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Iqaluit

Speaker: The Honourable Paul Okalik, M.L.A.

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Speaker

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(Iqaluit West)

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(Iqaluit East)

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Adamee Komoartok

(Pangnirtung)

Hon. Lorne Kusugak

(Rankin Inlet South – Whale Cove)
Government House Leader; Minister of Community and Government Services; Minister of Energy; Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation

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(South Baffin)

Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk

(Arviat)

Minister of Environment; Minister responsible for the Nunavut Arctic College

Hon. James Arreak

(Uqqummiut)

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

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Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole

Hon. Peter Taptuna

(Kugluktuk)

Deputy Premier; Minister of Economic Development and Transportation

James Arvaluk

(Tununiq)

Moses Aupaluktuq

(Baker Lake)

Hon. Keith Peterson

(Cambridge Bay)

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

Hon. Hunter Tootoo

(Iqaluit Centre)

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

Hon. Tagak Curley

(Rankin Inlet North)

Minister of Health and Social Services; Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation; Minister responsible for Homelessness

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Iqaluit, Nunavut
Monday, February 28, 2011

Members Present:

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

Item 1: Opening Prayer

Speaker (Hon. Paul Okalik) (interpretation): Thank you, Sergeant-at-Arms. On this special day, we would like Reverend Mike Gardener to say the opening prayer. Please proceed.

>>Prayer

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Reverend. Good day. Following our orders of the day, we can now go to the next item on the list and I would like our Commissioner to enter the Chambers to make her statements. Clerk, if you could go and get the Commissioner, I will be grateful. Thank you.

Item 2: Opening Address

Commissioner Edna Elias (interpretation): Please be seated. Welcome everyone. This comprises my very first Opening Address in the Commissioner's Chair. For this speech, I will be speaking in my dialect since we rarely hear Inuinnaqtun in these proceedings. Furthermore, if my father happens to be viewing this on television,

he will be grateful to hear his dialect in Kugluktuk.

Mr. Speaker, Members of the Legislative Assembly, elders, Premier, and honoured guests, I am very pleased today to welcome you to the Third Session of the Third Legislative Assembly of Nunavut.

On April 1, 2009, our entire territory celebrated the 10 years since Nunavut came into existence. The last Commissioner's Address was delivered on that day and this government joined by this Assembly is and has been dedicated to the commitments made in that speech to:

- continue to focus on existing priorities,
- conduct the report card review,
- reinforce the use of Inuit societal values as guiding principles of the government, and
- implement new initiatives to strive for the vision under *Tamapta: Building Our Future Together*.

At the same time, the Government of Nunavut developed the *Tamapta* vision for 2030. That vision was based on who we are, what we have accomplished, and our dedication to do what it takes during the next 20 years to achieve that vision; a dedication we hope will be shared by future governments. In a month from now, we will have completed two of those 20 years. Progress has been made, challenges have been met head on, and the Government of Nunavut, led by its Premier, has a clear roadmap for the next two years.

The government's commitment to *Tamapta's* vision remains as strong

today as it was two years ago. Guided by Inuit values and culture, along with dedication, focus, and hard work, by the year 2030, Nunavummiut will have a much better standard of living, especially for those most in need. Individuals and families will be active, healthy, and happy. Communities will be self-reliant, with less dependence on government. It is through the achievement of this vision that Nunavut will be recognized for our unique culture, our ability to help one another, and our contributions to Canada and the world.

Nunavut is truly “our land” and our land is part of Canada. We are committed to the Canadian federation. It is important that Nunavummiut and this territorial government work side by side with the Canadian government on sovereignty issues to maintain our proud place as Canada’s most northern territory.

The government, with input from all Members of this Assembly, used the feedback from Nunavummiut in the *Qanukkanniq* Report Card to develop the *Tamapta* Action Plan in December 2009. The action plan outlines the steps to be taken to move towards achieving our vision. Since then, progress has been made in many areas.

- Nunavummiut earning minimum wage saw an increase in their paycheques starting January 1, 2011, when minimum wage jumped 10 percent from \$10 to \$11 an hour, the highest in Canada; a first step towards poverty reduction.
- More than 100 elders have had someone to talk to when they faced challenges, threats, or problems since the launch of the elders support phone line in 2009.
- 230 Nunavummiut have taken part in suicide intervention training delivered by Nunavummiut through *Uqaqatigiilluk*, an important first step on the road to providing in-territory mental health services.
- The launch of the social services review last fall was truly an exercise in effecting change starting at the community level. Partnering with elders, Inuit organizations, and professionals, this government engaged a broad sector of Nunavummiut in the review of the *Child and Family Services Act*. We will see the outcome of that review at the spring sitting of the Legislative Assembly.
- During the past two years, we have witnessed 21 Nunavummiut receiving their Master of Education degree and 10 graduating from the Inuit Maternity Care Program. The Nunavut Trade School and the Piqqusilirivvik Cultural Learning Facility will provide amazing opportunities not previously available in our territory.
- We have seen substantial increases to the number of turbot that commercial fishing boats can fish, successfully fought an attempt to put polar bears on the endangered species list, and are continuing to actively support the sealing industry which is so important to Nunavut.
- The Inuit Language Standardization Symposium hosted by the Minister of Languages through *Inuit*

Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit has provided the foundation for the ongoing work of individuals, government, Inuit organizations, and businesses to implement our legislation to protect the Inuit language.

- Remaining dedicated to completing the previous government's projects and maintaining a focus on care closer to home, this government has witnessed the opening of Nunavut's first women's corrections facility, providing in-territory services, a new medical boarding home in Iqaluit, continuing care centres in Gjoa Haven and Igloodik, and operational health centres in Rankin Inlet and Pangnirtung.
- Nunavut has joined the Climate Change Registry and is working on detailed action plans to implement a climate change adaptation plan.
- We have RCMP members posted to our communities for four years at a time, not two, a new Arctic Bay Airport, integrated community sustainability plans, and a Nunavut arts and crafts brand that is gaining recognition worldwide.

The Government of Nunavut cannot and did not make this progress alone.

Nunavummiut in all of our communities, in all sectors, of every gender, and of every age were instrumental in making these successes achievable within our limited financial resources. Our people are our biggest strength and our most important asset.

All of this government's priorities have been deliberately chosen to build a

foundation for the future of Nunavut, a future that is built on solid ground. What is the source of this solid ground? Our people; it is the 33,000 resilient Nunavummiut who hold our shared future in their hands.

Our land is rich in natural resources, particularly in minerals and petroleum. Currently it is estimated that the undiscovered resources in Nunavut equal 25 percent of Canada's crude oil resources and 34 percent of Canada's natural gas resources.

Currently the federal government controls the revenue generated from developed Crown lands in Nunavut. Devolution of authority for land management from the federal government to the territorial government is essential if Nunavummiut are to be truly self-reliant and the beneficiaries of future economic growth of mining and exploration in Nunavut.

It is important for the government to balance the economic benefits of mining with the health and safety of our people, land, and environment. With uranium being one area of current mining focus, the government will be developing its position on uranium once it hears what Nunavummiut have to say on the issue during public forums starting next month.

Increased number of consultation is just one of the ways that this government has improved its dialogue with Nunavummiut. The new Government of Nunavut website was launched last fall and has already been visited over 40,000 times by people looking for current and accurate information about government services and staff. Another significant

step forward in communication is the establishment of the Government Liaison program. Government liaison officers will be in every community and will be the link for information not only to Nunavummiut but also from Nunavummiut.

The government has a clear roadmap for how we will support efforts of Nunavummiut over the coming years. This government will put special focus on children and youth, poverty reduction, community self-reliance, housing, and capital projects as its highest priorities from now until 2013.

Nunavummiut are graduating from post-secondary programs in numbers unheard of a few short years ago. Our children and youth need a good start in life and we must therefore focus on early childhood development and daycare. We must all continue to encourage students to attend school daily, to engage in learning, to graduate from high school, and to strive for higher education.

Nunavut's governments, organizations, and private businesses need the skills, knowledge, and commitment of today's youth to run our territory in the future. Strive to succeed, to become independent from your parents, to be a contributing member of your community, whether that be as an artist, government executive, counsellor, technician, store clerk, doctor, or hunter who regularly fills the community freezer. Do what you can to make Nunavut strong, and government will ensure that opportunities to train and learn remain available for Nunavummiut of all ages.

More Nunavummiut are better able to support not only their immediate family, but contribute to the wealth of their communities as well. This government will partner with our communities to reduce poverty for those who have difficulty meeting their basic needs. The answers to reducing poverty will be found through true public engagement, which involves all stakeholders participating in decisions and actions.

There are many aspects of poverty, but there is one that can be addressed without delay: food insecurity. One-third of Nunavut households face problems with food quantity and quality. We will help communities to respond to this problem by supporting the distribution of country food, launching a program to help municipalities upgrade, repair, or replace their community freezers and encouraging hunters to fill them for the common good.

