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**Monday, November 1, 2010**

**Pages 2970 – 3040**

**Iqaluit**

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

## Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

### *Speaker*

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(Uqqummiut)

**Hon. Eva Ariak**

(Iqaluit East)

*Premier; Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs; Minister of Aboriginal Affairs; Minister responsible for Immigration; Minister responsible for the Status of Women*

**James Arvaluk**

(Tununiq)

**Moses Aupaluktuq**

(Baker Lake)

**Hon. Tagak Curley**

(Rankin Inlet North)

*Government House Leader; Minister of Health and Social Services; Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation; Minister responsible for Homelessness*

**Ron Elliott**

(Quttiktuq)

**Adamee Komoartok**

(Pangnirtung)

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak**

(Rankin Inlet South – Whale Cove)

*Minister of Community and Government Services; Minister of Energy; Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation*

**John Ningark**

(Akulliq)

**Johnny Ningeongan**

(Nanulik)

*Deputy Speaker, Chair of the Committee of the Whole*

**Paul Okalik**

(Iqaluit West)

*Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole*

**Hon. Keith Peterson**

(Cambridge Bay)

*Minister of Finance, Chair, Financial Management Board; Minister of Justice*

**Allan Rumbolt**

(Hudson Bay)

**Fred Schell**

(South Baffin)

*Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole*

**Hon. Daniel Shewchuk**

(Arviat)

*Minister of Environment; Minister of Human Resources; Minister responsible for the Nunavut Arctic College*

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk**

(Amittuq)

*Minister of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth; Minister of Languages; Minister responsible for the Utility Rates Review Council*

**Hon. Peter Taptuna**

(Kugluktuk)

*Deputy Premier; Minister of Economic Development and Transportation*

**Hon. Hunter Tootoo**

(Iqaluit Centre)

*Minister of Education; Minister responsible for the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission*

**Jeannie Ugyuk**

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## Table of Contents

Opening Prayer.....	2970
Ministers' Statements .....	2970
Members' Statements .....	2974
Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery.....	2980
Oral Questions.....	2980
Written Questions.....	2997
Replies to Opening Address .....	2998
Revert to Item 4: Returns to Oral Questions .....	3001
Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills .....	3001
Tabling of Documents .....	3002
Notices of Motions .....	3004
Motions.....	3005
Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters .....	3005
Report of the Committee of the Whole .....	3037
Third Reading of Bills.....	3037
Assent to Bills .....	3038
Orders of the Day .....	3039

**A.**

**Daily References**

Monday, November 1, 2010..... 2970

**B.**

**Ministers' Statements**

224 – 3(2): Minister Tapardjuk Absent from House (Curley)..... 2970

225 – 3(2): New Government of Nunavut Website (Aariak) ..... 2970

226 – 3(2): Department of Human Resources – New Organizational Structure (Shewchuk) ... 2971

227 – 3(2): CGS Technical-Professional Studies Scholarship (Kusugak) ..... 2972

228 – 3(2): Progress in Career Development Services (Tootoo)..... 2973

229 – 3(2): Replacement of Driver's Licences and General Identification Cards (Taptuna).... 2974

**C.**

**Members' Statements**

345 – 3(2): Ensuring the Delivery of Government Services (Schell)..... 2974

346 – 3(2): Effective Representation for the High Arctic (Elliott)..... 2975

347 – 3(2): Soccer Tournament in Kugluktuk (Taptuna) ..... 2976

348 – 3(2): Southampton Island Caribou Harvest (Ningeongan)..... 2976

349 – 3(2): A Changing Environment (Okalik)..... 2977

350 – 3(2): Appreciation to Annie Buchan (Ugyuk)..... 2978

351 – 3(2): The Next President of NTI (Curley) ..... 2978

352 – 3(2): Congratulations to Baker Lake Soccer Team (Aupaluktuq)..... 2979

**D.**

**Returns to Oral Questions**

Return to Oral Question 520 – 3(2): New Office Building (Kusugak) ..... 3001

**E.**

**Oral Questions**

512 – 3(2): A Changing Environment (Okalik)..... 2980

513 – 3(2): Nunavut’s Aging Infrastructure (Elliott) ..... 2982

514 – 3(2): Southampton Island Caribou Harvest (Ningeongan)..... 2984

515 – 3(2): Compensating Affected Polar Bear Sport Hunts Outfitters (Ningark) ..... 2987

516 – 3(2): Nunavut Suicide Prevention Strategy (Ugyuk) ..... 2989

517 – 3(2): Nunavut Teachers’ Collective Agreement (Okalik) ..... 2991

518 – 3(2): Status of Demolition and Removal of Abandoned Buildings in Chesterfield Inlet  
(Ningeongan) ..... 2993

519 – 3(2): Nunavut Teachers’ Collective Agreement (Okalik) ..... 2996

520 – 3(2): New Office Building (Elliott) ..... 2997

**F.**

**Written Questions**

022 – 3(2): New Nunavut Housing Corporation Directorate Office in Iqaluit (Elliott) ..... 2997

**G.**

**Replies to Opening Address**

Reply to Opening Address 004 – 3(2): Ms. Eva Aariak (Aariak) ..... 2998

**H.**

**Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills**

Committee Report on Bills 020 – 3(2): Bill 44, An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act (Okalik)  
..... 3001

Committee Report on Bills 021 – 3(2): Bill 45, An Act to Amend the Labour Standards Act (Minimum Wage) (Okalik).....	3002
Committee Report on Bills 022 – 3(2): Bill 46, An Act to Amend the Senior Citizens and Disabled Persons Property Tax Relief Act (Okalik).....	3002

**I.**

**Tabling of Documents**

255 – 3(2): FPT Ministers of Health Meeting, September 14, 2010 (Curley).....	3002
256 – 3(2): Report #1 on Status of Action Plan on the Report of the Auditor General of Canada to the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut 2009 – Financial Management Practices of the Department of Health and Social Services (Curley).....	3002
257 – 3(2): Residents to See Community Hall Design (Elliott) .....	3003
258 – 3(2): Nunavut Liquor Commission Annual Report 2004-2005 (Peterson) .....	3003
259 – 3(2): Nunavut Liquor Commission Annual Report 2005-2006 (Peterson) .....	3003
260 – 3(2): Nunavut Liquor Commission Annual Report 2006-2007 (Peterson) .....	3003
261 – 3(2): Nunavut Liquor Commission Annual Report 2007-2008 (Peterson) .....	3003
262 – 3(2): Nunavut Liquor Licensing Board Annual Report 2007-2008 (Peterson) .....	3003
263 – 3(2): Open Letter to the Leaders of Nunavut on the Health Implications of Opening the Territory to Uranium Mining (Elliott) .....	3004
264 – 3(2): Human Health Implications of Uranium Mining and Nuclear Power Generation (Elliott).....	3004
265 – 3(2): Developing Healthy Communities – A Public Health Strategy for Nunavut (Elliott) .....	3004

**J.**

**Motions**

031 – 3(2): Appointment of Alternate Ministerial Member of the Management and Services  
Board – Notice (Aariak)..... 3004

031 – 3(2): Appointment of Alternate Ministerial Member of the Management and Services  
Board (Aariak) ..... 3005

**K.**

**Bills**

Bill 44 – An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act – Third Reading..... 3037

Bill 45 – An Act to Amend the Labour Standards Act (Minimum Wage) – Third Reading..... 3038

Bill 46 – An Act to Amend the Senior Citizens and Disabled Persons Property Tax Relief Act –  
Third Reading ..... 3038

Bill 35 – Licensed Practical Nurses Act – Assent..... 3038

Bill 37 – Tobacco Damages and Health Care Costs Recovery Act – Assent..... 3038

Bill 38 – Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2011-2012 – Assent ..... 3038

Bill 39 – Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 3, 2009-2010 –  
Assent..... 3038

Bill 40 – Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 3, 2010-2011 –  
Assent..... 3038

Bill 41 – Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 3, 2010-2011 – Assent ..... 3038

Bill 42 – Forgiveness of Debts Act, 2010, No. 2 – Assent..... 3038

Bill 43 – Write-Off of Assets Act, 2010-2011 – Assent ..... 3038

Bill 44 – An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act – Assent..... 3038

Bill 45 – An Act to Amend the Labour Standards Act (Minimum Wage) – Assent..... 3038

Bill 46 – An Act to Amend the Senior Citizens and Disabled Persons Property Tax Relief Act – Assent.....	3039
--	------

**L.**

**Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters**

Bill 44 – An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act – Consideration in Committee – Consideration in Committee.....	3006
Bill 45 – An Act to Amend the Labour Standards Act (Minimum Wage) – Consideration in Committee.....	3007
Bill 46 – An Act to Amend the Senior Citizens and Disabled Persons Property Tax Relief Act – Consideration in Committee .....	3009
Tabled Document 207 – 3(2): Nunavut Housing Corporation Contracting Report for the Year Ended March 31, 2009 – Consideration in Committee.....	3012
Tabled Document 209 – 3(2): Statement of Expenditures for Nunavut Housing Trust as of April 1, 2006 to February 28, 2010 – Consideration in Committee.....	3012
Tabled Document 210 – 3(2): Nunavut Housing Corporation Review of Nunavut Housing Trust – Consideration in Committee .....	3013
Tabled Document 212 – 3(2): Nunavut Housing Trust Project Status Summary, September 30, 2010 – Consideration in Committee .....	3013



**Iqaluit, Nunavut**  
**Monday, November 1, 2010**

**Members Present:**

Honourable Eva Aariak, Honourable James Arreak, Mr. Moses Aupaluktuq, Honourable Tagak Curley, Mr. Ron Elliott, 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 Peter Taptuna, Honourable Hunter Tootoo, Ms. Jeannie Ugyuk.

**Item 1: Opening Prayer**

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

>>Prayer

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. A very good afternoon, Premier, Ministers, Members of the Legislative Assembly, and all Nunavummiut.

Going to Item 2 in the *Orders of the Day*. Ministers' Statements. (interpretation ends) Hon. Tagak Curley.

**Item 2: Ministers' Statements**

**Minister's Statement 224 – 3(2):  
Minister Tapardjuk Absent from  
House**

**Hon. Tagak Curley** (interpretation): At this time, Mr. Speaker, I would like to advise members that our colleague, Mr. Tapardjuk, will be absent from the House. Thank you.

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

**Minister's Statement 225 – 3(2): New  
Government of Nunavut Website**

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon. I am pleased to stand before my colleagues today to announce the launch of the new Government of Nunavut website, where you can visit via computer and the new Inuktitut term is *Ikiaqqivik*.

This website responds to a need identified in the *Qanukkanni* Report Card – the need for our government to improve its communications. We made a commitment in the *Tamapta* Action Plan to change the way we provide information to and receive feedback from Nunavummiut. This new website ensures that Nunavummiut are provided with the most current, accurate, and timely information about the programs and services provided by the Government of Nunavut and its departments.

While the new design is pleasant to look at, and certainly an enormous improvement, it is the functionality of the website that is new and exciting.

Mr. Speaker, we often hear that individuals cannot find contact information for government employees. Our new website provides a complete, up-to-date staff directory that can be searched by first or last name, title, department, or community. This feature alone will provide Nunavummiut the contact information they need at their fingertips.

It is important to note, Mr. Speaker, that a website is never finished; it is a dynamic, living document that changes monthly, weekly, and even daily.

This is only the first stage of the website. The next stage will include the incorporation of the content of all departments of the government into one central website. This will allow even better navigation, including a searchable directory of Government of Nunavut services and programs. This will make it easier for anyone to find the services they need when they need them, making government information available at the touch of a button.

Mr. Speaker, the only way to ensure the website is accurate is to provide an opportunity for feedback. People can send their thoughts, corrections, and even ideas by email to [info@gov.nu.ca](mailto:info@gov.nu.ca) or by phone at 1-877-212-6438.

Mr. Speaker, this website is a significant improvement over our old site and provides information and contact details for our government, fulfilling a need identified by Nunavummiut. This website is just one of the ways our government is improving its communications. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Minister's Statement 226 – 3(2):  
Department of Human Resources  
– New Organizational Structure**

**Hon. Daniel Shewchuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to say “hello” to all of my constituents in Arviat and all of the wonderful people across the territory of Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to update my colleagues on a significant initiative being undertaken by the Department of Human Resources to support its mandate of leading the development of Nunavut's public service through excellence in human resources management.

Mr. Speaker, during my department's recent appearance before the Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts to review the 2010 Auditor General's report on human resources capacity, some discussions focused on the restructuring of the Department of Human Resources to support the actions being carried out to address the recommendations of the Auditor General.

Mr. Speaker, as members may recall, last fiscal year, a functional review of the Department of Human Resources was undertaken. This included an assessment of capacity to provide high-quality client service and effective programs to support recruitment, development, and retention in the public service. Based on the functional review and the recommendations of the Auditor General, the Department of Human Resources now has a new organizational structure.

Mr. Speaker, the reorganization is being accommodated within existing budget parameters and does not result in either an increase or decrease in positions. We are focusing on what matters the most to our workforce and to Nunavummiut – efficient recruitment and staffing, effective career planning and staff development, employee satisfaction and retention, and, most importantly, emphasis on supporting Article 23 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement. Our new structure will also result in improved client service, greater collaboration between functional areas, and increased opportunities for beneficiaries to progress in their human resource careers.

Mr. Speaker, we are now moving forward with our implementation of the new organizational structure. In the short term, we will be recruiting key positions at the executive, senior management, and manager levels – positions that will enable us to complete the *Tamapta* strategic priority of delivering a government-wide human resource strategy. Learning plans will also be developed to support those staff who have changes in job responsibilities as a result of the reorganization. Most importantly, Mr. Speaker, we will be revitalizing our Inuit employment efforts by establishing an Inuit Employment Steering Committee.

I look forward to keeping members informed of our progress. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

### **Minister's Statement 227 – 3(2): CGS Technical-Professional Studies Scholarship**

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, everyone who is listening out there.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to announce the results of the Community and Government Services scholarships that have just been awarded based on 39 applications. These scholarships total \$71,000 and will be shared by 25 students.

Mr. Speaker, I would especially like to highlight that, out of the 25 students, 17 are Nunavut Land Claims Agreement beneficiaries. The Technical-Professional Studies Scholarship is for full-time students who are taking any of the following programs: engineering, informatics, community planning, business studies, firefighting training and prevention, or land administration at the technical, college, or university level.

The application for scholarship has three categories:

- The first category is for full-time students who are Nunavut Land Claims beneficiaries
- The second category is for full-time students who are Nunavut Land Claims beneficiaries not residing in Nunavut due to short- or long-term relocation of their family outside the territory, and
- The third category is for non-beneficiaries who maintain residency within Nunavut.

Scholarship awards are accelerated for students in their first to fourth year of continuous schooling broken down as follows:

- First year, \$2,500
- Second year, \$3,000
- Third year, \$4,000
- Fourth year, \$5,000.

A committee of five staff from CGS oversees the applications and the awarding of the scholarships. The department budget is a maximum of \$80,000 each year. When the amount of awards does not exceed the maximum, the department advertises again the following January to maximize the potential for students.

Mr. Speaker, these awards assist the students by helping to relieve a little of the financial stress they encounter. We also anticipate that most will come back to Nunavut for employment and help us fill the professional ranks of the civil service with qualified staff.  
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Minister's Statement 228 – 3(2):  
Progress in Career Development  
Services**

**Hon. Hunter Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to take this opportunity to update my colleagues on some exciting progress in the field of career development. As you know, as part of its broad mandate to help the people of Nunavut, the Department of

Education is tasked with career training and development. Career development services are offered throughout Nunavut for individuals to access a wide variety of career training opportunities.

Mr. Speaker, recently, the Department of Education has entered a phase of great collaboration with our partners to enhance career development opportunities for Nunavummiut. We have been working in partnership with the Department of Human Resources and Nunavut Arctic College to create a career development practitioner program being delivered by Nunavut Arctic College. This college program is aimed towards providing career development officers, or CDOs, with recognized professional development and will enhance program service delivery to clients. Some of our CDOs are halfway through the program and discussions are underway to provide the opportunity for other stakeholders to enrol staff into this program as well.

The Career Development Services Framework project is also moving forward. A draft framework has been developed by a working group with members from the Department of Education, Nunavut Arctic College, and the Department of Human Resources. An implementation plan will be developed this winter. The intent of this strategy is to outline the responsibilities and initiatives that each group embraces towards providing appropriate career development services to all Nunavummiut.

