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Iqaluit

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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Speaker

Hon. Hunter Tootoo

(Iqaluit Centre)

Hon. Eva Aariak

(Iqaluit East)

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

Hon. James Arreak

(Uqqummiut)

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

Moses Aupaluktuq

(Baker Lake)

Hon. Tagak Curley

(Rankin Inlet North)

*Minister of Health and Social Services;
Minister responsible for the Nunavut
Housing Corporation; Minister
responsible for Homelessness; Minister
responsible for the Workers' Safety and
Compensation Commission*

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(Iqaluit West)

Ron Elliott

(Quttiktuq)

Joe Enook

(Tununiq)

Hon. Lorne Kusugak

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

John Ningark

(Akulliq)

Johnny Ningeongan

(Nanulik)

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

Hezakiah Oshutapik

(Pangnirtung)

Hon. Keith Peterson

(Cambridge Bay)

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

Allan Rumbolt

(Hudson Bay)

Hon. Fred Schell

(South Baffin)

Minister of Human Resources

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk

(Arviat)

*Minister of Environment; Minister
responsible for Nunavut Arctic
College*

Louis Tapardjuk

(Amittuq)

*Deputy Chair, Committee of the
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(Kugluktuk)

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Economic Development and
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**Iqaluit, Nunavut
Tuesday, October 18, 2011**

Members Present:

Honourable Eva Aariak, Honourable James Arreak, Mr. Moses Aupaluktuq, Honourable Tagak Curley, Ms. Monica Ell, Mr. Ron Elliott, Mr. Joe Enook, Honourable Lorne Kusugak, Mr. Johnny Ningeongan, Mr. Hezakiah Oshutapik, Honourable Keith Peterson, Mr. Allan Rumbolt, Honourable Fred Schell, Honourable Daniel Shewchuk, 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 Ms. Ugyuk if she could lead us off with a prayer, please.

>>Prayer

Speaker: Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. I welcome all members and members of the public to the legislature. Also, I wish to inform you that the Member for Akulliq, Mr. Ningark, will be absent from the sitting for a while due to personal matters.

Money Message

Before we proceed with the orders of the day, I wish to read the following communication from the Commissioner of Nunavut. It says:

Mr. Speaker, I wish to advise that I recommend to the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut the passage of the following bills during the Third Session of the Third Legislative Assembly of Nunavut:

- Bill 13, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 2, 2011-2012*;
- Bill 14, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 2, 2011-2012*; and
- Bill 15, *Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2012-2013*.

Sincerely, Edna Elias, C.M.
Commissioner of Nunavut

We will move on to the orders of the day. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Minister Peterson.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

**Minister's Statement 064 – 3(3):
2011/12 Fiscal Update and Capital
Estimates for 2012-13**

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day to you, Nunavummiut, MLAs, and colleagues. New MLAs, welcome to the House. We look forward to working with you.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to provide Nunavummiut with a fiscal update and to introduce the 2012-13 capital estimates and the 2013-17 Five-Year Capital Plan.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce that our interim financial report was delivered to me on September 29. Later this session, I will table the report.

Mr. Speaker, using the information contained in the interim report, the deficit for fiscal 2010-11 will be about \$26 million, approximately \$7 million less than our originally budgeted deficit

of \$33 million. As of today, Mr. Speaker, the projected deficit for 2011-12 is currently tracking slightly lower than our original projection of \$50 million; it now stands at about \$44 million.

Mr. Speaker, this projection includes the items contained in the 2011-12 supplementary appropriations for O&M and capital that we will be debating this session. The projection also includes a prudent \$25 million contingency.

Mr. Speaker, we are working towards a return to balance for fiscal 2012-13 and beyond. As a result, cabinet has, for the most part, limited the 2012-13 capital estimates to projects previously listed in the five-year plan.

Mr. Speaker, our total capital plan for 2012-13 adds up to \$95 million. Ongoing projects receive \$59 million in funding. Small capital initiatives receive \$17.9 million and new capital totals \$18.1 million, which is mainly funding from the Building Canada Fund.

Mr. Speaker, major projects for 2012-13 include:

- \$3.5 million to the Department of Economic Development and Transportation for the Iqaluit Airport P3 project;
- \$8.8 to the Department of Education to complete the phase 2 retrofit of the Gjoa Haven high school as well as \$3.5 million to perform ongoing life cycle repairs to schools;
- \$9 million to the Department of Health and Social Services to complete the health centre in Repulse Bay;

- \$4.5 million to the Department of Community and Government Services to begin work on building a GN owned fuel tank farm in Cambridge Bay; and
- Building Canada Fund cost shared project funding in various communities to the departments of Community and Government Services and Economic Development and Transportation totalling \$10.1 million for fiscal 2012-13.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Peterson. Ministers' Statements. Minister Kusugak.

**Minister's Statement 065 – 3(3): 2011
Laura Gauthier Scholarship**

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to welcome the new members and I do want to work closely with them in the upcoming years.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I rise today to continue the tradition of announcing the recipient of the Laura Ulluriaq Gauthier Scholarship. I would like to recognize Marie Belleau as the 2011 recipient of the annual scholarship which is awarded by QEC to honour the memory of Ms. Gauthier.

Ms. Belleau, originally from Iqaluit, has been extremely dedicated to her studies over the past few years, having completed a B.A. and an LL.B. from Laval University, as well as a her J.D. (Juris Doctor) from the University of Ottawa. Ms. Belleau is currently studying full time in order to write the

bar exam for both Ontario and Quebec. Once completed, she will be able to practice both civil and common law, the two systems of law in Canada.

Mr. Speaker, in addition to her academic abilities, Ms. Belleau is also an active volunteer in both her home community and her school community. Because of her ability to speak Inuktitut, French, and English, Ms. Belleau is often asked to emcee events when she is home in Iqaluit. She has also been very active in the law student associations at both Laval University and the University of Ottawa. Ms. Belleau hopes to eventually move back to Nunavut to practice law. She hopes to work toward improving the lives of Inuit through her expertise and knowledge.

Mr. Speaker, many Nunavummiut remember Laura Gauthier as an invaluable member of the transition to Nunavut's first government. Ms. Gauthier, as assistant deputy minister at EIA, was instrumental in the formation of our made-in-Nunavut electrical utility now known as the Qulliq Energy Corporation.

I would like to congratulate Ms. Belleau on her scholarship and wish her great success with writing her bar exams. I would also like to acknowledge all the applicants and encourage them to pursue their academic endeavours. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Kusugak. We join in all members in congratulating Ms. Belleau. Ministers' Statements. Minister Taptuna.

Minister's Statement 066 – 3(3): Update on the Nunavut Development Corporation

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon to my colleagues and good morning to the Kitikmeot.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise today to provide the Members of this Legislative Assembly with an update on the Nunavut Development Corporation. The Nunavut Development Corporation and its subsidiaries are working on important initiatives that highlight the talent of our people and the richness of our natural resources.

Since April, our processing plants have purchased 130,000 lbs. of char from fishermen across Nunavut and we plan to buy another 150,000 lbs. or more in the upcoming winter char fisheries. The total value of these purchases paid to Nunavut fishermen could exceed half a million dollars by the end of the fiscal year. In addition, 250,000 lbs. of turbot has been landed at the Pangnirtung Fisheries Plant. As a result of all this activity, workers at the Nunavut Development Corporation's three processing plants are very busy.

The Nunavut Development Corporation and its subsidiaries recognize the strong demand for char, muskox, and caribou products within Nunavut. Without turning its back on established export opportunities, the Nunavut Development Corporation's focus is on supplying the Nunavut market first, where our customers are both knowledgeable and appreciative of the country food items we produce. We will continue to direct

our efforts towards ensuring this most important market is adequately supplied.

Mr. Speaker, another project we are proud of is our collaboration with the Maplelea Doll Company to create “Saila,” a collectable doll. Saila wears a Pangnirtung hat made by weavers of the Uqurmiut Arts and Crafts in Pangnirtung and an *Amautiq* made by Kiluk seamstresses in Arviat.

In the months ahead, the corporation will be undertaking a strategic review of its operations to ensure its program and services remain relevant to Nunavummiut in our rapidly changing economy; this is an important exercise. I look forward to working with the Nunavut Development Corporation on this project and will update this House on the recommendations contained in the final report expected later this year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Ministers’ Statements. Minister of Health and Social Services, Minister Curley.

Minister’s Statement 067 – 3(3): Best Defence to Prevent Flu

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Members. I welcome back the members and welcome the new members. I also welcome the people of Rankin Inlet who are watching the proceedings on television.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, later today I will be getting my flu shot. I am hoping that people across the Nunavut territory follow my example and make

arrangements as soon as possible to get their flu shot.

Immunization is the best defence against the flu. The vaccine is now available at health centres across the territory and it is free for residents. The Department of Health and Social Services is also offering a new nasal flu vaccine this year for children aged 2 to 4. Parents should contact their local health centre for more information about the nasal vaccine.

Last year, Mr. Speaker, only 25 percent of residents got their flu shot. It is particularly important that young children, the elderly, and people with chronic medical conditions who are considered to have a greater risk of developing complications from the flu get vaccinated.

Information about the flu virus and how to prevent the spread of the virus is available at your local health centre and on the Department of Health and Social Services website, which also provides contact information for health centres across the territory. *Qujannamiik*, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Curley. Item 2. Ministers’ Statements.

Before we go on to Item 3, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize a former colleague, Mr. James Arvaluk, in the Gallery. I’m glad to see that he’s up and around and feeling better to be here. I think James and I are the only two left, other than John, our Clerk, from our very first sitting here in this building. So welcome.

>> *Applause*

We will move on to Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Iqaluit West, Ms. Ell.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 102 – 3(3): Reflections on Being Elected to Represent the Constituency of Iqaluit West

Ms. Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is my very first time to rise in the House and I am very proud. I also thank the people for acknowledging and welcoming me.

Before I begin my Member's Statement, I would like to acknowledge an elder who was in her 80s, who just passed away this weekend. She lived in my riding. I would like to acknowledge our Sergeant-at-Arms' step-mother, Martha Kilabuk, whose first husband, Harry Kilabuk, passed away here in Iqaluit.

She will be missed by Iqalummiut because she had many children. Although they were not all her biological children, she had 14 children. When I worked for IBC, one of her children, Maliki Kilabuk, also worked there. We think of you and send our condolences, and I will be thinking of you during the funeral tomorrow.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I am both humbled and honoured to rise today to make my first Member's Statement in this House. I would like to begin by expressing my appreciation to you and other MLAs for the support I have had since my election.

Mr. Speaker, I also wish to take this opportunity to pay public tribute to my predecessor, Paul Okalik, who represented the constituency of Iqaluit West over the last 12 years. I look forward to his ongoing contributions to our territory.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, the people of Iqaluit West have entrusted me with the responsibility of representing them. As you know, our capital city is home to a diverse range of peoples, cultures, and languages, and I look forward to being an open and accessible voice for every resident of my constituency.

I believe that my time is up.

Speaker: Thank you, Madam Ell. Your time is up. If you would like to continue, can you please ask for unanimous consent to conclude your statement.

Ms. Ell: I would like to ask for unanimous consent to conclude my statement, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will be learning the procedures of the House as I start to practice the responsibilities of a member. Furthermore, I want to continue my statement.

The recent by-election provided me with the opportunity to listen to the concerns and priorities of numerous residents of the constituency.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, as all Members of this House are well aware, there are many serious issues and challenges facing our territory.

Mr. Speaker, I represent a constituency where housing is a significant issue and it is throughout Nunavut. Homelessness, overcrowding, and poor conditions of existing housing units affect too many of our constituents. I intend to be a strong advocate for action in this area.

Mr. Speaker, I also intend to speak out on behalf of the disabled in our territory concerning such issues as housing accessibility.

Mr. Speaker, I represent a constituency where the most vulnerable in our society are in need of more support. The rates of suicide, substance abuse, and family violence in Nunavut have been far too high for far too long. These are issues that government cannot solve alone, but they are also issues that cannot be solved unless government fulfills its responsibilities.

I represent a constituency that includes homes where children face the daily threat of having not enough to eat.

Mr. Speaker, it is unacceptable that one of our wealthiest countries in the world continues to suffer from child poverty and I have committed to my constituents that I will be a strong voice for measures to improve access to affordable and healthy food for our families.

Mr. Speaker, over the coming weeks and months, I will have more to say on these and other issues.

I would like to conclude today by saying that my own life experiences have taught me that the power of hope and perseverance should not be underestimated.

I know that we can build a more prosperous future for our people. I know that this will require hard work and determination and I know I can count on your support and that of my colleagues in this House to achieve our goals. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Ell. Members' Statements. Member for Pangnirtung, Mr. Oshutapik.