Nunavummiut are being empowered to shape the future of Nunavut by being asked for input and participate in many decisions on issues being considered by this government. This empowerment will lead communities and Nunavummiut in becoming more self-reliant. This government will invest in communities to increase their self-reliance. Nunavut will be closer to its vision if its communities are able to rely on their own resources. Through training and increased funding for mobile equipment and other infrastructure, each community will grow stronger. This in turn makes a stronger Nunavut.

As land and building supplies become available, more Nunavummiut are becoming homeowners, while others are managing to rent housing that is

appropriate to their family size. However, there are many who are working hard to meet other basic needs and will require assistance with housing over the coming years, especially as our young population grows and the pressures on housing threaten to multiply. The housing survey completed last summer provides a critical planning tool in our pursuit of additional housing resources. This government is committed to making sure that the Nunavut Housing Corporation is equipped to complete the construction of the public housing units already committed. Over the long term, we are dedicated to addressing overcrowding and hidden homelessness in Nunavut.

Nunavummiut are contributing to the construction of our infrastructure on a daily basis through construction projects across our territory. This government will bring clear focus to our large capital projects, such as airports, so that we can select projects that offer the greatest potential to build Nunavut's economy and finance these projects in cooperation with the federal government and the private sector while taking into consideration our limited resources.

These five objectives centre entirely on the development of Nunavummiut. Our people wish to succeed in our modern world without losing our culture and traditions. Already, there are many highly successful Nunavummiut. We will focus our finite resources and endless abilities on the challenge of preparing more Nunavummiut to excel as the economy grows. By focusing on these objectives, we make their attainment ever more possible and our advancement toward our *Tamapta* vision more significant.

Members of the Third Legislative Assembly, all of you have a role to play in helping Nunavummiut succeed. Tomorrow you will be invited by the Minister of Finance to consider his budgetary proposals to allocate resources among government departments in support of these objectives and the public agenda. You will recognize in his budget, despite the fiscal pressures this government faces, that the priorities of this government are reflected in the financial plans and in the detailed work plans of the various departments and agencies.

There is no denying that the current fiscal situation is tight to the point where the Minister of Finance will need to introduce a deficit budget to ensure that programs and services can continue to be delivered. This will require an even closer look at the government's structure and processes to ensure that everything is streamlined for best efficiency and effectiveness. By moving forward with necessary changes over the coming year, the government will improve its efficiency and reduce the likelihood of deficit in future years.

Much of the government's work over the past year has been focused on further refining its policies, process, and plans. The next two years will see the implementation of this work. For example, we eagerly await the results of the social services review, which will no doubt lead to much improvement in the provision of child protection services and the *Child and Family Services Act*.

The Government of Nunavut has plans to develop a Public Health Act, a Public Service Act, and legislation to create a child and youth representative over the

coming years. All Members of this Assembly will have a significant role to play in reviewing these legislative initiatives in detail over the coming years to ensure they meet the needs of our territory and our people.

As Commissioner, it is my hope that the next two years will see great activity at every level and by every person in reaching the *Tamapta* vision. Neither Nunavut nor the *Tamapta* Mandate is primarily about government; it is about the collective hopes of Nunavummiut and a vision for our territory and its people in the year 2030. Government will play a leading role, but our hope for Nunavut's vibrant future rests with the success that will come when each person has the opportunity and desire to pursue their dreams. Believe in Nunavut, believe in yourselves.

I now declare open the Third Session of the Third Legislative Assembly. I invite everyone present today to join me for a reception in the lobby of the Assembly. Thank you.

>>*Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Please be seated. Thank you. I believe we are scheduled to have a short break. We will take a break and return at 2:30 p.m. We will go have refreshments with the Commissioner.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

Thank you.

>>*House recessed at 14:11 and resumed at 14:44*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Sergeant-at-Arms. Good afternoon. Going back to the orders of the day. Ministers' Statements. Madam Premier.

Item 3: Ministers' Statements

Minister's Statement 001 – 3(3): Nunavut-Greenland Relations

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On Friday, myself and a small delegation from Nunavut met with the Premier of Greenland and a Greenlandic delegation to discuss the benefits of a scheduled air link between Iqaluit and Nuuk, Greenland.

(interpretation ends) Nunavut has so much in common with Kalaallit, the people of Greenland. We are neighbours geographically, sharing both language and culture.

Uqaqtittijii, as a government, we continue to nurture our relationship with Greenland and recognize the benefits of working with the Greenland government on a range of current issues.

The Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation between the Government of Greenland and the Government of Nunavut was signed back in 2000. We built on this momentum in 2005 with an agreement to manage our shared polar bear population and in 2006, we added an annex on trade. The Government of Nunavut continues to build on this Memorandum of Understanding in areas such as language standardization and development, as well as education.

There has been increased domestic and international interest in the Arctic. This

increased attention and development in the Arctic means that partnerships among arctic neighbours are very important. Policy and resulting action in the Arctic must be made by residents of the Arctic.

Mr. Speaker, recent activity between Nunavut and Greenland clearly demonstrates the potential between our jurisdictions. I look forward to increased bilateral relations in our areas of mutual interest.

An improved transportation link between our respective Inuit homelands would provide greater opportunities for cultural exchange. It would truly open our “Inuit Cultural Highway” between Greenland and Nunavut. I focused on the cultural, educational, and government advantages of an air link in my address to Greenland Premier Kleist.

Mr. Speaker, an air link will certainly foster Nunavut-Greenland relationships. I look forward to updating my colleagues on this potential opportunity as it develops. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers’ Statements. Minister of Finance.

**Minister’s Statement 002 – 3(3):
Notice of Budget Address**

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On behalf of the Government of Nunavut, I am pleased to notify this House that on Tuesday, March 1, 2011, I will introduce the 2011-12 budget. This budget will outline our government’s

financial priorities for the fiscal year 2011-12. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers’ Statements. Minister of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth.

Minister’s Statement 003 – 3(3): Inuit Identity Today Conference

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Before I start, I am very proud and happy that the Commissioner delivered her opening address in Inuinnaqtun, which was the very first time that somebody did that.

>>Applause

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to inform the House that the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth will be hosting a conference from March 1 to 3 in Iqaluit. The theme of the conference is “Inuit Identity Today.”

The Department of CLEY and the *Inuit Qaujimaqatuqangit Katimajit* will bring together elder and youth participants from across the territory. All communities have been invited and given the opportunity to send representatives to the conference.

In 2003, CLEY held an elders and youth conference with a theme on Inuit identity. In an effort to keep programming relevant and cultural approaches to identity at the forefront, the 2011 conference aims to find out from elders and youth how they define Inuit identity in the context of such issues as:

- Family relations,
- Parenting,
- Spouse/relationship,
- Suicide prevention, and
- Traditional laws and rules.

The Department of CLEY hopes to learn from the participants on how they can be better supported through programming. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation.

**Minister's Statement 004 – 3(3): 2011
Canada's North Marketing
Campaign**

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Following up on the success of Canada's Northern House, I am pleased to inform the Members of this House that the territories are launching the 2011 Canada's North Marketing Campaign, which will highlight the territories to key Canadian markets to ensure that the tourism sector continues to be a strong economic generator today and into the future.

The 2011 Canada's North Marketing Campaign builds on the success of the 2007 Canada Winter Games and the 2010 Vancouver Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games marketing campaigns. The 2011 campaign will focus on television advertisements in our key target markets in Montreal, Toronto, Edmonton, Calgary, and Vancouver beginning in late March.

Mr. Speaker, Nunavut Tourism, with the support of my department, is the lead project manager for the pan-northern Marketing consortium that is supported by representatives from the Yukon and Northwest Territories. Nunavut's lead role will ensure that there is accurate and equal representation and promotion of Nunavut.

The three territories first collaborated in 2007 on the project *Look Up North*, which generated significant interest in the territories when southern Canadians saw the television ads about our communities, people, and attractions.

In 2010, we continued with our pan-northern marketing campaign during the Vancouver 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Games, which raised awareness about the uniqueness and splendour of the North in southern Canada and international markets. Canada's Northern House attracted more than 200,000 visitors during the 2010 Winter Games in Vancouver last year.

I would like to acknowledge the federal government's \$3.6 million funding support for this project. I am confident that federal and territorial investment in the 2011 pan-northern marketing campaign will generate more interest in our territories and we will see an increase in tourism in Nunavut. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Health and Social Services.

**Minister's Statement 005 – 3(3):
Financial Support for Nursing
Students**

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to say that I am pleased to announce the recipients of the nursing scholarship awards.

Each year, my department grants scholarships to the top students in the Nursing Program at Nunavut Arctic College. Two students, one beneficiary and one non-beneficiary, in years two, three, and four of the program are each eligible to receive \$3,000.

This year's scholarship recipients are:

- Margaret MacIsaac and Diane Iyago for second year students.
- Nancy Gordon and Suzanne Schwartz for third year students.
- Melanie Lynch for the fourth year students.

My department is committed to supporting and training a Nunavut-based workforce for the nursing profession, which is essential to providing frontline services in health centres across the territory.

Mr. Speaker, in addition to the scholarships, in this fiscal year, the department distributed \$82,500 in bursaries to our nursing students. This funding eases the financial burden of undertaking post-secondary studies. In exchange for the bursaries, each student commits to working in Nunavut after they graduate. At present, we have 18 students with agreements to work for Health and Social Services after graduation.

