



Nunavut Canada

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NUNAVUT

3rd Session

3rd Assembly

HANSARD

Official Report

DAY 16

Wednesday, June 8, 2011

Pages 918 – 979

Iqaluit

Speaker: The Honourable Hunter Tootoo, M.L.A.

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Speaker

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(Iqaluit Centre)

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(Iqaluit East)

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Intergovernmental Affairs;
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College*

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Iqaluit, Nunavut
Wednesday, June 8, 2011

Members Present:

Honourable Eva Aariak, Honourable James Arreak, Mr. Moses Aupaluktuq, Honourable Tagak Curley, Mr. Ron Elliott, Honourable Lorne Kusugak, Mr. John Ningark, Mr. Johnny Ningeongan, 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. Hunter Tootoo): *Qujannamiik*, Sergeant-at-Arms. Before we get started, I would like to ask Mr. Taptuna if he could lead us off with a prayer, please.

>>*Prayer*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Taptuna. (interpretation ends) Moving on to the orders of the day. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Madam Premier.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements**Minister's Statement 051 – 3(3): GN Responds to Iqaluit Tragedy**

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is a sad day here in Iqaluit and across Nunavut. Four Nunavummiut lost their lives yesterday. There are no words that can adequately describe the shock and grief that is resonating throughout Iqaluit and beyond. My heart goes out to the families and friends of those affected.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, the deputy ministers of Health and Social Services, Education, and Justice met this morning to coordinate efforts and determine what services are available for those affected by this tragedy.

There are government and non-government services available to Iqalumiut right here in our city and I encourage people to make use of this assistance. Mr. Speaker, the following services are available:

Social service counselling: you can go to your local social services office here in Iqaluit that is in Grinnell Place or call 975-7250;

Kamatsiaqtut Nunavut Help Line: 979-3333;

Student counselling: trained crisis counsellors will be available to students and teachers that were impacted;

Churches and clergy: speak to your trusted clergy – they too can offer support during a time of crisis. The Anglican Church opened at one o'clock p.m. for anyone wishing support and all are welcome;

Family support: be aware of how this is affecting those around you. Watch for signs that people need further assistance.

GN employees – as with any family crisis, the government provides free counselling to Government of Nunavut employees and their immediate families through the Employee Assistance Program, 1-800-663-1142.

(interpretation) This is available 24

hours a day, seven days a week, day and night.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, there are many professional crisis counsellors on their way to Nunavut through many different departments and sources and their services will be announced as they are available.

I, too, have been impacted by this tragedy and I am working through the same stages of grief as other people.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to give your deep thoughts to the families and friends that have been affected. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Madam Premier. I'm sure all of our thoughts and prayers go to anyone who has been affected by this tragedy, people here in this building, people in this community, and people in other communities throughout Nunavut, and I'm sure that all of our thoughts and prayers go out to them.

Moving on, Ministers' Statements.
Minister of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth, Minister Arreak.

Minister's Statement 052 – 3(3): Elder Abuse Awareness Day

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also give my condolences to those affected in Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, each year, the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth assists communities in acknowledging Elder Abuse Awareness Day. This day falls on Wednesday, June 15, 2011.

Recognition of this day highlights the importance of sharing information, learning more about the issue, and discussing the prevention of abuse of elders. Public awareness is one key way to addressing the needs of abused and neglected elders.

CLEY works throughout the year with elders committees across Nunavut to encourage their activity and program development. In continuation of this effort, CLEY will provide financial support to communities for their activities on June 15 to bring light to the issue of elder abuse awareness and the important place that elders hold across Nunavut.

Please join me in encouraging all Nunavummiut to get involved and advocate on behalf of elders, our valuable sources of knowledge and history. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Arreak. Ministers' Statements. Minister responsible for Economic Development and Transportation, Minister Taptuna.

**Minister's Statement 053 – 3(3):
Regional Round Tables for
Poverty Reduction**

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to send my condolences to the family of the tragedy yesterday. They have our deepest sympathies.

Mr. Speaker, as members know, since the last session of the House, there has been a great deal of discussion across Nunavut on how to reduce poverty. In every one of our communities, a

dialogue has taken place that has identified the strengths we have in our communities, the dreams we share for a future without poverty, and the challenges we face if we are to achieve these dreams.

Mr. Speaker, I want members to be aware that these community dialogues have been led by community volunteers. We are very grateful to them for the work they have done to convene these meetings and to record what had been said.

Two weeks ago, I was in Rankin Inlet to co-chair the Kivalliq Regional Round Table for Poverty Reduction. My co-chair was Jack Anawak, Vice-President of Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated and Chair of the Nunavut Social Development Council.

In Rankin Inlet, we brought together at the round table the community volunteers, public servants, representatives of Inuit and non-profit organizations, the business community, and ordinary citizens, including many who have met the challenges of poverty in their own lives.

Mr. Anawak and I participated in a total of two days of discussions focusing on five general themes: healing; food security; education and training; housing and income support; and community economic development and jobs. The reports on the regional round tables list more than 60 options for action on these issues.

Our round table in Rankin Inlet followed the Kitikmeot Regional Round Table for Poverty Reduction held in Cambridge Bay and co-chaired by my colleague,

Minister Peterson. Round tables for the Qikiqtani region are scheduled for Pond Inlet June 13 to 15 and in Iqaluit June 22 to 24.

I am confident, Mr. Speaker, that by drawing on the wisdom of our communities and then by acting on their advice, we will make significant progress in the reduction of poverty in Nunavut and we will do so before this year is out. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Ministers' Statements. Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College, Minister Shewchuk.

**Minister's Statement 054 – 3(3):
University of the Arctic
Circumpolar Studies Program**

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The University of the Arctic is a cooperating network of more than 60 universities, colleges, aboriginal and other organizations committed to higher education and research around the circumpolar world. Nunavut Arctic College has been a participating member of the University of the Arctic since 2003.

Last month, in the Nuuk conference attended by Hon. Leona Aglukkaq on behalf of Canada, the arctic ministers "congratulate the University of the Arctic on its 10th anniversary, recognize its contribution in developing specialized education aimed at building capacity and fostering traditional and scientific knowledge relevant to Indigenous Peoples, Arctic communities and policy-makers, and encourage continuous

support for the University of the Arctic.”

University of the Arctic sponsors the Circumpolar Studies Program. The Circumpolar Studies Program provides students with opportunities to learn about the lands, peoples, and issues of the Arctic circumpolar world. It also prepares students for advanced study and professional employment opportunities in diverse fields like sustainable resource management, self-government, arctic engineering, and northern tourism.

I am very pleased to announce today that Arctic College’s Environmental Technology graduate Leanna Ellsworth recently completed the University of the Arctic Circumpolar Studies Program. Leanna currently works for the Inuit Circumpolar Council in Ottawa. Mr. Speaker, I would like to invite my fellow members to join me in congratulating Leanna for completing this respected international program.

I am also pleased to announce that this year Nunavut Arctic College offered its first online University of the Arctic circumpolar studies course titled “Introduction to the Circumpolar World.” This marks the first time Arctic College has offered a course entirely online through the use of distance technology and the Internet. Tutoring was provided in both Inuktitut and English.

Mr. Speaker, this is truly a great achievement for Arctic College and expands the opportunities available to all Nunavutmiut. Fifteen students from Iqaluit, Ottawa, Cambridge Bay, Kugluktuk, Pangnirtung, Resolute Bay, and Rankin Inlet successfully completed

the course. More courses are planned for this fall.

Please join me in wishing our students the best of success in their future endeavours. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. Congratulations to the students and Leanna. Ministers’ Statements. Minister responsible for Economic Development and Transportation, Minister Taptuna.

**Minister’s Statement 055 – 3(3):
Status of Nunavut’s Mining and
Mineral Exploration Industry**

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank you for this opportunity to speak again on what has become the leading sector in Nunavut’s burgeoning economy: mining and mineral exploration.

I previously reported the 2011 exploration expenditure forecast at \$323 million. That forecast has been updated and is now approaching \$400 million. Every year, hundreds of Nunavummiut are employed in exploration. The exact number is elusive but stands in the range of 300 to 500 jobs. Local Nunavut businesses now provide much of the supplies and services that the industry requires so that 25 percent of all spending stays in Nunavut.

The big picture combines the exploration work with mine construction, both new and ongoing. As a mine is built, we see a spike in spending, hundreds of millions of dollars, over the two to four years required to build an average mine. This

year, the combination of exploration spending and mine construction is expected to approach \$1 billion. This level of expenditure is expected to continue and grow.

Newmont's project south of Cambridge Bay at Hope Bay, Agnico-Eagle's project at Meliadine outside of Rankin Inlet, and ArcelorMittal's mammoth Mary River project are all expected to move to the construction phase in the next two to three years. In addition to these, there are many other deposits still being evaluated that may follow.

The last corner of this triangle is production. The production of some sort of new wealth, be it fish, lumber, automobiles, or in our case, gold and other metals, is central to any modern economy. We have only to look at Meadowbank's roughly \$500 million in production value for this year and recognize that this is just the start.

Through the wisdom of our land claims agreement, Nunavummiut are certain to share both in incomes and in jobs. These projects are on Inuit owned subsurface lands and most of the royalties, jobs, and business opportunities should flow to Inuit. If anybody tells you that the Inuit of Nunavut are being left out of the growth of our mining sector, then you know one thing for sure: they haven't read the land claims agreement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Education, Minister Aariak.

Minister's Statement 056 – 3(3): Elders' Certification Program

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I would like to provide my colleagues with an update on a program that is becoming an integral part of education in Nunavut: the Elders' Certification program in our schools.

Elders have been co-instructors or specialists involved in cultural activities, traditional skills, and language promotion in our schools. Under the *Education Act*, elders involved in schools can now be employed by the district education authorities and are certified as Innait Inuksiutilirijit by the Minister of Education.

This certification of elders adds to the overall system, much like a real staff member. They work together with teachers, teach skills, and are part of the class. It is all based on the skills, knowledge, and experience of these certified Inuit. These collaborative efforts are assisting students in their courses to have a holistic understanding.

Mr. Speaker, the elders in this program help our students learn traditional survival skills and... .

Speaker: Madam Premier, would you like to seek unanimous consent to conclude your statement? The time for Ministers' Statements has run out. Madam Premier.

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

Speaker: Thank you, Madam Premier. The Minister of Education is seeking unanimous consent to conclude her statement. Are there any nays? There being none. Please proceed.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for allowing me to conclude my statement.

Mr. Speaker, the elders in this program help our students learn traditional survival skills and life skills, including carpentry and sewing. They support and encourage language revitalization and teach traditional knowledge about protecting and sustaining our environment.

So far, the district education authorities in Arviat, Iqaluit, and Pond Inlet have worked with the Department of Education to certify 19 elders in their schools. I expect many more will be certified in the near future.

Mr. Speaker, I know that the vision, leadership, and teaching provided by the Innait Inuksiutilirijiit is helping to build an education system that is based on Inuit language, culture, and values and supports lifelong learning. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, Madam Premier. Moving on in the *Orders of the Day*, Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. Elliott.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 083 – 3(3): Local Successes in Education

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to congratulate a number of High Arctic residents on their educational achievements.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate two graduates of the Nunavut Sivuniksavut program. Manassie Noah and Minah Kigutak, both from Grise Fiord, have successfully completed their first year of the program. This is an amazing accomplishment, especially as they have done it while being so far away from their home and family.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to congratulate all of the successful graduates from Arctic Bay's pre-trades math and science program. This success can only lead to further opportunities. There were also a number of graduates from the first year seal production program delivered in Arctic Bay. As the training year winds down, the community learning centre is offering a Guiding Level 1 program and students are currently finishing their wilderness first aid training.

Both Grise Fiord and Resolute Bay saw successful literacy programs in their communities and this was the first year Grise Fiord had a full-time adult educator in the community. Congratulations to Jimmy Qaapik for his hard work.

Mr. Speaker, this past year Nunavut Arctic College's Environmental Technology Program offered a first year course in the community of Pond Inlet. This course was well attended and highly successful.

Mr. Speaker, delivering programs and educational opportunities locally in our

communities gives students much greater chances of success in their studies. Local delivery eliminates the barriers imposed by having to leave the support of families, moving to a new place, facing difficulties like making daycare arrangements, or putting children in a new school with people they don't know and learning to survive in a community they are not familiar with.

Mr. Speaker, I am encouraged by the success of programs that are being delivered locally in our communities. I commend the minister and staff at Nunavut Arctic College for making these programs available and I look forward to being able to announce many more such successful achievements by High Arctic residents in the future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 084 – 3(3):
Tribute to Three Nattilingmiut**

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to speak of three individuals from the Nattilingmiut area. I am proud of these individuals and their hard work for Nunavummiut. I am sure that all of our residents of Taloyoak and Gjoa Haven are just as proud of these individuals.

