these shortfalls;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the Hon. Member for Nanulik, that Tabled Document 207 – 3(2), *Nunavut Housing Corporation Contracting Report for the Year Ending March 31,*

2009; Tabled Document 209 – 3(2), *Statement of Expenditures for the Nunavut Housing Trust, April 1, 2006 to February 28, 2010*; Tabled Document 210 – 3(2), *Review of the Nunavut Housing Trust*; and Tabled Document 212 – 3(2), *Nunavut Housing Trust Project Status Summary*, be referred to the Committee of the Whole for concurrent consideration.

Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. The motion is in order. To the motion. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to have the opportunity to speak to my motion and I would like to thank my colleague from Nanulik for having seconded it.

As members will recall, I gave notice on Monday of this week that I would be moving this motion today. All Members of this House and the listening public have been aware since Monday afternoon that regular members planned to move these documents into the Committee of the Whole for scrutiny during our sitting.

Mr. Speaker, earlier this year, the government's annual reports on its contracting, procurement and leasing activities were referred to the Committee of the Whole for consideration. This was a productive exercise and I am looking forward to a similar process taking place with the items that are now before us.

Mr. Speaker, it has been suggested that MLAs are on a witch hunt to place blame on certain individuals for the Nunavut Housing Trust and Affordable

Housing Initiative “fiascos,” as I believe the Premier herself has referred to them.

However, Mr. Speaker, it has been said that if you don't learn from the mistakes of the past, you are condemned to repeat them.

I would also note that a measure of accountability needs to be in place for those who are well-compensated to make major decisions involving tens of millions of dollars in public money. Suggesting that we should forget about the past is not acceptable to me.

I had hoped that the Government of Nunavut and the Nunavut Housing Corporation would have corrected the problems themselves but this does not seem to be the case. I would have hoped that the GN and the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation would have been able to get a grip on the situation.

For me, what has happened in the past is a travesty, but what I want to find is answers to our problems today.

Have controls actually been put into place to make sure overspending does not happen again? Is the human resources capacity and expertise within Nunavut Housing Corporation sufficient to handle the expectations that have been placed upon it? Is the Nunavut Housing Corporation's tendering process adequate? These are all important issues that are raised in the accounting firm's report.

However, we are not getting clear answers. The report itself has made 19 formal recommendations for improvements, but I have not seen a

concrete response or action plan from the Nunavut Housing Corporation to implement them.

I want to understand what was done in the past and evaluate what is being done now to make sure that we do not find ourselves in a similar position at this time next year, being forced to cut programs and services from other departments to make up for a shortfall.

From the vague responses that we have been getting, it seems like the Nunavut Housing Corporation has not learned from the past mistakes because it would appear they are doing business as usual without any changes.

Mr. Speaker, this exercise will allow the Nunavut Housing Corporation to clearly account for its plans to address these problems and nobody is more hopeful than me that the testimony that we hear this week will give us cause for confidence.

Mr. Speaker, we all agree that housing is much needed in all Nunavut communities. All members on both sides of the House have repeatedly made this point. I guess the sad reality is that even with the over 1,000 new houses we are receiving with the Nunavut Housing Trust and the Affordable Housing Program, it does not even scratch the surface for our housing needs across the territory.

Mr. Speaker, what really angered me was the Nunavut Housing Corporation announcement from a few weeks ago. In my view, I felt that it tried to spin the revelation about the new \$50 million shortfall into a good news story.

We need to face our problems frankly and tackle them head-on.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to unanimous support for my motion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. To the motion. Mr. Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, we're happy to support the motion. I think the public deserves to have clear, honest, and fair answers.

There have been many allegations made against some of the very hard-working people who are in each district, who have been employed by the Nunavut Housing Corporation and this government for a long time. They are still working hard, honest, hard-working taxpayers working hard to ensure that fair and realistic work assignments and projects are well built for the benefit of Nunavutmiut, if I may say.

No one questions the importance of building the houses required. Nunavut continues to have the largest overcrowded homes, which will be confirmed shortly by Stats Canada. We need to address the shortage of housing in Nunavut continually.

The mistakes that we're dealing with were uncovered by the current Housing Corporation executives. Most of the flawed budgeting processes that were used and wrong investments that were used were committed by the previous administration. Even I, Mr. Speaker, predicted that there were going to be problems in 2006, when there were so many problems that were presented to

the House with respect to marshalling contracts and the choice of the investments that were being made. It took the current new administration, at least the executives of the Housing Corporation and financial officer, to discover there were flawed budgeting processes used. They did discover them and reported them.

The actions have been taken by this government, with the help of members on the other side, during the spring session that there be audits conducted on the whole Nunavut Housing Trust and the Affordable Housing Trust. Nothing was left undone. It was hoped at that time that would lead to further investigations, if any are required. My colleagues from the Department of Justice and the Minister of Justice have made his office completely available for any work that may be required to dig into further missing information, if any.

The Auditor General certainly has helped in providing budgeting problems that the member quoted earlier. These have been addressed. The Nunavut Housing Corporation has significantly changed its budgeting and cost control procedures. However, Mr. Speaker, it cannot unilaterally move the positions that are so desperately needed to help correct the budgeting, cost controls, and resources needed because there are sensitive issues involved.

We cannot just move positions without proper evaluations by the cabinet as well as my friends from FMB. These particular reviews are going on, but it is too early to indicate whether or not we will make that step. The evaluations will be confirmed by the executive, by the

cabinet, whether or not the positions should be moved.

I alluded to my reply to one of the questions: status quo is always an option. I, as a minister, don't believe that status quo is a choice that we should make, but we are careful in crafting these responses and, no doubt, the member will be provided with responses. But I cannot, in this House, indicate whether the member or any members will be satisfied with the information that we are going to be providing.

Nunavutmiut, be assured that houses will be made. My constituents will be provided with homes so desperately needed and they will be built by the partners that we have, many of the contractors, and even in some cases, local housing associations. But I want to assure them that we will support those community workers, our corporation staff who have been working hard, and they are doing everything they can to correct the problem, and I certainly acknowledge their contribution to date. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Curley. To the motion. I have no more names. Question has been called. All those in favour, raise your hand, please. Opposed. The motion is carried and the tabled documents are referred to the Committee of the Whole.

Motions. Mr. Ningeongan.

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

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. The member is seeking unanimous consent to deal with his motion on special sittings. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Please proceed, Mr. Ningeongan.

Motion 030 – 3(2): Special Sittings of the House

Mr. Ningeongan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

WHEREAS the Legislative Assembly has, by way of motion, determined that the winter 2011 sitting of the House shall commence on February 22, 2011;

AND WHEREAS Members of the Legislative Assembly have agreed that when the House has completed its fall 2010 sitting, the Nunavut Leadership Forum shall convene to conduct a mid-term leadership review of the Executive Council;

AND WHEREAS the Nunavut Leadership Forum may meet at times determined by Caucus;

AND WHEREAS the deliberations of the Nunavut Leadership Forum may require that the House be subsequently recalled to fill vacancies on the Executive Council and conduct other business;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet North, that the Speaker be granted the authority to recall the House and set its sitting days and hours for the purpose of holding special sittings during the month of November 2010.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Motions. Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Item 19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bills 35, 37, 40, 41, and 42, and Tabled Documents 207 – 3(2), 209 – 3(2), 210 – 3(2), and 212 – 3(2) 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 15:25 and
Committee resumed at 15:55

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

Chairman (Mr. Schell): I would like to call order. In the Committee of the Whole, we have the following items to deal with: Bills 35, 37, 40, 41, and 42, and Tabled Documents 207 – 3(2), 209 – 3(2), 210 – 3(2), and 212 – 3(2). What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We would like to continue with Bill 40 and follow with other bills in this order: Bill 41, Bill 35, Bill 37, and Bill 42. If time permits, we will proceed with the concurrent review of the following tabled documents: 207 – 3(2), 209 – 3(2), 210 – 3(2), and 212 – 3(2). Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Are we in agreement that we first deal with Bill 40, supplementary estimates, O&M, No. 3, 2010-2011?

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Chairman: Will the Sergeant-at-Arms please escort Mr. Peterson and his officials to the witness table.

Minister Peterson, for the record, would you please introduce your witnesses.

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

Chairman: Thank you. We are on page 6. Justice. Operations and Maintenance. Not Previously Authorized. Directorate. Total Directorate. \$2,500,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Total Department. Not Previously Authorized. \$2,500,000. Do you agree? Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: We are still on page 6. Is that correct, Mr. Chairman?

Chairman: Page 6, yes. Nothing? Okay. Not Previously Authorized. Total Department. \$2,500,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: We will move on to page 7. Education. Operations and Maintenance. Not Previously Authorized. Adult Learning and Post Secondary Services. Total Adult Learning and Post Secondary Services. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In terms of the increase, it mentions that it's for the shortfall for the Financial Assistance for Nunavut Students program. Does that mean that there is an increase of students who are applying for this program? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Elliott for the question. Mr. Chairman, yes, there is an increase in students applying for the program. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is this increase in terms of the number of students who have applied and are going to school presently or is it forecast for students actually beginning in January for new programs? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Elliott for the question. Mr. Chairman, some will be for January and some are for the current calendar year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The reason I was asking is because the Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College, in his Minister's Statement this morning, was talking about the Nunavut trades school and how there are 40 students who are enrolled in the program already and the capacity is 88. So I just figured that you had factored in the possibility of 44 more students being on the program as well. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As far as we know, these applications are for any student applying for FANS assistance. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Any other questions? Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just one quick question in regard to the increased \$2.5 million increased financial assistance for students. With the increase, will you be increasing the budgets next year to offset any possible future hikes in this financial assistance? Thank you

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Rumbolt for that important question. Mr. Chairman, it is under consideration. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Okalik.

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When I saw that issue noted, I was quite happy since there are now more students attending Arctic

College. I can only state my agreement with this. I'm just applauding this much needed service. We need to support the students because after they graduate, they will be joining the labour force down the road and providing assistance to their fellow residents.

I have been reviewing the FANS program on more than one occasion as it is geared towards providing assistance to people who are taking courses in post-secondary institutions. The program is unable to keep up with the payments and tuition fees, which have deadlines for payment. I was wondering if the minister is going to review the FANS program in the future so that the students at the Arctic College will not go through hardship. When they are attending classes and awaiting funding, their debts are just accumulating and these expenses increase every year. 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, I think that question will be better answered by the Minister of the Department of Education. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Tootoo.

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that question. I can concur with him that I too am quite pleased to see the numbers go up on that. I know specifically with the college in 2007-08, there were 209 Nunavut Arctic College students who received FANS. For 2008-09, it was 261. As of March, 2010, there were 344.