Mr. Speaker, this is a wonderful program for our nursing students and it is also great news for the people of Nunavut as we are developing a strong core of Nunavummiut nurses to serve health care needs across the territory, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Ministers' Statements. There are no more hands up. Going to Item 4 in our *Orders of the Day*. Members' Statements. Member for South Baffin.

Item 4: Members' Statements

**Member's Statement 001 – 3(3):
Reflections on Opening of New
Session**

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to look ahead to what we should focus on during the remaining two years of our mandate.

I would first like to begin by congratulating the Commissioner on her first Opening Address.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that I will be in a position tomorrow to say the same thing to the Minister of Finance after he has delivered his Budget Address, but given our financial situation, I fear that I may be offering condolences, not congratulations.

Mr. Speaker, today marks a milestone for all of us. Most of the Members of the Third Legislative Assembly took their oaths of office on the same day. Since that time, we have welcomed new members to this House, and we have seen some interesting and unexpected

changes to where some of us sit within it.

Mr. Speaker, we recently went through a tough but necessary leadership review. Those decisions have been made and we must now move forward.

Mr. Speaker, I have never been accused of being a smooth talker and I will never win any awards for having a silver tongue. I pride myself on being blunt and I'm going to be blunt today. Mr. Speaker, if it looks like a duck, walks like a duck, it's a duck.

Mr. Speaker, we face some serious issues. I will provide just a few examples today. Unfortunately, I could provide many more.

Mr. Speaker, the situations at the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation, the housing corporation, and the Qulliq Energy Corporation all point to one inescapable conclusion: our Crown corporations have been allowed to get out of control. I want to state for the record today that I will support the strongest possible measures on the part of the government to bring back accountability to the Crown corporations.

Madam Premier and Minister of Finance, you will hear only applause from me.

Mr. Speaker, a lot of us in the House today are former mayors and we all know that financial management at the municipal level requires constant attention. I believe that the real state of municipal finances and management across Nunavut is a hidden iceberg that threatens us and I urge the Minister of

Community and Government Services to take action before it's too late.

Mr. Speaker, last week, we approved more than \$10 million worth of overspending at the Department of Health and Social Services. It's getting to the point where it doesn't even seem worthwhile asking questions as these over-expenditures have become routine.

I agree with my colleague from Nanulik... .

Speaker: Member for South Baffin.

Mr. Schell: I would like to ask for unanimous consent to continue with my Member's Statement.

Speaker (interpretation): The member is asking for unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Are there any nays? (interpretation ends) I hear no nays. The Member for Baffin South can continue.

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Members.

I agree with my colleague from Nanulik who suggested last year that the government should look at dividing this department into two separate organizations and I urge the Minister of Health to consider the potential for improvements that this change could bring.

Mr. Speaker, my colleague from the High Arctic spoke last week about how his community has recently had to open a food bank because children are going hungry. At the same time, Mr. Speaker, the government's most recent annual procurement report indicates that when it

comes to finding money for consultants, the sky is the limit and the cheque book is always open.

Mr. Speaker, I am afraid that if we don't focus our efforts over the next two years on taking tough decisions, the next group of MLAs is going to face a mess that simply cannot be cleaned up.

Mr. Speaker, if we are ever going to have a realistic hope of achieving a devolution agreement with Ottawa, which is a goal we all share, we have to demonstrate that our House is in order.

As a Member of the Legislative Assembly, I will do my part in keeping this government accountable and I will make no apologies whatsoever for doing so. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Hudson Bay.

**Member's Statement 002 – 3(3):
Tribute to Rynie Audla**

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to pay tribute to Rynie Audla, late resident of the community of Sanikiluaq and a true contributor to the greater community of Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, Rynie Audla passed away this January, just two weeks before the passing of her sister Dora, who was also her throat singing partner in many appearances.

Mr. Speaker, Rynie lived a full and colourful life. She was a daughter of Johnny and Mini Ikuluk, who was part

of the group of arctic exiles who were relocated from Inukjuaq to Resolute Bay in the 1950s. She had a strong and tenacious spirit.

Her son Terry told me a story of how Rynie, at very young age, was going to be adopted to another couple. When her parents left the camp by dog team, she ran after them, jumping on the back of their sled, and wasn't discovered until much later. As a result, she got her way and was able to stay with her parents after all.

Mr. Speaker, Rynie had a traditionally arranged marriage to Walter Audla, which produced 5 children, 27 grandchildren, and 2 great-grandchildren. When Walter got a job in Sanikiluaq, they moved to the community where they stayed.

Mr. Speaker, Rynie was a great contributor to society. On the local level and most recently in December, Rynie was re-elected to the Sanikiluaq Hamlet Council. She was known as a counsellor that people could talk to when they had a problem. At various times, Rynie was a long-serving member of the local district education authority, Qammaq Housing Association, the Justice Committee, the Elders Committee, the Sanikiluaq Language Committee, and the ladies auxiliary. Rynie also lead the church choir for many years. Singing and prayer was a big part of her life.

Mr. Speaker, Rynie also put her great energy and spirit into contributing to Nunavut as a whole. In 2003, she was appointed to the government's Katimajit Elders Advisory Council.

Mr. Speaker, Rynie often fostered local children in need. She was a humble, compassionate, caring, and giving person. Rynie will be sorely missed not only by her family and many friends, but by the community as a whole. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Member. Member for Pangnirtung.

**Member's Statement 003 – 3(3):
Suicide Prevention Workshops**

Mr. Komoartok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish all of my community residents a good day and I send them my regards.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my thanks and appreciation to the Minister of Health and Social Services and his departmental officials for the successful delivery of the Applied Suicide Interventions Skills Training workshop in the community of Pangnirtung last year.

Mr. Speaker, those Panniqtuurmiut who took the ASIST workshop spoke very highly of their experience. They felt that they had learned some very practical skills. Several people have already done interventions on distressed people using the training they received. This training may actually have already saved lives.

Mr. Speaker, although I don't have the exact figures yet, it is my understanding that several hundred Nunavummiut, including more than 100 teachers, received ASIST training last year. I also understand that a number of Nunavummiut took the training for

trainers program to become registered ASIST trainers. This is a very positive step forward.

Mr. Speaker, I was pleased to hear a departmental official state on the news that the Department of Health and Social Services was going to continue this initiative and "blanket the North" with suicide awareness and intervention training. This has my full and enthusiastic support.

Mr. Speaker, several more of my constituents have expressed an interest in taking suicide awareness and intervention training this coming year. Unfortunately they have not been able to find much information on what other opportunities they may have available for this coming year. The individuals who have been trained to deliver ASIST workshops do not appear to have received any updates on what plans are in place for future training.

Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time, I will be requesting additional information on the success of the ASIST program to date and what is being done to ensure that it continues. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Member for Amittuq.

**Member's Statement 004 – 3(3):
Young Mother Mourns Infant in
Igloolik**

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon. First of all, I want to say that I am very proud of the Commissioner for making her

Opening Address in her dialect. I want to express my pride in our Commissioner.

Mr. Speaker, the reason why I rise today in front of my colleagues in the House is to get their support. Just recently, as a matter of fact, less than an hour ago, the young child was laid to rest. The parents are quite young, Lizzie Qulitalik and Conrad Ataguttaaluk. They are in our thoughts and prayers as they are undergoing a stressful and difficult time. I would like my colleagues in this House to remember the couple.

We are experiencing sorrow in our community. Although that occurs throughout the year, with the current difficulties we face, I would like to mention these two individuals. I urge and encourage my colleagues to work towards a better and more peaceful future by assisting people in every way we can. So let's keep these people in our thoughts and prayers. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. That is unfortunate. Member for Rankin Inlet North.

**Member's Statement 005 – 3(3):
Appreciation to HTO in Rankin
Inlet**

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, would like to remember Walter, whom I have known for many years, and his wife. They are in my thoughts as they have lost a beloved relative. I recall Walter was one of our fieldworkers in Nunavut when Inuit Tapirisat of Canada was undertaking its land claims work and he

provided a lot of work. So I wish to let the family know that we love them.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank the residents of Rankin Inlet in my constituency because the HTO in our community is very active. Annually, the HTO undertakes its duties when the hunting becomes harder and the weather gets colder and they task hunters to go harvesting on behalf of the poor, the elders, widows, men who have lost wives, or those with disabilities. They undertake these hunts to harvest country food for these people and the HTO tasks the hunters.

I would like to thank the hunters, particularly Norman Ford, who is the manager of the Rankin Inlet HTO. The hunters were much appreciated for their efforts, and they are: Mark Ittinuar, Jonah Siusangnark Jr., Tommy Kabvitok, Bernie Uluadluak, Andy Kowtak, Edmund Pilakapsi, Sapa Flynn, Sonny Ittinuar, Yvo Airut, and Shane Tologanak.

There were elders who went on the radio because they were so grateful for the HTO and the hunters for providing them with country food. They went on the radio and broadcast their gratitude. This is a very good measure in trying to reduce poverty. Let's thank everybody who assists us in meeting our needs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Member. It would be good to have caribou meat in this area. Member for Nanulik.

