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**DAY 5**

**Friday, March 4, 2011**

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**Iqaluit**

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

## Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

### *Speaker*

**Hon. Paul Okalik**

(Iqaluit West)

**Hon. Eva Aariak**

(Iqaluit East)

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

**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*

**Fred Schell**

(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*

**John Ningark**

(Akulliq)

**Johnny Ningeongan**

(Nanulik)

*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**

(Hudson Bay)

**Jeannie Ugyuk**

(Nattilik)

**Ron Elliott**

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Hansard Production  
Innirvik Support Services

*Box 1200*

*Iqaluit, Nunavut, X0A 0H0*

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

*Website: [www.assembly.nu.ca](http://www.assembly.nu.ca)*

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**Iqaluit, Nunavut  
Friday, March 4, 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 morning. I would like to ask Mr. Ningeongan to say the opening prayer.

>>*Prayer*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. Looking at our orders of the day, Ministers' Statements. Minister of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth.

**Item 2: Ministers' Statements****Minister's Statement 014 – 3(3): 2011  
Canada Winter Games**

**Hon. James Arreak** (interpretation): Good morning. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Chairman... Mr. Speaker. I missed one day and I'm mistaking you as the Chairman already.

>>*Laughter*

I am pleased to provide an update on Team Nunavut's participation in the

2011 Canada Winter Games hosted in Halifax, Nova Scotia, from February 11 to 27, 2011. The Nunavut team consisted of 21 athletes involved in various sporting events as well as the National Artist Program.

The Canada Winter Games are a key event in the development of Canada's athletes, producing our nation's next generation of national, international, and Olympic champions.

Preparation for an event the calibre of the Canada Games requires an exceptional level of commitment and effort on the part of our athletes and artistic performers. All should be congratulated for their commitment to representing Nunavut with their best efforts within their respective disciplines. The accomplishment of these young Nunavummiut will continue to encourage others to follow their example and reap the benefits of participation in sport and the arts.

I would also like to recognize the contribution of the volunteer coaches and team managers, who contribute their time and expertise toward supporting and preparing Team Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to invite my colleagues to join me in congratulating the participants, coaches, managers, and volunteers for their role in representing Nunavut at the 2011 Canada Winter Games. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

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

**Minister's Statement 015 – 3(3): Early Childhood Education Conference**

**Hon. Hunter Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning, everybody. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I announce today that the Department of Education is hosting the first Nunavut-wide Early Childhood Education Conference on March 5 and 6, 2011 here in Iqaluit. That's this weekend.

Mr. Speaker, this conference will bring together early childhood educators who work with children from birth to age five from licensed child care facilities, parent and tot groups, and early literacy programs across Nunavut. The theme for the conference is Language and Culture in Early Childhood Programs. The delegates will not only listen to guest speakers from Nunavut and Greenland, but will have the opportunity to share best practices and learn from each other's successes at the community level.

Mr. Speaker, at the conference, we will also be presenting the first annual awards of excellence to three licensed child care programs, one from each region. The awards of excellence are for facilities that have shown consistent and innovative quality programming.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all of Nunavut's early childhood educators for their valuable and selfless contributions to education. While they are sometimes the forgotten educator, we do recognize and appreciate the care and education they provide each and every day to our youngest citizens. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Ministers' Statements. Minister of Health.

**Minister's Statement 016 – 3(3): Family Violence Prevention Strategy**

**Hon. Tagak Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say "good morning" to Rankin Inlet. There is a big hockey tournament going on and I heard this morning that Rankin Inlet was defeated by Iqaluit last night.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce that my department is taking a lead role towards ending family violence in Nunavut by developing a family violence prevention strategy and action plan. To complete this task, we have established an interdepartmental working group, which will also strengthen the collaboration among departments and agencies delivering services and programs to prevent family violence.

Mr. Speaker, some of the groundwork for the plan has already been completed through the *Inuuqatigiitsiarniq* symposium report, which we will use along with other documents as a foundation for our plan. It is our intention to have the plan completed by the end of the year.

Mr. Speaker, putting an end to family violence in Nunavut is a focus within the *Tamapta* priorities of helping those at risk in our communities, addressing social concerns at their roots, and improving health through prevention.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, my department is committed to supporting strong and healthy communities where Nunavutmiut can live in a secure, nurturing environment free from abuse and violence. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Minister's Statement 017 – 3(3):  
Cambridge Bay Culinary Arts  
Students Give Back to Their  
Community**

**Hon. Daniel Shewchuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Nunavut Arctic College Culinary Arts Program provides students with the practical skills and knowledge needed to enter the culinary profession as trained cooks. Designed to assist aspiring cooks with the essentials for their trade, this exciting program covers all aspects of food preparation, presentation, and service at national standards. The program also prepares students to progress into an apprenticeship.

Mr. Speaker, for the last three years, Arctic College students in Cambridge Bay have been preparing and selling hot lunch buffets at their community learning centre. This year, the students and their instructor, Chef Andy Poisson, started a Meals on Wheels for Elders program. The Meals on Wheels for Elders program is a way to introduce our elders to different types of foods and cooking methods that can be applied to traditional country foods. Through the program, the students also assist the

elders to better understand how to prepare and eat a well-balanced meal.

Mr. Speaker, this innovative volunteer program started when many of the students expressed concerns about how many of the community's elders could not take part because sometimes it is hard for them to get out and about in the community.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Chef Poisson and his students for their commitment, volunteerism, consideration, and care for our elders. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Minister's Statement 018 – 3(3):  
Education Act February 2011  
Conference**

**Hon. Hunter Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to inform my colleagues about an invigorating conference that was held in Iqaluit in early February. The Department of Education hosted all school principals and district education authority chairs in a three-day meeting about implementing Nunavut's *Education Act* in our communities. This is the second such conference we have hosted to provide support and training to our invaluable educational partners.

Mr. Speaker, the department is committed to a thorough and in-depth implementation process for Nunavut's education professionals and community leaders. Discussions over the three days centred around *Inuit Qaujimagatunqangit*



duties and reporting, early childhood education programs and funding, district education authority roles and responsibilities, language of instruction, attendance programs, orientation and mentorship programs, and community consultation. The workshop helped determine how to apply these changes in practice, clarify when they must be implemented, and explain how staff and district education authorities can find and understand the information they need to support this process.

Mr. Speaker, the district education authorities and principals left the conference with an understanding of their duties under the *Education Act*, with tools and resources to use in their communities to support implementation, and with a strong sense of partnership and shared responsibility for the success of schools in Nunavut. I think we are all enthusiastic about the work that lies ahead and our role in shaping these exciting times for education in our territory. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. There being none. Members' Statements. Member for Nattilik.

### **Item 3: Members' Statements**

#### **Member's Statement 024 – 3(3): Looking Out for Our Elders**

**Ms. Ugyuk** (interpretation): Good morning, Nattilik residents. It is usually a joke day in the House on Fridays. I think it will be funny for those people who can understand.

Nanngaak from the High Arctic, who has lived in Kuuganajuk, is well known by the residents of Taloyoak and that person has a physical disability, but he is a very nice person and jokes around a lot, very understandable, and an elder who listens. I have talked to that person over radio because we can't forget our elders even when they are alive. We have to praise them and appreciate them while they are still alive. To Resolute Bay, Nanngaak, over, can you hear me?

>> *Laughter*

If you can hear me and if you can understand me, I am fine here in Iqaluit. We are doing fine here, but I don't go anywhere because I don't have a vehicle and my husband is not here to drive me around. My children are okay and they are being taken care of by the people of Taloyoak. I just wanted you to know that. I have been told that you are being taken care of very well and I thank your family for taking care of you. Many Nunavut residents appreciate and thank you, over, if you can understand me.

>> *Laughter*

I just want you to hear me calling from the Legislative Assembly and I'm sorry I cannot hear you. I say "good morning" and "hello" to the people of Resolute Bay from Iqaluit, over.

>> *Laughter*

To Resolute Bay, over. I forgot to send my regards to Tagurnaaq and my cousin, Nancy. I will just leave it at that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Laughter*

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Rankin Inlet South and Whale Cove.

**Member's Statement 025 – 3(3):  
Successful Search for Whale Cove  
Hunter**

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, (interpretation ends) over.

>> *Laughter*

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say "good morning" to the people of Rankin Inlet and Whale Cove. The reason I rise today, Mr. Speaker, is with respect to Whale Cove residents. A Whale Cove hunter was lost for a brief period and the search and rescue teams from Arviat and Whale Cove found the lost hunter. I celebrate that successful search.

I am very grateful for the search and rescue teams that are very active in Arviat and Whale Cove. We thank you from the bottom of our hearts for having a successful search and rescue mission. Furthermore, the managers and the people who are responsible for search and rescue, we thank you for your tireless efforts. On behalf of the department and the people involved, we thank you very much. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Quttiktuq.

**Member's Statement 026 – 3(3): The  
Order of Nunavut**

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I must say that the members' comments remind me of being in a tent.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to encourage all Nunavummiut to consider nominating distinguished individuals to the Order of Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, as you know, I was proud to have seconded a number of the motions that you moved in the House to advance the *Order of Nunavut Act* through the Legislative Assembly. The passage of this bill was an important milestone in our own history as a legislature.

Last year, the beautiful winning design for the medal that will be awarded to recipients of the Order of Nunavut was unveiled.

I believe that the creation of our own order is another step forward in the evolution of our territory.

We will all be returning to our constituencies after the current winter sitting has concluded. I will be encouraging my constituents in Grise Fiord, Resolute Bay, and Arctic Bay to consider nominating individuals who meet the Order of Nunavut's criteria for contributions to the territory. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Pangnirtung.

**Member's Statement 027 – 3(3): The Launch of Umiat Corporation**

**Mr. Komoartok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to bring attention to the impacts that climate change is having on the winter turbot fishery in the Cumberland Sound area.

Mr. Speaker, in previous years, the winter turbot fishery in Pangnirtung has provided many jobs for my constituents, such as fishers, helpers, and fish plant workers.