**Member's Statement 103 – 3(3):
Reflections on Being Elected to
Represent the Constituency of
Pangnirtung**

Mr. Oshutapik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today on behalf of the residents of Pangnirtung who have honoured me with their trust and confidence to serve them as their Member of the Legislative Assembly.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, as the newly elected Member for Pangnirtung, I wish to take this opportunity to thank my predecessors for their work on behalf of the community. I have known Peter and Adamee for many years, and I know that both of them are deeply committed to the community and its people.

(interpretation ends) I also would like to take this opportunity to thank my friend, Johnny Mike, for being a candidate during the recent by-election in Pangnirtung. Johnny is no stranger to

many Members of this House and his contributions to the community are well known.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, as a former municipal councillor and mayor, I am very familiar with the challenges that face our communities and the need for cooperation and coordination between different levels of government.

As the MLA for Pangnirtung, I look forward to working with my colleagues on a number of important issues.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, some of the concerns and priorities that residents of Pangnirtung shared with me during the election were the need for improved recreational facilities in the community, better municipal infrastructure, and improvements to medical travel services. Mr. Speaker, addressing these priorities will help to build a healthier community.

Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to conclude my Member's Statement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Oshutapik (interpretation): Our youth want the ability to use recreational facilities for longer periods of time during the year, which is why I support improvements to allow for artificial ice in the arena.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, when I arrived in Iqaluit last month to be sworn into office, I was impressed with

the community's paved roads. I recall that one of the reasons for this project was to improve air quality in the community. I look forward to asking the government to help my community with improvement on dust control.

Mr. Speaker, another critical piece of infrastructure in the community is our airport. I intend to work closely with the government to support the development of a new airport for Pangnirtung.

Mr. Speaker, as a former chairman of the board of directors of Pangnirtung Fisheries, I strongly support the development of a healthy fishing industry in Nunavut. I also strongly support initiatives to provide training for my constituents to obtain skilled employment in this important industry, and I strongly support our government's efforts to advance Nunavut's interests in the area of fishing quotas.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to working with you and all Members of the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Oshutapik. Members' Statements. Member for Tununig, Mr. Enook.

**Member's Statement 104 – 3(3):
Reflections on Being Elected to
Represent the Constituency of
Tununig**

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to thank the people of Pond Inlet for the trust and confidence that they have placed in me to represent them in this House. This confidence is not a responsibility that I

take lightly and I will be working every day on behalf of the people who have elected me to this House.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to take this opportunity to express the appreciation of the community for the service of my predecessors, James Arvaluk and the late Jobie Nutarak.

Mr. Speaker, I know that you served for many years in this House with both James and Jobie, and I am sure that you will agree that both of them fought hard for the needs of Pond Inlet.

Mr. Speaker, almost 500 residents of the community cast ballots during our recent by-election. This represented a voter turnout of just under 70 percent. I want to congratulate my constituents for being engaged with the democratic process and for exercising their rights.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to congratulate the other candidates in this race. Brandy Kanayuk, David Qamaniq, and Sam Omik all had positive ideas for Pond Inlet and I look forward to all of them continuing to work on behalf of the community.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I ran for public office because I believe that the extraordinary potential of tomorrow demands that we make some critical decisions and choices today.

Mr. Speaker, as you know, my working background has been primarily in the private sector of our economy. I have been proud to have played a role in supporting the growth of Inuit owned businesses in Nunavut, providing employment and training opportunities for our young people, and contributing

to projects with the potential for generating wealth and increasing prosperity.

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

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Enook. The member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude with his Member's Statement. Are there any nays? There being none. Please proceed.

Mr. Enook: Mr. Speaker, I will be a strong and consistent voice in this House for the importance of recognizing the positive role that entrepreneurs and companies play in our society.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, the people of Pond Inlet are proud of who they are. They are proud of their heritage, their language, and their culture. They have not forgotten where they came from.

Mr. Speaker, the people of Pond Inlet are also looking to the future. They know that education and training are the keys for our youth to be able to more fully share in the opportunities that are available to them in the modern economy. They know that a paycheque is better than a welfare cheque and they know that the pride of standing on your own feet is the greatest pride of all.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, as you know, Nunavut has been presented with some extraordinary opportunities in the area of natural resource development. Names like Mary River, Meadowbank, and Meliadine are becoming synonymous with growth, opportunity, and the potential for much greater

economic self-sufficiency for our territory and people.

Mr. Speaker, Pond Inlet is in a unique and strategic position to play a key role in the exciting developments that are taking place in the High Arctic. However, Mr. Speaker, it is important for the government to recognize the importance of ensuring that adequate and appropriate investments in our community's infrastructure be made in the near future.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, I will be a forceful voice for improved marine and air transportation infrastructure in Pond Inlet during my time in this House.

Mr. Speaker, I also look forward to addressing many other issues of concern to Pond Inlet and Nunavut as a whole. I am confident that I can count on the support of all of my colleagues as we work together for a stronger territory. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Enook. Moving on with Members' Statements. Member for Qamani'tuaq, Mr. Aupaluktuq.

**Member's Statement 105 – 3(3):
Congratulations to New MLAs**

Mr. Aupaluktuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is pleasing to be back here in Iqaluit. I wish to say "hello" to my constituents in Baker Lake, particularly our elders and youth. Further, our mother will be going caribou hunting soon, so I would like my relatives to ensure that they check to see if she has returned home.

Mr. Speaker, the reason why I rise today is to refresh the memories of Nunavummiut that our newest members were sworn in last month. We are appreciative that we now have representation of all constituents in Nunavut and we look forward to hearing their representation. The fact that we now have a full contingent really assists us. I'm sure they will be learning the ropes here and I am quite happy that they are now here. I also want to congratulate our newest member of the Executive Council, the Hon. Fred Schell, as he will also receive support as he administers his new ministry.

This reminds me of the time I was the chair of the Kivalliq Partners in Development and a representative of Whale Cove, Mr. Philip Hitora, who was on the board, stated that Inuit ought to be first. "People first," as he put it. It is quite obvious that this is the reason why many of us are here, to help our fellow Inuit. We want to support our people here, but sometimes it is extremely hard as members don't always agree on certain issues. However, we have to ensure Inuit are first here in Nunavut as they are the reason why the territory was created. We are here to represent them and it is clear that that has to be our foundation.

Mr. Speaker, while on this subject, I want to thank my Constituency Assistant, Lucy Evo. She is my assistant in Baker Lake, an indispensable source of information on community issues, and she is my connection to the community. It seems clear to me that our newest colleagues will be dependent on their constituency assistants in their home offices. They will be your lifeline as we, the existing members, need information

on events in the community, which organizations will be meeting, what their agenda items will be, and all members learn how this style of representation works as we are away on business as members and need that connection.

It is only possible with the assistance of our fellow Nunavummiut to provide a voice to their concerns. So to our newest colleagues, this is my piece of advice as well as to the newest member of the Executive Council. The new members are committed to assisting their fellow Nunavummiut and this is apparent. That is what I am trying to raise, that we are all here to help with our fellow Nunavummiut. However, I wanted to make those comments for their sakes. I share in your enthusiasm and I congratulate you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. Members' Statements. Member for Nattilik, Ms. Ugyuk.

**Member's Statement 106 – 3(3):
Concerns with Contracting
Process for Kitikmeot Air
Ambulance Services**

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to also acknowledge the newly elected members and I want to welcome them to the House. I am quite happy that we now have a full contingent of MLAs in this House.

I want to express a good day's wishes to the people of Nattilik. I especially want to say "hello" to my mother as she is probably watching the televised proceedings. I say "hello" to my mother.

I rise today to speak on the issue of the government contracts that pertain to medical evacuation flights or air ambulance services. Due to this contract, I will want to speak to the air ambulance services that are provided in the Kitikmeot region.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, as all Members of the Legislative Assembly are aware, the question of which company will be awarded this contract has become a major issue in the Kitikmeot. Mr. Speaker, I am personally frustrated about how the situation has developed.

The question of which company should be awarded the contract is dividing our communities and people. People whom I have known for many years are calling each other liars. People who are deeply committed to the Kitikmeot are having their integrity called into question. Mr. Speaker, information that is in the public domain is not helping to clarify the situation.

I want to be perfectly clear today. Mr. Speaker, as the Member of the Legislative Assembly for Nattilik, my constituency includes two communities. As MLA for Nattilik, my first priority is the quality of service that is provided to the public. Regardless of which company is awarded the contract, I want to see the service levels in the Kitikmeot remain the same or improve.

Mr. Speaker, I am very concerned about how the Nunavut public views the government's contracting process and I believe that the government must do more to clearly explain to the municipalities and the general public

how contracts are evaluated and awarded.

Mr. Speaker, although I recognize that cabinet has certain powers and authorities when it comes to the contracting process, many people believe that MLAs and ministers are the ones who evaluate all tenders and proposals that the government receives.

Mr. Speaker, as an MLA, I want the contracting process to be fair and transparent.

Speaker: Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. Ms. Ugyuk, your time is finished, if you would like to ask for unanimous consent to conclude your statement, you may. Ms. Ugyuk.

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): I would like to ask for unanimous consent to conclude my statement as I am nearly finished. 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 (interpretation): Thank you. As I stated, I was almost completing my statement.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, as an MLA, I want the contracting process to be fair and transparent. Mr. Speaker, I will have detailed questions for the government at tomorrow's sitting of the House on this issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 107 – 3(3):
Reflections on the Resilience of
High Arctic Communities**

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to reflect on the resilience of the High Arctic communities and constituents whom I have the honour of representing in the Legislative Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, over the past few months, a number of tragic events and passings have occurred in the High Arctic.

The tragedy of First Air flight 6560 in Resolute Bay has affected people across the country. The sudden loss of so many lives reminds us that life is brief and precious. On behalf of the community, I want to thank everyone who took a moment to share their thoughts or to just say a prayer.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to pay tribute to the volunteers from Resolute Bay, first responders, and members of the Coast Guard and Canadian Armed Forces who reacted so quickly and impressively to this catastrophe.

The fact that the Canadian Forces happened to be in Resolute Bay for Operation Nanook when the crash of First Air flight 6560 occurred was a miracle and likely contributed to the survival of three passengers.

Mr. Speaker, a number of passings occurred in my home community of Arctic Bay over the past few months.

We lost Tommy and Noah Kalluk in a tragic boating accident. Their good humour and love of the land will be missed by everyone in the community.

Also, in Arctic Bay, we lost Tommy Kilabuk, a long-time employee of the government with the Department of CGS.

We also lost Sarah Taqtu, a long-time and dedicated employee at our local health centre.

Mr. Speaker, Sarah was like a second mother to me. As you may know, she was the proud mother of twins, and I was often nicknamed her “third twin.”

Mr. Speaker, although we know that the cycle of life and death is eternal and natural, it does not make the passing of loved ones any easier.

Although I have been grieving with my communities over the past few months, I have also been tremendously proud of their strength and resilience, and I ask all members to join me in support of the people of Grise Fiord, Resolute Bay, and Arctic Bay. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Item 3. Members’ Statements. Member for Rankin Inlet North, Mr. Curley.

**Member’s Statement 108 – 3(3):
Elders’ Council for Rankin Inlet**

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I rise as I just got informed about an event of which I am very proud. Apparently an elders’ committee was formed in Rankin

Inlet and they are currently looking for volunteers. I was informed that this initiative will be phased into the Baffin region to start forming elders’ committees. I heard that the federal government is providing funds in my constituency and they are expecting this funding soon.

I am extremely delighted to see this initiative as we do not currently have a Nunavut-wide elders’ representative body that can speak to elders’ issues. Sometimes elders are put into stressful situations due to various reasons. Some of these include selfish relatives who only show up when the elders receive their pension cheques. This will give the elders a voice.

I am very grateful that they have just formed the Rankin Inlet elders’ committee. There are eight new members who were elected to the committee, including a chair. The members are Paul Kanayok, Charlie Panigoniak, Jack Kabvitok, Noah Makayak, Jerome Tattuinee, Bernadette Saumik, Marianne Tattuinee, Louisa Ivaasaq Issaluk, and their duly elected chairperson is Noah Makayak and the vice-chair is Paul Kanayok. I want to welcome the new members.

I look forward to seeing the day when there will be an elders’ council that represents them as this would be very beneficial to the Assembly and to other committees and bodies that need to hear about elders’ issues. I am totally in support of the creation of the committees and I would like to ask all members to provide their support to these committees. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Curley. Members' Statements. We will move on to Item 4. Sorry, Mr. Peterson. Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Cambridge Bay, Mr. Peterson.

**Member's Statement 109 – 3(3):
Happy Birthday Wayne Maksagak**

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I apologize to you. I didn't have my arm out far enough so that you could see me here.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to extend a special birthday wish to a friend and constituent of mine who comes to visit me almost every day in Cambridge Bay and to drop by for coffee and tell me about all the issues that he hears about on the weekends and during the days. He is well known in Cambridge Bay. He is Wayne John Papak Maksagak. It's his 36th birthday today. I promised I would wish him a happy birthday. I couldn't be there, so I'll wish him here.