**Member's Statement 006 – 3(3):
Appreciation to Peter Kattegatsiak
Junior and Senior**

Mr. Ningeongan (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just as well, we underwent a hardship this fall in Chesterfield Inlet. Louie Autut had to be rescued. Joe Issaluk and Louie Autut were out hunting and a blizzard overtook them while they were out last fall. They had to try to return to their community because of the bad weather. Both of these were adults and elders. Although they were trying to stay together, they got separated.

Shortly thereafter, the blizzard really came on strong and the gusts were pretty strong. Once the weather calmed down, the search and rescuers of Chesterfield Inlet had to try and leave to find the lost hunter. They had to undertake their rescue activities because they knew Louie was in trouble due to the bad weather. The search and rescue squad kept going and searching for Louie Autut.

One of the people who were involved was Peter Kattegatsiak Sr., along with his son Peter Kattegatsiak Jr., who was riding in the *Qamutik* and his father was driving the snowmobile. Peter Jr. apparently notified his father that he had to come along on the sled and this is why he was riding in the *Qamutik*. There were a number of people in the search party and they started looking into areas where they thought Louie may have taken shelter. Even though it was really bad weather and there was still a lot of wind gusting on the ground, they kept searching.

Peter Sr. heard his son yelling at him. Peter Jr. was yelling at him to stop and that he just saw something move that looked like an arm. Peter Jr. wanted to return back to the area and he pointed where he thought he saw movement.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask for unanimous consent to conclude my statement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. The member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Member for Nanulik, you may proceed.

Mr. Ningeongan (interpretation): Thank you, colleagues. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

When Peter Jr. told his father where he had pointed, they went there and found Louie shivering and they could tell that he was in trouble. In that instant, Peter Kattegatsiak Sr. loaded him up onto the *Qamutik* and wrapped him up, and then they went as fast as they could possibly go to the nursing station in Chesterfield Inlet. Mr. Speaker, what I can state now is that Louie unfortunately froze his toes and is currently rehabilitating his injury.

I urge the support of my colleagues to recognize Peter Kattegatsiak Jr., a young person who, by virtue of his wanting to be involved, would be the only person who would have seen him as he was riding in the *Qamutik* while the others who were searching didn't even see Louie. What I can state is that he saved the life of Louie Autut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Congratulations to the young person. Members' Statements. Member for Quttiktuq.

**Member's Statement 007 – 3(3):
Tribute to Dora Pudluk**

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to add to the statement made by the hon. member from Hudson Bay.

Mr. Speaker, it never ceases to amaze me how interconnected our lives really are. We meet many people in the course of our lives and the fabric which holds us together is very much intertwined.

Mr. Speaker, a month ago today, January 28, 2011, saw the passing of Dora Pudluk, sister of Rynie Audla from Sanikiluaq and a resident of Resolute Bay, in my constituency.

Mr. Speaker, as I wrote this Member's Statement in my room, I looked up from my desk and the *Iqaluit Visitors Guide 2011* caught my eye as the cover highlights both Dora and Rynie. In this photo, you can see the joy that they shared in singing together.

Mr. Speaker, I was blessed enough to have met both of these ladies. In the year 2000, I was in Sanikiluaq assisting with the production of an interactive throat singing CD. The CD showcased the throat singing talent of Annie and Minnie Novalinga. Rynie was highlighted by the Novalinga sisters as being their role model, mentor, and teacher.

Mr. Speaker, my memories of Dora are also special. In Resolute Bay, she always had a smile on her face and was willing

to share her skills and traditional knowledge. She was a woman who had a quiet presence but exuded a great strength.

Mr. Speaker, Dora was a High Arctic exile originally from the Inukjuaq area and was relocated to Resolute Bay following a brief period of time in Churchill, Manitoba. The sisters, Dora and Rynie, renowned for their throat singing, sewing, and artwork, sadly passed away within two weeks of one another. They have passed on their throat singing talent to countless girls across the Arctic and have travelled the country to entertain and share this wonderful skill. Dora shared this knowledge through her work at Qarmatalik School in Resolute Bay. She will truly be missed.

Mr. Speaker, Dora is survived by her husband, Ludy Pudluk, the longest-serving MLA for the High Arctic. She will be dearly missed by her children Emily, Ross, Lalie, Hannah, Caroline, Juanie, Naiomi, as well as her 17 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I extend my condolences to Ludy, the family, and the entire community of Resolute Bay, as they continue to mourn the loss of Dora but also celebrate her life and memory. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Member for Nattilik.

**Member's Statement 008 – 3(3):
Reflections on Opening of New
Session**

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say “good day” to the residents of Nattilik. I also say “good day” to my grandfather and grandmother in Taloyoak. I love you.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer some reflections on the start of our new session.

Mr. Speaker, I was elected by the constituents of Nattilik to represent their interests to the best of my abilities and to work with all of my colleagues in this House to make Nunavut a better place for our people.

Mr. Speaker, as we look towards the second half of this Legislative Assembly's term of office, I want to express my belief that the challenges ahead can only be met if we approach them together.

In recent days, I have been troubled by a number of comments that I have heard in this House.

Mr. Speaker, I was taught that if you have been entrusted with responsibility, you have to accept that responsibility.

Mr. Speaker, we have been hearing too many arguments in this House about who should be blamed for the problems that we face today. Quite frankly, I am not interested in trying to calculate exactly what percentage of our problems should be assigned to the previous government and exactly what percentage should be assigned to the current government. Mr. Speaker, it's getting to

the point where I fear that we will start hearing people try to determine exactly how much blame we can leave aside for the next government.

Mr. Speaker, the world is far from perfect and governments past and present are no different. Did the previous government make mistakes? Of course it did. All governments do. But we must also keep in mind that we accomplished a significant number of important things for Nunavut and my constituents are very proud of many of the things that it did. I do believe that our current government is perfect... oh. Do I believe that the current government is perfect?

>> *Laughter*

Not at all, but I do believe that it wants to do better.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. The member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude her statement. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Member for Nattilik.

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, today's Opening Address by our Commissioner expressed a number of challenges that lie ahead. Tomorrow's Budget Address will outline what tools we have to address these challenges.

Mr. Speaker, I will do my best to be constructive in my comments during the current sitting and I urge all of my hon.

colleagues to join me in doing so. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Member for Akulliq.

**Member's Statement 009 – 3(3):
Apology to the Minister of CGS**

Mr. Ningark: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I had the opportunity to speak with the Hamlet of Repulse Bay's SAO to clear a matter relating to the pumphouse in Repulse Bay, knowing that this government is not perfect.

>> *Laughter*

Mr. Speaker, I have stated more than once during the last week period of this sitting that the pumphouse in question was in need of major repairs. As a matter of fact, I have found now that it does need minor repair. Mr. Speaker, through you and through the integrity of the House, I would like to candidly apologize to the CGS minister. I was wrong. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Member. Members' Statements. There are no more hands up. Going to Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Cambridge Bay.

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have the honour of recognizing Her Worship Madeline Redfern, Mayor of Iqaluit. I just heard

today that there are many former mayors in the House, and I know that she will be a great addition to the city and a good leader. Also, I want to mention that she is also the chairperson of the Nunavut Legal Services Board. She's doing great work with that board and helping to improve justice across Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: You're not welcome. I was going to recognize her, so you beat me to it. She's my constituent by the way.

>> *Laughter*

Welcome to the Assembly, your worship.

(interpretation) Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. There are no more hands up. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Baker Lake

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 001 – 3(3): Public Consultations on Uranium Mining in Nunavut

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Premier.

On October 22 of last year, I asked questions to the Premier concerning the Government of Nunavut's public consultation process regarding uranium development and mining in Nunavut. At that time, she informed the House that public forums would take place in 2011 in a number of communities, including my hometown of Baker Lake. Can the Premier update me today on when the

public forum will be held in Baker Lake? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. The question is directed to the Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. They will be in Baker Lake from March 30 to 31, 2011. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Your supplementary, Member for Baker Lake.

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm sure the people of Baker Lake would be more than happy to participate.

My supplementary that I would like to ask here is of the Premier's Office and the Premier is... . In my Member's Statement of last Friday, I paid solemn tribute to the announcement of NTI's new leadership that the organization will also be undertaking a review of its uranium mining policy and consulting with Inuit.

In my Member's Statement, I respectfully suggested that the Premier communicate directly with the president of NTI to coordinate the two organizations' review of uranium mining in Nunavut. Can the Premier tell the House today when she will sit down with the president of NTI to discuss this important issue? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Madam Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the

Member for Baker Lake for asking that question. The importance of effective communication and collaboration between this government and the Inuit organizations is self-evident. My personal belief is that we will have to hold detailed deliberations with NTI on this policy as they are also trying to re-evaluate their uranium mining policy.

Once we have completed our preparations and with the completion of the research by our staff, they will identify the issues that need to be reviewed prior to the discussions between NTI and our government. The review is being initiated. So after all of the preparations have been completed, we will set a time for meeting with NTI's president as well as the date of the proposed review. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Member for Baker Lake.

