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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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(Akulliq)

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Deputy Speaker and Chair of the Committee of the Whole

Louis Tapardjuk

(Amittuq)

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

Allan Rumbolt

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Iqaluit, Nunavut**Wednesday, March 2, 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): Good day. Thank you, Sergeant-at-Arms. Before we proceed, I would like to ask Mr. Taptuna to say the opening prayer.

>>Prayer

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Good day. Looking at our orders of the day, the first item is Ministers' Statements. Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

**Minister's Statement 007 – 3(3):
Power Plant Superintendent and
Operator Training**

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Let's have a wonderful day today.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I rise today to inform my colleagues about Qulliq Energy's ongoing power plant

superintendent and operator training which recently took place here in Iqaluit. The superintendent training took place between February 5 and 11 and the operator training from February 21 to 27. Each year, QEC brings all of the plant superintendents to Iqaluit for a full week of training. This is followed up by including the plant operators two weeks later as well. We had approximately 25 participants in each of these recent training sessions.

Mr. Speaker, in the vast and extreme environment of Nunavut, it is vital that all power plant employees are prepared to deal with emergency situations, at least until the appropriate maintenance staff are able to travel to the community to assist with the problems. Currently each power plant operates with a plant superintendent and a plant operator, with the exception of Iqaluit, which is staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week due to the size and critical infrastructure.

Mr. Speaker, QEC's plant superintendents and operators are trained to have an understanding of all facets of the power system, from generation to distribution. This is required in order to ensure that they are able to maintain power for as long as possible, if required due to unforeseen circumstances. In addition, they are provided with training and updates on environmental issues, such as EMS [Emergency Medical Services] training, spill reporting, and soil testing. Training updates are also provided for MSDS/WHMIS [Material Safety Data Sheet/Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System] to ensure staff safety. Plant employees are also updated on administrative topics, such as billing, customer services, sealift planning, pensions, benefits, and payroll.

Mr. Speaker, this annual training is an excellent team building opportunity for the corporation and QEC received a lot of positive feedback from the participants in reference to what they gained from the training. The Qulliq Energy Corporation will continue to be a leader in providing training opportunities to their staff following the principle of *Pilimmaksarniq* and *Pijariuqsarniq*. We consider ongoing training to be a cornerstone of our employee advancement programs and critical to meeting our obligations under Article 23.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate the recent participants of this program and I would also encourage all QEC employees to take advantage of training opportunities offered to them whenever possible. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Ministers' Statements. Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College.

**Minister's Statement 008 – 3(3):
Environmental Technology
Program Students Plan Southern
Expedition**

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to inform the Assembly that 12 students from Arctic College's Environmental Technology Program in Pond Inlet are planning a unique, once-in-a-lifetime research expedition to southern Canada. Since October of last year, the students have been working to raise funds to visit government departments, universities,

and researchers in Ontario, Quebec, and British Columbia.

While in Ottawa, the students will visit Parks Canada and the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans to learn about how environmental legislation and policies affecting the Arctic are developed and implemented.

Mr. Speaker, every summer, researchers from Quebec's Laval University travel to Pond Inlet for their fieldwork. Our students will have an opportunity to visit these researchers in their workplace to understand how data and scientific research conducted in our communities is analyzed, applied, and communicated.

Our students will visit the Vancouver Aquarium, where they will share traditional knowledge about arctic wildlife and marine mammals to aquarium staff and southern Canadians. Their knowledge will contribute to building a better understanding of our environment from a northern, Inuit perspective.

Mr. Speaker, those of us who live in northern communities know how incredibly difficult it can be for students to raise the large amounts of funds required to make these kinds of trips possible. On behalf of the students and Arctic College, I would like to acknowledge and thank the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth for providing \$8,400 of financial support towards the cost of this southern expedition.

Mr. Speaker, I must also express our sincerest thank you to the Vancouver Aquarium, Parks Canada, and the Seltzer-Chan Pond Inlet Foundation.

Without the support of these organizations, none of this would be possible.

Mr. Speaker, thanks to the very generous assistance of these fine organizations, our students have been able to secure more than \$88,000 towards the cost of their trip. That is truly a remarkable accomplishment, Mr. Speaker, to raise that amount of funding in such a short period of time.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend our Pond Inlet environmental technology students for their hard work, dedication, and commitment to their studies. We wish them all the best of luck, safe travels, and many enjoyable life and learning experiences during their southern expedition. *Ma'na*, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Education.

**Minister's Statement 009 – 3(3):
Partnership with Greenland**

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to take this opportunity to tell my fellow members about recent developments in the Department of Education's partnership with Greenland's Department of Culture, Education, Research and Church.

Mr. Speaker, Nunavut and Greenland share many of the same circumstances in terms of language, culture, population, and traditions. Our two jurisdictions can learn so much from our respective best practices and initiatives in education. As

such, representatives from the departments of Education in Greenland and Nunavut met in Iqaluit and Pangnirtung from February 8 to 13 to share educational program information.

Mr. Speaker, as a result, our two governments are developing an Education Appendix to our current Memorandum of Understanding. The intent is to broaden the scope of information sharing in educational reform, student assessment, language of instruction, early childhood education, cultural support within the school system, and inclusive education. The goal of this endeavour is to strengthen our partnership on a number of educational programs and ensure the sharing of ideas and resources continues.

Mr. Speaker, as Minister of Education, I am confident that we will share in Greenland's successful language revitalization and learn from each other. I would like to thank all of the members of the Greenland delegation for their help, dedication, and commitment to helping our two lands succeed in the field of education. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Minister's Statement 010 – 3(3):
Update on Public Engagement for
Poverty Reduction**

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon/*Unnusakkut*, my colleagues and Kuglukturmiut.

Mr. Speaker, I want to update the House on the work of the Nunavut Anti-Poverty Secretariat on public engagement for poverty reduction.

As members may be aware, since the launch of our campaign to reduce poverty last October, we have been encouraging each of our communities to bring people together for an open and honest discussion about the issue. We need to share our ideas about poverty in our communities, about its effects on every one of us, and about what we can do about it. Communities have been asked to collect this information which will be compiled in a report to be prepared by the Nunavut Anti-Poverty Secretariat.

In May, I will co-chair regional meetings at which we will discuss this report with representatives of each community. We will consider what options we have for action on poverty as governments, communities, Inuit organizations, not-for-profit organizations, businesses, and ordinary citizens. This information will be brought here to Iqaluit late next fall to a summit on poverty during the month of November 28 to 30. At the summit, we will decide together with our partners on the actions each of us will take to reduce poverty in our territory.

Mr. Speaker, I recognize, along with every Member of this House, that there are people in our communities who do something every day to fight poverty, who help one another when a neighbour or family member is in difficulty, who work in community organizations to try and make where they live a better place for everyone. We need to build on these efforts.

We need to bring the wisdom of our communities into the rooms where the decisions about the future of Nunavut are made. For this reason, communities will be directly involved in the discussions on our policy options for poverty reduction and communities will be directly involved in our decision-making about what must be done to reduce poverty in Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank our communities and in particular, the hamlet councils, who have responded to our request that they get involved in the fight against poverty. Mr. Speaker, working this way together, we can be successful. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Quttiktuq.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 015 – 3(3): In Memory of Simeonie Amarualik

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to inform this House of the sad passing of Elder Simeonie Amarualik earlier this morning.

Mr. Speaker, Simeonie had been battling cancer for the past year. He received treatment in Ottawa and recently I met with him here at the Iqaluit airport on his return to the community of Resolute Bay a couple of weeks ago. He passed away at home with his family around him.

Mr. Speaker, Simeonie was well known for his carving skill. This past summer,

when I was in Resolute Bay for my extended stay in the community, I had the opportunity to watch him at his craft. He was a very talented artist and took the time to explain to me how and why he became a carver. He was the artist who created the Resolute Bay High Arctic Exile Monument which was unveiled this past September. He taught many of the students at the Qarmartalik School and passed on a great deal of his traditional skills and knowledge.

Mr. Speaker, Simeonie was highly respected and contributed greatly to the community. He held a number of positions within the community and was deputy mayor of the Resolute Bay Hamlet Council.

Mr. Speaker, Simeonie's wife, Sarah, passed away a number of years ago. He leaves behind his sons and daughter, Paul, Peter, Joe, and Angie, and granddaughter and grandsons, Lizzie, William, and Lucas. Of course, the community as a whole will miss him greatly.

Mr. Speaker, this is the third Resolute Bay elder to pass away within a very short period of time. It is definitely a difficult time for the community and I send out my condolences during this time of mourning. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. The family is in our thoughts. Simeonie was quite outgoing. My condolences.

Members' Statements. Member for South Baffin.

Member's Statement 016 – 3(3): Suicides in Nunavut

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I'll be speaking on a subject that is very sensitive to all Nunavummiut and that's in regard to suicides in Nunavut.

I commend the member, John Ningark, for bringing up the tabled documents here with statistics on Nunavut for the last 10 years. When I look at it, for my community of Cape Dorset in the last six years, we've had an average of three suicides a year. I am sad to tell you and inform the House that in the last week, we've had two suicides in Cape Dorset, and I speak with a deep heart as one of these suicides that happened yesterday is from my immediate family.

Mr. Speaker, there is nobody to blame, no one person to blame for our rate of suicide in Nunavut. I think, as a government, we can do better. I think, as municipalities and hamlets, we can do better, and foremost, as a family, we can do better.

Mr. Speaker, when we see members of our family having issues and problems, we should be trying to solve those problems instead of trying to sweep them under the rug and pretend they never existed.

Mr. Speaker, it's very sad that we've already had two suicides in Cape Dorset this year, and I encourage all Nunavummiut to stick together and try to find solutions to suicides in Nunavut because one suicide is too many. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Member. We send our condolences. Members' Statements. Member for Natilik.

**Member's Statement 017 – 3(3):
Standards in Education**

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We also are impacted by developments in Cape Dorset and we are very sympathetic because these things impact us when we are representing communities.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about an issue that has to be carefully reviewed, especially as to how they assess a child and their level of education. When children are in school, I believe there should be testing to determine their capacity and the level of education they have attained. I wish to support the parents and teachers to further the success of our children so that they will be better able to deal with their future when they are well educated and capable.

Mr. Speaker, many members have spoken about this issue in the past. We have to improve our level of education. We have to focus on post-secondary education as well as furthering our people's careers. Although they may have on-the-job training or other courses, there are still a lot of residents who need to upgrade their education and work towards post-secondary education so they can work at a specific position. I am very proud that many of our young people have already undertaken that path to further their own careers.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that students should be assessed during their

education with testing and they should be done at the beginning of every school year. It is very important to the parents and the teachers to know how the students are progressing as well as how much support their children might need because the parents and teachers have to know where the student is at. If the students are not being assessed and they are not... .

Speaker (interpretation): Member, your time is up.

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): 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 her statement. Are there any nays? There are no nays. You may proceed.

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): I apologize. When I get passionate in my speech, I tend to forget my time constraints.

If students were being assessed, especially in the lower grades, then they could identify the learning deficiencies or what other training is required in order to bring them up to par with their peers. It seems that assessment is done at a later stage, at a point where the student is no longer capable or able to catch up to the rest of the class. Again, this is because we pledge support through education.

Mr. Speaker, if we are graduating students that are not up to par, then we have to look at ways of improving our education system so that we produce capable students. We have to look at

culture, language, and cross-cultural linguistic barriers that may provide an obstacle.

Mr. Speaker, I also hear unpleasant news, but there are many people now in that boat in Nunavut. There are a number of students who have attention deficit disorder who are unable to concentrate on their task in the classroom. Many children are very disruptive and they do not listen. I believe that this is more than the norm in Nunavut. Part of the problem in the communities is that a lot of the parents ingest drugs and alcohol. They abuse these substances and this impacts development of the child both during pregnancy and as they are growing up because the children might have FAE or FAS, and this will provide an obstacle.

Mr. Speaker, I believe we have to recognize the problems that are creating the obstacles within our education system for some of our students who are currently in our educational institutions. I believe we have to really review exactly how education is taught to our children within the education system. If we were to start from the smallest grade levels, such as kindergarten, and if we were to remain on top of the problem, to be in the forefront to deal with the problem that they may run into, and to deal with those learning barriers, then we would be able better to able to deal with them.

Mr. Speaker, when the appropriate time comes, I will ask questions on this. Thank you.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 018 – 3(3):
Appreciation of Kugluktuk
Volunteers**

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to acknowledge and congratulate the community of Kugluktuk's volunteers in their efforts of implementing four social networking and life skills teaching through various sewing program initiatives.

Mr. Speaker, firstly, the Kugluktuk High School is running two evening programs that teach traditional and contemporary clothing style making.

Secondly, the Arnait Ikajuqatigiit of St. Andrew's Church teaches and leads women and youth in prayer and sewing projects for fundraising events of the church. The funds raised through the group and volunteers are used to pay for the operations and maintenance of the church building.

Thirdly, the Healthy Strategies Working Group implemented a once-a-week evening at the home of Bessie Sitatak, where women are producing clothing for children and the less fortunate.

Mr. Speaker, lastly, in the centre for elders and culture, elders teach traditional and modern style of crafting of tools used in various activities, such as hunting and harvesting of fish and game, and other traditional equipment used by our ancestors before the era of modernization.

Through these efforts of volunteers, Kuglukturmiut are striving towards a

healthy lifestyle for the betterment of families and citizens. Again, Mr. Speaker, I want to acknowledge and congratulate the tireless efforts of these volunteers of Kugluktuk and for that matter, Mr. Speaker, the volunteers of all Nunavut communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 019 – 3(3):
Medical Concerns in Igloolik**

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish a good afternoon to my constituents. My constituents in Igloolik were not able to watch our sitting, but it has been restored, so I want to express my wishes for a good day to all my constituents, including those from Hall Beach. I wish to welcome those who are here for meetings.

I rise today to speak to this issue because a lot of unfortunate incidents pass through our lives. A very young child passed away just recently and the parents are quite young. I believe it was mentioned on the news that it's quite obvious that sickness is prevalent in Nunavut, and I imagine it's occurring in other places. A lot of our constituents have concerns about particular respiratory illnesses and whether we're not seeing a brand new kind of illness. I wish my constituents to know that I'll research into this matter and we will try to find out what the problem is.

I know for a fact that the Department of Health and Social Services has been

unable to provide a very clear picture, other than what they presently undertake to alleviate pain and deal with health. I believe that they have to research the cause of sicknesses, especially within their operations. Due to this reason, Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time, I'll be directing my questions regarding this matter to the health minister. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Member's Statement 020 – 3(3):
Congratulations to Karetak
Family during John Lindell
Memorial**

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to congratulate the Karetak family as being champions of the annual John Lindell Memorial Hockey Tournament that was recently held in Arviat. Mr. Speaker, this tournament was a huge success, with teams from Rankin Inlet, Whale Cove, and Arviat participating.

Mr. Speaker, it was written in the *Kivalliq News* as a classic game that will be remembered forever. The Caretakers were trailing 6-5 against Rankin Inlet. When Rankin Inlet was shorthanded, with an extra attacker Robert Karetak pounced on a loose puck after a wild scramble in front of the Rankin Inlet net and pumped one home for the equalizer from Jackson Lindell.

An Hon. Member: Score!

>> *Laughter*

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Mr. Speaker, an overtime period solved nothing. The

game went to a shootout and ended in the shootout with the Karetak family scoring the winning goal.