Those are very encouraging finds to see the numbers increasing of the Nunavummiut who are pursuing post-secondary education to better themselves to be able to enter into the workforce.

As far as any changes required, we are looking at that, but also, Mr. Chairman, there are financial considerations that have to be taken into account on that, and that's something that the department will bring forward. If we want to change the living allowance from what it is now to a new amount, there are financial implications of that. That information is being looked and will be brought forward for consideration. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Okalik.

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When I was sitting on the government side, we increased the FANS program twice and it provided much needed assistance. Nevertheless, the cost of the tuition fees has increased and I seem to recall that students received \$3,500 to pay for their tuition and books annually. For some of these courses, the tuition fees amount to about \$10,000 and the fees we provide are not even close to that amount. The tuition costs can be much larger than what we provide.

I would like to ask the minister this question. Yes, we are aware that the government will not be able to pay all of the expenses, but if we could at least work with the private sector as well as the federal government to review that program in the future. I would like to direct that question to the Minister of Education. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Tootoo.

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that question. I know that there have been some recent changes as far as the eligible amounts to tuition that would be covered. I know there were extremely low limits in the past. There have been some increases to those limits.

Any way in which we can find... . If I understand the member's question correctly, working with the private sector or anybody else to come up with ways to be able to assist in helping people with their tuition, we would be more than happy to take any of those recommendations and have a look at them. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Any other questions? Mr. Komoartok.

Mr. Komoartok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. A question that I would like to ask revolves around this issue. The example I want to refer to involves students who are taking the same classes and who are in the same classroom.

I was informed last year that students in one classroom are being sponsored by different organizations. Some students were receiving the Department of Education assistance and others were receiving the FANS assistance. These various funds were also different in the amount of funds that they received with some students not experiencing any issues. When students went through the FANS program, the processing of the payments was usually delayed and the responses would always be late.

Based on the assistance that the students receive, I wonder whether or not we can set up one central office to handle these requests. At present, the students receive funds from various sponsors. I wonder whether a central processing office could better handle all of the student assistance programs that are currently under all of these various sponsorships. It would allow for a more effective administration if they compiled all of these programs into a one window approach. Is the current system still the status quo? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Adamee for that question. Mr. Chairman, I know that students can apply to FANS but they can also apply to other organizations, non-government. For example, in the Kitikmeot, they could apply to the Kitikmeot Economic Development Commission and the Kitikmeot Inuit Association for funding. So there may be multiple sources and programs they can apply to. But, certainly, from the government's perspective, you would apply to the Department of Education, FANS.

I'm not sure how we could influence the other entities to coordinate their programs with ours. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Komoartok.

Mr. Komoartok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Even today, it still seems to be the problem with the same pathway where students have to sometimes work for two months prior to

receiving their FANS allocation. Some students have to wait for a couple of months and they are being put under stress because of that lack of funding. I would like to see improvements made so that the students don't have to suffer because of the slow bureaucratic process of the department. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Komoartok for that comment. All I can say in response is that we will take it as information. I'm sure all of us and all of the organizations are concerned about our students not being unduly worried and concerned about whether funding is coming on a timely basis. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Any other questions? If not, we will go back to Education. Operations and Maintenance. Not Previously Authorized. Adult Learning and Post Secondary Services. Total Adult Learning and Post Secondary Services. \$2,500,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Total Department. Not Previously Authorized. \$2,500,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: We will move on to page 8. Health and Social Service. Operations and Maintenance. Not Previously Authorized. Social Programs. Any questions? Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In one of the line items under Item 1 for Residential Care Contracts under Social Programs, that is an increase of \$4.65 million. Is for contracts within the Government of Nunavut and will the money stay within the territory or is this residential care outside of the territory in other provinces? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Elliott for that question. Mr. Chairman, I believe that is for residential care outside of the territory. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Do you have a breakdown of how many residents that would be caring for? Are there any dollar figures in terms of which provinces this will be going to? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Elliott for that question. Mr. Chairman, I don't have that information with me. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under Treatment for Item 3, there is an increase for medical travel of \$4 million.

Chairman: Mr. Elliott, we are doing it each section; we are just dealing with Social Programs right now.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If the minister doesn't have the information that I was asking for, I have no other questions. Thank you.

Chairman: Any other questions? If not, Health and Social Services. Operations and Maintenance. Not Previously Authorized. Social Programs. Total Social Programs. \$4,565,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: We will move on to Health Insurance Programs. Any questions? Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am wondering if the minister can just explain what steps his department and the health and social services department are taking to have more accurate budget numbers so that we have less dollars in supplementary appropriations throughout the year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Rumbolt for that question. As I indicated yesterday, the Department of Finance and the Department of Health are working closely together. One of the areas they are actually working together on is implementing the recommendations in the OAG's report. There is going to be an analysis of the price volume of work.

I believe the Department of Health is looking at hiring a data analyst who can analyze some of the information that they use to track out-of-territory stays at

hospitals and physician costs. As I indicated yesterday, they improved the accrual of expenses and then call up the out-of-territory hospitals in a more timely fashion so they can get those bills in sooner so that we can pay them.

Those are some of the areas. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Any other questions? If not, Health Insurance Programs. Total Health Insurance Programs. Not Previously Authorized. \$14,820,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: We will go on to the next section. Treatment. Any questions? Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In terms of the increase of \$4 million for medical travel, is there any root cause as to why there is an increase? I know, last year, there were mentions of H1N1 and increased costs that way, but is there something that is happening this year that has made it that we need this \$4 million in medical travel? Thanks.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Peterson

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Elliott for that question. Mr. Chairman, the department indicates that they are experiencing increase in volumes to medical travel. Areas, such as higher birth rates, people who need care, medical evacuations, there is no control over those when people need transport to a southern hospital in Yellowknife, or Edmonton, or Ottawa. That's a factor. There was the

medevac service contract for the Baffin region that was recently renegotiated and that's expected to take effect next month, so that will add some increased costs to medical travel. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In terms of the physicians program with the increase of over \$2 million, does that pay for more physicians to come to the territory and does it include items such as hotel stays and per diems? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Elliott for the question. Mr. Chairman, yes, to all of those questions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Why is there an increase? Are we having more doctors come to the territory to provide more services or are they travelling to the communities more? I know, for Grise Fiord and Resolute Bay, they would appreciate having a doctor come more. Is that why there's more cost, because they're coming to the communities more? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Elliott for the question. I believe that is the case. There is an increase travel of physicians to the territory and to the communities. There

is also an increase in specialist physicians to the communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In terms of the residential care contracts for mental health programs, again this is for programs outside of the territory or is that for funding for programs within the territory? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Elliott again for that question. Mr. Chairman, I believe it's mostly outside the territory. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess with the release and the tabling of the suicide prevention program, one of the things it calls for is increased attention to mental health and mental health programs, especially within the territory. Is the Department of Health and Social Services working towards that or could they expand on some of the programs they are planning on doing in the future? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Elliott for the question and concern about mental health. Mr. Chairman, I believe the Department of Health has an increase in their division of mental health services. I believe they are opening or have opened

an office in Cambridge Bay and will expand their service across Nunavut, but the Minister of Health is here and he, perhaps, could provide more detailed information to Mr. Elliott's questions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Perhaps I should make a comment in regard to that. I think we should know that the cost that is one of the largest costs in Nunavut is on the line of mental health. I'm not talking about mental health illnesses, but when some of the reasons are alcohol and they have to be sent out of the territory for treatment. We don't just pay for the transportation; we have to pay for the services of the doctors and they have to examine the patients right away. If they need support, they are sent out of the territory. Sometimes they are examined for quite some time.

Costs of the mental health facilities vary from one province to another, such as Ontario and Manitoba. When they are going to be examining mental health and the problems in their lives, they normally like to do observations for a whole month. It takes 30 days in Manitoba to examine and find out the mental health of the individual, and it costs \$283 per day. If there is a patient sent out to Ontario and Ontario receives many patients, they need to be observed for 45 days and it costs \$500 a day. Perhaps some Inuit say, "Why do they have to be sent out for a very long time?" That's their policy in order to find out and diagnose the individual. Those are also the costs involved.

On youth programs where some youth have behavioural problems, when they are sent out of the territory, they are sent to EHRLO, the name of the facility. It takes a whole year for these youth behavioural problems and costs \$570 a day per individual. For a whole year, it costs \$200,000 for an individual. That's why it's very hard to break down the costs.

I want to note that the Minister of Finance is working very hard and working well. Those are our projections, and the supplementary estimate is for 2010-11 and we're trying to keep it as accurate as possible. Perhaps, if the patients increase, that cost will also increase too, so we have to put that into consideration. This is up to the year ending March 31.

I hope I'm coming across clearly. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, you came across very clear. That's what I was hoping to hear. I know it is very expensive to treat people. I think one of the things we have talked about as regular members is it's nice to have them be treated in our territory and hopefully bring some of those costs down.

I had noticed that Minister Peterson had mentioned about the mental health facilities in Cambridge Bay. I remember approving capital dollars for mental health facilities here in Iqaluit. I was wondering if he could clarify: is there are facilities in both Iqaluit and Cambridge Bay or is it just Cambridge Bay? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Elliott for asking for clarification. In fact, I don't believe there are any facilities in Cambridge Bay. It's just person years, the two or three PYs there for the territory. Thank you, Mr. Chairman

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Ningark.

Mr. Ningark: Thank you kindly, Mr. Chairman. We are asked to approve a substantial amount of money that has not previously been paid. I'm wondering that it may be a combination of things, like late accounts payable coming from the southern service providers that are contracted. Is this part of the problem that we are asked to approve or is it because of late accounts payable coming in from southern institutions, service providers, specialized and what have you? Thank you, Mr. Chairman

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Ningark for the question. Mr. Chairman, when we passed the budget last March, we built in a contingency for such budget issues as this. This supplementary appropriation is for the remainder of the current fiscal year; it's not for bills that have already been incurred. Again, it's forecasting for the balance of the year so that the Department of Health does not have to incur expenses they don't have a budget for. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Curley, do you want to add to that?

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you. Yes, Mr. Chairman. I think we have to take into consideration the positions that are being expressed by the members of the committee and that we need to first have the authorization for finances before we spend them. It is for that very reason, including the comments from audits from the Auditor General, that we need authorization first before spending. That is precisely one reason that we are indicating to you now that these are the cost items that we know that we are going to be incurring until March 31. It is for this reason that we are bringing this item forward now rather than too late at the end of the year. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Any more questions? If not, we will go to Treatment. Total Treatment. Not Previously Authorized. \$9,003,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Total Department. Not Previously Authorized. \$28,388,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: We will move on to page 9. Environment. Operations and Maintenance. Not Previously Authorized. Any questions? Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It looked like Mr. Okalik had similar questions.