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have always believed that in order for wise decisions to be made on any given issue, it's necessary to have all perspectives in front of us. Can the Premier clarify for the public record how her government's public forums will ensure that Nunavummiut will have the opportunity to hear directly from groups that both support and oppose uranium mining? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Madam Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Furthermore, I wish to comment that prior to this government stating its position on the process, this government truly believes

in the mandate of NIRB and in their capabilities to conduct reviews.

I wanted to clarify what the (interpretation ends) Nunavut Impact Review Board (interpretation) will be doing in their review. They will conduct community tours to consult with the impacted residents, bodies, and stakeholders in a public forum.

Our departmental staff is currently collaborating with several departments on this file, namely, EIA, ED&T, DOE, as well as the Department of Health, or HSS in English. They are detailing out the plan and the plan is also being reviewed by the Sustainable Development Committee with whom they will be continually consulting as well. This is augmented by the Sustainable Development Advisory Group, which is providing their expertise.

We are working with various levels of government in planning for the community consultation tour. Once the consultation tour has commenced, the review panel will request that the stakeholders make their presentations to the panellists who make up the review panel. The panel will be composed of representatives of various organizations and they will be listening to the presentations of stakeholders.

As an example, several bodies we would want to be included are the Nunavut Makinnasuaqtiit Society, the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission, and the NWT/Nunavut Chamber of Mines. In particular, we must also ensure that communities and their residents are able to voice their concerns to this panel. Some of the bodies I mentioned have

already been invited to attend and we hope that all of our invited representatives take up the offer.

Additionally, we will use the entire spectrum of media, such as digital files, websites, emails, correspondence, as well as any letters we send out that will be copied to all members. We have sent out these letters and most of the members should already have a copy, but if you haven't received a copy yet, please let us know and we will ensure that a copy is made available to you.

We will utilize the radio stations, correspondence, public announcements, and various media. The Government of Nunavut would like to hear from Nunavummiut in regard to this issue. People would like to talk about how dangerous uranium is. There are various perspectives and I'm sure that we will hear different views through the public forum once it has been initiated. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Question period is very short, so please make sure that your responses are brief. Your final supplementary, Member for Baker Lake.

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When I asked questions to the Premier about this issue last fall, I raised the issue of whether the Government of Nunavut's new Uranium Mining Policy will ultimately be developed by paid consultants or by Nunavut public servants.

As the Premier is well aware, members on this side of the House have noted that while consultants have a legitimate role to play in providing information to

decision-makers, we have significant concerns regarding the government's use of outside consultants to develop our government's socio-economic policies instead of asking public servants to do their jobs.

Will the Premier commit that the GN's new uranium policy will be written by Nunavut public servants and not by outside consultants, yes or no? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Madam Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is very important that we are non-biased when we are consulting with the public, especially when we are dealing with uranium mining, and to make sure that we want to have an unbiased position. When we are trying to consult and get input from the public of Nunavut, the staff themselves will be working on the public forum. We will be able to table information on the issues that the government agrees to and what the government believes in. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Member for Amittuq.

Question 002 – 3(3): Status of New Igloolik Community Hall

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

As the minister is well aware, the people of Igloolik have been waiting for a new community hall. It was seemingly going

to be constructed because our current facility is very old and dilapidated. I believe it has been used for about 25 years and it is in very bad shape.

Just last week, the Hamlet of Igloolik received correspondence from his departmental officials. It stated that the construction project that was scheduled for this summer would be deferred. We were led to expect that it would be initiated in the summer, but basically the problem seems to be the design and blueprints not being up to par, as well as additional facilities that are related to the community hall.

Mr. Speaker, I just recently heard that the project would be deferred. I'm always kept up to date by the mayor as well as the senior administrative officer about their concerns. Why did the minister neglect to inform me personally about this? Although the community is very adamant about continuing the project this summer, it will be deferred. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. That question is directed to the Minister of Community and Government Services.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleague for raising that question. The project deferral was based on good reasoning, but I will not get into the details on the deferral.

However, based on your question, I did include you in the correspondence when I responded to the mayor and staff of the Hamlet of Igloolik on this issue. If you didn't receive a copy, I apologize since you were copied when I sent the

correspondence outlining the reasons for deferring the project. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Your supplementary, Member for Amittuq.

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With regard to the correspondence, sometimes it's very slow when you send it by snail mail, and I'm not too worried about the correspondence that the mayor received from Roy Green.

What I'm more worried and concerned about is that Igloolik is recognized as one of the communities that are in the forefront of dramatic arts and filmmaking. Again, a lot of these traditional games and activities are a priority of our community. This is also the home of one of the most world-renowned artists and the founder of Isuma as well as Arcirq. The hamlet council has been requisitioning new facilities to allow these two bodies to be able to prepare better.

Can the minister inform me of whether or not they could look at downgrading the project? I'm referring to the findings resulting in the deferral, so I want to know if this is indeed the case prior to the decision being made. What I'm trying to ask, Mr. Speaker, is: do we have any space to defer the project based on the concerns or will the construction project proceed as planned? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Community and Government Services.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): I am very grateful that you have voiced the concerns why there should be a community hall and the reason why you need a larger facility in Igloolik. It had to be deferred based on those kinds of reasons.

My departmental officials went to the hamlet and they met with the mayor as well as several councillors and/or the senior administrative officer, elders, and representatives of the community, including students. They met with all of these interest groups and they came to show the building blueprints. It was during this consultation that they saw that it would be too small already based on the needs of the community.

The groups had representatives and they made a decision that if we were to look at a larger facility, including an addition for a theatre, it would be much better and allow the community to meet its needs further down the road. This was a decision by the group. The departmental officials agreed that the facility would have to be larger.

If you included a stage, then it would increase the cost and you would have to look at the foundation and various other changes. If we were to delay the project by a year based on those reasons, then we would be able to provide a facility that better meets the community's needs in Igloolik. That is the only reason why this project would be deferred, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Your second supplementary, Member for Amittuq.

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my hon.

colleague from Community and Government Services. Just last fall, this House approved a funding allocation of \$144,000 for this project. Mr. Speaker, I can also state that they have already used millions of dollars to plan and prepare for this project. A fairly large amount of funding was used to lay the groundwork. To me, it would be better if this project was approved and continued.

What I want to ask, Mr. Speaker, is: even if the project is deferred by a year, can the department at least look at laying or driving in the piles for the summer? I wouldn't want to see all phases of construction be deferred for the whole year but to try and do preparatory work in advance of the approval, such as the pilings and groundwork. Can these items be taken into consideration, Mr. Speaker?

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Community and Government Services.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Whenever a building's blueprints require a change, whether it's to enlarge or decrease the size of the building or to make changes to the interior, the foundation needs to be changed as well. In some cases, they need to strengthen the foundation. Indeed, if they tried to keep the same foundation with the proposed changes, then it would be almost impossible to fit the new changes, even if they were to install the pilings prior to the construction.

I will look into this matter to see what can be accomplished and I will endeavour to keep the member from Igloolik apprised, including what aspects

can be moved forward and which parts can be done, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Your final supplementary, Member for Amittuq.

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When you are on this side, you really want to ask a lot of questions.

What I have gathered from the minister's response is that this design will be looked at and not all aspects of the project will be deferred. They will look at and explore certain parts that can be undertaken. The Igloolik residents have been clamouring for this facility for a long time and due to this reason, we always want to have the best facility we can. At this point, I will just thank the minister for his hard work, Mr. Speaker. This is just a comment.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. That was just a comment. Member for Hudson Bay.

Question 003 – 3(3): New School in Sanikiluaq

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions, too, are for the Minister responsible for Community and Government Services.

Mr. Speaker, the construction of the new school in Sanikiluaq was recently completed. My constituents are very thankful for this new facility. The teachers and students are very eager to be able to start using the new school.

Mr. Speaker, it is my understanding that the keys to the new school in Sanikiluaq

have been turned over to the principal, but the Department of Education will not occupy the facility until a number of issues have been resolved. Can the minister indicate what work still needs to be done to have the school completed? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Community and Government Services.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are still a number of issues that need to be dealt with, but they are mainly on checking of different systems. If it's the fire alarm system, the sprinkler system, the water system, and the telephone system, it's more of a testing and making sure that all of those different parts of the building are working adequately and are meeting all codes. Mr. Speaker, at that time, it should be completed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Your supplementary, Member for Hudson Bay.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is also my understanding that there is still some work to be done by NorthwesTel. I wonder if the minister can update us on the progress of that part of the contract. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Community and Government Services.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That's another part of the issues that are being worked on in the school there. Our IT department is working with NorthwesTel to ensure that

the sound systems and telephones and all of that are in place. Once all of those different things are put into place, it should be ready to go. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Your second supplementary, Member for Hudson Bay.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister indicate when his department is expecting to complete this work and when can the Department of Education expect to occupy this new facility? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Community and Government Services.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for that question, Mr. Rumbolt. Our department is looking at having most of this substantially complete probably mid-March to third-quarter of March, so anticipate something like that or shortly thereafter. Of course, all things being equal and all of the tests, alarms, bells, and whistles are in working order at that time, but we will shoot for that target, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. (interpretation ends) I look forward to inspecting it again on behalf of the government. (interpretation) Oral Questions. Member for Natilik.