It was an unbelievable game and it was nice to see that Nancy Karetak-Lindell's family was there to witness such a beautiful ending to the John Lindell Memorial Tournament. The fundraiser also had a Bravo up for grabs right after the game and this lucky person was Patsy Kuksuk. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 021 – 3(3):
Constituency Concerns**

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last week, I spoke to my constituents' concern about landfills being enlarged in the hamlets without the required licences or water licences. It raises concerns about these materials and exposure of our residents to hazardous materials that are not properly packaged or with proper landfill. We are raising these issues on behalf of our communities.

In my case, my constituents usually watch the proceedings through the televised shows. The hamlet or their staff, such as the heavy equipment operators or administrators, may be questioning this concern by turning it inward. We may be forcing them to ask, "Perhaps I'm not doing my job properly as the local landfill is filled to overcapacity." That's absolutely not the case. A CBC news story highlighted this issue. It became public knowledge as

soon as it was aired and many residents voiced their concerns during that show.

Based on the concerns expressed by our residents in the hamlets, we have to provide the support they need to resolve their issues. We, as a government, have to provide the support and assistance to the communities so that the hamlet employees don't question their capability or their worth. We, as the government and as regular MLAs, should encourage and urge the Nunavut government, and then once we have agreed on a territorial position, we should lobby the federal government.

It is not the community's or their employees' fault. I believe that we, the government, are not doing a good enough job. It is this government that is not seeing the problem clearly. I want it understood that it's not the fault of the local employees that the hamlets are facing these infrastructure issues. We, as the government, have to work harder to meet the needs of our communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. I think the hamlet employees from your community are really pleased with your comments.

Members' Statements. Member for Rankin Inlet North.

**Member's Statement 022 – 3(3): Elder
Appreciation for Inuit Custom
Adoptions**

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The reason why I rise today is to share the news from a person I have complete confidence in. This elder was placed in

an untenable situation and he called me from the hospital bed, Mr. Speaker.

That person called me on his cellphone and prior to the completion of the call, it was cut off since hospitals don't allow the use of cellphones. Since I have caller ID on my phone, I returned his call and he made a statement that made sense to me.

He wanted it known that Inuit customs related to adoption must not be changed. When you become an elder, adopted children become their only assistants. Apparently, that elder had custom adopted a child while that child was under their foster care. His wife has since passed on. Currently that person is their sole helper, especially in the stressful situation he has been placed in. He wanted to ensure that members keep these types of situations in mind when they are looking to change the system of adoptions.

The Inuit custom of adoption should not be changed at all because it is very beneficial to the elders. He was almost in tears when he said that. I wanted to bring this up because I can't ask questions from that side of the House. We are proud that he has given us good advice as Members of this House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Member. Please make sure you tell the minister that they don't make changes to that.

Members' Statements. There are no more hands up. Going back to the orders of the day. Returns to Oral Questions.

Minister of Economic Development and Transportation.

Item 4: Returns to Oral Questions

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to return to Question 7 – 3(3) asked on February 28 by the hon. member from Nanulik. The member asked what the status was on the Chesterfield Inlet Airport Shelter.

The department is continuing its efforts to locate low-cost airport equipment shelters for the communities. Several of these projects, including Chesterfield Inlet, were tendered in 2010, but the bids received were all above budget. The department has revised the scope of these buildings and has re-tendered the projects. That tender will close on March 8, 2011. The department is hopeful that these projects can all be successfully awarded for delivery and construction in the 2011 season. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Returns to Oral Questions. There are no more hands up. Going back to the orders of the day. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Minister of Health.

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am very pleased that we have several visitors I would like to acknowledge in the Gallery.

First of all, I would like to elaborate on the background a bit. With respect to the review of the *Child and Family Services Act*, we brought a group of people to conduct that review and some of these individuals are here but some could not arrive due to the weather. This is their last meeting and they will be completing their work. It is these people, the elders, who are reviewing the *Child and Family Services Act*. We requested their support when they met last fall and they're currently meeting for their final review.

The first one is Leonie Duffy from Coral Harbour, Joanna Innualluk-Kunnuk from Pond Inlet, Kitty Taipagak from Cambridge Bay, and Susie Konana from Gjoa Haven, along with her adopted child. One of the elders' advices to me has now come into fruition. Joanasie Qappik, a long-time friend, is also attending this meeting. We also have a social worker who used to work in Rankin Inlet and we still remember her hard work, and that is Ann Rose Kerkovious from Kugluktuk. I am very pleased that you are here. Also, we have Meeka Arnaqaq here. I am so pleased you made it here, albeit a bit late. Additionally, Dorothy Aglukark just arrived today from Rankin Inlet but is from Arviat. This includes Dennis Kuluguqtuq from NTI, who is here assisting the review group.

These individuals who are part of this group were not able to come: George Qulaut from Igloodik, who is attending another meeting somewhere; Simeonie Aqpik is also attending another meeting somewhere else; Elisapee Ootoovak from Pond Inlet couldn't make it to this meeting; Mariah Aliyak, who works with traditional adoption in Rankin Inlet, was unable to make it here because she

couldn't get leave; and also Philip Paneak from Pond Inlet was also unable to make it here due to an illness.

I am very pleased that these people are here in the Gallery. We need to thank the project manager, Gord Phaneuf, from Child Welfare Canada, with the assistance of James Arreak from Iqaluit. They have been touring 12 communities ever since this fall and every time they go to regional centres, such as Cambridge Bay, the surrounding community delegates travel to the major centre and attend to these meetings. That also occurred in Rankin Inlet and Baker Lake, where we brought in delegates from the outlying communities and also here in Iqaluit.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to say that the review committee heard from many people, with some statements being quite painful, and I was even informed that the project manager was sometimes affected emotionally and they cried along with the witnesses. I would like to thank all of these people who are currently visiting our Gallery. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome to the Gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Madam Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize an individual that Minister Curley had recognized. As the Nunavut government, we use the advice of our elders. These elders' tasks are very difficult and huge. I, too, would like to thank them all and their staff for their hard work. Also, the younger people are able to take part in this meeting and they

are learning from the elders. I'm sure that they will teach what they learned from the elders so that it could be visible in the future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Amittuq.

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I knew this individual for a very long time although he is not from my riding. We were told that he wasn't here, but I would like to welcome Philip Paneak, who is in the Gallery.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Uqqummiut.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My colleague already recognized this individual. When the Municipality of Clyde River became a hamlet status, Philip Paneak was the SAO at the time and he is also here. Thank you.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Now we know for certain that Philip Paneak is here.

>>Laughter

Member for Nattilik.

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For those of us who live in the Nattilik area, it is a rare opportunity to recognize an individual. I would like

to recognize Nujaqqiq from Gjoa Haven. I am very pleased that you are able to attend this meeting. Your work is very important and I am very pleased that you are able to help. I would also like to welcome your adopted daughter. I am very pleased that Gjoa Haven residents are supporting this group. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Mr. Ningeongan (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, would like to acknowledge an individual from Coral Harbour.

Leonie Duffy is one of the leaders in our Glad Tidings Church. Also, I'm not surprised that the elder from Coral Harbour is participating because this individual has been helping a lot of people in Coral Harbour and even established a building or obtained a building to work. Also, she's a private business operator who runs a hotel and a convenience store. I am very pleased that she is able to be here. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Pangnirtung.

Mr. Komoartok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to welcome all of the visitors to the Gallery, especially my fellow residents of Pangnirtung who are here whom I would like to recognize although they were mentioned earlier.

I'll start off with the eldest of the individuals who is also a relative of mine. He has been involved as a member of the hamlet council, the Qikiqtani Inuit Association, and various other bodies, Joanasié Qappik.

Another individual I wish to recognize is my cousin, Meeka Arnaqaq. She used to be an adult educator in our community, but has since been involved in healing programs. She wrote a book about Inuit traditions and values which will shortly be published and will be available soon for all Nunavummiut to enjoy. It is specifically about traditional Inuit customs and lifestyles but is geared towards traditional healing methods. It is quite detailed and will soon be a valuable resource for all Nunavummiut. She has also published a traditional ways book and I would like to welcome my cousin.

The last person I wish to recognize has now moved to Iqaluit, but I'll be sure to pronounce his name properly. His name is Dennis Kuluguqtuq. He works for NTI. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Kugluktuk.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to rise today to recognize, although I recognized her previously last week, but with the pronunciation of her last name correctly, although my colleague recognized her, I want to recognize Ann Rose Kerkovious. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Since my colleagues representing Natilik, Nanulik, and Pangnirtung recognized visitors in the Gallery, I'll state that I'm recognizing visitors in the Gallery as the member from Arviligjuaq and I acknowledge all of the visitors in the Gallery. Thank you.

>> *Laughter*

>> *Applause*

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

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, would like to rise and acknowledge a constituent and a very prominent person from Arviat and that is Dorothy Aglukark. Welcome to the Gallery. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Member for Cambridge Bay.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize my constituent from Cambridge Bay, Kitty Taipagak. Mr. Speaker, I attended the public meeting in Cambridge Bay when her group was there. It was quite a painful and emotional night. I know that these folks are doing a tremendous job out with the communities in need, and I look forward to reading their report and recommendations. Welcome to the House. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome. I would like to recognize a

resident of Pond Inlet, Philip Qamaniq. I'm sorry. It's David Qamaniq; I got sidetracked by the reference to Philip. Also sitting next to him is one of my constituents, the Assistant Deputy Minister of Health, Raj Downe. Welcome to the Gallery. I would like to welcome everyone to the Gallery. I wish you a good stay here in Iqaluit and for success in your meetings.

Going back to the orders of the day. (interpretation ends) Item 6. (interpretation) Oral Questions. Member for Baker Lake.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 028 – 3(3): Accountability in Municipal Government

Mr. Aupaluktuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also wish the visitors a good stay here.

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

As the minister is aware, I have spoken in this House on a number of occasions about the importance of ensuring transparency and accountability at all levels of government, including our municipalities.

Earlier this week, the Premier tabled the Government of Nunavut's official response to our standing committee's recommendations concerning access to information and protection of privacy. Mr. Speaker, I was pleased to note that the government, and I quote, "agrees that municipalities should, in some way, be

accountable under access to information and privacy protection legislation."

Can the minister indicate when his department will begin the process of working with the Nunavut Association of Municipalities on this important initiative? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also would like to thank my colleague for asking that question. All hamlets are under the legislation, with their own by-laws and elections for their mayor and council. Each hamlet adopts their own by-laws as it relates to their operations. We work with the municipalities when they require assistance on the implementation of their by-laws. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Aupaluktuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Over the past year, the Government of Nunavut has made important and praiseworthy progress with respect to increasing the amount of information that is tabled in this House concerning the procurement and contracting expenditures of our departments and Crown corporations. I believe that Nunavummiut are also entitled to know how municipalities are spending the money that the Government of Nunavut provides to them for their operations. Would the minister commit to ensuring

that annual reports on municipal procurement and contracting activities are also freely available to the public? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank you for that question. Hamlets have their own by-laws and regulations to guide their operations. It's clearly stated in their operations that their finances are audited annually by auditors appointed by the hamlets.

If anyone wishes to see information pertaining to hamlet expenditures, they have to make that request to the hamlets themselves. We have no control over hamlet expenditures as they are in possession of their own audits. We don't have responsibility for the hamlets nor can we dictate to them. If anyone wants information, they can approach the hamlets themselves. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Aupaluktuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) As my colleague from South Baffin noted yesterday, one of the ways that Members of the Legislative Assembly are kept accountable is through our *Integrity Act*. This legislation allows any member of the public to request that the Integrity Commissioner conduct a review of a member's conduct.

Mr. Speaker, federal and territorial levels allow for access to information for accountability and transparency. Regular community members throughout Nunavut must be allowed the same courtesy at local levels of governance.

As the minister is aware, the territorial *Conflict of Interest Act* applies to members of municipal councils. Can the minister clearly explain what the process is for ordinary citizens to file a complaint under this legislation regarding the actions of members of municipal councils throughout Nunavut? (interpretation) Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): With respect to the hamlets, again they have legislation pertaining to the hamlets that they have to comply with. This is specifically to the operations of the hamlet; every hamlet is set up differently.

With regard to the community that he is referring to, if he is referring to Baker Lake, the hamlet by-laws could be reviewed and they would identify the problems or concerns that could be addressed by following the process laid out in the hamlet by-laws. That's how they could deal with those issues. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Aupaluktuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends)

Yesterday's Budget Address informed us that the Government of Nunavut is facing a deficit. Can the minister inform the House today how many municipal governments are currently facing deficits? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We do provide financial support to all hamlets to ensure that they operate smoothly. Whenever communities suffer problems or they have funding shortfalls, we assist them through my office.

Based on my current knowledge, I'm unaware of any community that is currently in fiscal difficulty, but if there were any problems or funding shortfalls, then we would explore how to deal with them. As well, my department officials would work with the hamlet SAOs to deal with these issues. Based on my experience, if a hamlet has a problem, then we would try to resolve it through cooperation with the hamlet. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 029 – 3(3): Assessment of Students in Nunavut's Education System

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

Mr. Speaker, in reading through *Hansards* from previous Legislative Assemblies, I have noted that the Minister of Education was at one time a very strong advocate of having standardized assessment testing in Nunavut's schools. Can the minister clearly describe what standardized testing is currently administered in Nunavut schools and at what grade levels? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for raising that question. As she indicated, over the years, I think you could probably pull out a lot of questions and things that I have raised over the last 10 years in the House, especially in relation to education.

Mr. Speaker, I know, a number of years ago, I was a strong advocate for the standardized testing. It was something that the Iqaluit District Education Authority was trying to implement here in Iqaluit. The Department of Education at the time and they still believe that these standardized tests that are basically taken from the Alberta curriculum and put in here didn't represent or give the students culturally appropriate testing for the materials. I was very pleased that the concerns that I raised in regard to assessment over the years didn't fall on deaf ears.

I think how we assess our students is a very critical factor in their success. I know that the department has now developed a comprehensive strategy for classroom and Nunavut-wide assessment approaches. That strategy is now in its

final stages of editing and hopefully in a state that I will be able to bring forward to my cabinet colleagues this spring for approval. 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 his previous role in this House, the minister argued very convincingly that if the government believes that education is a priority and wants to improve the education system in Nunavut, then one way to do that is to implement assessment testing in our schools. Can the minister update this House on whether it is still his position that standardized assessment testing will help to improve our education system? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Absolutely, I think it's very important to have a relevant standardized assessment program established out there to be able to assess our students, but I think it needs to be something and that's why the Department of Education has been developing something that is relevant to the students here in Nunavut and is relevant to the curriculum that they are taking.

I think, Mr. Speaker, it is important also to say that there are a lot of factors that lead to students completing their grade 12 and attaining the requirements that they need for post-secondary education and being able to move forward and

show that they have gained the skills and the knowledge as they move along. I think they are not limited to but I'll name a few of them. One is to make sure that the students are ready to learn when they come to school. I think some of these factors with that include proper nutrition and sleep. They need support from their parents in their education.

Mr. Speaker, they also require regular attendance, which is something that we have seen over the years that has been an issue and also, Mr. Speaker, to make sure that they are taking the proper courses. I think it's important that the schools and the parents work in partnership to ensure that the students are selecting the proper courses when they move from the elementary-middle school level to the high school level.

If you look at it, attendance, as I said, is a critical factor and I think that's right through from elementary through to high school. It's a huge factor. If you look at some of the data that we have received from our schools over the number of years, right now, we have an average attendance rate of about 72.9 percent. Over the course of the student's academic career from K to 12 with an average of 72.9 percent, basically that student is missing three years of school.