Mr. Speaker, I was very happy to see the creation of a new company. The Cumberland Sound Fisheries Limited and the Arctic Fishery Alliance have joined to form the Umiat Corporation.

Mr. Speaker, I am very proud to see my fellow Inuit are taking the necessary steps to become more self-sufficient and look forward to hearing the progress of the Umiat Corporation.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to bring attention to the fact that my community's Christmas feast was delayed due to a shortage of country foods in the community but will finally be held this evening. I am very excited to fly home this afternoon and look forward to sharing this feast tonight with my constituents. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. There are no more hands up. Going to Item 4 in our *Orders of the Day*. Returns to Oral Questions. There being none. Item 5 in our *Orders of the Day*. Recognition of

Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Natilik.

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

**Ms. Ugyuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize my fellow Nattilingmiut residents. They are here for training to look after Junior Rangers. They are the commanding officers and they train the Junior Rangers in our community, and I am very grateful for their efforts. I would like to recognize Louise Aqqaq from Taloyoak and Betty Kogvik from Gjoa Haven. They are very committed individuals who provide a lot of services to our communities. I would like to thank them, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome. I would like to recognize our pages. (interpretation ends) Our pages have been wonderful this week. Usually with new pages, we have to point out which member and which minister to send our notes, but these pages have been very sharp and efficient, and I wish to recognize them. Firstly, Amanda Purcell, Rachel Niego-Akavak, Tristan Campbell, he went hiding somewhere, and Lee Wah-Shee Anawak, thank you very much for the good work.

>>Applause

(interpretation) Thank you. Oral Questions. (interpretation ends) Item 6. (interpretation) There are no hands up. Member for Hudson Bay.

**Item 6: Oral Questions****Question 048 – 3(3): Health Situation in Sanikiluaq**

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning to the people of Sanikiluaq. Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Health and Social Services.

On Wednesday, February 23, 2011, I asked the Minister of Health and Social Services for an update on the status of the illness that affected so many residents in Sanikiluaq in December and January. The minister indicated that he would make a formal statement on the situation. It has been more than a week since the minister made that commitment and I hope that has been enough time to collect the relevant information.

I would like to ask if the minister is now prepared to provide detailed information on the illness that affected so many Sanikiluaq residents and explain why it so severely affected the more vulnerable members of our community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Tagak Curley:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think the member appreciates the question and severity. The concern that Sanikiluarmitut experienced is a serious one and I appreciate the member keeping on top of that. We also have a challenging department. My deputy minister has not been as well as he is and he will also be absent today from work.

But what I do have is it has been confirmed that there was obviously a very dramatic increase in some of the influenza-like symptoms in December and there were about 52 medevacs of patients who were sent out to Winnipeg for treatment. It is now confirmed that there were some cases related to RSV and flu.

I am pleased to announce today that the situation in Sanikiluaq has settled. The particular flu-like symptoms during the fall, early winter, and December impacted mostly the very young and senior people who have less strong immunities, particularly with their body conditions. The situation has settled down in Sanikiluaq and that is what I can confirm. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Member for Hudson Bay.

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Also on February 23 of 2011, the minister indicated that he would also include information on the status of medical supplies in the community. A great deal of the health centre's supplies was used up dealing with the outbreak over Christmas. Can the minister update this House on the status of medical supplies at the Sanikiluaq Health Centre and indicate whether or not they have been replaced? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Tagak Curley:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the question and I certainly will respond to that once I get the full details of the supplies.

One of the things that all of the Members of the House should know is that each fall to early winter, there is normally an advisory at local health stations for families to get a flu shot. Flu shots are an important preventative medication for all members of the communities, but only a certain amount of individuals, not all, came to take advantage of getting flu shots. I think it would help that we would keep that option open at all times.

I certainly will get back to the question once I have my departmental officials compile all of the supplies and whether or not they are current (interpretation) in Sanikiluaq. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the minister is well aware, it seems that other communities are becoming affected with flu-like symptoms. Can the minister confirm whether other communities across Nunavut are being affected by the flu-like illness? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Tagak Curley:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Personally I cannot confirm that, but what I can confirm is that the chief medical officer of Nunavut had issued a public alert notice a few days ago, indicating that flu-like symptoms have increased and that notice is going around all of the communities throughout Nunavut. As a result, I think it's important that even the Members of the House should be vigilant about it.

I think the chief medical officer of health is doing an excellent job in sending the notice out. If you have a flu-like symptom, as I read the notice the other day, it indicated, "Stay home and consult your health centre to indicate that you are experiencing this particular kind of situation." Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Question 049 – 3(3): Revenue Enhancement Options for the Government of Nunavut**

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

We have been working through the alphabet this week with the minister and we have determined that while the "d" word for "debt" and the "t" word for "taxes" did not make it into his budget speech, the "r" word for "revenues" did.

In his Budget Address, the minister indicated that one of the government's long-term goals is to develop our own source revenues. Can the minister outline for us today some of the specific options that he is looking at in this area? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am glad that the member asked that question. They seemed to be concerned about debt and taxes this week. I didn't mention debt or taxes in my speech, perhaps I should have, but we're not increasing our debt. At some point, we will approach Ottawa. Taxes

are pretty much limited to payroll taxes and personal income taxes. Until we develop our business sector, we're limited to the corporate taxes that we get.

I believe the member is aware that we are hoping that devolution negotiations will get underway at some point in the future. I indicated in my budget speech that devolution may be some time away. Until that occurs, we are very constrained by our ability to raise taxes through the corporate sector and through mining, so it is a while away.

I would suggest to Mr. Elliott that for the foreseeable future, probably until the next eight to ten years, we're going to be very dependent on Ottawa through our Territorial Formula Financing Agreement with Ottawa and that expires in 2014. That will be negotiated between now and 2014. We are very concerned about the TFF; we cannot really do much to raise taxes. If Ottawa decides to reduce our funding, we can be in a real pinch. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The minister's budget anticipated that the GN will only raise \$7.5 million in the coming fiscal year from corporate income taxes. My understanding is that Nunavut's corporate income tax rate is 4 percent for small enterprises and 11.5 percent for large enterprises.

As we know, megaprojects in the mining sector are being looked at as an engine of economic growth in Nunavut. In Alberta, the government frequently

reviews royalty rates in the oil and gas sector. I recognize that we need a devolution agreement, as he had mentioned earlier, with Ottawa in order to achieve a better deal regarding royalties from our natural resources.

Can the minister give us an indication of how much flexibility our existing tax system has to gain a greater share of revenue from mining activities? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Elliott for that question. Mr. Speaker, we don't have much flexibility. We want to encourage mining development and exploration in Nunavut, we don't want to discourage it, and we do through various agreements.

I know the regional Inuit associations have Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreements that derive a lot of economic and social benefits from mining for their beneficiaries who comprise 85 percent of our population. Through our own Department of Economic Development, they have development partnership agreements and some other benefits are negotiated.

We encourage mining and small business development. I don't anticipate that we will be raising taxes in the foreseeable future. Taxes are an easy way to generate revenue but it also has an easy way to discourage investment in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The high cost of living in Nunavut, especially in the areas of food and transportation, has been a major topic of discussion this week. I know that the minister cannot provide us with exact figures, but can he give us a general indication of whether major retailers and airlines operating in Nunavut pay a fair share of territorial corporate income taxes in order to allow our government to provide programs and services to Nunavummiut? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Elliott for that question. Mr. Speaker, I don't have that level of detail with me today and I would have to get back to him on that.

We know that there are different business sectors in Nunavut. We've got the tourism sector, we've got the small business sector, the mining sector, we've got the airline sector; there are different sectors. I can't answer to that level of detail in the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Many of my colleagues have been talking about the urgent need to fight bootlegging in our communities. I have heard the argument that if we were to make access to alcohol easier in Nunavut by opening government-operated liquor stores, the government would actually see an increase in revenues given that people would be able to purchase

alcohol legally rather than putting money into the hands of bootleggers and the underground economy. Has the minister's department done any analysis on this question and will he commit to sharing the results of this with MLAs? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Elliott for the question. I'm not sure what he's driving at. I don't believe we have done that kind of analysis. I know we have a task force on the review of the *Liquor Act* that is talking to communities in town halls and talking to airlines, I believe, and other interest groups and businesses.

We're going to wait for their recommendations after the consultations and town hall meetings. It will be reported later this year. We will sit down with the folks, and then we will look at different areas and possible amendments of the *Liquor Act*, and it may also provide us with some information we can look at in other areas, such as Mr. Elliott is suggesting. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Question 050 – 3(3): Medical Misdiagnosis**

**Ms. Ugyuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say "good morning" to the people of Natilik. I would like to ask my question to the Minister of Health and Social Services.

My colleague for Akulliq, John Ningark, was posing some questions yesterday in regard to people being diagnosed too late when they have illnesses. I understand that it has impacted many Nunavummiut. I also understand that in his riding, there is more than one person who is ill, and I feel compassion for the people who are not feeling well or are ill.

However, I want to ask the minister: is there any form of preventative work? We receive funding from the federal government for prevention. Can we provide support to the health centres so that they can do preventative work? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Tagak Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will be responding similarly to what I responded to with regard to some of the issues.

Mr. Speaker, one of our partners is the public health officials. Their main work is to educate the public about the dangers to their health. For example, tobacco is one of the biggest causes of lung cancer and we have tried to provide assistance to people who wish to quit smoking. We do have a toll-free number and we have resources that try and get people to stop smoking. That is just one example. We have other programs to educate people about nutrition and healthy living.

Furthermore, there are also particular sicknesses that may apply to Nunavut and it is more or less a generic case-by-case treatment. For example, if you look at the flu, the nurses sometimes don't

know exactly what kind of illness it is because they don't have a laboratory and testing facilities that would enable them to know exactly what strain of flu they are being faced with. In the end, they tend to send patients out for medical evacuation.