Question 004 – 3(3): McClintock Channel Polar Bear Population

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Environment.

On November 30, 2001, the former Minister of Sustainable Development informed the Legislative Assembly that the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board, on the recommendation of the department, would be imposing a moratorium on polar bear hunting on McClintock Channel beginning in the 2001-02 hunting season. Mr. Speaker, the year is now 2011.

Last month, in January, the Gjoa HTO passed a motion calling on the Department of Environment to work with the community to review the health of the McClintock Channel polar bear population. This decision was communicated to the minister in a letter dated January 25, 2011. Can the minister tell me if he has replied to the hunters and trappers organization letter and, if so, will he table a copy of his reply in the Legislative Assembly at tomorrow's sitting? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Environment.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to thank the member from Nattilik for that question. She is absolutely right. The McClintock Channel and Gulf of Boothia population was studied very heavily from the years of 2001 to 2003. It is estimated from the 1970s to 2001-03 that the population declined from 700 to 280 polar bears. In consultation with communities and NWMB recommendations, there was a moratorium set in place.

However, in 2005, after further consultation with communities, there was an agreement with communities that there be a quota of three established for the McClintock Channel and quite a

substantial increase in the Gulf of Boothia from 41 to 74, I believe. After that increase has taken place, the McClintock Channel is a very sensitive population. By taking such a drastic decrease over those many years, steps are now being taken very slowly to deal with that population.

I have received a letter from the HTO and I also received questions from the member. I believe it was back in June. I believe I have written that letter back to the community and it is a very detailed letter. If I do have it, I will table it.

Mr. Speaker, also, I would just like to say that in the future coming up, I can commit to the member that consultations will be taking place this year, the 2011-12 fiscal year, in the preparation and the beginning of a survey to happen in the near future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Your first supplementary, Member for Nattilik.

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Last November, news reports indicated that the Government of Nunavut is "way behind on its surveys of the different polar bear populations, especially for the populations of the Gulf of Boothia, McClintock Channel and Lancaster Sound." Can the minister update me today on what steps his department is taking to work with the Gjoa Haven and Taloyoak HTOs to obtain up-to-date population numbers for polar bears in our region? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Environment.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member again for her concern and the community's concern. Again, everybody knows that polar bears are very important to Nunavut. Polar bear population surveys are very expensive. This year, we have planned to do western Hudson Bay and Baffin Bay, which are two very important populations that need more information on them. In partnership with other groups, either the federal government or the World Wildlife Fund, we are accessing more monies to do this.

The plan is, as I stated before, I will commit to the member that consultations will begin in all of those communities affected by the Gulf of Boothia and the McClintock Channel polar bear populations in this fiscal year and surveys will be planned soon after that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Your supplementary, Member for Natilik.

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) In its letter to the minister of January 25, 2011, the Gjoa Haven HTO expressed its commitment to the sustainable management of all wildlife populations in the area, including McClintock Channel. Will the minister direct his department to sit down with the HTO within the next month to jointly develop a plan for the future of polar bear hunting in McClintock Channel? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Environment.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm not sure about the next month timeline, but as I say, at the end of this fiscal year and next fiscal year, I would commit, probably in the next three months, that my staff sit down with the community and discuss polar bears in the McClintock Channel and the Gulf of Boothia. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Your final supplementary, Member for Natilik.

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) In March of 2009, a summit meeting was held in Rankin Inlet between Nunavut's wildlife co-management partners to discuss such issues as the integration of science and *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit* in wildlife research and management. The 2010-11 business plan of the Department of Environment indicated that one of its priorities during the current fiscal year was to "Finalize the development of aerial surveys as an alternative less invasive method to estimate polar bear populations..." Can the minister indicate how his department has been working with HTOs in the Kitikmeot on wildlife management issues? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Environment.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have been working very much in the Kitikmeot and all across Nunavut in developing wildlife surveys and wildlife systems that involve less intrusive means by not handling wildlife as much.

Mr. Speaker, in the Kitikmeot, we have recently conducted all of our caribou strategy meetings on developing our strategic plan and things are going very well. We do consult with communities on the management of muskox, caribou, grizzly bears, and as I committed, we will do the same on polar bears. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Member for Quttiktuq.

Question 005 – 3(3): Devolution Update

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are directed to the Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, the Premier.

I want to revisit my questions from last week on devolution. Mr. Speaker, from the answers from the Premier from last week and the comments today in the Commissioner's address, it would appear that the Government of Nunavut would like to continue to move forward on this file.

On the issue of devolution, it seems we are at a bit of a standstill because, for the last two years, the federal government has not named a chief negotiator. This is a pretty strong message that the federal government is sending us. My question to the Premier is: has the federal government committed to a date as to when that person will be hired so that negotiations can begin? Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. The question is for the Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation

ends) No, they have not committed a date. (interpretation) Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Your second question, Member for Quttiktuq.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My second question is: what specific reasons does the federal government give as to why they feel the Government of Nunavut is not ready for devolution? Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Madam Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I have not been given, specifically in writing, their rationale for not appointing a negotiator, but a capacity issue has come up. Again, last week, when I spoke in the House, I mentioned that the capacity issue is to be addressed according to the agreement in principle that was signed by the three parties, that it would be addressed in parallel to the negotiations. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Your supplementary, Member for Quttiktuq.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So after two years of trying to negotiate with the federal government, the federal government has not, at any time, provided any written correspondence as to what specifically it would like to see the Government of Nunavut do so we can move forward on this file, yes or no. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Member. Madam Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) When I meet with the officials and Members of Parliament, including the Prime Minister, I reiterate the importance of this file to Nunavut and I will continue to relay that information to them. As a matter of fact, just a few weeks ago, when I met with the Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs, we agreed that we would continue talking about it and find ways to move forward with it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Your final supplementary, Member for Quttiktuq.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What indicators has the federal government given your department that justifies the resources and PYs we currently put to the devolution file for your department? Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Madam Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Our officials are working on the required number of people who would be involved if we were to attain the level of devolution that we are talking about. It's not something that is solid yet and this is something that we are currently working on in terms of the exact number that we would need in order to carry out the devolution file.

In terms of talking about numbers of employees, we have almost half the number of required employees already in place. So I'm confident that it would not

take very long to attain the rest of the number of employees that would be required once we start the negotiations and addressing the capacity issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Pangnirtung.

Question 006 – 3(3): Overdue Land Lease Payments to Pangnirtung by NHC

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

Last week, I raised a question about the Hamlet of Pangnirtung and the fact that the Nunavut Housing Corporation hasn't made any lease payments that the hamlet billed to them over six years ago. The bill is now \$129,000. So my question to the minister is: has the minister looked into the matter and whether the hamlet will be receiving the payment for the leasing of their lots? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. That question is for the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation.

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, the correspondence was received by our office. We also saw the 2005-06 bills and what he stated was true.

However, the reasons for the lack of payment are currently being reviewed. I want to inform the member that these issues have to be reviewed carefully and they have to double-check all of the lots,

especially the lot numbers, to see who owns and leases those lots. Once those details have been completed, we will need some verification on whether they are owned by the housing association or the hamlet. All of these details are still being clarified and once they are, I will be able to provide a response. To date, the review is not complete.

These bills were not paid for a number of years due to the various reasons we have found. We have started to clean up the paperwork and we will conduct more reviews. That is the reason why the payments were deferred. So once that occurs, I will inform the member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Your supplementary, Member for Pangnirtung.

Mr. Komoartok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the minister for his response. Again, this is an operational issue that impacts the budgets of the day-to-day operations of the hamlet and the money that comes from the Nunavut government has to be paid in a timelier manner. I would like to raise this question to the minister: is Pangnirtung the only community that is owed these payments or are other communities in the same boat? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation.

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We haven't heard of any other communities in the same situation with regard to lots and late payments. Other communities send a

bill that generally identifies the lot, who owns it and who is leasing it.

However, for the community of Pangnirtung, those details were not listed although they listed the units and that is why we have to conduct quite a bit of research. We had to determine if these lots are owned by the housing association and we looked at why the previous year bill notices were not completed. That is what we are trying to identify, but it will be completed and once all of the details have been firmed up, the bills we are required to pay will be paid. We need to complete our review first. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Your supplementary, Member for Pangnirtung.

Mr. Komoartok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister. I understand his response, but when could we conceivably expect a payment on these leases? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation.

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Once I am given a time period and once information has been passed on to me, I will be able to provide the member with this information, including the review.

It's obvious that the Hamlet of Pangnirtung will be consulted more about the lot number, legal registry of the lease holders, and exactly who was leasing the lot. Unfortunately those details were not included. Once we have

found out all of the details, I will inform the member during our sitting. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Nanulik.

Question 007 – 3(3): Airport Shelter for Chesterfield Inlet

Mr. Ningeongan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I always feel privileged to be the only one on this side of the House to be able to ask questions.

>> *Laughter*

>> *Applause*

Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation.

