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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Speaker

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(Iqaluit Centre)

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(Iqaluit East)

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

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(Uqummiut)

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

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(Baker Lake)

Hon. Tagak Curley

(Rankin Inlet North)

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(Rankin Inlet South – Whale Cove)

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Minister of Energy; Minister
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Hon. Fred Schell

(South Baffin)

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Iqaluit, Nunavut**Wednesday, October 26, 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, Mr. Louis Tapardjuk, Honourable Peter Taptuna, Honourable Hunter Tootoo, Ms. Jeannie Ugyuk.

Item 1: Opening Prayer

Speaker (Hon. Hunter Tootoo): *Qujannamiik*, Sergeant-at-Arms. Before we get started, I would like to ask Mr. Ningeongan to lead us off with a prayer, please.

>>Prayer

Speaker: Good afternoon. Moving on in the *Orders of the Day*, Ministers' Statements. Minister responsible for Community and Government Services, Minister Kusugak.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements**Minister's Statement 083 – 3(3): Fuel Price Reductions for 2011**

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, people of Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to announce today that the Government of Nunavut will be reducing the price of gasoline...

>>Applause

...and home heating fuel once again for Nunavummiut. These cost savings are being passed on as a result of the practice of the early purchase of petroleum products. The government initiated this practice in order to take advantage of price fluctuations when and if they occur.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, in 2011, the Government of Nunavut pre-purchased 73 million litres of fuel for this year's annual resupply. This represents 50 percent of Nunavut's diesel and gasoline requirements. As a result of this initiative, a reduction of 10 cents per litre for gasoline and a reduction of 5 cents per litre for home heating fuel which will take effect on November 1, 2011.

>>Applause

Mr. Speaker, there will be a corresponding increase of 10 cents per litre for jet A1 fuel.

Mr. Speaker, when we can maintain or lower the price, we will. This practice exemplifies the commitment of our government to supporting strong viable communities in the face of the ever increasing high cost of living. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Minister's Statement 084 – 3(3):
Status of Nunavut's Mining and
Mineral Exploration Industry**

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, colleagues and Nunavummiut. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to have this opportunity to speak again on the leading sector in Nunavut's economy, mining and mineral exploration, and to highlight some of the accomplishments of 2011.

Mineral exploration remains strong, with expenditures expected to approach \$400 million. Ongoing and new mine construction is adding approximately \$200 million, with the main activity occurring at Meadowbank and Hope Bay. Significant exploration work continues on the Hope Bay, Meliadine, Chidliak, and Mary River projects. Peregrine Diamonds has recorded another encouraging exploration season at Chidliak and expects to significantly increase its activity next year as they move into bulk sampling of the larger diamond-bearing kimberlites. A healthy number of new exploration projects have started up this year, mainly targeting gold and iron ore occurrences.

Mr. Speaker, Baffinland is currently undergoing a technical review of its draft environmental impact statement for the Mary River project and has applied to the Nunavut Impact Review Board for approval of pre-development work next summer to allow them to stage critical material on site in anticipation of construction beginning in 2013.

For a long time, we have relied on the public sector as the main driver of our economy. This has been a stable and reliable footing, but it is unable to

provide the economic base to ensure widespread prosperity for our growing population. A dynamic mining sector will help build the infrastructure and the human skills base we will need heading into the future.

Mr. Speaker, as a government, we have a role to play. It is not a central role but it is an essential supporting role. We must maintain a modern, even-handed, and predictable business environment to continue to attract investment. We must continue to support our regulatory agencies so that they can do the thorough oversight we demand. We will continue to invest in the basic geological research we need to uncover new areas of mineral potential.

Mr. Speaker, we must continue to provide the specialized training and educational opportunities Nunavummiut need and we must encourage our youth not simply to stay in school but to work hard and excel because the opportunities for this new generation will far exceed those our generation has known. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Ministers' Statements. Minister responsible for Education, Madam Premier.

**Minister's Statement 085 – 3(3):
Support for Adult Learning**

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Over the past several years, the Department of Education has been working to act on the recommendations made in the Nunavut Adult Learning

Strategy. One key recommendation was to improve career development services.

The department has undergone a reorganization to create the Career Development Services Division. Establishing a new division with a director of career development services and adult special projects will help us coordinate policy development and service delivery more effectively to better serve the needs of adult learners.

The Career Development Services Division will give us the structure needed to provide direction for adult learning services so we can better meet the *Tamapta* priorities of improving education and training outcomes. *Uqaqtittijii*, this division will work with field staff to ensure that the highest quality of client service delivery related to career development is established and maintained.

The creation of the Career Development Services Division has been accomplished through financial restructuring within the department. To stay within our departmental budget, we will be implementing a project-based approach to the work that needs to be done.

The director of career development services and adult special projects is in place and the process of staffing the support positions has begun.

Uqaqtittijii, the creation of the Career Development Services Division is an important step in support of our goal to link all Nunavummiut, including adult learners, with the programs and services they need to progress through education and training and into employment.

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, Madam Premier. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Minister responsible for Health and Social Services, Minister Curley.

Minister's Statement 086 – 3(3): Nunavut's New Food Guide

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Good afternoon, people of Rankin Inlet and everyone from Nunavut who is listening. Mr. Speaker, to help people make healthy eating choices within their financial means, the Department of Health and Social Services has made pivotal changes to the Nunavut Food Guide. The new guide more strongly emphasizes the health benefits of country food, the importance of learning more about them from our elders, and the value of sharing country foods with young children. It also provides guidance on choosing healthy store-bought food.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, the guide, which is expected to arrive in communities at the end of the month, is a nutrition education tool used across Nunavut by health professionals, educators, and community health workers. These individuals will be participating in training sessions related to the new guide and then sharing the information with residents both young and old.

Other nutrition education tools which will be released this year include cooking recipes, videos, and guides for community workers who host cooking

classes, in-store food tasting, and meal bag programs.

Mr. Speaker, poverty and food insecurity are key determinants of health and nutrition education is just one part of my department's work to address these important issues. Health and Social Services has been working closely with the anti-poverty secretariat, leading work and dialogue around the important issue of food insecurity. Two key poverty reduction investments led by my department are focused on breakfast programs and parenting programming. On these and other initiatives, we are committed to working closely with other departments to have a meaningful impact on the important issues of poverty and food insecurity.

During the break, Mr. Speaker, today we will be officially launching the food guide and I would like to invite colleagues to join me then and enjoy some country food. (interpretation)
Thank you.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Curley. Ministers' Statements. Minister responsible for the Department of Environment, Minister Shewchuk.

**Minister's Statement 087 – 3(3):
Record Returns for Nunavut's Fur
Sector**

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you and good afternoon, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to bring to my colleagues' attention the current strength of Nunavut's fur industry, in particular, the strong demand for Nunavut's long fur species.

The Fur Harvesters Auction in North Bay held four auctions in the winter and spring of 2011. Nunavut furs were offered on each of these sales, grossing over \$812,000 in sales for Nunavut hunters and trappers. In other words, 2010-11 was the most profitable year for the fur harvesting industry since the creation of the territory. These profits were driven by an international market demand for polar bear hides which has never been stronger. Cleaned and dried polar bear pelts are consistently selling for an average of \$5000 and the very best pelts are selling for over \$10,000.

Prices for fox, wolf, and wolverine are also very good and are expected to remain so for the upcoming season. Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, the prices for Nunavut sealskins remain low on the international market, but the Department of Environment has made significant progress in making dressed sealskins available to Nunavut residents through a productive partnership with the Nunavut Arts and Crafts Association, including holding Iqaluit's first ever sealskin and fur sale this summer.

Mr. Speaker, we will continue to work to ensure that good market opportunities remain available for the hunters and trappers whose harvest is vital to the survival of our communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth, Minister Arreak.

Minister's Statement 088 – 3(3): 2010-2011 Grants and Contributions Annual Report

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, the people of Clyde River, Qikiqtarjuaq, and Nunavut. Hi Jimmy.

Mr. Speaker, the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth recognizes the importance of providing Nunavummiut with information about its grants and contributions programs. The Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth has an annual grants and contribution budget of \$9.1 million. Nunavummiut have a vested interest and my department recognizes the importance of sharing information. One way of sharing this information is through the preparation and dissemination of annual program reports.

The 2010-11 grants and contributions annual report provides a detailed overview of the program activity and presents regional and community summaries of funding awarded under each of the grant and contribution programs. Mr. Speaker, I will be tabling the 2010-11 Culture, Language, Elders and Youth's grants and contributions report at the appropriate time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Arreak. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Baker Lake, Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 129 – 3(3): Addressing Mental Health

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to add my voice to those who are asking our government to provide more resources and supports to address mental health issues across our territory.

Mr. Speaker, the lack of full-time social workers, the lack of mental health workers, and the limited number of alcohol and drug workers in our communities leaves many residents without the necessary support to enable them to address the issues affecting their lives.

Mr. Speaker, the community of Baker Lake is extremely fortunate in having the Tunganiq Addiction Project to provide counselling and advice to individuals who wish to address substance abuse problems. However, the project requires assistance in addressing management and administration issues. In my view, the government should be prepared to provide the necessary support.

Mr. Speaker, in every community, there are dedicated and hard-working individuals who give selflessly of themselves to provide support and assistance to others. Within the sphere of public services, the roles played by these individuals are often taken for granted.

Mr. Speaker, our government needs to make greater efforts to identify where additional support and assistance could be provided. Mr. Speaker, it is not enough to have implementation plans, action plans, and strategies. Those words have to be converted into action on the ground.

Mr. Speaker, I call upon the government to fully assess the types and levels of mental health services that are being offered across Nunavut's communities and consider offering support in order that organizations and individuals can continue helping those in need. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Rumbolt.

**Member's Statement 130 – 3(3):
Disposal of Old Air Terminal
Building in Sanikiluaq**

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to address an outstanding issue in the community of Sanikiluaq.

Mr. Speaker, shortly after I was elected to the Legislative Assembly, I wrote to the Department of Economic Development and Transportation in order to ask that the old airport terminal building in the community be disposed of.

Mr. Speaker, before Sanikiluaq received its new airport terminal building, the former facility had experienced a number of electrical fires and other maintenance issues. Although the municipality subsequently used the building for cold storage, this space is no longer required and the building has become a hazard during the winter season.

Mr. Speaker, when I conveyed this information to the government in the summer of 2009, I was pleased at the prompt and positive reply that I

received. However, Mr. Speaker, we are now only a few short weeks away from the year 2012 and the old airport terminal building is still right where it was. Mr. Speaker, it seems that it's sometimes easier to build new buildings than it is to remove the old ones.

Mr. Speaker, it's my understanding that responsibility for this disposal process has been transferred to the Department of Community and Government Services. While I understand that nothing happens overnight, especially in government, it has been frustrating to see what appears to be a straightforward issue taking so long to resolve.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to join with my colleagues who have been addressing the issue of improving the flow of information from the government to MLAs and municipalities. I urge the department to provide regular updates to my community on the status of this outstanding issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. Elliott.

**Member's Statement 131 – 3(3):
Movement in the High Arctic**

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to address the issues of the high cost of living and transportation in the High Arctic. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to be able to say today that there has been movement on these issues since we took office in the fall of 2008.

Mr. Speaker, before a problem can be solved, it must first be recognized and understood. Over the past three years, there has been significantly greater awareness of the challenges facing my constituents in Grise Fiord, Resolute Bay, and Arctic Bay. The annual sovereignty exercises in the High Arctic have brought national attention to the strategic importance of our communities and the contribution that they make to our nation. The federal government's recent apology for the High Arctic relocations has helped to reconcile the painful legacy of the past with the promise of the future.

Mr. Speaker, my constituents face challenges on a daily basis. Food and shelter are the most fundamental human needs. The time that we as MLAs have devoted over the past year to the federal Nutrition North Canada Program has helped to focus attention on the importance of meeting the basic needs of our constituents living in the country's most isolated communities.

Mr. Speaker, the high cost of transportation is an issue without easy solutions. When I was elected to the Legislative Assembly, I committed to addressing this issue. I have been pleased that the government has committed resources towards developing a strategy for transportation in the High Arctic and I want to thank the mayors, councillors, and constituents in my three communities who have taken the time to provide important feedback on this initiative.

Mr. Speaker, this past weekend saw the first landings of First Air's new ATR aircraft in the communities of Arctic Bay and Resolute Bay. I am optimistic that

new airport infrastructure and increased use of modern aircraft with higher capacity and lower environmental impact will make a positive difference.

I am also hopeful that the Government of Canada will fully recognize its responsibilities to the High Arctic with respect to both physical and human infrastructure.

I am also optimistic that my constituents may soon have more choices and lower prices when it comes to air carriers. It is my understanding that competition may soon be a reality in my region.

Mr. Speaker, I thank all members for their recognition of the challenges facing the High Arctic communities that I am so proud to represent. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Rankin Inlet South and Whale Cove, Mr. Kusugak.

**Member's Statement 132 – 3(3):
Thirty High School Graduates of
Rankin Inlet**

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for this opportunity. When I was in Rankin Inlet this summer, we celebrated the graduates of grade 12 at that time. I was invited to take part, and I am very pleased and proud to announce that there were 30 graduates. I am proud of the students and the parents. Even though there are a lot of them, I would like to announce their names and I am sure that you're also proud of them.

The graduates are Molly Aggark, her brother Stewart Aggark, Kutsiq Aliyak, Ben Angoshadluk, Ashley Aupaluktuq-Burton, who is my colleague's niece, Gordon Aupilardjuk, Kayla Bruce, Douglas Gordon, his sister Jamila Gordon, Sonya Innuksuk, Stephanie Irkootee, Jeremiah Issaluk, David Kakuktinniq, Michael Kent, Kaneena Kusugak, Rico Manatok, Arsene Niakrok, Theresa Niakrok, Gary Noolook, Kris Okpatauyak, R.J. Oolooyuk, Nash Paniyuk, Ashley Petryshen, Savannah Pilakapsi, Cory Samok, James Sandy, Mary Tagalik, Roger Tagoona, Christopher Tanuyak, and Nathan Tulugak.

Those are the grade 12 graduates this summer in Rankin Inlet.

In Whale Cove, there are going to be two graduates this December and they are Joshua Ussak and Joey Arualak. I would also like to congratulate them. I am very proud and I hope they have a bright future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Kusugak. Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Uqqummiut, Mr. Arreak.

**Member's Statement 133 – 3(3):
Happy Birthday to Daughter**

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to wish a happy birthday to my daughter and I'm not sure how old she is. You think of your children as little children the whole time and love them all the time. One hopes that they are well treated and they treat others well at all times.

I wish Sheena a very happy birthday and I hope that we continue to grow up together. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 134 – 3(3):
Government of Canada Scrapping
Long Gun Registry**

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I envy the people of Rankin Inlet for being able to enjoy the outdoors.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my support and I was happy to hear the federal government announce that the long gun registry is going to be scrapped. It seems this long gun registry had an unfortunate effect on many Nunavutmiut who abide by the law and keep their guns locked, many of whom are full-time hunters. It is they who supply essential food for themselves as well as their communities as a whole. As a result, I am very pleased with the federal government announcement and again for all Canadians.