Not only in how we assess the students and ensuring that they are there, there needs to be a partnership between the parents and the schools and the teachers and the teaching staff and the DEAs to be able to encourage these young children to go to school. There have also been a number of different things that we have done as far as assessment goes. I know I talked during our last sitting...

One of the things that were piloted here in Iqaluit last semester at the high school was the social studies assessment program that's more of a project assessment on the students. That is something that was very successful. The students were actually preparing a project and doing a presentation where they actually had to show, in order to do it adequately and to pass, that they had the skills they needed to be able to do that. Those were the skills that were taught during that semester.

This program is now going out to other schools and we are also looking at expanding that project type of assessment from the high schools and developing that type of assessment tool for the middle school as well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Before I continue, I would advise ministers that this is not a filibuster, this is question period. So please keep your responses to a minimum if possible so that other members can ask questions.

(interpretation) Member for Nattilik.

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) In my Member's Statement, I referred to the challenges some students face as they try to meet the academic standards as they go through school, such as ADD or FASD. Can the minister advise this House whether or not his department conducts any assessments or testing to determine whether students' learning is affected by these or other types of disorders? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Maybe if I just said yes, that would be an appropriate response, but I believe in providing adequate answers, and hopefully the members appreciate the responses that they are getting and aren't frustrated by not getting information.

Mr. Speaker, our system right now currently in identifying students that may have challenges learning is if a teacher, throughout the year, at the beginning of the year, and as it progresses, identifies a student that is having challenges, there are processes in place where they meet with the school team and they can identify an individual who may be having challenges.

As far as testing specifically on those specific things, I'm not sure, but I know that there are mechanisms to identify students who are having challenges meeting the desired curriculum requirements as they move throughout the year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) On January 13, 2011, the NWT released its 2010 achievement tests and functional grade level results. This information helps the government, the public, and parents see how successful their education system is and where improvements need to be made. Will the minister commit to publishing the results of all standardized assessment testing that takes place across Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Not only would I commit to doing that, but I would also commit, once we've got approval for our comprehensive strategy on classroom and Nunavut-wide assessment, to make sure that's available not only to the public but to the educators and to everybody so that they know what it is.

Mr. Speaker, the department is also working and doing surveys with the teachers to find out from them what they need, what they feel they need in order to properly assess the students. So that survey in language arts is underway and, Mr. Speaker, I have no problem providing members with the results of that information when it's available. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Member for Hudson Bay.

Question 030 – 3(3): Homeowner Fuel Rebate Program

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Finance.

On December 1, 2009, the Minister of Finance announced in this House that the government's Homeowner Fuel Rebate Program would be extended to the end of 2010 and increased to \$500 per homeowner. The minister's Budget Address yesterday did not mention whether or not this program will continue for 2011. However, as of 9:00 a.m. this morning, the website for the minister's department contained information about this program.

My question for the minister is this: when my constituents ask me if the Homeowner Fuel Rebate Program is still available, what can I tell them? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Excellent question. Minister of Finance.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Rumbolt for that question. I apologize if the website is not up to date. I'm personally not a webmaster, so I can't be sure what's on there at times. I believe that that program is not available this year, so you could tell that to your constituents. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your supplementary question, Member for Hudson Bay.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister explain why this program is not available for this year? Thank you.

Speaker: Minister of Finance.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Ell... I keep thinking he's Mr. Elliott.

>>*Laughter*

I thank Mr. Rumbolt for that question. Mr. Speaker, it's unavailable this year because we determined that it's not necessary this year. It's one of those programs that in certain years, if we have funding available and the weather is unseasonably cold, it could be available, but it's unavailable this year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Member for Hudson Bay.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Although it has been a mild fall, it's certainly cold out there these days.

Can the minister tell the House how many applicants under the Homeowner Fuel Rebate Program were approved in 2010 and how much the program cost the government? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Rumbolt for that question. I'm just trying to find that number. It's certainly over 1,000 and there could be as many as 1,300. So it was a very good program; a lot of people took advantage of it. And the approximate number, don't hold me to it, of the cost is in the \$600,000 to \$700,000 range. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As we know from watching the evening news, the Middle East is in deep crisis and the price of oil is heading up. Ultimately the price of oil affects all Nunavummiut as it drives the cost of heating our homes and keeping our lights on. Yesterday's Budget Address did not discuss the impact of the world's energy prices. Can the minister share his thinking with us today on how this situation will ultimately impact Nunavut residents and what the government is doing to protect our residents from sudden spikes in the price of energy? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Rumbolt for that important question. Mr. Speaker, as we are all aware, Nunavut is very dependent on fossil fuels, there are no questions about that, and we are subject to the mercy of the incidents and issues around the world.

In the last couple of weeks, the protests in the Middle East, Libya in particular in the last few days, is climbing up the world price of oil. The speculators are making money. I follow it quite closely myself personally. I know that there are oil producers in the world who have indicated that they will increase production. I know that my colleague from Community and Government Services is keeping abreast of this.

As cabinet, we have authorized the pre-purchase of fuel at various points throughout the year to even out the purchases. So it's too early to see what the full impact will be on Nunavut from the uprising in the last couple of months, but I assure the member that we are staying on top of the increase in oil prices. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 031 – 3(3): Policing Needs in Pangnirtung

Mr. Komoartok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask my question to the Minister of Justice.

(interpretation ends) According to statistics released by the RCMP, there

were 3,049 calls for service made to the RCMP detachment between 2008 and 2010. Pangnirtung is one of the 10 busiest detachments in Nunavut and the municipality has written to the chief superintendent of “V” Division to obtain additional resources.

The GN’s Department of Justice is responsible for administering the policing services contract between the GN and the RCMP. Can the minister outline how his department works with the RCMP to identify which communities may need additional resources? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Komoartok for that question. Mr. Speaker, my Deputy Minister of Justice meets regularly with Commanding Officer McVarnock. Obviously the commanding officer has information on which communities need help. He actively engages in moving resources around between communities where there are increases. I know that he has moved officers from some communities where the need is not so great to communities where the need is great.

Commanding Officer McVarnock has talked to me on many occasions where he has indicated that he would like to have more resources. We are constrained by the budget that’s appropriated through this House; there is only so much money to go around.

I know that our officials in the Department of Justice are currently negotiating with other jurisdictions in

Canada and with the federal government a new 20-year policing agreement. So they are very detailed negotiations, but we are hopeful, through that process, that we will be able to get some more resources from Canada. We will know in the next six months to a year how those negotiations went. 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 for his detailed response. (interpretation ends) The Municipality of Pangnirtung is hoping that a bilingual administrative support position can be added to our local RCMP detachment in order to facilitate communication with unilingual members of the community and to provide uniformed officers with more time to focus on fighting crime rather than filling out forms.

One of the priorities in the business plan of the minister’s department is to, and I quote, “Continue efforts to increase capacity to communicate in the Inuit language within the RCMP in ‘V’ Division.” Can the minister give me some specific examples of how his department is accomplishing this goal? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Komoartok for that question. I recall that question being asked by one of his colleagues last year or the year before. We do certainly want to increase the level of interaction with

communities. We would like to have some resources to hire a member of the community to work for the RCMP. Again it comes down to budgetary constraints and I have talked to my cabinet about that, but again it's an issue where resources are constrained.

With respect to interacting with communities, the RCMP is working on training people to work in the operational call centre here in Iqaluit. We have been working with communities and detachments. They have to identify candidates for the Inuit Special Constable Program. I indicated yesterday that we did have a number of applicants who we were hopeful would go on the training. Unfortunately for various reasons, some of them couldn't. One is down there now who I expect to graduate in April.

We are working again with younger people and youth in schools to consider careers in policing. We recently had six young people who were down at the depot in Regina in January for the program who decided to undergo the training. So we are hopeful that in time, people will participate in the training and consider careers in policing services. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Komoartok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for his response. (interpretation ends) The Municipality of Pangnirtung has noted that the new *Inuit Language Protection Act* requires that services be provided to the public in the Inuit language. What is the Government of

Nunavut's position regarding the application of this legislation to the RCMP and how will the Government of Nunavut ensure that federal bodies, such as the RCMP, provide services in our language? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Komoartok for that question. Again, Mr. Speaker, the commanding officer of the RCMP is well aware of the requirement to provide services in the Inuit language and they are actively engaged in considering how that can be done. They have officers who provide services in some of the communities and not all of them can, obviously.

I know in the 20-year policing agreement that's being negotiated, I believe that's a section that is being considered to be included in the 20-year policing agreement. So it is being negotiated. Obviously if it's in that agreement, then additional resources are going have to be appropriated from the federal and territorial governments to help the RCMP to fully implement it in the years coming. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Komoartok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister. Yes, it would be good to see this done in the near future because our community really needs the assistance.

(interpretation ends) On September 18, 2008, the annual shared directional statement between the Government of Nunavut and the RCMP for the 2008-09 fiscal year was tabled in the Legislative Assembly by the Minister of Justice. This important document outlined joint priorities between the Government of Nunavut and the RCMP. Will the minister commit to tabling the current shared directional statement in the House at tomorrow's sitting, yes or no? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Komoartok. I can commit to tabling it, but I can't commit to tabling it by tomorrow. We will see. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 032 – 3(3): Protection for Reservists under the Labour Standards Act

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Justice.

As the minister is aware, I have been pushing for the government to introduce amendments to the *Labour Standards Act* that would protect the jobs of Nunavummiut who need to take a leave of absence from their employment in order to take part in activities of our national reserve force. Earlier this week, the MLA for Great Slave also raised this issue in the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories. He and I have

actually been sharing ideas about this issue.

Mr. Speaker, I know that the GN and the GNWT have worked together to introduce amendments to workers' compensation legislation in our two territories. Would the minister commit to talking with his counterpart in Yellowknife to see if our two governments can work together to introduce legislation here to protect reservists? Thank you.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Elliott for that question. I appreciate Mr. Elliott's dedication to helping the reservists in Nunavut. I know that there are quite a few people involved in that area up here, but I can talk to my colleague. My Department of Justice is already working on making amendments to the *Labour Standards Act* to protect reservists. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you to the minister for that answer. It includes quite a few members. There are the CIC officers who work with our cadets and do a great job working with the young people across Nunavut, but it includes the reservists who are our rangers as well.

In terms of mentioning the *Labour Standards Act* and working together with your department and coming up with changes, I know that you had mentioned

in some discussions we had that the minimum wage was being discussed and that has already been changed and that bill has been passed. There were other issues as well. Could you give me an update then as to what's been happening within your department on this issue? Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister of Justice.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Elliott for that question. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Elliott came to me last fall with an idea for amending the *Labour Standards Act* to look after reservists. I took his concern to my department and we took it very seriously.

In discussions with my officials, we determined that it would probably make more sense long term for Nunavut because it's legislation we inherited from the Northwest Territories. Again, this opened up the entire *Labour Standards Act* for review and then some other legislation. So we're considering quite a lengthy process. It will probably take two to four years, but at the end of it all, we will have a piece of legislation that is made in Nunavut.

The work right now that is underway is research by our Legislative Division and our Policy Division to see what's in place elsewhere in Canada. It's not just an easy process of amending legislation or changing legislation; you have to consider the impact on all legislation and other agreements in Nunavut. That work is also underway, reviewing the impact on other agreements and other legislation. So it will take time, but it's happening now and at some point, I hope

to introduce a legislative proposal to the cabinet for consideration. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister because again this is an issue that, as you had mentioned, I came to you about in terms of putting forward a Private Member's Bill to have this be passed within the life of this Legislative Assembly.

Other jurisdictions across Canada have similar Acts as well that cover reservists all across the country, and I believe it's just us and the Northwest Territories which are the two that don't fit in. I guess I'm still debating whether, in terms of the timelines you are giving, a Private Member's Bill is something that is more appropriate to meet the needs of our reservists.

So in terms of what you had said, could you confirm that the legislative proposal is still not written and again confirm the timeline? If it is two to four years, that's longer than the life of this Assembly. So if you could just confirm that for me, please. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): I would like to inform you that this is not the forum to be asking hypothetical questions, but it's up to the minister if he wishes to respond. Minister of Justice.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Elliott is asking a good question. Mr. Speaker, the Department of Justice of the Government of Nunavut has a lot of legislation on its plate to

review, to amend, and to write. In addition to the legislation, there are the regulations, so we have a fairly full slate of work to do. Mr. Elliott, as I indicated earlier, came with a good idea, a good recommendation, and our department is taking it seriously.

As I also indicated earlier, Mr. Speaker, a lot of research has to go in. You just can't sit down on a computer and write up legislation. You have to review this. You have to consider all of the legal angles and all of the implications of legislation. You also have to consult with people. You have to give people an opportunity to respond to proposed changes to legislation, so it's going to take time.

The four years I proposed is to open up the entire Act and look at combining two or three other pieces of legislation into one Act. With respect to reservists, I think that it could probably be done in a shorter period of time, so that's why I said two years. So four years for the big Act, the larger review and approval, and two years to do something for reservists.

But if the member wants to introduce a Private Member's Bill, again it would have to go through the legislative process. It's not something that's going to happen overnight. So I threw that offer out to the member, and I hope he is interested and trusts the Department of Justice to take his request seriously. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 033 – 3(3): Homeownership Issues in Kugaaruk

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to direct a question to the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister Curley, (interpretation) in your capacity as Speaker.

I wrote to the minister regarding private homes in Kugaaruk, where they receive a large amount of government assistance. The *Tamapta* Mandate is guided by the leadership of the Premier and the Minister of Finance's statements. Within Nunavut, we have to become more self-reliant, if I were to say it in English.

In my correspondence to the minister, I mentioned that some of the private homeowners were told that after a period of 15 years, the home would become theirs or if a couple reached the retirement age of 65, the title would be given to the couple. However, they get notifications that state the amount owed on their unit and when the next invoice arrives, the amount has no correlation to the previous month's bill. It seems that when they pay, the bill drops, but the amounts are higher than their payment amounts when their invoices arrive.

In my correspondence to the minister, I asked whether or not they could send officials from the Nunavut Housing Corporation in Cambridge Bay to answer the questions that private homeowners had and to hold a meeting with them in Kugaaruk. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we will try to provide assistance in any manner that we can. With regard to people who owe mortgages, again there's an interest charge that is added if the payment isn't made on time and cause their outstanding balance to increase somewhat.

What I would like to talk about is that I was advised by an elder, which caused me to pause and reflect on how long we have been dealing with these housing issues. Anyway, the elder asked me, "What about all of this paper? Every time I make a bill payment, I get a receipt." I told the elder that he may throw out the receipt if he wished, but if anyone ever suspects that he didn't make a payment and he has the receipt, then that would solve the problem.

Just recently that same elder came in to visit and he remembered my advice about the receipt when he went to make a payment to the housing association. He was told that he owed \$800. He said, "Hold on a moment," and then went home. He grabbed all of his receipts because he had kept them and he brought them all up to the housing association. When he showed them to the administration, he ended up not owing any money.

We will try to provide more assistance. Perhaps if you can explain some of the issues, I would be very happy to send departmental officials to speak and to provide answers to the people who need help. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): I thank the (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister Tagak Curley. (interpretation) If I were to raise this question regarding the correspondence I had sent: has he not received a copy of this correspondence? Perhaps it's sitting on his deputy minister's desk. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll look into that personally. I haven't been provided a copy. It may have just gone up the line or directly to the Nunavut Housing Corporation. Once I look into this matter, I'll provide an appropriate response. Thank you.