Part of that education is geared towards people in the communities. For example, I know that some of the nurses are stressed and they are overworked and they are not going to give up on the person who is sick and ill, but there are definitely ways we can work to improve that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Ugyuk** (interpretation): Yes, I was expecting that response and it's a good response, but we have our own Nunavut government and it's preferable that they are trying to turn more towards Inuit customs and practices within government operations.

To cite an example, one of the impacts is suicide. There is a good foundation now that we have created that is geared towards preventing suicide. With respect to health issues and health education, can we look forward to having a foundation for educating our public about health issues in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Tagak Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm not quite sure exactly how to respond to that, but what I can say is that our legislation for



the *Iliqqusiit* programs, including the funding that is allocated to our government by the federal government, funds both ours and NTI's programs geared towards youth and aboriginal people.

Part of our strategies is funded by the federal government specifically for this year. Let me just read it in English. "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of care" is more or less the saying, but as Inuit, we have to go on our own initiative. We have to try to better our health, we have to try to get it to shape, we have to be committed to that kind of lifestyle, and this is our ultimate goal.

We're trying to support public health, including our nurses, and the wellness program. That's the ultimate goal, to create a healthy living and healthy communities, but I don't think there's anything that says, "If you do this particular thing, then you will never get sick." Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Ugyuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I concur with the minister that a lot of us are not educated about the benefits of exercise and a healthy lifestyle. I would like to see a healthy mental ability and a healthy life as an ultimate goal for the Nunavut government, such as cancer prevention. That was just a comment. Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. That was just a comment. Member for Pangnirtung.

### **Question 051 – 3(3): Medical Prescriptions**

**Mr. Komoartok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask my question to the Minister of Health and Social Services.

In our community, we have a lot of residents who are dependent on daily medication and the medication has to be shipped all the way from Iqaluit and they're generally placed in pillboxes that have a daily dose. Sometimes there are delays due to weather in the shipment of medication or if the replacement order wasn't done, then it causes a lot of problems for those people who need that daily medication and it can create a lot of side benefits.

I wonder if there is any way to ensure a steady supply of medication in cases of bad weather or if they haven't been reordered. My question is: are they supplied to the community directly or do they have to order them from the pharmacy with a doctor's prescription? I would like that clarified, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

**Hon. Tagak Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That's a very relevant question posed by the Member for Pangnirtung. As I stated during the Committee of the Whole yesterday with respect to medication, this forms part of our health system approaches and it's a very important aspect of the treatment of our patients.

We have partners with the retail businesses. There is a contract we hold

currently with Valupharm and they are looking after the Baffin region. However, during our Committee of the Whole meeting, I stated that there should always be a small pharmaceutical supply in every community health centre. We do have a pharmaceutical plan which we're hoping to implement down the road and I'm hoping that it will start being implemented while I'm still in this portfolio.

The other initiative we have is the telehealth initiative and that allows us to deal with certain things. Another development we're expecting is the telepharmaceutical initiative and this would allow medication to be prescribed over television. This hasn't been laid out completely yet, but I know for a fact that this would really help alleviate some of the problems we have. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Komoartok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Minister. I look forward to improvements in the system down the line. I would like to know whether they could resolve some of these issues related to patients who need daily doses of their medication.

I would like to see a system that can resolve the issues related to medication, either to call the local health centre or to call the hospital here in Iqaluit. It can even cause a death of a person if they're dependent on medication. Where should patients call if they need to replace their medication? Most patients need medication prior to running out and I

would like clarification on that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Member. The question is directed to the Minister of Health.

**Hon. Tagak Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Based on the current scenario, if they require replacement dosages, they have to contact the nurse as that is the way it is set up currently. Prior to the last week of their medication, they have to notify the nurse, who then faxes the replacement medication order to Valupharm. I think we have to remind everybody that they have to give at least a couple of weeks notice before they run out of medication.

If a person tries to make a replacement order just prior to running out of medication, it may cause problems as some people need daily doses. So it's very important that they give advance notice to the health centre so that their replacement medication can come in on time prior to the end of their medication. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Question 052 – 3(3): Pre-Purchased Bulk Fuel**

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

Yesterday I asked the minister if they have been using the pre-purchase program for purchasing bulk fuel. Now with the price of oil over \$100 a barrel, I would like to ask the minister how much

fuel has been pre-purchased and at what price. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for the question. Our department has taken advantage of the pre-purchase opportunity and I believe we purchased 33 million litres of diesel fuel at this time, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Schell:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also asked him what the price was that they purchased this fuel at. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The purchase was done earlier in the year. I'll have to get back to the member on the exact cost of the purchase, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Schell:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to know what the average price was that the government paid for fuel last year and what it can foresee for an average price of fuel this year, and if he is taking into account the added cost for fuel for the government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a good question. As I said, we purchased 33 million litres; it cost us approximately \$29 million for that 33 million litres of fuel. We still have to purchase another 66 million to 70 million litres of diesel fuel. Until we have purchased all of our fuel, Mr. Speaker, it's really hard to say how much it will end up costing and get the exact details of the difference in pricing until we've got all of the fuel purchased and then also all of the fuel delivered. It's hard to really come up with the final numbers on that, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) As I heard two questions, that was also your final one. Member for Amittuq.

### **Question 053 – 3(3): Funding for Hall Beach Elders' Activities**

**Mr. Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you. Good morning, my colleagues. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth. Sometimes I call him my *Annuraaqatik*.

Yesterday the department tabled their priorities and plans for elders' activities for the years 2011-14. Let me give some background. This is a good and newsworthy item. I imagine that questions will arise once it has been disseminated. It states in the report that traditional knowledge will be accumulated and they will be doing on-

the-land courses between elders and youth. I think that was their goal.

Can the minister clarify what type of application process is required to apply for funding? If there is funding available, spring is coming soon and many communities are preparing now. My question to the Minister of CLEY is: will there be funding set aside in your budgets specifically for these initiatives? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. James Arreak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my *Annuraaqatik* for his question. It was initiated by my predecessor who was responsible for CLEY. It has been running smoothly and efficiently since that time. This particular program has funding allocated to it. It was created in 2004 and elders and youth started going on camping trips to work on their transferral of skills.

We have started our preparations for this spring. They are preparing for trips in the Kitikmeot. The Department of CLEY has a specific division that is geared towards on-the-land programming and they work on these skill sets. In the Baffin and the Kivalliq regions, this program will continue. Based on the report we tabled yesterday, we will proceed as planned. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Another question that I want to raise is with respect to the compilation of the data about traditional knowledge during these on-the-land programs.

With respect to this issue, Mr. Speaker, let me try to understand this. Let's use a community as an example, where elders are taken out for a day trip. When elders are given an opportunity to get out of the house, then it gives them a purpose. When elders just sit around a house, they start to get tired of their surroundings. So if a community wanted to take elders on the land for a day trip, do they have any leeway in looking at ways to get the elders participating in other programs within the community, either activities or programs that don't require money? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. James Arreak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for his questions. Yes, it is true that elders are one of our focus groups. We are trying to identify particular exercises and programs that will include the participation of elders and we are trying to look at various other options to benefit them and to publicize them.

Most communities have either a weekly or monthly elders gathering where they review funding proposals sent to various funding organizations, at least that is what happens in Clyde River and it has run for a number of years. I believe there is a weekly elders meeting that brings the elders together and they have a set of activities to keep them busy. That is how

communities can try to create these initiatives and communities can apply for the funding under these programs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I know some communities are very active in assisting their elders, but some communities are requesting more support. For example, my other constituency community of Hall Beach is always looking for ways to provide more benefits to their elders.

However, at this time, Hall Beach does not even have an elders committee. In those cases where the communities don't have these committees, who can they approach, or will the department ensure that the hamlets could still provide support and benefits for their elders? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. James Arreak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A proposal for funding can be routed either through the hamlet or a different organization to our department as long as that organization is a non-profit body. You can actually have an individual submit a proposal to incorporate elders and activities or to look at some kinds of elders and youth programs.

We do have funding specifically for elders that can be geared towards those kinds of initiatives. All they basically have to do is put together a plan, write

up a proposal and submit it to our department. In most communities, there are local people able to provide that service. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Tapardjuk** (interpretation): It's unfortunate that it's already my final supplementary; I'll try to use it wisely.

I would like to get this clarified because he didn't respond to this question. Some communities don't have elders' societies or committees. When a community doesn't have an existing committee and they want to create a committee, how can they get support or where can they get information? The CLEY department should inform the communities with no elders' committees how they can be given assistance. My question is: how can they create a committee? They need support to create a committee. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. James Arreak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I tried to answer that part but I guess I didn't answer it directly. If elders don't have a society, there is a process laid out where they can seek to establish a society that leads to a committee. If there is no committee, they can use the hamlet council to create a society or an association. Based on the current criteria, an association, society, or individual can make an application to get funding so long as they are non-profit entities. These bodies can submit a

proposal based on a variety of options to try and apply for this funding for elders. These programs can be dealt with in this manner and this also applies to joint applications between elders and youth, or youth groups can submit a proposal for their elders in partnership for their community. That is another option. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Question 054 – 3(3): Capital Funding for an Elders Facility**

**Mr. Ningeongan** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to direct my question to the Minister of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth.

With respect to what my colleague from Amittuq just spoke to, I also was approached by an elder to see if I could find out how these committees could be established in our community. He wanted to find out the process, including the type of requirements, if they were to offer such programming as on-the-land programs.

There are problems in trying to determine which facility elders and youth could borrow because there is no facility identified specifically for that. My question to the minister is: is there any way that every community could set aside a facility that would be available either to the elders or other interest groups? I'm wondering if there is any funding specifically to undertake that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. James Arreak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I apologize that we can't agree to any kind of application that includes the purchase of a facility. There is funding specifically for renovating an existing facility and there are also programs that are geared towards rehabilitating a facility to allow for its use. Unfortunately that's a limited fund. We do have various options geared towards elders and youth facilities, but we don't have funding for new facilities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Ningeongan** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe the process has to be simplified and improved. The way it is right now, elders don't feel needed and it seems they are cast off, but if we had an opportunity to open up an adult education centre, it would allow elders to have a set place to meet. This would allow them to have a schedule where they could actually meet and talk about issues.