If you want to obtain a gun, you are still required to have a licence and you have to use your licence if you're going to be buying bullets. Again, I would like to emphasize that safety is a key issue to abide by the rules, to put your guns in secure locations, and to teach children and youth how to properly handle a firearm. First of all, we have to make sure that we are diligent and focus on safety aspects with guns. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Curley. Item 3. Members' Statement. Moving on in the *Orders of the Day*, Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Minister responsible for Community and Government Services, Minister Kusugak.

Item 4: Returns to Oral Questions

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In return to a question asked by my friend, Mr. Ron Elliot, MLA for Quttiktuq, the question was asked on October 18, 2011. In response to a question raised on Tuesday, October 18 regarding:

- 1) How the Government of Nunavut is working with federal authorities to strengthen search and rescue capacity in Nunavut; and
- 2) What specific priorities the GN wants to see addressed in the next agreement on emergency response and preparedness.

In response to the first part, Mr. Speaker, the Government of Nunavut welcomes the signing of the Agreement on Cooperation on Aeronautical and Marine Search and Rescue in the Arctic. Currently the GN is responsible for ground search and rescue through the RCMP taking the lead, supported by local community volunteers trained for search and rescue.

There is also significant involvement by other federal departments and agencies and the Civil Air Search and Rescue

Association, which is a not-for-profit group.

Although the Government of Canada signed an agreement on cooperation on aeronautical and marine search and rescue in the Arctic this past May, the agreement does not address related issues, such as oil spills and land-based rescues.

The Government of Nunavut expects to receive charity on their role in this agreement from the federal government over time.

The Government of Nunavut is part of a northern search and rescue working group working on search and rescue issues particular to the north. The GN is also part of the federal/provincial/territorial group for emergency management dealing with all emergency management issues as well as search and rescue.

In response to the latter part of the question, Mr. Speaker, the specific priorities the Government of Nunavut wants to see addressed in the next agreement on emergency response and preparedness include the following:

- Improved communications, including allocation of bandwidth for emergency response;
- Mitigation funding;
- Enhanced marine safety, as highlighted in Canada's 2010 Speech from the Throne; and
- Consideration of the addition of a small dedicated northern search and rescue contingent stationed in Nunavut.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Minister responsible for the Department of Health and Social Services, Minister Curley.

**Return to Oral Question 158 – 3(3):
Emergency Preparedness at
Nunavut Health Centres**

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I have a return to Oral Question 158 – 3(3). On October 19, 2011, the Member for Quttiktuq asked an oral question in the legislature regarding emergency preparedness in terms of assessing electronic health information at Nunavut health centres.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to inform the House that the electronic health records system has a number of procedures in place to provide redundancy for the electronic health record. The system currently has redundant power supply for both network and server infrastructure, as well as multiple site disaster recovery for health care data stored in the electronic health record.

Mr. Speaker, the project team has implemented downtime procedures which allow for clinicians, I can translate it to technicians, to transition to a mutual-based process which still provides access to the essential information required to provide patient care. Currently electronic information is still printed as backup and the manual medical chart is used for all downtime procedures. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Curley. Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions.

Moving on in the *Orders of the Day*, Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Uqqummiut, Mr. Arreak.

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

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to take this time to acknowledge one of the visitors in the Gallery. From my community is my nephew David Saila Qayaaq. Since his youth, he has been helping the youth in my community. I'm sure you have seen him on television when he was dancing. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Arreak. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Madam Aariak.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to acknowledge these people in the Gallery today: Rhoda Cunningham, Kakki Peter, Christina Stoney, and Malachi Arreak. They work on our *Hansard* at the Innirvik office. Some of them are interpreter/translators. They all live in my constituency, so I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge them. Also from my constituency is Chris Cousins. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, Madam Aariak. I would also like to welcome them to the Gallery. Just so that everyone knows, these are the individuals who give you the *Blues*.

>> *Laughter*

Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery.
Member for Pangnirtung, Mr.
Oshutapik.

Mr. Oshutapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At this time, I would like to recognize some visitors in the Gallery. First of all, although this individual is here because of work, I would like to recognize my cousin Christina Stoney. Every time my wife and I come here, she always is receptive.

As well, I have known Malachi Arreak for quite a long time. I was a negotiator with him during the IIBAs and prior to that, I used to work with him. He has never changed as a person.

I would like to welcome them to the Gallery. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Welcome to the Gallery. Thank you, Mr. Oshutapik. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's not too often that I get to rise and recognize people from my constituency in Hudson Bay. However, today I would like to recognize two individuals who have given up their jobs in our community to come to Iqaluit and start their first year NTEP courses.

>>Applause

Please welcome Caroline Meeko and Louisa Meeko. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Welcome to the Gallery. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Tununiq, Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to take this time to acknowledge a person from my community, my maternal cousin Malachi Arreak and his sister Rhoda Arreak-Cunningham. Welcome. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Enook. Welcome to the Gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Moving on in the *Orders of the Day*, Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Amittuq, Mr. Tapardjuk.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 191 – 3(3): Process for Resolving Concerns about Health Care Service Delivery

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Good afternoon, my colleagues and constituents in Igloolik and Hall Beach. Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the Minister of Health and Social Services.

We all recall during the interim period before our territory was created that we had regional health boards. Whenever residents had problems or complaints with any medically-related matter, either from nurses, doctors, or medical services, they were able to bring it to the regional health board for resolution. I know we no longer have any health boards.

I seem to recall that every community has a health committee which is a subcommittee of the hamlet council. Mr. Speaker, I have come to understand that when the council's health subcommittee holds a meeting, they can formally request medical staff to meet with them to discuss community issues. As these health centre staff are government employees, whether they are nurses or doctors, they have to be available when they are requested to attend meetings.

This is based on my understanding of the current set-up, Mr. Speaker, so my question to the minister is: is my understanding of this correct? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I believe I understood your question. First of all, as to whether your understanding is correct or not, I don't believe I can make that judgment. If you have any ideas or concerns, we welcome all comments and concerns.

Health committees are all subcommittees of the local hamlet councils. As such, hamlet councils appoint the committee members. What I can state as the Minister of Health and Social Services is that we will review the consideration to try and utilize these subcommittees. We want to work with them and this is an ongoing process in trying to increase their involvement. Social services were the focus of prior meetings. Once the mandates have been finalized, we will start working with them. I can only respond to that effect.

Nonetheless, with regard to your question as to whether your understanding is correct or not on this issue, I don't think I can make that assessment and I can't respond to it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The reason I asked that question is that the 2011-12 budget of the Department of Health and Social Services submitted to the Legislative Assembly for approval included a fund of \$250,000 specific to these subcommittees of the hamlet councils.

Let me get some clarification, Mr. Speaker. What exactly is required to create these subcommittees of the local hamlets that require this \$250,000 expenditure specific to health? What is their mandate? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you. We are aware of the committees and we provide them with support and training. Public health is responsible for the professional health nurses and they're responsible for preventative work. They provide that information, they provide support, and they are available when there are emergencies. So that funding is for that line item.

In regard to the \$200,000 that you're asking about, the numbers for communities have increased from the

previous administration of the government going back to 1999. They were provided with \$5,000 per community. Over the past two years, we have increased the figure to \$10,000 for community health committees towards their O&M costs.

As I stated earlier, we want to improve their roles and responsibilities, but we still haven't completed that section. The work is ongoing. I'm sure that they're going to have more responsibilities, as I stated earlier. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Minister. As the Minister responsible for Health and Social Services, he is always receiving questions.

Though neither of us are doctors, one of the biggest frustrations that we face as MLAs is trying to help our constituents who are not satisfied with their treatment or diagnosis. We are the first ones to hear their complaints and we try our best to provide them. Unfortunately we are in no position to determine if their illness is bona fide or not.

In southern Canada, Mr. Speaker, I can obtain a second opinion if I'm not satisfied with my diagnosis. Here in Nunavut, we don't have the same degree of service and only one hospital. With that being the case, can the minister say if there is recourse for residents who are not satisfied their physician's diagnosis or when they're told their medical condition is the result of aging? What

can they do then? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That is a very good question. We should always keep this in consideration both as members as well as the department.

Your comment about whether they would be involved in handling complaints is something we have thought about. However, we ran into something of an obstacle. If they were to operate in that manner, then some of the more private information might be disseminated to the public. That is one of our concerns. Perhaps we should consider other government staff.

When we had a meeting in Rankin Inlet in the fall last year, we were told to look for a privacy watchdog. There are confidential health matters that cannot be disseminated, which causes us a lot of difficulty. We will use local committees and we will give them a larger mandate to deal with these issues. I cannot say at this time how it will be set up.

That's all I can state and hopefully I understood the member's question correctly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There is no question that this will have to be examined very carefully. It is very important to keep the

hamlets informed so that they will know exactly what's the mandate of their health committees. We all know that when our people are ill or their loved ones are ill, they need to be fully informed as to the exact nature of the illness.

Language barriers and the need for interpreters at times pose a difficult challenge. For example, some of my constituents have to go for routine tests. It is important that health professionals take the time to clearly explain the purpose of these tests and to take the time to clearly explain the meaning of the test results in order to allay their fears. As you and I know, this is a common problem.

I want to ask the minister if he can indicate what orientation is provided to health professionals to help ensure that they can communicate with our residents in a clear and culturally respectful manner. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That is a very good question and I am very happy that the member has raised it. These are issues that we have deliberated upon. There seems to be two parts to your question.

First of all, I want to speak about an ombudsman for handling complaints. As I stated earlier, we want to try to fix that issue. I have told my staff personally, at least at the deputy minister level, that we have to try to look for a model that local communities can emulate. I was

informed that if it were located at the regional office, then it would be a lot easier. However, some of the communities would not be able to reach that particular office if they're located in the community. So we're trying to look at a more community oriented system.

With respect to the communication issue, we have deliberated and considered that option with respect to doctors' and nurses' communications with medical patients. I believe you also know that there is a lot of documentation that is involved with government. *Inuit Qaujimaqatuqangit* is one of the principles, but I believe that we have to make it more formal.

When Alex Campbell was my deputy minister, I used to tell him that whenever new staff arrived in Iqaluit and before moving on to different departments, they ought to be given an orientation tour on what the community is like. We will try to fix this up. When I have more to report, I will speak to that matter. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 192 – 3(3): Administration of the NNI Policy

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like say "good afternoon" to the residents of Taloyoak and Gjoa Haven. It's past lunch hour in our region. I would like to say "hello" to Sammurtok, my friend.

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

(interpretation ends) Section 17.6 of the NNI Policy requires that a comprehensive review of the policy take place every five years. The GN and NTI are required to jointly undertake these reviews. The first review took place in 2003. In March of this year, the minister tabled a report on the 2008 review.

Can the minister tell the House what changes to the NNI Policy have been made as a result of the most recent joint review? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. Minister responsible for Economic Development and Transportation, Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. Mr. Speaker, of course, section 14 of the NNI Policy states that monitoring and enforcement procedures will be developed and applied by the Government of Nunavut. To help achieve this, Mr. Speaker, a new position has been created within NNI and we have put in a new position for the implementation and accounting analysis. That's one of the things that we have come across to assist in enforcing the NNI Policy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) The report that the minister tabled in the Legislative Assembly earlier this year indicated that one of the issues that was raised during the review of the NNI Policy concerned so-called "shell companies." The report described these

companies as ones that are "legally registered as Nunavut-based or Inuit-owned, but the day-to-day operations or decision-making may not be with Nunavummiut or Inuit." The report indicated that concerns have been raised that these companies are "abusing" the process.

I do recognize that the responsibility for determining whether a company is Inuit owned rests with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated. Does the minister know if our partners in NTI are addressing this issue? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. Minister responsible for Economic Development and Transportation, Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that excellent question. Mr. Speaker, the NNI Secretariat that I'm responsible for under my department is more or less to enforce and maintain the NNI Registry. She's absolutely right when she states that we don't have that authority as a government for the Inuit owned companies. Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated does the registry for Inuit owned companies.

For the other issue that she raised there, the other point is that the NNI Secretariat, again I've got say, is just for enforcement and maintenance. We provide advice to the appeal board and we don't have any authority other than that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Under the NNI Policy, a contracting appeals board is required to be established. On March 22, 2010, the minister tabled the 2008-09 annual report for the board. Can he tell us today when he will be tabling the 2009-2010 and 2010-11 annual reports for the Contracting Appeals Board? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. Minister responsible for Economic Development and Transportation, Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for the question. At this time, I can't make that commitment. We do work with other stakeholders, especially Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated. Once we have a certain degree of consensus on some of these issues, I'll be sure to inform the member of that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) As the minister is aware, the Contracting Appeals Board is currently hearing an appeal on the award of the air ambulance services contract in the Kitikmeot. Will the minister commit to publicly releasing the results of the board's decision, including the reasons for its decision, as soon as he has received its report on the appeal, yes or no? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. Minister responsible for Economic Development and Transportation, Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At this time, I can't make that commitment. As the member knows, it's still under review. It's in front of the appeals board, so I can't comment further than that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Oral Questions. Member for Nanulik, Mr. Ningeongan.

Question 193 – 3(3): Preparing Grade 12 Students for Post Secondary

Mr. Ningeongan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) I would like to say "good afternoon" to the residents of Coral Harbour and Chesterfield Inlet, as well as all Nunavummiut. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Education.

Mr. Speaker, on Friday, October 21, 2011, I asked questions on the steps that are taken by the Department of Education to ensure that our grade 12 graduates have the necessary courses and qualifications that they need to pursue higher education. I was disappointed that the minister's response indicated that attendance, parents, and even the timeline for the implementation of the *Education Act* were the reasons for this situation. I do not accept these excuses.

Mr. Speaker, our education system should be equipped to prepare our students, beginning in kindergarten and all the way through to grade 12, with the skills and knowledge to enable them to begin post-secondary education upon graduation. It appears to me that our

education system does not do this for our children.

Mr. Speaker, in December of 2009, I asked a former Minister of Education what resources and services were provided to grade 12 students to prepare them for post-secondary programs. At that time, the minister stated, "We are working on upgrading the system so that Nunavut graduates can enter those post-secondary institutions..." I had hoped and anticipated that changes would be made to address this critical issue.

Can the Minister of Education confirm that steps have been taken to upgrade Nunavut's education system to ensure that grade 12 graduates have the necessary courses and qualifications to enter post-secondary programs? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleague for that question. In Nunavut, we want any graduate from any high school to be on par with other grade 12 graduates in Canada. (interpretation ends) Currently Nunavut's graduation requirements closely follow those of Alberta at this time.

Students must complete 100 credits of secondary course work. Courses can be three, four, or five credits, depending on the total courses' hours. Each credit is equivalent to at least 25 hours of instruction. As students enter high school, it is very important that they look at the course choices and consider what

they want to do later on in school as a career. That's a critical point, really, so that the student can be assisted in the areas that he or she might need extra help.