And finally, Mr. Speaker, the department is working towards a strong strategic plan for labour market funding in Nunavut. As part of the Nunavut

Integrated Labour Market Planning Committee, we are working with Human Resources and Skills Development Canada and aboriginal skills and employment training agreement holders to develop partnerships among the various adult training funding organizations. We are confident that this will lead to greater career development services in Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, career development is a key component in our goal to build a strong and self-reliant territory. These advancements are encouraging and will surely translate into helpful results for Nunavummiut in their search for career development. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Minister's Statement 229 – 3(2):  
Replacement of Driver's Licences  
and General Identification Cards**

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

Mr. Speaker, I have been told that some businesses outside of Nunavut are not accepting our old laminated version of the driver's licence and general identification card for use for identification. This is a concern because some Nunavummiut may not be able to use their identification for purposes, such as renting vehicles or getting on airplanes. We want everyone to consider the option of replacing their identification to the new award-winning

driver's licence and general identification card.

Mr. Speaker, rest assured, the old version of the cards will continue to be accepted in Nunavut and can be used until the individual's renewal date. Nunavummiut can replace their driver's licence or general identification card before their renewal date by contacting the Motor Vehicles Division or motor vehicles issuing agent in their community and paying a fee.

Mr. Speaker, the new cards are state of the art and have international acceptance. After replacing your card, you should have no worries when using it for renting vehicles or using it for getting on aircraft. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister. Ministers' Statements. Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for South Baffin, Mr. Schell.

**Item 3: Members' Statements**

**Member's Statement 345 – 3(2):  
Ensuring the Delivery of  
Government Services**

**Mr. Schell:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to give credit where credit is due.

Mr. Speaker, during this session, I have risen to address the problems experienced in my constituency regarding the issuing of driver's licences.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay tribute to Minister Taptuna, who immediately responded to the concerns I raised by committing to send one of his officials to my constituency and deal with the outstanding applications, some of whom have been waiting for months.

Mr. Speaker, as promised, this individual travelled to the community and provided the necessary support and assistance in getting this much needed service back up on its feet. My constituents will be happy that they do not have to wait too much longer for their driver's licences.

Mr. Speaker, it is reassuring to note that the government can respond when called upon.

Mr. Speaker, I would again like to thank Minister Taptuna for addressing the issues I raised in such a timely manner. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Schell. Members' Statements. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. Elliott.

**Member's Statement 346 – 3(2):  
Effective Representation for the  
High Arctic**

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to talk about effective representation for the High Arctic.

Mr. Speaker, last week, I had the honour of moving the motion to establish the Electoral Boundaries Commission. I have every confidence that the commission will undertake its work in a very thorough manner.

Mr. Speaker, I know that my constituents are looking forward to raising their voices during the commission's visits to their communities. Mr. Speaker, I fully anticipate that residents in Grise Fiord and Resolute Bay will express the communities' long-standing desire to form their own constituency.

Mr. Speaker, my constituents do recognize that the principle of representation by population governs the distribution of seats in a legislature and they do recognize that the populations of the High Arctic communities are relatively small.

However, Mr. Speaker, they are also aware of the precedent that has been set with respect to the constituency of Hudson Bay. As members are aware, the unique circumstances of that constituency have justifiably warranted that it be accorded a distinct status.

Mr. Speaker, it is my belief that the circumstances facing the High Arctic communities are also unique; a fact that has been well recognized by governments at all levels. Mr. Speaker, the geographic isolation of the High Arctic communities is well known.

Mr. Speaker, my colleague from Akulliq has spoken about the challenges that he faces in representing a constituency that includes two communities from different regions. As the only MLA representing a constituency that includes three communities, I know exactly how my colleague feels, although I'm sorry to say that I'm not in a position to help him out with his travel budget.

Mr. Speaker, the challenge of determining constituency boundaries that are fair and equitable is not easy in a huge jurisdiction such as ours. As I noted earlier, the individuals whom this Assembly recommended for appointment to the commission have praiseworthy records of public service and I am confident that their deliberations will be undertaken with care. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 347 – 3(2):  
Soccer Tournament in Kugluktuk**

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A soccer tournament was held in Kugluktuk this past weekend and the soccer tournament took place using Nunavut's only indoor turf soccer field. A number of Nunavut teams participated from Baker Lake, Iqaluit, Rankin Inlet, Kugluktuk, Kugaaruk, Cambridge Bay, and including a couple of teams from Fort Simpson. That's from the NWT.

Mr. Speaker, in the under 18 girls category, Kugluktuk Grizzlies came in first place. In the under 18 boys category, Baker Lake came in first place.

Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize and congratulate the organizers, volunteers, parents, and coaches who put a lot of hours into tournaments such as this, and they do this for the betterment of our younger people who otherwise would be sitting there idle and not participating in any kind of recreational activity.

I specifically want to send a special thanks to the Kugluktuk co-coaches, Jeff Clark and Ian Wasson. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Taptuna. Members' Statements. Member for Nanulik, Mr. Ningeongan.

**Member's Statement 348 – 3(2):  
Southampton Island Caribou  
Harvest**

**Mr. Ningeongan:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to again address the issue of economic development opportunities in our smaller, non-decentralized communities.

Mr. Speaker, this is an issue that my colleague from Sanikiluaq raised last week in the House with respect to the potential for developing and expanding the seafood industry in his community. Both of our communities share great potential in the area of commercial harvesting of the resources of the land and sea.

Mr. Speaker, as Members of the House are aware, I have been a long-standing supporter of the commercial caribou harvest on Southampton Island and I have been working for many years to support the establishment of a processing plant in the community of Coral Harbour.

Mr. Speaker, the commercial caribou harvest was suspended in 2010 because of concerns about the health and population of the herd. I encourage the Department of Environment to work

with the HTO and the community on this matter.

Mr. Speaker, I exchanged a number of letters last year with the Minister of Economic Development on the issue of establishing a new processing facility in Coral Harbour. As the minister will also recall, I also tabled in the House a copy of a recent feasibility study on this project, which I anticipate he has reviewed with care.

Mr. Speaker, this government has stated that it wants to fight poverty. However, we all know that the government does not have the resources to provide a guaranteed annual income to every one of our residents and we all know that not everyone can win Lotto 6/49.

Mr. Speaker, we need to look to where our strengths are. In many of our smaller, non-decentralized communities, it is the natural resources sector that will provide opportunities for employment and business. I urge the minister to focus the efforts of his department and the Nunavut Development Corporation into addressing the economic development needs of smaller, non-decentralized communities.

Mr. Speaker, it is my hope that some day in the not too distant future, I will be in a position to make a statement in this House thanking the minister for helping to cut the ribbon in the opening of the Coral Harbour Meat Processing Plant.

At the appropriate time, I will be asking the Minister responsible for Economic Development and Transportation on this matter. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

### **Member's Statement 349 – 3(2): A Changing Environment**

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) In the smaller communities, you can't even buy a 6/49 ticket, so I understand.

Mr. Speaker, I just flew back from Ottawa, as you know, yesterday, and I flew back so I can escape the snow from Ottawa. You've got to fly back north to Iqaluit to get some warmer weather these days. That's my statement today. It's now November and we still don't have snow in our beautiful community.

As you know, Mr. Speaker, there have been some drastic changes to our environment in the last few years. This summer, I usually kill wasps as they don't get along with me in southern Canada, but for the first time I actually killed one in my own steps. So there are all kinds of strange activity taking place in our communities and I think we will have to come up with a word for wasp in Inuktitut. So that's my challenge to our Inuktitut language bureau.

Another one that I just heard last week when we were having a nice dinner with our elders is that in my home community of Pangnirtung, they just realized that a lake had disappeared, so that was quite startling to hear. I guess the permafrost underneath the lake melted and drained the lake.

So those things are taking place that are going to impact our communities quite a bit in the days to come. I'll be asking the



Minister of Environment at the appropriate time, hopefully if time permits, about what challenges and what activities Environment is taking on these matters. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 350 – 3(2):  
Appreciation to Annie Buchan**

**Ms. Ugyuk** (interpretation): Good day, people of Natilik and Nunavummiut. I rise today to acknowledge a person from Taloyoak. The person's name is Annie Buchan, who is from Taloyoak, and she is a community health representative who has worked for 29 years at the Department of Health. She has just recently started working on the community health issues. She has also been a regional member of Pauktuutit and she has been with the organization for a while.

Annie Buchan has been involved in various committees in our community, including the local justice committee, and she has been elected to the hamlet council and she is currently sitting on the council. She is also a member of Innitiit Women's Association administering the local women's shelter and she has been a member of that group since its inception. She also lived in Pond Inlet for two years, where she worked diligently in her position.

The reason why I would like to acknowledge Ms. Buchan is because she will be moving with her family to

Cambridge Bay in the short term. Her children are largely grown up and they live in that community, along with her grandchildren. Annie and her husband will be moving to Cambridge Bay and we will miss her in Taloyoak due to her largesse in assisting the residents of Taloyoak.

She has also been an interpreter for patients who have appointments with doctors who have arrived at the health centre, especially for unilingual people. She has been quite committed to completing her mandate. Although the field of health is very challenging, she is dedicated to assisting her fellow Inuit and she has worked hard to help them.

I wish Annie and her husband the very best future in their move to Cambridge Bay. They will now be Killiniq residents once they move to the community. I want to wish Annie Buchan an enjoyable future and to have success in her new position. You will be leaving a large void in our community due to your dedication. Whoever replaces you in your position will have to fill your very large shoes. At least that is how I interpret the English saying of filling the shoes of an important person, so I state that to you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Thank you. Members' Statements. Mr. Curley.

**Member's Statement 351 – 3(2): The  
Next President of NTI**

**Hon. Tagak Curley:** Thank you. (interpretation) Good afternoon to the people of Rankin Inlet and to all my colleagues in the House.

Mr. Speaker, I want to make a short statement that all Nunavutmiut can listen to. It's something that they have to be aware of and not just hear about it. We live in an era where things are becoming difficult. It's becoming more challenging, especially for our leaders and for people on boards, even for the regional Inuit associations. We just heard recently that our Inuit land claims body, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, had a meeting where the president was removed from office.

We know that NTI is our partner as the Nunavut government. Prior to the Nunavut government being created, they created the Nunavut initiative and due to that, the Nunavut government was created in Article 4 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement. Due to that fact, NTI is our partner. We have to work with them and partner with them to ensure that we are all on the same page in Nunavut. Nunavut Tunngavik is primarily mandated to look after the land claims, to look after the interests of the beneficiaries, and to try and develop Nunavut in the future.

Mr. Speaker, I want to state that I want the Inuit to elect a very strong leader and it would be nice to find out who the candidates are. The candidates have to identify their platform as to why they want to be elected and what their priorities will be. I think it is incumbent for the people to ask tough questions.

So, Mr. Speaker, I wanted to tell everyone who is interested in being a candidate, please work hard and try to stay away from all temptations to ensure that you debate and deliberate issues so that when the voters go to vote on December 13, everyone will vote for

whoever candidate they feel is best able to lead them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 352 – 3(2):  
Congratulations to Baker Lake  
Soccer Team**

**Mr. Aupaluktuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also say "good day" to the people of Baker Lake. If my mother is listening, I wish you a good day and your grandchildren in Ottawa say "hello" and they love you. We just lost another person in Baker Lake. They are in my thoughts and will be in our prayers.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, there is an old proverb that stays with me. The old proverb is we must fear the strength of youth. I encourage all young Nunavummiut to continue contributing to society, and I want to thank all youth and young adults for continuing to voice their concerns.

As I have said in the House several times, Baker Lake youth are aware of local, territorial, and federal initiatives. I think as well in the spirit of youth, Baker Lake has had exceptional volunteers, parents contributing as well, and I think the results speak for themselves with the history of Baker Lake and their contributions to sports. With that, I would like to thank their coaches and again, the many volunteers that have freely given their time. I think the results are evident for themselves.

Last year, we had Genevieve Killulark win the Laura Gauthier Memorial Award and this year, we also had Dianne Iyago from Baker Lake winning the same award. I think that demonstrates the contributions of our communities and volunteers and the appreciation that parents give to the community, and empowering the youth and giving the abilities to demonstrate that if you give them the right tools and resources, they will be able to spread their wings.

It's very exceptional to see that the youth are demonstrating by validating and having valid outcomes, such as achieving awards. I think all of Nunavut benefits with this and I think it's a good example for all to see.

With that, I would like to congratulate the Baker Lake boys under 18 team. Job well done. Congratulations! Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

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

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It gives me great pleasure to welcome to the Gallery today Mr. Bob Gabuna, a friend of mine. He recently arrived in Nunavut from the Philippines to join his wife, Judy Gabuna, who works in the Department of Health and Social Services.

Mr. Speaker, Nunavut has a large, growing Filipino community. They work

in our public service and private sector. I'm sure many of us have been invited to their Halloween parties, Christmas parties, and other parties, and they serve great food. I would like to welcome all of them to Nunavut and encourage them to continue to seek employment in our government and in our private sector. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Thank you. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit West, Mr. Okalik.

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

##### **Question 512 – 3(2): A Changing Environment**

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I stated earlier today in my Member's Statement, I spoke about our environment which is being impacted every day and we have started seeing different insects, such as wasps. Usually they may see the species in the south and we do not even have an Inuktitut term for wasps.

With the changing climate and changing weather and new species, last week, an elder told me about a lake that used to exist but has drained out. The permafrost apparently melted and the lake drained out of the original area.

I would like to direct the question to the Minister of Environment. What are you and your officials working to try and deal with these upcoming challenges related to the environment? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Daniel Shewchuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The member brings up a very important point and concern to all residents in Nunavut. He is right in saying that we are, as we go on, everybody is seeing new species of wildlife and weather phenomena occurring that have never been seen before. There are new wasps. In my home community of Arviat this summer, there were five muskrats caught, which is not normal either. There are things that are happening and changing.

We all know that the climate change file is happening. I think that the rate that it's happening is something that we can control with the rest of the world. This is why all countries and nations in the world are collaborating to try and lessen greenhouse gas emissions and dealing with that problem. As far as Nunavut is concerned, we are part of that voice, that we're a voice. Working with other federal environment ministers, we are addressing that problem and trying to reduce greenhouse gas emissions across Canada.

However, as Nunavut is concerned, we have a *Tululutuk* project going on in partnership with INAC, Natural Resources Canada, and the department. We have a project on five test communities of creating adaptation plans to climate change. There will be an upcoming meeting, I think, in Iqaluit in February addressing and updating everybody on those projects. We are presently in the final stages of completing a Nunavut-wide climate adaptation strategy. Also, the Premier

and I are working with the other two territorial leaders to establish a pan-territorial climate change strategy. So we are aware of the issues and we are working towards the best we can to resolve, which is adapting to the changes that are coming. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think it is incumbent that the people who are most impacted should be telling their stories. Usually when they write their story, this is how we planned out what's happening and then they start recollecting what is happening around our environment. If they accumulated all of these stories in all of the regions of Nunavut, perhaps there would be more action taken by the federal government.

I am hoping that they are collecting a lot of stories of what is appearing, disappearing, and changing. If the Inuit are able to relay their stories about their experiences, then they could compile that and turn it into a report that is available to everybody outside of Nunavut. They would see the daily impact that is occurring up here. We cannot stop it on our own.

My question again is: what are your plans to resolve these issues? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Daniel Shewchuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I informed the member before, in the five test communities, that

information will be given all to the public.

I would also like to say that the communities, the elders and all community members have been involved in creating these adaptation plans for communities, so they will be heavily involved in all communities. It's not just the Department of Environment that is involved; it's working with Community and Government Services in regard to infrastructure and permafrost. So it is an all-inclusive, involved process, and I assure the member that elders will be involved. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am very happy that the minister is trying to move ahead with this file. It was identified that those five test communities are currently under study. What about circumstances that are occurring outside of these five communities? If our people in other communities want to relay their stories, who do they go to? Your department is fairly large, so who could they approach to talk about the situations that they experience? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Daniel Shewchuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again I say, with the five communities that this test project went and worked with, our plan is to have all communities in Nunavut having adaptation plans in dealing with climate change. However, anybody who has any concerns or input into climate change and any ideas can contact our

department at any one of our conservation offices in all 25 communities. Through that avenue, their voices can be heard. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Question 513 – 3(2): Nunavut's Aging Infrastructure**

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Community and Government Services with respect to the aging infrastructure in some of our communities.

Mr. Speaker, constituents and the hamlet councils in two of my communities have brought this issue forward a number of times.

In Resolute Bay, for example, the hamlet has written letters to the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation and the federal government with regard to having the community work cooperatively to demolish the old World War II infrastructure that is currently on airport property.

In Arctic Bay, an old, condemned Government of Nunavut building sits vacant with windows broken and doors ajar. Unfortunately garbage and used propane canisters are scattered all over the building. Mr. Speaker, at the most recent Hamlet of Arctic Bay council meeting held last Thursday, this building and the issues around it came up. Can the minister advise this House as to

whether he is aware of this building and the issues surrounding it? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for the question. His comments are so correct. There are so many old, dilapidated buildings in every municipality. Unfortunately many of them fall by the wayside because some of them go so far back that the issues arose from the territorial government days where there are old buildings that may have belonged to the federal government at one point, the Ministry of Transport or something that have fallen through the cracks and are still sitting in many municipalities pretty much ignored, and then it becomes the responsibility of the municipality at the end of the day to try to figure out how best to deal with it. That story repeats itself throughout every municipality in Nunavut.