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

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If the minister didn't receive a copy, I'm able to provide a copy to him tomorrow. Perhaps if you can inform me tomorrow whether or not he has a copy, then I can provide a copy to him. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you. I'll be able to do that and I'll inform the member as to what the status is. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Oral Questions. Member for South Baffin.

Question 034 – 3(3): Government of Nunavut’s Fiscal Position

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Finance. It seems like it’s his lucky day today. Yesterday’s Budget Address mentioned the word “deficit” a total of seven times. However, the minister did not mention the other “d” word: debt.

Mr. Speaker, CBC News over here is reporting that the minister plans to ask the federal government for an increase in our borrowing limit, which was set at \$200 million in 1999 by way of a federal Order in Council. Can the minister confirm if this report is accurate, and, if it is, why did he not mention this in his Budget Address yesterday? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Elliott or Mr... .

>>*Laughter*

Mr. Schell is looking like Mr. Elliott. I thank Mr. Schell for that question. Yes, I met with the reporters yesterday. They seemed quite keen and eager to ask me about whether we’re going to ask for an increase in our debt cap. They are obviously well aware that the Government of the Northwest Territories is asking for an increase. They were trying to pin me down on a number.

I said, “Yes, \$200 million is our level now to give the government flexibility that we would, at some point, probably be talking to the federal government about increasing it.” Again, it’s all

preliminary. We would meet with the Department of Finance. I believe Finance Canada has actually sent out questionnaires or surveys to all of the territorial governments to ask about increases in our debt cap. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The last time I spoke with my bank about getting an increase in my Visa limit, I had to explain why I needed the increase and demonstrate that I would be able to pay my bills. Can the minister give us a sense today of how much of an increase in our limit he will be asking Ottawa for and can he tell us how he will use this borrowed money? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Schell for that question. Mr. Speaker, we haven’t figured out an amount that we’re going to ask Ottawa for; it’s way too early. I’m well aware, I have credit cards as well, and I know that if you get credit, you have to use your money wisely, make the monthly payments, and stay in good standing. So it’s too early.

Yesterday, when I talked to reporters, I didn’t give them any timeline of when I’m going to meet with Finance Canada. Obviously they’ve got their own issues and concerns to deal with. They are dealing with their federal budget and they are dealing with a significant deficit themselves. So when I know and have

further information, I'll let Mr. Schell know. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Another word that the minister banned from his Budget Address yesterday was "taxes." I can't say that I was sorry to see that word missing. Can the minister state for the record today whether the government considered making any changes to our tax rates before introducing this year's budget and, if so, what did it conclude? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Schell for that question. Mr. Speaker, I didn't indicate in the budget speech yesterday that there would be any taxes. We will be introducing some bills to amend some income tax regulations to bring our tax regulations in compliance with the Canada Revenue Agency. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have run my own construction company and one of the lessons I learned from that experience is that your own employees, especially frontline employees, often have the best ideas about ways to save money and improve efficiency. I know that the federal government has an Employee Innovation

Program where public servants who come up with money-saving ideas that do not reduce programs or services are eligible for recognition. Would the minister commit to introducing something similar here so that frontline GN staff can submit ideas for ways to save money and improve efficiency in the government, yes or no?

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Schell for that very good question. If the ministers are eligible for that, I would certainly have a lot of submissions in there because I have a lot of ideas on how to save money. I receive emails and letters all of the time and people telling me on the street, in the stores and airports how the government can become more efficient and more effective. I don't know if I could commit to something like that, but I could certainly talk to my cabinet colleagues about a way to allow Government of Nunavut employees and other people in Nunavut to submit their ideas, suggestions, and thoughts to the government.

I would hope that they would, rather than bring it to cabinet, actually talk to their immediate supervisors in the department and through them, up to the directors and to the assistant deputies and deputies, and that their supervisors and bosses actually take their suggestions seriously and look at them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. I don't know if that was a yes or a no, but I'll have to examine it further. Question period. (interpretation) Member for Amittuq.

Question 035 – 3(3): Investigation into Child’s Death

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Earlier in my Member’s Statement, I spoke about certain issues. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Health and Social Services.

As I stated, we are experiencing a tragedy in our community because another child has just passed away. I know that the health minister is very responsive to crises and is very sympathetic to requests for assistance. Can the minister inform this House, along with the listening public, as to whether this issue will be dealt with by the Department of Health and Social Services? I’m referring to the crisis in our community which appears to be causing deaths amongst young children. 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. Yes, we are very sympathetic and we feel for the families who have lost their loved ones. We know that they undergo stressful times, especially when children are involved and people tend to be more loving towards them.

This time of year, we can see sickness moving throughout Nunavut. I want to reiterate that flu season has arrived in Nunavut. We sent out public service advisories where the chief medical officer notified the public about the results of the laboratory tests that it was an influenza-like sickness. I’m not sure

whether this is the cause in this particular case, but as you will recall, people who wish to have flu shots generally get them in the fall. This public health initiative is supposed to protect you from influenza.

There is another public service advisory that I’ll be able to provide tomorrow. At this time, it has been released to the newspapers. I can’t state what the reasons or cause of deaths are at this time, but the coroner’s office will be investigating the cause of death. However, with regard to the public service advisory announcements, we have provided an additional nurse to Igloolik to provide support for the time being.

There are currently five nurses with one head nurse, totalling six. There are also two licensed practical nurses to provide further assistance. We also have a home care nurse. They are all working together to deal with the crisis in Igloolik, especially during this flu season. We are trying to provide more support and resources to the community of Igloolik. We are aware of the families who have lost their loved ones and who are undergoing a stressful time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister because they are trying to deal with this as quickly as possible. It’s very unfortunate when people pass away before their time, and it makes you really wonder and brainstorm how the problem could be resolved. Is it a result of

ineffective health services or a particular strain of sickness? I don't want to blame anyone because the nurses are always working to their utmost to provide services to the communities and I know that they are impacted by any incident.

As the minister stated, the coroner's office is currently looking after the issue. Is there any way the minister could make a declaration that it's not due to influenza or a particular sickness that hasn't arrived in Nunavut that may cause more concerns, or can the minister provide some sort of update as to what the cause was, Mr. Speaker?

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

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With regard to the coroner's office investigations, we don't deal with their findings, which have to go through the justice department. It's only after we receive the coroner's report that we're able to make the information public.

Due to this particular illness, we're trying to deal with these crises as they develop. We're trying to provide more resources for the nurses, as well as other services where we can provide it. Whenever there's a sudden death, it causes a lot of worries. It's unfortunate that there may be a lot of unnecessary anxiety, especially where families have sick children. For those reasons, we have sent more nurses to Igloolik. At this time, we can't stop the illness, but what we want to do is provide assistance to those in need. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister for his response because the health department has really come out to help our community. A lot of us have lost family members in the past when we used to have all of these illnesses. I personally lost a family member who died suddenly due to illness. This can cause a lot of undue stress and anxiety.

I would like to know if the minister has spoken with the federal Minister of Health to look at the pandemic plan and whether this is something that may lead us down that line. For that reason, I would first like to thank the Minister of Health, but I also want to comment that I consider this a crisis and a very urgent matter.

Perhaps we may falsely be scared by an illness with no foundation. That's why I would like the department to provide as much public information as they can to let them know that this crisis will be dealt with and that all processes are being dealt with. In particular, families that have small children under the age of one are the most worried. I would like the minister to inform my constituents exactly what their plans are and what they're going to do. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you. As I stated earlier, we have sent additional nurses to the community to provide more support. We also have

two nurses who are on call 24 hours, especially during crisis or the flu season. Right now, they're being looked after properly. In some cases, each child is being looked after for two hours to see what their symptoms are. If there are any children who are suffering from the flu or who are very sick, then they will look into those cases.

That's where the situation stands right now in Igloolik. I'll be receiving updates from my officials and at that time, I'll speak with the member representing Igloolik. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. The Member for Hudson Bay would now like to ask questions.

**Question 036 – 3(3): Sanikiluaq
Airport Parking Garage Issues**

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

Mr. Speaker, the Municipality of Sanikiluaq recently informed me of the urgent repairs needed to the airport maintenance garage in Sanikiluaq. Last fall, high winds lifted the roof on the building and to this day, they are using large tires to hold down the roof. Mr. Speaker, there is only one furnace operating, which does not provide sufficient heat for the building; the garage also has broken chimneys; the electrical system requires upgrades; and other maintenance issues. Has the minister been made aware of the issue with the airport parking garage by his staff and does he know when an assessment on the facility was last conducted? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister of Transportation.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. Yes, I have been made aware and some of the infrastructure that we have in Sanikiluaq is rather old, dilapidated, and in need for real repairs. It's just not in Sanikiluaq, in some communities also, but as the member is well aware, we do have limited resources in getting some of these infrastructures that we need for the Nunavut airports. Yes, I am aware of the situation in Sanikiluaq. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Part of the question he didn't answer was if there was an assessment done on this facility and when. The municipality had a contractor assess the facility and provide a detailed price quote on the work required to bring this facility up to code. It is my understanding that this information was provided to the minister's departmental staff. Can the minister confirm if his departmental staff will be conducting their own assessment on this garage or if the detailed price quote is sufficient to allocate funding for this project? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My departmental officials will work closely with CGS officials to determine, assess, and evaluate the necessary repairs that are needed for the

garage there in Sanikiluaq. Once that's determined with a class "A" estimate, we will move forward from there. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, Mr. Speaker, he didn't answer my question directly if the assessment provided by the contractor was sufficient for this project.

Mr. Speaker, the type of work required for this project will need materials to be shipped through sealift and as we all know, the logistics involved to purchase and ship materials takes time. Will the minister commit to addressing this issue with his departmental staff as soon as possible to ensure work can begin on this project as early as in the summer? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. With the assistance of CGS officials, we will make the appropriate determination of what's needed. I don't think it's acceptable to have big tires holding a roof down in any of our buildings within the communities. Certainly we will take a close look at the assessment that has already been done and make our determination from there with the help of CGS officials. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Looking at our orders of the day, (interpretation ends) Item 7.

(interpretation) Written Questions. The Member for Natilik has a question.

Item 7: Written Questions

Written Question 002 – 3(3): School Non-attenders

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a written question for the Minister of Education regarding school "non-attenders."

(interpretation ends) Nunavut's new *Education Act* came into force in July of 2009. Section 34 of the *Education Act* refers to the "duty of a student" and states:

34. (1) A student shall attend school regularly and punctually.

Section 34 (3) provides for specific circumstances in which a student may be exempted from attending school. However, if a student has not received an exemption and they do not attend school, they are a "non-attender."

- 1) For the 2009-2010 school year, broken down by age and community, and within the meaning of section 34 of the *Education Act*, how many Nunavut children and youth were school "non-attenders"?
- 2) As of February 28 of the current 2010-11 school year, broken down by age and community, and within the meaning of section 34 of the *Education Act*, how many Nunavut children and youth are school "non-attenders"?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Member. Written Questions. There are no more hands up. (interpretation ends) Item 8. (interpretation) Returns to Written Questions. There being none. (interpretation ends) Item 9. (interpretation) Replies to Opening Address. (interpretation ends) Item 10. (interpretation) Replies to Budget Address. (interpretation ends) Item 11. (interpretation) Petitions. (interpretation ends) Item 12. (interpretation) Responses to Petitions. There being none. Before we go to (interpretation ends) Item 13, (interpretation) we will take a 20-minute break.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>House recessed at 15:18 and resumed at 15:42

Speaker (interpretation): We can now resume our meeting, Sergeant-at-Arms.

Thank you, Sergeant-at-Arms. Going back to our orders of the day. (interpretation ends) Item 13. (interpretation) Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters. The chair of the standing committee, Member for South Baffin.

Item 13: Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters

Committee Report 001 – 3(3): Report on the Review of the 2010 Report of the Auditor General of Canada to the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut on Human Resource Capacity in the Government of Nunavut

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have the honour today of presenting the report of the Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts on its review of the 2010 *Report of the Auditor General of Canada to the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut on Human Resource Capacity in the Government of Nunavut*.

Mr. Speaker, since April 1, 1999, every report of the Auditor General to the Legislative Assembly has been referred to a standing committee for review. Witnesses from appropriate Government of Nunavut departments, Crown corporations and agencies have been invited to appear in public to account for their responses to the Auditor General's recommendations and the concerns of MLAs.

The standing committee held its hearings on the Auditor General's 2010 report from September 27 to 28, 2010. These hearings were open to the public and news media to observe and were broadcast on local cable television.

Witnesses from the Office of the Auditor General, the Department of Human Resources, the Department of Education, and the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs appeared before the standing committee. The transcripts from the standing committee's hearings were subsequently posted to the Legislative Assembly's website in both Inuktitut and English.

The Auditor General's report presented 15 specific recommendations. These recommendations addressed the following thematic areas:

- Planning;

- Staffing;
- Training and Development; and
- Human Resource Tools.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to note for the record that the standing committee concurs with the recommendations of the Auditor General and notes that the government itself substantially agreed with all of the Auditor General's recommendations. I also note that the Department of Human Resources presented an action plan in response to the report of the Auditor General at the commencement of the committee's hearings.

Mr. Speaker, the issue of the Government of Nunavut's lack of human resource capacity has been a recurring theme in recent reports of the Auditor General to the Legislative Assembly. For example, in her 2009 report to the Legislative Assembly on the financial management practices of the Government of Nunavut, the Auditor General observed that:

"In our view, the underlying cause of the Government's lack of progress on our previous recommendations is its limited human resource capacity. Simply put, there are not enough qualified financial staff to properly carry out basic financial functions."

The standing committee's hearings on the 2010 report of the Auditor General allowed members to engage in a dialogue concerning the fundamental challenges facing the government in this area, including such specific issues as the distinction between training and education. As the Auditor General observed during her testimony to the standing committee:

"I think increasingly in governments in Canada, governments are requiring a university education. I would say even, for example, if you take our office, we require either accounting designation or a master's degree. So the requirements are increasing over time, and will only continue to increase. So it is troubling when you see that there is a very low rate of students completing high school. So there has to be much more emphasis on having students complete high school and then going on to post-secondary education."

Mr. Speaker, the government's own statistics support the standing committee's view that improvements in educational attainment constitute the long-term solution to the issue of human resource capacity and achievement of the government's obligations under Article 23 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement.

For example, the 2011-14 business plan of the Government of Nunavut indicates that while less than 25 percent of beneficiaries in the territory have obtained a degree, certificate, or diploma from a university or college, approximately 60 percent of beneficiaries between the ages of 25 and 64 have not graduated from high school.

The standing committee recognizes that the Department of Human Resources itself does not have the mandate or resources to improve overall educational outcomes in the territory. Nonetheless, our hearings provided an important opportunity for witnesses from the departments of Human Resources and Education to address areas where collaborative action would be useful.

The standing committee also notes the role of Nunavut Arctic College in this area. The standing committee also notes the importance of pre-employment training initiatives being accessible to residents of smaller communities as well as residents of regional centres.

Mr. Speaker, the challenge of meeting the Government of Nunavut's obligations under Article 23 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement was a major theme of the standing committee's hearings. It is important to acknowledge that while significant progress has been made since the creation of Nunavut in 1999, the path ahead is a long one.

According to statistics in the government's quarterly Inuit employment reports, a total of 925 beneficiaries were employed by the government in June of 2001. By June of 2010, this number had increased to 1,524. This represents an increase of almost 65 percent in less than a decade.