I notice that we are going to be dealing with the removal of \$300,000 from the capital budget for the Minister of Environment and then it is reinstated here for the \$300,000. I'm just

wondering: where is that money going and what is it going to be used for? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Elliott for the question. Mr. Chairman, it's to cover a shortfall in O&M. We are just simply moving money from the Vote 1 to the Vote 2, as Mr. Elliott indicated. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So there is no specific project or it's not going to be allocated to any specific operation. It was for the Recycling Equipment project. Is it going to recycling or recycling projects? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Elliott for the question. According to our information here, it will be going to end-of-life vehicle projects, as well as for wildlife research projects and recycling. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Okalik.

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): I'm sorry, Mr. Chairman. I'm not exactly sure what the \$300,000 is going to be used for. I thought it was for recycling and now I don't know what it is going to be used for. Now it looks like this \$300,000 is going to be given to the Department of

Environment instead. What is it going to be used for? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Okalik for that question. I see my colleague, the Minister of Environment, waiving his hand over there. So, perhaps, he would be in a position to provide some details. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The \$300,000 that is being transferred from capital over to O&M is going to be used absolutely for recycling projects and that is to cover the costs of the recycling program that we had in place from April 1 of this year until we phase it out on December 15. That is where the money will go. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Any other questions? If not, Environment. Operations and Maintenance. Not Previously Authorized. Program Management. Total Program Management. \$300,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Total Department. Not Previously Authorized. \$300,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: We will move on to page 10. Community and Government Services. Operations and Maintenance. Not

Previously Authorized. Any questions? Mr. Okalik.

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It states that \$280,000 will be given to EIA so that they can purchase additional Internet bandwidth and we have been told repeatedly that there is going to be a huge improvement for... I don't know how many years now. Yet, we have set aside various amounts of dollars, but there seems to be no improvement with the additional bandwidth. Exactly what is this going to be used for and is it really going to improve the system? 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, in May of this year, Telesat, who are the owners of the Canadian Anik satellite systems, announced that the free bandwidth that they were providing was being moved to a different satellite to make room for the commercial customers in its current location. So the department of community services had to go out and purchase this additional bandwidth to help out the schools and health centres in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Okalik.

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Listening to your response, it is just going to service the government. Is it going to benefit the rest of Nunavut and other government agencies? That's my question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am not sure if I understand Mr. Okalik's question. This extra bandwidth is to serve the schools and health centres that were using the free bandwidth. The free bandwidth is known as the public benefit bandwidth. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Okalik.

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is a little bit clearer. In the government's internal network, is there going to be an improvement, or is that going to stay status quo, or is this going to be an addition to what we are using today? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Okalik for that question. If I understand Mr. Okalik correctly, he is probably referring to the strengthening financial management, which we have been talking about, whereby we improve the connectivity and Internet throughout the territory for the Government of Nunavut and their local area network and wide area network. I believe Community and Government Services and Finance are working diligently on that, and it's scheduled to be rolled out with the latest information early in 2011. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Any other questions? Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I notice that it says that it was needed because funding through Industry Canada didn't come through, or was that an investment by the federal government in terms of dollars that they provided in the past are no longer available to us? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Elliott for that question. My colleague from Community and Government Services would like to answer that question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Hopefully I can clarify the question raised by my colleague.

The bandwidth at satellite 2, at one time, originally was provided at no extra cost through Industry Canada, but because of changes to the satellite, they have moved everybody over that were getting the free service in satellite 2 to satellite 3. Because we don't have the resources to change over to satellite 3, it would cost a few million dollars for us to turn over our satellite, we have to now pay for the service currently at a reduced rate, at about \$40,000 a month and to tide us over for the rest of the year, it's going to cost us \$280,000. That's why we have to pay for it now. It's because the satellite that was provided free for us is now no longer free and it's being provided to us at \$40,000.

We are in the process of meeting with them and trying to work out an agreement where we're negotiating with Industry Canada to find a solution with satellites so that we may be able to get this service in the future, hopefully at a very reduced rate or free. That's why we asked for this money. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I hope that clarifies the question.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That does help with explaining. I just thought maybe it was part of Government of Canada's. I don't know if it was really a threat, but when they were up talking at the conference last time in terms of having the tap turned off, I thought maybe it wasn't turned off that quickly.

In regard to this computer network or bandwidth, just so I don't get it confused, because I know Nunavut Arctic College was before us and talked about receiving money from the federal government on their system, are these shared bandwidth systems or are they totally separate systems in terms of the college is one and CGS is another? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Elliott for that question. I believe, referring to knowledge information network, that will be part of the improvement to WAN and LAN that is going to roll out, but perhaps my colleague from CGS might like to add some information to that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Currently the public bandwidth that we're talking about serves all of the Nunavut schools, college, learning centres, non-decentralized or health centres, and so on, so it's one pool. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Any other questions? If not, we will go to Community Government and Services. Operations and Maintenance. Not Previously Authorized. Government Services. Total Government Services. \$280,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Total Department. Not Previously Authorized. \$280,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: We will move on to page 11. Nunavut Housing Corporation. Operations and Maintenance. Not Previously Authorized. Any questions? Mr. Okalik.

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Something I want to ask about is it states here that \$295,000 will be allocated for the final eight months. Is it for the eight months of operation? It's my impression that the Oqota Homeless Shelter is given operational funding for the entire fiscal year. My question is: is it because there was a shortfall in the year or can they not keep up with the expenses? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Okalik for the question. Mr. Chairman, I believe this is for the current year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Okalik.

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My question was I believe the government gives these organizations core funding and it states here that this \$295,000 is for the final eight months. How many dollars do they receive for operations and maintenance? Were they given money that was not enough? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Okalik for the question. The management of the new society shelter had put forward a budget of \$543,000 for 2010-11. That was 15 percent lower than the \$636,841 budget from the 2008-09. So they did put a budget together, but increased costs brought them in over budget.

The Sivummut House has put together a budget for... they took in \$201,380 in revenue and they incurred expenses of \$119,561, but they get revenue from sources. The City of Iqaluit chips in \$100,000, the Department of Education, \$153,000, and then Community and Government Services has provided money. They've had cash donations of \$20,000. So there are other funding sources. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Okalik.

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's little bit clearer and I thank the minister. He just indicated that there has been an increase in the operations and maintenance. Could the minister give us an update on what has increased in their operations and maintenance? 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, we don't have that level of detail here, just that they are forecasting increased expenses for the current fiscal year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As Mr. Okalik was asking in terms of increase in O&M, has there been an increase in the use of the facility in terms of the number of people who are actually coming and having a bed in that facility? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Elliott for the question. We don't have that level of detail, but perhaps the minister responsible for the homeless may be able to provide that information. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe the minister had said that possibly the Minister responsible for Homelessness might be interested in answering that. So it would be Mr. Curley, I believe. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you. Certainly I would like to be helpful to the member, but at the same time, I am still getting up to date on all of these investments that were being committed before I got into this situation.

From my understanding, with obviously the budget shortfall for the facility, I think it's very heavily used by the homeless individuals in town, and so on. Obviously a number of cost factors have escalated it to the point where they require that amount, one of which was the lease. For instance, it was quite high in the beginning, but the Nunavut Housing Corporation helped to negotiate to try and make it more sustainable. That is the important word that I like to use.

As I continue to review the whole program, we're simply going to have to make some choices whether or not that huge cost is sustainable because we are also looking at other communities throughout Nunavut that continue, even as we speak, probably watching us, whether or not we have any programs available for them in other places.

What I want to commit to is that I am going to be getting into drafting this policy and we do now have a specific individual in charge of analyzing homeless issues throughout Nunavut. With the schedule that I have been given by all of you, I haven't had time to really

dedicate any time towards homeless issues, which I am anxious to get into before the winter session. That is the only contribution I can make at this time. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for those answers. I appreciate them because I know that is one of the things that I was thinking towards. If there is an increase of the number of people who are actually accessing the homeless shelters, then obviously that is something that needs to be identified and put into the Homelessness Strategy that the minister is alluding to and working on, and as well, probably add to the Anti-Poverty Strategy in terms of what Minister Taptuna's department is working on.

In regard to the shelters, when we were dealing with Bill 39, it was just, I think, the Oqota Homeless Shelter and now we've got two. There is the added one with the Sivummut House Shelter. Both of these are located here in Iqaluit. There are no other shelters in any other community in the territory. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, these two shelters are located here in Iqaluit. I am unaware of any other shelters in the territory, but I am aware that, for example, in Cambridge Bay, there is a group trying to establish a drop-in shelter for the homeless and I'm aware of it in several other communities in Nunavut as well. That is why the government is pushing hard to develop this homelessness policy

and get some funding so we can really help the homeless across Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Any other questions? If not, we will go to the Nunavut Housing Corporation. Operations and Maintenance. Not Previously Authorized. Nunavut Housing Corporation. Total Corporation. \$295,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Total Corporation. Not Previously Authorized. \$295,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Go back to Schedule on page 2. Schedule 1. Operations and Maintenance. Operations and Maintenance Appropriation. \$34,893,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Now go to Bill 40 in your white legislation binder. Bill 40, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 3, 2010-2011*. 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 Schedule on page 2. Schedule. Supplementary Amounts

Appropriated for the Fiscal Year Ending March 31, 2011. Vote 1: Operations and Maintenance. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$34,893,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Total Supplementary Appropriation. \$34,893,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Go back to clause 4. 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: Do you agree to Bill 40 as a whole?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Pursuant to Rule 62(2), are you agreed that Bill 40 can now immediately be placed on the orders for third reading?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: I would like to ask the minister if he has any closing remarks on Bill 40.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just again thank the members of the committee for their good questions. We have talked many times about accountability. It's important. The Department of Finance will continue to work with all of the departments to ensure that, and we will also continue to work with the Department of Health to improve their tracking systems and budgetary systems. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. I appreciate your answers on some of the comments and questions. Now we will move to Bill 41. I guess there is no change in it. *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 3, 2010-2011*. I would now like to ask the Minister of Finance, Mr. Peterson, to make his opening remarks.

Bill 41 – Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 3, 2010-2011 – Consideration in Committee

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and members. I am pleased to present Bill 41, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 3, 2010-2011*.