Specifically to the building that you are asking about, I am not personally aware of it, but I assure you and I am sure that our department, in one way or another, knows something about that building that you are asking about. Personally I don't know any specifics about it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. During discussions about the old government building in Arctic Bay, it has been suggested that because of the building's age, there may be asbestos in the structure. The minister made a

commitment to looking into the specific building, but I was wondering if he could also confirm, while he is looking into it, whether this building has asbestos in it. Thank you.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As for the building, I told my colleague that I'm sure that our department or someone in our department is aware of the situation with the building. But as for looking into the asbestos and all of that other stuff about it, we would have to first figure out who is responsible for the building and who owns the building.

In terms of looking for whether there are asbestos or other harmful contaminants in the building, we could always look to see who is responsible for finding that part out and working on that end of the detail. We will try to answer those questions as well then, I guess, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for that commitment. As the minister has stated, it's not just my communities that have these old buildings, so I'm sure this next question will be of interest to all regular members.

Mr. Speaker, these old buildings are potential health and safety hazards, as well as having an impact on the aesthetic value of the community. Could the minister explain what options are available to a community if they want to

work towards tearing down and removing these old buildings? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you. Thank you for the question. My colleague would appreciate the fact... I will stress again that I don't know who owns these old buildings that is responsible for their removal; it depends on what buildings you are talking about. Again, some of them may be the Ministry of Transport, or they may be old DEW line sites, or they may be something that is not the responsibility of this government. So it starts from there and once we know who owns the building and who is responsible for it and who is responsible for the upkeep of it, and if we find out there are contaminants or dangerous goods inside that building, who is responsible for that.

It's not just a matter of going to a community and saying, "There is an old building. Could your department tear it down?" It may not be ours to deal with, it may not be this government's to deal with, so let's not get ahead of the cart. Let's find out what building we are talking about, who is responsible for it ultimately, and then who is responsible for finding out what contaminants may or may not be in the building, and go from there. Unfortunately it's most of them. This is something that is, like you say, amongst every one of the communities in Nunavut. It's a long process like everything else.

Our department is doing what it can to help every municipality deal with those very questions, and try to steer them and

work with them into the right direction so that the right departments and right governments would deal with those buildings. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If these buildings are Government of Nunavut assets, and I'm asking specifically for GN assets, can the minister inform this House whose responsibility it is to ensure that they are demolished or secured? Is it the responsibility of the Government of Nunavut? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If the building itself is under the ownership of the Government of Nunavut, then I believe that it is the responsibility of the Government of Nunavut to look at getting rid of the asset. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Question 514 – 3(2): Southampton Island Caribou Harvest**

**Mr. Ningeongan:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my questions to the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation.

Mr. Speaker, in 2009, I corresponded with the minister regarding the establishment of a meat processing plant in Coral Harbour.

Mr. Speaker, in his correspondence to me, he stated that his department “supports the establishment of a meat processing facility in Coral Harbour.” However, the minister also indicated a number of issues would need to be resolved before the department would consider a meat processing facility. Can the minister provide an update on these issues? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. As I indicated in my correspondence to the Coral Harbour HTO and the hon. member, there have been a few issues within that island and the boundaries of Coral Harbour, one of them being the quota for caribou. In the past, the quota used to be 4,000, and with some diseases that were identified, the quota was cut to 850. At that time, the quota of 850 wasn't deemed feasible for any sort of meat plant in Coral Harbour. At this time, we are working with the Department of Environment to determine what the numbers actually are in Southampton Island. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Ningeongan:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The minister indicated that the Department of Environment was scheduled to do a population count in July of 2009. In his letter, he indicated that he would maintain dialogue with the Department of Environment. Can the minister provide an update on the status

of the population survey? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you. Minister Taptuna.

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. According to the information I have here from the latest numbers on the caribou herd in Southampton Island, there has been a decline of approximately 60 percent between 1997 and 2009.

With the meetings that the Department of Environment had with the HTO, both parties agreed that there is still a need for a precautionary approach to the whole work that has been happening there with the survey, including the numbers that were gathered from the Southampton Island, in order to collect data to determine what kind of recovery and what kind of approach the government should take on this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Ningeongan:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I made a suggestion before to HTO board members to allow for a prompt time to sit down with the Minister of Environment and the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation to come to terms with the present situation.

If the freeze on the commercial sale of caribou meat and caribou on Southampton Island persists, then I think there would be a need to have a face-to-face meeting with the community members. Would the minister be able to commit to that kind of dialogue with the



community of Coral Harbour? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you. Minister Taptuna.

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. I will work with my colleague, the Minister responsible for Environment, and also with the community members of Coral Harbour, especially the hunters and trappers organization.

The issue with caribou numbers, there is another survey that's going to be taking place in 2011, and that's yet to be determined 100 percent whether that's going to be conducted. In the meantime, my department and the Nunavut Development Corporation are still looking for ways to communicate the issue that the community has brought up, including yourself, and how to establish such a business within Coral Harbour.

We do have the logistics, and some of the information that we have been using goes back to 1997-98. The latest feasibility studies were conducted in 2006 by the community and the HTO of Coral Harbour. There are indications that with a small meat plant there, there are specifics within the study that indicate the costs of putting in such infrastructure for a meat plant is around \$2 million. In order to proceed, we have to make sure that there are factors there that can sustain the operations of such activity within the community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Ningeongan:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Minister Taptuna, for your response. My main reason for requesting for the various departments and stakeholders to have a meeting is to identify what possibilities there would be, even if we didn't concentrate on caribou meat itself. I would like to ask the minister: as suggested in the feasibility study, would you still be open to discuss species other than caribou when it comes to harvesting and processing in Coral Harbour? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With our public engagement for poverty reduction, we are looking at all avenues. The Nunavut Development Corporation intends to use its expertise in looking at especially some of these smaller communities. We want to bring more productive, sustainable activities within the smaller, non-decentralized communities. With the help of the Nunavut Development Corporation, the department has done that.

We assist a lot of smaller communities, especially the HTOs in their acquisition of fishing vessels, and we have put in a lot of contributions into that. I just want to give you some examples of that. There is \$250,000 into Arctic Fisheries Alliance that is owned jointly by the HTAs of Arctic Bay, Resolute Bay, Grise Fiord, and Qikiqtarjuaq. We do put a lot of assistance and funding into these smaller communities through their HTOs.

In Southampton Island, Coral Harbour, there may be other avenues to explore

and that could be fisheries, but it's yet to be determined. We are hoping that we could get some applications from the locals there for exploratory fishing. As the member is well aware, there is a need for exploratory fishing to determine a quota, so that's got to be looked at.

Yes, the Nunavut Development Corporation and the department would be willing to assist, take a look, and keep an open dialogue with these smaller communities, including Coral Harbour. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister. Oral Questions. Member for Akulliq, Mr. Ningark.

**Question 515 – 3(2): Compensating Affected Polar Bear Sport Hunts Outfitters**

**Mr. Ningark:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have been asked by a resident of Pond Inlet who is a long-term sport outfitter and guide to raise an issue on his behalf and I am privileged and honoured to rise to do so, Mr. Speaker.

The federal ban on the export of polar bears from the Baffin Bay management unit has had a devastating impact on Nunavut outfitters. I would like to underline that, Nunavut outfitters, Mr. Speaker. The outfitter had eight hunts lined up for 2010, but the federal ban resulted in all but one being cancelled, Mr. Speaker. This has also hurt employment opportunities for seasonal guides.

My question on behalf an acquaintance in Pond Inlet, Mr. Speaker, is: what assistance or compensation is the GN providing to Nunavut outfitters who

have suffered because of the federal decision? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningark. I don't know who you are directing your question to, Mr. Ningark.

**Mr. Ningark:** Thank you for reminding me. This is a question for the Hon. Minister Shewchuk, Minister of Environment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Daniel Shewchuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the member for that question. As we all know, this was a very important issue some time back and still is.

In his question, what have we done with communities, as committed, I travelled to all communities that were affected in the Baffin Bay European ban on polar bears and the non-detriment finding. We have travelled to those communities and advised that there is assistance through ED&T and the Government of Nunavut to diversify their outfitting businesses into other areas, and we still have those programs available.

We have also established two programs in wildlife in regard to polar bears that if there are polar bears around and threats to cabins and [outpost] camps, we would assist in preventing that damage and also compensation claims that come in for that too.

I think what needs to be clarified somewhat here is the misunderstanding about the ban is that the European Union is really the ones who drove this ban on Baffin Bay polar bears. If there hadn't

have been a non-detriment finding put on the Baffin Bay polar bears due to the population estimates that we have in place now, and we are working on that with Greenland to rectify that problem, there probably would have been a ban on the entire Nunavut and no polar bears exportable anywhere.

As we all know, polar bears are banned in the US and in Mexico, so those hunter opportunities are limited and they're not there right now, but we still do offer and have Europeans coming in to the rest of Nunavut hunting polar bears, except for Baffin Bay. We have to look at it at that side, at that angle too. But as far as assistance, we do have assistance programs under ED&T that we are willing to provide, and we have communicated that to all communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Ningark:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the hon. minister for his answer. I understand, recognizing that we have programs within the jurisdiction, but we also need help from the federal counterpart. Mr. Minister, my supplementary question is outfitters want to go back to work. We all know that. What is the minister doing to pressure Ottawa to end this ban on the export of polar bears from Baffin Bay? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Daniel Shewchuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I answered this question in the House the other day, I have been in contact with the federal minister and I

have written letters to the federal minister that once we have taken this initiative with our joint commission with Greenland and are pursuing activities to get new research done and new population estimates done, I have asked for him to consider lifting this ban. As of right now, he has not agreed to do that, but we will insist and keep on pursuing that avenue.

We will probably have better means next year once our planned survey is to happen next year. With that information, we probably would have a better case. I will pursue and commit to keep on pressuring the federal minister to deal with this issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Ningark:** Second supplementary, Mr. Speaker. I thank the hon. minister. Now we know that the minister has been in dialogue with his federal counterpart. My second supplementary question is to do with the community. I believe the minister travelled to Pond Inlet earlier this year to discuss this issue. What commitments did he make to the local outfitters? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Daniel Shewchuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Not only Pond Inlet, I travelled to all of the communities affected. The commitment I made to them is that we would assist them in any way we can, and that was by helping them implement and approaching ED&T for small business loans and new programs that they can diversify their outfitting business in, and that

commitment is still there. That was done to all communities. I have explained the programs that we initiated under Environment too for prevention and compensation for polar bear damage.

So those are the commitments that I made and nothing more than that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Ningark:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Before I leave the issue, I don't know if I heard the minister right earlier in my question. Did the minister indicate that he will be providing direct assistance to outfitters in Nunavut who are hurt by the decision of the world around us? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Daniel Shewchuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll just repeat the same answer that I just gave because the commitment that I made to the communities is that there are other avenues out there for assistance for small businesses and outfitters to look at, and that is through the Department of Economic Development. We will assist outfitters in any way through our conservation officers or the ED&T personnel in the communities to access those programs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Question 516 – 3(2): Nunavut Suicide Prevention Strategy**

**Ms. Ugyuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will be directing my questions to the Minister of Health and Social Services.

There was a report entitled the Suicide Prevention Strategy and the focus is on assisting Nunavummiut to deal with this particular issue. In my review of this strategy, I did not see any reference to this matter. What about the victim's families? The people who are left are devastated by their loss. How can we provide more support to these people in need?

Today, we were informed that there have been 27 suicides so far this year in Nunavut. I assume that most of them had parents. This means that we have 54 parents who are grieving over their loss, and that is only for this particular year. That number is much too large.

When a person commits suicide, it impacts more people than the victim. The person's grandmother, grandfather, parents, and their relatives are all impacted by their loss. We seem to be forgetting these people who are impacted, aside from the victim, and I would like to see this matter dealt with in the strategy.

I would like to see more emphasis placed on healing, especially towards the people who are grieving and how they can best deal with their pain and suffering. I wish to ask the minister if he can include this matter in that strategy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Tagak Curley** (interpretation):  
Thank you. That is a significant question  
the member raises and I thank you for  
bringing up your concerns with respect  
to that strategy. Quite a few elders have  
advised me about that particular issue,  
that we should not forget the people who  
have lost their relatives. In discussing  
issues with the elders, that was one issue  
that they wanted resolved.

I would like the members to note that  
this strategy is geared towards  
Nunavutmiut who may be depressed or  
mentally stressed out and who have  
placed themselves in high risk. It has  
been incorporated into our practices. At  
this time, our system is set up so that  
people who may be experiencing  
difficulties in their lives are usually dealt  
with by the social workers.

Additionally, the regional Inuit  
organization's Brighter Futures divisions  
are our partners in dealing with parents  
who have lost their children and they are  
made immediately available to the  
community to assist the people in need.

As an example, last week, this  
unfortunate event occurred and we had  
to ensure that we made people with the  
proper training, such as mental health  
counsellors, available and we sent them  
to Cape Dorset. We also contract several  
individuals who work in the healing  
circle field. They were on the team that  
left for that community as well.

This will be an ongoing initiative and it  
will be included in the report. It is  
obvious that once the report has been

completed, we will be able to offer more  
resources, both financial and otherwise.  
To reiterate, once the report is  
completed, we can deal with that matter  
you raised in your question. It will be  
included and my expectations are that  
this will help to alleviate the problems  
we face, at least in reading the contents.  
Thank you.

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

**Ms. Ugyuk** (interpretation): Thank you,  
Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that  
response. Another question that is raised  
often relates to this issue. As we all  
know, the largest number of suicides are  
committed by men here in Nunavut.

Whenever we meet with male clients,  
they are often reticent about discussing  
issues and they note that they have  
difficulty discussing issues with female  
social workers. They are often ashamed  
to discuss these issues with a female  
social worker. I believe that this issue,  
amongst others, is one which should be  
considered by the Department of Health  
and Social Services. Is that the case?  
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Tagak Curley** (interpretation):  
Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When you  
spoke to this issue last week during your  
Member's Statement, our department  
officials took note of the issues you  
highlighted, especially about Inuit men  
who undergo tremendous stress. In  
particular, we noted that younger men  
are at risk and we are having difficulty  
responding to their situation. Some of

the parents are quite knowledgeable about child rearing, although many have never gone through formal schooling.

We know that many of our residents are experiencing hardship. Due to that reason, we will try to be cognizant of their concerns about social workers and where possible, we can try and task a male social worker to go to that community. If that means shipping a male social worker from another community to try and resolve some of these issues, we will do that. We will note that concern.

I made note of your concerns that you voiced on the Member's Statement last week. We will try to make that service available because it's a very reasonable concern. Some men do not like to talk to non-male service personnel, so I appreciate your very useful suggestion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Ugyuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister for his informative responses. Now, with respect to spouses, when people are first getting together, they sometimes go through disagreements. In most cases, they seem to feel that the social worker is their only option. Especially when the spouse is fearful of their husband, the social worker has to provide assistance to the spouse.

Although social workers ought to be working to resolve the husband's issues, since we are assisting the spouse, the partner often is uncomfortable dealing with the social worker. Although we can

provide assistance to both partners, men tend to mistrust the social worker's attempts.

I believe that we have to deal with both partners and this issue has to be seriously considered. I am not raising a question, but I want this matter to be included in the department's deliberations. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. I didn't hear a question, but I'm sure that your comments have been noted by the department. (interpretation ends) Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit West, Mr. Okalik.

#### **Question 517 – 3(2): Nunavut Teachers' Collective Agreement**

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was recently informed about the fact that the teachers union has been without a collective agreement for over a year since the last agreement expired. Furthermore, it was relayed that although the teachers union has tried to initiate negotiations with the Government of Nunavut, they have not budged from their position.

I believe it was this spring that they had to undertake a court injunction to deal with the issue. The government was supposed to appoint a chief negotiator, but there was no response other than the fact that they wanted to appoint an outside body to deal with this issue. It was only through the courts that the Government of Nunavut was forced to negotiate with the union, but that is not the proper negotiation process. There has to be good faith in any negotiation with the teachers union.

It was just reported by the teachers' union negotiator that the Government of Nunavut has replied that the teachers' wages and salaries will be frozen for four years. Furthermore, the bilingual bonus for those teachers who can speak Inuktitut will also be clawed back. In looking at these developments, it seems that they are at the edge of a cliff, especially as a member of the legislature.

We have to follow our own processes and we have to ensure that our students can be taught in both Inuktitut and English, but by virtue of the government's opposition to this issue, this will be difficult to implement, especially if the teachers are not supported in this area.

So my question to the Minister of Finance is: is that the way that you are going to be negotiating with the union when this government publicly states that education is a priority? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you. Minister of Finance, Hon. Keith Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Okalik for updating me on the negotiations. Mr. Speaker, I don't have the information that Mr. Okalik is referring to. Of course, our teachers are very valuable employees in our government and after all, they do teach our children. But as to answer any specific questions, I don't have any details on the comments that you made. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) That is rather troubling.