The first person I would like to mention is our Nunavut MP Leona Aglukkaq. She is contributing to the whole of Canada and is the first person to hold a ministerial portfolio from the arctic

regions. For this, our people and especially Nattilingmiut are proud of her. Here are some comments that congratulate her and I would like to read from Taloyoak elders and from her childhood friends.

I would like to apologize to the residents of Gjoa Haven as my assistant mistakenly assumed she didn't have to gather comments from Gjoa Haven, so she didn't do so. Be that as it may, here are the comments gathered from residents of Taloyoak congratulating Leona on her accomplishments.

From Arnangujaq Ittuangat,
“Congratulations to Leona for her job well done, and she is a very fast learner, and goes after what she believes in, and I wish for young people today to do the same thing.”

(interpretation ends) “Congratulations to Leona from Susie Tucktoo and her son Johnny.”

(interpretation) From Arnaksak Tatalik,
“I thank her for getting her job back, and I am very happy she is fluent in Inuktitut even though she lives way down south and for representing us.”

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

Speaker: Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. The member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude her statement. Are there any nays? There being none. Please proceed, Ms. Ugyuk.

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

From Arnaksak Tatalik, “I thank her for getting her job back, and I am very happy she is fluent in Inuktitut even though she lives way down south and for representing us.”

From Angmadlok Uttaq, “We are very happy, Uttak and I, we applaud her. To hear that Leona was re-elected again and her assistance is greatly appreciated and it is visible.”

(interpretation end) From Annie Oleekatalik, “Congratulations Leona and I’m so happy you got voted again.” She’s one of her childhood friends.

(interpretation) From John Mannilaq, “I am very pleased to hear that my niece was re-elected, and was very thankful, and I knew she was going to be re-elected anyways for she is articulate and very informed.”

From Quuyuk Poodlat, “I thank her very much, for she came from this community, and also my cousin, and I am very comfortable with her. I will vote for her as long as I am alive, and when you ask her a question she responds to you right away.”

This is coming from the elders and people of Taloyoak.

Mr. Speaker, the other individual that we as Nattilingmiut are proud of and thankful for his hard work and continuing to work is James Eetoolook. Everyone knows that he is the second vice-president for number of years for Nunavut Tunngavik (interpretation ends) Incorporated. (interpretation) We are especially grateful that he was able act as the president when leadership faced some challenges within NTI. He works

hard for the benefit of Nunavummiut and today we see a lot of his good work to benefit Nunavummiut. Today we have seen many leaders come and go, but he has continued to hold his elected position and many Nunavummiut have put their trust in him to do the work. Eetoolook volunteers and does fundraisers for world natural disasters and sends the funds to Red Cross. Because of his good work, Nattilingmiut have helped provide aid in cases of natural disasters.

Mr. Speaker, the third Nattilingmiut I wish to recognize is Noah Nashriatook. He was raised by Nashariatook and Elizabeth in Taloyoak and they only spoke Inuktitut. He graduated from Netsilik School in 1998. He has also graduated from the Nunavut Sivuniksavut program. A few weeks ago, he was interviewed by CBC Reporter Abraham Tagalik. I remember listening that morning and I was in awe of this young man.

During his interview by CBC, Noah stated that it was his childhood dream to fly planes and he is following through on that dream. We are very proud of him for fulfilling his ambitions. He had a goal to fly airplanes and his goal is to fly scheduled flights in Nunavut. He is working here in Iqaluit as a co-pilot for the medevac planes for the Baffin region and contributing to Nunavummiut.

When I asked Noah who inspired him in his life, he stated that it was the Inuit elders who went through hardship in their lives. Noah is trying to get the hours to become a captain. I am sure he will be able to succeed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. Maybe just to remind the member that Members' Statements are two and a half minutes and hopefully try and edit statements to stay within that timeframe or if it's going to be longer, maybe saving a statement for the next day. Members' Statements. Member for Uqqummiut, Mr. Arreak.

**Member's Statement 085 – 3(3): A
Rare Appreciation to Greenpeace**

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In Nunavut, we respect and protect our environment, and we have heard that they are exploring near the Greenland coast for oil. This exploration is becoming a major activity and if there was ever an accident, Nunavut would be severely impacted.

Some of my constituents have sent correspondence to my office actually thanking Greenpeace for the first time since they have made this newsworthy and people watch the news about Greenpeace trying to stop the rigs. This is the first time some Inuit feel appreciative of the activities of Greenpeace. However, this appreciation is limited and only applies to this particular activity, so they should not expect further support in the future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Arreak. Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Akulliq, Mr. Ningark.

**Member's Statement 086 – 3(3):
Repulse Bay Housing Issues**

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, grieve for the people who lost their lives. From the bottom of our hearts and on behalf of people from Repulse Bay and Kugaaruk, and me personally, we feel for the families who lost their loved ones and we pray for them and they are in our hearts.

Mr. Speaker, in the past we had the first housing needs survey way back in 1967 as Inuit started to get housing for the first time. The interim between that first study and today comprises a lot of years. I believe that the latest housing needs survey was in 2009 or 2010. The questions were exhaustive, such as, "How many in your family? How old are you? How many females and how many males in the household? How many bedrooms? What is the total household income?" The first survey was done in 1967.

Mr. Speaker, we are still in dire shortage of housing in our communities. There are responses to these surveys, yet little has been done to alleviate this and some people who were surveyed are still awaiting housing. We were given false expectations. We continue to expect housing, but we are still short of units. Perhaps now is the right time to ask the Nunavut government as well as the federal government why the housing needs are still not met. What is the reason? Is it the funding, the weather, lack of workers, or lack of materials arriving in the communities?

I want to see a comprehensive report stating the reasons why the housing units

in Repulse Bay and Kugaaruk are not completed. We have been asked so many questions and we participate, so we want some answers from the government as to the reasons why the units are not completed in Repulse Bay and Kugaaruk, even though the units are now standing. I would like to have that information in the fall. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Item 3. Members' Statements. Moving on in the *Orders of the Day*, Returns to Oral Questions. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Madam Premier.

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize my constituents, Chris and Maanasi Cousins. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Madam Premier. Welcome to the Gallery.

>>Applause

Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Baker Lake, Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 119 – 3(3): Status of New Airport for Baker Lake

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My condolences to Iqalumiut, all of Nunavut, and families.

Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the Hon. Minister of Economic

Development and Transportation in relation to my Member's Statement yesterday.

On March 8 of last year, I asked questions to the minister concerning the issue of a new airport for Baker Lake. At that time, the minister indicated to me that his department was working to "renew the Baker Lake Airport Master Plan." Can the minister update the House today on the status of this work? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. Minister responsible for Economic Development and Transportation, Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member from Baker Lake for that question. Yes, Mr. Speaker, the master plan has been finalized. It's following all kinds of extensive consultations with the public, air carriers, airport users, and the mining industry that work around that area. Yes, the master plan is complete. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Your first supplementary, Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When I last asked the minister about this issue, he indicated that he and his department intended to speak with companies in the mining sector, as well as the federal government, as he has noted in his response, but the point is to identify sources of funding towards a new airport. Can the minister update me today on these discussions? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again I thank the member for that question. Yes, we have been working very hard at this. We have secured \$5 million to put towards the improvement of the airport in Baker Lake. At this time, Baker Lake Airport is adequate for the community's domestic needs but it is really not adequate for jet services. At this time, it's just the \$5 million to proceed. We're in consultations with the hamlet to focus on the priorities first of the master plan. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Your second supplementary, Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm glad to hear that response. I'm sure the hamlet council as well as members of Baker Lake will also be pleased to know that there is a substantial plan in place.

With that, in reference to our territorial concerns addressed to the federal minister level, can the minister confirm if he has had any discussions with our federal Member of Parliament on this issue and, if so, can he indicate the outcome of these talks? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I didn't quite understand the question.

We're always in consultations with federal MPs and federal ministers. One of the things that we constantly speak about is how do we improve the infrastructure of airports in Nunavut. I have to say to the hon. member that I haven't spoken to our hon. MP since the elections. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Your final supplementary, Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I indicated in the Member's Statement yesterday as well, Transport Canada had consulted and has made their references to support a larger and relocated airport in order to meet the actual infrastructure needs for Baker Lake. I just want to let the hon. minister know that we look forward to an updated response to see whether or not our territory has actually concentrated on the federal level to see about their contributions to the community of Baker Lake's needs and demands for an airport.

Mr. Speaker, will the minister commit to providing me with a copy of Baker Lake's updated airport master plan before the end of this sitting? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll answer the first question first. Yes, we're in consultations with Transport Canada and we continue to do that. Of course, once a document is ready for tabling, I would certainly make

it available to the House here. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Oral Questions. Member for Amittuq, Mr. Tapardjuk.

Question 120 – 3(3): Government Liaison Officer Position in Hall Beach

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Good afternoon to my constituents. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs.

Mr. Speaker, yesterday our colleague from Hudson Bay was raising questions. I believe the Premier is aware that the non-decentralized communities, such as Hall Beach, are looking forward to the establishment of government liaison officer positions to bridge the gap.

Mr. Speaker, it has come to my attention that the Municipality of Hall Beach has identified suitable office space in the community should the planned GLO position be filled. I would like to ask the Premier, Mr. Speaker: will the Premier commit to directing her officials to contact the municipality to find a mutually agreeable way to confirm the space that the municipality has identified? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Tapardjuk. Minister responsible for Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, Madam Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Member for Amittuq as well. Any news about office availability is always good

to hear, especially in our communities. With respect to the member's request, I will look into this and report back to the member and the House once I have the information. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Madam Premier. Your first supplementary, Mr. Tapardjuk.

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I want them to inform the hamlet, including the mayor, who is anxiously awaiting news on this issue.

The residents of Hall Beach, which is a non-decentralized community, are looking forward to the new government liaison officer position being advertised and filled. Can the Premier indicate what type of timeframe is needed for advertising and filling the GLO position in Hall Beach, Mr. Speaker?

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Tapardjuk. Madam Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The GLO positions in Nunavut are considered an important priority. While working on *Qanukkanniq* and the *Tamapta* Mandate, we proposed to create these positions. This has been ongoing and we continue to try and implement it.

The question is quite timely, along with the question raised by the MLA for Sanikiluaq. I will write to all MLAs on the status of hiring GLOs. I will inform the Amittuq MLA as to when they can expect a GLO position and when it will be advertised. I will let him know as soon as I get clarification on that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Madam Premier. Your second supplementary, Mr. Tapardjuk.

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do know that the Premier is committed to the establishment of the GLO positions in the communities. I always call the non-decentralized communities orphans as they didn't receive any positions and they're constantly looking for employment opportunities.

Mr. Speaker, can the Premier confirm that the Hall Beach GLO position will be open to the residents of Hall Beach and will the resident applicants be given the priority when reviewing the applications for these positions, Mr. Speaker?

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Tapardjuk. Minister responsible for Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, Madam Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The non-decentralized communities, as per the member's statement, that don't have significant presence of government offices will be prioritized for GLO positions. That's how we have arranged the process. The positions for the non-decentralized communities will be prioritized and the decentralized communities will be secondary when we start to fill the GLO positions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Madam Premier. Your final supplementary, Mr. Tapardjuk.

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like an

immediate response to this question. With respect to the residents of Hall Beach, will the local residents be given priority consideration when the competition opens for the GLO position? Will local residents of Hall Beach be prioritized when they are applying for the position? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Tapardjuk. Madam Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Based on what I have been led to understand and from what was identified, the GLO position for the community of Hall Beach has been opened already. However, I don't think that the interviews haven't been held yet. The advertisements for the position have already been made public. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Madam Premier. Moving on, Oral Questions. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. Elliott.

Question 121 – 3(3): Access to Adult Education in Smaller Communities

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College.

Mr. Speaker, my questions are based around providing first and second year Nunavut Arctic College programs based in the smaller communities. I know it is one of the college's goals to provide some of the bigger programs offered in the bigger centers in the smaller communities. Often it is hard for individuals to relocate to the bigger centres to attend school.

Earlier in my Member's Statement, I mentioned the successful offering of the first year fur production program in Arctic Bay and the Environmental Technology Program in Pond Inlet. Could the minister outline what Nunavut Arctic College is doing to help small community learning centres offer these bigger programs across the territory? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College, Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the member first of all for the statement he made today in regard to identifying how important adult learning is across the territory.