To assist this planning, every student is required to do a career and program plan by the time they are in grade 9. This will help them to decide which course they need to take in high school. Their plan should be updated every year, with help from their family and their teachers and, if need be, extra help from the school personnel.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, it is very important to provide support to the student while he or she is completing grade 12 and to prepare them for post-secondary schools, to prepare them academically, and to prepare them to take the required courses if they should choose to go into other career fields. For example, in the fall in August and up to December, they choose which courses they would like to take when they're in the higher grades. The courses they choose determine their academic preparation and credits they would earn.

(interpretation ends) Course selection in high school will have an impact on what options are available to the students, including if they get accepted into the post-secondary studies. I would like to, at this point, illustrate those kinds of courses. To graduate, students must complete 15 credits in English in grades 10 to 12, 15 credits in *Aulajaaqtut* Wellness in grades 10 to 12 as well, three credits in physical education, three credits in fine arts, 10 credits in social studies in grades 10 and 11, 10 credits in math in grades 10 and 11, five credits in career and technology studies, 10 credits

in courses of their choice at the grade 12 level, and 19 other credits of their choice.

(interpretation) We have to make sure that they have the required credits and those have to be reviewed carefully by both the student and their parents in order to choose the post-secondary path for the student.

I'm sure the member will ask supplementary questions, so I'll leave it at that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Ningeongan (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Being expected to raise more questions is extremely gratifying.

>> *Laughter*

I thank the minister for her response. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I would like to make it clear that I do not hold the teachers or the parents or the students responsible for this situation. Teachers and students work with what is provided to them in the form of curriculum, resources, and policies for assessment and passing. I have felt that it's with the education system itself which is failing to provide what is necessary to prepare our students for their future careers.

Even though the minister has touched on the topic, I would like to know what steps the Department of Education has taken to review the curriculum, the assessment tools, and the supports provided to ensure that our grade 12

graduates are prepared to enter post-secondary programs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) We are currently reviewing our graduation requirements and recommendations for changes that will be brought forward to my consideration based on meetings with a variety of partners. (interpretation) It is currently being assessed and they will also have discussions with various educational entities. That is currently in the works. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Ningeongan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for the response. Mr. Speaker, can the minister inform this House who is ultimately responsible for delivering an education system that meets the needs of Nunavummiut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Education in general cannot be under the responsibility of one individual. The Department of Education, the teachers association, and the schools have to collaborate to make sure that learning needs are being met. For example, only one department cannot be held

responsible. It is also up to the parents to help the students attend school and help them choose their credit courses.

There are options available within the schools as well. Should the student need additional support, for example, in math, in reading, or in the sciences, the teachers and the committee are there to give the required support to the student. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Ningeongan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Departmental officials interviewed in the media have indicated that there will be an in-service for teachers on the career planning process for students and parents. Although the minister touched up on this issue, I would like to ask the minister: can the minister describe to this House what kind of career planning support is currently made available to high school students across Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In regard to career planning, it's very important that the students prepare themselves before graduating. We are trying to make career planning support available for the students. I will find out exactly how many schools have this support in place. I can't say at this point how many do have the support system, but I will let you know once I have the information.

In addition, the DEAs have been provided with information on credits that are required in the schools and they can be consulted for that data. They are also available from my office. If you need further information on the credit requirements, I can provide that information to the parents. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Madam Premier. Oral Questions. Member for Tununig, Mr. Enook.

Question 194 – 3(3): Concerns with the Administration of Justice

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon to the residents of Pond Inlet and my fellow Nunavut residents. Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Justice.

Mr. Speaker, it is my understanding that in circumstances where a resident of Nunavut is formally charged with an offence under the *Criminal Code* that takes place in a different community than where the accused lives, it is the responsibility of the accused to arrange and pay for the costs associated with travelling to any court proceedings that subsequently occur.

For example, if a resident of Cambridge Bay were to be charged with an offence as a result of an incident occurring in Pond Inlet, he or she would be responsible for paying the costs of travel to attend court proceedings that occur in Pond Inlet. Can the minister confirm if my understanding is correct? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Enook. Minister responsible for Justice, Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Enook for the question. Not being familiar with the particulars of the case he's referring to, it's very difficult for me to answer the question. However, if an individual is charged with a quite serious offence, he or she is entitled to a call through a duty counsel who can assist him and then there's legal aid in Nunavut. If the person is remanded to a facility, let's say in Yellowknife or here in the capital, certainly, wherever the trial occurs, the RCMP and the Department of Justice would cover the costs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister. I am aware of situations where residents who have been charged with offences simply do not have the money to travel to court proceedings in other communities. In these circumstances, what are their options and does Nunavut's system of legal aid provide any kind of assistance?

We know that it is sometimes impossible to raise revenue to pay for the airfare. The laws and the justice system are very rigid when they make a ruling. Once court orders are made, they have to comply with them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Enook. Minister responsible for Justice, Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Enook for the question again. With all due respect, again without specific details, every case is different. I do believe that if you are required to be in court, if there is a reason why you can't, if you have been released and you have difficulties, I'm sure that you talk to your assigned lawyer, your legal aid lawyer in most cases in Nunavut, and I'm sure they will assist the individual who has to be in court on the day that they're required to be. I'm not sure what form of assistance it would be, but they will likely talk to the Crown counsel or other court officers. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the minister is aware and as I had asked questions, we try to find ways to reduce costs. Last week, we raised questions with the health minister with respect to the high cost of health care and what they're doing to lower expenditures, such as through the use of telehealth.

Mr. Speaker, is the Department of Justice reviewing ways of using teleconferencing technology to address the challenges of running our justice system in Nunavut? I do know that there are a lot of laws and procedures we have to follow. With Nunavut being so large and communities being so distant, we are one of the biggest jurisdictions in Canada. Have you reviewed the entire system to see how you could make it work more efficiently? Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Enook. I just feel that I've got to remind all ministers

and members that preambles should be short and questions should be brief, as outlined in the Rules, and the same with the responses. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is very difficult for me to be short, as everyone knows.

I appreciate Mr. Enook's question. Yes, I have asked the department to look at ways to find savings. As an example, last year right here in Iqaluit, we set up a video so that the prisoners at the Baffin Correctional Centre didn't have to go down to the courthouse. They could appear on video and then have their hearing. Although it didn't necessarily save any money, it became more efficient and effective. You didn't have to transport people back and forth. There's a security risk and then there's the associated security searches when you go back and forth to both facilities. We're also looking at how we can use the same technology for some of our folks who are in the south. So we are looking at that.

Technology is something that I personally believe will improve in the future in Nunavut and it will probably have a lot of savings for many departments that we can use to provide better programs and services to Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister (interpretation ends) for that pointer. As the minister is aware, a long-standing concern about our justice system is the length of time before matters go to trial

and the lack of resources in our legal aid system. Can the minister indicate what success he has had in obtaining additional resources from the federal government to strengthen our legal aid system? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Enook. Minister responsible for Justice, Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Enook for that very good question. We've had very little success in dealing with the federal government in getting assistance for legal aid. We call it access to justice in Nunavut because, as you said earlier, with two million square kilometres and 25 communities, there's tremendous amount of travel and distance that have to be covered by all of our judges, our Crown counsel, and our legal aid lawyers and moving individuals around up here in court.

I was successful with the support of the Legislative Assembly last year. The Government of Nunavut was able to assist the Nunavut Legal Services Board to receive \$2.5 million base funding annually to their budget, which is going a long way towards helping them provide more timely service to the people who come to them for help, not just for criminal law legal aid but also for family and civil. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Peterson. Oral Questions. Member for Pangnirtung, Mr. Oshutapik.

Question 195 – 3(3): Update on School Closure at Pangnirtung

Mr. Oshutapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to ask a question to the Minister of Community and Government Services.

Up to today, the other school in our community for our elementary students, I believe, has now been closed for about two weeks. The work being undertaken to date is something that residents want to find out about. What is his staff trying to fix? That is my question because parents notice when our students are missing schoolwork, it leads to a delay in school year curriculum completion as this has now gone on for a couple of weeks. Can the minister provide an update on what has transpired to date so that the residents of my home community will know what is going on? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. What I can tell you about the closure of the school is that it was due to the decision of the school staff and local health officials, which included my departmental officials who also worked in collaboration with the hamlet. We are trying to resolve the issue relating to the odour in the building at this time. To date, I cannot exactly tell you what stage it's at, but I can try to find out as it is being worked on daily and also for the entire day today.

We are concerned about the closure of the school. What I can state is that once the odour dissipates, we would allow the students to come in as we want all Nunavut students to attend school. However, what I can say now is that this work is still underway and we are working in cooperation with different departments to try to resolve this issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Oshutapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is very difficult to forecast future events, but with respect to the event that occurred or if we experience a similar or even worse case at the school, or even at an office, does the department have contingency plans? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the member for raising that question. Different communities have different agreements, some directly with the government while others have agreements that are administered by the hamlet or a different body that are tasked through contract. That is how things are done, through different agreements.

When we are undertaking that, we try to ensure we have plans both with CGS and the body responsible for that particular matter, whether it is the school, the hamlet office, or the health centre. We try to have a common plan that deals

with these challenges to ensure that we have the best practice for such things as fuel spills. We do have contingency plans, but we continue to try to update them because we know something unexpected usually comes up.

This is the current situation we find ourselves in, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

**Question 196 – 3(3): Hunters’
Inability to Sell Narwhal Tusks**

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Environment and are based around narwhals and narwhal populations.

A number of our hunters were hit hard this summer with the inability to sell their narwhal tusks. Mr. Speaker, I’m sure some people in the south see the sale of the narwhal tusk as a luxury. For the individual purchasing the tusk, yes, it is a luxury, but for our hunters in the communities, it is a part of their livelihood. It is also a part of food security.

With the federal government’s ban on the sale of narwhal tusk outside of Canada, a number of our hunters have lost part of their annual income. I’m sure the minister is as frustrated as I when it comes to the fact that we are not able to change federal policies. Could the minister give the House and the listening public an update as to what his department is doing to influence the federal government to lift this ban? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the member for that question. Of course, we all know about the issues with narwhal in Nunavut and the proposed ban that DFO had put on the narwhal stocks.

I would like to clarify, though, to the member first of all that jurisdiction of narwhals is totally that of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans. However, as the Department of Environment, we do support very much the communities in this case and we support NTI’s and NWMB’s concerns that were voiced to DFO in regard to assessing these stocks without proper consultation taking place. It is very important to us. I have written to the Minister of DFO as the Government of Nunavut supporting these organizations and voicing our concerns to that regard. So it’s very important to us.

However, the status of this, I do know a little bit, as I met with NTI recently. There is ongoing consultation with all communities involved. There has been no suspension or reduction of allowable harvest levels and there is ongoing communication and consultation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Over the summer, I had heard that there were meetings with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans and other organizations regarding the development

of a management plan. You had talked about different partners and organizations involved. I was wondering if you could explain which departments or agencies are involved and whether the Government of Nunavut is involved in the development of this plan. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister responsible for Environment, Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again I thank the member for that question. Yes, there is ongoing consultation and communication mostly through affected communities, HTOs, NTI, and NWMB. We, as the Government of Nunavut, are not participating fully, but we are there as support and as observers to the process. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, as the minister explained, the GN does not actually play a role in terms of the development of the plan. I'm wondering: has the GN made its views clear on this matter? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister responsible for Environment, Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe the GN has made their view very clear on this matter and that is that we respect and need to ensure that the Nunavut land claims process is followed in wildlife management,

including narwhal. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I didn't have another question for that in terms of my question was going to be if he could make GN's views known and he has answered that. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit West, Ms. Ell.

Question 197 – 3(3): Casual Employment in the Government of Nunavut

Ms. Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the minister who seems to not be asked very many questions and that is the Minister of Human Resources. The amount of material I have to read has been quite thick from the time I was elected to this House and being new on many issues.

(interpretation ends) According to the public service annual reports and Inuit employment statistics produced by the minister's department, there were a total of 512 casual employees in the GN as of March 31, 2009. As of March 31, 2011, that number had increased to 757 employees. Most of this increase is due to the Department of Health and Social Services, where the number of casual employees has gone up from 144 to 355.

Can the minister indicate if his department is concerned about the increase in the number of casual

employees in the government?
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Ms. Ell. Minister responsible for Human Resources, Minister Schell.

Hon. Fred Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thanks for the question there. Yes, there has been a great increase in the casual positions in GN and the majority of them have been in social services. The reason for that is it's hard to get qualified employees screened into those positions and that's why casuals have been put in that position. Thank you.

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

Ms. Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The government's collective agreement with the Nunavut Employees Union provides that "The employer may hire casual employees for a period not to exceed 4 months of continuous employment in any particular division or department. Where the employer anticipates the period of temporary employment to be in excess of 4 months, the employee shall be appointed on a term basis and shall be entitled to all provisions of the collective agreement from the first day of his or her employment."

I have heard concerns from constituents that there are casual employees who have been working for much longer periods of time and who have not been receiving the benefits to which they are entitled. Can the minister indicate how his department ensures that the provisions of the collective agreement

are respected across the government?
Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Ms. Ell. Minister responsible for Human Resources, Minister Schell.

Hon. Fred Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thanks for that question. We try to get people into permanent positions and usually we try to keep it under the year, but there are exceptions to it. Like I say, if it's over a year, the DM for the department makes that decision. If the extensions are for more than a year, then it has to be negotiated with the DM for the HR with written endorsements from the union. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I have also heard concerns that when some departments hire casual employees, they keep them on for just under four months, at which point they make changes to the job descriptions of the employees while keeping the same people doing essentially the same work. To me, it sounds like the departments are trying to avoid the costs associated with converting their employment status. Can the minister indicate if his department has received concerns from the union about this issue and, if it has, can he indicate what his department is doing to address the concerns? Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Ms. Ell. Minister responsible for Human Resources, Minister Schell.

Hon. Fred Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Not that I'm aware of, but if there has been any complaints, I'll make sure I forward it to the member. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Schell. Members will note that the time allotted for question period has expired. We will move on in the *Orders of the Day*, Item 7. Written Questions. Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Item 10. Petitions. Item 11. Responses to Petitions. Item 12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Minister responsible for Culture, Language, Elders and Youth, Minister Arreak.

Item 13: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 106 – 3(3): 2010-2011 Culture, Language, Elders and Youth Grants and Contributions Annual Report

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am very pleased to table the 2010-2011 Culture, Language, Elders and Youth Grants and Contributions Annual Report. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Arreak. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Minister responsible for Community and Government Services, Minister Kusugak.

Tabled Document 107 – 3(3): Report on Current State of Solid Waste Management and Facilities in Nunavut and Cost-Benefit Analysis of Selected Solid Waste Management Approaches

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table the Report on the Current State of Solid Waste Management and Facilities in Nunavut and Cost-Benefit Analysis of Selected Solid Waste Management Approaches. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Tabling of Documents. Minister responsible for Health and Social Services, Minister Curley.

Tabled Document 108 – 3(3): 2009-2010 Annual Report on the Operation of the Medical Care Plan

Tabled Document 109 – 3(3): Nunavut Report on Comparable Health Indicators 2011

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I have two documents to table.