I guess the negotiators are negotiating beyond their mandate. If that is the case, I would like to get assurance from the minister that he will direct his negotiators to address some of the challenges faced by Inuit teachers. For example, to roll back Inuit language benefits for teachers who are trying to teach our language in the classroom is something that I don't think is shared by any member in this House.

So can the minister commit to directing his negotiators to get back to the negotiating table and actually negotiate with our teachers? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Okalik for his concerns with negotiations. Mr. Speaker, as Mr. Okalik is probably very aware, these are negotiations and there are two sides to doing negotiating arrangements. I'm sure both parties have their strategies in place, and we will endeavour to reach a settlement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) From what I understand, the teachers have now been without an agreement for the last 16 months. That is a new standard that unfortunately has been set. Prior to

that, they would have an agreement in place before even a year came around.

The teachers have been trying to negotiate in good faith. Even the courts are siding with the teachers on this one because the courts determined that the government was negotiating in bad faith.

Can the minister assure this House and the teachers that they will at least present an offer that is worthy of consideration? If they are not willing to do that, will he commit his government to go into binding arbitration on this matter? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Okalik again for his concern for the teachers. Mr. Speaker, I'm sure as Mr. Okalik knows as a former Premier of the Government of Nunavut, in negotiations, it would be inappropriate for any minister to comment on ongoing negotiations. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I am going on the basis of what has been presented to me, Mr. Speaker, along with a court judgment against the government, the so-called priority list of this government that education is the priority and legislation that requires our government to offer bilingual education to the children who are going to be graduating out of our schools, hopefully.

I cannot support a position where they want to roll back benefits for offering bilingual education in our classrooms. We're trying to teach Inuktitut to our children. Can the minister at least reconsider the position that has been tabled by his negotiators? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Okalik again for that question. Mr. Speaker, as I have indicated earlier, it would be inappropriate for me to comment on negotiations that are ongoing. I'm sure at some point that there will be a resolution to the negotiations. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Question 518 – 3(2): Status of Demolition and Removal of Abandoned Buildings in Chesterfield Inlet**

**Mr. Ningeongan** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my questions to the Minister of Community Government and Services.

As the minister now knows since I have been corresponding with the hon. member on several occasions to deal with this issue by the end of this fiscal year, there are a couple of units in Chesterfield Inlet previously owned by the Ministry of Transport. These are very old, dilapidated buildings. I do thank the minister because when I was dealing with this issue, he offered his



support, his responses, and he has tried to move this process along.

I have been led to understand via email from his department, or at least from the minister, that he was expecting a response from the contractors that were to destroy the units, as they were awaiting a decision on some issues. Can I ask the minister if he has been provided a status update as to whether these units will be dealt with and destroyed? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you. I also thank my hon. colleague for raising that question and other questions.

Just earlier, in response to another question asked by his colleague from the High Arctic with respect to these antiquated buildings where the ownership is uncertain but which the Government of Nunavut is stuck with, not all of these buildings are owned by the Nunavut government. In particular, where the ownership is in question, especially relating to the Ministry of Transport buildings, it becomes another issue that CGS is saddled with. There are also buildings that have dangerous substances.

I regret that I keep stating that once I find out, I will be able to respond. Now Nunavut is covered in snow and I believe Iqaluit is the only community that has no snow. It is still an ongoing issue as far as I know. The contracted company, as per your statement, has been in contact with our department

about this issue. We asked them to continue their work on these buildings.

They were starting to destroy the building, but they came across a hazardous substance that had to be removed. The amount of asbestos was a lot larger than they initially estimated. The health inspector stopped the destruction of the unit. At this time, they are still dealing with the matter and we tasked the officials to deal with this matter. We wanted a report on a certain date as to what the status was and when the project would proceed with the clean up.

The deadline came in the middle of October. At this time, we are still reviewing the issues to see what the status is. We did request a response just prior to the weekend on the status of this project. At this time, I still haven't received one. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Ningeongan** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This issue has been faced by the community for a number of years.

Last year, they started the destruction project. It has been a challenge for the community as it considers this matter a priority because these old buildings are close to the high school and there are also a couple of private houses in close proximity to the buildings. The old buildings are continuing to deteriorate.

One of the views was that if the project was delayed, there would be less damage with the windows boarded up. The fact

is that the department should have ensured that proper preparations were made so that no one could enter the buildings, such as youth vandalizing it and inadvertently endangering themselves.

However, in trying to deal with this issue, we are just bantering and if we just keep deferring this project, then these buildings will continue to deteriorate and the hazardous substance may become exposed, as per the minister's response.

Can the minister inform me as to the priority status of this project and whether his department has agreed that this is a high priority project and that they have to clean up these dilapidated buildings? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Yes, if we did not consider this a priority, then we would not worry about these buildings. We consider this a high priority.

As I stated earlier, since the inception of this project, the hamlet has been working on this file for a long time, perhaps even a decade. The CGS department made the commitment previously that they would try to provide assistance to the community. Upon further research, they found out that these were federal Ministry of Transport buildings and not owned by the Department of Community and Government Services.

The reasons for the high priority are self-explanatory as there are hazardous substances in these buildings. We have

to ensure that the buildings are closed off so the public cannot access the buildings. As long as people are not in the building, they are not exposing themselves to asbestos. The danger is that when asbestos is being removed from the buildings, it can become airborne.

We're trying to work with the hamlet council. Perhaps even prior to continuing the cleanup, it may be preferable to move the buildings so that they are no longer near any public building. We have made that position clear that at a minimum, the buildings should be moved outside of the built-up areas. If they cannot destroy the building due to hazardous materials, then at the least they should not be near any residential areas.

Yes, I can tell Mr. Ningeongan that yes, this is indeed a high priority, and we are not dilly-dallying around with this project. We want all of the asbestos removed that is contained in these buildings since asbestos becomes very dangerous when it is airborne and you can ingest it through breathing. As long as it is properly boarded up and the public cannot access the buildings, the material is not hazardous. Nonetheless, we are all aware that youth can overcome many barriers. If they do break into that building, it may be hazardous to their health.

But I can tell you, Mr. Ningeongan, that this is a priority for our department. When the end of the project deadline comes, we hope the asbestos will be completely removed. That is our objective that we will continue to push. Our department is committed to completing this project and to clean up

the hazardous materials in the community. I concur with the member since I am also bothered by the constant delays on this project. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Question 519 – 3(2): Nunavut Teachers' Collective Agreement**

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I want to continue on with my questioning of the Minister of Finance on the matter of the teachers and the bargaining.

I understand the bargaining process quite well and I respect the process. However, when the parties are at an impasse, the parties have try and find a way to continue on and make some progress, but according to the Nunavut Teachers Association, there has not been reasonable offers presented by the Government of Nunavut, including also the union. The association is now having to go public with their concerns because of the lateness of these discussions.

Can the minister reassure Nunavummiut that the Government of Nunavut will actually make reasonable offers to the association and accommodate some of their concerns throughout the bargaining process? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Keith Peterson**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Okalik for asking the question. Mr. Speaker, if Mr. Okalik understands the bargaining process, he will understand that I'm not the lead minister on negotiations with the Nunavut Teachers Association. However, I will say again that teachers are very valued employees of the Government of Nunavut and they do a tremendous job teaching our children every day. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Well, the teachers expressed their concerns and the consequences this impasse can have throughout Nunavut, not just in the classroom but also the education of the children.

I would add that, for the younger children in the classroom who can't look after themselves, then those people who don't have daycare space... . If there was a stoppage of school, then those employers would have to suffer the lack of workers coming to their office because they're providing daycare for their children.

So I would ask the Minister of Finance to try and facilitated these negotiations as he is the keeper of the purse. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Keith Peterson**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I again appreciate Mr. Okalik's concern. Mr. Speaker, indeed I am the keeper of the purse.

I have heard across Canada that many provinces and territories are dealing with the union agreements this year and, of course, we are as well. However, Mr. Speaker, as I said in my earlier response to Mr. Okalik's question, I am not the lead minister on the negotiations with the Nunavut Teachers Association. I am sure that the lead Minister of Human Resources is paying attention to the line of questioning and we will ensure that Mr. Okalik's concerns are brought to the negotiating table. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Question 520 – 3(2): New Office Building**

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

On Friday, the minister did a return to oral questions where he had mentioned about the new office building that the QEC has. I had the pleasure of walking by the building this weekend to check it out. In his answer, he said that the total estimated office building project costs around \$5 million and he also mentioned that centralizing the various leased offices will result in savings of about \$5.6 million over the financing period.

I was just wondering if the minister could explain in terms of centralizing the various lease offices. Is that the centralizing of office space in Iqaluit only or are they bringing positions from other communities here and dropping leases in those communities? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** I thank my colleague for the question. It is beautiful infrastructure that they are building there and it is just for the office space that is leased in this fine city by the Qulliq Energy Corporation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Also, it mentioned about the cost saving of \$5.6 million, which is a great savings, and I am sure the corporation and all of the taxpayers will be happy about that. How long is the financing period that the minister is talking about in his reply? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do not know the exact years on that, Mr. Speaker. I will have to get back to my colleague at an appropriate time. Thank you.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister. Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Item 7. Written Questions. Mr. Elliott.

**Item 7: Written Questions**

**Written Question 022 – 3(2): New Nunavut Housing Corporation Directorate Office in Iqaluit**

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing

Corporation, the Hon. Tagak Curley. It is in regard to the new Nunavut Housing Corporation Directorate Office in Iqaluit. As the question is long and detailed, I would like to move that the question be entered as read.

1. What is the lot number and civic address of the building in Iqaluit now being used by the Nunavut Housing Corporation for its directorate office?
2. What was the total amount expended by the Nunavut Housing Corporation for the acquisition of the building that is now being used as office space for its directorate office?
3. From what company or individual was the purchase of the building made?
4. What was the process by which this acquisition was approved by the Financial Management Board?
5. Through which Appropriation Act was funding for this purchase approved?
6. What renovations, upgrades, improvements, repairs, or other work were completed on the building subsequent to the Nunavut Housing Corporation taking ownership of it?
7. What was the dollar value of any renovations, upgrades, improvements, repairs, or other work completed on the building subsequent to its acquisition by the Nunavut Housing Corporation?
8. Through what type of contracting procedure (e.g. competitive tender, request for proposals, etcetera) did

the Nunavut Housing Corporation acquire the services for the renovations, upgrades, improvements, repairs, or other work on the building?

9. What company or individual was awarded the contract(s) to perform renovations, upgrades, improvements, repairs, or other work?
10. On an annual basis, how much does the Iqaluit Housing Authority pay in rent for the use of the facility?
11. How long is the term of the lease to the Iqaluit Housing Authority and what are the particulars of the lease agreement in respect to payment of utilities and other conditions?

Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Elliott. The member is asking that these be entered into record as read. (interpretation ends) Written Questions. Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Hon. Eva Aariak.

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

#### **Reply to Opening Address 004 – 3(2): Ms. Eva Aariak**

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe that our interpreter/translators will translate these nicely into Inuktitut.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, last week, the member from Iqaluit West took the initiative to provide a so-called

evaluation of our government. This was not a surprise.

Mr. Speaker, our government is now accustomed to demands that we solve problems created by the past administration. Although it is incredibly tempting, I do not believe the Premier or her cabinet should stoop to the level of responding to petty remarks and invented insults. However, Mr. Speaker, while I always welcome questions and comments from my fellow colleagues, under this government, there is no room for insults or innuendo.

Mr. Speaker, the hon. member knows very well that responsible governments must complete projects started by previous governments, as well as initiate their own.

Mr. Speaker, it should be noted that the hon. member is criticizing this government for doing precisely the things that Nunavummiut asked for in the *Qanukkanniq* report. For instance, creating government liaison positions was in direct response to an overwhelming demand from Nunavummiut across the territory.

Mr. Speaker, under this government, we listen to the people who elected us into this office and act in accordance with their needs and wishes. Our role is to make difficult decisions in the best interests of Nunavummiut.

Mr. Speaker, two years ago, while our former Premier was being investigated by the Integrity Commissioner, Nunavut was demanding change and change has arrived.

Mr. Speaker, our government is rebuilding a culture of respect in everything we do. We are rebuilding respect within the civil service. Mr. Speaker, under this government, our civil servants are chosen for their skills, not for their allegiance. Under this government, our employees are not afraid to speak their mind.

We are rebuilding respect within cabinet and within this House. Ours is an administration of consensus and our decisions are made through above-the-table discussions. I make decisions with my ministers and do not single-handedly dictate the outcome. Mr. Speaker, under this government, we do not make backroom deals. Members know that our doors are open and that we value their input.

**An Hon. Member:** Hear, hear!

**Hon. Eva Aariak:** We are rebuilding respect with the Inuit organizations. Mr. Speaker, I recently returned from Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated's annual general meeting and I am proud to say that our relationship with NTI, both at the political level and at the working level, has never been stronger and better.

It's hard to believe, Mr. Speaker, for the first eight years of Nunavut's existence, Nunavummiut in Iqaluit celebrated Nunavut Day with two separate events – one organized by the GN and the other organized by NTI. This year, for the very first time, our government joined with NTI to provide Nunavummiut with one giant celebration. Mr. Speaker, this was one of the biggest parties in Iqaluit since 1999. People were still dancing even as the sound technicians were

packing their gear. It was a complete success, not for the GN, not for NTI, but for all Nunavummiut, just as it should be.

I can assure Members of this House that, under this government, the GN will continue to work collaboratively with Inuit organizations on every file that we share.

Mr. Speaker, we are earning back the respect of Ottawa. I am providing an assertive voice on behalf of Nunavummiut. And guess what? Ottawa is listening. After years of little or no movement on the devolution file, the Prime Minister has agreed to a phased-in approach that will eventually see Nunavut gain control of its land and resources.

Most importantly of all, Mr. Speaker, we are rebuilding respect with the people of Nunavut. Under this government, Nunavummiut no longer fear they will be embarrassed by the public remarks of their elected officials. They know that our government is here to listen to the local people, not to tell them what to do. Our cabinet travels to other communities regularly and speaks to people about their concerns. If one of our cabinet members cannot visit a community, then at least we speak on the community radio to explain what we are doing in this government.

Mr. Speaker, all of us here adopted massive and systemic problems from the past administration, including millions of dollars in housing overspending, which is having an effect on everything we are trying to achieve. We are now being punished for finding the problem and trying to fix it. Despite this

unforeseen obstacle, the *Qanukkanniq* report told us everything we needed to know and continues to give us a clear path which we are resolved to follow. We have a strong mandate to do and, that is, for this House to agree what the House agreed upon when we met together.

Mr. Speaker, again another first in the history of Nunavummiut was the collaboration of Full Caucus on our mandate, with this very strong mandate that this House agreed upon together as a whole, and we are making progress:

- We have tabled a Suicide Prevention Strategy;
- We are delivering the much asked for GLO positions in every community;
- We have launched a Poverty Reduction Strategy;
- We are answering our phones;
- We are making early childhood education and health a priority;
- We are building to new standards of energy efficiency;
- We are implementing a child and youth advocate;
- We have completed the housing needs survey;
- We brought the GN website into the 21st century;
- We are encouraging community self-reliance.

For those who think that change is not happening quickly enough, I say, "Let's get it right for the first time." We are having to return to square one with certain pieces of legislation that were passed too quickly in previous governments and without enough careful planning.

Mr. Speaker, under this government, we work sustainably. Our grandchildren and great-grandchildren will feel the positive changes long after we have left office.

Mr. Speaker, I came to this office with a vision for this government. My ministers and I work very hard to implement the *Tamapta* Mandate. Change is happening and I can assure this House that our progress will continue. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Thank you, Madam Premier. Replies to Opening Address. Hon. Lorne Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to seek unanimous consent from my colleagues to go back to Item 4. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Kusugak. The minister is seeking unanimous consent to return to Item 4. Are there any nays? There are no nays. (interpretation ends) Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Mr. Kusugak.

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

#### **Return to Oral Question 520 – 3(2): New Office Building**

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In response to a question asked by my colleague, Mr. Elliott, regarding the length of the financing for the Qulliq Energy office, it is for 30 years as QEC figures that we would be well in there for another 20 or more years after the leasing arrangement and we would be in there rent-free, saving even more money

for the ratepayers. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. (interpretation ends) Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Item 10. Petitions. Item 11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees. Item 12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills. Mr. Okalik.

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

#### **Committee Report on Bills 020 – 3(2): Bill 44, An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act**

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to report that Bill 44, *An Act to Amend the Income Tax 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 44 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 44 immediately moved into Committee of the Whole. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Bill 44 has been referred to the Committee of the Whole.