Bill 41 is a reduction to the capital appropriation of \$15,000 and consists of the following items:

- \$400,000 to the Department of Finance for Nunavut Arctic College to provide funding for a projected shortfall in the Nunavut Trades Training Centre project;
- A reduction of \$115,000 to the Department of Finance to correct Nunavut Arctic College's 2009-

2010 to 2010-11 Knowledge Infrastructure Program capital carryover; and

- A reduction of \$300,000 to the Department of Environment's Recycling Equipment project to allow a transfer of funds to Vote 1 in order to fund a projected shortfall in the Department of Environment's operations and maintenance budget.

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

Chairman: Thank you. Are there any general comments? If there are no general comments, we will go to page 4. Finance. Capital. Not Previously Authorized. Any questions? Centrally Administered Funds. Total Centrally Administered Funds. \$285,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Total Department. Not Previously Authorized. \$285,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: We will go on to page 5. Environment. Capital. Not Previously Authorized. Any questions? Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just was wondering in regard to the recycling program that is being cancelled and some of the infrastructure that was purchased in the communities that they did the test with. What are they

going to with the infrastructure that is there? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Elliott for that question. I'll have my colleague, the Minister of Environment, answer that question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The equipment that is presently in place over the pilot project for the recycling project will stay in place and we will keep it in the location that is now in case this project could be revisited and started up again and be reused. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is there a dollar value as to how much was spent in terms of the infrastructure dollars that is existing in the communities? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't have that dollar value, but I can tell you that the dollar value of the pilot projects was allocated \$400,000 a year from northern strategy funding, but as far as the infrastructure that was purchased, the inventory, I don't have those figures. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Are there any other questions? If not, we will go to Environment. Capital. Not Previously Authorized. Program Management. Total Program Management. -\$300,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Total Department. Not Previously Authorized. -\$300,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Go back to page 2. Schedule 1. Capital. Capital Appropriation. \$15,000. Do you agree? Negative. Sorry. -\$15,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Go back Bill 41 in your legislation binder. Bill 41, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 3, 2010-2011*. 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 3. Schedule. Supplementary Amounts Appropriated for the Fiscal Year Ending March 31, 2011. Vote 2: Capital. Total Capital. -\$15,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Total Supplementary Appropriation. -\$15,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Let's go back to clause 4. 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: Are you agreed to Bill 41 as a whole?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Are you agreed, pursuant to Rule 62(2), that Bill 41 can immediately be placed on the orders of the day for the third reading?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Does the minister have any closing comments on Bill 41?

Hon. Keith Peterson: Again, Mr. Chairman, I thank the members of the committee for their good questions. We will continue to work hard on accountability and managing our capital. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. We appreciate you for answering the questions here.

Will the Sergeant-at-Arms please escort the minister and witnesses out.

I would now like to ask the Minister responsible for the Department of Health and Social Services, Mr. Curley, to make his opening remarks.

Hon. Tagak Curley: Mr. Chairman, I'm going to request for five minutes break. We're trying to retrieve the opening statements. Thank you.

Chairman: Not a problem. We will take a five-minute break.

>>*Committee recessed at 17:00 and resumed at 17:11*

Chairman: I call order. I would like to ask the Minister responsible for the Department of Health and Social Services, Mr. Curley, to make his opening remarks.

Bill 35 – Licensed Practical Nurses Act – Consideration in Committee

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm thankful to all of you for allowing me to pick up my opening comments.

Mr. Chairman, I wish to express my appreciation to the Members of the House for their ongoing support for the creation and introduction of the *Licensed Practical Nurses Act*.

The Government of Nunavut, through my department, recognizes the need to develop innovative and creative measures to recruit and retain nurses, particularly when there is a shortage of nurses worldwide.

The authority provided in the legislation, Mr. Chairman, to license practical nurses will serve as an influential tool and a positive means of recruiting and retaining this level of health care professional.

Practical nursing is currently the accepted level of nursing immediately below a registered nurse. The proposed legislation to license practical nurses will bring Nunavut up to par with the rest of the jurisdictions across Canada.

The *Licensed Practical Nurses Act* will replace the *Certified Nursing Assistants Act*, which permits the practice of certified nursing assistants – a designation no longer accepted throughout the rest of Canada. Despite the lack of licensed practical nurses legislation, the registrar of health professions has been requiring that all applicants for certified nursing assistant registration provide evidence that they are eligible to practice as practical nurses. This legislation, Mr. Chairman, will allow the registrar of health professions to license and regulate the practice of practical nursing in Nunavut.

Mr. Chairman, the bill provides for the following:

- Allows for the licensing and use of the title of Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN)
- Allows for an appeal of a suspension/cancellation of a licence to practice
- Provides for dispute resolution prior to court action

- Provides for regulations to prescribe the amount of fees to be paid for licensing
- Increases the monetary penalty for practicing practical nursing without a licence
- Finally, Mr. Chairman, it allows for the grandfathering of those CNAs currently working in Nunavut who would not qualify under the legislation to become LPNs. They will be able to continue to work in their current positions.

Mr. Chairman, this legislative initiative is in line with the Nunavut Nursing Recruitment and Retention Strategy's principle to "Promote and support the recruitment of motivated and skilled nursing professionals for Nunavut's communities."

I look forward to your support and I welcome questions from the members. (interpretation) Thank you.

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

Hon. Tagak Curley: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

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

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Minister Curley, please introduce your witnesses.

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my right is Fred Monpetit. He is the chief nursing officer. Anne McIntosh is our legal counsel who had drafted this legislation, and we are so grateful to have her here from the Department of Justice. Thank you.

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

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also wish to thank the minister. Since the minister is of an Inuit background, he sometimes is unable to pronounce the names properly. I believe that the official's surname is Monpetit, who is sitting next to him. I note, Mr. Chairman, you also have a history of mispronouncing names and I wanted to point out that most people have trouble with names stemming from a different linguistic background.

I wish to express my gratitude to the minister and his officials for appearing before our committee. Furthermore, this proposed bill has been under review for a period of several months. I wish to thank the minister and his officials for responding to the concerns expressed by my colleagues on the committee.

In particular, with respect to concerns that Nunavummiut can express to the department regarding licensed practical nurses, the bill has opened an opportunity for our residents to be able to submit concerns, issues, or recommendations to the office of the minister. For that addition, we thank the minister and his officials for resolving the concerns expressed to them by the committee.

Perhaps, in particular, for addressing the targets of this new legislation which the minister was able to speak to in his opening comments, the LPNs who are required to be licensed have to train for four years, but the current target was towards LPNs who had completed a two-year training program. These LPNs are not registered nurses nor are they medical personnel. However, it seems that these positions are focussed more on providing assistance to registered nurses in working at elders' facilities and for assisting people with disabilities. These positions are highlighted within the proposed bill.

I appreciate that the minister and his officials were able to elaborate further on the intent of the bill, and we are grateful for that clarification. We also know that the bill should be recommended for passage since it can provide much needed assistance in dealing with the provision of health services.

These were the concerns expressed by my colleagues. Although I did not submit them in written format, I wanted to verbally note these concerns on the record as expressed previously by my colleagues. Additionally, the members of the committee have the freedom to make more queries to the minister and his officials. I wanted to reiterate some of the points made by my colleagues in our review of the bill. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Okalik. Are there any general comments? Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome, hon. minister as

well as your colleagues here. Nurses and teachers and all other skills that enhance Nunavut are welcome in Nunavut. I am pleased to see that there is an initiative in place in order to recruit and retain nurses.

For the record, I am in communication with the health centre, and they have been very open and also very welcoming of other professionals as well in relation to what they do to provide services for the community. I just want to make a quick statement for the record that any nurses would be welcome to promote and support the recruitment of motivated and skilled nurses in Baker Lake. I just want to state that for the record. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't believe there was a question there, but we're certainly grateful for the support. I can also say, as the minister during the last year and a half, that I have been informed that Baker Lake had one of the longest-serving nurse in charge and who is really very great, you know, really, I think, a role model. It was even covered by the nursing professional magazine that I read in Nunavut. I would just like to indicate that I welcome his support. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Ningark.

Mr. Ningark: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My initial concern when I heard about this particular bill was that the *Licensed Practical Nurses Act*, when coming into a smaller remote community, would degrade the health services in the remote communities, such

as Repulse Bay and Kugaaruk, where these communities are far removed from major, central places where the hospitals specialized are being offered to the people.

I had the pleasure, Mr. Chairman, of having discussed this matter with the minister himself and he was able to clarify the real meaning and intention of this. In fact, my understanding is that this particular bill would ensure that the registered nurses in the community would spend more time with the patient in the more remote or isolated communities.

So having said that, I will be supporting this bill. I think it's got... and potentially down the road, these people who are licensed to practice a practical skill in a community perhaps will just move on to becoming registered nurses in the future. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On page 2 of the opening comments at the top, the minister talks about the practical nurses. "Practical nursing is currently the accepted level of nursing immediately below a registered nurse." In terms of the distinction between a registered nurse and a practical nurse, is there a difference in pay range as well? Are they paid at different levels? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will have Fred Monpetit respond to that. He certainly is well very

involved in that as the chief recruiting and retention officer.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Monpetit.

Mr. Monpetit: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The answer to the question is yes. A registered nurse studies four years in university to attain the designation "Registered Nurse." A licensed practical nurse studies two years in college. There is a difference in the pay that they receive. And while a registered nurse's salary in the GN collective agreement varies in levels, a licensed practical nurse does make slightly less.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With the program offered at Nunavut Arctic College then, when a graduate comes out of the program, do they come out as a registered nurse or as a practical nurse? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Monpetit.

Mr. Monpetit: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Presently the program located in Iqaluit is a program that teaches a four-year degree for registered nurses. The department is presently in discussions with Nunavut Arctic College to deliver a licensed practical nurse program, which would be a two-year diploma.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On the same page, the minister talked about the legislation allowing a registrar of health professions and that's in terms of providing licences and also regulating or handling complaints. Is that person,

registrar of health professions, a designation and a PY within your department? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe the person in question that we are dealing with is Barbara Harvey. She's currently sitting right over there and I think that proves the question and answers the question. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that response. It's nice putting a face to the name because I was hoping to use it as a bit of a learning experience. I know, at times, we have people coming to us saying that they're having concerns with nurses and whatnot. It's nice to know who to go to and where to pass on the information so it can be handled properly. Thank you.