In regard to the programs that he is speaking of in his constituency and in Pond Inlet with the environmental program, again, year one was offered in Arctic Bay in fur design and in Pond Inlet, environmental technology. Both of them were very successful programs. Year one is an introduction for these adult students to come and initiate their studies in year one of the program they have selected. Year two in these programs happen in major centres, where we have more of a capacity to deliver the end of the diploma program.

As far as how these programs are introduced into the smaller communities, obviously part of the community is involved in the assessment of what programs they want to offer in their communities and that is how the priority is set of what's offered in each community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I realize that having programs offered in the communities are based around community needs, funding, and the ability to find instructors. Will Nunavut Arctic College be able to offer the second year fur production program in Arctic Bay? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College, Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The answer is no, we will not be able to provide that second year in any community except our centre of Iqaluit, where we offer it right now. Again, I think the member understands that there is lack of both human capacity and financial capacity right now in delivering these programs in smaller communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I've had the privilege of speaking with students from the first year Environmental Technology Program in Pond Inlet. The students definitely had a successful year of training and are not afraid to share their newly gained knowledge.

My question for the minister is: will Nunavut Arctic College be able to offer the second year Environmental Technology Program in Pond Inlet? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College, Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again I thank the member. Again the answer is no, we do not. We're facing challenges in funding requirements and human resource capacity. However, I would very much like to congratulate all of the students that took the first year program. I believe there were 14 students and 13 graduates. It was very successful. I would encourage all of them to further their career in the environmental program, access FANS funding, and attend the second year in Iqaluit. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Is there anything that communities or individuals can do to help assist Nunavut Arctic College with getting programs like these that were offered in Arctic Bay and Pond Inlet started in their community? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I encourage all Nunavutmiut to apply to the Arctic College in the programs that they're interested in. Also, on an annual basis, again there is an assessment process that takes place on the priorities of programs that communities wish to see in their communities. That is really the place that priorities are set and what programs

are delivered in communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. Oral Questions. Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Rumbolt.

Question 122 – 3(3): Status of Public Housing Rent Scale Review

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my questions to the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

Mr. Speaker, in October of 2009, all Members of the Legislative Assembly publicly announced that one of our collective priorities for this Legislative Assembly was to conduct “comprehensive reviews of the public housing rent scale and the income support program.”

The Nunavut Housing Corporation's current business plan indicates that “A review of the current Public Housing Rent Scale as part of NHC's Tamapta Action Plan objectives is currently underway. The NHC expects to have the review completed by” September of 2011.

Mr. Speaker, summer is only two weeks away and we have not received an update on this review. Can the minister indicate when the review of the public housing rent scale will be completed and tabled in the House? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think the member's statement on the rent process is correct. The target remains the same, that it should be completed by September 2011. I can only confirm here that it will not be tabled before the due date and it should be available in the fall. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I apologize if I got the dates wrong.

Mr. Speaker, I also note that the Nunavut Housing Corporation's business plan indicates that one of its 2011-12 priorities is to "Adopt and implement a revised Rent Scale and guidelines." Can the minister indicate when the implementation of this revised rent scale will take place? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you. I may have misunderstood the first question, so I apologize for that.

The work continues. It's a very complex process. It just had the preliminary rent scale parameters involved. There are some very serious discussions going on with our officials as well as the regional districts.

I certainly would like to have an opportunity to also look at the implications that the elders are normally put into situations where, as tenants, they are much more generous than other

family members. They tend to accumulate debt so rapidly that, in many cases, they can't afford to pay their rent arrears, not because of their own lack of paying rent that they are assessed, but by having other family members staying with them, who are sometimes working.

It is an ongoing issue. It's something that my officials just presented to me today. During the next couple of months, we will be seriously looking at all of those issues that the member raised. I look forward to tabling many of these documents in the fall. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Curley. Oral Questions. Member for Natilik, Ms. Ugyuk.

Question 123 – 3(3): Pharmacy Services in Nunavut

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Health and Social Services.

During our Committee of the Whole discussion of the 2011-12 budget in March, my colleague from the High Arctic asked some questions about the proposed new pharmacy program for the Department of Health and Social Services.

Can the minister clearly explain what is the rationale or the reasoning behind developing a new pharmacy program when we have pharmacy services right now that seem to be doing a good job? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the question. I'm not 100 percent sure whether there is a new pharmacy program being proposed in our department. I think it's an ongoing development and enhancement, if anything. It's not new, obviously.

We do have on the shelf contractors who provide prescription drugs. There are also regulations and safety and all of the other measures that must be incorporated. So it is an enhancement of all of the components put together. Our new director of pharmacy, who is very well qualified, has put it together and she has continued to discuss any arrangements with our pharmacy providers in the regions.

I cannot share the view that this is an all-new program; it's just an ongoing service and we continue to improve upon it. There are no new monies that are being requested or anything, so it's an ongoing process. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Curley.
Your first supplementary, Ms. Ugyuk.

Ms. Ugyuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It seems confusing, but I'll continue to ask questions.

In March, the minister and his officials indicated that they would be developing a business case for the new pharmacy program. Can the minister clarify whether this business case will evaluate all of the financial aspects of delivering

pharmacy services across the territory?
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If the business plan indicates that, yes, that would be the case. If there are new programs that must be included in our pharmacy program, that would be the case. It's better to have a business case developed before we ask for any expansions or any improvements. I believe that the reference to that indicates that the case would have to be proved that it's worthwhile. So that is normally the case for developing a business case. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Curley.
Your second supplementary, Ms. Ugyuk.

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Can the minister confirm whether he and his departmental officials expect to save the government money with a new pharmacy system, yes or no? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Absolutely. That is the purpose of having a proper plan. A business case is normally developed to look at values and to arrive at the best service available for Nunavutmiut.

We are fortunate that most of the drug services or drug programs are normally covered by our partners in Ottawa

through the Non-Insured Health Benefits program. Our goal is to save money and not only that, but to have a pharmacy program that is effective and also serves Nunavutmiut and our health centres through the best possible means. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Curley. Your final supplementary, Ms. Ugyuk.

Ms. Ugyuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I assume that was yes.

Can the minister confirm whether he and his departmental officials expect to improve service delivery times with a new pharmacy system, yes or no? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Definitely, and our officials continue to do that. One means for that, and I think it was alluded to during the deputy minister's presentation, was that there would be an improvement and one is through the electronic telepharmacy. Now, that raised a can of worms to some members.

The way the program works right now is that you can only get your prescription drugs at one location, normally through the regional providers, but the discussion with our regional pharmacy program provider is that they should expand that service to, for instance, High Arctic and electronically be able to deliver drugs and prescription right at the nursing centre so that they don't have to wait two weeks to get their supply. That is the purpose of the electronic telepharmacy

service. I think it would improve it and it will be cost effective. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 124 – 3(3): Death Involving a Government Vehicle

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of CG&S and I'm going to revisit a question that I asked the minister in the last sitting in February. Has the minister ever been informed of a government vehicle being used for personal use that involved a death in one of the communities last December? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Schell. Minister of Community and Government Services, Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for the question. Yes, I became aware of such incident, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Could the minister explain what his department has done to try to eliminate this abuse of government vehicles? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will say again and I think I have said this at every sitting in the last

couple of years that our department will work its best to ensure that the government vehicles are used for their purpose and that they not be abused, and that work continues to today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My understanding is that the same vehicle that was involved in this death is still being used for personal use and children are still riding in the back of the truck. Can the minister explain if he's going to re-look at this and maybe deal with this situation? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Schell. Minister of Community and Government Services, Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Mr. Speaker, I say again that we will not tolerate abuse of government vehicles like that. If that is happening, we will look into it. That shouldn't be happening. I will check to see the officials who are responsible to make sure that that kind of abuse does not happen. I will be in contact with them to make sure that this is not happening. If it is happening, we will put a stop to it today, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Question 125 – 3(3): Housing Issues in Repulse Bay and Kugaaruk

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you and good afternoon, Mr. Speaker.

Perhaps if I ask this question to the Minister of Housing, (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister Curley.

(interpretation) We are required to work together, as regular members know, and this includes the government and our communities.

In Repulse Bay and Kugaaruk, I was informed that the construction is very slow or perhaps it is at a standstill. What are the reasons? There are usually many reasons, Mr. Speaker. Perhaps it's due to the weather or the sealift arrived too late or there are insufficient funds to complete the construction. If we are informed of what the actual reason is, then maybe we can provide more support.

Perhaps if I had submitted this question as a written question, it would have been preferable. However, I want to ask the minister a question through you, Mr. Speaker. I imagine that I may get a response this fall in about three months time when we are sitting again. Will the minister be able to inform myself or this House as to why the housing units in Repulse Bay and Kugaaruk are taking so long to complete, especially with the enforced stoppages? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Minister Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I understand the reasoning for the question, construction is indeed too slow. We are unable to complete construction over the winter period here in Nunavut.

Due to various reasons, the materials sent via sealift arrived too late in the season, particularly in Kugaaruk. Some units cannot be completed and that is why we informed the House last fall in an announcement that the contractors would just be shelling in the units and that was completed. Some of the units in the Kitikmeot were not completed due to the late sealift arrival.

In Repulse Bay and Kugaaruk, the second phase of the construction is funded through the Canada Economic Action Plan and they were to resume the construction in the spring with a different contractor. In Repulse Bay, the Naujat Co-op was contracted to complete the six SIP units, I believe, unless they were five-plexes. In May, the contract was signed with the Naujat Co-op, which is a month ago.

One cannot expect to have things completed in one month, at least in my experience. Perhaps they are slow in the construction, but the targeted completion date is the end of October. I anticipate that they may finish earlier. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Curley. Mr. Ningark, your first supplementary.

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Minister Tagak Curley. With respect to shipping in the Kitikmeot, there are different shipping companies that service the various communities. In Kugaaruk, it's the Canadian Coast Guard that provides this service. I believe it is NTCL that supplies the other communities in the region. Perhaps they're not all late. I thank the minister. I'm not really clear on the response, although the Repulse

Bay situation is clear. What's the status with Kugaaruk's housing project? If the minister has the information handy, I would like to hear about it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Minister of the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Minister Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In Kugaaruk, based on the information in front of me, 22 units of the first 700 units were allocated from the Nunavut Housing Trust to be built by April 30. Twenty-two units have been completed in Kugaaruk. It's the community of Repulse Bay that was delayed up to the spring. The Naujat Co-op in Repulse Bay has agreed to begin construction pending the melting of the snow. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Curley. Oral Questions. Member for Amittuq, Mr. Tapardjuk.

Question 126 – 3(3): Funding for Elder Abuse Awareness Day

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth, my *Annuraaqatik*. I want to first thank you for reminding us earlier that June 15 is Elder Abuse Awareness Day. I often find it heart-rending when you think of these individuals who are housebound because of not having helpers to assist them.

You mentioned that funding may be available for elders in your announcement. Mr. Speaker, I want to get a clearer understanding with respect

to the funds set aside for the Elder Abuse Awareness Day. Will each community get a specified amount or could we continue to ask for funding on an ongoing basis? I would like clarification on this because the communities that heard this announcement may want to make preparations for this day that impacts their local elders, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Tapardjuk. Minister of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth, Minister Arreak.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I apologize to the member since I can't inform my *Annuraaqatik* exactly how much we will provide at this time. The requested funds will be used for that day with the expenditure items clearly listed, including the activities, and we will want to see the expense reports. At this time, I'm unable to tell the member when the deadline is, but we will request proposals from Nunavut communities for elder abuse awareness activities before June 15 arrives. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Arreak. Mr. Tapardjuk, your first supplementary.

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister for his informative response. We have quite a number of elders committees in our communities, with some communities that have very active committees while others don't. When activities are just sent, especially written notices, not everyone finds out about the proposed activities in the communities and not all people take the time to read these notices. Mr. Speaker, perhaps the minister can agree to have the

municipalities fully informed about Elder Abuse Awareness Day prior to June 15. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Tapardjuk. Minister of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth, Minister Arreak.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I really want to approve my *Annuraaqatik*'s request, so I agree to inform the hamlets prior to this date. Thank you.

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

Question 127 – 3(3): Social Advocacy Office

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. Mr. Speaker, my questions are based around the social advocate's office.

Mr. Speaker, with the report by the Auditor General of Canada on children, youth, and family programs and services in Nunavut, it became clear to me that it's not just the Department of Health and Social Services that is playing a key role in meeting the needs for children and youth across the territory; it is the combined effort of all government departments, families, and communities. With that said, the social advocate's office has a role to play. Can the Premier explain the mandate of the social advocate's office? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister responsible for Executive and

Intergovernmental Affairs, Madam Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for that question. Of course, as part of the *Tamapta* Mandate Action Plan, the government is committed in establishing an office for advocacy and action on behalf of challenged and disadvantaged individuals and groups. We are committed to offering government support that is inclusive and integrated, offering help for all those experiencing serious difficulties but targeting help to those at most significant risk or disadvantaged in our communities.