The first is, Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to table the 2009-2010 Annual Report on the Operation of the Medical Care Plan.

The second document, Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to table the Nunavut Report on Comparable Health Indicators 2011. (interpretation) Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Curley. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Minister responsible for Executive and

Intergovernmental Affairs, Madam Premier.

Tabled Document 110 – 3(3): Report Respecting Benefits Paid to Ministers under the Ministerial Benefits Policies for the Fiscal Year Ending March 31, 2011

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am very pleased to table the Report Respecting Benefits Paid to Ministers under the Ministerial Benefits Policies for the Fiscal Year Ending March 31, 2011. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Madam Premier. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. Elliott.

Tabled Document 111 – 3(3): Article: Impact of the International Arctic SAR Agreement

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table an article from the *FrontLine Defence* magazine. The article is titled “Adding an ‘I’ to Arctic SAR.” The article is quite interesting and I just wanted to quote. It says, “If Canada is to become an Arctic superpower, as former Foreign Minister Lawrence Cannon suggested on 1 July 2009, we need to bring all the parties together including the First Canadians – the Inuit.” Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Tabled Document 112 – 3(3): Report on the Indemnities, Allowances, Expenses and Absences to the Members of the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut for the Fiscal Year Ended March 31, 2011

Tabled Document 113 – 3(3): Report of Members’ Absences from Sittings of the House and from Meetings of Committees and Caucuses to the Members of the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut for the Period Ended June 30, 2011

Tabled Document 114 – 3(3): Report of Members’ Absences from Sittings of the House and from Meetings of Committees and Caucuses to the Members of the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut for the Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2011

Tabled Document 115 – 3(3): Supplementary Retiring Allowances Act

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

Members, I have a number of items to table today.

The first item is the 2010-11 annual report of members’ indemnities, allowances, expenses and absences to March 31, 2011.

The second item is the interim report of members’ absences from sittings of the House and meetings of committees and caucuses for the period April to June 2011.

The third item that I would like to table is the interim report of members’ absences from sittings of the House and meetings of committees and caucuses for the period July to September 2011.

And the fourth item is the report of members who have made an election pursuant to section 7(a) of the *Supplementary Retirement Allowances Act* to participate in the supplementary plan. Thank you.

Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Item 14. Notices of Motions. Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 16. Motions. Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Mr. Rumbolt.

Item 17: First Reading of Bills

Bill 22 – An Act Respecting the Constituencies of Nunavut – First Reading

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member of Rankin Inlet South and Whale Cove, that Bill 22, *An Act Respecting the Constituencies of Nunavut*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. The motion is in order. Question has been called. All those in favour. Any opposed? None. The motion is carried and Bill 22 has been read for the first time.

Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Item 19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bills 13, 14 and 15. In accordance with the authority provided to me by Motion 15 – 3(3), the Committee of the Whole will stay in session until it reports itself out with Mr. Enook in the Chair.

Before we proceed, we will take a 20-minute break.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House recessed at 15:18 and Committee resumed at 15:44*

Item 19: Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters

Chairman (Mr. Enook)(interpretation): I would like to call the committee meeting to order. In Committee of the Whole, we have the following items to deal with: Bills 13, 14, and 15. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We would like to complete the review of the capital estimates for the Department of Economic Development and Transportation, the Department of Health and Social Services, Environment, Justice, and Nunavut Arctic College. Mr. Chairman, if time permits, we will proceed with CLEY and the Legislative Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. Are we in agreement that we first deal with the capital estimates for ED&T?

Some Members: Agreed.

Bill 15 – Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2012-2013 – Economic Development and Transportation – Consideration in Committee

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. On Monday, we were reviewing the Department of Economic Development and Transportation's capital estimates. We were almost complete with the

review and there were no more names on my list for questions or general comments. For that reason, if we can go to the capital estimates on page I-2. Department Summary. Detail of Expenditures. Economic Development and Transportation. Total Capital Expenditures. \$14,400,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Are we in agreement that we have concluded the review of the Department of Economic Development and Transportation?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): We will move on to the review of the Department of Health and Social Services. (interpretation ends) Mr. Curley, your opening remarks.

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you. (interpretation) Mr. Chairman, before I start my opening comments, I just want to ask you, since ministers usually give closing remarks, if that will continue because the minister's work is very important to Nunavutmiut. Perhaps you would like to ask the minister if he has closing remarks before I start. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Curley. I apologize and please forgive me because I overlooked that. I'm the Chairman for the first time in Committee of the Whole. Thank you for reminding me. Mr. Taptuna, if you have any closing remarks.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll keep my remarks very

short. I want to thank the committee for their scrutiny and patience in looking at the capital budget for Economic Development and Transportation. I also want to thank my staff and my officials for preparing all the material and assisting us with that.

Mr. Chairman, with that, I want to again thank the committee members for their assistance. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Taptuna. We will move on with the review of the Department of Health and Social Services. Mr. Curley.

Bill 15 – Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2012-2013 – Health and Social Services – Consideration in Committee

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Members. Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to take this opportunity today to present the 2012-13 Capital Estimates for the Department of Health and Social Services.

The Department of Health and Social Services is requesting a capital budget for 2012-13 of \$10.5 million. The majority of the required budget is for the second year construction costs of \$9.0 million for the replacement of the Repulse Bay Health Centre. The foundation piles are currently in place and structural steel installation has commenced. The work progresses with the goal to have a portion of the building closed in by the onset of winter to allow for work to continue throughout the winter. The expected completion date for construction is March 31, 2013.

As a department, we ensure that medical equipment, mobile equipment and furniture meet minimal standards, reducing the risk to patients and staff and keeping up with changes in program delivery and increases in demand for services. In order to meet these standards, we are requesting \$700,000 for minor projects to be used to replace failing or out-of-date medical equipment and vehicles with a history of frequent and high repair costs.

Our health infrastructure is aging, let us all be aware. In fact, 67 percent of our health centres are 20 years old or older. Until we are in a fiscal situation that enables us to move forward with replacing some of this infrastructure, we must ensure that the funds are allocated for upkeep, repairs, and renovations to keep our buildings in good condition. In order to properly maintain and provide major repairs to our current facilities, we are requesting \$700,000, as I stated earlier, for small capital. These funds would be used for repairs, such as boiler replacement, garage door replacement, and security system installations or upgrades.

The department remains committed, as we're all aware, to improving mental health services in Nunavut. Included as part of our 2012-13 capital request is \$100,000 to begin the functional program planning phase of a new territorial mental health facility.

I look forward to your support and I welcome questions from members. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to do my opening comments. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Do you have witnesses that you would like to bring to the table? Does the committee agree to bring in the witnesses?

Some Members: Agreed.

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

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

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

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Does the chair of the standing committee have any opening comments? Ms. Ugyuk.

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to provide opening comments on behalf of the Standing Committee on Social Wellness as the Committee of the Whole begins its consideration of the proposed 2012-13 Capital Estimates of the Department of Health and Social Services.

Members note that the department's proposed capital budget for 2012-13 is just over \$10.5 million. Members have noted, however, that the department's actual expenditures for past fiscal years have often differed considerably from the approved budgets for those years as a result of carryovers, budget transfers, and emergency expenditures.

(interpretation ends) Members recognize that the Government of Nunavut has made considerable investments in major infrastructure projects across the territory over the past decade. There is an ongoing concern that staffing and training issues often result in facilities not being used to their full capacity. The standing committee supports the minister in his efforts to recruit and train personnel, especially Nunavummiut, in the necessary health service positions.

The department's proposed capital budget for 2012-13 includes funding for two infrastructure projects and two blocks of funding for minor and small capital projects.

The health centre replacement project for Repulse Bay is ongoing from previous years. Four other health centre replacement projects have been identified for future years funding. The standing committee has noted in the past that the department's criteria for prioritizing certain projects over others are not often clear.

Mr. Chairman, mental health is probably one of the most critical health and social issues in Nunavut at this time. The Nunavut Suicide Prevention Strategy Action Plan was released on September 12, 2011 and one of the objectives stated in the plan is to "Improve capital infrastructure to provide mental health services in Nunavut." The standing committee was pleased to note that the department's project to replace the Akausisarvik mental health facility in Iqaluit will begin in 2012-13. Committee members encourage the minister and his officials to work with his colleagues and the departments of Education and Justice to ensure that the facility is designed in

order to meet identified needs. Members look forward to regular updates on plans for the facility, including whether or not it will be a new construction or the renovation of an existing one.

The standing committee would further appreciate an update on the government's plans to open a Nunavut-based addictions treatment facility. The government's *Tamapta* Action Plan committed to the opening of a "culturally-relevant substance-abuse treatment facility." However, it does not appear on the 2013-2017 Five-Year Capital Plan.

Mr. Chairman, the Department of Health and Social Services includes two blocks of non-specific funding in its 2012-13 capital estimates. One of these blocks of funding is for small capital projects, such as repairs to buildings and emergency situations. The other is for minor projects, including the purchase of new equipment and vehicles.

With respect to small capital projects, standing committee members recognize that a number of community health centres have serious and outstanding repair needs which occasionally interrupt the delivery of service. The committee encourages the government to continue addressing these issues in a timely manner.

With respect to minor capital projects, the standing committee continues to look forward to updates regarding new medical equipment purchases, such as dialysis machines, MRI units, and cancer treatment equipment. Members have noted the government's commitment to purchase a new CT scanner following the recommendation of a coroner's

inquest in the spring of 2011. The committee recognizes that trained staff are needed in order to offer services in these areas and encourages the minister to continue working with his cabinet colleagues to promote and support the education and training of Nunavummiut in the related health professions.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening comments on the proposed 2012-13 Capital Estimates of the Department of Health and Social Services. I am confident that individual members will also have questions and comments as we proceed. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. Before we proceed, I would like to remind the members of the following: according to Rule 77(1), you have 10 minutes to speak, and according to Rule 77(2), subject to the discretion of the Chair, a member may speak more than once to a matter under discussion but not until every member wishing to speak has spoken.

I suggest to members that wherever possible you ask your detailed questions during the page-by-page review of departmental estimates. At this time, are there any general comments? Mr. Tapardjuk.

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to welcome the minister and his officials. I am very pleased you at the witness table. I just want to make some comments and ask questions when the time comes.

I would like to repeat my support to this department because health issues are very expensive and people have to be sent out for treatment. This is why

preventive medicine is so important and there often are illnesses that are preventable, and I truly want to support your department on this issue.

At the appropriate time, I will be asking questions in regard to one of my constituents who lives in a smaller community. The community of Hall Beach has been requesting for a morgue for deceased people. They make repeated requests that continue to go unanswered. What is the status on that? Who is responsible for that? Is it CGS or HSS? I haven't heard any response to date and I wonder if that could be included as a small capital item. I'll be asking questions on that at the appropriate time, Mr. Chairman. I'll leave it at that for now.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tapardjuk. I believe that was just a comment. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My comments are based around the minister's opening comments on page 2, when he was talking about the aging infrastructure in our communities. Before I continue, I do want to thank the minister. He has been up to all of my communities and visited the health centres there, and I know they appreciate that, seeing the minister and being able to talk face to face with him.

As well, I know I had been speaking to the nurse in charge in the Grise Fiord Health Centre and was very happy. There was some wind damage a year or so ago that's been fixed and I was told that the building is back to 100 percent. They're very happy that that's been taken care of, so I thank the minister for taking care of that.

I was hoping to maybe get an update with the Arctic Bay replacement health centre. In 2008, we were under the impression in Arctic Bay that the new health centre was going to move ahead and I have asked questions previously in the House. There's no capital line item for it and I know the project is still underway and still one of the priorities, I think one of the three.

This summer, I had the privilege of going with Tommy Kilabuk, before he passed away this summer, to take a tour of the health centre and crawl underneath the building and see how hard it is to actually access the sewage tanks and the water tanks. When I went for my annual checkup in July, unfortunately it was... .

I wonder sometimes how the health staff actually work in the building. It is a nice facility, but it's definitely overcrowded. There's no space for storing. They have very little room to put any staff members in terms of privacy for discussing confidential matters and dental work when the dentist comes in. It's hard accommodating him sometimes. It's just an issue that the minister has brought up and it's an ongoing issue across the territory.

I was hoping if the minister could maybe give me a bit of an update of what's happening with the facility. In other capital budgets, we have approved, I think, close to \$1.2 million on the initiation, planning, and design of it. With that, if the minister could provide me with an update. Thank you.

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

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you. I believe I can make a response at this time, but are we on opening comments? I'm leaving that to you. I assumed you wanted to go into questions at the same time.

Chairman (interpretation): At this time, we are in general comments, Mr. Curley. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I was making some general comments as to what Mr. Curley had said in his opening comments on page 2 in paragraph 3, where he's talking about aging infrastructure. I was reflecting on the history in the past, what's gone on with the health centre in Arctic Bay, and the state of it.

As I mentioned, when I went this summer in July for my annual checkup, I was kind of gagging at the smell of sewage that was in there and wondered how our staff actually work with those kinds of conditions. I sort of also said that since it's not an actual line item, it's not a line item in the capital budget, I won't be able to ask during the line by line, so I was hoping to get an update since he brought it up in his opening comments here on page 2 about our aging infrastructure. I wanted some clarification around the health centre in Arctic Bay and when the good people of Arctic Bay could expect to see.

I know that even the hamlet, when I go to the hamlet council meetings and I'm talking to the mayor and hamlet councillors, in their list of priorities for the community itself, the number one priority is the replacement health centre and the second priority is the new high school. They want to know what the

progress is and I want to be able to report back.

One of the suggestions I gave to the hamlet was to continue moving forward as if the health centre is coming - they have built an access road there and there are power poles there now where the site will be - to just sort of show the Department of Health and Social Services that the community is serious about this health centre and wanting to have that facility and keep moving forward on it.

As well, I know myself and as the minister is well aware, when I send emails to our MP, Leona Aglukkaq, as the health minister, asking for increased funding through the territorial funding formulas that we have and whatnot, if she could provide funding to health centres across the territory in terms of putting that forward. If the minister could give me an update that I could pass on to my constituents, that would be great. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) I appreciate the reminder of the exercise. I also want to thank the member for keeping us informed with respect to Grise Fiord. I know that the photos that you took were very greatly helpful to the department and to my colleagues at CGS. I am grateful that the facility is back on track now.

With respect to the aging infrastructure, I think I previously have stated in the House that we are challenged with replacement issues of facilities. I think

the former deputy minister indicated in the Committee of the Whole one time that if we would try to replace them in the next 14 years, it would amount to over \$400 million, with the kind of costs that are staggering and everything else.

One good thing about the constituency of the member is that Arctic Bay is slated for the next project after Repulse Bay. Because of the limited amount of capital funds we have in the government as a whole, we are staggering all the priority lists that we have for projects that are in the plan. So Arctic Bay being one, the architectural design contracts have been awarded to a local firm. I think they are pretty similar in nature. The consultations continue to take place, whether or not the functional program aspects of those facilities have all been completed to date.