The next question I was wanting to ask was in terms of you had mentioned the whole idea of this is to actually, hopefully, add to the retention of nurses and have people coming and working in the communities. To me and looking at the bill and going through it, it seems like it's also working towards more home care and having care happening in the communities more than having to send people out. Could it cause resistance or is there something in terms of our agency nurses who are coming up now? Does it mean anything in terms of their contracts and whatnot? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you. Mr. Chairman, I think that's a very important question, and certainly I would like to have Fred respond to that question.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Monpetit.

Mr. Monpetit: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Presently, we are in the process of looking at our RFPs for agency nursing. It would not include licensed practical nursing because they would not fall under the agreement we have with the agencies to provide that service.

At the same time, we look at the bill as a way to retain more nurses and recruit more nurses because, under this present CNA Act that we do have, the *Certified Nursing Assistants Act*, licensed practical nurses that have been educated and studied in school are not able to do their job. It, in fact, ties their hands and limits the ability of them to practice what they have studied.

So under the *Licensed Practical Nurses Act*, the licensed practical nursing positions we have would be able to freely practice to the extent that they have studied their education and that would be more rewarding.

Chairman: Thank you. When you finish your statement, maybe you can just say, "Thank you, Mr. Chairman," that way they will know when to switch the light off and on. Thank you. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In terms of an agency nurse who falls under this and is hired and is going through a complaint process, if a complaint is lodged against the person either by a registered nurse that they're

being supervised by or whether it's a patient who has a concern, I think I'm just asking this question in terms of helping me with my job and directing people to the right places. Do we have any jurisdiction to correct them under this legislation or any legislation that we have? Is that handled outside through the agency? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mrs. McIntosh.

Ms. McIntosh: Right now, under this proposed legislation, it would deal with complaints for licensed practical nurses only. Registered nurses and nurse practitioners are governed by a separate legislation under the *Nursing Act* between Nunavut and the Northwest Territories, so there's a whole separate regulatory regime for the registered nurses and nurse practitioners. It's a very similar investigation and complaint review process. We, in fact, modelled the one in this new Act to very much on one that's in place for the registered nurses and the nurse practitioners. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think the only other question or concern I had was in terms of the way things are handled once a complaint is brought forward. It seems like one person has a lot of power in terms of making decisions. Like you had said, is this the same type of model as other jurisdictions or in other jurisdictions, is there a group of people that, you know, someone has to go before a board or a hearing to have a complaint be heard? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. McIntosh.

Ms. McIntosh: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is somewhat different in other jurisdictions in part because Nunavut has so few practitioners in many of its professions. It is very difficult to have the kind of self-governing/self-regulating professional bodies that you have in larger jurisdictions where you have many hundreds of nurses and licensed practical nurses. Here, we have a very small number of, certainly, licensed practical nurses at this point, or CNAs, so it would be very difficult for them to have a self-regulating professional body.

So the registrar of health professions takes over that kind of licensing and regulatory role. That would be done by different organizations in larger jurisdictions. There is nominally a fair amount of authority in that registrar of health professions but there are also fairly narrow guidelines within which she can operate and within which she can make decisions so that there are protections for the practical nurses that are being governed by her. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Also, on page 2, you talked about “Provides for regulations to prescribe the amount of fees to be paid for licensing.” I guess my ignorance in terms of the health profession: is this a licensing fee that the nurse pays to become a member of this or to get the licence? Is it an annual fee and I am assuming like a professional fee they can write off on taxes or is it something that the Government of Nunavut pays for? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Monpetit.

Mr. Monpetit: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The member is correct that this is a yearly licensing fee that is paid to the registrar to maintain their licence in the profession. Presently with nurses under the collective agreement, we reimburse that cost. However, there are licensed practical nurses that could potentially be practicing outside of the Government of Nunavut and we would not be reimbursing that cost. Thank you, Sir.

Chairman: Thank you. Any other general comments? Mr. Ningark.

Mr. Ningark: Thank you. On page 2 of the minister’s opening comments, second paragraph, he talked about certified nursing. “The *Licensed Practical Nurse Act* will replace the *Certified Nursing Assistants Act...*” Having recognized that fact, also having recognized that certified nursing assistant registration could, if you want to be eligible to become a practical nurse, my question then, Mr. Chairman is: do we have any idea how many certified nursing assistants we have in the system as we speak? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Monpetit.

Mr. Monpetit: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We presently have 37 certified nursing assistants registered with the Office of Professional Practice. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Ningark.

Mr. Ningark: Then these specially recognized practitioners will automatically, if you want them, become

licensed practical nurses if they wish to.
Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Monpetit.

Mr. Monpetit: Yes, Mr. Chairman, under the present proposed legislation, there is a grandfather clause that would allow any certified nursing assistant a licensed practical nursing licence. Presently within the territory, there are only two certified nursing assistants who have not completed LPN education programs, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Any more general comments? If not, we will go clause-by-clause of the bill starting with page 1. Bill 35, *Licensed Practical Nurses Act*. 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: 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: Clause 8. Do you agree? Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just had one question under, if I'm in the right spot, the registrar. It says that "The Registrar may establish standards of practice..." under, there are two subsections, (a) and (b). Are those standards of practice or the standards of competency already created or will they be created? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. McIntosh.

Ms. McIntosh: Yes, those standards are in the process of being created and Ms. Harvey would be the one to talk best to that. My understanding is that the standards of practice are pretty much complete. The standards of competence are much more detailed, and actually Mr. Monpetit might want to speak to that. They are much more detailed, actual procedural aspects of practice and are in the process of being developed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Monpetit.

Mr. Monpetit: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At the present time, we have looked to maintain the broadest scope of clinical competency possible for licensed practical nurses. We have always looked to our nurses to provide much greater service than we expect of our southern counterparts in nursing, and the licensed practical nurses would have no different... it would be a very broad competency profile at this present time. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for those answers. Will they be completed before this Act comes into force? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. McIntosh.

Ms. McIntosh: Yes, obviously, the coming into force date could be set by cabinet. So, definitely, all of the regulations and all of the standards will need to be ready before the legislation is actually put in place. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. We will go back to clause 8. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 9. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 10. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 11. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 12. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 13. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 14. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 15. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 16. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 17. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 18. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 19. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 20. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 21. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 22. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 23. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 24. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 25. Agreed? Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under this clause, it talks about emergencies in terms of emergency nursing services. I know when the minister was before us in committee meetings, there was talk and mention about the distinction and the

differentiation between the registered nurses and this classification is different and they wouldn't be put in situations where they would be taking on responsibilities of a registered nurse.

I'm just wondering if you could clarify with me. In my mind, it's talking about the fact that under emergency situations, they are going to take on the roles that registered nurses would take on, and then on the third clause, under 25, it says that they won't be held responsible for any mistakes they make. That just confuses me a little bit. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Monpetit.

Mr. Monpetit: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Act does not restrict what could occur in an emergency because it is just that, it's an emergency. In day-to-day operations, licensed practical nurses work with what we call stable clients. They are clients whose health status is not likely to change any time soon. We have elders who have had chronic emphysema for many years and their health status has not changed.

But, as an example, there could be a day in a long-term care facility where somebody's heart stops and where they have a heart attack, which you cannot foresee. That is a case where a licensed practical nurse would have to then do beyond what they have normally been while they are waiting for other assistance to arrive. That would just be an example of a case where an LPN would have to provide emergency services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that explanation. Again, in one of my member's statements, I was talking about the social workers who I feel sometimes are put in unrealistic situations where they are spread so thin with some of the duties that they have. I wouldn't want some of these practical nurses to be in the same situation.

The reality of the situation in the smaller communities is, you know, we're just dealing with the tabling of the Suicide Prevention Strategy. When a suicide happens, everyone is responsible and everyone gets involved. So I can see the practical nurse being called in to help with that, or if there is an emergency or a search and rescue, and someone is brought in, in terms of a situation that happens when you're doing medevacs, I could see them being called in again.

To me, that might wear on the person who is doing the position and we might have complaints coming to us as regular members or as MLAs saying that this is not what they were supposed to be doing. So I just wondered if this is sort of not going to happen on a regular basis, you're saying. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Monpetit.

Mr. Monpetit: Mr. Chairman, I would expect that this does not happen on a regular basis. This would be an extreme emergency condition or a situation. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Ningark.

Mr. Ningark: Thank you. Where are we? Are we on clause 23, 24, or 25?

Chairman: We're on clause 25.

Mr. Ningark: Thank you.

Chairman: Okay, we will go back to clause 25. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 26. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 27. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 28. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 29. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 30. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 31. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 32. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 33. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 34. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 35. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 36. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 37. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 38. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 39. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 40. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Is the committee agreed to Bill 35 as a whole?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Is the committee agreed that pursuant to Rule 62(2) that Bill 35 can immediately be placed on the orders of the day for third reading? Is the committee agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Does the minister have any closing comments?

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the members. We also had discussions when I had a meeting with the standing committee and I would thank you very much for Bill 35. What it does is it replaces the *Certified Nursing Assistants Act*.

I would like to urge the people out there to make sure that they go into the Nursing Program in order to increase the numbers and work in the health-related fields. I thank everyone who is listening to us and also our Legal Advisor, Barbra Harvey, and the Department of Justice for helping us when we were dealing with matter. And you yourself, Mr. Chairman, thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. I appreciate you showing up with your witnesses to answer some tough questions there. Would the Sergeant-at-Arms please escort the minister and witnesses out.

I would now like to ask the Minister responsible for the Department of Justice, Mr. Peterson, to make his opening remarks on Bill 37, tobacco damages and health care.

Bill 37 – Tobacco Damages and Health Care Costs Recovery Act – Consideration in Committee

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to present the *Tobacco Damages and Health Care Costs Recovery Act*.

Bill 37 is being proposed to bring Nunavut into conformity with tobacco recovery legislation currently in place in other Canadian provinces.

I would like to emphasize that this is an important first step as it would enable our government, at some point, to take legal action against the tobacco companies in order to recover the substantial costs that Nunavut has incurred over the years resulting from tobacco related illness.

Tobacco use is deemed to be a major contributor to rising health care service costs for Nunavut and other jurisdictions within Canada and internationally.

I agree with the concerns raised by this committee in relation to ensuring Nunavut takes measures to see that capacity is in place prior to initiating any legal action against the tobacco industry. This will become an important next step following the creation of this legislation.

I hope Bill 37 will receive strong support from members of the standing committee given the laudable objective of this legislation.

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

Chairman: Thank you, Minister 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 escort the minister and the witnesses in.

Minister Peterson, please introduce your witnesses.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my right is Janet Slaughter, Deputy Minister of the Department of Justice, and to my left is Thomas Druyan, a Legislative Lawyer

with the Department of Justice. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the minister and his officials for taking the time to make an appearance with the standing committee. We had good luck with the minister and his officials, and the standing committee gives Bill 37 its support.