Just so everybody knows, he is also the grandson of Nunavut's first Commissioner, Helen Maksagak. He is very proud of her. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Peterson. I would like to wish Wayne a happy birthday. Item 3. Members' Statements. Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Mr. Clerk.

Item 4: Returns to Oral Questions*

**Return to Oral Question 104 – 3(3):
School Non-attenders**

**Return to Oral Question 112 – 3(3):
Work Performed on QEC
President's House by QEC
Employees**

**Return to Oral Question 131 – 3(3):
Replacement of Taloyoak Air
Terminal Building**

**Return to Oral Question 132 – 3(3):
Renal Care in Nunavut**

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the returns to oral questions that were asked during the June 2011 sitting and taken as notice. They are No. 104 – 3(3), 112 – 3(3), 131 – 3(3), and 132 – 3(3). Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. We will move on in our orders of the day. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery.

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

Before we begin, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize my brother, Victor Tootoo, who is here in the Gallery today. I am thankful that you're here. He is no stranger to this House, so welcome back, I guess. Welcome to the Gallery.

Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery.
Mr. Shewchuk.

*See Appendix for full text of Returns to Oral Questions 104 – 3(3), 112 – 3(3), 131 – 3(3), and 132 – 3(3) filed with the Clerk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to recognize some very important people and, that is, the interim president and the board of directors of Nunavut Arctic College. It's their hard work, guidance, support, and direction provided to all adult learners who are learning across this territory that they contribute to that is very important and appreciated work.

So I would like to recognize Mr. Mike Shouldice, the interim president. Would you stand up, please. Mr. Frank Pearce is the chair of the board of directors. Ms. Ann Rose Kerkovius from the Kitikmeot region; Ms. Suzanne Ningeocheak from Rankin Inlet, the Kivalliq region director; Ms. Ruth Niptanatiak-Wilcox from the Kitikmeot; and Mrs. Martha Main, my constituent from Arviat, is on the board of directors from the Kivalliq. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Shewchuk. Welcome to the Gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize Annie Quirke from the Nunavut Disabilities Society. Annie is retiring and beside her is her replacement as the co-chair, Wendy Ireland. Welcome. Thank you.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Welcome to the Gallery, I'm sure everyone, even someone sitting right in front of me. Moving on with Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is not too often that I stand up to recognize visitors from the Kitikmeot, but I would like to recognize Ann Rose Kerkovius and Ruth Niptanatiak-Wilcox. Ann Rose is from Kugluktuk and Ruth Wilcox is from Cambridge Bay. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Taptuna. Welcome to the Gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize three family members: my wife, Mary Kilabuk, my son Jamie Enook, and my brother-in-law Allan Kilabuk. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Enook. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Rankin Inlet South and Whale Cove, Mr. Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to be able to recognize three people from Rankin Inlet who are here. I would like to recognize my in-law, who is the deputy commissioner, but she is my *Aikuluk* first and foremost, Nellie Kusugak. Welcome. I would like to recognize my brother-in-law Michael Shouldice. I would also like to recognize Suzanne Ningeocheak from Rankin Inlet. I would like to welcome them to the Legislative Assembly. Thank you for being here.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Kusugak. Welcome to the Gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Iqaluit West, Ms. Ell.

Ms. Ell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Lorne beat me to it. I would also like to recognize Nellie Kusugak, Deputy Commissioner for Nunavut. (interpretation) Thank you.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Ms. Ell. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Cambridge Bay, Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This being the start of the hockey season, I thought it would be a nice hat trick for my constituent to be recognized three times today, Ruth Niptanatiak-Wilcox from Cambridge Bay. She is also originally from Kugluktuk, but she has made Cambridge Bay her home for many years. She is a great volunteer in our community. I think she chaperoned Arctic Winter Games teams to various venues over the years. Welcome to the Legislative Assembly, Ruth. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Welcome again, Ruth. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Madam Premier, Ms. Aariak.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to recognize some of my constituents as well. First of all, I recognize Mr. Frank Pearce. He is the chairman of Nunavut

Arctic College's board of directors. Furthermore, I recognize Ms. Annie Quirke. I want to thank her for her tremendous hard work in her position. Another person I wish to recognize is Victor Tootoo if he is still in the Gallery. I also wish to extend a warm welcome to our deputy commissioner. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Madam Premier. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Pangnirtung, Mr. Oshutapik.

Mr. Oshutapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to recognize two of my fellow residents here in the Gallery. First of all, I want to recognize my primary assistant and spouse, Tapea. Further, I want to recognize Allan Kilabuk from my community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Oshutapik. Welcome to the Gallery. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. There being no more, we will move on in our orders of the day. Item 6. Oral Questions. Mr. Elliott.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 139 – 3(3): Search and Rescue in Nunavut

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Community and Government Services, who is responsible for emergency management in Nunavut.

The recent tragedy in Resolute Bay reminded us about the importance of having adequate search and rescue infrastructure in Nunavut. As I noted in my Member's Statement, the fact that the Canadian Forces happened to be in Resolute Bay for Operation Nanook when the crash of First Air flight 6560 occurred was a miracle and likely contributed to the survival of three passengers.

While I recognize that it is not realistic to expect the federal government to permanently position search and rescue aircraft and crews in every single one of our communities, I do think that it is reasonable to look into positioning assets in at least one or two hub communities, such as Resolute Bay. What is the Government of Nunavut's position on this issue? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister responsible for Community and Government Services, Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I agree. There is a need for more emergency preparedness in Nunavut, and we were very fortunate to have the military where it was at the time it was. Our position, Mr. Speaker, is to try to continue to lobby the federal government to find ways and to ensure that we have adequate search and rescue facilities and equipment as close to and within Nunavut as possible. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In May of this year, our government joined

Canada's national delegation at a ministerial meeting of the Arctic Council that was held in Greenland. At that meeting, Canada signed a new agreement on cooperation on aeronautical and maritime search and rescue in the Arctic.

Can the minister provide some detail today about how the Government of Nunavut is working with federal authorities to strengthen search and rescue capacity in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister responsible for Community and Government Services, Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank you for the question. Unfortunately I can't update you on that at this current time, but as soon as I am able to, I will. Thank you.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. After the May meeting of the Arctic Council concluded, the Government of Nunavut issued a formal statement in which it indicated that the GN looks "forward to the work of the next task force towards another potential agreement for 2013 on emergency response and preparedness" and that Nunavut "will continue to work with Canada."

Can the minister clarify what specific priorities the GN wants to see addressed in the next agreement on emergency response and preparedness? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister responsible for Community and Government Services, Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleague for the question. There are a number of issues that we want to deal with and to ensure that I do outline them all properly, I will take his question as notice. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Mr. Elliot, your question has been taken as notice. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Rumbolt.

Question 140 – 3(3): Communications Issues with Satellite Outage

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

As all members are aware today, recently there was a territorial-wide communications shutdown due to a satellite going offline. Can the minister explain how well Nunavut communities were prepared for this communications breakdown? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister responsible for Community and Government Services, Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleague for the question. Mr. Speaker, I think our government was prepared for it in the sense that there were no major catastrophes or any major issues that developed because of what occurred.

As everybody knows, we couldn't communicate with other communities, and all of our young people and so forth had issues with their BlackBerrys and so did some of us, but beyond that, Mr. Speaker, I think our government was very well prepared. We had been in contact with all municipalities in preparing emergency preparedness plans with each municipality. Our Premier had asked that those get enacted.

I think, to answer his question in short, we were quite well prepared within a very short time of what happened. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for his response. During the communications outage in Sanikiluaq, it was observed that the health centre did not have a satellite phone of its own and had to borrow a phone to communicate with out-of-territory medical personnel during a medevac. Can the minister explain why essential services, such as a health centre, do not have a satellite phone for such emergencies? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Mr. Speaker, I cannot speak for the Department of Health, but I could say that Sanikiluaq apparently was not the only one that may not have had a satellite phone. There are other agencies out there, such as the RCMP, and other departments within government that had satellite phones

available. Where that was needed, that's what happened.

The good thing about this, Mr. Speaker, is that we are now working to ensure that all health centres and other essential services within government have radio phones available should such an event like this happen again or anything else that would require using satellite phones in any emergency or priority situations. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. Elliott.

Question 141 – 3(3): Impact of the Mary River Project on Territorial Revenues

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

Mr. Speaker, residents of the High Arctic are excited about the economic potential of the Mary River Project. As a government, I am sure that the minister is excited about the potential for much needed new revenue to fund our programs and services.

Earlier this month, the Government of Nunavut submitted its formal comments to the Nunavut Impact Review Board concerning the draft environmental impact statement submitted by Baffinland Iron Mines Corporation.

Although the company estimates that the GN stands to benefit from approximately 100 million dollars per year in new tax revenue, the GN's comments to NIRB suggest that the government is not yet

convinced about the accuracy of these figures.

Can the minister clarify his department's concerns about Baffinland's submission? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister of Finance, Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Elliott for the question. Mr. Speaker, of course, we welcomed the owners of Baffinland Iron Mines, ArcelorMittal and Nunavut Iron Ore, to Nunavut and thanked them for their investment in Nunavut. It is going to have tremendous benefits for all of Nunavut.

Of course, Mr. Speaker, mining companies have a habit of making statements and we have asked them to justify or clarify their statements. They said \$100 million, but we simply asked them to provide us with the information on the methodology that derived that figure. We're not just accepting it at face value that that is the correct number. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Has the company provided that information to the government or is it still in the process of being delivered to you? Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister of Finance, Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm not aware that they have delivered that information yet. I believe,

through the draft environmental impact statement, that the government made their submission and I believe that the government will be working very closely with Baffinland to review their submission and their answers.

I understand that our Department of Finance has a good working relationship with Baffinland Mines, so I would assure the member that it is not the intent of the Department of Finance or the Government of Nunavut to scare off investors, particularly large mining companies. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for that answer. One of the things that I'm trying to find out for sure is that we have seven affected communities where the mine will be affecting them and I want to make sure that all of the communities understand what benefits could be coming. Obviously misinformation is something that we don't want out there.

The Department of Finance administers the government's Fuel Tax Rebate Program. Under this program, companies that enter into a formal development partnership agreement with the government are eligible for rebates on their fuel taxes. Development partnership agreements cover such areas as training, local employment, and infrastructure development. Can the minister indicate if the government anticipates entering into negotiations with Baffinland leading to its participation in the Fuel Tax Rebate Program? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister of Finance, Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Elliott for the question. Mr. Speaker, development partnership agreements are a tool that the Government of Nunavut uses to ensure that mining companies will provide employment, training, and other benefits to local communities, similar to the Inuit impact and benefits agreements under Article 26 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement.

Mr. Speaker, I can't state today that Baffinland and the Government of Nunavut are negotiating or entering into an agreement. That would be the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation who could perhaps share the information if he's aware that that is underway. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In terms of the \$100 million figure that Baffinland came up with, my understanding is that part of it that they say is coming from corporate taxes that will be paid to the Government of Nunavut. My understanding is that when you pay corporate taxes, it's paid where your headquarters is based, of which, I believe, Baffinland is based in Toronto, Ontario. I'm wondering if you could confirm whether corporate taxes will be paid here in Nunavut and whether they have a location and headquarters here in Nunavut or whether it is actually in Toronto. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister of Finance, Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As Mr. Elliott well knows, Baffinland Mines is based in Toronto. However, Mr. Speaker, through the benefits of the Inuit impact and benefit agreements and development partnership agreements, there will be business opportunities for Nunavut-based businesses in the Baffin and perhaps elsewhere in Nunavut with their head offices in Nunavut. So I'm sure that they will be able to be paying their share of corporate taxes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Peterson. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. Elliott.

Question 142 – 3(3): Territorial Formula Financing Agreement

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to continue on with my question to the Minister of Finance and that being that the Territorial Formula Financing Agreement with Ottawa is our government's primary source of revenue. It is my understanding that the GN is getting ready to negotiate a new Territorial Formula Financing Agreement with the federal government.

Can the minister clarify the extent to which the current TFF claws back funds in circumstances where the government experiences major increases in its own source revenue, including corporate income taxes? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister of Finance, Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Elliott for the question. Mr. Speaker, the current TFF

expires in 2014. I'm unaware of any major increases in our own source revenues, so I don't think we have to worry about that right away. If Mr. Elliott wants the specific details, I would be very happy to provide them when I do have that level of detail. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So just to clarify, if we have an increase of \$100 million in revenue from Baffinland and then we have Meadowbank coming online as well, and I'm sure there are taxes that are going to be coming in there, we could have a real increase in the amount of revenue coming into the territory. There is no threat that the federal government will stand up and say, "Well, now that we have a revenue base, there is no need for territorial finance," where we will actually have a cutback because that could seriously affect our budgeting. I'm just curious. You're saying that that will not affect it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister of Finance, Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We're dealing with "hypotheticals" here. We only have one operating mine in Nunavut. As several others are under development, so to speak, Newmont in the Kitikmeot and Baffinland here, it could be years. When the current agreement, as I said, expires, we will be taking all of the factors and some of the factors that Mr. Elliott has raised. Circumstances have changed quite a bit since 2007, when the current

agreement was negotiated. We will be taking all of that into account.