If there is no facility that's set aside for their use, what process could we undertake to ensure that our elders are welcome and we let them know that their contributions are needed? Perhaps the ministers or cabinet can look towards some kind of policy directive to try to bring back elders so that they participate fully in their communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. James Arreak** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. It is unfortunate

that there are some agencies or bodies in the communities that don't appreciate the elders and a lot of us consider our elders as an ultimate resource and professors. I would urge every community and body to ensure that they assist elders and not let them feel unwanted.

In terms of new facilities, currently that's not allowed under the policy. During our cabinet meetings, I can ensure that we bring this up and we try to look at the policy directives. Thank you, Mr. Speaker

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Hudson Bay

### **Question 055 – 3(3): Polar Bear Management Issues**

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Environment.

Yesterday the minister updated the Legislative of Assembly on the status of polar bears in Davis Strait. As the minister is aware, hunters in my community of Sanikiluaq are affected by decisions taken with the province of Ontario. Can the minister update me today on the status of Nunavut's polar bear co-management activities with the province of Ontario, including an indication of whether the two jurisdictions have any plans to conduct polar bear surveys in the near future? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) I also heard two questions again. Minister for Environment.

**Hon. Daniel Shewchuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member from Sanikiluaq for that question. Nunavut is very active in polar bear management in Ontario. We share the southern Hudson Bay population with Ontario. We have been heavily involved in surveys that have taken place. The last detailed complete survey was completed in 2005. We also contributed to that survey on an annual basis and we also participated with human resources. So we are very heavily involved with the southern Hudson Bay polar bear management and we will continue to do so. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Member for Hudson Bay.

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In March of 2009, a major Nunavut Wildlife Symposium was held in Rankin Inlet. One of the topics discussed at the summit was ways to make polar bear population surveys less invasive and I applaud our government for moving away from the use of tranquilizer drugs. Can the minister indicate to me if the Province of Ontario is also moving in this direction? Thank you Mr. Speaker

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

**Hon. Daniel Shewchuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Another very good question. The member is absolutely right. Since that wildlife symposium in Rankin Inlet, in all of our survey work and wildlife capture work, we are looking at less intrusive methods to do this type of work.

Nunavut has gone away from the mark and recapture method to do polar bear

surveys, with a whole polar bear just watching us do that too. We're involved with the polar bear world and these methods are being proven to have worked in some areas, so we're encouraging all of our partners to move towards this method.

I would encourage any southern Hudson Bay work that is done in the future that the HTO and the community involved be involved and voice their concerns also. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Member for Hudson Bay.

**Mr. Rumbolt**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the minister is very much aware, residents of our communities have concerns about consuming the meat of polar bears that have been tranquilized. In Sanikiluaq, local hunters work with their HTO and the conservation office to manage a system of meat credits, and I understand that the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board also plays a role.

In Sanikiluaq, if a hunter shoots a bear and discovers that it has been tranquilized and tagged within the last 12 months, they receive compensation due to the meat being inedible. However, when hunters take a bear that was drugged at an earlier point in time, they do not receive compensation even though it is accepted that the meat still cannot be eaten.

Will the minister work with the HTO and other stakeholders to review this system to see if compensation can be offered for other tranquilized bears? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Daniel Shewchuk**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Another very good question. This concern, however, was brought up in the past too and I remember this in my wildlife management days. I want to assure the member and the community of Sanikiluaq that polar bear meat as well as any other meat, there have been many tests done by Health and Welfare Canada, and I would just like to go through the process of some of this testing.

Using the drugs that are used on polar bear mark and recapture methods, drug levels are undetectable in the blood within 24 hours; drug levels are undetectable in the muscle tissue within three days; drug levels are undetectable in the organs within five to seven days. Mr. Speaker, however, Health and Welfare Canada says that the meat is safe to eat after 45 days. The Government of Nunavut says that we will compensate you with a time of up to one year in not eating this polar bear meat, so we feel that it is very safe and very effective.

I will also stress, Mr. Speaker, that very few jurisdictions are using this method anymore, as the member has referred to. Nunavut has gone completely to less intrusive methods, and we will work with our co-management partners and other jurisdictions that we share polar bear populations in moving forward in this way. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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



**Question 056 – 3(3): GN**  
**Communication Strategy**

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, the Premier.

It was clear in the exercise of the report card that Nunavummiut wanted to hear clear, concise communication from the GN. In her department's 2010-11 business plan's list of priorities, her department was to develop and implement the GN Communication Strategy. I was wondering if the minister could update the House on this priority. Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Madam Premier.

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the member for his question. Communication is a very important aspect of government operations and further, the information is being uploaded into the website and it is also being updated so that it is current. It makes it easier to navigate the website, especially when one is looking for information, and this allows people to gain easier access to the information.

Our government has also completed a communication strategy that outlines the process for disseminating public information and to ensure that the information is readily available. Additionally, this strategy has been worked on since January, but it's not quite complete, although it is in the final stages. I will ensure that we keep our colleagues informed on the status of the process. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for that answer. With the communication strategy being completed in January and as part of the same priority with the implementation plan, could the minister explain how and when the implementation plan will start rolling out? Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Madam Premier.

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I stated that the communication strategy is not completed yet, it started in January, but we will be able to table it in the House once it is completed and gets approval of the cabinet. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My next question was actually whether the Premier would be tabling those documents, so I thank you for committing to that, but when exactly will the strategy and the implementation plan be completed? Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Madam Premier.

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Once it has been completed and approved by the cabinet, we would be able to provide more details as to the timeframe. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I used to enjoy your monthly e-newsletter that came out; I have not received a copy of it for a couple of months. Is that still being produced on a monthly basis? Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Madam Premier.

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am glad you noted that you look out for that e-newsletter. Our employees have been extremely busy in the last couple of months in trying to see whether or not it would be more practical to have a quarterly e-newsletter to allow us to fulfill our mandates. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Question 057 – 3(3): Elders Program Coordinator for Pangnirtung**

**Mr. Komoartok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth. I would like to continue with the line of questioning of my colleagues from Amittuq and Nanulik.

In our community, we have an elders committee and I attended their January meeting to hear their concerns. The elders committee is an actual committee and they have a secretary who is actually one of the elders. I asked the elders whether or not they had any kind of

assistance or if they had any kind of forms or applications. They told me that they had no one to do their paperwork and they had no organization that they could approach to assist them. They didn't even have a computer to write up their minutes. They were very happy that they had gotten together with the youth committee and the youth secretary had agreed to come and assist them.

I would like to go back to this situation where the elders committee exists but don't have any administrative support. Elders are very creative and imaginative, and they are able to come up with a lot of ideas, but the only real obstacle they face is they don't have a lot of administrative support or the ability to write up proposals. I would like to ask the minister if there are any funds available to hire a secretary or assistant so that the elders committee can operate more smoothly in our community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. James Arreak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the Member for Pangnirtung. There is funding specifically for providing administrative support as long as it is used through a non-profit organization within their community. Whenever a funding application is received, the limit is set at \$15,000. Again, we can't provide funding unless a proposal is submitted, but we currently do have funds set aside for elders. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Komoartok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We know that there is funding available, but I believe you have to be notifying the communities and ensuring that that information is public knowledge. I believe there has to be a specific position that communicates all of these programs and funding available so that the communities can disseminate that to the elders. When a group receives funding from another project, could they set aside funding for hiring a minute taker or somebody to look after them? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. James Arreak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We do have funding applications that we make available and we also ensure that we put an advertisement out into the weekly newspaper about contact information to people. Even if they can't write up proposals themselves, there is funding available specifically for hiring someone to write up a proposal.

Don't forget that there is also a toll-free number that elders can call to get more support. It has been quite a while since we have identified a position that would be a valuable resource in the community and that specifically is the government liaison officer that we have identified in our past budget. As well, the elders can also approach the constituency assistants in their riding to try and get more information and assistance.

I know that information is available digitally and via websites. I checked the website and it's now up to date and the

information is very relevant. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Komoartok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for clarifying and providing that information. In some ways, the elders committees are hamstrung by the lack of support. For a lot of bodies, the only way they can become successful is if they're provided with the needed support.

In a lot of communities, the elders committees are very strong, but because they are elders, the majority of whom are unilingual and not formally educated, they don't have a lot of understanding about the way bureaucratic processes work. Elders also leave for meetings every year to Iqaluit, but if we were to start welcoming them and not treat them as an afterthought, it would really go a long way towards helping them. That was just a comment, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. That was just a comment. Member for South Baffin.

### **Question 058 – 3(3): Cape Dorset Health Centre Situation**

**Mr. Schell:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Health and Social Services.

I don't know if the minister is aware of the condition of the health centre in Cape Dorset. A year ago, there was a fuel leak in the health centre. Just in the last three weeks, they had a major sewer

leak, there are still fumes coming from the x-ray machine, and apparently they are pretty well calling every day to the hamlet to get some work done on the heating system because it's either too hot or too cold.

As a matter of fact, I went to the health centre a couple of weeks ago and I walked in and I just about fainted. I was talking to the head nurse and she said, "I'm sorry, the health centre is closed." I said, "Why?" And then she explained all of these issues that they have and she said that it had been closed four or five days in February and there were other days when it should have been closed but they couldn't close because, after all, it's the same place where patients have to go to get their TB medication.

Mr. Speaker, there are patients who actually go in there and leave the health centre sicker when they go in there. So my question is: what is the minister going to do with the condition of this health centre? I think it's becoming an emergency rather than a replacement in the future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Tagak Curley:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think we take the safety of the buildings quite seriously and the fact that we must adhere to the standards that are established by the building codes, particularly the health centres.