Last summer, Chesterfield Inlet was supposed to get a shelter for the airport grader. To date, I have learned that no material was received even though a tender was out to construct the shelter. There was, in fact, funding approval for the construction. I had asked the deputy minister by way of email concerning the same topic, but I have not received anything yet to date. I would like to ask the minister if he will give me an update as to what the status is on the shelter for the grader in Chesterfield Inlet. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Economic Development.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At this time, I will have to get back to the hon. member from Nanulik as I don't have the specific details of the equipment shelter that he is talking

about. So I will take the question as notice. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The question has been taken as notice. (interpretation) Oral Questions. Member for Akulliq.

Question 008 – 3(3): Repulse Bay Social Worker Position

Mr. Ningark: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Hon. Minister of Health and Social Services, Hon. Minister Curley.

Mr. Speaker, being in the House for more than a year and things begin to settle down, but I do have tangible information with me here. I would like to ask the Hon. Minister for Social Services.

(interpretation) When I was in Repulse Bay, Mr. Speaker, I received correspondence from an individual. It states that in Repulse Bay, they had a social worker before Christmas but she left the community. The social worker was highly thought of as she provided very valuable services and although they expected her back, she didn't return. The social worker provided the community residents the services that they needed, such as dysfunctional families and those with social problems, including interventions on behalf of residents who were at risk.

I would like to ask the minister if the department will be hiring a replacement social worker for Repulse Bay. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. That question is directed to the Minister of Health.

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to get more details and clarification as to what the circumstances were which resulted in this person leaving the community. If that person resigned prior to leaving the community, then it is obvious that we would have to advertise the position and try to hire a replacement.

Further, during last week's question period, my responses were in relation to questions about the role of Human Resources and how social workers are hired. I was informed that there are over 40 individuals who are currently being interviewed by the Department of Human Resources for social worker positions. One of the successful candidates may be the replacement worker for Repulse Bay.

I will request more details about this matter. Perhaps, with your assistance, we can get to the bottom of this issue, whether that person resigned or is taking stress leave. I will be able to get the information from our department as to what the next steps will be for this matter. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Your supplementary, Member for Akulliq.

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Based on the information I was given, the individual left Repulse Bay just prior to Christmas. Furthermore, the position was opened for competition and this individual reapplied. However, that person was told that the position was already filled and that it was no longer available.

Perhaps I will ask this question since I don't want to continue this line of questioning. Can the minister inform this House when he has the pertinent information so that we may know the status of the social worker position in Repulse Bay? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. The supplementary question is for the Minister of Health.

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will look into that and find out exactly what the situation is and I will correspond with you and send a copy to you with the details once I have looked into that matter. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Your supplementary, Member for Akulliq.

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Perhaps prior to our return home and prior to the end of the session, can the minister provide that information to me? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Health.

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe we will be able provide the detailed information in a timely manner. I will provide correspondence as well as an update. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Member for South Baffin.

Question 009 – 3(3): Transformers on Apex Road

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

I couldn't help but notice there for the last couple of years in travelling down to Apex that there are three poles that have three transformers installed that are hooked up to nothing. My question is: what are these three transformers supposed to be doing? They have been there for two or three years. Are they just an expensive counter balance for the power line? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: That's a very good, educated guess, Mr. Speaker.

I don't know, Mr. Speaker. I don't have that kind of detail as to what pole has what transformers and why it's there and why it's not hooked up. I just don't have access to that detail and surely, as soon as I get it, I would love to share it with my colleague, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Your supplementary, Member for South Baffin.

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Apparently a couple of years ago, Qulliq Energy ordered all of the equipment in to install a 15 kV system here in Iqaluit. My question is: how much did it cost and what did they ever do with it? They never installed it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again I don't have that kind of level of detail. In that case, I'll take the question as notice. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The question has been taken as notice and according to our Rules that concludes questioning for that topic. (interpretation) Oral Questions. Member for Amittuq.

Question 010 – 3(3): Upcoming Inuit Identity Today Conference

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also wish to thank the Minister of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth for his announcement that there will be a meeting from March 1 to 3.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to comprehend exactly what the purpose of this meeting will be. In syllabics, it states that the subject will be about modern Inuit lifestyles. However, in the English version, it talks about Inuit identity. Now, which will we believe? Will what is written in syllabics be followed or will the English version of the agenda be followed? I would like to get that clarified. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. The question is directed to the Minister of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my *Annuraaqatik* for noticing those

differences between the languages. The agenda will be followed, but the subject is (interpretation ends) Inuit Identity Today Conference (interpretation) and this is what is written in English, that we have to talk about Inuit identity today.

Basically the meeting will be discussions about the modern identity of Inuit in this day and age, and in particular, within the home environment, family relations, parental skills, child rearing skills, spousal relationship, suicide prevention, and furthermore, it will talk about traditional laws, customs, and taboos. Those will be the main agenda items to be discussed between the elders and youth during that meeting. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Your supplementary, Member for Amittuq.

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the report, it states that a previous meeting was held in 2003 and that there would be a future meeting about family relations. Perhaps it had more to do with proper relationships within the family, but based on that, I wanted to find out what the real purpose of this meeting was. I believe they are starting tomorrow as tomorrow is March 1, according to the agenda.

Mr. Speaker, after the conference delegates have debated these issues, will the minister be able to provide a copy of the minutes to this House? The reason why I want to see those minutes is because suicide prevention has become the top priority of discussion. Some of us have strongly urged this government to concentrate on bettering our people's lives through life skills training, for

example, to stop looking at vices and issues that cause problems in the life and look at ways of improving your lifestyle and life skills. Perhaps they can take these issues into consideration when they are looking at suicide prevention issues.

They should be focusing on making people more socially adept or bettering their life skills so that they can cope, which would be more fruitful to our residents here in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I also believe my colleague's statement that we have to better ourselves and to improve our ability to live life properly, and that we have to repatriate a lot of our traditional skills and abilities.

With regard to his question about the minutes, we will be able to provide the minutes once they have been completed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Oral Questions. Member for Quttiktuq.

Question 011 – 3(3): Insurance Requirements for Outfitters

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed towards the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation.

With the repeal of Bill 50, *Nunavut Outfitters Liability Protection Fund Act*,

of last week, I was wondering if the minister could clarify just for the record: who is responsible for having and paying for the insurance required by our outfitters? Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. The question is directed to the Minister of Economic Development.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. The repeal of the outfitters liability insurance was done on behalf of the cabinet. We had to repeal that because there was no uptake to it and the Nunavut Tourism Association that works closely with ED&T Tourism has an insurance system in place that is more affordable and more user-friendly. So that's what the outfitters are using at this time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Your supplementary, Member for Quttiktuq.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So in answering that question, does that mean that our outfitters across Nunavut can contact Nunavut Tourism to be able to purchase or buy into that insurance policy? Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Economic Development.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, that's exactly what it's set up for. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Your supplementary, Member for Quttiktuq.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Does your department provide assistance with funding to help pay for those premiums? Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Economic Development.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To a certain degree, depending on the application and the wishes of the applicant, there are programs that can be accessed for that. During the feasibility and business planning, they are capable of doing that. In any type of business activity and in any kind of entrepreneurial activity, they can certainly apply to these programs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Your final supplementary, Member for Quttiktuq.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just for clarification, what government agency or what body is responsible for ensuring that outfitters have the needed insurance before they take customers out on the land? Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Economic Development.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. There is a requirement under the Tourism Act that there are policies and procedures that the applicants and outfitters do have to abide by. Within the department, we do have a tourism regulator and officers who ensure that these policies and regulations are abided by the outfitters. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Member for Nattilik.

Question 012 – 3(3): Elders Helpline

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask my question to the Minister of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth.

In the Commissioner's Opening Address, she stated that approximately 25 elders have called this toll-free number that deals with elder abuse incidents or if they are concerned about potential abuse or if they are being caused stress or worry. According to the information, the toll-free number was started in 2009, but there haven't been very many elders who have called for assistance. The elderly women who called for support were very concerned by the stress caused by their family members.

Based on the phone calls and the identified issues, will the department consider other programs and services that can be offered to elders so that they can be provided assistance? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, Mr. Speaker, we have tried to ensure that this toll-free line is available for our elders as part of our government services. Further, if elders want to speak about certain issues, we leave that open to them and we try to find out what their needs are. We also check the number of callers who call this toll-free line for assistance.

Currently, based on the issues identified by these callers, this will help us to identify the programs and services we can offer our elders.

We are trying to develop the program, as per the member's question, and we agree with the suggestion. However, I don't know if we have an actual program in place. I don't think we have one, but we are making plans to develop more programming for our elders. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Your supplementary, Member for Nattilik.

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I expect to see the direction we will go in the future to deal with elder abuse. It doesn't happen everywhere but it does happen to some families. When they talk about these issues, we have to look at ways of providing assistance to stop elder abuse. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Indeed, we tend to become protective when we hear about elder abuse and you want to provide assistance in those cases. They should be asking for help and they should not hesitate to report these cases of abuse, either to their relatives or even to this number.

They have received elders' cups from NTI's elders program listing a toll-free number and all elders shouldn't hesitate to call that toll-free number to report any

incidents. However, at this time, for the year of 2011, it is only available in the morning unfortunately, but that is the way it is set up for the time being. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Quttiktuq.