The Social Advocacy Office is currently focused on the following key priorities and files: social safety net review; development of a child and youth representative position; disabilities and gender issues; and interdepartmental work focused on improving quality of life and improving conditions for disadvantaged groups. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Madam Premier. Your first supplementary, Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Could the Premier outline in detail what the social advocate's office has been doing over the past two years? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister responsible for Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, Madam Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for the question from the Member of Quttiktuq. As you

know, the Social Advocacy Office started a couple of years ago and it is mandated to help with policy issues on social issues within Nunavut. They have been very busy, as I just mentioned, about a child and youth representative position. You need to discover and study the position as to what it would entail and how it would be tailored to our territorial needs in Nunavut because of the culture and remoteness of our territory, and other areas.

There are other areas that are being worked under the Social Advocacy Office. As I said, it works with the Qullit Status of Women and other things as well. For a detailed I guess what you would call a report card on that division, I would be happy to provide that further after we have a chance to collect all of the information that has been done over the last two years. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Madam Premier. Your second supplementary, Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That would be great. Specifically in dealing with issues relating to children and youth, what is the social advocate's office doing? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Madam Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I have said many times now, the social advocate's position will be in force in the next couple of years, 2013. It would have to be a legislated position. When you are talking about legislation in the area of any new development of such position, it takes time and we are still involved in

planning for that position to be realized in the next couple of years. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Madam Premier. Your final supplementary, Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Is there a mechanism within your department to review the work that the social advocate's office is doing to gauge its effectiveness on meeting its mandate? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Madam Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe, with the amount of work that is being done under the Social Advocacy Office, we are exceeding our mandate. As I said earlier, I would be happy to provide more information as to what the advocacy office is doing. I think he will be pleasantly surprised to see the number of initiatives that are being done under the Social Advocacy Office. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Madam Premier. Oral Questions. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. Elliott.

Question 128 – 3(3): Renewable and Alternative Energy Sources

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation. Mr. Speaker, my questions are based around renewable and alternative energy sources.

With the territory's tremendous reliance on fossil fuels and with many communities that have aging diesel

power generation infrastructure, has the minister instructed the president of the Qulliq Energy Corporation to work towards researching other environmentally friendly sources of producing electricity? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister of the Qulliq Energy Corporation, Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you. The question actually rang a bell in my ear. I don't know if it rang in yours either.

>> *Laughter*

Thank you for the question, Mr. Speaker. Yes, this government is always looking at ways to best make use of its money. We are currently working with our friends from the feds to take a look at what other means we can have in terms of alternate energy, wind being one, the tides being another, and so on and so forth. There are so many possibilities out there; it's just always hard to find the millions of dollars in order to be able to proceed from studies to actually something that works up here.

So in short, Mr. Speaker, yes, we are looking at ways to find a better source and cheaper energy than what we currently have. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Just a reminder, bells are not permitted in the Chambers. Your first supplementary, Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just for clarification, he does support the president and the corporation for

investigating and researching alternative forms of producing electricity. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister of the Qulliq Energy Corporation, Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you. I do support the corporation in its search for alternative sources of energy as long as it is one that will be cheaper than what we currently are doing and more friendly to the north. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Is this expectation for the Qulliq Energy Corporation clearly addressed in the letter of expectation sent annually to the president of the Qulliq Energy Corporation by the Public Agencies Council? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister of the Qulliq Energy Corporation, Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: I would hope so, Mr. Speaker. I have to double-check on exactly what that entailed, but I hope it would be. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think the minister touched on this, but just for clarification and for the public record, could the minister commit to ensuring that this is reflected and stated in the next letter of expectation sent to the president of the Qulliq Energy Corporation? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister of the Qulliq Energy Corporation, Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The board of directors and the president of the Qulliq Energy Corporation are always working to look for the cheapest way and the best way to run the corporation, and I'm sure it is one of their priorities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 129 – 3(3): Educational Funding Related to Nutrition

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are directed towards the Minister of Health and Social Services.

We've had a couple of days now without talking about Nutrition North Canada, so I figured I'll revive that discussion. In statements made by our Member of Parliament during the 2009-2010 fiscal year, there was money provided from the federal government to provide education in classes for supporting nutrition. I'm not going to ask for the specific penny amount but a ballpark figure of how much money came from the federal government to support programs like that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister responsible for Health and Social Services, Minister Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think it remains pretty much the same as the old Food Mail Program, which was \$900,000 a year, and that, I

call it a carrot, is still being wagged around. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Actually this is new information to me. In terms of the \$900,000 that you're talking about, I was led to believe that this was new money to help support the program and to help educate people within the territory about eating healthier. Are you saying that the \$900,000 is just a rehashing of money that was already coming to the territory? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister of Health and Social Services, Minister Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley: Yes, that is money directly coming through from the feds to the GN to provide educational programs related to the nutrition aspect of the Nutrition North program. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's not bells this time; it's jets leaving the territory.

Again I'm shocked because in all of the discussions I've had with our MP and also the way I have discussed it with Nutrition North Canada, they have talked about \$4 million for the north in new funding for education to help us adjust to and work towards eating healthier. So I'm surprised.

My next question is in 2010-11, there was supposed to be new money coming as well to implement and work with making sure the Nutrition North Canada Program worked, and dealing with education programs as well. Are you saying it's going to be \$900,000 again? No new money; it's just the same money again this year in 2011-12. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister of Health and Social Services, Minister Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I cannot confirm what our MP spoke about with the member from Quttiktuq. That's something that I have absolutely no idea about. The only thing that I said earlier was that under the old program, there was \$900,000 a year provided to provide a similar kind of educational program for Nunavutmiut.

On the new proposal, Nutrition North through Indian Affairs, approximately \$840,000 annually from Health Canada will flow through the Department of Health and Social Services for community education initiatives that compliment the subsidy program. How it is actually going to be carried out, I don't know. It's not complete, but that's an offer that they have made to the GN. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I guess my next question would be: is the \$800,000 that you just spoke about on top of the \$900,000 that we were originally getting? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott.
Minister of Health and Social Services,
Minister Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. No, I used a ballpark figure. The last program was about \$900,000 under the Food Mail Program and this modified one indicates \$840,000 annually from Health Canada. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Curley. Oral Questions are done. We will move on in the *Orders of the Day*, Item 7. Written Questions. Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Item 10. Petitions. Item 11. Responses to Petitions. Item 12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on the Review of Bills and Other Matters. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Minister Taptuna.

Item 13: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 062 – 3(3): Canadian Council of Tourism Ministers, October 14 to 15, 2010

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table the Canadian Council of Tourism Ministers, October 14 to 15, 2010. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Tabling of Documents. Mr. Ningark.

Tabled Document 063 – 3(3): Correspondence from the Minister of Education regarding Busing

Mr. Ningark: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table today a letter that I recently received concerning the issue of school busing services for the community of Kugaaruk. As a courtesy to our new Minister of Education, I wish to advise her that I will have some questions on this issue at tomorrow's sitting of the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Item 13. Tabling of Documents. There being none, I have two.

Tabled Document 064 – 3(3): 2010- 2011 Annual Report of the Integrity Commissioner of Nunavut

Tabled Document 065 – 3(3): 2010 Annual Report of the Chief Electoral Officer

I wish to table the 2010-2011 Annual Report of the Integrity Commissioner of Nunavut as well as the 2010 Annual Report of the Chief Electoral Officer, which also includes the report on the 2010 Nattilik by-election. Thank you.

Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Item 14. Notices of Motions. Mr. Elliott.

Item 14: Notices of Motions

Motion 011 – 3(3): Extended Adjournment – Notice

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Friday, June 10, 2011, I will move the following motion:

I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet South and Whale Cove, that notwithstanding Rule 4, that when the House concludes its present sitting in Iqaluit, it shall be adjourned until October 18, 2011.

Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time, I will seek unanimous consent to deal with my motion today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Notices of Motions. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 16. Motions. Mr. Elliott.

Item 16: Motions

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

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. The member is seeking unanimous consent to deal with his motion today. Are there any nays? There being none. Please proceed, Mr. Elliott.

Motion 011 – 3(3): Extended Adjournment

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet South and Whale Cove, that notwithstanding Rule 4, that when the House concludes its present sitting in Iqaluit, it shall be adjourned until October 18, 2011.

Further, that at any time prior to October 18, 2011, if the Speaker is satisfied, after consultation with the Executive Council and Members of the Legislative Assembly, that the public interest

requires that the House should meet at an earlier time during adjournment, the Speaker may give notice and thereupon the House shall meet at the time stated in such notice and shall transact its business as if it had been duly adjourned to that time.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. The motion is in order. All those in favour of the motion. Any opposed? The motion is carried.

Item 16. Motions. Item 17 in the *Orders of the Day*. First Reading of Bills. Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Item 19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bills 6, 7, and 8, and Tabled Documents 248 – 3(2), 249 – 3(2), and 251 – 3(2) with Mr. Ningeongan in the Chair.

In accordance with the authority provided to me by Motion 6 – 3(3), the Committee of the Whole will stay in session until it reports itself out.

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

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House recessed at 15:17 and Committee resumed at 15:47*

Item 19: 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 6, 7, and 8, and Tabled Documents 248 – 3(2), 249 – 3(2), and 251 – 3(2). What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We wish to continue our concurrent review of Tabled Documents 248 – 3(2), 249 – 3(2), and 251 – 3(2) starting with the Hon. Premier Eva Aariak and EIA, followed by the Hon. Tagak Curley for Health and Social Services, the Hon. Keith Peterson for the departments of Finance and Justice, the Hon. Dan Shewchuk for the departments of Environment and Human Resources, the Hon. James Arreak for CLEY, and the Hon. Peter Taptuna for the Department of Economic Development and Transportation. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. Are we in agreement that we first deal with the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs?

Some Members: Agreed.

**Tabled Document 248 – 3(2):
Government of Nunavut Contract
Activity Report Fiscal Year 2009-
2010 – Consideration in
Committee**

**Tabled Document 249 – 3(2): Lease
Activity Report 2009-2010 –
Consideration in Committee**

**Tabled Document 251 – 3(2): 2009-
2010 Procurement Activity Report
– Consideration in Committee**

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Yesterday Premier Aariak gave her opening comments for EIA. At this time, I would ask if she would like to have witnesses at the table.

Hon. Eva Aariak: Yes, I do, Mr. Speaker.

Chairman: Thank you, Madam Premier. Does the committee agree to bring in the witnesses?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses in.

(interpretation ends) Thank you. Madam Premier, please introduce your witnesses.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my right is Markus Weber, Deputy Minister, and to my left is Letia Obed, the Director of Aboriginal and Circumpolar Affairs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Madam Premier. (interpretation) She was finished with her opening comments. Now we can proceed with questions for the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. Mr. Ningark.

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman. Welcome, Premier and your staff. I fully support the implementation of devolution. Although it will not happen overnight, we have expectations in Nunavut. We have non-renewable resources that seem to be just outside of that responsibility and we want to assume that responsibility.

You stated that you spent \$72,000 in 2008-09 in contracts under the Devolution Division. Also in 2009-2010, \$12,000 was contracted out. I believe that it's contract C170. We want to see this move ahead. What was the benefit or what was the outcome of this? Is it to develop policies or something else? I'll indicate the value of the two contracts again, \$72,000 and \$12,000. What services has the individual been providing to the government? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningark. (interpretation ends) Madam Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would also like to thank the member for his continued support towards this and towards devolution. For these reasons, the funds were identified mainly as we have extra staff now at the (interpretation ends) Devolution Division. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: *Qujannamiik*, Madam Premier. Mr. Ningark.

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the Premier for the clarification and for further clarifying to our members. As you said, we have new staff members. It's great to see that. In 2009-2010, your department awarded a \$49,936 contract to Aarluk Consulting. It's contract C1448. Although they have staff members, why was it necessary to use an outside company to perform the work? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningark. (interpretation ends) Madam Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm trying to find that contract. With regard to that, it was not for that purpose; it was for the energy strategy communications. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: *Qujannamiik*, Madam Premier. Mr. Ningark.

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also want to thank the Hon. Premier. Going back to her comments, in 2009-2010, her department awarded a \$29,850 contract for a company to develop an implementation plan for the government's energy strategy, as she stated. It's contract C1338. When will you table this implementation plan in the Legislative Assembly and why was it necessary to use an outside company to develop it rather than having the work done within your department? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningark. (interpretation ends) Madam Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. These are slightly different. The energy strategy communications which you asked about earlier is more towards public information or notice to reduce power dependency. The Ikummatiit implementation plan also deals with policies under Ikummatiit. This is not quite finished yet, but I am pleased that CGS and the housing corporation have submitted the contents towards this.