To be on the safe side, I think the member knows very well that the Department of Health is not specifically responsible for the building repairs, and so on, and the condition ratings are the responsibility of CGS. I do know that

once the particular system fails in the health centres, we rely on our partners, CGS, to ensure that the buildings are put to a proper condition. So it may be more appropriate that the member ask the Minister responsible for CGS. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Schell:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I guess the point that I'm trying to make is I'm actually talking about the health of the staff that's working there because they actually live at the health centre also and I don't think it's fair for the staff to have to put up with these conditions. So what is the minister going to do to help the staff or do something with it? I think it's not a safe condition to be working in. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Tagak Curley:** Thank you. Mr. Speaker, the department is committed to ensuring that the buildings are safe, so we do have a partner, CGS, who is practically on, particularly when there is a problem that occurred with a facility. They are repaired and they are put into proper condition. The first responsibility that we have jointly is to ensure that the buildings are put into working condition, and that's what we're committed to so that the workers can work in a safe and healthy facility. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Schell:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Is the minister going to commit to getting a hold of the staff at the Cape Dorset Health Centre to hear their issues as far as the condition of the health centre? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Tagak Curley:** Thank you. Mr. Speaker, I think the member knows very well that our regional directors are in touch and maintain the contact with the health officials throughout Nunavut on a daily basis.

I do know that once the work plan or an action plan is required to fix particular equipment or facility that are already in critical situation, they do report them directly to CGS and we're working constantly to ensure the buildings are put up to code and that they are safe for our workers to work with. Certainly I will ensure that our health officials at regional offices are up to speed on that and we will continue to do that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Question period is now over. (interpretation ends) Item 7. (interpretation) Written Questions. There being none. (interpretation ends) Item 8. (interpretation) Returns to Written Questions. (interpretation ends) Item 9. (interpretation) Replies to Opening Address. Member for Nattilik.

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

**Reply to Opening Address 001 – 3(3):  
Ms. Jeannie Ugyuk**

**Ms. Ugyuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister of Health and Social Services stated that they were working on the *Child and Family Services Act* since this is an integral part of dealing with family violence. I thank the minister for the progress on the legislation update as this impacts many families in the communities. Many residents are interrelated in the communities and they are impacted when a family becomes dysfunctional.

When a couple is in denial, their relatives want to provide support, but they don't want any assistance. In my personal experience as a former social worker for many years, I have seen firsthand what spousal assault does to a family, especially when the husband assaults the wife or vice versa. The majority of these abusers are male and many male clients state that they would prefer to be counselled by a male social worker, and I want this noted.

I am grateful that the minister introduced the matter this morning. Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Member. We're on 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. (interpretation ends) Item 13. (interpretation) Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters. (interpretation ends) Item 14. (interpretation) Tabling of Documents. Minister of Environment.

**Item 14: Tabling of Documents****Tabled Document 018 – 3(3): Arviat Retailer Grocery List for the Nutrition North Review Project Website**

**Hon. Daniel Shewchuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Further to the Member's Statement from the MLA from Quttiktuq, 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 outlets in Arviat.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank my constituent, Mary Pameolik, for providing me this information.

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

**Tabled Document 019 – 3(3): Order of Nunavut Nomination Form**

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Further to my Member's Statement of this morning, I would like to table a copy of the winning design for the Order of Nunavut and a copy of the nomination form.

I would like to congratulate Claude Rousseau, the local Iqaluit artist, whose entry was the winning design. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Tabling of Documents. There are no more hands up. (interpretation ends) Item 15. (interpretation) Notices of Motions. Member for Nanulik.

**Item 15: Notices of Motions****Motion 001 – 3(3): Extended Sitting Hours and Days – Notice**

**Mr. Ningeongan:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on March 7, 2011, I will move the following motion:

I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet South and Whale Cove, that the Speaker be authorized to set such sitting days and hours as the Speaker deems fit to assist with the business before the House during the current winter sitting.

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

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Member. Notices of Motions. (interpretation ends) Item 16. (interpretation) Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. (interpretation ends) Item 17. (interpretation) Motions. Member for Nanulik.

**Item 17: Motions**

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

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

**Motion 001 – 3(3): Extended Sitting Hours and Days**

**Mr. Ningeongan:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet South and

Whale Cove, that the Speaker be authorized to set such sitting days and hours as the Speaker deems fit to assist with the business before the House during the current winter sitting.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Member. The motion is in order. All those in favour. Opposed. Abstained. The motion is carried. Thank you.

Motions. (interpretation ends) Item 18. (interpretation) First Reading of Bills. (interpretation ends) Item 19. (interpretation) Second of Reading of Bills. (interpretation ends) Item 20. (interpretation) Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bills 1, 4, and 5 will be reviewed with Mr. Ningeongan, Member for Nanulik, in the Chair.

Before we proceed to the Committee of the Whole, we will take a 15-minute break.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House recessed at 10:30 and Committee resumed at 10:49*

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

**Chairman** (Mr. Ningeongan) (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) I would like to call the committee meeting to order. In Committee of the Whole, we have the following items to deal with: Bills 1, 4, and 5. 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 Education. If time permits, we will commence the review of Community and Government Services. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. Are we in agreement to continue our page-by-page review of the O&M budget for the Department of Education?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Bill 01 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2011-2012 – Consideration in Committee – Education**

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Does the committee agree that Minister Tootoo and his staff go to the witness table?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the minister and his officials in.

(interpretation ends) Thank you. For the record, Minister Tootoo, please introduce your officials.

**Hon. Hunter Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It just seems to be something that's going around the last couple of days. Mr. Chairman, on my left is Ms. Kathy Okpik, the Deputy Minister for the Department of Education, and on my right is Mr. David Pealow, Controller of School Operations. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Tootoo. (interpretation) I welcome (interpretation ends) your officials. (interpretation) Yesterday we were on page G-4 during the page-by-page review under Directorate and there were still some questions to be asked. Mr. Elliott is the first one on my list.

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good morning. I want to start by following up on some of the questions from Mr. Tapardjuk. In terms of the 67 positions that are allocated and elders being hired, how many new positions are being allocated for elders? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister Tootoo.

**Hon. Hunter Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In this number, it doesn't include the elders. There is a separate \$1.6 million, I believe, for the district education authorities to be able to use to hire elders in the schools. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Tootoo. Mr. Elliott.

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The money that you are talking about and those positions, is that in conjunction with that release? There was a media release about giving qualifications for elders in the schools. Is that the same group of people? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister Tootoo.

**Hon. Hunter Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I indicated earlier, these positions that you're referring to are

separate from the elders. There is \$1.6 million in the budget for district education authorities to be able to hire these elders in their classrooms.

The news release that went out was just announcing that we developed a certification program for elders. We have asked the district education authorities to provide us with names of individuals that they would like to get certification to be able to assist with the delivery of programs in the schools, and that's a separate item. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Tootoo. Mr. Elliott.

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again under the Directorate, would it not be the directorate that would be creating policies or possible legislation to give authority for elders within the department to do their job? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister Tootoo.

**Hon. Hunter Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll ask my deputy minister to correct me if I'm wrong, but my understanding is that that responsibility under the Act allows the district education authorities to use elders in the schools for different types of programming that they choose.

The department has provided guidelines on some of the things that they look for and what the district education authorities would need to look at and provide when they bring forward an individual's name for recommendation that the certificate be issued to that individual. We have provided them with



the guidelines and a handbook to be able to assist them in being able to identify those individuals. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Tootoo. Mr. Elliott

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you Mr. Chairman. In terms of a teacher, we qualify and quantify learning objectives for them to be able to be hired. I guess you were saying the same thing is happening with the elders in terms of level of skill and knowledge. Again, we want to be able to recognize the experience that the elders have and have it recognized in a formal way.

Is this handbook created and available for us to see? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister Tootoo

**Hon. Hunter Tootoo:** Thank you Mr. Chairman. This handbook has been developed and distributed to the district education authorities and I would have no problem providing it to the members as well. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Tootoo. Mr. Elliott.

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that information. Again I was really happy when all of the announcements came up from the Department of Education about elders being used in the classroom and that sort of knowledge being captured. So I'm really enjoying the fact that we're getting information on how these elders are going to be treated.

Originally I thought they were going to be GN employees or covered under the NEU. You had mentioned that they will actually be hired and monies given to the DEAs. So these elders who are hired, they're not actually technically Government of Nunavut employees and are not falling under the collective agreement for the Nunavut Teachers or the NEU. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister Tootoo

**Hon. Hunter Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The member is quite correct; those individuals will be employees of the district education authorities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Tootoo. Mr. Elliott.

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, what we want to work towards is... . One of the goals of the Department of Education is with the training you were talking about for the elders. Is it working towards building them into the system so that they do become... ? Again, we're talking about qualifications. Elders have got all of this knowledge, but there's no way of quantifying it. So I'm just wondering: is that something that the Department of Education is working towards so that they can actually be recognized?

Again, myself as an educator, I get hired, I'm under the NEU, I have access to a pension and benefits and a settlement allowance, all of those things that a regular Government of Nunavut employee does. From what you're saying, the elders are not going to be covered under that; they're getting

payment from the DEA. To me, they should be treated the same way as a regular teacher or instructor that's at the school. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister Tootoo.

**Hon. Hunter Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. These individuals that the DEAs are suggesting or bringing forth to us to give certification to be able to assist teaching in the schools on some of the projects are usually proposal-based projects and on a casual basis. They're not full-time, indeterminate positions. So it's just community school by school, project by project based employment that they have.

Some of the things that they do, Mr. Chairman; they are involved in things like supervising and instructing camping or land trips and they help students to develop and learn traditional survival skills, the co-instruction of Nunavut-based models and career and technology studies, courses for the high school students, language nesting and revitalization initiatives, traditional skill development programs, including sewing, carpentry, kayak making, and things like that, as well as instruction on traditional ecological knowledge, and science focus camps for academic credit. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Tootoo. Mr. Elliott.

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It sounds like the intention of the Department of Education is to continue to hire them on casual contracts through the DEAs when needed, so that helps.