We know that this is a major contributor to the rising health care service costs and tobacco use is one of the additives that our constituents use, so we have to do ways and means in order to alleviate some of the addictions. We have tried different avenues to decrease the number of tobacco users, and I agree with you wholeheartedly that we have to start educating the harms of tobacco use, especially at a young age. I am very pleased, minister, that you are doing all you can to reduce the use of tobacco.

I would like to inform the House that we are in support of Bill 37 and I would like to give the other members an opportunity to voice their concerns and questions, if they would like to do so, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Okalik. Are there any general comments? If not, we will now proceed to the clause-by-clause review of the bill starting with page 1. Bill 37, *Tobacco Damages and Health Care Costs Recovery Act*. 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: 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: Clause 8. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 9. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 10. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 11. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Does the committee agree to Bill 37 as a whole?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Does the committee agree that pursuant to Rule 62(2) that Bill 37 can be immediately placed on the orders of the day for third reading?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Does the minister have any closing comments?

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wholeheartedly thank the standing committee for the support of this bill. We did have a good discussion, a good exchange of correspondence on this bill. I know that the standing committee scrutinized it very carefully.

Everybody is aware of the magnitude of the damage that tobacco causes to the people of Nunavut. I think over 70 percent of the adult population in Nunavut smoke. The smoking is one of the largest contributors in the deaths of Nunavummiut and one of the largest contributors to the health care costs.

I think it is very important that we, as a government, step up and join the movement across Canada. All of the other provinces are enacting similar legislation and filing claims against the tobacco industry. This will give our government and our territory that opportunity join our colleagues across Canada and take on Big Tobacco, and hopefully in changing the tides of health in Nunavut.

I would like to thank my officials for their work on this important legislation; Stephen Mansell back in the office, Norman Tarnow, Thomas Druyan here, and Janet Slaughter.

With that, Mr. Chairman, I will end my comments. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you and your witnesses there. Would the Sergeant-at-Arms please escort the minister and the witnesses out.

Mr. Ningark.

Mr. Ningark: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With five minutes to spare, I would like to move that we report progress. Thank you.

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 now will rise to report progress.

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 35, 37, 40, and 41, and would like to report that Bills 35, 37, 40, and 41 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, Mr. Speaker.

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

Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. Hon. Keith Peterson.

Item 21: Third Reading of Bills**Bill 38 – Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2011-2012 – Third Reading**

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet South and Whale Cove, that Bill 38, *Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2011-2012*, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Third Reading of Bills. Hon. Keith Peterson.

Bill 39 – Supplementary Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, No. 3, 2009-2010 – Third Reading

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet South and Whale Cove, that Bill 39, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 3, 2009-2010*, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Third Reading of Bills. Hon. Keith Peterson.

Bill 40 – Supplementary Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, No. 3, 2010-2011 – Third Reading

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet South and Whale Cove, that Bill 40, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 3, 2010-2011*, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Third Reading of Bills. Hon. Keith Peterson.

Bill 41 – Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 3, 2010-2011 – Third Reading

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet South and Whale Cove, that Bill 41, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 3, 2010-2011*, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A reminder of a meeting of the Standing Committee on Legislation tomorrow at nine o'clock.

Orders of the Day for October 28:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions
8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to Opening Address
10. Petitions
11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motions
15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions
17. First Reading of Bills
18. Second Reading of Bills
19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters

- Bill 42
- Tabled Document 207 – 3(2)
- Tabled Document 209 – 3(2)
- Tabled Document 210 – 3(2)
- Tabled Document 212 – 3(2)

20. Report of the Committee of the Whole

21. Third Reading of Bills

- Bill 35
- Bill 37

22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you. This House stands adjourned until Thursday, October 28, at 1:30 p.m.

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 18:00*

Appendix – October 27, 2010



Reports of Standing and Special Committees

Standing Committee on Rules, Procedures and Privileges

***Recommendations for Amendments to the
Rules of the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut and Other Matters***

2nd Session of the 3rd Legislative Assembly

**Ron Elliott, MLA
Chair**

**Paul Okalik, MLA
Co-Chair**

**Moses Aupaluktuq, MLA
Hon. Keith Peterson, MLA
Johnny Ningeongan, MLA**

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Recommendation #1: Referral of House Bills to the Committee of the Whole Following Second Reading

At present, the *Rules of the Legislative Assembly* provide that all Bills, except for appropriation acts, are referred to a Standing or Special Committee following second reading “unless otherwise ordered” by the House.

House Bills are developed under the authority of the Management and Services Board of the Legislative Assembly. As a matter of practice, Bills that propose to amend or establish statutes that fall under the jurisdiction of the Legislative Assembly itself are ordered directly into the Committee of the Whole following second reading. These are:

- *Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act*
- *Integrity Act*
- *Nunavut Elections Act*
- *Legislative Assembly Retiring Allowances Act*
- *Supplementary Retiring Allowances Act*
- *The Order of Nunavut Act*
- *Flag of Nunavut Act*
- *Floral Emblem Act*

The Speaker appears before the Committee of the Whole on the occasion of its consideration of House Bills.

However, in the absence of a clearly-defined procedure in the Rules for accomplishing this, sponsors of such Bills have had to seek unanimous consent to have such Bills ordered into Committee of the Whole immediately following second reading. The Standing Committee is recommending an amendment to the Rules that would simplify this process by deeming House Bills to have been ordered into the Committee of the Whole following second reading.

It is important to emphasize that all Members of the Legislative Assembly will continue to have a number of opportunities to give full consideration to House Bills. By convention, all House Bills are reviewed by Full Caucus prior to their introduction in the House. Following their referral to the Committee of the Whole, all Members have the opportunity to consider the Bill at the clause-by-clause stage.

Recommendation #2: Consolidation of Items 11 and 12 in the Orders of the Day

At present, the *Rules* provide for two separate items in the Orders of the Day dealing with reports of Standing and Special Committees: “Reports of Standing and Special Committees” and “Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills.”

From time to time, some procedural confusion has arisen with respect to the appropriate item under which a Committee should report to the House with substantive findings regarding a Bill, as opposed to a routine procedural report indicating that a Bill is ready to proceed to the next stage of the legislative process.

The Standing Committee is recommending that the two items be combined into a single provision: “Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters.” This would simplify decision-making with respect to when a Committee should report back to the House on matters under its consideration. The provision is also broadly similar in concept to Item 19, “Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters.”

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Recommendation #3: Responses to Petitions and Returns to Oral and Written Questions

Earlier this year, the government requested an extension with respect to its responses to two petitions. This was the first time that a request of this nature has been made. At present, however, the *Rules of the Legislative Assembly* are silent with respect to the granting of extensions to responses to petitions, necessitating that the extension be granted on an *ad hoc* basis.

The Standing Committee is recommending that the *Rules of the Legislative Assembly* be amended to provide for a clear process by which requests for extensions can be made. The proposed provisions parallel existing provisions concerning extensions to returns to oral and written questions.

A related matter considered by the Standing Committee concerns the appropriate point in the daily order of business at which a response to a petition should be presented to the House. The Orders of the Day currently provide for two distinct opportunities for returns to oral and written questions to be presented by Ministers or the Clerk: “Returns to Oral Questions” and “Returns to Written Questions.”

However, there is currently no specific item in the Orders of the Day concerning responses to petitions. The practice has been for the Clerk to table government responses to petitions at the item “Tabling of Documents.”

In order to provide for a specific point in the Orders of the Day for the presentation of responses to petitions, The Standing Committee is also recommending that the Rules be amended to establish the item “Responses to Petitions.” The proposed provisions will parallel those that are currently in place with respect to the item “Returns to Written Questions.”

In its review of these matters, the Standing Committee also considered the existing provisions concerning returns to oral and written questions. Although Rules 39 and 41 provide for extensions to returns to oral and written questions, they do not specify a minimum or maximum length of time allowed for extensions. At present, the rules allow for an indefinite number of extensions for an indefinite period of time, given that the discretion to determine when a return will be provided currently rests with the responding entity.

The Standing Committee is recommending that there be greater consistency between Rules 39, 41 and 43 and that the rules provide clear limits on the number of extensions that can be granted.

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Recommendation #4: Fixed Sitting Calendar and Sitting Hours

As of June 10, 2010, the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut has held 437 sitting days. Although the Legislative Assembly does not have a fixed sitting calendar, its practice has been to hold three “seasonal” sittings during a calendar year:

- Winter sitting (January-March time period);
- Spring sitting (April-June time period); and
- Fall sitting (October-December time period).

Section 18 of the *Nunavut Act* provides that:

“The Assembly shall sit at least once every twelve months.”

Subsection 6(3) of the *Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act* provides that:

“Pursuant to section 18 of the *Nunavut Act* (Canada), the Legislative Assembly shall sit at least once every 12 months.”

The Rules or Standing Orders of a number of Canadian legislatures provide for a fixed sitting calendar. In some cases, the exact sitting dates for a given calendar year are prescribed in the Rules or Standing Orders.

For example, Standing Order 28 of the *Standing Orders of the House of Commons* provides in part that:

“When the House meets [on] the Friday preceding the week marking the mid-way point between the Monday following Easter Monday and June 23, [it shall stand adjourned until] the second Monday following that Friday or, if that Monday is the day fixed for the celebration of the birthday of the Sovereign, on the Tuesday following that Monday.”

Rules 3(2) and (3) of the *Rules and Procedures of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan* provides that:

3(2) Each session of a Legislature shall commence the first sitting day of the fall period as follows:

- (a) from the fourth Wednesday of October for 25 sitting days;
- (b) except when the fourth Wednesday of October coincides with the date of a general election as prescribed by *The Local Government Election Act*, then from the fourth Thursday of October for 25 sitting days.

3(3) Each session of a Legislature shall reconvene for a spring period of 40 sitting days, concluding on the Thursday before Victoria Day as follows:

- (a) The Thursday before Victoria Day shall constitute the Completion Day of the spring period of sittings, provided there are no fewer than 28 sitting days between the proposal of the Budget Motion, moved pursuant to Rule 30, and the Thursday before Victoria Day; or
- (b) If the Budget Motion is moved at any time within the interval of 29 sitting days prior to the Thursday before Victoria Day, the Completion Day shall be postponed to the 29th sitting day after the Budget Motion is moved.