I can assure Mr. Elliott that we're well aware of the Government of Canada and their deficit reduction plans. They will be taking every opportunity they can to not transfer as much money to Nunavut and other northern territories as we require. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Peterson. Minister Peterson, that wasn't a hypothetical question. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Rumbolt.

Question 143 – 3(3): Filling Vacant GN Positions

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to congratulate Mr. Schell on his position as Human Resources and I thought it would be nice if we could at least give one question to him today, being his first day sitting over there.

Mr. Speaker, my question is: in a past Auditor General's report, it stated that it was taking well over 300 days to fill vacancies within government. Can the minister update the House today on how long it takes his department to fill vacant positions? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Minister responsible for Human Resources, Minister Schell.

Hon. Fred Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

I would like to thank Mr. Rumbolt for that question. We have made some

improvements there but they're not drastic improvements. We're still working on it here. We have improved it by approximately 15 to 20 days, but it's still too long and we are definitely looking at restructuring the whole of HR and looking at other options. Hopefully, in the future, we can shorten that time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Schell. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. Elliott.

Question 144 – 3(3): Community Emergency Plans

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Community and Government Services again, who is responsible for emergency management in Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, from the questions raised earlier, I agree that we learn from our mistakes, we learn from things that happen, and it's nice to see that we are learning from what happened with the communications failures of a week and a half ago.

The minister spoke about community emergency plans. I'm just wondering: can he confirm that all communities in Nunavut have community emergency plans completed? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliot. Minister responsible for Community and Government Services, Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Mr. Speaker, I can't confirm that they've all had them completed, but they are in the process of being completed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Could the minister confirm how many communities do not have one in place? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Mr. Speaker, I cannot only because they're in the hands of the municipalities and they need to make motions and by-laws in order for them to be accepted in the municipalities. What I could tell my colleague is we're anticipating that all of them should be there by the end of December 31. As it's an ongoing issue and as municipalities complete their programs and put them into their by-laws, it takes time. Most of them are and hopefully they will all be complete by December 31. That's as close as I could tell you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was wondering too if the minister would be able to explain how his department is working with the hamlets that are maybe struggling and having a little difficulty with preparing these plans. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister responsible for Community and Government Services, Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We work very closely with the municipalities on many things. This is one of them. Mr. Speaker, we help them in preparing it pretty much from A to Z. If they need help in drafting by-laws or preparing response plans, our department is there. They're part of the committee that helps do the emergency preparedness programs. Whatever they need help in that our department can help and are responsible for helping them in, we do. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My final question is: what core group is responsible for helping set up the plan? Is it the emergency services department or is it within a certain department within CGS? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister responsible for Community and Government Services, Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Our emergency services department, along with our regional staff, help them out. Again, it depends on what it is that they require. We do provide community support services on a number of issues. So any or all parts of our government, our CGS department helps them with it. Again, it depends on what it is they are asking for. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Pangnirtung, Mr. Oshutapik.

Question 145 – 3(3): Airline Operations during Satellite Outage

Mr. Oshutapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When Nunavut experienced satellite problems just recently, everything else was affected. Although a member mentioned telephone service interruptions, that was not the only problem we experienced. Airlines were affected and all air travel was cancelled. Should we experience another situation like that in the future, I would like to know if the Department of Economic Development and Transportation has initiated a strategy to mitigate this. That is my question.

Since Nunavut does not have any highways, we cannot just drive to another community and our only option is via air transportation. I wonder if this point was driven home to the Department of Economic Development and Transportation. I also want to know if they will be updating their strategy to ensure that we don't experience another catastrophic communication breakdown should this type of failure occur in the future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member from Pangnirtung for that question. Absolutely it was a communications breakdown of not only the BlackBerrys and telephones; it was also the

navigational systems for our airports. It affected 36 communities, including all of the communities of Nunavut. Of course, Mr. Speaker, it's something that we have to take a good hard look at because there is just one satellite for our northern part of the territory. It is an issue which caught everybody by surprise. It's one of the things that we're going to have to evaluate and take a good hard look at the situation for a situation like that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Oshutapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When referring to the airline services we are provided, I was not just referring to regular air travel in my comments and I want that noted. The emergency medical travel issue becomes important because we don't have medical personnel in the communities, so people have to be picked up via air ambulance services. I had that situation in mind when I was asking my question. I wanted that sector noted.

Since this is more of a comment and not a question, I wanted the minister to be aware that if an emergency medical flight had to be undertaken during a communications breakdown which lasted longer than one day, it would have had a larger impact on emergency medical travel. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Oshutapik. That was just a comment, but if you wish to respond to it, Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Within our airport systems in Nunavut, we do have satellite

communications and satellite phones in every airport in Nunavut. We can't prepare for some of these things because some of these things are unknown, but our navigational system went down and that's why it affected the airlines. Throughout the day there, things were put in place to actually take care of any kind of emergency that may have been raised at the community level.

Mr. Speaker, with the satellite, there is so much dependency on the satellite. It provides weather and radar navigation for the airlines. Although with this satellite communications breakdown, it gave us a chance to really take a good hard look at our services that we provide for the airlines. So it's one of those things that we do have to keep an open mind in preparing for such situations like this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit West, Ms. Ell.

Question 146 – 3(3): New Office Building in Iqaluit

Ms. Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) My question is to the hon. member for QEC.

Earlier this month, a new office was opened in my constituency by the Qulliq Energy Corporation. Can the minister update us on that move? Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Ms. Ell. Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation, Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the member for asking that question. Yes,

the Qulliq Energy Corporation office has opened; it is currently being settled with the majority of the staff moving into the building. Further, I can state that the building will be officially opened this coming Friday. Once the building has been officially opened on that day, it will be open. The process is moving forward smoothly, and I hope to see you there during the official opening. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Your first supplementary, Ms. Ell.

Ms. Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Whenever a new building is being occupied, especially a private facility built to house staff, they generally require an inspection of the building. This is to assess its suitability as an office, along with the required fire and building inspections. Have they completed the inspections of this office building? Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Ms. Ell. Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation, Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you. You have to look at the suitability of the land, fire code inspections, and whether it would be available. I believe that the City of Iqaluit is responsible for these inspections, especially since they are the ones that sell the lands. They are required to identify the zoning and conduct inspections on these matters with local inspectors who conduct these inspections to ensure that the building has followed all the codes prior to the construction phases. If these procedures were not followed, I doubt that the building would have been allowed to be

constructed. According to my knowledge, the inspections have to be completed prior to the building being occupied. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Your second supplementary, Ms. Ell.

Ms. Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to raise another question whether or not the minister can look into this matter with the city to determine if the fire and safety inspection was conducted prior to staff moving in. The building was not completed as they didn't have any telephone service, although it is new. On the other hand, it is good to have an office building that more residents can access here in the middle of the community. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Ms. Ell. Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation, Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): I didn't understand exactly what the member wants me to look into.

Prior to the building being constructed, they have to submit their building plans and follow building codes and other legally required codes, especially access routes for fire trucks, emergency vehicles, or service trucks for water and sewage services. All of the legal requirements are reviewed and dealt with prior to any building being constructed. This means that they would have to pass all inspections prior to the building being occupied.

I would like to get clarification on exactly what the member wants looked into as I don't quite understand the request. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Ms. Ell, if you would like to clarify your question for the minister, please.

Ms. Ell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question to the Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation is: did he or his staff check into whether the building that staff moved into was indeed inspected by a fire inspector before they moved in? Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Ms. Ell, for that clarification. Minister of the Qulliq Energy Corporation, Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Mr. Speaker, I don't have that level of detail, but I would think that people wouldn't be moving into buildings that are not up to code. Having said that, I'll see if that was done; I don't see why it wouldn't have been. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. Elliott.

Question 147 – 3(3): Social Advocacy Office

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. The questions are based around the social advocate's office. Over the summer, the Premier sent out an update of what was happening within that office and specifically around the child and youth representative. I was wondering if the Premier would give the House an update as to what's happening there. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Intergovernmental Affairs, Madam Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank our colleague for his question. In August, I stated that I would send correspondence, which I did, with copies sent to all members informing them of the events occurring in the office and its operations. To date, research is still being undertaken. As I have stated previously, the legislation has to be introduced but not within one calendar year. There are several areas requiring further research prior to the legislation being drafted and introduced in the House.

The office is working with the Department of Justice as well as other departments, including other regions where they are conducting research to determine how this process operates in their area. This part of the process is still underway. They are currently proceeding smoothly and as I have stated previously, they are planning the completion of the research in accordance with their schedule.

This is a very important task, especially as it relates to children issues and the child advocacy office. Due to its immense importance, we have to conduct research on all the details contained in the legislation. This is a slow process as we don't want to make mistakes and we don't want to push forward by excluding areas that may be required in the legislation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for the update. I know the Premier was talking about the legislation and some vague timelines. For my next question, I was hoping to confirm, and I believe it was in the update that you sent out, that the legislative proposal was actually complete for this piece of legislation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This update has not been completed yet. It is still a work in progress. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think I have to ask that question again because maybe it came through clear in the translation, but my specific question was: is a legislative proposal completed for establishing the Office of the Child and Youth Representative? The translation came through that this would be an ongoing process and it didn't really say yes or no. So I would like to know, yes or no, whether a legislative proposal is completed for this. Thank you.

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

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This process is not completed yet and it is still currently

being developed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For my final question, I was curious to find out: for the legislation itself, will the legislation reflect what was mentioned in the *Tamapta* Mandate and the decision made by all of the MLAs to have an independent child and youth representative, an independent body? Thank you.

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

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Since that is the way the body was set up, they are researching the issues related to the level of independence. Since the plan is to develop this as an independent body, it is true what the member raised in his question. That is how it will be set up. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Madam Premier. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. Elliott.

Question 148 – 3(3): Nunavut Anti-poverty Strategy Update

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

Over the past year, I have heard great things about what was happening with all of the consultations and the community visits that had been done

regarding the Nunavut Anti-poverty Strategy. I was wondering if the minister could give us an update. Thanks.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member from Quttiktuq for that question. Of course, we made that our commitment for our *Tamapta* document and we have spoken and met with a lot of organizations, including individuals from industry, businesses, non-governmental organizations, NTI, and the regional Inuit associations.

Of course, Mr. Speaker, we have NTI as a full partner on the working file with poverty reduction. Of course, our government is making an effort to complete one of the first stages that we had planned on doing. By the end of the month, our Premier and the president of NTI will be co-chairing a meeting on coming up with an action plan for the government and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for the update. Yes, I'm actually amazed at some of the means in which the government is using. They've got a Facebook page and they also have a distribution list in terms of everybody being able to put their input in and say what they feel should be included in this important strategy.

I'm just wondering if the minister could maybe elaborate on some of the key findings that they have found so far and some of the key aspects or themes that keep coming up when they do the community consultations as they go around. Thank you.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. We've had 44 community dialogues and over 550 people participated in our consultations and our meetings. One of the themes that constantly come up is food security. When we talk about food security, we're mainly talking about country foods for Nunavummiut and that seems to be one of the stronger themes for our action plan. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. After November's meetings, which the minister had outlined, he had mentioned that the consultation was actually step one in the process. I was wondering: after November, once the Premier hosts the meeting with the NTI president, what are the next steps after that? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that

question. Once we develop an action plan during our poverty summit at the end of November and that's going to take place for two or three days, the action plan has to be agreed to and organizations have to agree to what part of the action they're going to be tackling for this poverty reduction for Nunavummiut.

Again, one of the things that we're going to be looking at is the five themes of how to reduce poverty in Nunavut. One of the themes that we're looking at is the well-being of our people. Training, economic development, our social values got to be included there, and once we have an agreement, a plan, a strategy for action, those will be our next steps. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The minister mentioned the partners and I know so far, we've heard NTI as being one partner and obviously the GN being another partner. Are there any other partners or organizations that are involved in this? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. Yes, we do have a private industry that's willing to be a partner. Of course, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, the regional Inuit associations, and individuals out there have participated, and of course, public

or private partnerships. We are also talking with Natural Resources Canada to assist us in developing alternate power sources for our community freezers that we are discussing at this time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. Elliott.

Question 149 – 3(3): Update on High Arctic Transportation Strategy

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions again are directed towards the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation.

When I first took office in 2008, the biggest concern I heard from my communities was the high cost of transportation and their transportation system in the High Arctic. Again, this issue affects every aspect of our lives, whether it's mobility to different communities, transportation of food and resources to the community.