However, it is also important to note that ground has been lost in some occupational categories in recent years. For example, in June of 2008, 18 beneficiaries were employed in the executive category. By June of 2010, that number had dropped to 14. In June of 2008, 34 beneficiaries were employed in the senior management category. By June of 2010, that number had decreased to 29. The standing committee notes, however, that there have been some moderate improvements during this timeframe with respect to beneficiary employment in the middle management and professional categories.

Mr. Speaker, for a number of years, the Government of Nunavut had a target of

achieving 85 percent Inuit employment across all occupational categories by the year 2020. In her report to the Legislative Assembly, the Auditor General candidly noted that "it is clear that representativeness will not be achieved in each occupational category by 2020." During the standing committee's hearings, the government's lead witness ultimately conceded the accuracy of this observation following repeated questioning on the point.

The standing committee notes that the new GN-wide Inuit Employment Plan contained in its 2011-14 business plan indicates that the government has set an interim target of 53 percent Inuit employment by March 31, 2012. However, this target is a government-wide figure; the government does not anticipate meeting this percentage in the executive, senior management, middle management, and professional categories. It is also important to note that the government no longer appears to have a clearly defined target date for when fully representative levels of Inuit employment across all occupational categories in its departments, Crown corporations and agencies can or will be achieved.

During the standing committee's hearings, members sought to obtain clarification with respect to when the government anticipates being able to achieve fully representative levels of employment across all occupational categories. Testimony from the government's lead witness suggested that the Department of Human Resources does not anticipate being able to develop a more realistic projection for when this goal can ultimately be achieved until the year 2015. As the

government works towards setting a new target date, the standing committee notes the importance of being competitive with other employers in Nunavut, including companies in the expanding mining sector of our economy. The standing committee also notes the observations in the report of the Auditor General concerning such issues as the availability of housing for employees.

Mr. Speaker, as I noted earlier, the standing committee fully recognizes that achieving completely representative levels of Inuit employment across all occupational categories in the GN is a significant challenge. I will illustrate this point by using the government's own numbers. According to the government's most recent, publicly-available employment statistics, the GN had a total of 3,910 positions in its departments and major Crown corporations and agencies as of June 30, 2010. As of that date, a total of 1,524 beneficiaries were employed by the government.

In order for fully representative levels of Inuit employment across all occupational categories to be achieved, a total of 1,800 new beneficiary employees would need to be hired, assuming a fully staffed public service. This also assumes that the government would not lose any of its existing Inuit employees, which is not a realistic assumption, given that the government's most recent public service annual report indicates that the annual departure rate for employees leaving the GN is close to 20 percent.

It is also important to note that there are, at present, approximately 1,500 non-beneficiary employees of the government. In the long term, the

achievement of an 85 percent level of Inuit employment in a fully staffed public service would mean that the government would require approximately 900 fewer non-beneficiary employees than it currently has in its workforce.

Mr. Speaker, a related issue concerns the ever-increasing size of the public service itself. According to the government's quarterly Inuit employment reports, the number of positions in the GN grew from 2,818 in June of 2001 to 3,910 in June of 2010. This represents an increase of approximately 40 percent. During the same period, however, the government's overall vacancy rate consistently remained between 20 and 25 percent.

It is important to recognize that when the overall number of positions in the bureaucracy increases, so does the gap between the number of beneficiaries currently employed by the government and the number of new beneficiary employees required to achieve a representative public service.

During the standing committee's hearings, members questioned why the government continues to add new positions when it cannot fill almost a quarter of its existing ones. Although the responses that members received from the government's lead witness did not convince them of the wisdom of this practice, members recognize that this is a government-wide issue that the Department of Human Resources cannot address unilaterally.

Mr. Speaker, as I noted earlier, the report of the Auditor General presented 15 specific recommendations to help the government improve its human

resources management and ultimately strengthen its capacity. A significant number of these recommendations were focused on processes, practices, and procedures. In some areas, the government's success in implementing these recommendations will be clearly measurable. For example, the report of the Auditor General noted that it currently takes approximately 318 days to fill a vacant position through the government's job competition process.

As a number of members have noted, this causes frustration on the part of constituents who have applied for employment with the government. As the Auditor General stated during the hearings, "the staffing process has to be much shorter and more responsive." Reducing this length of time would be a measurable achievement, as would increasing participation and completion rates for training programs.

The standing committee also notes the importance of considering the differences that exist between processes for hiring positions at the headquarters level and positions in communities. The standing committee also emphasizes the importance of ensuring that Nunavut beneficiaries who are unsuccessful in applying for positions receive clear information concerning the reasons for why they were unsuccessful.

The standing committee notes that ongoing evaluation of the government's success in meeting such specific objectives as updating the government's Priority Hiring Policy, which expired in March 2010, developing a new GN-wide Human Resources Strategy, introducing a new *Public Service Act*, developing a legislated system of whistle-blower

protection, and bringing forward changes to the government's transfer assignment and direct appointments processes will also occur in the context of the standing committee's annual consideration of the proposed main estimates and business plan of the Department of Human Resources.

Although the action plan presented to the standing committee by the Department of Human Resources presented a number of planned timelines and activities in response to the recommendations of the Auditor General, members were of the view that many of these timelines are not sufficiently ambitious and many of the activities are not adequately described in a way that will allow for progress to be meaningfully measured.

For example, as I noted earlier, the government no longer appears to have a target date for when it hopes to achieve a fully representative public service. Although the standing committee recognizes the importance of setting realistic goals, it cannot accept the contention that a new target cannot even be determined until the year 2015.

Mr. Speaker, I also wish to note with regret that the standing committee was disappointed with the quality of a number of responses from the government's lead witness during its hearings. For example, members noted that although the Government of Nunavut had issued a news release on September 15, 2010, which announced that the cabinet had "agreed to cut down on duplication in the Government of Nunavut, contribute to capacity building, and re-profile vacancies," witnesses appeared unprepared to fully explain these decisions despite their obvious

relevance to the subject matter of the standing committee's hearings.

The standing committee was also extremely disappointed at the government's outright refusal to answer questions on a specific matter that emerged during its hearings.

In a recent court filing related to Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated's lawsuit against the federal government in respect to implementation of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement, the GN stated that the Government of Canada has "refused to provide to the Government of Nunavut the necessary funding ... to allow it to develop and implement the necessary training and other measures required to increase Inuit participation in government employment to a representative level. To the extent that the Government of Nunavut has been unable to comply with all of its obligations in respect of Article 23, that is a result of Canada's failure to comply with its funding obligations."

Mr. Speaker, if it is the Government of Nunavut's position that its capacity problems are caused by a lack of federal funding, it is incumbent on the government to be candid with Members of the Legislative Assembly concerning its position on what those funding levels should actually be.

Mr. Speaker, a number of themes and issues emerged from the standing committee's review of the Auditor General's report. Accordingly, the standing committee recommends that the Government of Nunavut address the following critical areas for action:

1. The importance of providing ongoing, formal reports to the Legislative Assembly on what specific actions are being taken to improve the human resource capacity of the government and an accounting of how their effectiveness is being measured. The standing committee recommends that the next report on the status of the government's action plan in response to the recommendations in the report of the Auditor General be tabled in the Legislative Assembly on the first day of the fall 2011 sitting of the House. The standing committee further recommends that this report, wherever possible, present clear measures of progress in achieving such goals as reducing the length of time required to fill vacant positions. The standing committee further recommends that this report account for what specific collaborative initiatives have been taken by the Department of Human Resources, the Department of Education, and Nunavut Arctic College. The standing committee notes that the government's success in achieving measurable progress will help guide future deliberations concerning the question of whether the government's current model of centralized human resources management continues to be appropriate. The standing committee further notes that the results of the government's current functional review of decentralization, which are anticipated to be provided in mid-2011, will also benefit the consideration of this issue.
2. The importance of accelerating the Government of Nunavut's timetable

for the setting of a new target date for achieving a fully representative level of Inuit employment across all occupational categories in its departments, Crown corporations and agencies.

3. The importance of reviewing the long-term sustainability of annual increases in the number of positions in the territorial public service.
4. The importance of timely tabling in the Legislative Assembly of key departmental documents, including the government's public service annual report and its quarterly Inuit employment reports. As of February 25, 2011, the 2009-2010 Public Service Annual Report had not yet been tabled although the fiscal year had ended 11 months earlier. As of February 25, 2011, the most recent publicly-available quarterly Inuit employment report was for June 2010. The information in these documents is essential for ensuring that Members of the Legislative Assembly and the public are kept informed of the government's actions and outcomes in the area of human resource management.
5. The importance of clarifying in its response to this report the Government of Nunavut's position concerning federal funding levels in relation to the territorial government's obligations under Article 23 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement.

Mr. Speaker, I will conclude by noting that the standing committee, pursuant to Rule 91(5), formally requests that the

government table a comprehensive response to this report within 120 days.

I would also like to take this opportunity to note that the standing committee looks forward to considering the Auditor General's *2011 Report to the Legislative Assembly on Nunavut Child, Youth and Family Programs and Services*.

Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of the standing committee be received by the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Member. The member moves that the report of the standing committee be received by the House. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Speaker (interpretation): They have agreed. Thank you. The report has been received by the House.

Going to our orders of the day.
(interpretation ends) Item 14.
(interpretation) Tabling of Documents.
Member for Baker Lake.

Item 14: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 011 – 3(3): Baker Lake HTO's Comments on the Revised Draft Guidelines for the Preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement for Areva Resources Canada Incorporated's Kiggavik Project

Mr. Aupaluktuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) For the benefit of the permanent public record and the interest of all Members of this House, I am honoured to table a copy of the Baker Lake Hunters and

Trappers Organization's comments on the revised draft guidelines for the preparation of an environmental impact statement for Areva Resources Canada Incorporated's Kiggavik project. I encourage all of my colleagues to review this document with care. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Tabling of Documents. Minister for Economic Development and Transportation.

Tabled Document 012 – 3(3): The NNI Review Committee's Summary of the 2008-2009 Comprehensive Review Report

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table the NNI Review Committee's summary of 2008-09 comprehensive review report produced by Nunavummi Namminiqaqtunik Ikajuuti Secretariat and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Tabled Document 013 – 3(3): Resolute Bay Retailer Grocery List for Nutrition North Review Project Website

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Further to my Member's Statement yesterday, I wish to table a copy of the prices of the items on the grocery list from the Nutrition North review website for the retail outlet in Resolute Bay.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Hanna Wolff of Resolute Bay for sending me this information. I would

note that she made the same comments as I did yesterday in regard to the availability of certain nutritious food items, the variety of certain nutritious food items, the quality of certain nutritious food items, and the choice of certain nutritious food items which are provided by the retailer to the consumers.

I encourage all members to review this list. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Tabled Document 014 – 3(3): Responses to Ministerial Directive No. 1 dated April 15, 2010 for Nunavut Housing Corporation

Tabled Document 015 – 3(3): Responses to Ministerial Directive No. 1 dated April 17, 2010 for Nunavut Housing Corporation

Tabled Document 016 – 3(3): Responses to the Reporting Obligations for Territorial Corporations, 2010-2011 for Nunavut Housing Corporation

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll be putting on my other portfolio hat, specifically as the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation.

I am pleased to table these three documents. The first document relates to Responses to Ministerial Directive No. 1 dated April 15, 2010 for Nunavut Housing Corporation. The second document, Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to table is the Responses to Ministerial Directive No. 1 dated April 17, 2010 for

Nunavut Housing Corporation. And lastly, I am pleased to table the Responses to the Reporting Obligations for Territorial Corporations, 2010-2011 for Nunavut Housing Corporation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Tabling of Documents. There are no more hands up. Going to (interpretation ends) Item 15 (interpretation) in our *Orders of the Day*. Notices of Motions. (interpretation ends) Item 16. (interpretation) Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. (interpretation ends) Item 17. (interpretation) Motions. (interpretation ends) Item 18. (interpretation) First Reading of Bills. Minister of Environment.

Item 18: First Reading of Bills

Bill 02 – An Act to Amend the Scientists Act – First Reading

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the hon. member from Rankin Inlet North, 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 – First Reading

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet South and Whale Cove, that Bill 3, *An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Bill 04 – Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act, 2011 – First Reading

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet South and Whale Cove, that Bill 4, *Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act, 2011*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. To the motion. Minister of Justice.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet South and Whale Cove, that Bill 5, *Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act, 2011, No. 2*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. The motion is in order. All those in favour of the motion. Opposed. The motion is carried. Thank you.

(interpretation ends) Item 19.
(interpretation) Second Reading of Bills.
(interpretation ends) Item 20.
(interpretation) Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bill 1 with Mr. Schell in the Chair.

Thank you. For your information, you will immediately proceed to Committee of the Whole.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

Item 20: Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters

Chairman (Mr. Schell): The Committee of the Whole will come to order. In the Committee of the Whole today, we have the following item to deal with: Bill 1, *Appropriation (O&M) Act, 2011-2012*. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We wish to continue with the review of Bill 1 and the Department of Health and Social Services, followed by the Department of Education. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Are we agreed to continue with the O&M budget for the Department of Health and Social Services?

Some Members: Agreed.

Bill 01 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2011-2012 – Consideration in Committee – Health and Social Services

Chairman: Are we in agreement that Minister Curley and his staff can go to the witness table?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Will the Sergeant-at-Arms please escort the minister and witnesses to the witness table.

Minister Curley, please introduce your staff.

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my right is the Deputy Minister of Health and Social Services, Mr. Alex Campbell, and to my left is our Executive Director of Corporate Services, Debora Voth.

Chairman: Thank you. Yesterday, we were on page H-4. I'm taking questions on H-4. Any questions? Mr. Tapardjuk.

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to welcome the minister. As Members of the Legislative Assembly, we get a lot of requests for assistance from our constituents. This is especially true for medical issues.

Under page 129 in your business plan, it states that for 2011-12, you will be putting together a confidentiality policy and security protocol for computer databases, and in English it states, (interpretation ends) privacy and security policies for electronic and non-electronic health information.

(interpretation) With respect to these policies that you want to develop, will they be able to assist the members? For example, if a constituent wanted assistance to deal with an issue and the case is confidential, how can the individual be fully protected, Mr. Chairman?

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think you're asking about the electronic health information for patients who leave for

medical appointments or who visit the community health centres. It can take quite a while, especially when someone moves to another community and their medical records have to be sent. In some cases, it caused problems for patients, especially when the records had to be mailed out.

We will try to ensure that we prioritize the issues related to this matter, especially where it states that we have to implement privacy and security policies related to confidentiality. These policies that govern both electronic and non-electronic health information have good administrators who enforce the policies and protect personal information. That is how we want to ensure we protect them.

It's currently being implemented, and we discussed the issue very briefly. It's being worked on in Iqaluit, Rankin Inlet, and we will be going to the Kitikmeot, specifically to Cambridge Bay. The larger communities were going to be dealt with first. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Tapardjuk.

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am very happy that I can raise questions because I'm part of the committee now.

In your business plan, one of the priorities for 2011-12... I'm wondering if the services are being provided. Well, the health department is trying to do this for developing an evaluation framework to monitor and assess the quality of departmental programs and services. Will that be handled by your department or will that be contracted out to do the

evaluation framework? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you. First of all, let me provide some details about this digital database. Not only Canada but the entire western world now uses the digital computer database where electronic health records are being kept.

Data is entered into the central database, which is supported by the federal government fiscally. This is a highly complex and technical matter requiring specialized skills. Therefore, its development is under contract. Furthermore, our territorial informatics technicians under CGS are involved. This is also overseen by a technical working committee from the department. This is quite complex to detail, but our IT personnel are dealing with it.