They are almost wrapping up and hopefully they will be finished by this fall. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: *Qujannamiik*, Madam Premier. (interpretation) There are no more names on my list for questions. (interpretation ends) Do members agree that we have concluded with the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Madam Premier, do you have closing remarks?

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank both of my staff members, Markus and Letia. They work very hard in these areas at our department.

We know that the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs is always working with other departments and I am very grateful to the other departments. They are able to work in the spirit of cooperation and anything that arises from that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Premier and your officials. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses out.

(interpretation ends) Thank you. I would now like to ask the Minister of Health and Social Services, Minister Curley, if he has opening remarks.

Hon. Tagak Curley: Yes, I do, Mr. Chairman. I will proceed. *Unnusakkut*, Mr. Chairman (interpretation) and

committee members. For the first part of my opening comments, I will be speaking in Inuktitut.

The Department of Health and Social Services for 2009-2010 awarded 428 contracts for a total amount of \$36.3 million. The value of the contracts issued by the department accounted for 15 percent of the overall government total. With respect to the number of contracts issued, the department was 24 percent of the overall government total.

(interpretation ends) Of the 428 contracts issued in 2009-2010, 215 were sole source contracts, of which 72 percent related to the provision of residential care services. The sole source residential care contracts are primarily for services, such as substance abuse recovery programs and mental health treatment and care.

The 215 sole source contracts represent a reduction of \$10 million in the value of sole source contracts over 2008-09. Of the 30 percent decrease in value of sole source contracts of \$14 million from 2008-09, my department accounted for 72 percent of this decrease.

Mr. Chairman, the department, with the assistance of the Department of Community and Government Services, is now utilizing standing offer agreements to eliminate the number of sole source contracts.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my opening comments and I would be pleased to answer questions from members. (interpretation) Thank you.

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

Hon. Tagak Curley: Yes, I would, Mr. Chairman.

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

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Sergeant-at-Arms, escort the witnesses in, please.

Thank you. (interpretation ends)
Minister Curley, please introduce your witnesses.

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

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Curley. (interpretation) Welcome to the (interpretation ends) Committee of the Whole. (interpretation) The floor is now open for any questions that members may have. Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome, hon. minister as well as your officials. My colleagues have addressed issues in the House in regard to substance abuse recovery programs and mental health treatment and care. I'm glad that these are being addressed at a territorial level and no doubt, for the fact that everybody can benefit. As we all know, community members need to access services as well.

I just want to bring as a comment as well that maybe my colleagues will have further detailed questions, but I think it's imperative that we also make this known throughout Nunavut and it's really pleasing to see the minister, in his opening comments, addressing these areas of substance abuse recovery programs and mental health treatment and care. I look forward to seeing how we, as a government, would be able to assist in providing these services that are much needed throughout all of Nunavut.

With that, that was just a comment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. Are there any questions? Ms. Ugyuk.

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) The government's most recent annual report on procurement activities indicates that your department awarded a \$454,000 contract to a company to provide pharmacy and inventory management services in the Kitikmeot region in 2009-2010. In March of 2011, you indicated that your department would be changing the way pharmaceutical services would be delivered in the territory. Do you anticipate lower costs for pharmaceutical services in the future and how will you ensure that current fiscal year costs for the Kitikmeot region will be less than the amount reflected in this contract for 2009-2010? That's contract 1758. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. Minister Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley: Mr. Chairman, I wonder if I can be provided with... . Did

you reference the contract number or not? If she would repeat it again, please, the contract number that she referred to. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Curley. Ms. Ugyuk.

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) The contract number is C1758. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. Minister Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm going to have the deputy respond to that. Thank you.

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

Mr. Ma: Mr. Chairman, just bear with me. I'm just trying to find 1758.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My apologies. From what I can tell, the contract to this particular vendor, in terms of the member's question, should be reduced as we go forward. I think that was the gist of her question, if I recall. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Ma. Ms. Ugyuk.

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Annually, how much do pharmaceutical services across Nunavut cost the government and do you anticipate achieving any cost savings with the proposed new method of service delivery? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. Minister Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll have my deputy respond to that. Bear with us, Mr. Ma is also new as a deputy minister in that department. I'll have him respond to that. Thank you.

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

Mr. Ma: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The minister is quite correct; I'm not as crisp as I normally would be. I'm still learning about my portfolio. I would normally throw the numbers right off the top of my head. Somehow, in the back of my mind, I think the number is around \$2 million, but let me confirm that. We will undertake to provide that information to the member. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Ma. Ms. Ugyuk.

Ms. Ugyuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If it's around \$2 million across Nunavut, how much do you anticipate the cost savings? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. Minister Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We will provide that in more detail. I know the hon. member should be aware that each contract, with the exception from the day that the contracts were issued to the regions during the period, expired. Once they have expired, there have been some improvements with the pharmacy management services for that region.

As a result, there have been significant improvements due to the fact that some of the requirements were reduced with Kitikmeot and also Kivalliq. In the Baffin region, we do know that the local pharmacy, as of this spring, I believe, had opted out in providing some of the services that are provided to the Kitikmeot and Kivalliq.

So each region is slightly different and therefore, the amounts have significantly reduced, but we will actually provide the details to you before the session is over. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Curley. Ms. Ugyuk.

Ms. Ugyuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The government's most recent annual report on procurement activities indicates that your department awarded a \$474,000 contract to a company for an "Integrated Electronic Health Record (EHR)" and an additional \$258,000 to the same company for a "Nunavut Interim EHR Privacy Lead and Support." At what stage is the electronic health system and when will it be fully implemented across Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. Minister Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We will have Debora Voth respond to that. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Curley. Ms. Voth.

Ms. Voth: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Currently, the electronic health record is implemented in Iqaluit and in

Cambridge Bay. We anticipate that it would be rolled out in Rankin Inlet in the fall. After Rankin Inlet is online and Pangnirtung in the fall as well, after they are both online, we intend to bring online two communities at a time. Our rollout will follow CGS as they implement the LAN-WAN in particular communities across Nunavut. We will follow them and implement the eHealth record system. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Voth. Ms. Ugyuk.

Ms. Ugyuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is it my understanding that if all regional and Pangnirtung are finished, there will be two additional add-ons from each region or the whole of Nunavut? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. Ms. Voth.

Ms. Voth: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To start with the implementation, we are implementing in the regional hubs, and then after that we will be going out into the communities to implement at the health centres. After the regional hubs are all online, which would be the fall, then we will start to implement in the smaller communities, following the LAN-WAN project of CGS. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Voth. Ms. Ugyuk.

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm having difficulty comprehending fully. (interpretation ends) After the regional and Pangnirtung start or finish, you're adding two

communities from Nunavut at a time, or is it three regions two at a time? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. Ms. Voth.

Ms. Voth: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is two communities across Nunavut at a time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Voth. Mr. Schell.

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The government's most recent annual report on procurement activities indicates that your department awarded a \$116,175 sole source contract in 2009-2010 to an individual to act as a budget management financial consultant. What specific services did this individual provide and why couldn't your department's own employees do this work? It's contract C226. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Tagak Curley: Mr. Chairman, Ms. Voth will respond to that.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Curley. Ms. Voth.

Ms. Voth: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The budget analyst that was hired under that contract is working at the hospital facility in the medical affairs office. She manages the financial portfolio for the physician services, which is substantial. I believe the budget for physician services right now is about \$17 million. I know that Mr. Sandy MacDonald, our Director of Medical Affairs, is working

on job descriptions and working with Human Resources to staff that position indeterminately. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Voth. Mr. Schell.

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The government's most recent annual report on procurement activities indicates that your department awarded a \$110,000 sole source contract to an individual for a Nunavut Oral Health Strategy. Will you commit to tabling this strategy in the Legislative Assembly? That's contract C224. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we're working on that. We will table that report once the strategy is completed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The government's 2007-08 annual report on procurement activities indicated that your department awarded over \$3.4 million in contracts for agency nurses. However, neither the government's 2008-09 annual report nor the 2009-2010 annual report contain any information on expenditures for agency nurses. Did your department spend any money on agency nurses in 2009-2010 and, if so, how much did it spend? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The deputy minister will respond to that. Thank you.

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

Mr. Ma: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm just trying to find the right page in the report that was tabled by the Department of Community and Government Services. I believe, in the reporting for the current report, they exempted that out. I just want to make sure that I'm not actually wrong; I may actually be wrong.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So I stand corrected by Ms. Voth. I was actually making reference to the procurement activity report on page 6, but I was wrong.

With respect to agency nurses, it's likely the length of the contracts. So depending on the length of a contract, it would be reported in a particular year. As I recall, we have actually issued another request for proposals for standing offer agreements with agency nurses in the current year, so that's probably the reason why you don't see it, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Ma. Mr. Schell.

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. How much is the government currently spending on agency nurses and how does it award these contracts? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Debora will respond to that.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Curley. Ms. Voth.

Ms. Voth: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are still wrapping up year-end for 2009-2010. However, it appears that the cost for agency nurses will be in the order of about \$5 million. How did we award this? We went out for a standing offer agreement for agency nurses, we actually quoted the rates that we were willing to pay, and we received I believe it was six responses. So now we can choose from six different agencies where we would like to pull those nurses from.

We have one standard rate that we pay. I shouldn't say one standard rate. It all depends on what kind of nurse that we're ordering up, which community they're working in, but we have set standard rates that we pay, so it does not matter which agency that we hire from. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Voth. Mr. Schell.

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The government's most recent annual report on procurement activities indicates that your department awarded a \$261,800 contract in 2009-2010 to a company for tobacco reduction training. What did this project achieve and why can't your department perform this kind of work itself? That's contract C1703. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The deputy minister will respond to that. Thank you.

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

Mr. Ma: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As most members know, the department is working on a tobacco cessation strategy or framework. That contract would likely be related to that work. I know that there were different promotional materials that were developed. I actually don't have the details of that contract in front of me, but I suspect that's what it's for and we can certainly confirm subsequent to this appearance to the member. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Ma. Mr. Schell.

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Will you commit to tabling a copy of the department's tobacco use reduction strategy in the Legislative Assembly? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Once the strategy is brought to my table, certainly we will share it with the cabinet as well. Once these processes are done, we will be happy to table the strategy in the House. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Curley. Mr. Schell, one more? Thank you.

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In reviewing the government's most recent annual report on procurement activities, it has been noted that over \$2,735,000 in contracts for the Department of Health and Social Services were sole source emergency contracts. What factors lead to this type of contract? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Ms. Voth will respond to that.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Curley. Ms. Voth.

Ms. Voth: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This type of activity will mainly happen in the Mental Health Program, where we have to repatriate a client out for services on an emergent basis. We do have relationships with facilities in the south where we can very quickly move somebody down for treatment where they're not going to do harm to themselves or anyone else within their family. We send them out as quickly as we can and then we negotiate the contract after the client is actually at the facility. So that would be an example of an urgent basis. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Voth. I have Ms. Ugyuk.

Ms. Ugyuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The government's most recent annual report on procurement activities in 2009-2010 indicates that your department awarded over \$5 million in residential care contracts, not including psychiatric or substance abuse treatment contracts,

and over \$12 million in specialized care contracts. What specific steps are being taken to reduce the dependency on out-of-territory contractors to provide residential or specialized care services for Nunavut residents? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. Minister Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think the member should know that we are pretty well dependent on facilities down south for the kinds of illnesses that Nunavutmiut cannot be treated in Nunavut. Therefore, that accounts for a whole number of contracts for residential, but I'll have the deputy minister add further to that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Ma: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As the minister indicated, this area is largely dependent on patients or our clients. He also made mention of this in terms of his opening comments, but this is an area we're actually looking at seriously at this particular point in time. Just by way of background, the annual budget for this is in the \$20 million plus range, so obviously we need to pay attention to it and I think we are starting to pay attention to it.

We are looking at a number of different ways to provide the service. At this point, I'm a little bit reluctant to get into too much detail, so I'm going to kind of just talk generally with respect to the question.

Because of the dollar amount, we are looking at opportunities, perhaps, to review the level of service these clients get. So if they're getting a higher level of service but they no longer need that, we will reduce that level so the costs would come down.

We're also looking at ways to perhaps consolidate where the patients are because generally these contracts are spread throughout Canada and there are a number of main providers. We would like to move towards maybe just having three or four, let's say. Because of the unfortunate number of people who are down there receiving this care, we're also looking to negotiate, if you will, a bulk rate.

The minister mentioned as well some of the standing offer agreements that we have done recently with agency nurses and other contracts to reduce sole source contracts. So again this is another area that we're looking at.