We started in 2009 with the High Arctic Transportation Strategy. I was wondering if the minister could update the House on what's happening with that. Thank you.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again I thank the Member for Quttiktuq for the question. The High Arctic transportation survey that we're doing has proven to be very difficult. It takes a lot of coordination, partnerships,

and input from the High Arctic communities. In order to complete the study and determine next steps of the process here, we're still asking for further input from the High Arctic communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In terms of input, what type of input would the minister like from the communities? I know there has been community visits. He mentioned a survey. Is that the completion of the survey in terms of urging constituents to complete that survey? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The constituents are not necessarily asked to complete a form, a survey. We are working closely with the municipality, the mayors and councils in coming up with the option that we have provided. We have provided seven or eight different options on how to reduce the cost of transportation.

We're asking for more input from the High Arctic communities, mayors, and councils on how to tackle some of these options that are put forth to them. In order to do that, we have assisted them. We've had a couple of our staff travel to Arctic Bay just recently, a couple of weeks ago, to assist the council and the mayor in coming up with a collective agreement on how to actually deal with some of these options that are put forth

by our department. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm just curious in terms of a timeline for completion of rolling all of this information together to maybe come up with a final decision. Is there a timeline that your department has for possibly completing this? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was hoping that it was going to be done last year, but obviously, it's not. It has been complicated. It takes a lot of work, a lot of coordination, and hopefully, once we get the extra information that we're asking from the High Arctic communities, we will be able to put forth an action plan from there. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In terms of following through on the whole process and if you're correct, I guess everybody has been trying to come up with solutions at the mayors' and hamlet councils. We've had a couple of meetings with your department collectively as mayors.

I'm just wondering: in terms of contacting the airlines or the federal government or other agencies, has your

department been in contact with them for suggestions or possibly insights as to where we should travel from here? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are a lot of issues with the high cost of transportation and the high cost of freight into the High Arctic communities. One of the things that we're hoping to come up with is some sort of strategy where we can approach the Canadian government. We see this as an issue for the Canadian government.

We talk about sovereignty. The High Arctic communities were put up there for the sole purpose of asserting sovereignty. With these in mind, Ottawa is still responsible for some of our communities up there that they created based on the assertion of sovereignty. We see that and we want input from our High Arctic communities to help us come up with some strategy to approach Ottawa because we do see this as a problem and an issue for Ottawa.

The high cost of living up north, especially in the High Arctic communities, is unacceptable. We all know that some of these jars of juice that cost \$3 down south are \$65 in some of these communities. It's not just a Nunavut issue. It's not just a Nunavut government issue. It's a Canadian issue, and we intend to bring that forth to Ottawa. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. Elliott.

Question 150 – 3(3): School Attendance Policy

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Education. It's in reply to the return to oral question that was submitted today by the Clerk.

The question that Ms. Ugyuk asked was in regard to attendance policies, how policies have been set up, and whether they are set up. The response was, "Currently DEAs are not required to develop or adopt attendance policies until July 1st, 2012." I'm just wondering: in terms of not having a policy, what are you asking the DEAs to do? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister responsible for Education, Madam Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The local DEAs are extremely busy undertaking their mandate in this area. The low attendance rates of students in the schools are a major concern to many communities. This issue requires cooperation between the parents and the community. There will be reports outlining the parameters of what will be planned within that area in our future and this is currently underway today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again just for clarification, I think I understand the fact that the DEAs are busy with implementing the new *Education Act* and following through the different steps, but if this isn't until July 1, 2012, there's a full school year. Are you saying that it's up to DEAs to choose how they wish to address attendance for this year? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister responsible for Education, Madam Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The DEAs have to prepare their own plans. They can't just come out with an initiative without corresponding plans or research as to how their initiative would be run. They continue to highlight their objectives and they continue to work with parents and students to showcase the importance of this issue. That is why they are careful in drafting a well laid out plan and this is ongoing. It hasn't been left high and dry. It requires a comprehensive plan prior to it being introduced. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Madam Premier. Item 6. Oral Questions. Seeing no more, we will move on in the orders of the day. Item 7. Written Questions. Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Mr. Clerk.

Item 8: Returns to Written Questions*

*See Appendix for full text of Returns to Written Questions 4 – 3(3), 5 – 3(3), 6 – 3(3), 7 – 3(3), and 8 – 3(3) filed with the Clerk.

**Return to Written Question 004 –
3(3): Foster Care**

**Return to Written Question 005 –
3(3): Cancer Screening and
Prevention**

**Return to Written Question 006 –
3(3): Update on New Taloyoak
Health Centre**

**Return to Written Question 007 –
3(3): Community Access Roads
Program Expenditures**

**Return to Written Question 008 –
3(3): Capital Project Change
Orders**

Clerk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table returns to written questions that were asked during the June 2011 sitting. They are numbers 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8 – 3(3).

Please note that the Return to Written Question 8 – 3(3) is very lengthy and is provided to members as a CD. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Item 10. Petitions. Mr. Ningeongan.

Item 10: Petitions

**Petition 001 – 3(3): Coral Harbour
Nurse in Charge**

Mr. Ningeongan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have the honour today of presenting a petition that has been signed by 218 of my constituents in the community of Coral Harbour.

Mr. Speaker, the petitioners are asking the Government of Nunavut's Department of Health and Social Services to reinstate the community's former nurse in charge. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. Item 10. Petitions. Item 11. Responses to Petitions. Item 12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills and Other Matters. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Minister Taptuna.

Item 13: Tabling of Documents

**Tabled Document 089 – 3(3): 2010-
2011 Annual Report of the
Nunavut Development
Corporation**

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table the 2010-2011 Annual Report of Nunavut Development Corporation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Minister of Health and Social Services, Minister Curley.

**Tabled Document 090 – 3(3): Nunavut
Social Services Review Final
Report July 2011**

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table the Nunavut Social Services Review for the Child and Family Services Report, July 2011. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Curley. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Member for Tununiq, Mr. Enook.

**Tabled Document 091 – 3(3):
Correspondence from the
Mittimatalik Hunters and
Trappers Organization to the
Premier of Nunavut dated
September 25, 2007 Concerning
Marine and Airport Infrastructure
in Pond Inlet**

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to take this opportunity to table a copy of correspondence from the Mittimatalik Hunters and Trappers Organization to the Premier of Nunavut dated September 25, 2007. The correspondence concerns marine and airport infrastructure in Pond Inlet.

I strongly encourage the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation to review this material prior to his upcoming appearance to present his department's proposed 2012-13 capital estimates. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Enook. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Minister responsible for Human Resources, Minister Schell.

**Tabled Document 092 – 3(3):
Government of Nunavut Response
to the Standing Committee on
Oversight of Government
Operations and Public Accounts**

Hon. Fred Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Originally I had requested this when I was the chair of the standing committee on operations. I'm answering my own question here.

I am pleased to table the Government of Nunavut Response to the Standing

Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts on the Report of the Review of the 2010 Report of the Office of the Auditor General to the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut on Human Resource Capacity in the Government of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Schell. I am sure you will find that won't be the last one. The first one probably won't be the last.

Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Mr. Elliott.

**Tabled Document 093 – 3(3):
Baffinland Iron Mines Mary River
Project: Bringing Opportunities to
Nunavut**

**Tabled Document 094 – 3(3): Article
from September 2011 Edition of
Up Here Magazine: "Bite Me"**

**Tabled Document 095 – 3(3): DEA
Coalition Motion on Suicide
Alertness and Intervention
Training**

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have three items to table today.

For the benefit of all members, I wish to table a copy of a presentation that was recently made at the 2011 Nunavut Trade Show. The presentation is titled *Baffinland Iron, Mines Mary River Project: Bringing Opportunities to Nunavut*. I urge all members to review the document with care.

The second document, for the benefit of all members, I wish to table an article from the September 2011 edition of *Up*

Here magazine. The article, which is titled “Bite Me,” concerns the federal Nutrition North Canada Program. I urge all members to review the document with care prior to our meeting next week with the chairperson of the Nutrition North Canada Advisory Board and officials from the Department of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development.

The third document, Mr. Speaker, I wish to table a copy of a motion that was carried unanimously by the members of the DEA coalition almost exactly one year ago. The motion calls on the GN’s Department of Education to make suicide alertness and intervention training available to all staff as soon as possible and on an ongoing basis. Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time, I would like to question the Minister of Education on what her department is doing to provide such training to education staff. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Item 13. Tabling of Documents.

**Tabled Document 096 – 3(3):
Speaker’s List of Outstanding
Statutory Tabling Requirements**

**Tabled Document 097 – 3(3): 2010-
2011 Annual Report of the
Languages Commissioner of
Nunavut**

Thank you, Members. I have a couple of documents to table. The first one I wish to table today is a list of outstanding statutory tabling requirements. This list is current as of the end of September 28, 2011 sitting of the House.

The second item I would like to table is the 2010-2011 Annual Report of the Languages Commissioner of Nunavut.

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

Item 14: Notices of Motions

**Motion 015 – 3(3): Extended Sitting
Hours and Days – Notice**

Mr. Ningeongan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Thursday, October 20, 2011, I will move the following motion:

I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet South and Whale Cove, that the Speaker be authorized to set such sitting hours and days that the Speaker deems fit to assist with the business before the House during the fall 2011 sitting of the Legislative Assembly;

And further I move that when the House concludes its sitting of Monday, October 24, 2011, that it stand adjourned until Wednesday, October 26, 2011, to allow for a special meeting of the Full Caucus to be held in this Chamber on Tuesday, October 25, 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. Ningeongan. Item 14. Notices of Motions. Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Minister of Finance, Minister Peterson.

Item 15: Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills

Bill 13 – Supplementary Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, No. 2, 2011-2012 – Notice

Bill 14 – Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 2, 2011-2012 – Notice

Bill 15 – Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2012-2013 – Notice

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

Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Thursday, October 20, 2011, that Bill 13, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 2, 2011-2012*, be read for the first time.

Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Thursday, October 20, 2011, that Bill 14, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 2, 2011-2012*, be read for the first time.

And finally, Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Thursday, October 20, 2011, that Bill 15, *Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2012-2013*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Peterson. Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 16. Motions. Mr. Ningeongan.

Item 16: Motions

Mr. Ningeongan (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek unanimous

consent to deal with my motion today. Thank you.

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

Motion 015 – 3(3): Extended Sitting Hours and Days

Mr. Ningeongan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet South and Whale Cove, that the Speaker be authorized to set such sitting hours and days that the Speaker deems to fit to assist with the business before the House during the fall 2011 sitting of the Legislative Assembly.

And further, I move that when the House concludes its sitting of Monday, October 24, 2011, that it stand adjourned until Wednesday, October 26, 2011, to allow for a special meeting of the Full Caucus to be held in this Chamber on Tuesday, October 25, 2011.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. The motion is in order. All those in favour. Any opposed? None. The motion is carried.

Item 16. Motions. Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Minister of Finance, Minister Peterson.

Item 17: First Reading of Bills

Hon. Keith Peterson: Mr. Speaker, I request consent of this Assembly to waive the two-day notice requirement to

allow for the first reading of Bill 13, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 2, 2011-2012*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Peterson. The minister is seeking consent to waive the two-day waiting rule so that Bill 13 can be read for the first time. Do members agree?

Some Members: Agreed

Speaker: Please proceed, Minister Peterson.

Bill 13 – Supplementary Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, No. 2, 2011-2012 – First Reading

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet South and Whale Cove, that Bill 13, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 2, 2011-2012*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Peterson. The motion is in order. All those in favour. Any opposed? The motion is carried and Bill 13 has had first reading.

Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Minister of Finance, Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I request consent of this Assembly to waive the two-day notice requirement to allow for the first reading of Bill 14, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 2, 2011-2012*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Peterson. The minister is seeking consent to waive the two-day waiting rule so that Bill 14 can be read for the first time. Do members agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Speaker: Please proceed, Minister Peterson.

Bill 14 – Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 2, 2011-2012 – First Reading

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet South and Whale Cove, that Bill 14, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 2, 2011-2012*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Peterson. The motion is in order. All those in favour. Any opposed? None. The motion is carried and Bill 14 has been read for the first time.

Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I request consent of this Assembly to waive the two-day notice requirement to allow for the first reading of Bill 15, *Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2012-2013*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Peterson. The minister is seeking consent to waive the two-day waiting rule so that Bill 15 can be read for the first time. Do members agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Speaker: Please proceed, Minister Peterson.

Bill 15 – Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2012-2013 – First Reading

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet South and Whale Cove, that Bill 15, *Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2012-2013*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Peterson. The motion is in order. All those in favour. Any opposed? The motion is carried and Bill 15 has been read for the first time.

Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Minister of Finance, Minister Peterson.

Item 18: Second Reading of Bills

Bill 13 – Supplementary Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, No. 2, 2011-2012 – Second Reading

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet South and Whale Cove, that Bill 13, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 2, 2011-2012*, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill makes supplementary appropriations to defray the operations and maintenance expenses of the Government of Nunavut for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2012. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Peterson. The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill. Question has been called. All those in favour. Any opposed? None. The motion is carried and Bill 13 is referred to the Committee of the Whole.

Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Minister of Finance, Minister Peterson.