Further, the federal government provides a substantial amount of funding towards the digitization of health records. This is especially true of people who go to the hospital for appointments and the data is entered into their own individual files. For example, here in Iqaluit, it has been running for some time and if you had to go for an appointment, all the medical personnel has to do is click on your file and not have to go rummaging for paper records.

Once your health number is entered, your entire health record pops up, with information on who you are, any past visits to the doctor or nurse, any blood work or tests that were performed, and all of this is available to the doctor. If you were to move elsewhere in Canada,

that record would be available as well. As an example, it immediately allows any treating doctor to know what your medical history is and it's extremely helpful for any tests that are required.

Some people are fearful that this database may be abused, but it facilitates the treatment of sick people. It may even allow faster treatment and less costs to treat people as the sickness will be immediately known and wouldn't require further testing. Mr. Chairman, I believe Alex can provide more details about this digital record keeping.

However, with respect to some of the concerns, that can be dealt with through the Information and Privacy Commissioner. We welcome all concerns as it relates to confidentiality and our security, but our goal is to complete this by March 31. We are aiming for this date, but we will update the members if we can't meet it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Campbell.

Mr. Campbell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thanks to the member for that question. Just a couple of points just to add to the minister's responses. The evaluation itself, the framework that is going to be developed this coming fiscal year, will be developed within the Policy Division in the department. The Corporate Services Division looks after the electronic health records when it comes to that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Tapardjuk.

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): I would like to get more clarification on the

evaluation. Will you be using your own employee or will the evaluation of the process be contracted out? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Campbell.

Mr. Campbell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that question. Yes, we are proposing to do that in-house. As I said earlier, the division of policy will be spearheading that project and will be developing those frameworks.

Currently we don't have a very accurate way of assessing how these programs are being managed and administered at the local level, so we need some kind of reporting mechanism and evaluation framework for some of the programs and policies that we do have in the department. So that's a key instrument that needs to be developed, and yes, it's not going to be contracted out; the Policy Division will be doing that. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On page 129 as well in the business plan, under the priorities for 2011-12, the first priority there is to establish a certified practical program with Nunavut Arctic College to certify community health nurses in advanced practical skills. I was wondering if you could just expand on that and tell us what types of skills and if this is going to be affiliated with another, like Memorial University, or if it's specifically Nunavut Arctic College based. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Campbell.

Mr. Campbell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thanks to the member for that question. The proposal is for the Arctic College to deliver that program. We're trying to develop an enhanced program at the community level to allow the CHRs to have a more broad range of responsibilities at the community level and to assist the nurse in charge and the other clinical staff in the community.

We are working in partnership with Nunavut Arctic College in collaboration and developing what's called a laddering program in the college where people can start off at a certain course, and then they can redirect some of their course work to other professions if they want. It's something that Arctic College will be developing in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In regard to some of the questions from the MLA from Amittuq with these electronic health records, I know that there was a newspaper article about the Qikiqtani Hospital and having electronic records and they ran into a few problems and concerns with the rolling out of that. I'm sure that with any new program or the way of handling different things, you learn from your mistakes. Is there an update that we could get on that? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Voth.

Ms. Voth: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Actually we had very few glitches with the roll out at the Qikiqtani General Hospital. We did have some initial issues with some parts of the software that had been corrected since. So I don't

believe it matters how much time you can test it out in a non-live environment. Those kinds of issues will show up when you go live, and they were handled very quickly. I think, overall, from the feedback that I have been getting, the implementation was very smooth. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One of the concerns that the committee had and other MLAs have with having constituents bring us issues is the fact that their private medical information is being kept confidential. Just for clarification, now that the program is done and all of the kinks are worked out of it and it is working smoothly, will it be specifically medical staff who are inputting the information or are consultants involved in this process in any way?

You had mentioned CGS, which is a totally separate department, which could have access or see private and confidential information from patients across the territory. I know that has been an issue in regular members dealing with patient issues as well, so I know it's something that you guys are aware of. Who actually has access to seeing that information? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Voth.

Ms. Voth: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the electronic health records system, there is actually a multi-layered security system. For example, you would have a clerk or a receptionist at the front entrance that would have access to information, such as address, etcetera. However, they would not have access to

blood reports or x-ray information, etcetera. As you go up the chain of your security level, the more information you would have access to. You would actually have to be the doctor in charge of the patient to actually see the full medical record, unless it's been released to you. So there are actually multi-security levels.

No one at CGS would be able to have access to that medical information. We do rely on CGS for the core business network that e-health system transmits the data through. So we do rely on that. CGS also provides support for us in the hardware area, so they take care of our servers to make sure that our servers are in a safe environment and make sure that our servers have electrical backup, etcetera, in case of a blackout. So that's the services that we rely on at CGS. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that explanation. I'm heavily involved in technology and I can see the benefit to having records and getting information faster to different jurisdictions when we are sending medical travel patients out and don't have access to probably, like you said, blood type and also charts, as well as x-rays. So I think it's great, but I think, in a way, committee members want to make sure that we have assurance that this information stays confidential. So that seems to help a lot. Thank you.

My next question is more towards medical travel in terms of what specific factors will determine whether costs for medical travel in 2011-12 will or will

not exceed the allocated budgets that you put forward. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Voth.

Ms. Voth: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Of course, the medical travel program is a demand-driven program, so there is never a guarantee of what the cost levels will be. There are many different variables that determine whether we have to send a client down south.

I can say that we are working with Health Canada on a joint project of examining why we are sending people south. So we're looking at it from the perspective that we would like to cut down the costs on medical travel. So we're looking at things, such as "Can we have more speciality clinics? Are we sending large groups of people down for the same thing, so would a specialty clinic handle that? Are we sending people down south for follow-up referrals, for example, and can we handle that over the telehealth system that we have set up here in Nunavut?"

So we're working on a joint project and examining the data that we do have to date to see if there are those opportunities to save costs, but again, it is a demand-driven program and we just can't guarantee that we would be within the budget in any given year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that explanation. It sounds like we are definitely on the right track because I remember that those are some of the things that the Office of the Auditor General was saying in terms of

tracking trends and keeping track of information so that we can save money in different areas.

Your department's current Medical Client Travel Policy has been in place for two years now and I'm just wondering what measures are being used to evaluate the success of the policy. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley: I think it's about three years. I have been in there for almost two years now, slightly over two years, and it was already in place about a year and a half when the previous administration... I think the program, as all members know, has been very generous, probably over-generous, because I was tempted to give some examples about the history of medical travel of all people.

I was saying privately to one of our reporters out there a couple of days ago that during the TB epidemic in the 1950s, when our parents or relatives went out, it appeared to many of us as though they had left the face of the earth, as far as I'm concerned. We didn't know where they went. We never had any contact with them. They never had any interpreters or whatnot. Nowadays, it's a very different world altogether. We are quite generous.

I know that the current policy is applied differently even though there are two prongs to it, one is the medical side and one is the unilingual provisions in the policy, but how it's applied has really differed in a number of areas, and I think it's from that that the department

continues to evaluate the effectiveness of it.

Internally, we have not determined yet whether or not we want to do a full-scale revision to it, but it appears that it's something that we're going to have to take seriously because it's getting quite costly to be so generous when, in fact, at the other end of the destination, there is an interpreter there. So it's something that we are quite mindful of and we will try and tackle it as we go. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister. That was one of my next questions. It's interesting that you brought up the idea of the unilingual provisions in terms of unilingual speaking clients who are travelling are given an escort.

I'm just wondering: is that going to be reviewed? The Minister of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth pointed out the other day when I asked questions September 2012, where you will be able to receive service in the language of your choice. Will that provision be taken out? With the Government of Nunavut, unilingual speakers will actually be able to have service provided in Inuktitut if that is what they require. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Campbell.

Mr. Campbell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The answer is yes, we are going to be reviewing it in light of the legislation that is coming into play. I think the minister alluded to the fact that the policy needs to be reviewed, so we will be doing that and make appropriate amendments. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, the idea of questions around the cost and the huge cost for medical travel, in terms of the regional medical air travel, the contracts that are coming up for renewal, is there any type of... ?

One of the things that I heard... . This is where I get confused because I came in sort of in the middle of it. At first, I thought it was a five-year contract and then it's a three-year contract with a year extension for client travel. Maybe if you could explain the medical travel contracts that are coming up for renewal, it might be the best way to start. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Voth.

Ms. Voth: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The RFPs have just been put out for the scheduled medical travel airline contract and in that RFP, we have a stated that we are looking for a three-year contract with three one-year extensions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to get the wording right. So the RFP for scheduled medical travel, which means those are patients not... . When people say medevac, it's a separate contract and this is for people who are in the communities going down to, say, Iqaluit for a checkup or going to Ottawa for a checkup. Thank you

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Voth.

Ms. Voth: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, scheduled medical travel would be

on the regular airlines on a scheduled travel on a scheduled flight as opposed to a medevac, where we charter a flight and it's an emergency. We refer to that as an emergency air ambulance. Thank you, Mr. Chairman

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So that's for what we're doing now, but I want to go back into the past in terms of the last contract with the contractors that are currently in place right now. Was it the same RFP that was released where there were the three years and we're now in year 3, and then there was going to be an extension for two years or one year and one year? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My understanding is that the current one was a three-year contract with the extension of one year times two, but there is always a condition in all of the contracts that it's at the discretion of the government whether to exercise those options. So the government or the cabinet or whatnot is in charge, but if there are no real issues involved, then the managers or pretty much the deputy minister extends it to apply the options within the contract. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So in terms of issuing the RFP, is there any reason why the extension was not allowed for either one year or the two years or one times one, as the minister explained? I'm just wondering why it wasn't extended. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you. I'll have Debora Voth provide the response. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Voth.

Ms. Voth: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe that was the first RFP that went out for scheduled medical travel with the airlines. I would have to say we have learned from our mistakes. We did have some issues in some of the communities with regard to the market share that was awarded, but the service levels were not really there to support that market share. I felt that Health and Social Services was at risk and advised the deputy that we should go forward with the RFP process. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So that actually goes into some of the concerns that we have heard from other MLAs in terms of medical travel patients from the Kivalliq region without washrooms provided and those types of things. Are they the lessons learned that you are talking about? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you. We serve a constituency, obviously, which involves the economic groups, municipal groups, and all of the Inuit organizations. They took part in providing a message with the government and there were individuals as well, many patients who have travelled back and forth within our region, particularly the Kivalliq, where there were many complaints put forward.

I know many of the MLAs in the Kivalliq have had telephone calls in the middle of the night, occasionally even myself. My wife had said yesterday that we should change our telephone number. The thing is it was a very difficult one in one particular region. So I think it was a good time to evaluate the services provided and see whether or not we can improve the services that we provide to the medical clients, who are mostly Nunavutmiut in isolated communities. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Going back to page 129 in the business plan, the fourth bullet down, it talks about the implementation of the fully integrated communications strategy for the department. In terms of that line item, could the minister explain what will actually be done in terms of communication? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Campbell.

Mr. Campbell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What we're talking about here on that particular priority is to develop our own internal communication processes in the department. I think that generally, at times, we overuse the word "strategy," but this is more of a work plan for communications within the department. We need to communicate better with Nunavummiut on some of these issues that are arising as a result of Health and Social Services. We need to communicate better to the public and the media, as well as our partners.

I'll leave it at that for now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That was everything.

Chairman: Thank you. We will go to Health and Social Services. Branch Summary. Directorate. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$19,540,000. Ms. Ugyuk.

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you. In regard to medical travel for patients, for those of us who live in the Kitikmeot, I believe there's an agreement with the Canadian North Airline to transport patients out. That's one of my questions. For clarification, if that was the case, elders from Gjoa Haven have to go home via a milk run before they finally arrive at their community. Specifically, they first bypass Gjoa Haven and travel through Kugaaruk and Taloyoak before flying back. Those elders get tired of travelling through this milk run. If there's going to be an RFP, I would also ask you to consider this matter. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Voth.

Ms. Voth: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For the evaluation process of the RFP for scheduled medical travel, service level is a very large component for the successful awarding of market share. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Ugyuk

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you for the clarification. I believe I know that when patients have to leave, sometimes the airline can't make it to the community. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. I think that was just comment. Nobody else? Okay, I'll try this again. Health and Social Services. Branch Summary. Directorate. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$19,540,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Now move on to H-5. Branch Summary. Health and Social Services. Social Services. Any questions? Mr. Komoartok.

Mr. Komoartok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. While we are on this page under the Social Services Branch, I wanted to make a comment and also asked a question to the officials present here.

I received a letter from one of the staff in my community. There are two employees working in our community and two other individuals from outside the community when a job opportunity opens. One of the individuals who originally came from Pangnirtung had written me a letter that when they started training in the social services program this year, there were lots of students at the beginning but many of them left early.

The people coming from outside the community, especially from down south, have no knowledge about our traditions and way of life. Their way of doing things is very different from ours and so they can't just start working right away. We don't want them to use their ways in what's an Inuit environment. I tend to speak about this issue over and over again.

We have two individuals who have completed the social worker training and received certification. When there are two certified social workers in our community who have already done their training, why do we have to rely on social workers who continually have to be replaced? It becomes quite costly that way. Those of us who live in our community can't really understand when the government is supposed to serve us. It seems like the government doesn't really want to hire Inuit in the local community who are qualified. What is the real reason for not hiring those individuals who are qualified? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you. I understand your comments. I believe we need to provide more information when we talk about social workers. There are two levels of social workers in Nunavut. Some social workers who have a degree in social work have completed an Arctic College program and they take training at Arctic College for four years and they get certified. We don't have an Arctic College in Nunavut where they can be certified or designated licensed social workers degree. With help from Human Resources and Arctic College, we offer some of this training, which are diploma programs.

So there are different levels of social worker training programs that are available. Perhaps the individuals you're talking about might be certified in this way. Definitely in the future, we will need degree programs in Nunavut, just like with nurses who take four-year training. We definitely need to have that

sort of social workers degree training in Nunavut with the proper certification and social worker qualifications.

With respect to the current people applying, I can't tell if they have the appropriate level of training, so I'll have to look into the matter you're asking about. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Komoartok.

Mr. Komoartok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the minister for clarifying that. There has to be different paperwork and degrees for certification as social workers. However, in order for our residents to be able to reach that level of education, we should be trying to recruit Inuit because they're comfortable with and know exactly what our culture and language is, as they grew up here. If you could look at any kind of initiative to try and increase the numbers, I would support it.

Based on what I have heard in your initiative that you're trying to undertake with Arctic College, I urge that you continue those initiatives and I encourage you to work harder because it really does lead to cost increases when we continually have to replace workers, and that includes the cost of flights and meals. It would also allow the communities to be able to retain more employees, but at this time, I guess the level of certification in education is what our people are facing as a barrier.

This is more or less a comment; it's not really a question. I look forward to hearing more information from them. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation):

Thank you. I am quite pleased with his comments and we understand the points that the member has elucidated. We will keep them in mind as we need to provide as much support for Nunavutmiut as we can through the field of social service work. The workers are very important to our communities as they provide many services.

As the Minister of Finance stated during his Budget Address, they would provide more funding for social services. Since 1999, probation officers had been transferred to social services. Some of these positions will be returned to the Department of Justice. If this occurs in the future, the social workers will be less burdened and can start concentrating solely on social service work. In looking at the future, I expect that to happen, although the transfer may take up to a year to be completed.