A number of legislatures provide for minimum and maximum numbers of sitting days during a given calendar year, without specifying the exact starting dates for a given sitting. For example, Rule 75 of the *Rules of the Yukon Legislative Assembly* provides that:

- 75 (1) There shall be a maximum of 60 sitting days per calendar year.
- (2) When the Government has introduced all legislation, including appropriation bills, to be dealt with during a Sitting, the House Leaders shall meet for the purpose of achieving agreement upon the number of sitting days for that Sitting. The minimum number of sitting

days for any Sitting shall be 20. The maximum number of sitting days for any Sitting shall be 40.

(3) When, pursuant to Standing Order 75(2), an agreement cannot be reached between the Government House Leader and at least one other House Leader representing a majority of the members of the Assembly, each of the Spring and Fall Sittings shall be a maximum of 30 sitting days.

A number of Canadian legislatures require that the Speaker or the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly table a sitting/parliamentary calendar in the House by a specified date. For example, Standing Order 28 of the *Standing Orders of the House of Commons* provides that:

“The Speaker of the House shall, by September 30, after consultation with the House Leaders, table in the House a calendar for the following year setting out the sitting and non-sitting weeks between the last Monday in January and the Monday following Easter Monday.”

Until recently, the start dates for the winter, spring and fall sittings of the House were determined by Full Caucus during the preceding sitting. For example, the start date of the winter 2010 sitting was determined during the fall 2009 sitting. These decisions were formalized by way of motion in the House.

Earlier this year, Full Caucus decided on the starting dates for the spring 2010 sitting and the fall 2010 sitting at the same time. Informal consultations with the central agencies of the Government of Nunavut indicate that this has significantly facilitated planning with respect to the preparation of main estimates, capital estimates and proposed legislation, as well as allowing senior government personnel to plan duty travel and personal vacation in such a way as to ensure that there is no conflict with sittings of the House during which they may be required to appear as witnesses or be present to support their Ministers.

Although it would be possible to amend the *Rules of the Legislative Assembly* to provide for exact start dates and/or minimum and maximum lengths for its winter, spring and fall sittings, the Standing Committee recognizes that this would reduce the Assembly's flexibility to accommodate the scheduling impact of unforeseen events, in addition to constraining the Assembly's ability to sit for shorter or longer periods of time to accommodate the actual volume of business before the House.

In order to reach a balance between achieving more planning certainty with respect to the House calendar, while preserving reasonable flexibility to accommodate actual business, the Standing Committee is recommending that Rules 3-5 of the *Rules of the Legislative Assembly* of Nunavut be amended.

In its consideration of this issue, the Standing Committee also considered the related matters of sitting hours and days. The Standing Committee is also recommending that:

- Nunavut Day (July 9) be designated in the *Rules of the Legislative Assembly* as a day on which the Legislative Assembly shall not sit.
- *The Rules of the Legislative Assembly* be amended to clearly reflect the distinction between sittings and sessions. It is important to note that a “sitting” and a “Session” are not synonymous. Subsection 6(1) of the *Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act* defines a Session as follows:

“A Session begins on the first day of the first sitting following prorogation of the Legislative Assembly and ends on the day on which the Session is next prorogued.”

The life of a Legislative Assembly is divided into a number of Sessions. Some Sessions may last for only one sitting day, others may last for a number of months. A Session is ended by prorogation (the Commissioner of Nunavut prorogues the Session). An Assembly is ended by dissolution (the Commissioner of Nunavut dissolves the Assembly). A period of time between sittings within the same Session is referred to as a period of “extended adjournment.”

- Friday’s sitting hours be changed. At present, Friday sittings of the House begin at 10:00am and conclude at 2:00pm. However, the practice of recessing for lunch prior to the House resolving into the Committee of the Whole effectively reduces the length of the sitting day by 1.0-1.5 hours. It is recommended that the rules be amended to provide that Friday sittings begin at 09:00am and conclude at 12:00pm. This change would obviate the need for an extended lunch recess and would not reduce the actual amount of time spent on House business. In addition, more time would be provided to Members to engage in hotel check-out procedures on designated travel days, as well as providing more time for meetings of Standing Committees and other bodies. It should also be noted that on those Fridays when Pages from outside of Iqaluit are travelling to their home communities, Paging services have not been available after 1:00pm.

Recommendation #5: Use of Portable Hand-Held Electronic Devices, Laptop Computers and Other Technologies in the Legislative Assembly Chamber and Committee Rooms

In recent years, the use of portable hand-held electronic devices (e.g. BlackBerry Devices), laptop computers and other technologies has increased significantly in the Canadian workplace. This increase has also been reflected in the procedures and operations of a number of Canadian legislatures.

However, the use of such technologies in the Chamber and committee rooms of the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut remains limited. By convention, the use of the following technologies by Members is not permitted at any time during sittings of the House or meetings of committees and caucuses:

- Portable Hand-Held Electronic Devices;
- Laptop Computers; and
- Cellular Telephones.

A number of Members have expressed support for considering the increased use of such technologies during sittings of the House and meetings of committees and caucuses. Members have stated that such technologies constitute important tools for increasing their personal productivity and remaining in contact with their offices and staff. Members have also indicated that increased use of such technologies to access documents has the potential to reduce the volume of printing and photocopying that is undertaken by the Legislative Assembly.

It is generally recognized, however, that the use of such technologies cannot be unrestricted. For example, no Canadian legislature permits Members to engage in conversations over their cellular telephones during proceedings of the House or committees. As a general principle, the use of technology is not permitted to distract Members or disrupt House or Committee proceedings.

With respect to Members' use of such technologies during certain items of House business, practices and perspectives vary considerably across the country, especially in relation to oral question period. In July of 2009, a roundtable discussion on the use of technology in legislatures was held at the 47th Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Regional Conference, held in Toronto.

During the roundtable, the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba noted that:

“We also do not allow laptops and BlackBerrys during Question Period because Ministers should be able to think on their feet without answers coming in from the caucuses. Someone said, “Well, they’re going to be bringing notes in.” By the time the notes come from the caucus to the

Page and the Page gets them to the Minister, it's kind of too late. So this way, the Ministers have to think on their feet."

The Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia also noted that:

"In British Columbia, it also has to do with politeness and respect, but also the fact that Members should not be getting questions fed into their BlackBerrys and Ministers should not get the answers shipped in from their offices."

Practices also vary across the country with respect to whether or not Members are permitted to use such technologies while they have the floor and are delivering remarks.

It should also be noted that permitting the use of computers and other technologies in the Chamber would require Members to take responsibility for what images and/or content is displayed on their computer screens, given that other Members and the public seated in the Visitors' Gallery may, at times, be able to view the displayed content.

In reviewing these matters, the Standing Committee also considered the technical issues associated with expanded use of electronic devices.

The Standing Committee is recommending that the Speaker issue interim guidelines on the use of portable hand-held electronic devices, laptop computers and other technologies in the Legislative Assembly Chamber and committee rooms. Subject to approval by Full Caucus, the Standing Committee is recommending that these guidelines be distributed to all Members when the 2nd Session of the 3rd Legislative Assembly reconvenes on October 19, 2010.

The Standing Committee will conduct an evaluation of the application of these guidelines and report back to the House at the spring 2011 sitting of the Legislative Assembly with its final recommendations on the use of hand-held electronic devices, laptop computers and other technologies in the Legislative Assembly Chamber and Committee Rooms.

Recommendation #6: Translation of House Documents and Definition of *Hansard* in the *Rules of the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut*

On June 11, 2010, Speaker Arreak wrote correspondence to the Chair of the Standing Committee concerning the translation of documents that come before the House. The Speaker has requested that the Standing Committee consider a number of recommendations for amendments to the *Rules of the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut*. These flow from the Management and Services Board's ongoing development of the Official Languages Legislation Implementation Plan for the Office of the Legislative Assembly (OLLIPOLA).

The Standing Committee is recommending that a number of provisions in the *Rules of the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut* be amended in order to increase the number of documents that are provided in some or all of the official languages of Nunavut. In developing its recommendations, the Standing Committee was cognizant of the need to establish a balance between achieving the goal of increasing the volume of translations and the respecting the importance of ensuring that House business is not delayed as a result of capacity challenges in the area of translation.

At present, Rule 2(c) of the *Rules of the Legislative Assembly* defines *Hansard* to mean "the edited official record of the Assembly proceedings."

Section 1 of the *Hansard Guidelines* appendix to the *Rules of the Legislative Assembly* provides that:

"A printed transcript, known as *Hansard*, of the deliberations and proceedings of the Legislative Assembly, is produced, edited, printed and distributed, in Inuktitut and English, under the authority of the Speaker."

It is noteworthy that the House of Commons *Compendium of Procedure* states that:

"The *House of Commons Debates*, commonly known as *Hansard*, are the official edited verbatim report of the proceedings that take place in the House, while the official record of the proceedings of the House is the *Journals*."

For greater clarity and consistency, it is recommended that Rule 2(c) be amended.

Proposed New and/or Amended Provisions of the *Rules of the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut*

New/and or amended wording in red

Recommendation #1: Referral of House Bills to the Committee of the Whole Following Second Reading

67 (1) The debate on a motion for second reading must be limited to the object, expediency, principles and merits of the bill. The details of the bill are not debatable.

(2) Unless otherwise ordered by the Assembly, when a bill is read for the second time it stands ordered to a Standing or Special Committee.

(3) Notwithstanding Rule 67(2), when a bill for the appropriation of any part of the public revenue of Nunavut is read for the second time, it stands ordered to Committee of the Whole for consideration.

(4) Notwithstanding Rule 67(2), when a House Bill that has been introduced under the authority of the Management and Services Board of the Legislative Assembly is read for the second time, it stands ordered to the Committee of the Whole for consideration.

Recommendation #2: Consolidation of Items 11 and 12 in the Orders of the Day and Responses to Petitions

Rule 27 – Business of the Assembly

(2) The daily order of business in the Assembly shall be:

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. Responses to Petitions
12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters
13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motion
15. Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions
17. First Reading of Bills
18. Second Reading of Bills
19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
20. Report of the Committee of the Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills
22. Orders of the Day

Recommendation #3: Responses to Petitions and Returns to Oral and Written Questions

Rule 39 – Oral Questions

- (1) Under the item “Oral Questions”, questions relating to public affairs may be put to Ministers.
- (2) An oral question shall be concisely and clearly put and shall refer only to a matter which may reasonably be assumed to be within the present knowledge of the Minister to whom it is directed.
- (3) The Minister may:
 - (a) answer the question;
 - (b) state that he or she takes the question as notice and answer it orally on a subsequent day under the item “Returns to Oral Questions”; or
 - (c) decline to answer the question.
- (4) When a Minister answers an oral question, only three supplementary questions per Member directly related to the same subject may be asked.
- (5) A Minister may, under the item “Returns to Oral Questions”, rise to supplement his or her initial response to an oral question posed within the previous ten sitting days.
- (6) The time allotted for oral questions shall not exceed sixty minutes.
- (7) A Member may, without notice, at the conclusion of oral question period, move that the time allotted for oral questions be extended. If the motion is approved, the time shall be extended for thirty (30) minutes.
- (8) Only one motion under subsection 7 may be entertained by the House on a sitting day.
- (9) A Minister shall provide a Return to an Oral Question within 7 calendar days, unless the Minister files a provisional return with the Clerk indicating:
 - (a) that more time is required;
 - (b) the reason for the delay; and
 - (c) the date upon which the **return** will be provided.