Therefore, if our plan goes as planned and Repulse Bay is completed by March of next year, if all goes according to the plan, then the following fiscal year, 2014-15, Arctic Bay would then begin the construction phase of the first stage of the project. So hopefully, if nothing of an emergency nature occurs, Arctic Bay would eventually begin to see the light at the end of the tunnel, in my view. I'll conclude it at that. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Curley. (interpretation ends) Mr. Elliott, you're done? Thank you. Mr. Oshutapik, general comments?

Mr. Oshutapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister and his officials. I also wanted to welcome you. In your opening comments, I believe you had reminded

us that you will answer our questions. At this time, I do have some comments.

It's true that a lot of our health centres are becoming old and dilapidated. Generally, when a house becomes older, it usually costs a lot more to maintain it. So I agree with the statement made by the officials and the need to have initial funds for making repairs on buildings that are becoming too old. I'm glad that you have set aside funding for those specific repairs. From the time when we can assess a building, I believe a lot of us are more comfortable when that is done during hours that are more suitable to us as well as for the workers. I just wanted to agree with your statement.

I'm very happy that you have requested this allocation. It's also obvious that these funds will not be enough to cover the entire fiscal year. Be that as it may, I imagine that your budget will be fairly close to the actual expenditures based on your operating history. I know that sometimes you try to ensure the budget is larger because we don't always know what is going to happen, especially as regular folks. We don't know when we will get sick and how sickness will surface.

At the appropriate time, I will have specific questions. I will stop there for now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Oshutapik. Ms. Ugyuk.

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just recently, when the minister responded to Mr. Elliott, in looking at the plans, Taloyoak will be next after Repulse Bay. If I understood this correctly, the health centre in

Taloyoak will be next after the construction of the Repulse Bay Health Centre, but he stated that Arctic Bay would be next.

Chairman: Ms. Ugyuk, are you done? Minister Curley, clarification, please.

Hon. Tagak Curley: I'll have my deputy go through these. I think Arctic Bay will still proceed prior and then the following year, it will be Taloyoak, as I understand it. The deputy will correct me if I made any discrepancies in that. I'll let him speak to the details.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Curley. Mr. Ma.

Mr. Ma: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So to go through the order of the health centres, they're both on the books right now, of course, subject to approval of those capital plans in the appropriate years. Taloyoak is actually slated right now for 2013-14 and Arctic Bay is slated for 2014-15. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you for that clarification, Mr. Ma. Ms. Ugyuk.

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you. In the minister's opening comments, he stated that "The department remains committed to improving mental health services in Nunavut." In their capital plans for 2012-13, they have requested \$100,000 towards planning for a mental health facility. It states that this facility will serve all of Nunavut. If this facility is ever constructed, will all Nunavummiut suffering from mental illness go to that facility? That's what I want clarified. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. Can I suggest that you ask the same question when we get into the details? We are trying to stick to general comments. I am suggesting that you will have an opportunity to ask that question later. (interpretation) Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk.

I no longer have any names on my list for general comments. We will now proceed to the page-by-page review of the departmental estimates. We shall start with page F-3. Are there any questions on page F-3? Mr. Ningeongan.

Mr. Ningeongan (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to get this clarified. Is F-4 part of this page?

Chairman (interpretation): Yes. Do you wish to continue? Mr. Ningeongan.

Mr. Ningeongan (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm not sure if it's part of the minor projects or if it's part of the small capital, so I would like to raise this question. I apologize. First of all, I would like to welcome Minister Curley and his staff.

Just as an example, the security system installation is mentioned in the opening comments. I'm wondering whether this could be included in that line item. We almost experienced an emergency in Coral Harbour. When all the nurses experienced a problem with an emergency, it became quite noticeable that when the police declared an emergency, they were short of resources.

I imagine it would be very expensive, Mr. Chairman, but I want to ask whether they have included this in their consideration. When we speak about security system installations, I wonder if

the nurses would be able to use the satellite phones at the RCMP station or even if a pager could be made available. That's my question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. Minister Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is a good question and we like that recommendation. If there's any kind of emergency, we have to be notified immediately. During that particular episode, Alex, who was my deputy minister for a number of years, used to notify me.

If we couldn't reply, we always had a secret weapon whenever we sat down together. Unfortunately Rosemary Brown left and Debora Voth has temporarily assumed her duties while we're looking for a manager for the small capital projects. That is why I would like to say that we will look into that later. Debora Voth will be writing notes and check to see whether we have the appropriate security system. If it's not acceptable, we will be assisted by Community and Government Services to determine that situation.

I'll just respond with that for now as we would need to check into this and try to understand what is lacking in an emergency. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Curley. Mr. Ningeongan.

Mr. Ningeongan (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for saying that he will look into that issue. I want the minister to note that he

ought to look at the cheapest option, for example, just a pager or something to communicate with that could be utilized during an emergency. That was just what the nurses had suggested when I consulted with them. I am grateful they will look into this situation. I'll stop there for now.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. Mr. Tapardjuk.

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I spoke about this earlier when we were dealing with minor capital. I keep raising this question from time to time and I believe I have notified you via correspondence.

My other constituency community of Hall Beach has continually requested a morgue that could be used in the summer when temperatures rise. They don't have a community morgue to house the deceased. I know that some of the health centres have morgues. I wonder who is responsible for this and this is something we want to understand. To date, we haven't been informed as to which department is responsible for this area.

I'm wondering whether such a morgue could be included in that fund. The hamlet, over time, has continually requested a community morgue, but nothing is occurring. Therefore, my question is whether morgues could be included in this particular minor capital budget. The situation worsens in the summer, although it's not really a problem in the winter. I would like to get that clarified, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tapardjuk. Minister Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. While we were touring Hall Beach, I was there along with my colleague and the local council brought it up. Yes, as a government, we have to get our act together and decide which department is responsible. My deputy minister and I were in Hall Beach at that time. Perhaps he can elaborate further as to where the process is. I'll leave it up to you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Curley. Mr. Ma.

Mr. Ma: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So I'll just expand upon the minister's comments. Yes, we are incorporating morgues in the new designs. Obviously that doesn't help right now in Hall Beach. I was with the minister in our Hall Beach meeting, so I will follow up with the community.

Just to add to that, in the minister's response to the Nunavut Association of Municipalities' annual general meeting resolutions, he indicated that our department would work with other departments. We have agreed, as officials, that the Department of Community and Government Services would lead this through their, I believe what are called, integrated community sustainability plans. We can certainly have some discussions around that. I have not had the opportunity to engage in discussions with my counterpart at CGS at this point in time.

The other commitment that was made by myself or through the minister, I guess, when we were in Hall Beach is I would contact the mayor. I must apologize. I have not had the opportunity to do that,

so I will follow up on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ma. Mr. Tapardjuk.

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): That is something that the community is looking forward to, so it would be very good to get a response as early as possible. I doubt it costs millions and millions of dollars for a morgue. Basically, when deceased people are housed in the community freezer, it's not very scenic to see a deceased person surrounded by food. They need a morgue of their own.

I will continue to push for this capital project, although it probably won't be included in this project. I'm expectant that during this winter session, they will be asking for a supplementary allocation for that community morgue in Hall Beach. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tapardjuk. Mr. Ma.

Mr. Ma: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will have the conversation with the community. At this point, unless we know the particulars of what the community would like for a morgue, I guess it's difficult to say whether or not it would be a small or minor capital. What I will say about that is that we, as a management team through Ms. Voth, sit down and discuss the various projects and we prioritize them based upon overall considerations. You're right that this has been a concern that I remember even before I was in government and I will definitely follow up on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you. This was a question that I brought up earlier. (interpretation ends) In your opening comments, minister, "The department remains committed to improving mental health services in Nunavut. Included as part of our 2012-13 capital request is \$100,000 to begin the functional program planning phase of a new territorial mental health facility." My question is: if this facility opens, and I know you guys are just asking for the planning phase, will the people of Nunavut be sent to Iqaluit? Thank you.

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

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Maybe what is written wasn't clear enough. There are two items here. From my opening comments, we have Akausisarvik here in Iqaluit, which is currently being utilized by mental patients who come from other communities. Akausisarvik is sort of a small building and it's located behind the hospital. It's a mental health facility for clients who are usually not hospitalized. They don't stay here on a year-round basis; some of them are there for several months.

This program will keep going, but we're currently looking at moving Akausisarvik to the former Tammaativvik facility beside the high school. That is what this item is for and it is not an addictions program. When we're dealing with the operations and maintenance this winter, we will bring it up again. At this time, we're working on

the whole program design. The business case was concluded last year and we tried to include it in the budget cycle, but it didn't go through. Currently, we have revamped the program planning phase, including the business case.

You also had a question about whether we could have a mobile program. This has been considered by our department. Subject to the approval of my cabinet colleagues, we're looking at the operation and maintenance dollars and we're looking forward to getting that up and about. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you. I didn't fully grasp that, so if you could help me understand what you referred to in your opening comments on a new territorial mental health facility. I believe you identified \$100,000 for this facility. My question is: will all Nunavummiut who are suffering from mental illness be going to this facility? That's my question. Thank you.

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

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The facility would be open to anybody. I think what we're talking about is a facility that is for people with mild mental disabilities and so on. It's not a permanent care facility; it's sort of a temporary facility that individuals can receive some help and that will certainly be part of the Nunavut-wide service, but the majority of the current facilities that are in there for Akausisarvik are from the Baffin region.

So, yes, for the more serious ones, we will continue to probably rely on out-of-territory care and treatment for people with more severe illnesses.

(interpretation) I hope that clarifies it. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Curley. Mr. Oshutapik.

Mr. Oshutapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister and his officials for appearing before us. In your opening comments written in English, (interpretation ends) "In order to meet these standards, we are requesting \$700,000 for minor projects to be used to replace failing or out-of-date medical equipment."

(interpretation) Equipment for medical testing are increasingly computerized. Would this fund be for more than one community? We all know that technological equipment is quite expensive. If a lot of communities requested this equipment, wouldn't this fund be too small? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Oshutapik. Minister Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you. I will have our Chief Financial Officer, Madam Voth, provide a detailed response. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

Chairman: Ms. Voth.

Ms. Voth: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can give the member a sample of the type of equipment that we are purchasing this year out of the fund that we have access to this year. This year,

we're purchasing a haematology analyzer and centrifuge for the Kivalliq Health Centre, a procedural stretcher for the Kitikmeot, a portable bladder scanner for the Baffin region, Holter monitors in all of the communities, and a Lifepak defibrillator for Iqaluit. For the Qikiqtani General Hospital, we're ordering a gastroscope, a colonoscope, and infusion pumps. These are the types of medical equipment that we have to replace periodically. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Voth. Mr. Oshutapik.

Mr. Oshutapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My colleague who mentioned that he was not a doctor is unfortunately not here.

With respect to some of these items, we don't even have an idea of what they are and have absolutely no idea of how much they cost, so I am very glad that you responded to my question. When you look at the items that are used in the centres, my perception is that this fund would be too small if you added a lot of these expensive diagnostic tools and if we were to provide them to more communities.

As well on this other matter, I believe in the 2012-13 budget, the \$100,000 you requested for a facility that my colleague alluded to, I'm wondering if this fund means that some of those will be dealt with by community, but due to the lack of a facility, I would like to know if that's included in this. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Oshutapik. Minister Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The \$100,000 budget, which we have allocated for the next fiscal year, will be solely for Iqaluit. However, in my response, I also responded to our Kitikmeot colleague that this facility will be a treatment centre for everyone in Nunavut. Currently it's used for the Baffin region by people who come from outside Iqaluit. This particular fund is specifically for Iqaluit and that is an existing facility, so these funds would just be transferred.

They will be conducting research to determine what has to change. The funding is basically to do that research. We may require supplementary appropriation if we had to change a lot of the equipment inside the facility. So this \$100,000 is just for that initial research. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Curley. I would like to remind the members that we are doing the page-by-page review of F-3. The details are on page F-4. That's what we're looking at. Ms. Ell.

Ms. Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First of all, I have a question about minor projects on page F-4 and she explained exactly they would be.

(interpretation ends) I would like ask, if it is possible to ask, about the minor capital projects that she mentioned. It seems there is equipment that is for aging equipment only. Is any of that equipment new equipment to help in either medical facilities to do things that they were not able to do in the past for illnesses and things like that?

(interpretation) Thank you.

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

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you. In my statement, I made a note that these two minor projects are small capital as well as minor projects. There is some equipment at the nursing stations or health centres that are aging or could be aging. They could break down anytime, so we have a small allocation for that.

My colleague from Pangnirtung also raised a question of whether or not some items may cost more than that. If that were to happen, normally within the budget... We have been asked by our friends from the Department of Finance and everywhere that we must work within our budget. If we exceeded \$700,000, then we've got to pay within the department. We may have to borrow, for instance. I'm just using an example. We could probably say that if there are some extra funds from medical travel, we could probably use it for a while and balance it at the end of the year. That's the kind of thing the department has a bit of flexibility in.

This program has been ongoing and it has been very active, very busy. Our Finance Corporate Director, Debora, normally consults with all the regional directors to try and get some specific items that they may need to replace before the budget goes into the Committee of the Whole for consideration. That's the kind of thing we do and hopefully we will not exceed our budget allocation, but sometimes it does happen. Thank you.

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

Ms. Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Being new, please tell me if I make a mistake. Last spring in 2011, a decision was required when someone passed away. With regard to CT scans, what is the status of that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Ell. Mr. Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you. Mr. Chairman, we are committed to purchasing that. It was made very clear by the autopsy report and the coroner's report that the GN should consider purchasing a CT scanner, so that's in the works. The first thing we do is develop a business case and cost it out. The department provides justification for that equipment and our officials have concluded that. There is an allocation; I think the costs have been allocated. It's likely going to cost about \$1.7 million, from my recollection, to purchase it.

There's also \$400,000 to actually utilize technical aspects, specialists, to fund with it because there will be a training requirement. Before that happens, we likely have to use a radiologist from outside of the territory for a while before we eventually have an ability to have that individual funded and within the Qikiqtani General Hospital. So the plans are underway. If things worked out, we would likely have it in the early part of 2013. Thank you.

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

Ms. Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's very good news to see it go forward. I would like to mention as well that I am very happy that they're

trying to work on the facility. I forget what it's called, but I think it is Akausilirivvik, the current mental health facility here in Iqaluit. It's very small and somewhat overcrowded, I believe. I'm sure the facility that you want to move it to requires renovations. Can you give a little more detail on that? That's my question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you. The facility that I spoke about, I should have mentioned the fiscal year, which is 2012-13, starting on April 1. So when that new fiscal year commences, that's something we're looking at for the new CT scanner.

With respect to this mental health facility that currently exists, it's generally overcrowded and basically used to be a private home. Due to that fact, they tend to be overcrowded. So if they move to the old Ukivik residence, as per our plan, I believe the name will still be Akausisarvik. I would like to get Peter Ma to elaborate on the details. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Curley. Mr. Ma.

Mr. Ma: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As the minister was saying and I think the member has indicated, the old Akausisarvik is not a suitable location anymore to have our mental health patients. So we have examined the possibility of using the old boarding home, Tammaativvik, and I think that is exactly where we're headed. There will definitely be some renovations. In fact, if

I recall correctly, we have started that work with CGS over the summer.