Question 013 – 3(3): Update on Integrated Community Sustainability Plans

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed towards the Minister of Community and Government Services.

Mr. Speaker, in the Commissioner's Opening Address, it spoke of the Nunavut integrated community sustainability plans. I was wondering if the minister could update us on what is happening with this file. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Community and Government Services.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Our department is still working with the people putting together the plan; it is in its final stages. It depends on which community you are talking about and it's pretty much at its wrap-up stage, Mr. Speaker, before we bring it back to the affected communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Your first supplementary, Member for Quttiktuq.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know two of my communities were affected by weather. In Arctic Bay, the

consultants actually had a hard time getting in and in Grise Fiord as well. I know that they were in Arctic Bay because I attended the workshop that they had. I'm just wondering: did they manage to make it into Grise Fiord to be able to continue the work and meet with the community? Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister of Community and Government Services.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe they have, but don't take my word for it. I'll double-check on it and I would gladly get back to you later this afternoon. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Your second supplementary, Member for Quttiktuq.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In terms of discussions that we've had, and I have asked quite a few questions about the Nunavut integrated community sustainability plans, my understanding is that these plans help cabinet and the government decide where to allocate funding for capital plans. I'm just wondering: when will all of these plans be completed? If they are not, then it doesn't give all communities a fair stake in terms of listing what the needs are for each of the communities. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Community and Government Services.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. They are all pretty much close to the same stage now, Mr. Speaker. They are going through translation, they are going through final review, and then

they will be shared with the municipalities.

Mr. Speaker, the plans are going to be very important, more so, I think, for the municipalities than it will be for any other organization, including the Government of Nunavut. They will be able to tell the municipality where their infrastructures are and where they are going to be for today and for the years to come. So it's going to be a good tool that I think all levels of government will be taking advantage of and it's one that will be a living document that the municipalities will own. It will be theirs, Mr. Speaker. I will leave it at that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Your final supplementary, Member for Quttiktuq.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In questions in previous sittings, the minister did commit to tabling all of these documents. I'm wondering if he could tell us when these documents will be ready to be tabled. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Community and Government Services.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: I believe that when I committed to tabling the documents, I had committed to tabling the documents once the documents are ready for tabling and my position still stands there, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) That concludes Oral Questions. (interpretation) Written Questions. Member for Pangnirtung.

Item 7: Written Questions

Written Question 001 – 3(3): Suicide Prevention Training

Mr. Komoartok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I am pleased to ask the first written question of our new session.

>> *Applause*

I am sure that my colleagues and I will have many more in the month ahead.

Mr. Speaker, my written question is for the Minister of Health and Social Services and it concerns suicide prevention training. The question is detailed, so I asked that it be entered into the record as read.

Since March of 2009, the Department of Health and Social Services has worked with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated to deliver a number of Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST) workshops across Nunavut's communities.

- 1) Broken down by fiscal year and community, how many ASIST workshops have been delivered across Nunavut?
- 2) Broken down by fiscal year and community, how many individuals received training in the ASIST workshops that were delivered across Nunavut?
- 3) Broken down by fiscal year and funding source, how much funding has been made available to deliver ASIST workshops across Nunavut?

- 4) Broken down by fiscal year, how much funding for ASIST workshops has been provided by Health Canada's Aboriginal Health Transition Fund?
- 5) What specific efforts have been made by the Department of Health and Social Services to access federal funding to continue delivering ASIST workshops in 2011-12?
- 6) What funding agencies have been approached for funding by the Department of Health and Social Services to deliver ASIST workshops in 2011-12?
- 7) What steps have been taken by the Department of Health and Social Services to continue the delivery of ASIST workshops in 2011-12?
- 8) Which division of the Department of Health and Social Services is responsible for overseeing the delivery of ASIST workshops across Nunavut?
- 9) To date, how many Department of Health and Social Services staff are registered ASIST trainers and in what divisions of the department do they work?
- 10) To date, how many Nunavummiut have completed the "Training for Trainers" program to become registered ASIST trainers?
- 11) How does the Department of Health and Social Services advise and inform ASIST trainers of opportunities to deliver suicide prevention and intervention training?
- 12) How do ASIST trainers work with individual communities to plan and deliver ASIST workshops?
- 13) What specific steps must be taken by community leaders who wish to arrange ASIST workshops for community residents, such as youth and students, who have expressed an interest?
- 14) What specific steps must be taken by school principals who wish to arrange ASIST workshops for teachers in their schools who have not already received such training?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Member. Can the document be brought to the table, please.

Written Questions. There are no more hands up. (interpretation ends) Item 8. (interpretation) Petitions. There are no hands up. (interpretation ends) Item 9. (interpretation) Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters. There are no hands up. (interpretation ends) Item 10. (interpretation) Tabling of Documents. Madam Premier.

Item 10: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 001 – 3(3): Government of Nunavut’s Response to the 2009-2010 Annual Report of the Information and Privacy Commissioner and Response to the Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts Report on the Review of the 2009-2010 Annual Report of the Information and Privacy Commissioner of Nunavut

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table the Government of Nunavut’s response to the 2009-2010 Annual Report of the Information and Privacy Commissioner. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Premier. Tabling of Documents. Member for Quttiktuq.

Tabled Document 002 – 3(3): Article by Nunatsiaq News - Nunavut MLAs to hold Confab on Nutrition North

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table a copy of a February 25, 2011 article from the Nunatsiaq online website posted at 6:22 p.m. It’s an article entitled: “Nunavut MLAs to hold a confab on Nutrition North.” I encourage all members to review the article with care. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Tabling of Documents. (interpretation) Member for Quttiktuq.

Tabled Document 003 – 3(3): Article by Canadian Press Regarding the Nutrition North Canada Program

Tabled Document 004 – 3(3): Nanisivik Naval Facility Stakeholder Update

Tabled Document 005 – 3(3): Arctic Bay, Grise Fiord, and Resolute Bay’s INAC Water Use Inspection Reports

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have three more, so maybe I’ll do them all at the same time.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table a copy of a February 25, 2011 article from Yahoo! News posted by the Canadian Press at 8:35 p.m. It is an article entitled: “PM: Ottawa willing to change northern program blamed for sky-high food prices.” I was encouraged by this article as the Prime Minister himself has said that his government is listening to the public and will make changes to the program where necessary. I encourage all members to review the article with care.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to table a copy of the Nanisivik Naval Facility Stakeholder Update presentation that I received last week from the Department of National Defence.

And, Mr. Speaker, I wish to table copies of the most recent water use inspection reports which were prepared by the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada for the communities of Grise Fiord, Resolute Bay, and Arctic Bay. As a courtesy to the government, I wish to advise that I will have detailed questions on this matter at tomorrow’s

sitting. I encourage the appropriate minister to be prepared. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Member. Tabling of Documents. There are no more hands up.

Tabled Document 006 – 3(3):

Speaker's Correspondence to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and the Chairperson of the Nutrition North Canada Advisory Board

I am very pleased to table the letters that I have written to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and the Chairperson of the Nutrition North Canada Advisory Board. These letters of invitation were written following the unanimous motion of last Friday's sitting of the House. Here are the documents, Mr. Clerk. Thank you.

Going back to our orders of the day. Notices of Motions. (interpretation ends) Item 12. (interpretation) Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. (interpretation ends) Minister of Finance.

Item 12: Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills

Bill 01 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2011-2012 – Notice

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Wednesday, March 2, 2011, that Bill 1, *Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, 2011-2012*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. First Reading of Bills. Minister of Environment.

Bill 02 – An Act to Amend the Scientists Act – Notice

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Wednesday, March 2, 2011, that Bill 2, *An Act to Amend the Scientists Act*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Minister of Finance.

Bill 03 – An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act – Notice

Bill 04 – Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act, 2011 – Notice

Bill 05 – Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act, 2011, No. 2 – Notice

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

Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Wednesday, March 2, 2011, that Bill 3, *An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act*, be read for the first time.

Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Wednesday, March 2, 2011, that Bill 4, *Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act, 2011*, be read for the first time.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Wednesday, March 2, 2011, that Bill 5, *Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act, 2011, No. 2*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. (interpretation ends) Item 13. (interpretation) Motions. (interpretation ends) Item 14. (interpretation) First Reading of Bills. (interpretation ends) Item 15. (interpretation) Second Reading of Bills. (interpretation ends) Item 16. (interpretation) *Orders of the Day*. Mr. Clerk.

Item 16: Orders of the Day

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. *Orders of the Day* for March 1:

1. Prayer
2. Budget Address
3. Ministers' Statements
4. Members' Statements
5. Returns to Oral Questions
6. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
7. Oral Questions
8. Written Questions
9. Returns to Written Questions
10. Replies to Opening Address
11. Replies to Budget Address
12. Petitions
13. Responses to Petitions
14. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters
15. Tabling of Documents
16. Notices of Motions

17. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
18. Motions
19. First Reading of Bills
20. Second Reading of Bills
21. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
22. Report of the Committee of the Whole
23. Third Reading of Bills
24. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned until tomorrow at 1:30 p.m. Thank you.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 16:33*