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



**Committee Report on Bills 021 – 3(2):  
Bill 45, An Act to Amend the  
Labour Standards Act (Minimum  
Wage)**

**Mr. Okalik:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to report that Bill 45, *An Act Amend the Labour Standards Act (Minimum Wage)*, 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 45 immediately moved into Committee of the Whole. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Okalik. The member is seeking unanimous consent to waive Rule 68(6) so that Bill 45 can proceed directly into Committee of the Whole. Do members agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Speaker:** Thank you. Bill 45 is referred to the Committee of the Whole.

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

**Committee Report on Bills 022 – 3(2):  
Bill 46, An Act to Amend the  
Senior Citizens and Disabled  
Persons Property Tax Relief Act**

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker and my colleagues. I wish to report that Bill 46, *An Act to Amend the Senior Citizens and Disabled Persons Property Tax Relief 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 46 immediately moved into Committee of the Whole. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you. The member is seeking unanimous consent to waive Rule 68(6) so that Bill 46 can proceed directly into Committee of the Whole. Do members agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Speaker:** Thank you. Bill 46 is referred to the Committee of the Whole.

Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Hon. Tagak Curley.

**Item 13: Tabling of Documents**

**Tabled Document 255 – 3(2): FPT  
Ministers of Health Meeting,  
September 14, 2010**

**Tabled Document 256 – 3(2): Report  
#1 on Status of Action Plan on the  
Report of the Auditor General of  
Canada to the Legislative  
Assembly of Nunavut 2009 –  
Financial Management Practices  
of the Department of Health and  
Social Services**

**Hon. Tagak Curley:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have two documents that I would like to table. I am pleased to table the FPT Ministers of Health Meeting, September 14, 2010, St. John's, Newfoundland. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to table the Report #1 on Status of Action Plan on the Report of the Auditor General of Canada to the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut 2009 – Financial Management Practices of the Department of Health and Social Services. (interpretation) Thank you.

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

**Tabled Document 257 – 3(2):  
Residents to See Community Hall  
Design**

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table an article from the Monday October 11, 2010 edition of the *Nunavut News/North*. The article talks about the plans for the new hamlet complex which Grise Fiord will be receiving through commitments from the Government of Nunavut and the federal government's Building Canada Fund.

This new 11,000 square metre building is a welcome piece of needed infrastructure as it is going a long way to provide office space for the Hamlet of Grise Fiord employees, GN employees, and other community organizations. It will give the residents its first community hall. With the old hamlet office building and a few renovations, that building would become a Nunavut Arctic College Community Learning Centre, as Grise Fiord is the only Nunavut community without a building for adult education.

Mr. Speaker, my constituents in Grise Fiord are extremely excited about this much needed infrastructure coming to our community and extend much gratitude to the Government of Nunavut

for its promise to deliver the building in 2007.

I trust that my colleagues will read this article with much support. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Tabling of Documents. Hon. Keith Peterson.

**Tabled Document 258 – 3(2): Nunavut  
Liquor Commission Annual  
Report 2004-2005**

**Tabled Document 259 – 3(2): Nunavut  
Liquor Commission Annual  
Report 2005-2006**

**Tabled Document 260 – 3(2): Nunavut  
Liquor Commission Annual  
Report 2006-2007**

**Tabled Document 261 – 3(2): Nunavut  
Liquor Commission Annual  
Report 2007-2008**

**Tabled Document 262 – 3(2): Nunavut  
Liquor Licensing Board Annual  
Report 2007-2008**

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

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to table the Nunavut Liquor Commission's annual reports from 2004 to 2008.

Mr. Speaker, I am also pleased to table the Annual Report 2007-2008 for the Nunavut Liquor Licensing Board. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister. Tabling of Documents. Mr. Elliott.

**Tabled Document 263 – 3(2): Open Letter to the Leaders of Nunavut on the Health Implications of Opening the Territory to Uranium Mining**

**Tabled Document 264 – 3(2): Human Health Implications of Uranium Mining and Nuclear Power Generation**

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am tabling a letter in Inuktitut and English dated October 20, 2010. It was sent to all Nunavut leaders, including our federal MP Leona Aglukkaq and all MLAs in this House. It is a letter jointly written by Dr. Kathy Lakille and Dr. Linda Harvey, and speaks to the health implications of opening the territory to uranium mining.

At the same time, Mr. Speaker, subsequently to these letters, I am tabling a paper co-authored by both doctors that was published in May 2009 on the human health implications of uranium and nuclear power generation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Tabling of Documents. Mr. Elliott.

**Tabled Document 265 – 3(2): Developing Healthy Communities – A Public Health Strategy for Nunavut**

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On Friday, Minister Curley, Minister of

Health and Social Services, mentioned that he would table the Public Health Strategy for Nunavut. Since he had said he was finished his tabling, I would like to table that document. Thank you.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Tabling of Documents. Item 14. Notices of Motions. Premier of Nunavut, Hon. Eva Aariak.

**Item 14: Notices of Motions**

**Motion 031 – 3(2): Appointment of Alternate Ministerial Member of the Management and Services Board – Notice**

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Monday, which is today, November 1, 2010, I will move the following motion:

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the Hon. Member for Cambridge Bay, that Lorne Quassa Kusugak be appointed as an alternate ministerial member of the Management and Services Board.

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

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Notices of Motions. Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 16. Motions. Hon. Eva Aariak.

**Item 16: Motions**

**Hon. Eva Aariak:** WHEREAS section 38 of the *Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act* provides... .

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Premier. You must first ask for consent to deal with your motion today.  
(interpretation ends) Madam Premier.

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I stated earlier, at the appropriate time, I would be seeking unanimous consent to deal with the motion today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Premier. The Premier is seeking unanimous consent to deal with her motion today. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Please proceed with your motion, (interpretation ends) Madam Premier.

**Motion 031 – 3(2): Appointment of Alternate Ministerial Member of the Management and Services Board**

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll try this again.

(interpretation ends) WHEREAS section 38 of the *Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act* provides for the appointment of an alternative ministerial member of the Management and Services Board;

AND WHEREAS the Legislative Assembly is prepared to make an appointment;

NOWTHEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the Hon. Member for Cambridge Bay, that the Hon. Lorne Kusugak be appointed as an alternate ministerial member of the Management and Services Board.

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Premier. The motion is in order. To the motion. 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 44, 45, and 46, and Tabled Documents 207 – 3(2), 209 – 3(2), 210 – 3(2), and 212 – 3(2) with Mr. Schell in the Chair. In accordance with the authority provided to me by Motion 6 – 3(2), the Committee of the Whole will stay in session until it reports itself out.

Before we proceed to the Committee of the Whole, we will take a 20-minute break.

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House recessed at 15:32 and Committee resumed at 16:03*

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

**Chairman** (Mr. Schell): I would like to call the committee meeting to order. In the Committee of the Whole, we have the following items to deal with: Bills 44, 45, and 46, 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 commence with the review of Bill 44, followed by Bill 45 and Bill 46. We will then resume 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. Does the committee agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Bill 44 – An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act – Consideration in Committee – Consideration in Committee**

**Chairman:** I would now like to ask Minister Peterson, responsible for the Department of Finance, to make his opening remarks.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to speak to Bill 44, which will amend the Nunavut *Income Tax Act* so that it is in line with the federal *Income Tax Act*. The changes announced in Federal Budget 2010 pertain to benefits to parents who share custody of children.

Canada amended their legislation so that, as at July 2011, two parents who live separately and share equal custody of a child will each receive one-half of the Canada Child Tax Benefit (CCTB), Universal Child Care Benefit (UCCB), and GST/HST credit amounts that apply in respect of the child.

In order to remain harmonized with the federal rules, Mr. Chairman, the Nunavut *Income Tax Act* requires similar amendments to sections pertaining to the treatment of the Nunavut Child Benefit.

Bill 44 will essentially correct current imbalances that favour one parent of the shared-custody child over the other parent.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would be pleased to take questions.

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

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I do. Thank you.

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

**Some Members:** Agreed.

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

Minister, please introduce your witnesses.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my left is Peter Ma, Deputy Minister of the Department of Finance, and to my right is Thomas Druyan, Lawyer for the Department of Justice. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Standing Committee on Legislation reviewed the bill and supports the amendment of the *Income Tax Act*.

As members are aware, many of our constituents lead different lifestyles. When a couple separates, it becomes a hardship for the family and we have to look at more options to assist the couple, especially in meeting these challenges. This was one of the issues noted by the committee and it was passed along to the minister for his consideration.

The committee is in support of the bill. It is obvious that members of the committee may have questions or comments on this issue and I will support them if they choose to do so. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Okalik. Any general comments? I don't have any, so I guess we will go clause by clause starting on page 1. Bill 44, *An Act to Amend the Income Tax 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:** We will go to the Schedule. Schedule. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Do members agree to Bill 44 as a whole?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Do members agree that pursuant to Rule 63(2) that Bill 44 can immediately be placed on the orders of the day for third reading?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Do you have any closing remarks on Bill 44, Minister Peterson?

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the members of the committee for their scrutiny of the bill. As Mr. Okalik said, it's a relief for some of our most vulnerable and helps parents. We have a very expensive territory to live in and this will certainly help parents provide for their children. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Now we will move on to Bill 45, *An Act to Amend the Labour Standards Act (Minimum Wage)*. I would like to ask the Minister, Mr. Peterson, to make his opening remarks.

#### **Bill 45 – An Act to Amend the Labour Standards Act (Minimum Wage) – Consideration in Committee**

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to present an Act to amend the *Labour Standards Act* on minimum wage.

The purpose of the *Labour Standards Act* is to describe the rights and responsibilities of employers and employees who fall under the authority of this Act. This also includes setting the minimum wage that employers are required to pay employees.

The last increase to the minimum wage was in 2008. A recent informal survey of Nunavut employers supports increasing the minimum wage in order to keep up with the cost of living in the North.

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

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Does the chair of the standing committee have any comments? Please proceed, Mr. Okalik.

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We concur with the minister on this matter wholeheartedly. As has been noted previously, Nunavummiut face the highest cost of living in Canada and we have our own challenges.

The change to increase the minimum wage was done in order for Nunavummiut to keep up with the cost of living. Due to this reason, we supported this bill. There was consensus during our meetings on this matter and we support the amendment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Ningark:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think this is a good Act. It

harmonizes with the cost of living up here, which is the highest in the country, if not, throughout the world. We also have, under *Tamapta*, a poverty reduction program that is in line with what we are trying to do as a government. To me, it's a good Act and I am more than happy to support it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Any other general comments? Mr. Okalik.

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I am very pleased to be supporting this proposal. I know that the cost of living is ever escalating each year and I hope that the government will also recognize that for our teachers who are at the bargaining table. I do hope that this reflection of increasing the minimum will also increase the generosity towards our teachers. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Any other general comments? If not, we will move on to Bill 45, *An Act to Amend the Labour Standards Act (Minimum Wage)*. Clause 1. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 2. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Do members agree to Bill 45 as a whole?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Do members agree that pursuant to Rule 62(2) that Bill 45 can

immediately be 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 again thank the members of the standing committee for their scrutiny of this bill. Certainly some of our poorer folks in Nunavut will benefit from this. I know \$11 doesn't seem like a lot to some people, but it is a lot to many of our people.

Indeed cost of living is very expensive in Nunavut and with the collective efforts of all of us here, we can continue to work towards bringing the cost of living down. I'm sure that through our implementation of our Poverty Reduction Strategy, we will be able to help more people to put food on their table. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Now we will move on to Bill 46, *An Act to Amend the Senior Citizens and Disabled Persons Property Tax Relief Act*. I would now like to ask Minister Peterson for his opening remarks.

**Bill 46 – An Act to Amend the Senior Citizens and Disabled Persons Property Tax Relief Act – Consideration in Committee**

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to speak to Bill 46, which will amend the *Senior Citizens and Disabled Persons Property Tax Relief Act*.

Mr. Chairman, this amendment will expand the definition of eligible property and include separate definitions for each type of property eligible for tax relief. Such definitions are required to close a loophole that may disqualify some senior citizens and disabled persons. This will also clarify the overall legislation.

Currently, eligible property encompasses only mobile units, single family dwelling units, and the land on which those units rest, if belonging to the same owner. This definition seems to exclude condominiums and attached homes, such as duplexes and townhouses.

Bill 46 will allow qualified seniors and disabled homeowners to receive the exemption against levied taxes.

Mr. Chairman, these changes help those in need and address concerns raised by this legislature in 2006. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Peterson. Does the chair of the standing committee have comments? Proceed, Mr. Okalik.

**Mr. Okalik (interpretation):** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The committee reviewed the proposed amendments to the Act and the intent of the bill is something we support, especially with respect to people with disabilities and our esteemed elders, as we ought to be assisting them in every way possible.

We agreed with the intent of the Act, but we also had a question regarding couples where one spouse is an elder and the other is not an elder. The issue of homeownership where both spouses are



named as co-owners but with only one spouse qualifying for this benefit has caused numerous difficulties in applying for this benefit.

We encouraged the minister and his officials to review the circumstances, as per my example, to look at ways to provide assistance. We want all elders to be provided with assistance in every way possible.

Those were the main points that I wanted to speak to that fall under the *Income Tax Relief Act*, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Okalik. Any general comments? Mr. Ningeongan.

**Mr. Ningeongan** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wanted to speak to this issue since hamlets are mostly not taxed-based municipalities. The difference is obvious between tax-based communities and those that are not. We all know that Iqaluit is a tax-based community and the rest of the communities in Nunavut are not tax-based municipalities. I believe that this matter should be reconsidered, at least in my opinion.

Using Coral Harbour as an example, the hamlet tried to pass a by-law to provide assistance to elders who are 65 and over. They tried to enact a by-law that would either subsidize the services to the elders, such as water and sewage services, or offer free municipal services. However, Government of Nunavut officials stated that this is not possible under the current legislation.

Due to this and other reasons, will the department consider allowing the hamlet

to pass by-laws that are geared towards providing assistance to elders, such as free municipal services, or a subsidy for such services?

The communities other than Iqaluit are not taxed-based municipalities and the manner in which these municipalities are operated is different from a tax-based municipality. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Ningeongan for that comment. It is an important question, especially for elders in the communities outside of Iqaluit.

We did some research, Mr. Chairman, and it appears that, under the *Hamlets Act*, the hamlets are able to do exactly what Mr. Ningeongan suggests. Under section 169(1) and section 170 of the *Hamlets Act*, a hamlet can pass a by-law and they can actually provide a reduction in rates to help people in their communities. So that might be something that the SAOs of Community and Government Services may wish to bring to the attention of the hamlets.

With respect to Mr. Okalik's comments about jointly owned property, section 2(4) was repealed in 2006. Our interpretation of the repeal suggested that the intent of the legislation was to grant an exemption for eligible property when it was jointly owned, even when it was owned by a senior citizen with someone other than the senior citizen's dependant. We can do further research on that and confirm that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Ningeongan.

**Mr. Ningeongan** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If the committee approves the bill for submission to the House, it will become clearer at that point with respect to Bill 46.

When committee members were directing questions with respect to these issues, there was no one available to provide answers to these questions. That was why I raised this question. I would also like to thank the minister for responding to my question as it allows me to understand the matter further.

Perhaps the Department of Community and Government Services will need to dialogue further with the communities so that there is understanding between the two parties. That's it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. If you just want to comment on that, Minister Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Ningeongan for his comments. Again it was an important discussion that we had. Our research just made this information available. We will discuss with our colleagues at Community and Government Services to ensure that Mr. Ningeongan's suggestion is acted on. We will consider it fully. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Any more general comments? If not, we will go to Bill 46, *An Act to Amend the Senior Citizens and Disabled Persons Property Tax Relief 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:** Do members agree to Bill 46 as a whole? Mr. Elliott.

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On clause 5, I just have a question. The Act is deemed as coming into force as of June 15, 2006. Does that mean people who fall under the category of senior citizens and disabled persons can go back to previous tax years to be able to apply for that exemption or are we going from this current tax year on? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have advice coming from both sides here. That's the benefit of being the Minister of Finance and Minister of Justice; you've got accountants and lawyers helping out here.

It's a good question, Mr. Chairman. In clause 5, it says that "Section 4 of this Act is deemed to have come into force June 15, 2006." It only applies to the above clause, which was never brought

into effect in that year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So, just for clarification, people who would fall under this category of senior citizens and disabled persons will be able to take advantage of this in the 2010 tax year. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, Mr. Chairman, as soon as the Act comes into effect. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. We will go back to clause 5. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Do members agree to Bill 46 as a whole?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Do members agree that pursuant to Rule 62(2) that Bill 46 can immediately be placed on the orders of the day for third reading?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Does the minister have any closing comments?

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Yes, Mr. Chairman. Again I would like to thank the standing committee for their scrutiny of this bill and indeed all of the bills we have looked at in this sitting. A lot of important legislation has been passed, a lot of scrutiny, a lot of hard work by

everybody on both sides of the House. I think Nunavummiut will benefit tremendously by a lot of legislation that we're passing.