Social workers don't just deal with probation cases; their work includes people with mental health problems who require the proper care and treatment, as well as other cases. I want to let you know that we are committed to this as we want to ensure that we have personnel adequate to serve the needs of Nunavutmiut. However, due to the distances involved between communities and our population base, sometimes we have to hire social workers from outside of the territory. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Ningeongan.

Mr. Ningeongan (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I recently asked the question via email to Deputy Minister

Alex Campbell and I want further clarification on the matter. We have been informed previously on this matter relating to senior management positions, which is usually what members ask about. It takes a long time in order to fill these senior management positions.

I would like to ask this question. In Coral Harbour, the social worker position has been vacant for some time. When can the residents expect a replacement social worker? Since our residents occasionally go through stressful times, they sometimes really rely on social workers to provide assistance.

Can we be given a timeframe as to when a social worker would be hired in Coral Harbour? We have been informed that it is imminent, but I would prefer a date when we can expect a social worker in our community. That is my question. When can we expect our social worker? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Campbell.

Mr. Campbell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thanks to the member for that question. The social worker in Coral Harbour, I understand from the reports we received from my regional staff as well as HR that the competition of that position was closed. They were doing the screening of the applications and then they were going to be doing interviews. I'm not sure how long that process takes, but in the next two months, we should be able to see a position there if everything falls into place. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Tapardjuk.

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know that you're having problems with social workers. One of my constituents in Hall Beach has paid attention to the issue because of the fact that a social worker has never been available.

Furthermore, with regard to court injunctions or court paperwork which asks you to meet with probation officers, due to the fact that our community doesn't have a probation officer or social worker, the residents are facing barriers in trying to meet the requirements of their probation orders or other court orders.

In this particular page, 3-23, in English, it's the environmental scan for 2011-12. Your priorities are listed and it states that it's difficult and challenging to hire a social worker. It also states that "As of October 2010, only 25 of 46 social worker positions were filled with indeterminate staff." Can you clarify to us here exactly what your plans are to fill these positions?

I believe you stated that there was a request for proposals. Well, I'm not sure when you mentioned it or when I recall hearing it, but you stated that you were trying to deal with the shortage of social workers. That's why I would like to get an update on your progress on this file to date, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Campbell.

Mr. Campbell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thanks to the member for that question. As a department, we are working with the Department of Human Resources to try different ways of trying to speed up our recruiting process.

One thing we have done in the territory is we have received applications in one pool and then we have our senior managers reviewing that one pool of candidates, and trying to streamline that process and trying to hurry up and get the folks in place. I understand there are frustrations around the hiring process and getting these positions in place as soon as possible. There are certain requirements that we have to go through in the hiring process that need to take place.

As the minister reported yesterday, I believe there are 46 social worker positions. I believe 22 of those were filled by indeterminate, 12 of which are beneficiaries. So we are working on trying to improve those numbers, Mr. Chairman. I'll leave it at that, Mr. Chairman. Thanks.

Chairman: Thanks. You probably cut it down from 318 to 317, but go ahead, Mr. Tapardjuk.

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's quite understandable that it's very difficult when you're trying to recruit Inuit as social workers. We hear about their capabilities and skills, but then when we talk about the legislated requirements, I believe it leads to legal hurdles or problems that cause an issue. Inuit are so sympathetic and empathetic with their clients that it leads to legal problems, especially when you're trying to utilize cultural counselling.

Due to these issues, you have publicized that the current legislation is being evaluated and it's the (interpretation ends) child and family services legislation, (interpretation) if I'm not

mistaken. Have you identified what's the most obvious area that needs to be changed within the legislation? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Tapardjuk. Minister Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the member for his questions. If you recall, the elders who were in the Gallery are reviewing that. We have yet to see the recommendations that they have provided. I believe some of my officials have seen those recommendations, but I haven't received them yet.

Once the report is completed and the regional Inuit associations, including the social workers, have been consulted as to which particular areas require revision, that report would be finalized and submitted to the minister for approval. Once that approval process has been completed, we would be able to review it. I know for a fact that it would have to go through the Executive Council.

Our particular practice in this field has to change, especially in social services and child protection services. The legislation has to be revised. It has been mentioned by the Supreme Court that the work plans were being delayed for too long and the action plans were not being developed, especially for people who were dealt with through protective services, and they have to have agreements between the parents and the agencies.

There are quite a few errors that we have to massage in order to improve the social services area. We had quite a number of

children who were apprehended and there were a lot of families who required support from social services. I believe that up to March 2011, we have that opportunity to review them.

If we look at the Auditor General's report, it speaks about child protection services. It applies to all levels of government. We're not the only department responsible for child services. There are other departments, such as Education and Justice, which have to be involved in this.

However, when we're looking at specific Nunavut needs, if we get to a place where people are less leery of social services, and as per some of the elders' recommendations and comments, if we improve the interaction between clients and social services, it will alleviate all of our problems.

Without the report, I can just guess as to what the recommendations will be, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Tapardjuk.

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you. That's very clear. Obviously, this review will be comprehensive.

The current legislation, which we keep referring to, was grandfathered from the previous government. If we look at it, it has broken up a lot of families, but the Inuit cultural way is to keep families together. We have to ensure that we merge the legislation with our cultural practices so that there is less splitting up of families, and children are not taken away from their families, and that we continue to ensure we support families. I believe this has to be reviewed carefully.

I'm sure my colleagues will ask more questions, but since I don't have a lot of time, I want to get this clarified. In the 2010-11 priorities, you will be looking at developing the Residential Care Strategy and that you will be detailing out the action items. For example, people with disabilities could have more. You have stated that you will be developing this for implementation in the 2011-12 fiscal year.

What parts of the strategy will apply or be a result of the issues related to the legislation, especially when they're trying to implement the Residential Care Strategy? Will this require more funding or less? That's what I want to find out, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Campbell.

Mr. Campbell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that question. As members know, we're doing the social services review. We have indicated that we would have a strategy developed on this particular item, but we have put that on hold given that the review was going to be happening. So in this coming year, we will be developing that after we get the report from the review process. We will be developing a strategy around that.

Right now, we don't have anything around the foundation document on how we administer that. We just react to situations where requests are made for out-of-territory residential care services. We are going to be looking at the whole issue of residential care. We will be developing a strategy this coming fiscal year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Tapardjuk.

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank Mr. Campbell for his response. When you look at the government report regarding procurement contracting, it highlights that there are a fair number of contracts geared towards residential care, specifically for people who can't leave their homes outside of Nunavut. It seems that there are a fair number of contracts that we're dealing with.

Wouldn't it be much better to care for these residents in Nunavut or perhaps to get a facility that enables us to look after our own residents in Nunavut? Would that lower the costs, especially when you look at the number of contracts with the Department of Health and Social Services? Can you clarify that for me, Mr. Chairman?

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Campbell.

Mr. Campbell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are trying to develop ways of trying to streamline some of those processes. One of the things that we are trying to do is reviewing the whole issue of how many people we are sending out of the territory for care, how much we are spending sending people out, and how much we are spending on an annual basis to have them cared out of the territory. All of that is being reviewed during the development of a residential care strategy.

As well, we have plans of trying to move most of these services to Nunavut where we can look after our own people here and move some of those economic opportunities for people to work at these facilities as well as bid on some of these contracts that may come up. We do have a long list of residential care contracts, a

whole list of them. Again, it's on a reactive basis. When referrals are made, we do have staff call around to see who is available and where we can place clients and we send them there.

A long-term strategy of the government, I think, at least for the department, is to try and find a way of caring for our own people here. The continuing care facilities in Gjoa Haven and Igloolik are a good example of how we can repatriate some of our residents back to Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. I don't have any other names on my list here. I knew that was going to happen. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Department of EIA has contracted out a review on the social safety net, while government funding has also been allocated to work on the poverty reduction action plan. How will the Department of Health and Social Services be involved in these activities? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think all of the departments pretty well are putting pieces of their ideas into the whole poverty reduction stuff.

I know that there is an interdepartmental committee, in one committee aspect, chaired by my deputy minister, Mr. Campbell. In some cases, each department is asked to pretty well take the lead in funding. In this case, we have done that with the school breakfast program. We increased that allocation. For further information, I'll have the

deputy minister comment on that because he is still chairing that group on behalf of the whole government. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Campbell.

Mr. Campbell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just to add on to the minister's response, we do have a deputy ministers' committee called the Quality of Life Committee. The minister is correct, I chair that committee. It involves various departments; the Department of Education, the Department of Justice, EIA, and Economic Development as well is involved as part of the committee. Each of those departments has a responsibility to develop their own initiatives under different banners on the agenda. One of them is the social safety net.

Our DMs group is supposed to monitor the progress and provide some initial direction to staff in developing this on what we do in government, as well as consultation at the community level. The same process is used with the poverty reduction. The other agenda item on there is the Suicide Prevention Strategy. So there are a number of social agenda items that are discussed at our deputy ministers' group, and they facilitate the process to make sure that there is coordination and integration among departments to make sure that we're not running over each other and duplicating processes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is there two-way communication going on here? By two-way, I mean your representatives who go and work on

these committees, do they report back to and obtain information from social workers and mental health workers to provide the frontline workers' opinions on how this is going to affect and come up with a very good plan? Do they go both ways? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you. I don't know exactly who they consult with, but I think when the government sent out a broad policy to reduce poverty and to also try and develop programs and priorities for those vulnerable individuals, as well as the youth, and so on, the government, through the *Tamapta* program, the broad statement, and the *Qanukkanniq* initiative, is focusing on areas that have been underfunded, not particularly funded by the government.

Therefore, these departmental committees coordinate each other to ensure that they're not creating a duplicate of existing programs. Each department, like our case, we then have had to request for additional funding from the Financial Management Board to at least implement that part of the school breakfast program, our contribution towards that.

The deputy may have further information on exactly how the consultation initiative works out. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Campbell.

Mr. Campbell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under the deputy ministers' committee, the Quality of Life Committee, we do have various

committees, as well inter-departmental committees, established. Those committees are chaired by the appropriate department leading that initiative. They do supposedly go away, in common terms, and do the consultations across the department, across the government to make sure that the frontline people are also consulted on some of these initiatives that are being addressed at the government level.

There are some initiatives like the poverty reduction process, which is more a public engagement process. That also is happening through the consultation engagement process and the Department of Economic Development and Transportation is leading that side, but the coordination of this is through the Quality of Life Committee. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the department's business plan, on page 131, the second bullet talks about developing an electronic case management system for social services. I'm wondering if you could give us a bit of an update as to how that system is going to work.

The Department of Education has been working on a new case management system for their income support workers and is very hopeful that it will be a cost-saving measure and a time-saving measure for their income support workers. Is that the same idea in terms of what will be happening with our social workers, providing them more time to be with clients instead of doing the bulky paperwork? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Voth.

Ms. Voth: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This initiative is going to involve the social services unit and the IT unit. So I would view the start of that process would be in needs assessment. During the needs assessment, they would consult with the people who will actually be using the system. That would be the frontline people. So you would develop the needs assessment, and then a search would take place for an appropriate electronic case management system that would be compatible with our electronic health records system. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One of the big questions that different members have mentioned and talked about... I admit that I was so focused.

The question was actually about the *Child and Family Services Act* review. My focus has always been on the review of that legislation, getting the legislation into the House, and then having the child and youth representative follow through in terms of an independent body. I kind of overlooked the fact that it was actually a social services review for all of the Government of Nunavut.

In terms of all of the talk and discussion about possibly having the Department of Health and Social Services split, what is the opinion of the department on that? There have been a lot of regular members who have talked it. It was sort of alluded to in the Budget Address and the Commissioner's Address, but I was wondering if the minister would be able to share some views. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you. One of my personal views, really, is we don't have a policy exercise on that yet. I think what we're focusing on is to make sure the programs that are available to Nunavutmiut for social services are effective and also cost effective. That's a priority. If certain program areas, and we need your input on those, are not working we would like to fix them. One area that we're focusing on was the *Child and Family Services Act* and there may be other areas of the program.

I have indicated to my colleagues that probation is not our responsibility, and as soon as that eventually transfers to Justice, it will improve the effectiveness part of my first introduction. I think the turnover of staff would improve if the workloads and caseloads are lessened. That's what we want to hear. We want to hear from each of you where isn't it working.

Is it from the top down that is the problem? By putting more overhead, will it solve the problem or will improving the service of the program and make it more effective? Which is more justifiable: spending more on overhead, introducing more computers, finance, and accounts receivable separately from Health, creating infrastructure requirements, office buildings for ADMs, and how many finance positions will it have? You need to think of it. That's your call, not mine.

Ours is we need to make social services work for people in Nunavut and I believe it's possible. Sure, we need more training dollars. I have indicated to my colleagues privately that the *Child and*

Family Services Act may be a useful tool to try and acquire more funding for social services. They will have a component with respect to that because there will be additional training required. That is something I look forward to and is something that I want to share with our MP in Ottawa to make sure that they do have that report.

The funding, in many cases, is part of the problem; lack of training initiatives and support services that we have for social workers. These are the areas that I put my personal views on, but we are not charged with putting an issue with respect to whether or not we should split the department or not. That's the call of the cabinet as a whole. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Minister, for the comments. You mentioned about probation officers and the extra duties by social workers to carry out the duties of probation officers within the community and how the separation would actually help. I have heard from frontline workers that that would be something that would help as well in terms of sometimes, they wear two hats where they are providing services and counselling as a social worker in the position as a social worker to a victim and then at the same time, providing probation services to the person who actually instigated the assault or whatever that had happened. I know that would help.

Do you know when you foresee this transition happening? Will it be by the end of 2011, when it will be sort of separated totally? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you. There is an MOU between the departments of Justice and Social Services in place that has not been completely severed yet. It will require the coordination between the two departments. My colleague and I have met on more than one occasion on that, but there was a delay in implementing changes or to that effect in view of some cost pressures that the whole government was facing. To further explain the whole concept, Mr. Chairman, I would like the deputy to add comments to that. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Campbell.

Mr. Campbell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't have much to add to the minister's response, except to say that we do have that MOU, we do have a working relationship with Justice but we're slowly phasing out of that. I think we're looking at a three-year process to make that happen. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In terms of personal views of health and social services, I think, definitely for my three communities, the biggest concern is the same as the member from Nattilik in terms of getting social workers in the community.

We have Grise Fiord, Resolute Bay, and Arctic Bay all without social workers at this time. As well, they were under the contract with probation, so that is not happening. I think they are being serviced through Pond Inlet and Iqaluit for probation services. At the same time

that I am lobbying you for social workers I am lobbying the Minister of Justice for probation officers as well.

My next question is actually in regard to some of the public service announcements that have been out. There was an email, I think, on the help desk through the GN. There was a local community radio talking about the idea of looking for foster parents within Nunavut. I'm just wondering: how successful has that campaign been? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Campbell.

Mr. Campbell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Right now, I don't have an update on how that's going, but we certainly can provide that information to the member. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Any body else have any questions? Mr. Tapardjuk.

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you. I would like to briefly ask this question. Throughout this week, we have heard many comments, and during Minister Taptuna's Minister's Statement earlier today, he informed the House about the Anti-Poverty Secretariat and the Poverty Reduction Action Plan. The Department of Health and Social Services is also a partner in this initiative.

I would like to get clarification on this issue. What level do they have to reach in order to be considered above the poverty line? What do they have to have? I mean, I can't grasp the meaning behind the word "anti-poverty." What is the definition? I would like that term

defined. However, I'm unsure as to who has that answer.