So I would hope that later this year, the minister could provide more of an update, but those are some of the things that we're looking at right now at this point in time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Ma. Ms. Ugyuk.

Ms. Ugyuk: How does the department evaluate the performance of the service providers? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. Minister Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The deputy minister will respond to that one. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Ma.

Mr. Ma: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, in my previous answer, I somewhat alluded to this. Like I said, because of the number of contracts and the dollar values involved, we're seriously looking at whether we're getting value for money, if you will, from our providers and that is certainly one of the areas that we're looking at. We want to make sure that what we have contracted these providers to do for us, they are actually doing that and that we're getting good value for money.

I don't know what to call it at this point, but we're developing rating criteria, if you will, and we have plans to visit some of these homes to ensure that what we have contracted for is actually what we're receiving. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Ma. Ms. Ugyuk.

Ms. Ugyuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To what extent has the opening of the new continuing care facilities in Gjoa Haven and Igloolik reduced departmental costs in this area? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. Minister Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Ma will respond to that. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Ma.

Mr. Ma: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At this point in time, it's not that significant yet. We are working on it and I'll explain why. Obviously there's a limited capacity in terms of the number of patients that we can actually take in both homes in Gjoa Haven and Igloolik. I think the minister has stated in the House as well that in Igloolik, we're having some difficulties in terms of recruitment, although we are in the process of recruitment.

So even if we're staffed up, I think the number of patients that we can take in each one of these facilities is nine or ten people. So that's just a small drop in the bucket, unfortunately, in terms of the number people that we have that are receiving these types of services. I'll leave it at that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Ma. Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Looking at your Lease Activity Report 2009-2010 on page 10 in regard to the Kivalliq Medical Boarding Home, it shows that the expiration date would be March 31, 2023 and the annual value that is shown in the lease activity report is \$814,517.04. At the end of the 20-year lease period, the government will have paid \$16,426,509. Will the government own this facility at the end of the lease period and, if not, will it need to renew the lease for a further 20 years? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Tagak Curley: Yes, Mr. Chairman, we need a bit more help with

that. If you have any reference to the number, it would help us out. We have over 428 contracts, and if you do have the contract number and page number, it would help us be able to respond to it. So maybe he could provide clarification for that. Thank you.

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

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As noted earlier, it was on page 10 of the lease activity report and the reference number is B62. The lease number is LS-600-0001, which would be on page 10 of the lease activity report, the second last from the bottom, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe that refers to what we normally know as the Kivalliq Boarding Home in Winnipeg, but Debora Voth will explain the details of that. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Curley. Ms. Voth.

Ms. Voth: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This contract is for the Winnipeg boarding home and it is funded by the NIHB program, so by our partners in Health Canada. At the end of the contract, no, we will not own the building. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Voth. Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you. I do have one more on behalf of a colleague here

in the Kivalliq that I would like to ask as well. In the procurement activities, the department awarded over \$1 million for two contracts to the Municipality of Rankin Inlet. Mr. Chairman, those are contract numbers C1770 and C1760. These two projects include “Support Services for Disabled Services” and a “Support Independent Living Program.” What services were provided under these contracts?

I’ll leave it at that and then I’ll follow up with another question, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the question. I believe Mr. Peter Ma will be prepared to respond to that one.

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

Mr. Ma: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I’m just looking at one of the contracts.

This particular contract was to provide support to individuals with disabilities. There are a number of objectives that we had with respect to this. Some of them were to work with individuals to prepare them to enter the workforce and provide ongoing support to these individuals who live in the community.

That’s one of the notes I found. If you give me a few seconds, I can try to find the other one as well, as there were two separate contracts, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Ma. Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you. Just for clarification, the two contracts were C1770 and 1760.

My other follow-up question, Mr. Chairman, is: are there any other municipalities in Nunavut being considered for similar contracts to provide disabled services or independent living services? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you. Right off the top of my head, I'm not sure, but Chesterfield Inlet may have some disabled individuals over there. I'm not sure what the private company is, but I think that's mainly the two that I do know, besides the children's facility at Rankin Inlet. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Curley. I have no more names on my list. Do members agree that we have concluded with the Department of Health and Social Services?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Do you have closing remarks, Minister Curley?

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes. (interpretation) I wanted to thank the members. (interpretation ends) I know that these are very huge expenditures. You only scratched the surface of the whole amount of the contracts that we do provide, but I can assure the members that we are making progress. We're reducing the number of contracts. There has been a significant

amount over the past fiscal years and we're going to continue to monitor them.

We will surely be ready to respond to further Committee of the Whole hearings if we are once again requested. (interpretation) So I would just like to thank you all. I also thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's all.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Curley and your officials. (interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses out.

Thank you. (interpretation ends) I would now like to ask the Minister responsible for Finance to make his opening remarks.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman and members of the committee.

The Department of Finance, in the conduct of its business, does not issue a significant number of contracts nor are the overall dollar values significant. For 2009-2010, the value of contracts issued by the Department of Finance accounted for 2 percent of the overall government total. With respect to the number of contracts issued, the Department of Finance comprised 4 percent of the overall government total.

Of the 69 contracts issued in 2009-2010, 34, or 61 percent, of the contracts were for the government's annual insurance premiums and the purchase of liquor products through the Nunavut Liquor Commission. These two activities accounted for \$1,957,985.96, or 40 percent, of the \$4,865,651.75 issued in contracts by the department.

Other contracts issued by the department were to support the government's initiative on strengthening financial management, the Liquor Task Force, and the preparation of the public accounts.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my opening comments. I would be pleased to answer questions from the members of the committee. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

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

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Peterson. Does the committee agree to bring in the witnesses?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. (interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the minister's officials in.

(interpretation ends) Thank you. Minister Peterson, please introduce your witnesses.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my right is Chris D'Arcy, Deputy Minister of Finance. To my left is Jeff Chown, Comptroller General. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Peterson. Welcome to your officials as well. We can now move on to questions pertaining to the Minister of Finance. Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is in response to the opening comments by the Hon. Minister of the Department of Justice. As well, welcome to the witness stand as well as your officials. He mentioned the liquor task force. Mr. Chairman, if I may, I just want to quickly ask how many communities have been visited and how many more plan to be visited. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Aupaluktuq for the question. I don't have the precise details, but I think approximately 13 or 14 have been visited. Six were planned to be visited, but due to weather, they had to reschedule. So I would say that about 11 communities remain to be visited, including the ones where the travel was cancelled. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Peterson. Again I would like to remind members that I would appreciate if your questions are related to the tabled documents that are before us. Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for allowing me to ask that. I just wanted an update on there.

My question is on page 50 of the procurement activity report regarding contract C233. The department awarded a \$147,950 contract to the Northern Learning Institute to undertake an evaluation of the implementation of the *Family Abuse Intervention Act*. The

Northern Learning Institute is a subsidiary of the Nunasi Corporation. The company's report was recently tabled in the Legislative Assembly. My question, Mr. Chairman, is: as of today, how many of the report's recommendations have actually been implemented by your department? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Aupaluktuq for the question. Mr. Chairman, that contract was issued under the Department of Justice, not the Department of Finance. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Peterson, for the clarification. Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Mr. Aupaluktuq: I just want to clarify as well that he did answer the question, I believe. If the member for the appropriate department is willing to respond, I would like a response, but if not, I would like to continue on later in the House with further questions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. I do not have any more names listed. Do members agree that we have concluded with the Department of Finance?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Minister Peterson, do you have closing remarks?

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the members for their

scrutiny of our contracts not only for the Department of Finance but for the government. As I stressed before, accountability and transparency is welcome. I recall, as a rookie MLA in the Second Assembly, we weren't getting these kinds of documents. So we're very pleased that we're able to present these documents to you and have questions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Peterson. (interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses out.

(interpretation ends) Thank you. I would now like to ask Minister Peterson, responsible for the Department of Justice, if you have opening remarks.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good afternoon again, members of the committee and Chairman. Contracts issued by the Department of Justice for 2009-2010 total \$29.2 million. \$26.6 million of this amount was to award the construction contract with NDL Construction Limited to build the new Rankin Inlet Correctional Facility.

With the exception of this large capital contract, the Department of Justice only issued a further \$2.6 million in contracts during the fiscal year. The remaining contracts were awarded mainly for court circuit airline travel, software/systems related requirements for the Courts Division, and correctional facilities supplies, services, and training.

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

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I do.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Peterson. Does the committee agree to bring in the witnesses?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the minister's officials in.

(interpretation ends) Thank you. Minister Peterson, please introduce your witnesses.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my right is Janet Slaughter, Deputy Minister of the Department of Justice, and to my left is Christine Bens, Director of Corporate Services for the Department of Justice. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Peterson. Welcome to your officials. Questions from members. Mr. Tapardjuk.

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In 2009-2010, your department awarded a \$147,950 contract to the (interpretation ends) Northern Learning Institute (contract C233). (interpretation) I would first like to know how they were awarded the contract and what the term of the contract was. Was it based on the lowest bid or was it based on their legal expertise? I would like to know how the contract was awarded, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Tapardjuk for the question. Mr. Chairman, I believe it was issued through an RFP through the Department of Community and Government Services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): The person I would have directed this question to isn't here. What I wanted to know was: prior to the contract being issued, is the selection based on the best proposal or the lowest bid? This is especially when the review is going to be comprehensive and I wanted to get an answer, but that person isn't present. Mr. Chairman, can I ask if we can request an answer later on? The question is: were they selected for the contract due to their being the most qualified or because of their low bid?

Further, there are a number of recommendations listed in the report. How are the recommendations being addressed by the Department of Justice? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Tapardjuk for the question. Mr. Chairman, I don't have the details of how that was awarded. It was through an RFP process, so presumably it was open and public. I can get the specific details of how it was awarded.

With respect to the evaluation itself, we received it in February of last year and we have reviewed it and the department has made some improvements to the FAIA program based on the recommendations in the report. I am pleased to say that the program is improving. When the contractor conducted the evaluation, it was a little bit over a year since the implementation of the FAIA, and I believe it was in March of 2008. So they started conducting their evaluation in the fall of 2009 and we received the report in February of 2010. So I believe, since then, there have been significant improvements based on the recommendations in the report. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It would be beneficial to understand how far this has moved forward and which of the recommendations will be hard to implement and which ones will be difficult.

Mr. Chairman, I want to just comment on this. With respect to the reports we had reviewed, at least some of us, but to me personally, it felt as if they were incomplete. It seemed obvious that the contractors weren't given very much support when given the contract.

With respect to the \$148,000 contract, it would be good to get an idea of how far they were able to implement it. I will await a response, Mr. Chairman. I believe a response may be made as to what progress has been made with

respect to the recommendations. I'm done for now, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Tapardjuk. (interpretation) CGS, I think, would be able to clarify that. Do you want to comment on that, Minister Peterson?

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Tapardjuk for the question. Yes, Mr. Chairman, we will commit to getting that information for the members. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Peterson. I have no more names on my list. Do members agree that we have concluded with the Department of Justice?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Minister Peterson, do you have closing remarks?

Hon. Keith Peterson: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank yourself and members again for the questions. As I indicated, we commit to getting the information for the members on that particular contract.

I would like to thank my officials for being here today. This is a special day for one individual. It's Christine's first time in Committee of the Whole on the contracts and she gave me some information earlier.

I would like to also take the opportunity to ask you guys to join me in thanking Mr. Ted Dingle. He is retiring on, I believe, June 17. He trained Christine on the intern program. He also trained her sister, Wendy. So he has given us

several very good years and really helped Christine and Wendy to become stronger in the financial field. So how about it, Ted, take a bow. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>>Applause

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Peterson. Thank you to your officials. Thank you to the gentleman. (interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses out.

(interpretation ends) Thank you. I would now like to ask the Minister of Environment to make his opening remarks. Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. During the fiscal year 2009-2010, the Department of Environment internally administered 47 contracts with a total of value of \$1,807,361. All other contracts went through the Department of Community and Government Services. The methods used for these contracts include sole sourcing, sole vendor contracting, request for proposals, and contract extension. Twenty contracts with a total final payment of \$412,943 were awarded through sole source and sole vendor processes. Also, we paid \$639,341.23 to Natural Resources Canada for the polar continental shelf project, which provides logistical support to all of our arctic researchers. These contracts were awarded to non-profit organizations, federal departments, universities, and the private sector.

The department has made efforts to curtail the use of sole source/sole vendor in its contracting. Recently, through a request for proposals, we have published

the list of known professional services that we may require for a few years. This will give organizations and individuals ample opportunity to submit their proposals for the services and may be contracted as and when needed.