I would like to thank my officials at the Department of Finance and the Department of Justice. Both departments work very hard on making sure legislation is brought up to date.

Today, I would like to thank my officials who were here with me, Deputy Minister Ma and Thomas Druyan. I would also like to thank my Deputy Minister of Justice who didn't get an opportunity to appear in the witness box today, but I'm sure she will get her opportunity again in the winter sitting.

With that, Mr. Chairman, thank you and have a good day.

**Chairman:** Thank you. I would also like to thank you and your officials for showing up to the Committee of the Whole. Would the Sergeant-at-Arms please escort the minister and witnesses out.

Minister Curley, do you have witnesses that you would like to bring to the table?

**Tabled Document 207 – 3(2): Nunavut Housing Corporation Contracting Report for the Year Ended March 31, 2009 – Consideration in Committee**

**Tabled Document 209 – 3(2): Statement of Expenditures for Nunavut Housing Trust as of April 1, 2006 to February 28, 2010 – Consideration in Committee**

**Tabled Document 210 – 3(2): Nunavut Housing Corporation Review of Nunavut Housing Trust – Consideration in Committee**

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

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

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

**Some Members:** Agreed.

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

Minister, please introduce your witnesses.

**Hon. Tagak Curley:** Thank you. *Qujannamiik*. To my right is Mr. Alain Barriault and Lori Kimball is on my left. Thank you.

**Chairman:** By now, members are aware of Rules 77(1) and 77(2), so we will go right to the point here. Are there any questions? Mr. Elliott.

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One of the places where I wanted to start was in terms of the overspending that happened. There was \$60 million which was under the Nunavut Housing Trust and then \$50 million more that's shown up. My question is: for that \$50 million, is that specifically for the new Affordable Housing Initiative or does it include expenses on both the Nunavut Housing Trust and the Affordable Housing Initiative? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Curley.

**Hon. Tagak Curley:** Thank you. For the record, I think it's important to clarify what the overspending and over-committing actually is. I think, for the amount of budget that initially the Nunavut Housing Trust was allocated, in terms of the actual cost, some of the Housing Corporation's language is that they over-committed. The number of units with the budget should have been actually larger in order to complete all of these units. So I just want to clarify that there is a difference between over-committing and overspending.

For the \$50 million, this is really for the new units for the Affordable Housing Initiative. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, the answer wasn't a very direct yes or no. For the over-commitment, is the \$50 million only for the Affordable Housing Initiative? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Curley.

**Hon. Tagak Curley:** Yes.

**Chairman:** Mr. Elliott.

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In terms of tendering contracts and procurement, also for leasing, does the Nunavut Housing Corporation follow the same rules that the Government of Nunavut follows? Thank you.

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

**Mr. Barriault:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, the Nunavut Housing

Corporation does follow the same rules and procedures as the GN. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For the Government of Nunavut, it is usually Community and Government Services that does this. Does CGS provide that service for the Nunavut Housing Corporation? Thank you.

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

**Mr. Barriault:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Nunavut Housing Corporation is a contracting authority of the Government of Nunavut. As such, we are authorized to tender and award contracts. In some cases, we do obtain assistance from the Community and Government Services to provide tendering services on our behalf. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For the Nunavut Housing Trust and the Affordable Housing Initiative, were those contracts put out by the Nunavut Housing Corporation? Thank you.

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

**Mr. Barriault:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The majority of the contracts issued under the Nunavut Housing Trust were issued through the Nunavut Housing Corporation. There may have been one or two exceptions to that. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Within the Nunavut Housing Corporation, at that time, how many people were responsible for doing the service of writing up the contracts and doing the procurement for the Nunavut Housing Trust? Thank you.

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

**Mr. Barriault:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I believe I indicated the other day, tendering and awarding was done through a number of offices. Again it was tied to spending authority levels, but tenders for labour contracts were typically issued through the district offices of the Nunavut Housing Corporation. Other tenders were issued centrally through the directorate office of the Nunavut Housing Corporation. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Now, with the Affordable Housing Initiative, is the same process being followed? Thank you.

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

**Mr. Barriault:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The intention with the affordable housing, so far, tenders have been done centrally. With the remaining tenders to be issued, they again will be coordinated through the central office but with the closing in the different regional offices as well. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So that process is now changed and possible oversight that may have

occurred in the past should not happen again because you are centralizing it. Is that what you are saying? Thank you.

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

**Mr. Barriault:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We want to ensure that there is consistency in our tendering processes. We also have some capacity issues in terms of staffing levels at different offices. So, in part, it is to ensure that all of the supports are in place to ensure consistency. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One of the accounting firm's requests in the report from Deloitte and Touche did actually talk about the decentralization and organizational structure of the Nunavut Housing Corporation and how that may have affected, in terms of geographically, how decisions were made whether they were good or bad. The minister had alluded to the possibility of centralizing the headquarters and the directorate. Why are the headquarters in Arviat and the directorate in Iqaluit? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Curley.

**Hon. Tagak Curley:** Thank you. Mr. Chairman, to be fair to the Committee of the Whole, it's kind of awkward and difficult to respond to that when the decision was made about eight years or so ago as to why the directorate was originally moved from headquarters to Iqaluit.

Having said that, the best that we could do now with what we have acquired and with the help of the auditor, that has

been articulated quite well, that it's really complex and difficult to really have a strong financial management system in place with the known problems of communication between the two areas. For that reason, the decision is something that the cabinet will have to weigh all concerns and issues before the final decision is made. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that answer. With that being said, it seems like the corporation now has a decision as to the future as to what it will do. The minister has alluded to possibly moving positions from Arviat to Iqaluit to kind of remedy some of these concerns that keep coming up either in the 2007 Auditor General's report or this one that was recently done by Deloitte and Touche.

My question is: after reading the report and seeing that, I think, under the NNI that 97 percent Inuit employment was attained historically in the community of Arviat, why not move all of the positions from Iqaluit to Arviat and that way, the office space could be more adequately used? Why are we moving everything back to Iqaluit? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Curley.

**Hon. Tagak Curley:** Thank you. Mr. Chairman, I cannot answer that question until the cabinet has deliberated all issues that we are faced with. Obviously we should not be compromising the best possible financial controls that are desperately needed. Nunavutmiut cannot be held hostage while we are trying to decide what kind of arrangement we should have with the corporation.

Having said that, possibly the costs will also have to be considered. The position that we are talking about involves seven positions and probably creating one position, which had been identified to strengthen the project management, which would be in the district office. So I'm not sure whether or not moving the actual directorate and all of its components would be cheaper, but that will be up to the cabinet to decide. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm sure the member from Arviat would love to have those seven positions in his community.

Going back to the tendering and leasing, there were some questions the other day about the SIP houses. You just sort of verified that the rules that the GN follows in terms of fair bidding and whatnot are followed. I believe Mr. Barriault mentioned that it was an RFP for the SIP units that were put out. Could he explain that? Thank you.

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

**Mr. Barriault:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The RFP for the SIP units was actually for the provision of the SIP panels, not for the labour. The labour was actually tendered by public tender. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The clock wasn't stopped. Thank you.

In terms of the bid that was given, I think you had said that it wasn't

necessarily given to the lowest bidder and you mentioned some other things about performance, or quality, or something like that. Could you explain in more detail why Kott was the successful bidder for that? Thank you.

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

**Mr. Barriault:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do not have a copy of the actual RFP in the front of me to refer to, but typically, a request for proposals is issued when you are evaluating more than just price. If you already know what product you wish to obtain, that's usually done by a public tender.

In this case, as I believe I mentioned at our last sitting, the request for proposals included a performance specification. The Housing Corporation had determined what kind of performance it wanted the new construction to obtain. From there, different proponents were given the opportunity to either provide a proposal with existing materials that they had, describing what their performance functions were, or to design a new product.

So the evaluation of the submissions, which were not bids but actual proposal submissions, included a description of how their proposed product would perform compared to the performance specifications, as well as determining what quality control measures they had in place, what the pricing would be, and also their ability to make delivery on time.

So there were a number of performance issues that were evaluated, not just price. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In terms of evaluating the SIP delivery and all of the things that were in the RFP, are they living up to what they said they were going to do? Thank you.

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

**Mr. Barriault:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, the successful proponent, which was Kott Lumber, has lived up to their contract responsibilities. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the report, it talks about the amount of theft as being a factor in why the, I don't want to say overspending, but I forget the word, over-commitment ended up being. How did the auditing firm decide or determine theft? What were the criteria for that? Thank you.

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

**Mr. Barriault:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As part of the work that was undertaken by the auditors, either when they spoke by phone to interview different Housing Corporation staff members or when they travelled to Iqaluit, they were able to obtain, basically, testimonies from staff as to the fact that materials had gone missing on different work sites. The change orders that we have issued for material in all Nunavut Housing Trust deliveries included some replacement of material that did go missing. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If these were actual thefts, how many were reported? Thank you.

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

**Mr. Barriault:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. A number were reported. They were typically not sizable, but as I may have mentioned before, we're not talking about sea cans of material or entire lifts of lumber, but when material is loose, then sheets of plywood, individual ones, or pieces of dimensional lumber would go missing. A number of worksites have contacted the RCMP and we do have records of that. It's something that is very hard to police, unless you have security on site 24 hours a day or you have warehousing that can contain all of the material. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Barriault mentioned that some of the theft was sort of calculated because there was replacement of missing items. Did the audit firm actually look at the idea that possibly materials were "misordered"?

I have heard and had conversations with different people who worked on the Nunavut Housing Trust and the affordable housing where they have said that materials that had been ordered in were the wrong sizes because they were improperly ordered, and stuff was actually taken to the dump. I witnessed myself in Arctic Bay where materials were moved, set in water, insulation became wet, damaged, and then it was thrown away in the dump.



In terms of those items that would have to be replaced, was that included as theft or was that separate? Thank you.

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

**Mr. Barriault:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If the material was in the care of the Nunavut Housing Corporation when these damages occurred, then they would have been included as part of those costs that were noted under the change orders.

But, upon assignment of labour contracts, the control of the materials and responsibility for it is then handed over to the labour contractor. So if those damages occurred while in the hands of the contractor, then it's the contractor's responsibility to replace the materials at their cost. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The training component was actually a big a part that I was quite interested in and in replies to Written Question 21 – 3(2) on June 10 that I asked, I was concerned about the number of people who were actually trained under the Nunavut Housing Trust and also the Affordable Housing Initiative. Could you tell me what the dollar value was or how much was paid in training our apprentices under that program? Thank you.

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

**Mr. Barriault:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The wages that were paid to the apprentices were considered to be labour or part of payroll, so they were not differentiated as such. Again, over a

number of years of payroll records through individual contractors and LHO boards, it's quite a daunting challenge to break that down to that level. Not that it would be impossible; it would just be very time intensive to figure out what part of payroll went to registered apprentices versus regular payroll. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So wages under labour, I know that it was reported that there was a 72 percent over-commitment of money on labour. Is that labour for everybody or is that labour for... ? There is no distinction between a trainee, an apprentice, or a qualified carpenter, or a Red Seal person. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Barriault:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Part of the cost drivers which we realize against the housing trust was indeed the fact that there was a training component built in and also the fact that hours of work were limited. So there were a number of initiatives as part of the Nunavut Housing Trust Implementation Plan that we feel were cost drivers but are hard to define exactly what those costs were. Part of those included airfare to bring in journeymen and hotel costs for them as well. So there are a number of factors, definitely. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Were you able to determine how much actually went for training in terms of Nunavut Arctic College or other training

centres across Canada for the apprentices? Thank you.

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

**Mr. Barriault:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm just looking to see if I have the dollar value available at this point. That I do not have available at the moment, but that is something that is easily obtained, though. The training costs were paid directly to Nunavut Arctic College for the provision of courses for apprenticeship programs. So, basically, the Nunavut Housing Corporation contracted Nunavut Arctic College to put off a number of courses over a few years. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With this part of the Nunavut Housing Trust, I find it very upsetting in the sense that when the program was initially advertised and promoted, it was an excellent training opportunity for Nunavummiut in the small communities to actually receive their apprenticeships. Working as an adult educator at that time, I thought, "Wow! It's finally an opportunity for people in the community to be trained."

The first stumbling block or hurdle is to actually pass your pre-trades entrance exam, and then there was all of this commitment of money to Nunavut Arctic College to get people trained and that was like step 1. The second step was to getting an employer to hire you, and that's what the Housing Trust was providing: a wage and a job, and then having a qualified person to work under. Sometimes, in the community, that's impossible to find.

It was a tremendous training opportunity to have our local people to be trained. I think we have blundered it in the sense that we only have one person who has gone through. With all of the money and the dollars that have been spent, I believe you said that it's only one person who has actually been successful.

Another question that I have is: now that both the Nunavut Housing Trust and the Affordable Housing Initiative are coming to a close, what type of a training plan or opportunity will you be providing to these 50 plus apprentices who are scattered across the territory to continue with their training? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Curley.

**Hon. Tagak Curley:** Thank you. I appreciate the member's frustration. I think that, in a sense, requires a response from myself because once again we're dealing with individuals who have committed themselves for training. I don't think we should apologize for young for trying, for entering into a possibility to earn some hours, and also have to go to the actual class, which may not be available, but perhaps have to come down to Iqaluit.

By and large, many young people who have come out of high school or at the high school entrance level do normally struggle not only to acquire the credentials needed to continue beyond entrance exams but because they are also entering into family environments, where they have family struggles. Sometimes, when I was with NCC, it was a real challenge. Unless you actually have a person, for instance, a labour coordinator for trainees, it's a job in itself to try and have that many

apprentices and ensure that that team really doesn't buckle out and quit, for all that matter. It's a challenge.

So I give that initial number of trainees at least all of the credit that they need and I don't want to undermine them whatsoever, but it's a challenge when you're dealing with the smaller communities where there may be only one contractor or so that would eventually be willing to give you enough hours to continue your first year, second year, and so on. To date, a number of apprentices do continue. In terms of the actual number, that's the responsibility of the Department of Education.

All I can tell the member is that I suspect there would have been difficulties with the trainees when I was sitting on his chair because it was a challenge with NCC. But we had an individual with NCC, who was a previous coordinator in the government, who was actually literally committed 100 percent and more in keeping these units of trainees occupied. It was his full-time job, to be honest with you.

So, yes, it could be better organized. If we ever enter into a large commitment again, it will be a better program and more organized. That is all I can say. In terms of details, do we have that? Not quite. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Does that mean that the Nunavut Housing Corporation has no plan for the apprentices once the money has been spent on the program? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Curley.

**Hon. Tagak Curley:** Thank you. Mr. Chairman, I think it would be wrong for the government to cancel such a program.

However, the contracting arrangement or labour contracts are tendered or contracted out, the role of the corporation and the government as a whole is to ensure that these contractors do buy into apprenticeship individuals who are capable, who are not just carpenters but electrical, as well as the plumbing, or any other trade. It's an opportunity and opportunity will remain as long as the contracts are entered. Not only that, I'm sure my colleagues at CGS, with all of the construction that goes on, they buy into those types of arrangements.

The Nunavut Housing Trust tries to do it in a large scale, but it was predictable that without a dedicated individual full-time with that many, it was eventually going to weaken at some point and I think we have seen that. But those individuals, if they are still around, have earned certain aspects, their hours required, as well as the in-room class training. Sure, we will encourage them to make arrangements with the current contractors. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Elliott, your time is up here. I will be moving on to Mr. Okalik.

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I have just a couple of follow-up questions in reference to my colleague for Quttiktuq. There is reference in the so-called audits that there were thefts. Does the corporation have any idea how much these thefts resulted in adding to the cost

overruns of the corporation?  
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr.  
Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Kimball.

**Ms. Kimball:** Thank you, Mr.  
Chairman. On page 13 of the audit  
review, it references the fact that for the  
Baffin district, the total of all change  
orders, which includes all of missing  
materials, whether it's from theft or  
errors in ordering, as well as the labour  
downtime, so there can be additional  
labour costs related to the materials, the  
total was 10 percent of the labour  
contracts. In the Kivalliq district, it was  
around 12 percent. So it's a fairly small  
percentage of the overall. Thank you,  
Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Okalik.

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you.  
(interpretation ends) I was hoping for a  
dollar figure, if you don't mind, because  
we know how much the overall of the  
program was. So I was just asking for a  
figure, if possible. (interpretation) Thank  
you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Barriault:** Thank you, Mr.  
Chairman. It is hard to determine exactly  
what amount disappeared or was missing  
as a result of theft as opposed to  
materials that were damaged or  
"misordering." There might be problems  
with material take-offs. There could be  
problems with how different contractors  
utilized material more or less efficiently  
than others. So it is very hard to  
determine which percentage of the total  
material change order cost resulted from  
theft. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Okalik.