In the departmental business plans, almost all of them mention their anti-poverty measures, but I haven't been able to wrap my head around what they mean in that context. I don't know who exactly to direct my question to because each department discusses the Poverty Reduction Action Plan.

If I had total understanding of the definition, then I would be able to provide more assistance to the government. When one does not comprehend the term or context behind the initiative, it really causes one to think hard. What exactly are they trying to accomplish here? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Yes, I can respond first, but in my opinion, the Premier should respond firstly to the question.

During our retreat to develop the *Tamapta* Mandate, we had to deal with what is known as poverty, which means poor people in my dialect. We all have to try to reduce the number of people living in poverty and we have to do it in partnership with regular members. It also has to be undertaken in the communities. Therefore, when the review of the government priorities was undertaken with the *Qanukkanniq* Report Card, every department was asked to come up with their departmental positions.

For example, Alex responded on our departmental position. They evaluated each department to see how to improve

our service provision and support. ED&T was involved in this exercise, with a budget developed and priority given to community freezer projects. If we provided community freezers, then some of the foods wouldn't spoil as fast and there would be less wastage.

I believe that the Premier has to respond to the question on behalf of the government, so I leave it at your discretion, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Madam Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you. We debated this matter previously and questions were posed as to the meaning behind the term, especially when you talk about reducing poverty in the communities.

In looking at Canada, all of the provinces have a poverty reduction strategy and Nunavut is, I believe, the only territory that doesn't have a strategy geared towards poverty reduction. We keep voicing in this House that there are children who go hungry, that there's a lack of nutritious food available, and that many families can't purchase all of the foods they require. These are the types of people we have to assist within our communities.

Government can't reduce poverty all on its own; everyone has to play their part. The government can't just throw money at poor people and say, "Here. You will not be poor anymore." We're consulting with the communities to see how each community can work towards reducing poverty with their resources because they know best what skills and resources they have to put towards the fight to reduce poverty. They are also best able

to determine how to battle poverty in their community.

To cite an example, during our consultation with the communities, some hamlet councils made statements about certain ways to ensure proper nutrition. There were such recommendations as subsidizing healthy foods since pre-packaged foods are very expensive and most young people buy prepared foods which are less nutritious. If they were taught how to cook a proper meal at home, then they would be better able to provide for themselves.

Furthermore, when people get funding, another good suggestion was to teach them how to budget so that their limited funds can last throughout the period that they are provided assistance for. I'm just using that as an example because each community will have separate priorities in trying to reduce poverty.

We also have to include private businesses and to see how they can provide their benefits to those who are needy and require assistance. We can look at various committees and regional organizations. I believe that one of the examples that my colleague, Minister Curley, mentioned was if we upgraded all of the community freezers, then it would allow the people in the community to ensure that the food is not wasted and spoiled.

If we tried to come to a common understanding of the meaning of poverty reduction, then we would not be able to meet all of the needs of the community because they all want to be consulted, they all want to know what this means and what kind of initiatives we will undertake to implement this strategy.

When the consultation tour is complete and the review has been completed, we can provide a report and identify the terms and define the words. I expect that we will be able to move from there.

At this time, what we're trying to do is consult the communities to see what their needs are and what their priorities are. A lot of these activities are in the planning stage. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Hopefully that clarified it. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. I'll be looking for a raise there. I'm the Chairperson, not the Speaker. Mr. Tapardjuk.

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you for your clarification as I know it's a difficult and complex issue. I recall that Aupilarjuk had composed an *Ajaajaa* song when he had been to New York City. In it, he mentioned seeing panhandlers and feeling pity for them. He describes them as living in abject poverty, receiving no help whatsoever. I believe that the story speaks for itself, but the comment outlines what I wanted to voice to the Department of Health and Social Services, as the term is mentioned in the report. I look forward to hearing about future developments on this front.

When the majority of our population is no longer on social assistance, does that mean that we have reduced the level of poverty and that our residents live above the poverty line? Alternatively, with the rising prices of goods, such as snowmobiles, boats, and outboards, if we're able to still purchase them due to our increased income, does that mean that we're no longer poor?

There are other extenuating factors that place people in poverty, so we need to

define it in order to combat it. It's more of a standalone comment, but I'll withdraw my question from the Department of Health and Social Services as I know now that it's a multi-departmental initiative. Thank you.

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

Mr. Ningark: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation) I don't recall exactly when, but it was when this issue was first brought up for discussion that I raised a question to the government on the definition of the term "poverty". (interpretation ends) Can you define poverty? (interpretation) Unfortunately the government was unable to define the word.

If I have three square meals a day, does that mean that I'm not in poverty? If I'm able to provide for three meals a day, then I'm not poor. At least that, to me, seems to be a definition of not poor. If I'm not going hungry and my children can have a proper breakfast, lunch, and supper, and they can snack on foods throughout the day, whether that be country food or store-bought food, does that mean that I'm not living in poverty? Some kids prefer eggs in the morning or cereals. Furthermore, if we're talking about supper, if you're able to order an expensive dish like surf and turf, which is steak and lobster, does that mean that I'm not in poverty? I would like to get that clarified. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you. (interpretation) We're not being asked to define it, but we must keep in consideration that not all people are in

the labour force and many people can only survive with social assistance in our communities. Other people are physically challenged and can't work. We have many widows who don't have a husband to hunt, while others don't have hunting equipment. These are people we need to keep in mind as those needing assistance.

We are not discussing our own situation as members in this House, as we are nicely remunerated for representing our constituents. However, most Inuit still wish to eat their country food and for some of us, we can never abandon our country foods. The people whom we are targeting are the poor members of our society. As per the *Tamapta* Mandate, the people we are targeting are the abject poor, those with no support or assistance.

We are talking about the most vulnerable members of society, such as children and orphans, who have never been taught about surviving on the land and the hunting skills one needs to survive. This can be defined in various ways. However, we have to go back to the Inuit custom of sharing and providing assistance to those in need. I believe that if we repatriated that mentality, it would really help youth to understand. We have to show them how to survive on the land and to hunt. If they had an alternative, more people wouldn't depend entirely on social assistance.

Further, more people have to be reminded and encouraged to practice our cultural practices because many Inuit are no longer as passionate about hunting and many youth have a lackadaisical attitude, which is the largest obstacle. We are lazier than our ancestors, but

sloth and laziness will never improve your life. It's also the reason why people can get stuck in life. We need to find answers to these questions and we have to encourage others to become more self-reliant or to educate themselves so that they can be self-sufficient.

I just wanted to speak to that, although there was no question, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Ningark.

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We really want this to be developed. I believe all of the members here are in the same boat, as well as all of our constituents, including employees of the government. It has different meanings to different people. It may mean certain things to certain people. Perhaps some people may want to get assistance, but some people may be turned away. What I would like to see is a proper definition that everybody would agree and this would ensure that there is no confusion. Again this is just a comment, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. That was just a comment. I don't have anybody else on my list here, so we will try this again here. We will go to Branch Summary. Health and Social Services. Social Services. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$42,450,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Move on to H-6. Health and Social Services. Branch Summary. Public Health. Any questions? Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One of the questions in terms of part of what the Public Health section is doing, if you turn to H-9, it has the breakfast program and the allocation of \$500,000.

Again I'm getting a little confused because I know I have asked questions to the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, I have asked questions about the breakfast program and I can't remember who answered it now, whether it was Mr. Curley or Mr. Taptuna, or it might have been the Premier herself who answered it. In terms of breakfast programs, when will this be rolling out?

I seem to remember there was talk of a study being done and the analysis of what needed to be provided for the communities and rolled out in that manner. Maybe if you could explain the breakfast program. The \$500,000, what is that going to go for when we allocate that funding? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Voth.

Ms. Voth: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Currently we have funding that comes in under Brighter Futures and currently every community chooses to spend some of its Brighter Future allocations on breakfast programs for children. They also undertake other fundraising and other initiatives to support these programs further.

Most existing breakfast programs are not able to provide a nutritious breakfast every school day of the year to every student as current funding doesn't permit them to do that. Also clear program guidelines do not exist since there is no formal GN breakfast program, so

communities are designing individual programs.

The actual cost breakdown for the school breakfast programs will be: the total amount of funding that we're requesting is \$665,000; \$500,000 of that would be going under grants and contributions and the remainder of the funding, that's \$165,000, is for developing guidelines, training, and tools to support the existing breakfast programs or for future expanded programs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think that clarifies what I was trying to get at with this. Again, one of the things that I think, as an MLA, I try to do is help my communities find funding where they can find funding and it's always hard finding the program dollars to offer different programs within the community.

The way I was picturing it was if the Government of Nunavut is providing a breakfast program under public health, then that frees up Brighter Future dollars within my communities, and then they could actually access for an elders' feast or some other type of activity to provide funding there. Is that the case or you are saying it mirrors programs that are already operating in the community? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. If you can just let me know if you've got other questions because sometimes I'm not sure if you're done or not. Thank you. Ms. Voth.

Ms. Voth: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This funding would enhance programs that are in place already with Brighter Futures, but having said that, I have to mention again that Health and Social Services does not specifically administer these programs. Every community chooses to spend some of its Brighter Futures allocation on breakfast programs. This is funding that is provided to the community under Brighter Futures. If they choose to support breakfast programs, that's up to their discretion. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Now I'm confused.

So for the \$500,000, let's just pick Arctic Bay for clarity's sake, we have a breakfast program there. Every year, people within the community have to write a proposal and they put it into the hamlet council, and then it goes through the whole process and receives Brighter Futures funding. So they have to reapply every year again to continue that breakfast program, but how do they access part of the \$500,000 that we're getting through public health to enhance the program? I guess this is the question I'm asking. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Voth.

Ms. Voth: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Currently this is a new program and currently we do not have clear program guidelines since we do not have a formal GN breakfast program. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, we are being asked to approve \$500,000 as of April 1 that will be able to be accessed by communities. When will they be able to access that? Again, putting into consideration with the new Nutrition North program, it would be nice to apply for that money and get the money before the sea lift comes in. I'm assuming it's not all going to be fresh and nutritious foods; it will be canned foods as well. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Campbell.

Mr. Campbell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Staff have developed an implementation plan for the program. Once it's approved by the Legislative Assembly through this budget process, the implementation of that will take a bit to get going, but I'm sure some of the funding will start flowing in mid-summer to early fall. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In terms of health committees, how much funding is actually going to health committees across the territory to help support them? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Voth.

Ms. Voth: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Currently we have in our Vote 1 funds \$250,000 and we distribute to every community \$10,000 for the operations of their committee. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In terms of the way the Government of Nunavut is going with self-reliance, are these health committees given any tools in terms of how to... ? I know a lot of time, energy, and money has been given to the district education authorities to help roll out the new *Education Act*, but if we are going to have healthy communities, are there a lot of program dollars or is the money there to help the committee develop a mission statement and where they want to go in terms of a health plan for the community? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Campbell.

Mr. Campbell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have been working through the Public Health Strategy that was approved a couple years back. We have been working with the communities to try and enhance more capacity at the community level. We hire the community development officers on term basis to go visit the communities to try and work with the local committees to try and do a bit more planning around the types of issues that they should be addressing. At some point in time, one of the other things that we are trying to is encourage them to be accessing more resources from elsewhere.

That is the latest I can provide, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again on H-9 under Public Health, there is a request for \$176,000 for reducing poverty and the food insecurity. I was wondering if you could explain what

those dollars would be spent on. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Voth.

Ms. Voth: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. \$176,000 of the funding that we're requesting to reduce poverty is earmarked for contribution agreements with communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So again, these are program dollars that community groups, health committees, and elders' committees can access through your department to run programs in the communities. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Voth.

Ms. Voth: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The contribution agreements with the communities will provide operating funds for existing community workers, such as CHRs, to deliver and enhance a model of parenting program, including a model on food-related skills and land excursions. Eight communities right now in Nunavut will benefit from this pilot, with a strong likelihood of replication in future years to benefit additional communities.

So non-contribution funds will support food skills, module development, materials development, translation, and two training workshops. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, if the funding goes out to the community, how does this fit into the grand scheme of the Anti-Poverty Strategy in terms of reducing poverty and food insecurity? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Campbell.

Mr. Campbell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again under the Public Health Strategy, we do have staff working to work with the communities on the development of the action plans. We will also work with the other departments involved with the poverty reduction file to make sure that we're coordinating our efforts at the community level to, again, not to duplicate and run over each other at the community level. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Also, some of the media coverage of the Nutrition North Canada Program and the change from the Food Mail Program, there was a response from the federal government and the media.

I think the quote that I remember that stuck out was that there was money flowing to the territories in the 2010-11 year for training programs in terms of educating people on how to eat nutritious food or cook nutritious food. I'm just wondering: is that true? Has there been money provided by the federal government for this?

As well, just to save flipping back and forth, I know there is also something like \$4 million allocated under the Nutrition North Canada Program for this coming

fiscal year, 2011-12, from the federal government, I believe, for all across Canada, but will we be receiving funding for that as well? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Campbell.

Mr. Campbell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we continue to work with the federal government on various programs, including this one. There has been some funding provided by the federal government. We're working with the federal government on the implementation of this as well. Again, we will work with the other departments as well that are affected and implicated in the process. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. I just want to remind the member that we're on H-6 and we're dealing with public health here in Nunavut and we're not going to be discussing federal programs that are coming in the future here. Thank you. Go ahead, Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And while we're not, they are federal dollars that came to the territory and are being spent, and we make decisions on where that money is spent. So I would like to know how we're using that money to benefit people and teaching people how to eat nutritious food.

On page 134 of the business plan, in the priorities for 2011-12, the third bullet down, it talks about developing a holistic sexual health program. I know the minister did a Minister's Statement about a website that came out for sexual health. I'm just wondering if he could report back on the success of that

website and what came of that. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Campbell.

Mr. Campbell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again I don't have a recent update on that from staff, but certainly, once I get an update, we can provide that information to the member. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For this year, in terms of developing a holistic sexual health program, what does that actually mean? What does the department hope to accomplish this following fiscal year? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Campbell.

Mr. Campbell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The department is hoping to work with communities to identify some of the issues around sexual health and how to do some preventative around the diseases that occurs from sexual activities. This is more a prevention and trying to address the young population to be more familiar with some of these issues. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm done. I was just waving my hands.

Chairman: We have Mr. Ningark.

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

Chairman: Thank you. We have a motion on the floor to report progress and the motion is not debatable. All those in favour of the motion. All those opposed. The motion is carried. I will now rise to report progress. Actually, Sergeant-at-Arms, if you could escort the minister and witnesses out.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Sergeant-at-Arms. We can now return to our orders of the day. (interpretation ends) Item 21. (interpretation) Report of the Committee of the Whole. Member for South Baffin.

Item 21: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Bill 1 and the main estimates and would like to report progress. Also, Mr. Speaker, I move that the Report of the Committee of the Whole be concurred with. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Member. There is a motion on the floor. Is there a seconder? The Member for Baker Lake is the seconder. All those in favour of the motion. Opposed. Abstained. The motion is carried. Thank you.

Going to our orders of the day. (interpretation ends) Item 22. (interpretation) Third Reading of Bills. There are no hands up. (interpretation ends) Item 23. (interpretation) *Orders of the Day*. Mr. Clerk.

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. *Orders of the Day* for March 3:

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

21. Report of the Committee of the Whole

22. Third Reading of Bills

23. Orders of the Day

And a reminder to all members that there is a meeting of the Full Caucus at ten o'clock tomorrow morning in the Nanuq Room. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned for the night until tomorrow at 1:30 p.m. Enjoy your evening.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>> *House adjourned at 18:00*