The next stage, of course, is to finish, as the minister has indicated, the functional program. Once we have that, we can determine exactly how to configure the old Tammaativvik. That would then drive the costs and we will likely have to come back into the House for approval, depending on what we need for costs. That work is, I think, proceeding well. I would suspect that we will be able to report further at the appropriate time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ma. Ms. Ell.

Ms. Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe it's listed in this page. How many spaces exist in the current facility? If they do move to this other building, how many spaces would there be? Thank you.

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

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you. My deputy minister will respond to that, but let us understand, as we said earlier, I don't think that a patient has ever stayed a whole winter. Sometimes it's overcrowded and sometimes there are less people. I would like to get Peter Ma to elaborate further. Thank you.

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

Mr. Ma: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The capacity for Akausisarvik is 13. With respect to Member Ell's question about Tammaativvik and what we can house

once that renovation is completed, it would depend upon the program review that we do and the functional program that we develop. That would then tell us the size of things that we need to have, common areas, and things like that.

At this point, I can't give you an answer. It's not because I don't want to, it's just that I can't until we finish the functional review. Like I said earlier in my response, at the appropriate time, we will be able to provide additional information to members. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ma. Ms. Ugyuk.

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) According to your department's documentation, a common design is being used for the replacement of all three health centres in Repulse Bay, Arctic Bay, and Taloyoak. What final cost savings are anticipated to result from using the same design for all three health centres? Thank you.

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

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you. Debora Voth will respond to that question, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Voth.

Ms. Voth: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wish I had the number in front of me to quote it, but it's in the order of about \$1 million that we returned to the Department of Finance this fiscal year in our capital plans. That had to do with the savings from the design because we're using it in all three.

We are carrying forward \$100,000 for Taloyoak and for Arctic Bay in case we have to do some site adjustments and in case we have to do some adjustments according to new building standards and building codes. However, we did return the order of about \$1 million back into the overall government capital plan due to having the design for multiple sites. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Voth. Ms. Ugyuk.

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) How many changes will be required to the original design for each of the three health centres being built under the common design, and what will those additional changes costs? Thank you.

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

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you. (interpretation) Debora Voth will also respond to the question.

Chairman: Ms. Voth.

Ms. Voth: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That would be determined at the time that we're going out for request for proposals. We would bring back the original designer for the three sites. I would anticipate that there would be just some design changes as to whatever site that they're going to be located because it's a different site configuration for each community. That would be the difference.

So we wouldn't know the exact dollar amount for the changes, but we are carrying \$100,000 in each project in

order to accommodate those changes. I don't anticipate any changes in the functional program of each of the communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Voth. Ms. Ugyuk

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We know as a government that we often wait for many years for the construction of units. Those units are often planned way ahead of time and by the time they're completed, they're already too small. I wonder if that has been addressed with the plans for the Taloyoak Health Centre. Thank you.

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

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you. I don't think we want to indicate right now the planning stages that are being considered for the three facilities. I think the important benefit that we have is that these three communities are probably pretty much similar in population. Repulse Bay is slightly larger.

Normally, the government has a general rule. It's not a hard and fast rule that facilities should be good for at least 30 years. That is normally the standard established. So we're not immediately building for 800,000 people only. The government takes into account that communities will continue to grow for the next 30 years.

So for that reason and not only that, the government takes into consideration with our colleagues, all of us, is it affordable in today's budget that we're limited to. We only have about \$90

million maximum each year for the last few years anyways. So I think the projections the government uses are pretty fair and we want to indicate that the best we can do is to at least develop a case for a 30-year functional facility. That I will say.

I know, with using a common design, we are saving money. I can tell you that much. When we go for a new architectural design and issue a competition for a new design phase, their template, their system, and their fees are normally quite high. So I think using a similar design for future aspects is really a benefit to this government.

In terms of the detailed costing, if they ran out of anything to do, eventually someone should do a study on that. I don't think we're the department that could that. Thank you.

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

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for his response. I have a question with respect to Akausisarvik. (interpretation ends) What consideration has the department given to planning for other mental health facilities, such as an addition treatment centre or facility to support children with mental health or behavioural difficulties? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I alluded to them about a moment or two ago when I referred to the other program, the addiction

facilities. I indicated that we had developed a business case last year during the budget process about this time of the year, but my department officials did not go beyond the planning phase.

The proposals were not accepted for funding, so we had almost a whole year to continue to design the program. They are pretty well ready for submission again to the whole FMB process, which I will be leading through for the next two or three months. Hopefully, by the time we return in February, the announcements for these programs which you alluded to will become, which would cover the whole Nunavut territory.

Whether or not we would have two, I cannot say, but we are hoping that there will be more than one option plus mobile services that we should be providing to Nunavutmiut, particularly for addiction kind of treatment for communities that don't have a home-based addiction centre. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Curley. I have no more names on my list for questions. We will go back to page F-3. (interpretation ends) Health and Social Services. Branch Summary. Directorate. Total Capital Expenditures. \$10,536,000. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): We will go back to page F-2. (interpretation ends) Departmental Summary. Health and Social Services. Detail of Expenditures. Total Capital Expenditures. \$10,536,000. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Are we in agreement that we have completed the Department of Health and Social Services?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Minister and your staff. Closing remarks, if you want, Minister Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am very pleased that we have completed the review of our department's capital estimates. I take your questions to heart. They're very helpful to us and we will take them into consideration. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I would also like to thank my officials and all of our staff within our department. Thank you for your support. Thank you.

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

(interpretation ends) If I may, as your Chairperson, I would like to take a 15-minute break. We shall be back somewhere around the 18 mark. Thank you.

>>*Committee recessed at 17:03 and resumed at 17:20*

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. We can proceed again. We will deal with the Department of Environment. Mr. Shewchuk, if you would proceed with your opening comments.

**Bill 15 – Appropriation (Capital) Act,
2012-2013 – Environment –
Consideration in Committee**

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: *Ma'na*, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to be here today before this committee to present my department's capital plan for the 2012-13 fiscal year.

Mr. Chairman, the Department of Environment's proposed capital budget for 2012-13 is \$3,044,000. The capital projects for the 2012-13 fiscal year focus on three program areas, namely, wildlife management, parks and special places, and fisheries and sealing.

For Wildlife Management:

Mr. Chairman, a substantial portion of our proposed 2012-13 capital budget (\$1.14 million) will be spent on the Wildlife Management Division. Therefore, we will commence with the planning phases for the construction of a new wildlife office in Repulse Bay. We will also be renovating some of our wildlife offices in various communities and replacing some of our aging wildlife mobile equipments.

For Fisheries and Sealing:

Mr. Chairman, in the 2012-13 fiscal year, my department is planning to spend approximately \$214,000 of the proposed capital budget on the Fisheries and Sealing Division. These funds will be used towards the purchase of scientific equipment for our newly acquired research vessel. This purchase is essential in order to equip the vessel with the necessary instruments and safety equipment required to gather data for research purposes.

For Parks and Special Places:

Mr. Chairman, my department's 2012-13 capital estimates also include a variety of parks projects across the territory. Territorial parks play a crucial role in the protection and promotion of Nunavut's outstanding natural and cultural heritage. Territorial parks support positive recreation and tourism experiences that help Nunavut communities. It is therefore vital for us to ensure that our parks meet the needs of both Nunavutmiut and visitors coming to Nunavut.

During the 2012-13 fiscal year, we also plan to spend \$1.69 million in other related parks projects throughout the territory. We will be advancing our planning activities for the Back River so that it could become an addition to Nunavut's Canadian Heritage Rivers. We furthermore plan to carry out studies required to determine the potential for new parks at Axel Heiberg in the High Arctic and at the communities of Arviat and Sanikiluaq.

We will continue our ongoing operational requirements in various communities, including:

- the fabrication needed for and the construction of a site trail, and the installation of safety guard rails and interpretive signage at Bloody Falls/Kugluk Park in Kugluktuk;
- the design and installation of interpretive signage at Mallikjuaq Park in Cape Dorset;
- the development of a park pavilion in Rankin Inlet; and

- the fabrication and installation of operational signage and other capital requirements at several parks across Nunavut.

Mr. Chairman, the Department of Environment's capital plan is centred on Nunavutmiut and Nunavut communities and is focused in areas that clearly support the needs and priorities of the government as set out in *Tamapta*. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. (interpretation ends) Do you have witnesses that you would like to bring to the table? Mr. Shewchuk.

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

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

Some Members: Agreed.

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

(interpretation ends) *Qujannamiik*, Sergeant. Mr. Shewchuk, will you please introduce your witnesses.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) To my right I have the Deputy Minister of Environment, Mr. David Akeegok, and to my left... Whoops, I got that wrong.

>>*Laughter*

Sorry about that. To my left I have my Deputy Minister David Akeegok and to my right I have the Director of Parks and

Special Places, David Monteith. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. Welcome. Does the chair of the standing committee have any opening comments? Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to provide opening comments on behalf of the Standing Committee on Community and Economic Development as the Committee of the Whole begins its consideration of the Department of Environment's proposed 2012-13 capital estimates. Members note that the department's proposed capital budget for 2012-13 is \$3,044,000. The department's capital budget for the 2011-12 fiscal year was \$4,020,000 and its capital budget was \$2,160,000 for the 2010-11 fiscal year.

Mr. Chairman, the department's proposed 2012-13 capital estimates includes \$100,000 in funding for the replacement of the conservation office in Coral Harbour. The department's 2011-12 capital estimates included \$1,715,000 in funding for this project. During the minister's appearance before the standing committee, members were advised that this project will be delayed due to various issues. Members also posed questions to the Minister of Community and Government Services during his appearance before the standing committee concerning this project. However, members are unclear as to what issues have delayed this project and urge both departments to work together to address this issue. The department's five-year capital plan indicates that a conservation office in

Resolute Bay will be replaced in the 2013-14 fiscal year.

Mr. Chairman, the department's 2008-09 capital estimates included \$600,000 in funding for the Kugaaruk Park Development project. A further \$100,000 was allocated for this project in 2009-2010. There was no funding allocated for this project in the department's 2011-12 capital estimates and the proposed 2012-13 capital estimates does not include funding as well. During last year's Committee of the Whole review of the 2011-12 capital estimates, the minister indicated that his department was working with the Kitikmeot Inuit Association on land issues. Members look forward to receiving ongoing updates on this project.

The department's 2012-13 capital estimates proposes \$500,000 in funding for renovations and repairs to wildlife offices and research facilities across the territory.

The department's proposed 2011-12 capital estimates include \$1.2 million in funding for small capital projects. These projects focus on the replacement of mobile equipment and the development of infrastructure in territorial parks. Members generally support improvements to Nunavut's territorial parks and look forward to progress also being made with respect to the development and implementation of management plans for our heritage rivers, such as the Thelon and Kazan. Members also support the work being done towards the Axel Heiberg Fossil Forest Territorial Park and look forward to progress on this project.

On February 8, 2008, a federal-territorial news release announced that the Government of Canada would invest approximately \$1.6 million in the Sylvia Grinnell Bridge project. It was also announced that "Indian and Northern Affairs Canada will contribute \$838,669 as part of the Strategic Investments in Northern Economic Development initiative, and the Department of National Defence will contribute over \$800,000 to design and construct the bridge and manage the project through the Bridges for Canada program."

During last year's appearance before the standing committee, the minister advised members that the Department of National Defence would no longer be funding this project but that the Department of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada would continue to provide \$800,000 in funding towards this project. Members were also advised that the department would revisit the scope of this project and that the estimated total cost of this project would be approximately \$4.1 million. The standing committee encourages the minister to provide ongoing updates to the Legislative Assembly on the status of this project, including the department's efforts to obtain additional third party funding for it.

On September 23 of last year, members noted that a news release issued by the GN stated that "The Department of Environment and the Department of Community and Government Services (CGS) are working together to examine Nunavut's solid waste management practices as a whole. CGS will take the lead on establishing a Nunavut-Wide Solid Waste Strategy which will involve a comprehensive review of the current

state of solid waste management in the territory. The strategy will examine a number of options for solid waste management for the territory, including recycling, incineration, and gasification.” The standing committee was pleased to note that both departments are working together on solid waste management and look forward to ongoing updates on this important issue. This is a comment that I also made in my opening comments on the 2012-13 Capital Estimates for the Department of Community and Government Services.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to note that the Minister of Community and Government Services tabled a document earlier today on the current status of the waste management program.

Chairman: Excuse me, Mr. Rumbolt. For the benefit of our interpreters, slow down a little bit, please. Thank you.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Maybe they need to listen faster.

>> *Laughter*

Thank you. I will try, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman, the department’s 2009-2010 business plan stated that “A lack of modern community waste management infrastructure impacts compliance with the *Environmental Protection Act*.” Members note that the department’s 2010-13 business plan did not include any information on the need to ensure that our communities’ waste management infrastructure is in compliance with the *Environmental Protection Act*. It is clear to the

committee that issues related to the enforcement of environmental protection legislation require further scrutiny. The committee looks forward to its review of the department’s 2012-13 main estimates and business plan at the upcoming winter sitting of the Legislative Assembly.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening comments on the proposed 2012-13 Capital Estimates of the Department of Environment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Before we proceed, I would like to remind you that according to Rule 77(1), you have 10 minutes to speak, and according to Rule 77(2), subject to the discretion of the Chair, a member may speak more than once to a matter under discussion but not until every member wishing to speak has spoken.

I suggest once again that wherever possible you ask your detailed questions during the page-by-page review of the departmental estimates. Do members have any general comments? Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to welcome the hon. minister as well as your officials here. I’m sure Nunavut is well recognized for its beauty and its vastness; I mean two million square kilometres is immense. It’s good to see that there are a lot of protection and mechanisms in place in order to ensure that these are well respected and taken care of. I’m sure Nunavut Tourism does an excellent job and I’m sure they will

be promoting a lot of these wonderful parks and areas as well.

I'm sure that my colleague from Gjoa Haven, Ms. Ugyuk, will be happy to know as well that we both identify with Back River and what we wanted to enhance was to ensure that this unique place is also recognized and well protected. It's nice to see in the minister's opening comments that they're becoming more open in the sense of advancing and planning activities for the Back River.

In previous statements, I just wanted to emphasize that there are strong genealogical ties between Baker Lake, Gjoa Haven, and Back River; there are extended family members. With that, I just want to remind that there are very many prominent, world-renowned artists that come from this area. I think it would do a lot of good and enforce some pride, as I have stated that there are world-renowned artists, and I think this would bring a lot more attention and sensitivity towards the cultural aspects as well as environmental protection.

That was just a comment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. Mr. Oshutapik.

Mr. Oshutapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I, too, would like to welcome the minister, his deputy and his officials as I know them all. I am grateful that you are able to be present before us.

Prior to our asking questions, I have a comment on this particular matter. The line item listed on page 2 speaks about

sealing and fisheries. This is particularly important to our community as we are one of the few communities that are into fisheries. The fact that there is a budget set aside is very gratifying, especially as it is very important to our future economic development and self-sufficiency.