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you.  
(interpretation ends) I guess we won't  
get a figure. Anyways, from what I  
understand, the contractor is responsible  
for a project, whether it is materials lost  
or damaged, during the construction  
phase and that the contractor is required  
to pay for insurance for these types of  
activities taking place during  
construction. Was this the case for these  
projects? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr.  
Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Curley.

**Hon. Tagak Curley:** Thank you. Let's  
put it into proper perspective in some  
way. In terms of the project  
management, it's probably a lot more of  
a tendering phase. It's quite clearer that  
the bonding is required for certain large  
amounts of contracts in order to protect  
the public and the contracting agency.  
So the contractor is bound and must  
honour that particular provision, but up  
until the project is delivered to sites, if  
the contract says that the government is  
responsible for logistics, the contractor  
won't touch it or transfer the ownership  
of the materials until that work has been  
completed.

In some cases, it is slightly different. If  
they are responsible for shipping, for  
instance, for design, shipping, and erect,  
then they are 100 percent responsible for  
the insurance, but there is a slight  
variance in those areas. I will let Mr.  
Barriault explain, in some cases, what  
happens. We dealt with them, I think,  
through an earlier question. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Barriault:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Effectively, as Minister Curley has noted, there are different processes in which risk is assumed. When we separate material and labour, then the risk on the material side belongs with the Housing Corporation until such time as the material is turned over to the contractors. The lowest risk approach is definitely to do a supply, ship, and erect contract whereby the contractor supplies the materials and has responsibility for ordering, shipping, and care of the material until such time as the house is delivered.

All of the corporation contracts do include contract securities and requirements for contractors from the time that they are awarded the contracts to take responsibility of materials. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Okalik.

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) What I understand is that these thefts would have been the responsibility of the contractor. So why is the Housing Corporation paying for these thefts if they were the responsibility of the contractor? That is where I would like to get an explanation. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Curley.

**Hon. Tagak Curley:** Thank you. Regardless of how the materials were either weather damaged or not, I think the president explained quite well earlier that what is required is the change order to complete the project. If it is a weather-related damage, it is still reflected at the costs, eventually, that are

billed back to the Housing Corporation. Whichever way, it is billed back to the government. Exactly how it works, I will have Mr. Barriault explain the details. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Barriault:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The material that had theft occur to it prior to it being turned over to a contractor would have been at the cost of the Nunavut Housing Corporation. If theft occurred while the material was in the hands of a contractor, then it is their responsibility and their cost to replace it. In the case of LHO builds, where construction took place in part through our local housing organizations, then we also have some costs to bear in that.

So there are a number of different contracting methods where we have different risks and exposure. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Okalik.

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) The next question I have is in regard to the farming equipment. I just want to find out which fund was used to acquire the farming equipment. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Barriault:** Thank you. Maybe the member could clarify the question as I'm not certain which farming equipment he's referring to. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Okalik.

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

were shown documents that were tabled by our Chair from a farming equipment company that was used to acquire telehandlers, from what I understand. There was even a GST rebate for the government because it was going to be used for farming purposes. So that's why I'm referring to the farming equipment, and I just want to find out which fund was used to acquire this farming equipment. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Barriault:** Thank you for the clarification. The telehandlers, which are common construction equipment, were purchased using the Affordable Housing Initiative funding. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Okalik.

**Mr. Okalik:** Okay. I'm sorry; I thought it was used under other funds.

Do we have any idea how much money was lost through the attempted purchase of farming equipment that had to be replaced with real telehandlers? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Barriault:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe that all funds are accounted for; I'm not aware of any actual loss of funds. I believe the member is referring to the trade-in value on some of the smaller telehandlers when the specification was revised. We do have those specific figures available, which I'm just obtaining at this moment. So the total cost involved as a result of

that transaction was \$479,040. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just following along the lines of Mr. Okalik's questions, I'm just a little confused because I remember hearing dollar figures of \$600,000 and whatnot. How many telehandlers did we actually get? Thank you.

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

**Mr. Barriault:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There were a total of 17 telehandlers purchased and delivered to Nunavut communities. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What's the total dollar figure for those 17 telehandlers, including the purchase of the New Holland ones, return, repurchase of CAT, and then shipping to the communities, and delivery in the community? Thank you.

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

**Mr. Barriault:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The grand total cost on the 17 telehandlers, including the trade-in transactions, etcetera, came to \$3.3 million and that is not including the freight charge to each community. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Before I left to come down here for session, which I guess was probably two

and a half weeks ago now, I met with some of the Kott people who were actually up in Arctic Bay. They said that they were being delayed by some real problems they were having with the CAT telehandler they had. It was spewing, I think, hydraulic fluid. I'm not a mechanic, but that's what they were saying. For items such as that, are they under warranty and will they be fixed since they are brand new, without any cost to the Nunavut Housing Corporation? Thank you.

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

**Mr. Barriault:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Any repairs required that fall under warranty will be pursued for reimbursement through the suppliers. I'm not aware of any particular delay at this point in Arctic Bay, so let's assume at this point that the problem has been resolved. However, I will follow up on that. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Initially when this whole debate started about the telehandlers and the fun we had in the House discussing it, the intent was that this would become a piece of equipment that would belong to the local housing authority.

I know once the telehandler arrived in Arctic Bay, it was parked and no one was allowed to touch it, I think they were saying, for fear that it might get broken and they wouldn't be able to use it for the construction of the SIP houses, which I understand.

What is the intent of these 17 telehandlers that will be sitting in our

communities once Kott is finished with them? Thank you.

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

**Mr. Barriault:** Thank you. The intention is that these telehandlers will become part of the LHOs' equipment for performing their maintenance duties. Part of what we want to ensure was not just the protection of the equipment for the installation or the assembly of the SIP panels but also to ensure that the LHO staff received proper safety operating training before they were given the keys to the equipment. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Barriault must have been reading my mind because if you're having difficulty training apprentices, where you have the assistance of the Nunavut Arctic College and other resources like that, how do you plan to train local housing authority people on safely operating these vehicles? Is there some type of a plan or are you contracting someone to do the training? Will people be flown out? Will it be one person in the community doing it? Could you explain and expand on that? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Curley.

**Hon. Tagak Curley:** Again I want to remind the committee that our people, prominently the Inuit people, really actually are very mechanically quite good operators. These are simple machines to operate; they are not complicated. The member is shaking his head; he is shaking his head to Nunavutmiut.

Most drivers with a certain type of licence required of heavy equipment operators can easily be trained to operate them. These are not complicated machines. These are “standardly” very handy equipment to have around, particularly for housing maintenance operators. They are safer than other mechanical, you know, normally handled by individuals for safety reasons. In my region, no one is complaining in having these telehandlers. They have become the standard of the construction industry and maintenance companies. They are very valuable equipment to have.

To try and devise something that is very elaborate, very costly training that has to be certified by somebody, it’s not going to be that kind of training. So if the member has something that he wants to offer to us, we will take it, but these are simple equipment. When I say simple equipment, I am saying it because I am a trained heavy equipment operator, so I know about those machineries. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When we initially talked about the New Holland telehandlers, I remember asking the minister of the day who was responsible for WSCC whether he could contact them and find out if these vehicles were up to standard and whether they would be potentially harmful to people who are using them. He mentioned that no one had been hurt yet, so he couldn’t answer that. But in the reply from the minister of the day for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, when it was Minister Tootoo, he had mentioned that the reason that they had

to stop using the New Holland telehandlers was because of safety issues that the WSCC had brought forward.

To me, I am just trying to... . Again, I am concerned and worried about the safety of our people in the communities who aren’t properly trained on these pieces of equipment, which you say are simple, but if there is someone who ends up being hurt, who is ultimately responsible? Would it be the Nunavut Housing Corporation for not training them or would it be the local housing authorities for not training them? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Curley.

**Hon. Tagak Curley:** Thank you. I appreciate the member’s passionate concern about safety, but I think the industry is way ahead of you, hon. member. Most contractors and maintenance groups are required to have a safety committee. The safety committee members within these organizations, including even the staff of this Assembly have such a safety committee, are normally required to meet every so often, particularly when construction is going on, weekly meetings at least or more, if all possible.

I am not talking about this particular type of telehandler or this versus that one; I am just speaking in general. These are not complicated. They are no more complicated than running a CAT. If he is trying to indicate to me that particular brand of telehandler is worse than the other one, we would love to have that because if there are more stringent training requirements, sure they will be made. By and large, those licensed operators, particularly the heavy



equipment operators, who have a licence to operate such a class of vehicles, very quickly are able to... .

Safety is number one that we're not going to compromise. Our project managers are well informed of those because they are required to make sure the contractors abide by safety regulations, and we're not about to compromise on those principles. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't think Mr. Curley answered my question that I was asking.

Again, by spending time on some of the sites where the Nunavut Housing Trust is going on, I realize they do have health and safety meetings, and I think that is great, but we are turning these telehandlers over to the local housing authorities. I am not judging which telehandler was better and which telehandler wasn't, I am just saying that these are very technical pieces of machinery that have to be balanced in a certain way. If you lift too much when the arm is extended, it falls over and people could be hurt.

I am just thinking too ahead that, say a local housing authority says, "We want to do some safety training and teach our employees how to use these telehandlers properly," and the local housing authority goes to the Nunavut Housing Corporation and asks for money. Again, since we had to find \$60 million already and we are going to have to find \$50 million more, there is no money to do training to use these because the money has been over-committed. My concern is

that people will be using these machines without the proper training to use them.

Again my question is: if someone is hurt using one of these pieces of machinery, will it be the responsibility of the local housing authority or will it be the responsibility of the Nunavut Housing Corporation? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Curley.

**Hon. Tagak Curley:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the member's passionate, and I am assuming he is passionate, concern about that. I don't want to speculate that an accident will happen operating this type of unit. There may be a number of other incidents where accidents will occur but, to me, it's hypothetical right now.

Safety is the number one aspect of any major construction or project that involves a heavy technical aspect. We will not compromise on that. The corporation has a number of programs and it has instituted part of the safety provisions in it, and so on. Very basic training provisions can be beefed up without elaborately establishing complex training provisions.

To answer further to the details, I'll have Mr. Barriault respond to that. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Barriault:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Nunavut Housing Corporation has developed some standard operating procedures and safety regulations for the use of this equipment. We have developed these in consultation

with WSCC to ensure it meets with their requirements.

As the member has noted, there are some things that operators have to keep in mind, including tipping points, for example, on this equipment. Likewise, with any equipment used by LHO staff or Housing Corporation staff, the operators have to be aware of the limitations of whatever the equipment is, whether it's a circular saw or whether it's a telehandler.

In terms of occupational health and safety responsibility, that is a shared responsibility under the *Safety Act* of Nunavut. So we will be working closely with our LHOs to ensure that all equipment is operated safely and that no one is operating the equipment unless they are qualified to do so. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under the statement of expenditures for the Nunavut Housing Trust, April 1 of 2006 to February 28, 2010, on page 1 for the breakdown of expenditures under other, there is \$5,651,000 that was grouped under that category. Could the minister expand on what expenses fell under that category? Thank you.

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

**Mr. Barriault:** I will give her that.

**Chairman:** Ms. Kimball.

**Ms. Kimball:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Other includes some miscellaneous costs. In some cases, there was capitalized labour from the district offices on things like site supervision

and that sort of thing. So miscellaneous is just a bunch of miscellaneous items. Going forward, as we're tracking things under SIP, we're ensuring that other is used less and that things be properly classified between labour and material, so some of it is encoding issues as well with NHT. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that explanation. Going back to the training, the minister was mentioning the idea of hiring someone to work together to coordinate all of the apprentices and keep track of what level they're at and what training they need to do. For the Nunavut Housing Trust and Affordable Housing Initiative, was someone hired in a position to help with paperwork or liaison between Nunavut Arctic College and the Department of Education to assist with getting the apprentices through their apprenticeships? Thank you.

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

**Mr. Barriault:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With the Nunavut Housing Trust, the main thing that the Nunavut Housing Corporation provided was opportunity. We sponsored some training programs through Nunavut Arctic College and we put in some requirements for Inuit content within the labour contracts that were issued. From there, the tracking of apprentices continued to be through the Department of Education, through the registrar and the apprentices.

There were staff within the Housing Corporation who were involved doing liaison with the Nunavut Arctic College.

However, reports which were produced trying to use their own data were proven to be unreliable as the actual tracking and logging of hours were done through the Department of Education. As such, moving forward, we had to rely on the Department of Education to track those numbers, so those numbers are not registered with us.

The apprentices were not Nunavut Housing Corporation employees but, in fact, employees of the contractors performing the work. The main tracking of their hours was through their process of logging their hours with the Apprenticeship Division of the Department of Education. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In terms of the expenses for the Nunavut Housing Trust, obviously from the report, the materials were the highest. The most dollar value was spent on the actual materials purchased. I was wondering if the minister could explain exactly how materials were purchased in the past and how materials are purchased now to give us an idea of what has changed within your corporation to ensure that “misordering”... . Again I go back to the first year. I remember a lot of materials were not on the ship and a lot of the materials were flown up. What controls are in place? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Curley.

**Hon. Tagak Curley:** Thank you. Again, to be honest and fair with the committee, it was very difficult to account for some mistakes that were made by the previous administration, in 2006 to be exact and 2007, where multiple number of

mismanagement started to occur, particularly with the starting of the logistics contracts and marshalling contracts.

There was a tender at that time that changed the whole northern owned companies. They had to be taken out of the contract because they weren't delivering anything and there were massive confusion going on. When that transfer occurred, there were a number of very serious, costly involved, moves to re-tender and as a result, moved down to Ontario.

From what I understood, sitting from the other side at that time, for instance, the procurement side of the corporation, when I was sitting at that side at that time, it was much more independently ordering tenders right across the county, instead of maybe entering into using some of the larger suppliers for materials. Therefore, the massive confusion occurred because they were independently shipped to Ontario and that contributed, I think, to a number of delays.

What exactly happened with the 2007 mix-up really requires, I think, much more study in my view, but Mr. Barriault may have some knowledge of it and, if so, he can explain what he knows about that. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Barriault:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, as Mr. Curley has noted, I'll be commenting based on what I have been able to ascertain as most of these practices occurred before I began with the corporation here in this capacity.

As best as I can understand it, the intention with marshalling had been to reduce costs towards the Housing Corporation or housing trust delivery. By purchasing materials, such as drywall or plywood, directly from manufacturers of those products, so tendering for those and then breaking them down in bulk through the marshaller afterwards, the expectation had been that cost savings would be realized, as opposed to purchasing these materials from general material suppliers who were adding their costs and mark-ups, and so on.

It created a complicated supply chain. Some of the materials which were being delivered, pre-packaged by house, were also going through the marshallers. That is a practice which we stopped for this last year of delivery. So materials pre-packaged by house, by community, were delivered directly to the docks rather than through the marshallers.

So the general practice for material purchasing was to go to public tender and to break it down by commodity groups. The only exception to this was to sole source with manufacturers who were the only known manufacturer of certain products. One example of that are the Triodetic space frame foundations, which has only one manufacturer. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In terms of doing business differently, I guess one of the things we're trying to determine is whether there has been adequate change within the structure, the ordering, and the handling of the Nunavut Housing Corporation so that we don't incur any more overspending.

Could you sort of speak to what has changed to ensure that this doesn't happen again now, today? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Curley.

**Hon. Tagak Curley:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again I want to be fair to the member, but these are technical issues and being a non-technical politician, sometimes it's really quite typical to get a clear picture and understanding. It takes a lot of time and practise.

I know that when we are busy with the infrastructure projects, there are companies that specialize in bulk buying. They have the purchasing power that can reduce the number of materials, instead of going to some of the manufacturers, as some of the previous managers did, which can add up to thousands of manufacturers, instead of going to some of the larger independent suppliers that may have access to various types of material. They, in a sense, cut down lot of this middleman and middle-managed groups here and there to simplify shipping as well as the marshalling.

So that may be one route to go, but certainly the corporation will have time because we don't have any major commitments now other than completing all of these units that are out in Nunavut communities. So once all of the restructuring as well as the financial controls are stabilized, that is something the management is going to be charged with.

How best to present the best delivery and procurement is number one that is going to have to be evaluated and assessed properly. It should be better

simplified and make it more cost-effective for the corporation. There will be options, no doubt, discussed not only by the corporation management but as well as the cabinet. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm not quite sure. Is the minister saying that nothing has been changed or that I'm too simple to understand the changes that are being made? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Curley.

**Hon. Tagak Curley** (interpretation): Perhaps if I speak directly to the member in Inuktitut, then he can grasp the meaning behind my previous statement. I am unsure as to whether he understands since I spoke largely in technical terms, but the terms are hard to grasp for the average layperson. If the member wants to learn about the industry, then he will have to learn about all of the aspects of the construction industry and not just the corporation's practices as it relates to housing.

At this time, with the materials already shipped to the communities, we can no longer buy materials in bulk since we do not even have 100 or even 20 new units to be constructed. All of the materials have been shipped to the communities.