In terms of speaking about the land trips and the cultural component to the new *Education Act* and the responsibilities of the DEAs, that was something I found very exciting when it was starting to roll out is the fact that if communities, schools, and DEAs can take more responsibility about what content is actually taught and promoted in their schools. So if they want to promote land trips more, that's a possibility. So it's great that the elders can supplement and help with that.

In terms of regulations for those land trips, and I'm assuming the we just repealed the outfitter's insurance and then now it's up to outfitters to take people out, are guidelines in place in terms of when these land trips occur, when we take our youth out on the land to make sure that their safety is insured? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister Tootoo.

**Hon. Hunter Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's my understanding, as trips like these are planned, they're incorporated into the school plan and reviewed and approved by the district education authorities. In cases like land trips, they also work with risk management as well to ensure that those things are looked after. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Tootoo. Mr. Elliott.

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In terms of standards, if they are travelling out with one of the elder instructors, is that fine? Do they have to go out with a qualified outfitter? Again,

if you go out with a qualified outfitter, then there is a significant cost incurred and that might actually impede some of the ability of the DEAs to take the youth out on the land. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister Tootoo.

**Hon. Hunter Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's my understanding that there is a requirement to have a guide along with the group. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Tootoo. Mr. Elliott.

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Your department has made significant progress in the drafting of new regulations to accompany the new *Education Act*. Has the consultation process proved effective to date in developing these regulations and, if not, what are some of the most significant challenges you are facing? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister Tootoo.

**Hon. Hunter Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have made some progress in this area. Unfortunately, it's my understanding that it's taking a little longer than we had initially anticipated. The reason this is happening is because the district education authorities have told us that things were coming down too fast for them. So the approach that we're taking is that we would rather take a little longer to make sure that we get it right and make sure that there is an adequate opportunity for them to provide feedback.

We've also had specific things like targeted staff from the department actually phoning and they will have phone calls with district education authority members to discuss the regulations. These conference calls or phone calls or meeting like this are done in English and some are done in Inuktitut for the unilingual members to help ensure that they understand what roles and responsibilities and what these regulations mean.

They need more time. They have indicated that they don't want to have any consultations during the summer period when nobody's in school. Instead of the department saying, "Well, we set this deadline and we want to stick to it," they are listening to the concerns that have been brought forward by our partners in the communities and taking the approach that we would rather take our time and do it right so that there are no surprises in the end. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Tootoo. Mr. Elliott.

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The new *Education Act* includes requirements for elder educators and school counsellors. Does every school in Nunavut currently have the appropriate number of new staff and, if not, how many schools still require them? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister Tootoo.

**Hon. Hunter Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's my understanding that most of them do have those staff. Give

me a moment, I'll look it up. Just a second, I'll find the information.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Sorry about the delay. There a few different binders here where I've got to find the information.

Mr. Chairman, I know for the 2010-11 fiscal year, we have approved positions in the schools and I'll go through them. For a grand total, there are a little over 153 student support assistants, 86.5 language specialists, and 43 community school counsellors. That touches on the areas that the member is looking for. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Tootoo. Mr. Elliott.

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With those statistics, I wanted to go back to some of the questioning yesterday in terms of the government's student-instructor ratio. It sounds like we're already at 15:1 and we want to aspire to getting to 14:1, which is higher than the national average of 14:2.

I think the first question I wanted to ask was the list of the positions that he named off in terms of student support assistants, language specialists, and school community counsellors. If you could clarify when you are doing the calculation of 14:1, is that student to teacher as in a qualified teacher who has gone through either the NTEP program with a B.Ed or is it a student instructor, which would include all of these other support people as well? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister Tootoo.

**Hon. Hunter Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the member for asking that question as there seems to be a lot of confusion around that. I remember during the development of the Act, there was a lot of back and forth debate on it, which I was on the other side at the time.

Mr. Chairman, the Nunavut student-educator ratio is not just teachers. As I indicated yesterday, I believe it includes principals, vice principals, teachers, student support assistants, guidance counsellors, librarians, and positions like that.

Mr. Chairman, I indicated yesterday that we just got the enrolment numbers in. Over the next six weeks, we hope to be able to work with the school principals and the district education authorities to determine where to best utilize additional staff, if they are coming into their schools, and to identify the greatest needs within the schools so we can get the best use out of these individuals in each school. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Tootoo. Mr. Elliott.

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, with trying to reach 14:1, when does your department anticipate reaching that? Once the budget is passed, you will have the resources to be able to fill that capacity of 14:1. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister Tootoo.

**Hon. Hunter Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I had indicated, these positions are in the budget and we're in the planning stages right now and

developing where those positions would go, again, based on enrolment. I think it's important to reiterate what I said yesterday that some communities, based on enrolment in their schools, could stay the same, some could increase, and some could decrease; it just depends on what the enrolment is in the schools. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Tootoo. Mr. Elliott.

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In your earlier comments where you had talked about the new *Education Act*, the support from the DEAs, the phone calls that were being done, teleconferences, there was a meeting, and issues that are being brought forward by the DEAs, is one of the issues that's come up with the DEAs the attendance policy that's mentioned in the *Education Act*? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister Tootoo.

**Hon. Hunter Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's my understanding that there haven't been issues with the policy itself; it's more just the issue of attendance, period. I think the department is taking great strides in working with our district education authorities, our community partners, to try and identify some of the things that are causing attendance problems that we're seeing, whether it would be through the work that we're doing in developing a student record system to be able to track it on a daily basis and through different things like multiple options and creating safe school environments. We're all working together with them to try making school

something that the students are attracted to and want to come to school. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Tootoo. Mr. Elliott.

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the Act itself, does it allow...? If there is truancy, is there a dollar figure or a charge that would end up being levied on parents for not sending their children to school? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister Tootoo.

**Hon. Hunter Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There isn't anything like that in the Act. As I indicated, I know this is a situation that we have seen as a problem over the years. We're taking a lot of steps working with them to try and identify ways to ensure that students come to school. We have done things like developed a program where it's not okay to be away. There is a lot of work being done in trying to look at parental engagement.

The role of the department is to provide a safe learning environment for these kids to be in, but there is also a role for the parents to play to ensure that their children attend school and are ready to be there and attend it. So we're looking at bringing back parent-teacher interviews and student interviews, where you're involving the parent, the student, and the teacher. That happens in some communities. In some communities, they are just parent-teacher interviews.

So these are some of the things that the department is doing to try and address

the issue of attendance across the territory. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Tootoo. Mr. Elliott.

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For my next question, I was hoping that the minister could expand. He had mentioned in his opening comments about working with the Department of Economic Development and Transportation and being a part of the Poverty Reduction Working Group in terms of the directorate, where policies are implemented and coordination of capital planning, and whatnot.

When Minister Curley was before us talking about the \$500,000 in his department's budget for the breakfast program, he was talking about the possible purchase of dishwashers and items like that. That would definitely have an impact on the breakfast program in the schools if that's where those materials are going to end up.

I was just wondering if the minister could explain specifically how his department sees their role or their commitment as part of the Anti-Poverty Strategy. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister Tootoo.

**Hon. Hunter Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I indicated yesterday, the role that the department plays on the Poverty Deduction Working Group is... . Again, the group is led by the Department of Economic Development and Transportation and the role that we have is we've got our director of income support who sits in that working group.

What we have been doing is just providing information and data under the current programs that are out there under the umbrella of income support and also information on where and how breakfast and snack programs are offered currently in the communities where we have it available.

I know that in a lot of cases, as I indicated yesterday, these programs operate out of the school. They are not operated by the schools; they are operated by volunteers or a group within the community. The department is very happy and works with them to be able to provide the space for them to be able to operate those programs in any of the schools. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Tootoo. Mr. Elliott, you basically have just enough time to say "thank you" to the Chair. Mr. Elliott.

>> *Laughter*

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With the 15 seconds I have left, I just figured... . In terms of when the implementation of the strategy comes out, do you see your department as playing a larger role considering that you have the largest group of our population attending your schools? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister Tootoo, did you want to comment on that?

**Hon. Hunter Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As we are a part of the working group and as I indicated that a lot of these programs are operated out of the schools, we see ourselves as being a partner in this process and we will

continue to work with the departments and the working group to provide these programs across the territory in the capacity that we have. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Tootoo. Mr. Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just a few very quick questions that are community-specific. In regard to the new high school in Sanikiluaq, how many new PYs are going to be associated with that new school? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Minister Tootoo.

**Hon. Hunter Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's my understanding that there will be three additional PYs: there will be a custodian, secretary, and a school community counsellor. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Tootoo. Mr. Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The school is due to be open fairly soon, they say. Do you anticipate these positions being filled this year or will you be waiting until September to fill these positions? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Minister Tootoo.

**Hon. Hunter Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's our hope that when the school opens, we will be filling those positions this year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Tootoo. Ms. Ugyuk.

**Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation):** Thank you, Mr. Chairman (interpretation ends) I was going to ask what Mr. Elliott already asked on the new regulation with the new *Education Act*, but (interpretation) it was already answered and I thank you for that.

My question is: are we asking questions page by page or can we ask questions on any particular page? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. (interpretation) At this time, you can ask questions under Directorate on page G-4. Ms. Ugyuk.

**Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation):** I will ask questions when we get to the appropriate page as I don't have any questions under (interpretation ends) Directorate. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. Mr. Ningark.

**Mr. Ningark:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under Directorate, I have a question. I received correspondence from a mother who was concerned about the students being sent early because their educators and teaching staff have to have a meeting during the day. Correct me if I'm wrong, Mr. Chairman. I think this particular branch summary deals with the delivery of education services in communities.

Having recognized that activity, my question to the minister is: who approves the teachers or educators having meetings during the day and sending the children home? Should I bring this

before the DEAs or is it the appropriate time now to ask the minister? Is this concern to do with district education authorities or should I bring the matter to you, Mr. Chairman? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Minister Tootoo.