Furthermore, the second item which is mentioned here speaks to parks and special places. I'm not sure exactly of the proper term for these items. With wildlife increasingly less available and the fact that wildlife is constantly on the move, if Inuit are no longer hunting due to old age, these parks will be important to enjoy the land. We will eventually have to no longer hunt and just enjoy the land in our old age as we will no longer be able to reach the wildlife.

This is just a welcoming comment, but I will also have some questions later, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Oshutapik. (interpretation ends) I failed to recognize the minister. Did you want to make a comment just previously? Mr. Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's fine. I would have included it here somewhere eventually, but thank you very much. I would like to thank the member from Pangnirtung and he is very correct in saying that the fisheries industry is very important to Nunavut and also to his community, where there's a lot going on in fisheries.

I just wanted to say to Mr. Aupaluktuq that I appreciate your words and comments on the Back River because it is a very important project that we're

moving forward on and it's going to take some time to get where we want to go, but I would like to thank you for initiating this whole project a few years ago. I think it's a very good cause. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. I have no more names on my list for general comments. We're on page G-3. The details are on page G-4. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My question is for Mr. Monteith and I would like him to answer the question for a very good reason: he used to live in Sanikiluaq many years ago and I'm sure a lot of people there would like to see his face on TV.

Mr. Chairman, in the budget, it says \$100,000 towards the Sanikiluaq Park Development. I'm wondering if Mr. Monteith can describe what this money will be used for. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. (interpretation ends) That was many years ago. Mr. Monteith.

Mr. Monteith: Thank you. This year, we are hoping to get the preliminary feasibility study completed for Sanikiluaq. In fact, I'm hoping to have the study done by the end of this month. Based on the results of that study, it will have a variety of ideas of where we go next. We will be meeting with the community, QIA, and obviously our minister would have input into that process. Based on that, we will develop a work plan for next year.

So what we got in the budget is an estimate of what we think we may need. It may be a little bit more that's required or it may be less, but it's just a number that we figure is appropriate at this point in time. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Monteith. Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In October 2010, we had the privilege of having your officials appear at one point, and I did ask before and I would like to ask again in regard to G-4 under the Baker Lake Thelon and Kazan Heritage River. I want to ask: what exactly is planned for the Thelon and Kazan Heritage River development? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Thelon and Kazan, there's ongoing development of a management plan for that river. There have been delays because of negotiations and IIBA agreements that are ongoing. So basically that's the status of where that is right now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wanted to ask as well as a follow-up in regard to communication or negotiations with IIBA. Do you foresee any data as to when you might want have clarity or even some more updated information as to what the process will be? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just to clarify, this whole process for these IIBAs is lead by the Government of Canada and we're part of that. So they would be setting the agenda, but we would hope that there's progress by the end of the year and we definitely will keep the member informed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. I have no more names on my list. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On G-4 under Qikiqtaaluk - various for the Napaaqtulik (Axel Heiberg Island) Park Development, there's \$100,000 being allocated to that. I'm wondering if the minister could elaborate on what has been done with that project. I know that there has been communication with the community, but is the \$100,000 for more development and more research as to what should be done with the park or boundaries, or is it for actual facilities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The \$100,000 is, similar to Sanikiluaq, to do a feasibility study on the whole park development. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With the importance to Grise Fiord in terms of making sure that area is

preserved in its natural state, I'm wondering: what sort of a timeline is planned for seeing the actual park come to fruition? I think, in previous years, there has been \$300,000 spent and now there's going to be \$100,000 spent. How long until the park will actually be set up? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that question. As he can appreciate, it takes time to develop a park. There are many steps that you have to go through and it could be a costly endeavour. I would just like to clarify for him again too that we are doing a feasibility study with this money and that is absolutely going to include the consultation of Grise Fiord and the communities.

As timelines to when there is going to be a park, to be very honest, Mr. Chairman, we don't even know if there is going to be a park at this time because that's what a feasibility study is all about, to communicate and consult with the people and see what their concerns are. We hope there will be, but as to deadlines and dates when a park will be in place, we cannot answer that question at this time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that information because, again, that is good to know. In conversations with the HTO chairperson and residents in Grise Fiord, they would like to see that. They're not working

towards the possibility but definitely wanting to preserve that area.

My next question is on G-4 as well with the Repulse Bay Wildlife Office Replacement. There is \$150,000 that we will be approving today. I'm wondering and again, partly curiosity because of Repulse Bay and whether this will be all the construction money needed for that facility or whether it's just the design. I noticed, as what the Chairman had said, Resolute Bay as well will be allocated \$150,000 in the following year's budget. So if the minister could answer that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Well, the short answer is that the \$150,000 is for planning and design. As we have spoken before, once that phase is done, we will have a better projection of what it's going to cost to actually construct these things. The planning and design is the year after that is scheduled and is planned for Resolute Bay in 2013, I believe. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. Mr. Oshutapik.

Mr. Oshutapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Minister, your deputy and officials. I just want to ask for clarification on your opening comments. You didn't say anything about fisheries and sealing. It says here that there is a \$214,000 budget for research.

What I would like to know about is the research that was done in Cumberland Sound to determine if it would be

economically feasible during the summer and not just the winter, as it has been to date. For the people who do winter fisheries, if they should decide to do summer fishing, would there be any monies that could be accessed from your department? I don't see anything here and that is why I'm asking. Will you be providing assistance in this as well? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Oshutapik. Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll just clarify. The \$214,000 for research equipment, that is for the vessel Nuliajuk, the new research vessel, to upgrade the equipment that we have on board. As the member will know, we did quite a bit of research this year in Cumberland Sound and it was very successful and we accomplished 100 percent of what we wanted to do there.

As far as winter and summer fisheries, any funding that's acquired through there would be through O&M funding, which is not capital funding, but it would be and there are monies available, I'll just say, Mr. Chairman, through the fisheries diversification fund to assist fishermen in those regards and those endeavours. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. Ms. Ell.

Ms. Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to supplement that question on page G-4 and also included in the minister's opening comments on page 2, and it's for 2012-13. I believe it was in July. So if you can

elaborate on something that was started in July.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Ell. Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the English, I never got a question, or all I heard was July. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Shewchuk. Ms. Ell, maybe you could rephrase your question.

Ms. Ell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you to the minister and his staff. I'll rephrase the question. It's in regard to the budget on the scientific equipment for the research vessel for 2012-13 of \$214,000. This vessel may have started operating or has started the progress and this year, they're asking for the scientific equipment. Is this vessel now in operation? Can the minister explain the status of this vessel at this time? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Ell. Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank Ms. Ell for the excellent question and I will explain it in very great detail.

It's a very good news story for Nunavut in the fact that we acquired federal funding and built our new research vessel, the Nuliajuk, in Nunavut. It was completed this spring/summer and it sailed up here. We did have, as she well knows, a grand opening of it here on July 11, I believe it was, in Iqaluit, and then it went off and did its research for the summer.

The vessel is a very expensive vessel, it's approximately \$3.5 million, very highly equipped with sophisticated information and research equipment and facilities on it, and having this equipment provides us with very great accessibility to do research in Nunavut.

We had set our targets and goals on what research we were going to do this summer and we did all of that. It was very successful. We found out more. As you go through the process, doing research and having the vessel, you find out what the needs are. We need some more technical and highly technical equipment, I guess I could put it, on this boat and that's what the \$214,000 is for.

Plans are being developed with communities and with DFO on next year's research taking place. The boat presently has sailed back down to Glovertown, Newfoundland for some warranty work and that is where it is right now, but it's a very successful endeavour that the Department of Environment is very proud of. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. Ms. Ell.

Ms. Ell: Thank you, *Iksivautaaq*. (interpretation) I also thank the minister for his excellent response. In the substantiation sheets, it states that there will be four employees hired every year.

My question is: I know that you require qualified personnel, but will you also be hiring employees who are from Nunavut? If they're not hiring Nunavummiut, have they made plans to try to train Nunavummiut who could assume these positions down the road?

Hopefully I'm not off topic with that question, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Ell. Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. A very good question. I would just like to tell Ms. Ell that we're very proud that right from the get-go on this project, in the initial thinking of even having a research vessel, the whole goal was to have beneficiaries and Inuit employed on this vessel.

Initially and now, of course, being such a commercial vessel, you do need a qualified, trained, skilled crew, which we do have. However, we did employ two beneficiaries on the vessel this year. It worked out very well and we're training them into being mates on the boat.

Rightfully, as you say too, any research that takes place, we will also take advantage of any chance that we can get to include beneficiaries in doing the research. So the program is working out and we're always going to target to have more beneficiaries and Inuit working on the boat. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. Ms. Ell.

Ms. Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't think I have another question. Nonetheless, this project seems to be well thought out. I will try to find out more details about what kind of research will be undertaken in the northern waters.

Within the Nunavut Economic Development Strategy, we seem to be

missing maps that outline the area of research. Will this mapping be included or is it specifically just for fisheries? Thank you. If my comments were understandable, that is.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Ell. Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Ms. Ell for that question. Specifically, right now, we're just doing fisheries research. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. At this time, I have no more names on my list. We're on page G-3. Environment. Branch Summary. Program Management. Total Capital Expenditures. \$3,044,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Page G-2. Department Summary. Environment. Mission. Detail of Expenditures. Total Capital Expenditures. \$3,044,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Do you agree that we have concluded with the Department of Environment?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. I would like to ask the Minister of Environment if he has any closing comments. Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I would like

to thank you, your committee, and the members for approving this budget. I think it's very important that we move forward with the projects outlined in the Department of Environment's budget. We will assure to use this money wisely and benefit all Nunavutmiut.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to thank my witnesses for being with me and I would like to just thank our Acting Director of Corporate Services, Wei Zeng. This is her first time in the House, I believe. Welcome and thank you for your help. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

We will move on with the departmental review of the capital estimates. I would like to ask Minister Peterson, Minister of Justice, if he has any opening comments. Minister Peterson.

Bill 15 – Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2012-2013 – Justice – Consideration in Committee

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to appear before the committee to review the Department of Justice draft 2012-13 capital estimates.

A total amount of \$900,000 is being allocated for the Department of Justice capital expenditures for the fiscal year.

As with previous years, the department's major capital expenditure is the completion of the new men's correctional healing facility in Rankin

Inlet. The total amount allocated for this important project is \$500,000.

Upon completion, the minimum-security Rankin Inlet facility will accommodate up to 48 inmates with 32 beds for medium-risk offenders and 16 beds in apartment style living for low-risk offenders. The facility will serve to relieve some of the capacity issues faced by the Baffin Correctional Centre and will also enable offenders from the Kivalliq to serve their sentences closer to home and family.

Construction of the facility is nearing completion. Unfortunately delays in connecting power and water have resulted in the completion date being pushed back. The Department of Community and Government Services is confident that construction will be complete by December 2011.

Upon completion of construction, the Corrections Division will begin testing systems, training staff, developing programs, and bringing the facility online. Everyone at the department is looking forward to the successful opening of the facility within the first half of 2012. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

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

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

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

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

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. (interpretation ends) Does the chair of the standing committee have comments? Ms. Ugyuk.

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I am pleased to provide you with opening comments on behalf of the Standing Committee on Social Wellness concerning its review of the proposed 2012-13 Capital Estimates of the Department of Justice.

The standing committee notes that the department's total proposed capital budget of \$900,000 is primarily allocated to the completion of the new men's correctional facility in Rankin Inlet. During the minister's recent appearance before the standing committee, members were advised that the anticipated completion date of the facility is in December of this year.

During the minister's recent appearance before the standing committee, members engaged in a broad dialogue concerning issues related to the territory's correctional facilities. Members note that the new men's correctional facility in Rankin Inlet is designed to accommodate 48 medium- and low-risk offenders. Although the opening of this facility will help to address overcrowding at BCC, which currently houses approximately 90 offenders, members recognize that a number of

factors, including proposed new federal crime legislation, will continue to put pressure on the capacity of the territory's correctional facilities.

Mr. Chairman, members also note that the staff housing costs associated with the Rankin Inlet Correctional Centre amount to an additional \$11.88 million. This amount has been funded through the budget of the Nunavut Housing Corporation. The standing committee urges the minister to provide regular updates to the Legislative Assembly on the status of the new correctional facility in Rankin Inlet, including any initiatives on the part of the department to explore options for expanding the facility.

Members of the standing committee also look forward to reviewing the status of staffing and programming at the new facility during their upcoming consideration of the department's proposed 2012-13 main estimates and business plan, as well as the department's progress in transferring offenders from the Baffin Correctional Centre and repatriating offenders from outside of the territory.

Mr. Chairman, recent news reports have indicated that the Department of Justice has been "considering a temporary jail for Iqaluit and housing more inmates at outpost camps." During the minister's recent appearance before the standing committee, he confirmed that his department is considering a number of options to increase correctional capacity in Iqaluit, including the potential use of modular sprung structures.

The standing committee also recognizes that the construction of a new facility to replace the Baffin Correctional Centre

would be a significant undertaking. On December 1, 2009, the minister informed the Legislative Assembly that “the funding for a \$100 million to \$150 million capital project of this nature would be very difficult to proceed with in any event.”

Mr. Chairman, the standing committee supports efforts on the part of the minister to engage his federal, provincial, and territorial counterparts to identify cooperative measures to help address our territory’s needs. Members recognize that approximately 60 offenders from Nunavut are currently serving their sentences at facilities in the Northwest Territories and Ontario because of lack of space in our jurisdiction.

The standing committee urges the minister to begin the practice of tabling an annual report in the Legislative Assembly on the state of the territory’s correctional system, including current and comprehensive statistics on the number of offenders in territorial correctional facilities, outpost camps, and out-of-territory facilities, as well as an accounting of departmental expenditures incurred under agreements with other jurisdictions for the placement of offenders. This information would be of benefit to all Members of the Legislative Assembly and would assist the government in analyzing and substantiating the need for new correctional facilities and resources. This annual report would also benefit from including detailed information concerning the effectiveness of the department’s rehabilitation and treatment programs in reducing the rate at which individuals in territorial custody reoffend.

During the minister’s recent appearance before the standing committee, members raised the issue of outpost camps. Members were advised that five camps are currently operational across the territory. Members recognize the importance of effective healing and rehabilitation programs that will help enable offenders to successfully reintegrate into their communities. Members also recognize the importance of incorporating cultural components in rehabilitation. Outpost camps can play an important role in achieving these goals.

Mr. Chairman, the department’s proposed 2012-13 capital estimates also include \$400,000 for minor capital projects, including upgrades to the Baffin Correctional Centre, the Kugluktuk Men’s Healing Centre, and vehicle replacements.

During the minister’s recent appearance before the standing committee, members took the opportunity to pose questions to the minister concerning the condition and safety of the Baffin Correctional Centre, including its compliance with applicable legislation and codes in relation to fire safety. Members urge the departments of Justice and Community and Government Services to work closely together to address this issue.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening comments on the proposed 2012-13 Capital Estimates of the Department of Justice. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. Today I have continually been reiterating our rules, specifically Rule 77(1) and Rule 77(2), and I no

longer wish to remind you as these rules are probably seared in your minds.