Bill 14 – Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 2, 2011-2012 – Second Reading

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet South and Whale Cove, that Bill 14, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 2, 2011-2012*, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill makes supplementary appropriations to defray the capital expenditures of the Government of Nunavut for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2012. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Peterson. The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill. Question has been called. All those in favour. Any opposed? None. The motion is carried and Bill 14 is referred to the Committee of the Whole.

Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Minister of Finance, Minister Peterson.

Bill 15 – Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2012-2013 – Second Reading

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet South and Whale Cove, that Bill 15, *Appropriation*

(Capital) Act, 2012-2013, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill authorizes the Government of Nunavut to make capital expenditures for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2013. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Peterson. The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill. Question has been called. Any opposed? There being none. The motion is carried and Bill 15 is referred to the Committee of the Whole.

Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Item 19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Mr. Ningeongan.

Motion 016 – 3(3): Adjournment for the Day

Mr. Ningeongan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Pursuant to Rule 46, I move, seconded by the Member for Quttiktuq, that the House adjourn for the day. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. The motion is in order and it's not debatable. All those in favour. Any opposed? The motion is carried.

I guess we can move on to the orders of the day. Item 22. Mr. Clerk.

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Clerk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just a reminder to the regular members of various meetings of the standing committees and they start tomorrow at nine o'clock.

Orders of the Day for October 19:

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

21. Third Reading of Bills

22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you very much, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned until Wednesday, October 19, at 1:30 p.m.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 15:44*

**Appendix to Nunavut *Hansard* of October 18,
2011: Returns to Oral and Written Questions**

Return to Oral Question 104 – 3(3): School Non-Attenders

Asked by: Jeannie Ugyuk, MLA (Nattilik)

Asked of: Hon. Eva Aariak, Minister of Education

Date: June 6, 2011

Question:

Under the *Education Act*, district education authorities are required to establish attendance policies for their communities. Can the minister update this House on how many DEAs have their attendance policies written and what is being done to support and encourage those DEAs that have not yet finalized their community attendance policies?

Response:

Currently, District Education Authorities (DEAs) are not required to develop or adopt attendance policies (*Transition Regulations* – section 12(1)) until July 1, 2012. In the meantime, DEAs may choose to do so if they wish. Once the regulations regarding these policies are completed there will be time provided to DEAs to develop their policies as well. DEAs will receive support in all aspects of the development and implementation process.

DEAs have received (in 2010-11) and will continue to receive funding to support the development and implementation of attendance programs for schools in their educational district.

The Department of Education has focused first on Inuuqatigiittiarniq Policies and initiatives. These policies and school initiatives are very important to support attendance and success of students by supporting a positive school environment where students are safe and welcome. The Registration and Attendance Policies will be able to proceed, with Department of Education support, once Inuuqatigiittiarniq Policies are in place.

Return to Oral Question 112 – 3(3): Work Performed on QEC President’s House by QEC Employees

Asked by: Fred Schell, MLA (South Baffin)

Asked of: Hon. Lorne Kusugak, Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation

Date: June 7, 2011

Question:

Yesterday I tabled two pictures of work being done by Qulliq Energy at a residential home. My understanding is that this home is owned by the president of Qulliq Energy. Basically what was done on site was some landscaping and creating a retaining wall. There was approximately 16 hydro poles used, four or five steel pilings, there was a QEC boom truck used, six employees were paid to do this work, and the majority of the work took place on Wednesday, May 19, and completed the following day.

Like I said, there were approximately six employees and it took them approximately 16 hours each for a total of 96 man-hours. Normally when there’s work done by Qulliq Energy Corporation crew, it’s coded to a project or a budget. My question is: was this job coded to a project or budget or was it personally paid for by the president of Qulliq Energy?

Response:

To correct the allegation contained in Mr. Schell’s preamble regarding work being completed by QEC staff at the QEC President’s house, I would like to clearly state for the record that this is not the QEC President’s house.

QEC staff did deliver old used power poles to a house where they were used by the homeowner to help build up a driveway. Old poles are often distributed in communities when requested in order to avoid them becoming landfill.

It is estimated that it took 30 to 45 minutes for staff to drop off and secure these poles at the residence.

This job was not coded to a project or budget, nor was it paid for by the President of Qulliq Energy.

Return to Oral Question 131 – 3(3): Replacement of Taloyoak Air Terminal Building

Asked by: Jeannie Ugyuk, MLA (Nattilik)

Asked of: Hon. Peter Taptuna, Minister of Economic Development and Transportation

Date: June 9, 2011

Question:

A few months ago, the Canadian North Airline announced that it was improving its schedule in the Kitikmeot and Baffin regions of Nunavut. This is welcome news to my constituents. However, as the minister is aware, the current air terminal building in Taloyoak is old and in poor condition. I have been advised that there is not enough space for airline staff.

The five-year capital plan for the Department of Economic Development and Transportation includes \$50,000 in funding for the 2012-13 fiscal year for the new air terminal building for Taloyoak. Can the minister indicate when he expects to issue tenders for the design and construction for the new air terminal building?

Response:

My department recognizes the need for renewal of the airport in Taloyoak, and we are very pleased to be completing the resurfacing of the runway and replacement of the airfield lighting system.

These are the primary safety components of the airport, and I am sure the Member understands why we had to undertake these projects first.

The \$50,000 that the Member is referring to appears in the 2012-13 column of the 2011-12 capital plan.

Its appearance there marks its place in my department's priorities, and indicates our intention to start that project as soon as possible.

It is important to note, however, that the 2012-13 capital plan has not yet been voted on or approved. Because of this, it is not possible to provide an answer as to when this work will be tendered.

At this point it is not possible to confirm that this project will remain in the 2012-13 capital plan until it comes before this legislature for a vote. All I can confirm for the Member is that the project is a priority for my department, and that it will be initiated as soon as the funding is available.

Return to Oral Question 132 – 3(3): Renal Care in Nunavut

Asked by: Johnny Ningeongan, MLA (Nanulik)

Asked of: Hon. Tagak Curley, Minister of Health and Social Services

Date: June 9, 2011

Question:

Yesterday I was unable to ask the minister a question during the Committee of the Whole as I was in the Chair. Now that his appearance in Committee of the Whole has concluded, I would like to address an important issue.

The government's most recent annual report on procurement activities indicates that in 2009-2010, the Department of Health and Social Services awarded a \$75,000 contract for a project described as "Comprehensive Analysis to Support Renal Care." Did this project address the options to provide renal care, such as dialysis, in Nunavut?

Response:

On June 9, 2011 the Member from Nanulik asked an oral question in the Legislature regarding renal care in Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, a growing concern for the Department of Health and Social Services is meeting challenges associated with caring for Nunavummiut suffering from chronic kidney disease (CKD) or kidney failure. For these clients, dialysis is the only life preserving treatment available.

Clients who are able to be placed on peritoneal dialysis (PD) do have the ability, with considerable education and support, to receive care and treatment in Nunavut. Unless fortunate enough to receive a transplanted kidney, currently Nunavut clients requiring hemodialysis do not have this option.

Mr. Speaker, the Department has a desire to offer a wider range of health services within the territory so that these clients will not have to receive care and treatment in the south, away from family and friends. To this purpose, an analysis was performed in 2009-2010 to determine needs assessment and a cost-benefit analysis in offering treatment in the Territory.

A very generous estimate of the costs of providing hemodialysis in the south for one patient is about \$100,000 per year including treatment, accommodation and extensive travel, which is covered by the territorial and federal government.

If all Nunavummiut who currently receive treatment in the south were to move to one location in Nunavut for treatment (if the government did not cover relocation expenses or any cost of living in the new location) the cost savings could be \$300,000, which does not cover the estimated operations and maintenance and capital financing.

Mr. Speaker, as the analysis indicates, the costs of providing hemodialysis in Nunavut would be about \$2 million in capital costs and backup equipment, and over \$700,000 ongoing for human resources necessary to treat patients and maintain the equipment to properly manage the risk.

Specific barriers to implementing this program in Nunavut exist. Among them are the lack of available capital resources or operations and maintenance. As well, the project would rely on remote monitoring through satellite connection, which is inconsistent in any community in Nunavut. The lack of availability of critical care services if a patient 'crashes' is another issue, as well as the need for highly specialized mechanical requirements for the facility, including a reliable water source, filtration equipment, and electrical requirements. A site analysis would have to be completed to determine if a particular community would be able to support the specialized mechanical requirements required for hemodialysis.

Mr. Speaker, whenever options for the introduction of a new service into Nunavut's health delivery system are explored, my Department must analyze the potential benefits, risks, opportunity costs and financial considerations to the greatest degree possible. Although I fully appreciate the sense of urgency families face when dealing with serious medical conditions, and the strain that they feel when they have to travel or move outside the Territory to receive care and treatment, our government must take the time and deliberation required for deciding on major new investments in our health system.

At this point in time, with the current financial realities we face, as well as the fact that there are not enough clients requiring dialysis to make the service economically feasible, the Department of Health and Social Services cannot justify the additional expense to the government for providing expanded dialysis services in the territory. However, the Department will continue to work to explore options to provide optimal services to these clients. With support from southern nephrologists and other renal care professionals as well as health care staff in Nunavut, the possibility of Nunavummiut who receive hemodialysis returning home for a 2 -3 day visit is being explored.

As well, the Department continues to work to explore options for improved health and social services delivery in the Territory. Health prevention measures such as preventing obesity, diabetes and kidney disease remains a priority for HSS.

Return to Written Question 004 – 3(3): Foster Care

Asked by: Ron Elliott, MLA (Quttiktuq)

Asked of: Hon. Tagak Curley, Minister of Health and Social Services

Date: May 31, 2011

Preamble:

During the Committee of the Whole's consideration of the 2010-11 Main Estimates of the Department of Health and Social Services, testimony to the Committee indicated that 60 Nunavut children and youth are fostered outside of Nunavut at an estimated annual cost of \$6.1 million (See March 9, 2010 *Hansard*, page 1269). Written Question 15 – 3(2) was posed in the House on March 23, 2010. The 2011 Report of the Auditor General of Canada to the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut was tabled in the House on March 8, 2011. The report noted that the Department of Health and Social Services is "not meeting many other requirements of the *Child and Family Services Act* and its own standards and procedures. For example, it does not perform the required safety checks of foster homes, nor does it complete annual compliance reviews of child protection files."

Question:

- 1) As of March 31, 2011, broken down by province or territory of temporary residence, how many Nunavut children and youth are in foster care out of territory in the following categories:
 - a. In specialized care;
 - b. In a recognized institution;
 - c. In a private foster home?

Response:

The Department does not accept applications from foster parents outside of the territory.

The Department currently does not have a digitized information system, therefore it is not possible to provide data regarding March 31st.

As of June 7th, 2011:

- 4 children or youth are currently in foster care out of territory
 - 2 are in Alberta;
 - 1 is in Quebec; and
 - 1 is in Ontario.

All of these children were originally placed in Nunavut foster homes. For these children, the Department approved their move south when their foster families relocated.

Question:

- 2) As of March 31, 2011, broken down by type of specialized care, how many Nunavut children and youth are receiving specialized care out of territory?

Response:

The Department does not currently have a digitized information system, therefore it is not possible to provide data regarding March 31st.

As of June 7th 2011:

- 50 children or youth are receiving specialized care out of territory
 - 2 are in medical institutions;
 - 12 are in alternate medical care group homes;
 - 5 are in specialized care homes for the medically fragile; and
 - 31 are in behavioural management group homes.

Question:

- 3) As of March 31, 2011, what is the average annual cost of foster care for a single Nunavut child or youth outside of Nunavut?

Response:

As noted in the response to Question 1, the Department does not accept applications from foster parents outside of the territory.

Question:

- 4) Which specific organizations, institutions, and other entities have been contracted to provide foster care outside of the Nunavut territory to Nunavut children and youth?

Response:

The Department does not contract out foster care services outside of the territory to organizations or institutions.

Question:

- 5) What mechanisms are in place to identify suitable out-of-territory foster parents?

Response:

As noted in the response to Question 1, the Department does not accept applications from foster parents outside of the territory.

Question:

- 6) How are child protection departments, agencies, or organizations in other jurisdictions involved in the designation and monitoring of out-of-territory foster parents for Nunavut children and youth?

Response:

As noted in the response to Question 1, the Department does not accept applications from foster parents outside of the territory.

For the 4 foster parents noted in Question 1, they are monitored by the Department of Health and Social Services.

Question:

- 7) What standards and procedures have been developed by the Department of Health and Social Services to screen Nunavut-based foster parent applicants before they receive a foster child or youth into their care?

Response:

Standards and procedures are in place to ensure children's safety and proper care, including associated documentation:

- Foster home application by both parents;
- Foster parent/s medical examination(s);
- Foster home study;
- Foster home agreement; and
- Criminal records check on all adults in the proposed home

Pre-approved foster homes are being reviewed to ensure that all reviews have been completed and the proper documentation is on file.