**Hon. Hunter Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe these kinds of questions can be asked under the K-12 stuff, but it's my understanding that staff are allowed early closures to plan. I'm not sure if it's in the collective agreement or with the teachers association. Hopefully by the time we get to K-12, I'll find that out. They are allowed 45 hours per year for planning, and I'm sure it would be up to the school administration to determine that, along with the district education authority to plan it out so that they are aware of it too. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Tootoo. Mr. Ningark.

**Mr. Ningark:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The reason I brought this to your attention, Mr. Minister, is that the mother was quite concerned and she thought, in her letter to me, that education was one of the priorities as a mother. She thought that her kids attending school is very important in the community. So my understanding is that perhaps this is more or less to do with the local district education authority. That's my understanding. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Minister Tootoo.

**Hon. Hunter Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would say that is something that would most appropriately, I believe, be raised with the principal and the district education authority in the community.

I would just also like to add that if the member has any troubles in that area, please don't be afraid to advise me. If there's anything I or my staff can do to help him out, I would be more than happy to do that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Tootoo. Education. Branch Summary. Directorate. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$872,000. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Okay, we can go to Branch on the next page, G-5. Branch Summary. Education. Policy and Planning. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$1,154,000. Agreed? Mr. Schell.

**Mr. Schell:** I've just got to throw one question in here. On page 105 of your business plan, it indicates that a review of the *Child Day Care Act* will be a priority in 2012-13. What aspects of the current legislation will be targeted in this review? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Schell. Minister Tootoo.

**Hon. Hunter Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The main focus of this is going to be looking at any changes that are required to the *Child Day Care Act* as a result of the coming into force and making sure it's compliant with the *Inuit*



*Language Protection Act*. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Tootoo. Mr. Schell.

**Mr. Schell:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Also in your business plan for 2010-11, it originally indicated that one of your department's priorities for 2011-12 would be to implement a comprehensive communication strategy. I would like to know what the status on that strategy is. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Schell. Minister Tootoo.

**Hon. Hunter Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Maybe if I can ask the member to identify where he is getting that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Tootoo. Mr. Schell, maybe you could help us to make reference to where you are coming from.

**Mr. Schell:** I'm trying to find it. I can't find it now but I know it's in here. I guess I'll pass it on to somebody else. I'll find it and I'll get back to him.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Schell. Minister Tootoo.

**Hon. Hunter Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It seems like it's a contagious thing here.

Mr. Chairman, I can't find what he is referring to in there, but I would be more than happy to sit down with the member after and he can point out exactly where he is getting that information from. I would be more than happy to provide

him with the information at that time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Tootoo. I have no more names. Mr. Elliott.

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Maybe you thought I was Mr. Rumbolt or something. I was just joking about the names being flipped around. Sorry.

Again, with what Mr. Schell said on page 105 in terms of looking at the regulations for the *Child Day Care Act*, I'm wondering if one of the things... . When you're looking at the policies, will you be entertaining the idea of possibly helping assisting communities with infrastructure for those daycares? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister Tootoo.

**Hon. Hunter Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The department doesn't have funding geared towards capital or any money budgeted for capital. We provide O&M funding to the daycares and also funding to buy things like toys and things like that for the kids to utilize in the daycare, but in our budget, we don't have any money specifically for the development of capital.

Having said that, Mr. Chairman, it has been a long-standing commitment of the department that whenever we're seeing new infrastructure or renovations going on in communities, we're looking at integrating child care space in any new facilities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Tootoo. I would suggest that maybe, Mr. Elliott,

if you can stay out of capital as we're dealing with O&M. Mr. Elliott.

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I can stay out of capital. The department that we're dealing with in terms of policy and planning, part of their role could be developing a policy that would say that they would assist with that.

So my question was geared towards: would the department be willing to...? Since they're going to be reviewing this *Child Day Care Act*, while they're reviewing it and thinking about it, would there be a possibility of considering the policy of including that in there? I wasn't asking for capital dollars, I was asking if they would think about the policy.

Again this next one is in regard to questions that I have been asking in the House about the ASIST workshops and what has been happening with that across the territory. In terms of the Suicide Prevention Strategy, we have gotten updates from the Minister of Health on this.

Since this is a policy and planning section of the O&M, I was just wondering if the minister could commit to... . This is where the policies are written and once they're written and reviewed, they become standards across the territory, a policy of allowing every teacher in the territory the ability to take this workshop. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister Tootoo.

**Hon. Hunter Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to assure the

members that we encourage and support training for all of our school staff to ensure that they have the skills and confidence in assisting with emergencies that may occur in the school or in the community.

Having said that, Mr. Chairman, I believe I said in September 2009, we had offered the ASIST training to approximately 120 teachers, and that was something that was jointly funded by the Department of Education and the Nunavut Teachers Association. We have also offered the ASIST program to our community school counsellors who are entering into new positions and going into the school. Part of the training that they take does consist of the ASIST training.

It's also my understanding that it was again offered to approximately 20 teachers last February at a teachers' conference here in Iqaluit. In May of 2010, the training was provided to teachers at Nasivvik High School in Pond Inlet. Just this past week, the week of February 21 to 25, the program was offered as a professional improvement option to teachers in Cambridge Bay during the Kitikmeot Regional Teachers Conference.

We continue to work with the Department of Health and Social Services, our schools, and the district education authorities in the delivery of training school staff when it's requested. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Tootoo. Mr. Elliott.

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To me, the question wasn't totally

answered. I will rephrase it. Could the minister commit to having his policy people who are hired under this division work towards looking into the possibility of creating a policy to provide ASIST training to every Nunavut instructor across the territory? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister Tootoo.

**Hon. Hunter Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If the member is asking if we would include that as part of the professional development course that the teachers have to take, I think that's something that we would have to work in conjunction with the Nunavut Teachers Association.

It's my understanding that all of the professional development stuff is included in the collective agreement, but if there's a general consensus with the union to include this option, which I believe I indicated, it's something that is generally offered anytime we have student conferences on a regular basis already. Hopefully that answers the member's question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Tootoo. Mr. Elliott.

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, if he could look into it. In a way, I can see what the minister is trying to avoid is a commitment that might cost too much. I'm hopeful in wording my question and the commitment so that there is not a huge commitment of dollars.

We spent a lot of money as a territory and a lot of time and energy on the

Suicide Prevention Strategy. As Mr. Curley had pointed out in my questions to him in the House and yesterday during Committee of the Whole, we don't want to rush into this and we want to make sure that the implementation plan is set up in a way that it lowers the suicide rate in our communities.

Again this is something that I really appreciate about what the Government of Nunavut is doing, but at the same time, it causes me frustration is the fact that there is inter-government departmental assistance where you can rely on different departments to work together to solve a huge issue within our territory.

It's not that I'm trying to catch the minister on anything. What I'm trying to get him to do is have his department sit back and say, "We recognize this as a serious issue." There was money spent on, I think it was talked about at the time, "Nunavutizing" the ASIST workshop so it could be delivered in the Inuit language and promoted across the territory.

I'm just looking for a commitment from him through his department to look at the possibility of a policy of providing it to every instructor in our schools, not a commitment to do it but a commitment to look at it and see how feasible it is and see if the dollars are there. Again I realize, with the potential deficit coming up, that we need to watch every dollar that we have.

So I'm just looking for a commitment from his department to look into the possibility of some type of policy like that. Whether it filters out into a partnership with the teachers association

or with another group, the Embrace Life Council or other funding sources to help promote it, I'll leave that up to it being rolled out. I'm just looking for a commitment today to looking into that policy and see if it's something that's feasible to provide to our instructors. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister Tootoo.

**Hon. Hunter Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would just like to assure you and Mr. Elliott that this is an issue that we do take seriously in the Department of Education. I think the department has taken a lot of steps over the last few years to try, as I indicated earlier, creating a positive school environment.

The development of the *Aulajaaqtut* curriculum includes topics related values, self-esteem, advocacy, leadership, responsibility of themselves and others. That's something that is now mandatory in grades 10, 11, and 12. Through programs like this, that's where we see a lot of the statistics in suicide coming from. So here, we developed a curriculum to help individuals in that age group learn more about that stuff and provide them with the tools that they need to be able to discuss things like that.

As I indicated, I listed off all of the ASIST training that has happened. Any time that we have a request for ASIST training, we have never said no to it. I can make the commitment that if the community, the school, and the district education authority ask and the staff wanted to take that training, there's an opportunity, just like any time we have a conference or a get-together with the

educators, training is provided and the option to take it is there, and we will continue to do that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Tootoo. I have no more names on my list. Branch Summary. Education. Policy and Planning. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$1,154,000. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you very much.

>> *Laughter*

G-6. Education. Branch Summary. Corporate Services. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$2,739,000. Mr. Aupaluktuq.

**Mr. Aupaluktuq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to welcome the minister back. Considering the shortage of HR employment targets in Nunavut, there is also a concern as well in the number and quality of education being obtained to better prepare our youth to further education and to become contributors to society.

Nunavut encourages higher standards for Nunavummiut to obtain higher education, but we must keep in mind that we have many birthright Nunavut beneficiaries living in the south for various reasons, whether it is to access better health care, marriage or common-law relationships, housing, or employment, for example.

I would like to remind my colleagues here that under the Charter of Rights and Freedoms section for mobility, it states that if your province or territory is below

that of the national average in terms of program delivery and services, one has the right to seek quality of life elsewhere without systematic prejudice.

Has the department considered amending the FANS residency policy to include every beneficiary regardless of where they live? I ask this, Mr. Chairman, because it might be a better avenue to increase the potential of having more Nunavummiut access education. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. Minister Tootoo.

**Hon. Hunter Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think the member answered his own question when he said, “to make sure that all Nunavummiut have access to it,” and that’s exactly what the program does. The Financial Assistance for Nunavut Students program is for Nunavut residents. As he indicated, if someone has moved to another jurisdiction, they would be eligible for programs within that jurisdiction.

I think the only exception to them, Mr. Chairman, is if someone is going to school outside of the territory. They are still considered a Nunavut student and would be eligible for FANS. If someone has gone to a southern jurisdiction and they are taking a multi-year program, they’re still considered Nunavut students because they are down there for number of years for educational purposes.