I think he understands Inuktitut, so I am trying to tell the member that this is what we have to take into consideration, especially if we do not want to repeat our mistakes in the past, which exacerbated the overall costs. We will have to review our options and look at our alternatives as a corporation. They will have to carefully review the issues

that caused this. Once these issues have been resolved, we will make them available.

I hope that he can understand me. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** It is, Mr. Chairman, and I thank you for that explanation. Again, the corporation has had four years to think about and determine what the best way is to fix some of the problems we have within the corporation in terms of purchasing and over-committing money. I would have hoped that after four years, there would be at least one example that could be explained as to a change in the way things are being done to ensure that more money is not over-committed to projects, whether they are \$100 million projects or \$200,000 projects. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Going back to 2007, the Auditor General of Canada reported that there were some problems within the Nunavut Housing Corporation in terms of staff and human resource capacity issues. At that time, did the administration of the day mention to cabinet or request an increase in the number of PYs to be able to help combat some of the problems that they may have foreseen? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Curley.

**Hon. Tagak Curley:** Thank you. The hon. member must be kidding in asking me to account for the previous administration as well as the president,

who can no longer explain exactly that here.

But I think there have been, over time, a steady number of increments to technical, particularly the district offices. In terms of exact numbers, the project team requires additional help, yes. I think we have at least three regions and from time to time, there are times they require more personnel in a number of project delivery groups.

Mr. Barriault has probably read up on the history and he can explain what the difference is from that time on to date. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Barriault:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. From my knowledge, the previous minister had approached cabinet and had obtained approval to create 14 new term positions to assist in the delivery of the Nunavut Housing Trust. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that answer. If there is no corporate history of what has happened over the last four years, then maybe we are in trouble because there should be some briefing notes or something. Even though the former president is not around, there should be some documents, briefing notes, and I am sure Mr. Barriault must have gotten some type of a binder when he came in.

Of those 14 term positions, were any of them filled or was the money not allocated from cabinet to be able to fill them? Thank you.

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

**Mr. Barriault:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As with all GN positions, there have been some challenges in filling positions, but a number of these positions have been filled and some have since been vacated and then refilled. So it is an ongoing process. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Your time is up here. Anybody else have any questions? I'll use discretion as Chairman, I'll give you a little more time there, Elliott, but hopefully you won't be another 10 minutes. Thank you. Mr. Elliott.

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for allowing me to continue. I just find that as I ask more questions, there are more answers that I want to know. Again, we're talking about \$110 million, of which we already found \$60 million and now we're going to find \$50 more million. I want to be able to go home and look my constituents in the face and be able to tell them, "Don't worry. We won't be over-committing anymore to these projects." It seems like when we come back and sit down and try to do business at the House, we're being told that we need to find extra money in places where budgets are already stretched. I know other ministers have said that they really can't find any more money within their budgets and I don't want to see programs suffer.

Of the 14 positions, you mentioned that some of them were filled and you also mentioned that they were terms. Mr. Curley has already mentioned that no more big sums of money are coming from places. Are these term positions being cut and when is the term over for these? Thank you.

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

**Mr. Barriault:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The original terms will expire at the end of this fiscal year and we have extended some of them already. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And we will basically monitor what our staffing levels are in the districts and what the needs are. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If we follow what Mr. Curley had said about no more large sums of money would be needed and we don't need to worry about ordering lots of more materials, why do we still need these positions? What are we using to justify these positions if they were initially term? If we don't have anymore burden on the human capacity level within the Nunavut Housing Corporation, why do we need these positions? What's the justification? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Curley.

**Hon. Tagak Curley:** Thank you. Mr. Chairman, I just want the hon. member to quote my statements in the context of what I was saying. I was talking about material shipment, whether or not we would have a large volume of material shipments and ordering materials because he was asking questions about procurement issues. My response to that was that we don't have large commitments now where we need to purchase a huge bulk of procurement materials to build units or houses. We're occupied right now in completing the units which the materials had been sent to communities.

In terms of these 14 positions or whatnot, who, in my view, are technical in nature, I'll have Mr. Barriault respond to that. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Barriault:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As Minister Curley has noted for the 285 new affordable housing units, the material has been delivered and only a number of labour contracts have been issued to date. So construction will continue into 2011 and that's why we would need the positions. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that answer. I read the *Hansard*, and sometimes I feel like a hamster in a running mill going round and round in terms of questions and whatnot.

I'm still trying to find clarification and some support for me to feel confident that there have been significant or sufficient changes with the Nunavut Housing Corporation to ensure that we're not going to have any more over-contribution. I know, when there was an announcement about the over-contribution, there was a bit of reorganization in terms of the structure of how the corporation works.

Could the minister or Mr. Barriault expand on what types of activities the corporation will undergo in terms of changes to the structure? Is there going to be a board of directors established? I know the Deputy Minister of CGS is on some type of a committee to help bring things back on line. So if you could expand on that. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Curley.

**Hon. Tagak Curley:** Thank you. Mr. Chairman, I was reading the hon. member's quote from CBC the other day that if we follow his line of thinking with that amount of money, we should have 286. In a sense, he is saying that we should have 286 more units. Really that would be over-committing more, particularly with the values of costs per unit that the corporation, the corporation of the day, and the minister of the day used for the Nunavut Housing Trust. Really, if the figures were correct at that time, we should have been building a lot less than 200 units for the amount of money that the feds gave. So I think he has an obligation to correct his statement to Nunavutmiut because that's totally misleading.

In two instances, the Auditor General indicated that not only the capacity issues of the Nunavut Housing Corporation in terms of management should be addressed; I noted that the committee had not specifically ever quoted the Auditor General's reference to governance issues that may have to be fixed. So, in that view, I think we have quite an important signal from the Auditor General of Canada to an obligation as a government to ensure there are checks and balances established. We need to address that governance issue.

Cabinet has not finalized any plans in terms of the details yet. That is something that I, as the minister, am committed to presenting them. There will be a number of options that will have to be debated. As I said to the committee in one of my responses, status quo remains an option.

In terms of CGS having a management advisory role as a member of the executive committee, the deputy minister, yes, she is on that, but that is allowed within the current legislative mandate of the Housing Corporation. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, that was one of the... . In terms of the government's response to how it was handling the over-commitment, it was to have a bit of oversight by the deputy minister from CGS. How valuable was her assistance and how many meetings did you actually have where she was involved? Thank you.

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

**Mr. Barriault:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just to clarify, the intent of the ex officio capacity of the Deputy Minister of CGS was to allow for more formalized sharing of resources. This was not intended as an oversight position. So this is basically recognizing the fact that the Nunavut Housing Corporation and Community and Government Services are the two largest contracting authorities within government. As such, we can share resources and share best practices, and that was the intent of that appointment.

We have regular corporate executive committee meetings. Ms. Lausman, as the CGS deputy minister, has attended a number of those. We've had separate meetings as well just to discuss ways that we can combine resources and make best use of our combined resources. Thank you.



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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm just wondering if Mr. Barriault could expand on what are some of the best practices from other departments that his corporation has now adopted by having Ms. Lausman on the committee. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Barriault:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. More than anything, the benefits that we are gaining through this closer working tie is basically to synchronize our activities. So we are looking at means of being able to share inspection services, for example, and also trying to better coordinate some of the mandatory inspections on our work sites.

For example, electrical inspections and boiler inspections are done through the Safety Division of Community and Government Services. We are trying to synchronize a bit better what our contractor schedules are to ensure that scheduling of their limited resources as well for these inspections can be best laid out to accommodate our needs as well as their needs.

In some cases, as I believe I noted earlier, we have obtained the services of Community and Government Services to provide some tendering for us where we have been short in capacity in the district offices. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The minister had mentioned some of the possible changes to the structuring of the

Nunavut Housing Corporation. They are looking at different options and he alluded to the fact that the status quo might stay the same. He said that these matters are before cabinet. Could he tell us when cabinet would be making a decision as to what changes would be coming? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Curley.

**Hon. Tagak Curley:** Thank you. I don't want to keep correcting the hon. member. I say that status quo remains one of the options; there may be ten options. So it will take tremendous will to make any changes. There will have to be passionate will by my colleagues to carry on with the status quo. All of them have to be put on the table and it's something that I will do.

I indicated early during last week that the scheduling is one that is delaying some of these decisions. The cabinet will consider which route that it wishes to pursue in terms of the corporate governance structure once we are freed up with some of the events that are happening. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In regard to NNI bonuses given out to companies that were doing construction in the communities, how closely were these monitored and followed up on before payments were actually made for their participation in the NNI? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Curley.

**Hon. Tagak Curley:** Thank you. I think we have to understand that the NNI

Policy, as it is currently structured, has created a number of very clear obligations of the contractor. Once you buy into that, you are obligated to honour those provisions. Therefore, the bonus system is one of them and I'll let Mr. Barriault explain exactly how that works.

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

**Mr. Barriault:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can't really comment on what may have occurred in terms of evaluating NNI bonuses and penalties in the past, only that since I have been here as president, there is a requirement that the contract obligations are followed as described in the NNI appendix to the contracts as well as to the general conditions.

Part of that process involves obtaining from contractors evidence of what they are claiming. So, generally, NNI bonuses are available to contractors who can demonstrate that they have exceeded the contractually required Inuit content. There are also provisions within the policies for penalties to be issued when these commitments are not met. So these are evaluated using documented, substantiated numbers. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Could the minister commit to providing us at some later date a breakdown in terms of... ? I know, in conversations, we've already had the labour costs. I would really like to know how much of the money that went to labour is actually staying in Nunavut. By the breakdown, I was hoping if I could get the costs of the apprentices and what they were paid as

opposed to then the breakdown of what southern hires were paid. If I remember correctly... but I guess I will ask this as a question. The flights in and out of the communities, the hotels, and the per diems are all lumped under labour? Is that correct?

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Curley.

**Hon. Tagak Curley:** Thank you. Again that question begs a question to me. Does he want the information before the Affordable Housing Initiative and the SIP units are completed or after they are completed? I would think that once they are completed, it will be a lot more accurate, to be honest with you.

When talking about the expenditures, the unqualified Nunavut housing statement of expenditures by the auditor, in terms of expenditures, summarized the figures as follows: labour, \$84,252,000; materials, \$104,590,000. I find it completely shocking to have that amount of labour costs, so something must be going on. I would think the majority of these involve imported labour.

For that reason, my concern needs to be clarified, whether he wants that information after the units of the Affordable Housing Initiative are completed or does he want it for the previous years. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again I don't want to overburden the Nunavut Housing Corporation, but let's just go with the Nunavut Housing Trust from April 1, 2006 to February 2010. Since there is that dollar figure of \$84,252,000, if I could have the minister

commit to provide the committee with a breakdown of what dollar amount went to apprentices, which I'm assuming are the majority of the northern hire, and the imported labour, as the minister has another dollar value, and what was broken down for flights. The other one would be per diems, if they could be broken down that way. Yes, just for this Nunavut Housing Trust. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Curley.

**Hon. Tagak Curley:** Mr. Chairman, we certainly can try to provide the best information possible, but to actually commit to breaking them down, really, with the accounting jobs that are really getting quite complicated and resources that are limited right now, it's really, in my view, redundant to try and break what the auditors have already stated over-commitment. Therefore, I think we need to move on to try and correct the challenges we have. They have been identified and they have been responded to.

Recommendations from the auditor are really quite extensive. They continue to monitor some of the changes that they recommended, whether, in fact, they are working or not. These are the priorities that I would like to spend time with to try and dig into them further to break them down, perhaps even to local labour content, which the member doesn't want. He really boggles my mind.

So we will do our part in providing additional information. Whether or not we would do it in the language he wants in detail, I am not prepared to make that commitment in full, but we will try to honour as much as we can with the information we have. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Curley. I have no more names on my list. Mr. Ningeongan.

**Mr. Ningeongan:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wish to make some closing comments on behalf of the Regular Members' Caucus as the Co-Chair.

I think that it is very obvious that members have many more questions on the issues surrounding the \$60 million shortfall in the Nunavut Housing Trust, not to mention the \$50 million shortfall in the Affordable Housing Initiative. We are still looking for clear answers as to why the accounting firm staff did not travel to Nunavut in the course of its work and why they did not attempt to interview former executives and employees of the Nunavut Housing Corporation, who made many of the decisions that lead us down the path to the situation that we find ourselves here today.

When the House reconvenes for the winter sitting in February, these documents will still be on the order paper. Mr. Chairman, I am also hopeful that the next few months will provide time for the Nunavut Housing Corporation to develop a concrete and detailed action plan to address the recommendations in the review report. I would hope that the minister will table this on the first day of our winter sitting. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. I think we have concluded our Committee of the Whole meeting here. I would like to thank the minister and his officials. Do you have any closing comments?

**Hon. Tagak Curley:** Thank you. I think a lot of contributions have been suggested by members. This is a real challenging situation, one of which, I think, has been assessed from every angle. No doubt, we have, from the government side, the corporate staff as well as the finance department's colleagues, particularly Keith Peterson's department, is also having advisory as well as an oversight through our budgeting process as it continues to be implemented.

I can honestly say to you that we appreciate the comments that have been made and where we are obligated to provide more information, we will do so. I think, in some cases, we are ahead in some areas, but it is not for me to determine whether it is sufficient or not. In time, I think we will demonstrate, with the help of the auditors as well as the oversight that currently exists, that we will get this corporate situation to where it should be.

I want to thank you, Mr. Chairman, for giving me an opportunity to have a say in here. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. I would also like to thank you and your officials there for answering some tough questions which some of the members have brought forward. Would the Sergeant-at-Arms please escort the minister and witnesses out.

Mr. Ningeongan.

**Mr. Ningeongan:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to move a motion to report progress.

**Chairman:** We have a motion on the floor to report progress and the motion is not debatable. All those in favour. All those opposed. The motion is carried. I will now 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 44, 45, and 46, and Tabled Documents 207 – 3(2), 209 – 3(2), 210 – 3(2), and 212 – 3(2), and would like to report that Bills 44, 45, and 46 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. Peterson. The motion is in order. All in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried.

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

### **Item 21: Third Reading of Bills**

#### **Bill 44 – An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act – 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 44, *An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act*, 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. Opposed. The motion is carried.

Third Reading of Bills. Hon. Keith Peterson.

**Bill 45 – An Act to Amend the Labour Standards Act (Minimum Wage) – 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 45, *An Act to Amend the Labour Standards Act (Minimum Wage)*, 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 46 – An Act to Amend the Senior Citizens and Disabled Persons Property Tax Relief Act – 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 46, *An Act to Amend the Senior Citizens and Disabled Persons Property Tax Relief Act*, 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. Opposed. The motion is carried.

Third Reading of Bills. Before we proceed further, Mr. Clerk, will you ascertain if the Commissioner of Nunavut is prepared to enter the Chambers to give assent to bills.

**Assent to Bills**

**Bill 35 – Licensed Practical Nurses Act – Assent**

**Bill 37 – Tobacco Damages and Health Care Costs Recovery Act – Assent**

**Bill 38 – Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2011-2012 – Assent**

**Bill 39 – Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 3, 2009-2010 – Assent**

**Bill 40 – Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 3, 2010-2011 – Assent**

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

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

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

**Bill 44 – An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act – Assent**

**Bill 45 – An Act to Amend the Labour Standards Act (Minimum Wage) – Assent**

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

**Commissioner Edna Elias**

(interpretation): As Commissioner of Nunavut, I am pleased to give assent to the following bills: (interpretation ends)

- Bill 35, *Licensed Practical Nurses Act*;
- Bill 37, *Tobacco Damages and Health Care Costs Recovery Act*;
- Bill 38, *Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2011-2012*;
- Bill 39, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 3, 2009-2010*;
- Bill 40, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 3, 2010-2011*;
- Bill 41, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 3, 2010-2011*;
- Bill 42, *Forgiveness of Debts Act, 2010, No. 2*;
- Bill 43, *Write-Off of Assets Act, 2010-2011*;
- Bill 44, *An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act*;
- Bill 45, *An Act to Amend the Labour Standards Act (Minimum Wage)*; and
- Bill 46, *An Act to Amend the Senior Citizens and Disabled Persons Property Tax Relief Act*.

(interpretation) As you conclude your work here and prepare to return to your families and communities, I wish you all a safe journey home. If I don't see you before you leave, I would like to thank you and wish you a very Merry Christmas and keep in mind the spirit and intent of the Christmas season. Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Please be seated. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Commissioner. Item 22. *Orders of the Day*. Mr. Clerk.

**Item 22: Orders of the Day**

**Clerk** (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A reminder that there is a meeting of the Full Caucus tomorrow morning at nine o'clock.

*Orders of the Day* for February 22, 2011:

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 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
  - 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
22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. In accordance with the authority provided to me by Motion 30 – 3(2), this House stands adjourned until Tuesday, February 22, 2011, at 1:30 p.m.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 18:16*