Beyond the use of pre-approved foster homes, wherever possible, extended family is used to provide foster care. These homes are given preliminary approval when the social worker has established that no previous or outstanding child protection concerns exist. Review and documentation then occurs within the following timelines:

- Foster home application by both parents – 10 days;
- Foster parent/s medical examination(s) – 10 days;
- Foster home study – 30 days;
- Foster home agreement – at time of placement; and
- Criminal records check on all adults in the proposed home – 10 days

Question:

- 8) In approximately how many cases between April 1, 2006 and March 31, 2011 did the department deviate from its prescribed standards and procedures regarding the screening of Nunavut-based foster parent applications?

Response:

Foster parent files during the period noted that have been audited have been found to be incomplete. Based on this information, the Department cannot verify that the foster parent applications in the time period concerned were handled according to its prescribed standards and procedures.

Foster home reviews are currently underway. Cambridge Bay and Pond Inlet foster homes have all been reviewed and are up to Departmental standards.

Question:

- 9) What factors are taken into account by the department in making a determination to deviate from its prescribed standards and procedures regarding the screening of Nunavut-based foster parent applications?

Response:

The Department does not condone deviating from prescribed processes in the screening and approval of foster parents.

Question:

- 10) What standards and procedures have been developed by the Department of Health and Social Services to screen out-of-territory foster parent applicants with respect to the following criteria:
- a. Criminal record;
 - b. Experience with children;
 - c. Cultural sensitivity; and
 - d. Living arrangements?

Response:

As noted in the responses to Question 1 and Question 5, the Department does not accept applications from foster parents outside of the territory.

Question:

- 11) In approximately how many cases between April 1, 2006 and March 31, 2011 did the department deviate from its prescribed standards and procedures regarding the screening of

out-of-territory foster parent applications?

Response:

As noted in the response to Question 1, the Department does not accept applications from foster parents outside of the territory.

Question:

12) What factors are taken into account by the department in making a determination to deviate from its prescribed standards and procedures regarding the screening of out-of-territory foster parent applications?

Response:

As noted in the response to Question 1, the Department does not accept applications from foster parents outside of the territory.

Question:

13) Within the meaning of the *Provincial/Territorial Protocol on Children and Families Moving Between Provinces and Territories* that was signed by the Government of Nunavut on December 15, 2006, how does the department's residential care compliance coordinator work with relevant authorities in receiving jurisdictions to conduct on-site visits of foster homes and care facilities in which Nunavut children have been placed?

Response:

The Department has not been able to hire a Residential Care Coordinator. The Department's social workers either call the facility ahead of time to arrange a visit with a child in residential care, or they may drop in unannounced in order to assess day-to-day living.

Question:

14) Between April 1, 2010, and March 31, 2011, how many on-site visits were conducted of extra-territorial foster homes and care facilities in which Nunavut children have been placed?

Response:

The Department does not currently have a digitized information system with which to report this information. However, sample case reviews indicate that very few on-site visits were conducted of out-of-territory residential care facilities in which Nunavut children were placed during the period in question. The Department has launched an initiative that will ensure that children and youth in out-of-territory residential care facilities will be visited this fiscal year, and to ensure that this will be an ongoing standard procedure, as per Departmental standards.

Question:

15) What mechanisms are in place and who is responsible for monitoring and evaluating the ongoing status of children and youth in foster care with respect to such activities as diet, social activities, schooling, and physical activity?

Response:

Case management for children in care is provided by an assigned Community Social Services Worker, who has overall responsibility for monitoring each child's care and development.

Foster parents provide for the daily care and nurturance of the child, and monitor their diet, social activities, health and school progress. They report to the case manager any concerns or problems that arise.

Medical, dental and vision checkups are regularly provided for foster children, and the resulting reports reviewed by the foster parents and case manager.

School progress notes and report cards are monitored by both the foster parents and case manager.

Question:

16) Do child protection departments, agencies, or organizations in other jurisdictions provide and pay for any component of services for Nunavut children and youth in out-of-territory foster care?

Response:

As noted in the response to Question 1, the Department does not accept applications from foster parents outside of the territory.

For the 4 children or youth noted in the response to Question 1, these cases are considered "temporary placements" in that these children or youth have not been adopted or placed permanently with the families. The Department retains decision making authority over these children or youth and therefore continues to have financial responsibility.

Question:

17) What counselling services or supports are offered to Nunavut parents who have had their children apprehended within the meaning of the *Child and Family Services Act* and placed in foster care?

Response:

General counselling by local social services workers is available to parents who have had their children removed from their care. A Plan of Care is developed and, wherever possible, the parents are involved in its development. Referrals for substance abuse and/or mental health counselling are also made, as appropriate.

Question:

18) How does the Department of Health and Social Services determine the conditions under which a Nunavut child or youth in foster care can be returned to the home from which they were apprehended?

Response:

In cases where the child came into care under a voluntary agreement – the time-limited and specific purpose(s) of the agreement specify when and under what conditions the child will be returned to parental care.

In cases where the child was removed from parental care due to being deemed in need of protection – when those issues that brought the child into protective status are resolved, the child can be returned to parental care.

In instances where the court temporarily suspends parental rights for a length of time – the child is returned to parental care once the order terminates.

In instances where the court has severed parental rights through a permanent care order – the child will not be returned to parental care as long as the order is in place.

Question:

19) Under what circumstances are Nunavut parents entitled to contact and communicate with their children who are in foster care outside of the territory?

Response:

As noted in the response to Question 1, the Department does not accept applications from foster parents outside of the territory.

For the 4 children or youth noted in the response to Question 1, parents are entitled to contact and communicate with their children unless there is a “no contact” order in place.

Return to Written Question 005 – 3(3): Cancer Screening and Prevention

Asked by: Jeannie Ugyuk, MLA (Nattilik)

Asked of: Hon. Tagak Curley, Minister of Health and Social Services

Date: June 6, 2011

Question:

- 1) By year, for each year since 1999, what was the leading cause of death amongst Nunavummiut?

Response:

The Department currently does not have this information available due to challenges in staffing epidemiologist positions. However, the collection and analysis of this type of data is important for the Department. As such, the Department has hired an epidemiologist to provide oversight for a quality database. An audit of Departmental databases and previous work done on the subject is being conducted.

Question:

- 2) How does the Department of Health and Social Services record and track diagnoses of cancer among Nunavut residents?

Response:

The Department has a Cancer Registry which records all diagnoses of cancer in the territory. Due to issues with staffing epidemiologist positions in the past, this database now needs a thorough audit to ensure accuracy. The audit is expected to be complete by the end of 2011.

Question:

- 3) How does the Department of Health and Social Services record and track the stage of cancer at which cancer diagnoses are made among Nunavut residents?

Response:

Cancer staging is done by pathologists. Copies of the pathology reports are then sent to the cancer registry.

Question:

- 4) How often does the Department of Health and Social Services publish cancer statistics for the territory of Nunavut?

Response:

The last report on cancer statistics for Nunavut was published in November of 2003, which covered the period from 1992 to 2001. The next report will be published in 2012 and it will cover the ten year period of 2002 - 2011. Because of the small population size in Nunavut, the number of cases of various cancer types is small. Therefore, to be able to identify accurate trends, it is necessary to look at cases over a long period of time.

Question:

- 5) What programs are available to teach women across Nunavut self-examination procedures to help them detect the signs of cancer?

Response:

Every health centre offers Well Woman Clinics which includes, screening questions for cancer risk, breast examination by the nurse and teaching breast self examination.

Question:

- 6) What programs are available to teach men across Nunavut self-examination procedures to help them detect the signs of cancer?

Response:

Every health centre offers Well Man Clinics which includes screening questions for cancer risk, examination by the nurse and teaching self examination.

Question:

- 7) What diagnostic tools are available at community health centres to help health centre staff detect the signs of cancer in Nunavummiut?

Response:

There are no diagnostic tools for cancer at the community health centres as this is very specialised. There are screening tools which include pap smears for cervical cancer in women and faecal occult blood tests to screen for bowel cancer in those at high risk as well as blood tests for prostate cancer in men. These are screening tests only and false positive and false negative tests can occur. When the tests are positive, the patient is referred for further diagnostic tests.

Question:

- 8) What specific programs does the Department of Health and Social Services deliver on a regular basis to screen for cancer among Nunavummiut?

Response:

An organised screening program requires that all eligible people be invited for screening at predetermined intervals, using a population registry. Nunavut does not have an organised screening program. Screening for cancer occurs in an opportunistic way when the patient comes to the health centre.

The Department is currently working on the feasibility of introducing an organised pap screening program and is reviewing best practices in other jurisdictions for implementation. It is envisioned that colorectal cancer would be the next program to look at introducing once cervical cancer screening is established. A screening method for lung cancer (which accounts for Nunavut's greatest number of cancers) does not exist.

Question:

- 9) What specific programs does the Department of Health and Social Services deliver on a regular basis to prevent cancer among Nunavummiut?

Response:

HSS delivers many cancer prevention programs in the communities. The most important ones are those related to smoking, as lung cancer in Nunavut is the highest in Canada. Since there are no effective screening tests for lung cancer, it is very difficult to detect early and is almost always fatal.

The other cancer prevention programs relate to healthy eating and physical activity. In general, it has been estimated that approximately one third of cancer cases are related to smoking, one third to poor diet and lack of exercise, and one third to genetic, environmental and other factors.

Question:

- 10) The Canadian Partnership Against Cancer is a federally funded organization that works with provinces, territories, and aboriginal communities to help reduce and prevent cancer among Canadians. How does the Government of Nunavut work with the Canadian Partnership Against Cancer to help reduce and prevent cancer among Nunavummiut?

Response:

HSS staff met with representatives of the Canadian Partnership Against Cancer (CPAC), the Canadian Cancer Society (CCS) and the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) on May 17th, 2011 to determine the priority status of chronic disease and cancer in Nunavut and to agree on concrete collaborative actions to address priority gaps. Three priorities were identified:

- To develop an organised cervical screening program with support from CPAC and PHAC;

- To work collaboratively on an integrated education plan for community-level health workers; and
- To explore and scope out the potential for a web-based information system for Nunavut.

Question:

11) What specific funding is allocated by the Department of Health and Social Services for cancer prevention programs for Nunavummiut?

Response:

As stated, one lifestyle factor known to have protective effects against cancer is healthy eating. A variety of programs which promote healthy eating are offered in communities funded through the Canada Prenatal Nutrition Program, the Aboriginal Diabetes Initiative, and Brighter Futures. There are also new funds that are available through Nutrition North Canada to enhance community nutrition programming.

The current total investment from these program budgets that is focused on promotion of healthy eating is over \$3 million. This includes \$1.2 million for the Canadian Prenatal Nutrition Program, \$834,000 for Nutrition North Canada community education (both of these have a nutrition-specific focus) and based on community priorities, a portion of the Aboriginal Diabetes Initiative and Brighter Future programming is generally allocated to nutrition related programming.

Another key prevention for cancer is tobacco reduction. While there currently is no core departmental funding for tobacco reduction programs, the department employs both a Tobacco Reduction Specialist and a Health Promotion Specialist who oversees the area of tobacco reduction across Nunavut and will be responsible for implementation of the forthcoming Nunavut Tobacco Reduction Framework for Action. The department's funding for prevention, education and cessation initiatives come from Federal grants and contributions. Current federal investments in tobacco reduction in Nunavut are in the amount of \$613,000 with additional commitments still being negotiated.

Question:

12) What specific funding is allocated by the Department of Health and Social Services for cancer screening programs for Nunavummiut?

Response:

It is not possible to put a figure on the cancer screening programs currently available in Nunavut because they are absorbed as part of the ongoing costs of running health centres. When the cervical cancer screening program is developed, the cost of this program will be tracked.

Return to Written Question 006 – 3(3): Update on New Taloyoak Health Centre

Asked by: Jeannie Ugyuk, MLA (Nattilik)

Asked of: Hon. Tagak Curley, Minister of Health and Social Services

Date: June 6, 2011

Preamble:

On May 31, 2011, a letter from the Hamlet of Taloyoak was tabled in the Legislative Assembly (TD 41 – 3(3)). The letter identifies the need for a new health centre in the community of Taloyoak and describes the community's understanding of what has happened to date towards the completion of this project. The letter concludes with a number of questions on the status of the project.

Question:

- 1) To date, since April 1, 1999, how much funding has been expended on initiation, planning, design, and material purchase for a new health centre in Taloyoak?

Response:

To date, \$630,000 has been allocated to the Taloyoak Replace Health Centre project for planning, advertising and design costs. The costs for the shared design were allocated across the Repulse Bay, Arctic Bay and Taloyoak Replacement Health Centre projects because they share a common design.

However, prior to 2006, the Department of Health and Social Services (HSS) also spent a further \$213,000 on an initial project to renovate and build an addition to the original health centre in Taloyoak.

Questions:

- 2) To date, since April 1, 1999, how many plans and designs for a new health centre for the community of Taloyoak have been produced?
- 3) What rationale exists for the continued expenditure on different designs for the Taloyoak Health Centre?