Mr. Chairman, right now, our policy on our financial assistance is for Nunavut students. Just because someone is a beneficiary doesn’t entitle them for FANS funding; they have to be a

resident of Nunavut in order to qualify. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Tootoo. Mr. Aupaluktuq.

**Mr. Aupaluktuq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know that if they had gone down south for education, obviously they have accessed FANS. My question was in regard to people who have travelled down to better access health services, shortage of housing in Nunavut, whether they’re in common-law relationships with non-Inuit living in the south.

I’m sure they voted and would like to consider themselves still Inuit and still Nunavummiut. I think they feel like all Nunavummiut and I believe as well that all Nunavummiut beneficiaries, whether they are living here or not, I think there should be a clause here that should also consider these people who are living down there.

If we have high cost of travel and bills, if these people of Nunavut living down south for various reasons are there, they have access to post-secondary, they just need assistance with tuition and living allowance, we can encourage these people to obtain an education while they are down south.

Nine times out of ten, most of our people come back. I know various many people and I’m not shy to say because I would like to say from personal experience that I had this difficulty in the past. I just want to ask and the question again is: would the department of FANS consider amending the residency clause to include every Nunavummiuq? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. Minister Tootoo.

**Hon. Hunter Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We don't have any plans. I think our policy is every Nunavut resident is eligible for FANS. I know that there are other organizations, whether it would be NTI or NITC, and things like that, that do have scholarship programs available for beneficiaries regardless of where they reside.

Mr. Chairman, another thing I'm also aware of is if someone leaves the territory, there are certain criteria or things that you can apply for, for whatever reason, to still be considered a Nunavut resident. I don't have that information with me and I'm not sure who would have it, but I have seen it in the past.

If you leave the territory for different reasons, whether it would be for health reasons or something like that, you can still apply for something to still be considered a Nunavut resident even though you have left the territory for, I think, up to a year. After that year, if you don't fill out and apply for these exceptions, then you would no longer be considered a resident. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Tootoo. Mr. Aupaluktuq.

**Mr. Aupaluktuq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe when people believed in the spirit of Nunavut, all of the people who were here and are here and are from Nunavut had voted for it on the belief that we were promised a better quality of life, and one such thing is a right to an education.

As well, I believe the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement also falls under the Canadian Constitution whereas an education is a right and the Charter of Rights and Freedom under mobility specifically states that if your province or territory is below that of the national average... . We have all of these numbers and we have all of these facts that have been presented in the House numerous times.

We need more money to enhance quality of service and quality of life. Unfortunately we don't have all of that and we are working towards it. I think one of the things that we have to fundamentally focus on is enhancing access to education. I think it's very important to remember there are higher entities that ensure that every Canadian citizen, that includes Nunavummiut, have access to a quality of life.

I just wanted to make a comment on that matter, but to follow up, Mr. Chairman, I want to ask. Following the Auditor General of Canada's 2000 report on the review of the Financial Assistance for Nunavut Students program, the department initiated a work plan to address recommendations to improve the program. What is the current status of that plan and what specific work still needs to be done? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. Minister Tootoo.

**Hon. Hunter Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First to the member's comments, I think the Government of Nunavut and the Department of Education's responsibility is to Nunavut residents, so we have jurisdictional

responsibility there. I would say that there are organizations like Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated that don't have boundaries; their beneficiaries are beneficiaries of that land claims organization regardless of where they live.

Our mandate and our responsibility is to ensure that Nunavut residents have access to quality education and I must say that I think our Financial Assistance for Nunavut Students program is probably one of the most generous ones across the country. I think it's clear that we feel it's important that we provide as much assistance as we can to help Nunavummiut be successful in post-secondary education and have those options open to them.

As far as the rest of the question, I'll ask Ms. Okpik to respond to that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Tootoo. Ms. Okpik.

**Ms. Okpik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This department was the first department to be reviewed by the Auditor General in regard to program services. There were three themes contained in the review of the Auditor General: legislation and regulations to ensure that they comply with this legislation; ensure that we are providing adequate programs and services, especially with respect to the contribution funding, and ensure that the funds are used for their intended purpose; thirdly, working towards the completion of the future plans for the department. Those are the three themes that were reviewed.

Since then, we have implemented many recommendations to improve the program. For example, we send all correspondence to our schools and we review every one of those documents and determine how we can improve or amend them. We have formed a committee comprised of the staff of NAC and our department in order to have a bureaucracy that is effective and efficient.

We are currently reviewing all of the application forms for availability on our website and to allow for the filling of these forms online. That's what we're working on right now. Last year, we initiated the work on the website as to how we can improve our IT so that they can deal with finance. Next year, they will be able to use the website, such as filling out applications through the website. Those are our future plans.

We have also collected all of the information on loans. We will have to deal with them to figure out how we are going to move on with them. For example, if a student borrowed some money under FANS, if they pass away, what are we going to do with the money that the individual owed?

So with the assistance of the Department of Justice, we are reviewing and working on all of those. We're now reviewing our regulations for providing contributions on day-to-day activities to make sure that they coincide. We're now reviewing the regulations along with the Department of Justice.

So those are just some of the items that we're dealing with and we have provided communication as to how they can fill these forms out. We can also

provide a status report as to what has been completed and what has not been completed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Ms. Okpik. Ms. Ugyuk.

**Ms. Ugyuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Can the minister provide an update on the status of the new student information system that will be used in all schools across Nunavut? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. Minister Tootoo.

**Hon. Hunter Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just a second, I'll just find the right page. The new student information system, as I had indicated in the past, will be used to "gatherize."

>> *Laughter*

Will be used to "gatherize"? It must be Funny Friday. The new student information system will be used to gather and summarize it.

>> *Laughter*

That's a new acronym.

Across our schools, it will be able to look at, school by school, age of the students, whether they are male or female, attendance, graduation rates, course marks, and report card marks. Once this is up and running, this information will be kept on students from when the first time they register in the school to when they leave the school or graduate. It will be very easily accessible to be able to transfer that

information on a student from one school to another.

Right now, the department and the Department Community and Government Services have held a request for proposals process and awarded the contract for the new system to a company called Maplewood. The department does have two staff positions to be able to help implement and provide training for the new system. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Tootoo. Ms. Ugyuk.

**Ms. Ugyuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Attendance is a critical issue across all of Nunavut. When will attendance and lateness data be collected on a consistent basis across all schools in the territory? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. Minister Tootoo.

**Hon. Hunter Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When the system is done and implemented, we will be able to get that on a daily basis. I think one of the problems in the past is there was a requirement for that and what's happening now with the requirement for that information to be provided quarterly in the past is, right now, it's being done on a monthly basis, so we're going to get it more up to date than what we were before. Once this new system is implemented, we would be able to get it on a daily basis.

I think one of the things that will help with this system is part of the work that we're doing with the district education



authorities is to develop policies around attendance. The problem that we've had in the past was if someone comes in 10 minutes late, they could be marked absent for the day because attendance is taken in the morning and in the afternoon. So if they don't make it for the attendance thing, then it's not rectified. There have been inconsistencies in the way that it has been reported in the past.

We're hoping that with this new system and the guidelines, we will be able to get some consistency on how this information is collected and reported to be able to better help us identify what the issues are around attendance. As I indicated, there is also a requirement for these reports to be done monthly as part of the principals' report. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Tootoo. I'm watching the time now. Ms. Ugyuk.

**Ms. Ugyuk** (interpretation): Thank you. I don't fully understand as to when this will be implemented or started. That is all. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. Minister Tootoo.

**Hon. Hunter Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I indicated, the request for proposals has gone out and we have selected a company. We're hoping to have this system implemented and in place for the 2012-13 school year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Tootoo. Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. Mr. Ningark.

**Mr. Ningark:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to make a motion to report progress, recognizing the clock also. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Ningark. 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.

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms, if you can escort the minister and his officials out, please.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Sergeant-at-Arms. Looking at our orders of the day, (interpretation ends) Item 21. (interpretation) Report of the Committee of the Whole. Member for Nanulik.

#### **Item 21: Report of the Committee of the Whole**

**Mr. Ningeongan:** 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 agreed to. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Member. The motion is in order. The Member for Pangnirtung seconds the motion. All those in favour. Opposed. Abstained. The motion is carried. Thank you.

Looking at our orders of the day, Item 22. I'm sorry. Member for Baker Lake.

**Mr. Aupaluktuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask for unanimous consent to return to Item 5.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. The Member for Baker Lake is asking for unanimous consent to return to Item 5. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Member for Baker Lake.

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

**Mr. Aupaluktuq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It gives me great pleasure to have some relations and people from the Kivalliq here very briefly. I would like to recognize the son of the late Samo Tookoomee, a world-renowned artist and master whip. As everybody knows in Nunavut, Mr. Tookoomee has contributed a lot to the recognition and history of Nunavut. So I would like to welcome to the Gallery his son, Robert Tookoomee.

(interpretation) Furthermore, my sister, Jane, happens to be here and I'm really grateful because she taught me to play guitar when I was five or six. All the way up to date, she has assisted me in various capacities and she's working for Nunavut Tunngavik. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome to the Gallery. We're on (interpretation ends) Item 22. (interpretation) Third Reading of Bills. There being none. Our *Orders of the Day* must be read out once again. Mr. Clerk.

### **Item 23: Orders of the Day**

**Clerk** (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A reminder of a couple of meetings; at half past one today in the Tuktu Room, a meeting of the Standing

Committee on Legislation and a reminder for Monday, March 7, at 9:00 a.m. in the Tuktu Room, a meeting of the Management and Services Board.

### *Orders of the Day* for March 7:

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
20. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters

- Bill 1
- Bill 4
- Bill 5

21. Report of the Committee of the  
Whole

22. Third Reading of Bills

23. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you,  
Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned  
until Monday, March 7, at 1:30 p.m.  
Thank you.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 12:05*