My department requires specialized services, some of which could only be delivered by experts who have the necessary qualifications. On various occasions, the required services are not available in Nunavut and in some instances, not even in Canada, resulting in my department having to contract internationally.

Mr. Chairman, thank you for giving me an opportunity to review with you the 2009-2010 contracting report for the Department of Environment. I'll be pleased to answer any questions. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Yes, I do, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Does the committee agree to bring in the witnesses?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. (interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the minister's officials in.

(interpretation ends) Thank you. Minister Shewchuk, please introduce your witnesses.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my left I have the Deputy Minister of Environment, David Akeagok, and to my right I have the Director of Corporate Services for the Department of Environment, Camilius Egeni. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. Now I'll ask for questions from membership. Mr. Tapardjuk.

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome, Minister Shewchuk and your officials. In your opening comments, on the contracting report, you state that your department "has made efforts to curtail the use of sole source/sole vendors in its contracting" and that "we have published the list of known professional services that we may require..."

I didn't quite understand what "professional services" entails in English. Maybe you can enlighten me what is meant by that phrase. Who are these professional? Are professionals those with knowledge of the environment, those who can hunt or those who have knowledge about wildlife? I would like to get clarification on what you mean by professional services, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Tapardjuk. In relation to the opening remarks, Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the question. I would very much like to clarify that. In the Department of Environment, there is a requirement and a need for professional services in regard to mostly research work; the services of

specific biologists and specific people to do such things as aging polar bear teeth, FAP analysis, conditioning analysis, and those types of services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you for that clarification. Yes, we have to ask questions when you don't understand an issue.

With respect to contractors, it states that "the required services are not available in Nunavut and in some instances, not even in Canada." I wonder if you can clarify it so that we can see the types of services needed in Nunavut when no such services are provided in Canada. Although it is not listed in this contract report, they are mentioned in his opening comments. I want to be on the same page in terms of my understanding of this issue, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Tapardjuk. Opening remarks related issue, Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One of the contracts, I think the only one, that we went outside that we couldn't access in Canada was in regard to caribou and muskox habitat structures, and it was to develop using digital elevation models and location data from aerial surveys that we have done on these populations in Nunavut. That kind of analysis had to be done outside of Canada. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. I have Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My question is on contract C1241, it's on page 83 of the procurement activity report, and it's in regard to the Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan. I was wondering if the minister could explain what that's about. I'm assuming it has to do with the adaptation plans that the federal government provided funding for, but it specifically says Iqaluit and it specifically says about a rewrite. So I'm just curious to find out. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Mr. Chairman, could I have that contract number again, please.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is C1241 and it is on page 83. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, that contract was in regard to a rewrite of the Atuliqtavut project that we had for the community adaptation plans and that's involving the individual communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Were those specific changes to Iqaluit's adaptation plan or was that modifications to all of the adaptation

plans? I'm trying to remember which of the communities that the ministers were in; Cambridge Bay, Igloolik, Arviat, and Iqaluit. Is it for all of the communities or just one? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That was for all of the communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In terms of the adaptation plans, is this an activity that will follow through to all of the different communities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The attempt is that we would like to have adaptation plans for all communities in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, since we have gone through the exercise once with specific communities, do we now have the knowledge base and the skills within the department to do that in all of the other communities or are we going to be contracting the work out again to do adaptation plans in the other communities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think it was a very valuable experience for us in having outside people help us, but yes, we hope to utilize our staff more. They are more educated and more trained on the specifics on building these plans. However, there will always be cases where we may have to contract out. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the same government document on page 95 this time dealing specifically with contract No. 1584, your department awarded a \$93,493 contract to EBA Engineering to undertake a contaminated site inventory of North Baffin. I'm just wondering: what was that contract about? Was it specifically about contamination in sites in communities or was it around maybe the DEW line sites or drop off for DND? If you could give me more clarification on what that is. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll let my deputy minister answer that question. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. Mr. Akeegok.

Mr. Akeegok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Here in Nunavut, the areas being studied are comprised of

the Commissioner's Land and they are looking for contamination. They are looking for areas of contamination, not within the communities but areas within the Commissioner's Land. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Akeegok. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In regard to the specific inventory that was completed, is this something that we would have access to? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, anyone can have access to it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So will you be tabling that document? Again, I'm just thinking in terms of if there are contaminated sites and we have our hunters going out and families camping throughout summer months that are coming up, it would be nice to know and pass it on to the HTOs so that we know where these sites are. Do the communities know where these sites are already? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister Shewchuk

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, obviously the communities are aware; they were involved in the whole process of these sites. I will double-check, but I think this

information is available on the website.
Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. I have no more names on my list. Do members agree that we have concluded with the Department of Environment?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Shewchuk, do you have closing remarks?

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would just like to thank my witnesses for being here today. Just to echo the words of previous ministers, this government is striving to be more accountable and transparent to contracts and will continue to do so. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I thank the committee.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Shewchuk and your officials.
(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses out.

Thank you. (interpretation ends) I would now like to ask the Minister of Human Resources to make his opening remarks. Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to appear before you and your committee today to present the 2009-2010 contracting report as it relates to the Department of Human Resources.

The Department of Human Resources is committed to the Government of Nunavut's obligation to ensure accountability and transparency of

operations, thereby maintaining the public's confidence in its ability to act ethically in serving the interests of all Nunavutmiut.

Mr. Chairman, the Department of Human Resources is committed to following the government contract regulations pursuant to the *Financial Administration Act* and utilizes a variety of contracting methods to secure goods and services for the department. These methods include extensions (EXT), public request for proposals (PRFP), invitational tenders (IT), and sparingly sole sourcing (SS). Human Resources is committed to limiting the extent of sole sourcing in the procurement of goods and services with a value of over \$5,000. Sole source contracts are closely monitored.

The majority of the sole source contracts negotiated on behalf of the Department of Human Resources are within two divisions. The Employee Relations Division has entered into several sole source contracts that relate to the provision of required legal services, specialized training, or special investigations. On the other hand, the Training and Development Division has entered into sole source contracts with Think Training, who was the only contractor available and capable of meeting the training demands.

Mr. Chairman, thank you for your consideration. I would be pleased to answer any questions you may have. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Yes, I do, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. Does the committee agree to bring in the witnesses?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. (interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort Minister Shewchuk's officials in.

(interpretation ends) Thank you. Minister Shewchuk, please introduce your witnesses.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my right I have Louise Wasson, Deputy Minister of the Department of Human Resources, and to my left I have David Kolot, Director of Corporate Services for the Department of HR. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. Welcome to your officials. Questions from members. I have no one to list on my paper here. Do members agree that we have concluded with the Department of Human Resources?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Oh, my goodness!

>>*Laughter*

Minister Shewchuk, do you have closing remarks?

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't know what to say, really, but thank you very much. I'm glad that everybody agrees to and sees the transparency in the contracts issued

by the Department of Human Resources. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Shewchuk and your officials. (interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses out. I'm sure our Sergeant-at-Arms will have sore muscles today.

>>*Laughter*

Thank you. (interpretation ends) I would now like to ask the Minister of CLEY to make his opening remarks. Minister Arreak.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to appear before the Committee of the Whole today to answer any questions the members may have concerning the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth contracting activities for 2009-2010.

In 2009-2010, CLEY awarded 37 contracts greater than \$5,000, 16 of which were sole source contracts. This is a 10 percent reduction in the number of contracts from 2008-09. The awarded contracts fulfilled specialized professional/technical requirements and services, air charters, purchase of goods, specialized computer software, and training for the translators.

I will do my best to answer any questions my colleagues may have at this time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation):
Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Arreak.
Does the committee agree to bring in the witnesses?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. (interpretation)
Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort Minister Arreak and his officials in.

Thank you. (interpretation ends)
Minister Arreak, please introduce your witnesses.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation):
Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my right is Simon Awa, Deputy Minister, and to my left is Nikki Nweze, Director of Corporate Services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Arreak. Welcome to your officials. We're going to questions now. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My question has to do with a contract that's on page 48 of the procurement activity report. So that's page 48. It's contract C165 and for that one, there was \$21,875,000 contracted to Kudlik Construction for the Piquusilirivvik Inuit Cultural Learning Facility in Clyde River. I'm just wondering: what were the final costs for the construction of this facility? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Elliott.
Minister Arreak.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation):
Thank you, Mr. Chairman. \$25.5 million

was spent on the construction of Piquusilirivvik. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Arreak. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, I know there was the grand opening of the facility in May. I'm just wondering: is everything completed on the facility in terms of all of the deficiencies? They usually do different inspections and whatnot. So construction is done and students are ready to move in for classes in September. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Elliott.
Minister Arreak.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation):
Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Elliot. Yes, the building has been entirely completed and no other construction is required. However, we still need to install computers as well as the snow fence around the building. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Arreak. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The other part of my question was: is everything online and ready to go in terms of the application process, getting staff hired, and having the centre open in September? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Elliott.
Minister Arreak.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation):
Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, with the building completed, the operational plans are now almost completed and

they are currently working on the orientation for the students and staff. The applications are almost finalized and I expect them to be completed by the end of the week of June 13. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Arreak. I have no further names. (interpretation ends) Do members agree that we have concluded with the Department of CLEY?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Minister Arreak, do you have closing remarks?

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to thank the members for the information requested regarding whether the finances were expended as you requested. I also thank you for accepting our reports. I would also like to thank my staff members. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Arreak. I also thank your staff. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses out.

Thank you. (interpretation ends) I would now like to ask the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation if he has opening remarks. Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I do have my opening remarks here and my closing remarks, but I'll start off with my opening remarks.

I am pleased to appear before the Committee of the Whole to discuss the

procurement activity of the Department of Economic Development and Transportation.

Much of the department's procurement activity concerns two specific needs at airports, namely, airport operations and maintenance and community aerodrome radio stations.

The department provides the right of first refusal for airport operations and maintenance contracts to hamlets and this is a practice that is spelled out in our Transportation Strategy. It reflects the reality that in most communities, the municipality is the only organization capable of performing the contract. However, we are flexible and open to alternative service delivery to respond to cases where the hamlet is unwilling or unable to perform the contract.

The department is contracted by Nav Canada to manage community aerodrome radio stations, or CARS, in order to ensure timely weather observations. The department manages CARS contracts in 22 Nunavut communities and these contracts are based on the number of weather observations taken during the year. If a hamlet declines the contract, the department will issue an RFP to award the contract to a private sector provider.

Apart from airport operations and maintenance and CARS contracts, many of the department's remaining sole source contracting pertains to critical needs at airports which arise from time to time and which must be addressed without delay.

I think it would be appropriate to thank the staff of the Department of

Community and Government Services for putting together these reports, which are tremendously helpful. However, I would like to make note of three errors pertaining to contracts awarded by the Department of Economic Development and Transportation in the procurement activity report.

The first, B61, was in fact awarded pursuant to a standing offer agreement. The next two, B325 and B390, are a community aerodrome radio station contract and an airport operations and maintenance contract, and both were awarded to hamlets. All other CARS and airport operations and maintenance contracts awarded to hamlets listed in the procurement activity report are listed as sole vendor contracts and these two should be in the same category.

I would like to assure the members of this committee that the Department of Economic Development and Transportation limits its use of sole source contracts to situations where there is only one vendor of the goods or services that are required, or to emergencies when there is insufficient time to follow the normal procurement methods.

I want to thank the members of this committee for their patience and I will be happy to respond to their questions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Yes, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Does the committee agree to bring in the witnesses?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort Minister Taptuna and his official in.

Thank you. (interpretation ends)
Minister Taptuna, please introduce your witness.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My witness is Deputy Minister Bob Long. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Welcome to the Committee of the Whole. (interpretation) Do members have any questions? Mr. Ningark.

Mr. Ningark: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the hon. minister and his official for appearing before the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Chairman, my interest is in the NNI Policy compliance. I'm sure NTI would be interested and as a beneficiary, I am very interested.

Mr. Chairman, in 2009-2010, your department, Mr. Minister, awarded a \$96,000 contract to a company to perform an NNI Policy compliance audit and evaluation. The specific contract is C217. What did this audit and evaluation determine? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for referencing the

contract number. We didn't have it listed in our briefing binder as the contract was given through an RFP, but I'll let Bob expand on the question as a supplement response. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Mr. Long.