Response:

There have been two designs started, and one of them has been completed.

The first design was deemed unfeasible for construction due to the complexity of undertaking a renovation and addition to an operating health centre.

In 2002/2003, the Technical Services Division of the Department of Community and Government Services (CGS) carried out a building assessment which recommended upgrades to the facility to meet current National Building Codes. This, in conjunction with a need for a larger facility identified by HSS to service the community in the coming years, resulted in a Project Brief being developed for a renovation and addition project. Subsequently, in 2004, FSC Architects and Engineers were issued a design contract through an RFP process for the addition and renovation project.

In October of 2004, the Government of Nunavut (GN) mandated HSS to construct Continuing Care Centres for Elders within the lifetime of the 2nd Legislative Assembly. Due to the redirection of construction funding in subsequent years of the GN Capital Plan, the renovation and addition design process was put on hold.

However, it had been identified by the design consultant that in order to undertake the addition and renovation of the Taloyoak Health Centre, no fewer than 5 phases of construction would be required. Due to the complexity associated with this phased construction, HSS requested that CGS review the feasibility of a standalone facility.

Construction of a standalone facility was recommended and accepted by HSS on the basis that the phased construction would have a substantial impact on the quality of health services available in Taloyoak.

When the Repulse Bay and Taloyoak projects were reinitiated by HSS in 2006, it was identified that Arctic Bay also required a replacement of its aging health facility. HSS and CGS reviewed the functional programs of all three facilities and deemed them similar to the point that a common design would suit the requirements of each community.

A project brief common to all three facilities was subsequently developed, a competitive RFP issued, and a design contract awarded to FSC Architects and Engineers in 2008 for design of a health facility for Repulse Bay, which would be repeated in Taloyoak and Arctic Bay.

Since 2008, the design has developed to a tender-ready state for Taloyoak. HSS officials traveled to Taloyoak in November 2009 to provide a presentation of the design at a Hamlet Council meeting.

Carry over funds of \$100,000 was approved for 2011/2012 to complete any design changes (due possibly to changes to National Building Codes) prior to release and advertisement of construction RFP.

Question:

- 4) What happened to the \$352,000 which was approved in the 2006-07 capital budget for the “Health Centre Renovations / Addition” project in Taloyoak?

Response:

The bulk of approved funding was carried over and spent in 2008/2009 on the common design noted above.

Question:

- 5) What happened to the \$200,000 which was approved in the 2008-09 capital budget for the “Replace Health Centre” project #500239 in Taloyoak?

Response:

Actual costs allocated to the Taloyoak Replace Health Centre project for the common design contract were \$553,000 in 2008/2009.

Question:

- 6) What is the current status of Capital Project #500239 (“Replace Health Centre”) in the community of Taloyoak?

Response:

The design is ready for tender, subject to capital construction funding approval. Some relatively minor modifications may be required to bring the design up to the 2010 National Building Code requirements.

Question:

- 7) When is construction on the new health centre for the community of Taloyoak scheduled to begin?

Response:

The Department has submitted its 2013-2017 capital plan for approval by the Financial Management Board (FMB). If the Department’s capital plan is approved by FMB and subsequently, in the Legislative Assembly, the Taloyoak Replace Health Centre project construction start date could be 2013/2014.

Question:

- 8) When does the Government of Nunavut anticipate opening the new health centre for Taloyoak?

Response:

As noted above, the approval of a budget for construction of the Taloyoak Replace Health Centre project has not occurred. If a budget is approved, the anticipated opening date of the Taloyoak Replace Health Centre project could occur in 2014/2015.

Return to Written Question 007 – 3(3): Community Access Roads Program Expenditures

Asked by: Jeannie Ugyuk, MLA (Nattilik)

Asked of: Hon. Peter Taptuna, Minister of Economic Development and Transportation

Date: June 7, 2011

Preamble:

The Department of Economic Development and Transportation's 2009-2010 capital estimates included \$500,000 in funding for community access roads. The Department of Economic Development and Transportation's 2010-11 and 2011-12 main estimates each contained \$500,000 in funding for community access roads.

Question:

1. Broken down by community and project, what were the Department of Economic Development and Transportation's Community Access Roads Program expenditures for the 2009-2010, 2010-11, and 2011-12 (to date) fiscal years?

Response:

1. The Department's expenditures on the Access Road Program for the fiscal years 2009-2010, 2010-2011, and 2011-2012 are as tabulated below:

Community Access Road Program Approved Contributions
Fiscal Years 2009/10-2011-12

Community	2009-10	2010-11		2011-12
		GN	CAF	
Hamlet of Arviat	,	70,000		20,000
Hamlet of Baker Lake	40,000	30,000	20,000	35,000
Hamlet of Cambridge Bay	45,000	45,000	12,000	35,000
Hamlet of Chesterfield Inlet	40,000	30,000	40,000	40,000
Hamlet of Coral Harbour	45,000	15,000	35,000	25,000
Hamlet of Gjoa Haven	45,000	30,000	30,000	20,000
Hamlet of Hall Beach	30,000		50,000	
Hamlet of Igloolik				15,000
City of Iqaluit	15,000			
Hamlet of Kimmirut		35,000		30,000
Hamlet of Kugaaruk				25,000
Hamlet of Kugluktuk		35,000	25,000	25,000
Hamlet of Pangnirtung				30,000
Hamlet of Qikiqtarjuaq	40,000	40,000	20,000	45,000
Hamlet of Rankin Inlet	40,000	40,000	110,000	45,000
Hamlet of Repulse Bay	40,000	25,000	40,000	30,000
Hamlet of Resolute Bay	20,000		8,000	
Hamlet of Sanikiluaq		40,000		25,000
Hamlet of Taloyoak - Red Fish Lake			30,000	25,000
Hamlet of Taloyoak - Netsilik Lake		25,000		
Hamlet of Taloyoak - Middle Lake	15,000		30,000	
Hamlet of Whale Cove	40,000	40,000	50,000	30,000
Totals	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000

Community Access Road Program Actual Expenditures
Fiscal Years 2009/10 & 2010/11

Community	2009/10	2010-11		Total
		GN	CAF	
Hamlet of Arviat	45,000	70,000	-	115,000
Hamlet of Baker Lake	40,000	30,000	20,000	90,000
Hamlet of Cambridge Bay	45,000	30,000	8,000	83,000
Hamlet of Chesterfield Inlet	32,000	25,000	33,000	90,000
Hamlet of Coral Harbour	45,000	15,000	35,000	95,000
Hamlet of Gjoa Haven	-	24,000	24,000	48,000
Hamlet of Hall Beach	30,000	-	50,000	80,000
City of Iqaluit	15,000	-	-	15,000
Hamlet of Kimmirut	-	35,000	-	35,000
Hamlet of Kugluktuk	-	35,000	25,000	60,000
Hamlet of Qikiqtarjuaq	40,000	32,000	16,000	88,000
Hamlet of Rankin Inlet	40,000	39,000	108,000	187,000
Hamlet of Repulse Bay	40,000	25,000	40,000	105,000
Hamlet of Resolute Bay	-	-	6,400	6,400
Hamlet of Sanikiluaq	-	40,000	-	40,000
Hamlet of Taloyoak - Red Fish Lake	-	-	22,000	22,000
Hamlet of Taloyoak - Netsilik Lake	-	18,400	-	18,400
Hamlet of Taloyoak - Middle Lake	15,000	-	22,000	37,000
Hamlet of Whale Cove	40,000	40,000	50,000	130,000

In the 2010-2011 fiscal year, there are two columns; the one labeled GN details the department's program expenditures, and the one labeled CAF details expenditure of funds originating in the federal *Community Adjustment Fund*, which was a one-time opportunity under *Canada's Economic Action Plan* (stimulus funding).

Question:

2. What application and reporting requirements are in place with respect to funding received by municipal governments and other entities under the department's Community Access Roads Program?

Response:

2. The Community Access Roads Program is funded and operated under the *Community Transportation Initiatives Policy*.

Communities are invited to submit proposals in the spring of every year. In order for the department to properly assess the proposals, the following information is requested in each proposal:

- A map (typically a copy of a relevant National Topographical System sheet) of the proposed road/trail indicating the route and length;
- The type of road/trail proposed (for example, an all-terrain vehicle trail or a four wheel drive truck road, seasonal or year-round use);
- The estimated total cost of the road/trail and the number of years to construct;
- The total cost for the present year of construction;
- Proposed community involvement in terms of project management and utilization of local labour, equipment and materials;
- Contribution and involvement expected from EDT;
- Benefits of the proposed access (for example improved access to hunting, fishing and recreation areas; and
- Any environmental impacts foreseen from the project and envisaged land use permits or water licence requirements.

Once all proposals are received, they are rated based on the following four criteria drawn from the governing policy:

- degree to which the proposal meets the program objectives;
- capability of the community to manage and carry out the work;
- extent the community is prepared to contribute to the funding of the project; and
- extent to which local labour and municipal equipment is utilized.

The amount of the department's contribution to each community is based on the amount requested, the rating assigned using the above criteria, and a factor of how much funding is available in comparison to the total funding requested from all communities.

For example, a 100,000 request, rated at 27 points out of a possible 40, in a year when total requests were 1.6 million could look something like this:

$$100,000 \times (27/40) \times (500/1600) = 21,093.75$$

In most instances, the contribution amount is rounded to the nearest 5,000.00.

Contributions less than 25,000 are disbursed in a single payment following execution of the contribution agreement. Contributions greater than 25,000 are disbursed in two payments, the first being 80% of the total contribution, disbursed upon execution of the agreement; the second being the remaining 20%, disbursed upon receipt of a statement of community expenditures and progress made on the project.

Communities are expected to report all expenditures directly attributable to the project and to provide an updated map or statement of the work completed in each year.

Question:

3. With respect to community access road projects funded in the 2009-2010, 2010-11, and 2011-12 (to date) fiscal years in the communities of Gjoa Haven and Taloyoak, what contractors were engaged to perform work and how were the contractors selected?

Response:

3. The Department's role in the Community Access Road Program is to provide funding towards construction of community owned infrastructure. The Department is not involved in the selection or engagement of contractors.

Question:

4. As of June 7, 2011, what is the status of community access road projects funded in the 2009-2010, 2010-11, and 2011-12 (to date) fiscal years in the communities of Gjoa Haven and Taloyoak?

Response:

4. In Gjoa Haven the Swan Lake Access Road has been constructed to a place where a bridge is required. Over the past several years funding from the Community Access Road Program has been used to design a suitable bridge and to purchase and ship the components of the bridge.

In 2010-11 the community's stated intention was to install the bridge; however, due to "local equipment failures/local freezing conditions" the work was not completed as planned. The community is planning to undertake this work in 2011-12.

In past years Taloyoak has worked to simultaneously extend roads to Middle Lake, Netsilik Lake, and Red Fish Lake. The current year's submission is requesting funding only for the trail to Red Fish Lake. According to the community's 2011-12 submission, the trail to Red Fish Lake requires removal of large stones and boulders, placement of gravel, and substantial work on at least three river crossings.

Return to Written Question 008 – 3(3): Capital Project Change Orders

Asked by: Fred Schell, MLA (South Baffin)

Asked of: Hon. Lorne Kusugak, Minister of Community and Government Services

Date: June 9, 2011

Question:

1. Broken down by fiscal year, community, and project, what change orders were issued during the 2008-09, 2009-2010, and 2010-11 fiscal years for construction projects managed by the Department of Community and Government Services?

Response:

- Refer attached summary

Question:

2. Broken down by fiscal year, community, and project, what was the rationale for each change order?

Response:

- Refer attached summary

Question:

3. Broken down by fiscal year, community, and project, who authorized each change order?

Response:

- Refer attached summary

Question:

4. Broken down by fiscal year, community, and project, what vendor performed the work required by the change order?

Response:

- Refer attached summary

Question:

5. Broken down by fiscal year, community, and project, what was the cost of each change order?

Response:

- Refer attached summary

The GN has been concerned with the increase number and value of capital project change orders over the past several years. The increase in change orders have been attributed, not limited, to the following:

- Outdated standards and criteria that no longer reflect the infrastructure needs of Nunavummiut;
- The scope of work is not properly defined; as a result, the scope of work changes after the projects are approved;
- Changes in code and regulation;
- Emergency situations;
- Site conditions ;and
- Project enhancement

The GN has approved changes to the existing capital planning process, which will require departments to undertake a more rigorous pre-planning process to gather and analyze information, before projects are introduced into the Five-Year Capital Plan. As part of the new capital planning process, all departments are required to update or complete new standards and criteria for the new capital planning process.

The Department of Community and Government Services has created a project management office division at headquarters that will provide support and direction to regional project management staff.

While the GN is taking steps to reduce the number of change orders after the construction contracts are awarded, it is prudent that the GN continue to include a contingency in construction contracts for unplanned and unforeseen events.