- (10) The date specified in Rule 39(9)(c) must be within 7 calendar days of the date of the filing of the provisional return.
- (11) No more than two provisional returns may be filed in response to the same oral question.
- (12) Under the item “Returns to Oral Questions”, the Clerk shall inform the Assembly of the returns or provisional returns received, deliver copies to all Members and have the returns printed in *Hansard*.
- (13) Under the item “Returns to Oral Questions”, a Minister may read a return which has been filed in accordance with Rule 39(9).
- (14) A Return to an Oral Question may be filed with the Clerk of the House when the House stands adjourned or prorogued. A Return shall be deemed for all purposes to have been presented to or laid before the House. A Return shall be tabled at the appropriate point in the daily order of business at the first opportunity when the House sits.

Rule 41 – Returns to Written Questions

- (1) A Minister to whom a written question is directed shall, without unnecessary delay, file a reply with the Clerk, who shall endorse the date of filing.
- (2) Under the item “Returns to Written Questions”, the Clerk shall inform the Assembly of the returns or provisional returns received, deliver copies to all Members and have the returns printed in *Hansard*.
- (3) Under the item “Returns to Written Questions”, a Minister may read a return which has been filed in accordance with Rule 41(1).
- (4) A Minister shall provide a Return to a Written Question within 21 calendar days, unless the Minister files a provisional return with the Clerk indicating:
 - a) that more time is required;
 - b) the reason for the delay; and
 - c) the date upon which the **return** will be provided.
- (5) The date specified in Rule 41(4)(c) must be within 21 calendar days of the date of the filing of the provisional return.

(6) No more than two provisional returns may be filed in response to the same written question.

(7) A Return to a Written Question may be filed with the Clerk of the House when the House stands adjourned or prorogued. A Return shall be deemed for all purposes to have been presented to or laid before the House. A Return shall be tabled at the appropriate point in the daily order of business at the first opportunity when the House sits.

Rule 43 - Petitions

(1) Petitions to the Assembly may be presented by a Member at any time during a sitting of the Assembly by filing it with the Clerk, or in the manner set out in Rule 43(3).

(2) Every petition filed under Rule 43(1) shall be reported to the House by the Clerk under the item "Petitions".

(3) Member may present a petition from his or her place in the House under the item "Petitions". The Member shall endorse his or her name on the petition and shall confine the presentation to a statement of the petition, the number of signatures and the material allegations. A Member shall not exceed five minutes in presenting a petition.

(4) No debate shall be allowed on the presentation of a petition.

(5) A Member presenting a petition shall be answerable for any impertinent or improper matter that it contains.

(6) Petitions may be either written or printed. When there are three or more petitioners, the signature of at least three petitioners shall be set on the sheet containing the body of the petition.

(7) A petition that complains of some present personal grievance requiring an immediate remedy may be debated immediately.

(8) A Member may, after notice, move that a petition be referred to a Standing or Special Committee which shall report its recommendations to the Assembly.

(9) The Clerk shall deliver copies of all petitions presented to either the Speaker or the Minister responsible.

(10) The Speaker or Minister responsible shall provide a response to a petition within 60 calendar days of its presentation unless the Minister or Speaker files a provisional response with the Clerk indicating:

- a) that more time is required;
 - b) the reason for the delay; and
 - c) the date upon which the response will be provided.
- (11) The date specified in Rule 43(10)(c) must be within 60 calendar days of the date of the filing of the provisional response.
- (12) No more than two provisional returns may be filed in response to the same petition.
- (13) The response shall be tabled at the appropriate point in the daily order of business at the first opportunity when the House sits.
- (14) Under the item "Responses to Petitions," the Clerk shall inform the Assembly of the responses or provisional responses received, deliver copies to all Members and have the responses printed in *Hansard*.
- (15) Under the item "Responses to Petitions," a Minister may read a response that has been filed in accordance with Rule 43(10).

Recommendation #5: Fixed Sitting Calendar and Sitting Hours

- 3 (1) Unless otherwise ordered, the Assembly shall meet each year
- (a) for a Winter Sitting, commencing no earlier than the third Tuesday in February and concluding no later than March 31;
 - (b) for a Spring Sitting, commencing no earlier than the first Tuesday in May and concluding no later than the second Thursday in June; and
 - (c) for a Fall Sitting, commencing no earlier than the third Tuesday in October and concluding no later than the last Thursday in November.
- (2) The Speaker shall, by December 1 each year, following consultation with the body defined in section 1 of the *Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act* as Caucus, table in the House a *Sitting Calendar* for the following year setting out the Assembly's sitting and non-sitting days.
- (3) Notwithstanding Rule 3(1), whenever the House stands adjourned or prorogued, if the Speaker is satisfied, after consultation with the Executive Council and the Members of the Legislative Assembly, that the public interest requires that the House should meet on a certain date, the Speaker shall give notice that being so satisfied the House shall meet, and thereupon the House shall meet at the time stated in such notice and shall transact its business as if it had been duly adjourned to that time.
- (4) The first sitting of a new Legislative Assembly following a general election may be held on a date other than a date prescribed in the *Sitting Calendar*.
- 4 The Assembly shall meet on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 1:30p.m. to 6:00p.m. and on Fridays from 09:00a.m. to 12:00p.m., unless otherwise ordered.
- 5 The Assembly shall not meet on New Year's Day, Good Friday, Easter Monday, Victoria Day, Canada Day, **Nunavut Day**, the first Monday in August, Labour Day, Thanksgiving

Day, Remembrance Day, Christmas Day or Boxing Day,
unless otherwise ordered.

Recommendation #6: Translation of House Documents and Definition of Hansard in the Rules of the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

- 34 (2) A copy of each Minister's Statement shall be filed with the Clerk one hour prior to the sitting of the Assembly during which the statement will be given. **A Minister's Statement must be provided in the Official Languages of Nunavut, as defined by the Official Languages Act. Translations of Ministers' Statements may be filed with the Clerk subsequent to their having been delivered in the House.**
- 35(2) Upon receiving notice of a Budget Address, the Speaker shall place the item "Budget Address" on the Orders of the Day for the day of presentation immediately after "Prayer." **A Budget Address must be provided in the Official Languages of Nunavut, as defined by the Official Languages Act. Translations of Budget Addresses may be filed with the Clerk subsequent to their having been delivered in the House.**
- 48 All motions shall be **provided in the Official Languages of Nunavut, as defined by the Official Languages Act** and shall be read by the mover and seconded before being debated or put from the Chair. **Translations of motions may be filed with the Clerk subsequent to their having been delivered in the House.**
- 69(2) **Any amendment proposed to a bill under consideration by the Committee of the Whole shall be provided in the same Official Languages as those in which the bill under consideration has been presented. An amendment must be made available to the Assembly in writing at the time that it is proposed."**

Guidelines for the Tabling of Documents

All documents that are tabled in the House by the Speaker or a member of the Executive Council, in his or her capacity as a Minister, pursuant to a statutory requirement, must be tabled in English and Inuktitut.

Main Estimates, Capital Estimates, Supplementary Appropriations and departmental/Crown agency business plans that accompany

the introduction of appropriation acts must be presented in English and Inuktitut.

The Orders of the Day must be available in the Official Languages of Nunavut, as defined by the *Official Languages Act*.

Written Questions, Returns to Written Questions, Returns to Oral Questions, Responses to Petitions, Reports of Standing and Special Committees and Government Responses to Reports of Standing and Special Committees must be available in English and Inuktitut.

In cases where a document listed in the preceding sections is initially available in only one official language, it will be permitted to be immediately tabled, with the appropriate translation to be tabled at the earliest opportunity.

From time to time, Ministers may wish to table, or be requested to table, documents that are not described in the preceding sections (e.g. technical studies, discussion papers and other items of interest). These documents may be tabled in one or more of the official languages.

Documents tabled by MLAs in their capacity as individual Members (e.g. correspondence from constituents, news clippings and other items of interest) may be tabled in the language in which the document exists. If a Member wishes to obtain a translation of the item, the request must be approved by the Office of the Clerk.

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- 2(c) "*Hansard*" means the edited transcript of the proceedings of the Legislative Assembly.

**Speaker's Guidelines for the Use of Portable Hand-Held Electronic Devices,
Laptop Computers and Other Technologies in the
Legislative Assembly Chamber and Committee Rooms**

- a. All electronic devices must be on silent or vibrating mode at all times. Members who use their devices to send text messages must ensure that they do so in a discrete and non-disruptive manner.

This provision is to ensure that such devices do not disrupt House or Committee proceedings or distract other Members.

- b. The use of cellular telephones in the Chamber or committee rooms for the purpose of conducting oral conversations is not permitted at any time.

This provision is to ensure that such devices do not disrupt House or Committee proceedings or distract other Members.

- c. The use of hand-held electronic devices and laptop computers is permitted only during the proceedings of the Committee of the Whole. However, a Member or witness who has the floor and is speaking must have his or her laptop computer closed and his or her hand-held electronic device(s) turned off.

This provision establishes a balance between ensuring that all Members are engaged during the daily order of House business, while recognizing that the proceedings of the Committee of the Whole constitute an appropriate opportunity for Members to engage in other work.

- d. The use of hand-held electronic devices and laptop computers is permitted during meetings of Standing and Special Committees. However, a Member or witness who has the floor and is speaking must have his or her laptop computer closed and his or her hand-held electronic device(s) turned off.

Given the less formal nature of Committee deliberations, it is appropriate for Members and witnesses to be able to utilize their electronic devices when they are not directly participating in the proceedings of the meeting.

- e. The use of hand-held electronic devices and laptop computers is not permitted during meetings of Full Caucus (FC) and Regular Members' Caucus (RMC).

This provision reflects the uniquely collegial nature of Caucus meetings and the need for all Members to be fully engaged in their proceedings at all times.