Mr. Long: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This particular audit was to go out and check compliance of how well businesses were complying with NNI. So the company hired was an accounting firm and they reviewed the books of a representative number of clients throughout Nunavut to see if there were significant issues in what was being reported and whether they were actually complying with NNI. I believe that report has also been tabled and as a result of that, we are now in the process of hiring a compliance auditor to follow up on that work and continue doing this type of work in the future. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Ningark: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My other question is to do with the fish habitat study. In the year 2009-2010, Mr. Minister, your department awarded a \$150,000 contract to an individual to undertake a fish habitat study and this is contract No. C234. What did this study conclude and why did the Department of Economic Development and Transportation commission this project and not the Department of Environment? You would think that it would do a clean study. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that question. For the fish habitat study, it's a necessary study when planning for docks, wharfs, and anything that you put into the water. It's a requirement by DFO. Any development on a shoreline or offshore has to include a fish habitat study. That is a requirement. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Mr. Ningark.

Mr. Ningark: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My question is: why did the Department of Economic Development and Transportation commission this and not the Department of Environment? I would have thought, perhaps, the Department of Environment would have commissioned the project. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again I thank the member for that question. Yes, it would have been nice if another department paid for that study, but it is our program, it is our project to do the feasibility study for a wharf. But again I've got to say that it is a requirement under the law, DFO regulations, and this is the Department of Economic Development's project and we do have to expend money to carry out these feasibility studies for a dock and a wharf. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Taptuna. I have Mr. Schell.

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm going to the opening comments here. In the third paragraph, he said that "The department provides the right of first refusal for airport operations and maintenance contracts to hamlets..." My question is: in any particular community, if there was a contractor who was able to do that job, why wouldn't you allow that contractor to tender on it? You might get a more competitive bid. That's my question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Schell. I'll allow the question pertaining to the opening remarks. Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll defer the question to my deputy minister. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Mr. Long

Mr. Long: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Within the Transportation Strategy, hamlets have the right of first refusal. This is a negotiated contract. We have set standards because we're doing this in 24 communities, so the price has to be reasonable within that standard. The second point is if the hamlet chooses not to bid on the contract or does not want to do the contract, then the second choice is to go to the private sector and have it bid. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Long. I have Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. A significant amount of your department's contracting expenditures in 2009-2010 was for operating airports and community aerodrome radio

stations. Your department has entered into a number of contracts with municipalities to perform these essential functions. How does your department determine the value of the annual contracts for this work? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll have my deputy respond to the question. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Mr. Long.

Mr. Long: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The government is contracted by Nav Canada to provide this service in 22 airports in Nunavut. The prices are set in terms of observations and work functions by Nav Canada and that is the number that we use with the hamlets. So it is set for us and in turn, that's the number we use in dealing with the hamlets or any of the contractors. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Long. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just to compare two communities and I'm not picking on any community for any particular reason, it's only because I know the two communities. For example, in Sanikiluaq, the contract was \$115,000 and change and in the community of Chesterfield Inlet, it was \$273,000 and change, with a difference of like \$140,000 to \$150,000 between the two communities. I don't think Chesterfield Inlet is a 24-hour facility and they're in

close proximity to the community. So I'm just wondering: why the big difference in two communities? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. I appreciate the question. Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll defer the question to my deputy minister. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Mr. Long.

Mr. Long: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The calculation is strictly on the number of observations taken, so air activity is a big deciding factor. It's just multiplying by the number of observations. There's no significant difference on a per observation basis. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Long. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wonder if Mr. Long can explain with a little more detail on what he means by "observations taken." Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Mr. Long.

Mr. Long: Okay. There's a weather component to this and also the radio component, so I guess "observations" isn't totally the accurate word, but the number of times they are called to the airport, so flights have a very big part in this. Each function that they provide on behalf of Nav Canada has a price tag attached to it and that's the way we are

billed, on those functions. There are penalties for non-performance. The contract actually reads "to a maximum of," but the real amount that is billed is based on the work that is done. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Long. I have Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess I'll start with following the same lines of questioning that Mr. Rumbolt was asking because I find it a little confusing too when I was reviewing the contracts. If you look at page 101, there's a \$386,000 contract for Coral Harbour, it is contract C1744, and if you flip the page on page 102, there's contract C1777 for \$1.6 million and it says the same, "Community Aerodrome Radio Services." Does that mean Coral Harbour has a lot more observations than any other community? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Again I appreciate the question. Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll defer the question to my deputy minister. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Mr. Long.

Mr. Long: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think there is an error in wording here. The \$386,000 contract would be the CARS contract. The \$1.6 million contract would be for cleaning the runway and the other services provided by the hamlet. So I believe they're called the same thing in this report but that

would be inaccurate. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Long. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. But then again on page 101, contract C1757, airport operations in Coral Harbour, the community or Hamlet of Coral Harbour receives \$447,000. Again I think what regular members are wondering is how the contracts are actually worked out and figured out. There are huge discrepancies between different communities for either snow removal or operation of the airport or the CARS operations. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Mr. Long.

Mr. Long: The \$447,000 contract was a specific contract for removing the old terminal building.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Long. Did you want to expand, Minister Taptuna?

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll try and expand a little bit on the question there. Yes, some of these definitions don't accurately reflect what has been happening there. As I mentioned in my opening statements, there are some errors. This could very well be a removal and some maintenance work that was done in Coral Harbour on the ATB, airport terminal building. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that explanation. On page 102, it is contract C1782, this one sort of stuck out in my mind as well. Its description is "Airport Snow Removal & Ice Control" and it's for Cambridge Bay to a vendor that receives \$3.1 million for snow removal and ice control, but in reviewing the documents, I couldn't find... . Again I figure it's a big centre, so Cambridge Bay probably has more snow to remove or maybe since Cambridge Bay is now part of the High Arctic, maybe they get more snow than other communities, but I couldn't find Rankin Inlet or Iqaluit or other centres.

So I'm just wondering if you could explain why there is \$3 million going to Cambridge Bay for snow removal, yet I don't see it in any other community or specifically Iqaluit, where there is full-time staff in Iqaluit who do that or Rankin Inlet. Just to help us understand a bit more about what happens. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that question. Again we will have to get back to the committee and the member on this amount because, as I mentioned in my opening statements, the heading of the amounts as listed in the description may not be correct. We will have to go back into our files and get the actual description of what the money was spent on. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again on page 102, it is contract C1773, and I'm sure Mr. Curley would love this one. It's a flat, no extra pennies added, \$1 million for the relocation of CARS in Nanisivik to Arctic Bay and it went to Nav Canada. I was just wondering if you could explain what work was done. In terms of the million dollars, it just seems odd that it's a flat number. You would think it would be like \$954,200. I don't know why \$1 million. Who decides that? Was it Nav Canada that said, "You need to move something."? Maybe if you could give us more of a description. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. I will ask that perhaps you can show a little bit more respect to other members when you entertain a question. Mr. Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In some certain instances, you get nine sardines in a can and in some other certain circumstances, you get ten. I'm going to let my deputy minister respond to and supplement the member's question there. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Mr. Long.

Mr. Long: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Nav Canada is the expert on this equipment. They are the people who install it and in this case, relocate it from a closed airport and install it in a new airport. That was the price that they asked, \$1 million, we accepted that price, paid it, and they did the work. It was not a tendered process where coming in \$10 lower would have won them the contract. They are the only

people who are authorized to do that work for us. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Long. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On page 102, so it's the same page in the procurement activity report for 2009-2010, my next question is on contract C1775. That's C1775. Under the description, it talks about "CARS Training on Behalf of NavCanada" and the funding for the vendor is Nunavut Arctic College. There is a total of \$1.4 million for that contract. I'm just wondering: what is that money used for? Obviously it goes to the Nunavut Arctic College, but what does it go to pay? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that very important question. We do train the CARS operators in Rankin Inlet through Nunavut Arctic College and there is an amount that we get from Nav Canada specifically for that. So we do train Nunavummiut to become CARS operators with Nunavut Arctic College. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Earlier today I did a Member's Statement and then asked oral questions of the minister about two programs in Arctic Bay and in Pond Inlet. It was a very successful program in Pond Inlet with the Environmental Technology Program and the students there were

hoping to have funding for a second year. For the \$1.4 million in training that we have for CARS operators in a year, how many CARS operators would that be for? I recognize that you said 22 communities and I imagine all 24 communities have CARS operators. On average, how many people in one year would \$1.4 million train? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll defer the question to my deputy minister. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Long.

Mr. Long: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In Rankin Inlet, we have a laboratory that can, I believe, normally handle four trainees at a time. These courses are operated continuously as required. I'm trying to remember, but I believe it's a six-week course. That's as close as I can come to giving you an exact number. Again, we are paid by Nav Canada to do this. It's their money that is being used to do this training and again, it's based on the number of trainees and the cost to the college. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Long. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My next question is on page 76 of the procurement activity report for 2009-2010. On page 76, there's a contract, it is contract C1056. For that contract, the vendor was LPS Aviation and it was a contract put out for comments on

INAC's food mail review. I'm just wondering if the minister could explain what was involved and what was in that review. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again I thank the member for that question. Throughout the process here for the food mail review that was going on last year, we needed some advice and analyses from reliable experts who deal with the high cost of transportation of food mail. So this company was sole sourced to give out advice to our department and EIA to come up with suggestions and recommendations on a new program that INAC was putting out, the Nutrition North program. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Will you commit to tabling this report in the Legislative Assembly? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Once the document is complete, I'm sure EIA and our department will go through the analyses and evaluations. Once it's ready for tabling, we will do that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That makes me confused because this was tabled, it was 2009-2010 that the work was done, and we're in the 2011-12 fiscal year. I don't know. To me, the document should be finished and should be able to be tabled right away, but maybe I didn't understand what you meant by the review. Do you mean you have to take it to cabinet to see if it can be tabled or it's not complete yet? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll try and respond to that. Some of these documents do take time to analyze and certify through cabinet. As the member is well aware, I have tabled some documents that were from last year. Some of these things do take time. We're limited with the personnel we do have within our departments and for some of these things, yes, it does take time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On page 51, there is a contract, it is contract C248. For that one, the vendor is LPS Aviation again and it's involving a comprehensive analysis of High Arctic travel. I have worked closely with your department on this. You have travelled, I believe, two times up to Resolute Bay and actually two times to all three of my communities. I'm wondering: is that what this is about, the High Arctic transportation study? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is correct. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was wondering if the minister could give me an update as to what's happening with that. Most recently, we had a meeting in February when the Baffin mayors were here. I think I had heard recently that some of your department is travelling up to all three communities again. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the question. Yes, I'm doing a ministerial statement on it tomorrow, but I'll give some information tomorrow, or is it Monday? We do have some staff that have travelled up there to the three communities of the High Arctic, Resolute Bay, Arctic Bay, and Grise Fiord.

One of the issues that we do have, as the member is well aware, we consult with the communities and they're the ones that are going to decide what option we're going to be taking. That has taken a little bit of extra time than forecasted, but yes, once all of the information is available, I will share the information with the member. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Taptuna. I have no more names on my list. Do members agree that we have concluded with the Department of Economic Development and Transportation?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Taptuna, do you have closing remarks?

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I do. Again I thank the committee members for their scrutiny of the contracts that we do issue out there.

One of the things that I would like to say is that some of the contracts that we do give out there are sole source and it's more or less on an emergency basis. Of course, we all know about the hamlet situation with the maintenance of the airports. One of the things that I have issued to my contracting authority within my staff is that sole sourcing, unless it's on an emergency basis, is not acceptable at this time. So we are trying to be more transparent and be more accountable to the public and to the people of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Thank you to your official, Mr. Long. (interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witness and minister out.

We are pretty much completed with our agenda. (interpretation ends) What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to make a motion to report progress at this time, please. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. We have a motion on the floor to report progress and the motion is not debatable. All those in favour of the motion. (interpretation) Thank you. (interpretation ends) All those opposed. The motion is carried. I will now rise to report progress. (interpretation) Thank you.

Speaker: In the *Orders of the Day*, Item 20. Report of the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Ningeongan.

Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Mr. Ningeongan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Tabled Documents 248 – 3(2), 249 – 3(2), and 251 – 3(2) and would like to report that Tabled Documents 248 – 3(2), 249 – 3(2), and 251 – 3(2) are concluded. Mr. Speaker, I move that the Report of the Committee of the Whole be agreed to. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. There is a motion on the floor. Is there a seconder? Mr. Rumbolt. All those in favour. Any opposed? Carried.

Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. Item 22. *Orders of the Day*. Mr. Clerk.

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A reminder that there's a meeting of the Standing Committee on Legislation at nine o'clock tomorrow morning in the Nanuq Boardroom.

Orders of the Day for June 9:

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

20. Report of the Committee of the Whole

21. Third Reading of Bills

22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Before we adjourn, I think it would be interesting to see who is here in a better mood tomorrow morning, either Minister Shewchuk or Minister Peterson. Good luck tonight to both of you.

This House stands adjourned until Thursday, June 9, at 1:30 p.m.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 18:04*