What I do want to remind members is that when you wish to raise questions on an item, please withhold your questions until we reach the appropriate page during our page-by-page review of the departmental estimates. At this time, does anyone have questions on the minister's opening comments? I have no names on my list. We're on page C-3. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On page C-3 and C-4, there's an allocation of... . Actually, maybe I'm a little mixed up. Nope, I'm not. The departmental minor capital, I was wondering if we could get clarification or a breakdown on that.

I know that in the minister's comments over the past week, he did mention about \$300,000 being struck from the previous capital and the, I guess, sad state of BCC. I was really hoping that maybe this money is going towards that, but if he could explain where that's going. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Elliott for the question. No, that money is not going to any planning and designs for a new facility. \$400,000 would be used as follows:

- At the Kugluktuk Healing Centre, installation of a sprinkler system, inspection, repairs, and replacement of windows and roofing plus a boiler system;
- At the Uttaqivik Centre here in Iqaluit, kitchen renovations and emergency generator;
- At the Baffin Correctional Centre, two new vehicles and it's based on a seven-year replacement cycle;
- At BCC again, snow machine replacement to pay for the replacement of two of them actually, two snow machines, and computers based on a five-year replacement cycle; and
- Computers to keep up with the IT requirements throughout the government and that's based on a four-year replacement cycle.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that response. I guess one of the things I want to take away from your presentation today or your appearance before us today is just to ensure that the inmates in the Baffin Correctional Centre are actually safe.

My understanding from the money that was struck before and discussions we had, there were oral questions in the House as well, there was the idea that internally, your staff did an assessment of the facility and suggestions were made. I think that if I dug hard enough in my office, I would find the report that was created with what needed to be done to repair and fix the facility.

With that said, I was under the impression that our inmates were safe

and everything was fine with the building. With the comments that you made the other day, it just got me a little worried in the sense that are the inmates safe, and then with the oral questions that were asked by Ms. Ell, it just sort of got me thinking.

Again, I think that as MLAs, we take the responsibility of all the people we represent. Whether they're incarcerated in a facility or not, whether they are down south for medical travel, or whether they're in a facility somewhere other than BCC, we want to make sure that they're safe. So I guess I would like to spend a little bit of time with the questions I'm allowed to ask right now just to cheese out and find out whether the inmates are actually safe. So if the minister could give us an update as to what's happening.

With the questions I asked here, it was \$400,000 going to things like snowmobiles and vehicle replacement, so obviously there are some repairs being done, which you mentioned, to BCC, but I just want to be able to leave here today knowing that those inmates are safe in there. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Elliott for his concerns about the inmates. As I mentioned in my comments or answers the other day, there's no guarantee. Our officials, correctional officers, and other officials out at the Baffin Correctional Centre who live and work in close confines endeavour to do their best to

ensure the safety of people coming into our care out there.

The building is old. I answered in question period the other day that it was originally designed to be a minimum-security facility for 42 people. It was expanded to accommodate 66, but regularly it's anywhere between 80 and 100 individuals, and it's in overcrowded conditions on a regular basis. When you get people in a crowded environment like that, there will be incidents, as we had the other night with three individuals who set a fire. That posed some danger to the rest of the facility and the people in there, including our officials.

The Fire Marshal's Office regularly inspects the facility, I believe, based on an annual basis to check the sprinkler system to make sure it's working and check for other areas that may contravene the fire regulations. Our staff is very diligent in correcting any inefficiencies there. They know the [condition of the] building is such that we can't afford any mistakes or human error.

When there's a fire threat or any other threat, the facility has evacuation plans in place to ensure everybody gets out safely. Would I like it to be a different situation? Yes, I would like a facility that when individuals come in, there's room for them to take courses and get proper recreation. I would like more space for corrections officers and our programming staff to be able to work in a safe environment, but we're dealt the cards we have.

We're doing our best to use that facility and ease the strain. As I said, we're hopeful that when the Rankin Inlet

facility comes on stream that that will help us substantially. When we opened the women's facility in June 2010, it helped us immensely to take some strain and pressure off the overcrowding in the Baffin Correctional Centre. So we're doing the best we can.

I can't guarantee 100 percent that there won't be any incidents, that people won't get hurt, but our officials are working their hardest to ensure that the people are safe when they come into our care. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that reply. I realize that guarantees can't be given on the reaction of inmates to different situations and living conditions. Does there need to be another feasibility study done to assess the facility? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Elliott for the good question. After the \$300,000 was deleted from the capital plan in December of 2009, a few months later, I was in the hot seat by an MLA who is no longer here for authorizing an assessment report of the facility for \$25,000. He accused me of defying the will of the House, which I didn't. It's just a routine thing.

I did ask my officials to look internally at what options are available. In fact, when the new RCMP detachment came online last year... . But earlier this year in March, the officials, with CGS and

with the RCMP, toured the old RCMP detachment to see if that might be a facility that we could take on and upgrade and use for some of our maximum-security inmates. It turned out that just wasn't going to work for environmental and cost reasons and for other reasons.

They then heard, and I know my deputy spoke about this in the media, about sprung structures. There's a facility in Maple Ridge, BC that CGS and Justice officials toured earlier this year to see how that might work in terms of corrections. We're taking a very close look at that. I believe they're internally studying the opportunity. They have gathered information.

As I said, they have toured the facility. They're looking at how a structure like that could be acquired and constructed here in Iqaluit nearby the Baffin Correctional Centre. It's too early to say with any certainty where that really is, but we're looking at those kinds of opportunities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think I'll go back to my original question, which I think was: is the facility safe? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Elliott for the question. As I indicated in my earlier comment, the facility is regularly inspected by the Fire Marshal's Office to ensure that it is up to code in that area. If

there are any repairs and maintenance needed to the facility, not major renovations, the Baffin Correctional Centre officials, through Community and Government Services and work orders, can get the repairs done.

Is it safe? We believe it is safe given the type of building it is and the close monitoring that our officials and others pay to it. Again, as I indicated, it's an old facility. It's not modern by any standards. When you're going to compare the Baffin Correctional Centre to... I have been in it, I think, twice now in two and a half years. I invite any MLA or any minister here. If anyone wants to take a tour, we can arrange it. I know Mr. Elliott has taken that opportunity and saw first hand. If I was to compare the Baffin Correctional Centre to the modern facility that's opening in Rankin Inlet, Rankin Inlet is by far superior to this facility.

As I said earlier, we just don't have the resources or the capacity in the government to build a replacement facility. I think the Chairman referred to my comments the other day, \$100 million to \$150 million for a new facility. The ballpark figures that corrections folks in Canada use is about \$1 million per inmate to design a facility to standards. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) In your opening comments, the construction of the facility is nearing completion for the Rankin Inlet facility. Unfortunately the delays in connecting power and water have resulted in the

completion date being pushed back to December 2011. Weren't those power and water in the planning or designing? Why are they a problem? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Ms. Ugyuk for the question. It's a good question. It was all in the planning. Of course, it's in the planning. I believe it was power transformers. The agency that does hookup of buildings and connect them to the community power grid didn't have the transformers. They had to wait until they were delivered, I believe, in late September. The water hookup is a scheduling issue with the community, so it pushed it back. Unfortunately those things happen when you're constructing buildings. CGS has assured us, as I said, that construction will be complete by the end of this calendar year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again to the same subject, (interpretation ends) your department's current substantiation sheet for the Rankin Inlet Correctional Centre project indicates that the current exchange of service agreement with the GNWT was signed in 2008 and ends in 2011.

However, a significant increase in the per diem rate has been advanced by the NWT. Earlier this week, CBC North quoted your deputy minister as saying that the NWT and Ontario have

indicated it is unlikely they will be able to continue taking a large number of our inmates. As of today, what is the status of the shared service agreement with the GNWT? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Ms. Ugyuk for the question. As of today, the agreement is still in place and I believe we're renewing it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Earlier this week, CBC North news reported that your department is considering a temporary jail for Iqaluit and housing more inmates at the outpost camps. Are you considering constructing a new facility in Iqaluit or using an existing building, and can you indicate the estimated cost for a temporary jail? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Ms. Ugyuk for the question. As I indicated earlier, we did look at the old RCMP detachment and it was proven to have some environmental issues and it would be too costly to renovate.

Justice officials and CGS officials looked at the sprung structure facility in Maple Ridge, BC as a possible option and they continue to look at that, gathering information and research.

Costing out, it's too early to even suggest a number that it might take to acquire a facility like that.

I have seen the brochures for the sprung structure and where they're used, the people who are using them say that it cuts the cost in half over normal construction and they're relieving the pressure on their corrections system. So we're taking a very close look at that, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Have you had discussions with your federal counterpart concerning the impact of new federal legislation on Nunavut's correctional system and, if so, what is the federal position on providing increased resources to Nunavut in this area? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Ms. Ugyuk for the question. I personally haven't had any conversations with my federal counterpart, but I know our officials, through the federal, provincial, and territorial deputies meetings, have communicated with senior officials in Ottawa.

I know the federal minister attended a Canadian Bar Association AGM, Minister Nicholson or Toews, I believe, in Halifax. One of the other or both, but they got quite an earful from all the folks who attended about the impact of Bill C-10, the omnibus crime bill, and the

impact it would have on all of our other jurisdictions. So they're well aware in Ottawa that this is going to put some real pressure and strain on all provinces and territories.

At some point, I probably will have a conversation with my federal counterparts, including our Member of Parliament. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask the minister a final question. (interpretation ends) The women's correctional centre opened on June 11, 2010. How many women are currently serving prison sentences in the facility and how many are currently serving prison sentences outside of the territory? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Ms. Ugyuk for the question. The facility is designed for ten and the deputy advises me that it is full right now. In terms of ladies who are serving time outside the territory, we don't have those details with us. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson. Mr. Tapardjuk.

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess I rushed a little too much, but I wanted to raise a question on another page. So when we reach that page, I'll ask that question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Tapardjuk. (interpretation) I allowed Ms. Ugyuk to ask questions on corrections. As the Chair, I will allow you to ask that question. Mr. Tapardjuk.

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Yes, I thought we were on page C-4 and my question was on page C-5 and C-6. So prior to us approving this, I don't mind waiting until we reach page C-6. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tapardjuk. Ms. Ell.

Ms. Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't think this is much of a question, but I just want to get this clarified. What is that particular term "sprung structure"? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Ell. (interpretation ends) Minister Peterson, what is a sprung structure?

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I anticipated that someone was going to ask me that question, so I brought a picture. You see some of them at the airport, so it's one of those types of facilities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson. Ms. Ell.

Ms. Ell (interpretation): Thank you. Now I can envision it.

>> *Laughter*

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Ell. Let's move to C-3. I have no more names on my list. C-3. (interpretation ends) Justice. Branch Summary. Directorate. Total Capital

Expenditures. \$400,000. (interpretation)
Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Go to the second page. (interpretation ends)
Justice. Branch Summary. Corrections.
Mr. Tapardjuk.

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to welcome the minister and his officials. As I was reading this particular page in your opening comments, you spoke about the opening of the correctional centre in Rankin Inlet in December. At least that's the expectation that we have. I would like to ask the minister: if it were opened, would the Baffin Correctional Centre inmates in Iqaluit be moved there or would some of the inmates in Kugluktuk move there? How many inmates would go to that centre? Will this alleviate the overcrowding situation in Iqaluit when this correctional centre is opened in Rankin Inlet, Mr. Chairman?

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tapardjuk. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Tapardjuk for the question. Actually we're saying the building construction will be complete by December 2011, and then the Corrections Division has to test the facility, put it through all those checks, check its systems, develop the training, and then hire the staff. So we're saying the first half of 2012, we're hoping.

Yes, it will depend on the security rating and the custody rating of individuals, and what facility they can go to. The

facility here has a mix of minimum-, medium-, and maximum-security prisoners. The facility in Rankin Inlet is, I think, minimum to medium. It's early right now, but it is the hope that, depending on the review of the security ratings and the numbers at the time, we will be able to relieve the pressure on BCC and move the inmates around to take the pressure off. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson. Mr. Tapardjuk.

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We want to be notified of any developments. I really don't like the fact that we're already trying to prepare for a bill which hasn't been passed yet by Parliament. Of course, if that bill was to become law, we would then see an increase in the inmate population, but I want defer that question at this time.

However, this question I want to raise is with respect to the correctional centre in Rankin Inlet. I believe it talks about 45 PYs. Is it true that you will have a certain number of non-Rankin Inlet residents whom you would have to hire as specialists? I know that you will hire some Rankin Inlet residents to work there. Will the staff members who are required to move to Rankin Inlet to undertake their positions have staff housing available while this is in progress, Mr. Chairman?

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tapardjuk. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Tapardjuk for the question. Yes, in conjunction with the

construction of the correctional facility, the housing corporation has also built a 33-unit multi-complex, so I believe that should be ready soon. I don't want to put a date on it; I was told it would be ready by this month.

Certainly the positions for the staff at the Rankin Inlet facility, there are 45 positions, a combination of correctional officers, program staff, administration and medical people. They can come from, I think, just about anywhere in Nunavut. It's a Government of Nunavut job. So if there are people from here or the Kitikmeot or the Kivalliq applying for jobs and if they screen in for interviews and go through that process, we're hoping that more people from Nunavut get the jobs than people from the south. Obviously anyone who does get a job will receive training in a number of correctional areas by our staff and other people.

So it's going to be a tremendous economic boom there for Rankin Inlet employment-wise and 45 new jobs for Nunavut. From that perspective, it's good. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson. I have no more names on my list. (interpretation ends) Justice. Branch Summary. Corrections. Total Capital Expenditures. \$500,000. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Go back to page C-2. (interpretation ends) Department Summary. Justice. Total Capital Expenditures. \$900,000. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Is the committee agreed that we have concluded with the Department of Justice?

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank you for chairing an excellent session here. I thank the Committee of the Whole for good questions and sharing their concerns for the officials and our people coming into our care at our corrections facilities in Nunavut. I appreciate the questions not only during this session but during the standing committee and in previous years.

It's important that we pay attention and recognize that we do have to look after people who get into trouble with the law, and then we do our best to help them get back into the communities so they can reunite with their families. It's important that we work our hardest in that area. Personally I don't believe in just locking people up and not helping them. A strong correction system will help our territory, I believe.

I would like to thank our corrections officials who have to go to work daily 24/7 to work with the people who come into our care. I would like to say a special thanks to them and the RCMP for the other night to ensure that the Baffin Correctional Centre situation was handled promptly, with no injuries, and

very organized and safe. There was a lot of work.

I would like to thank my officials who worked hard to put this all together for our appearance today.

I will certainly keep the standing committee updated as members have asked how we're progressing on this project. Also, we took note of the Chairperson's opening comments in terms of submitting information reports on corrections. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Ningeongan: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Given the fact that we have moved along very well this afternoon/early evening, at this time, I would like to make a motion to report progress. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. There is a motion on the floor to report progress and it is not debatable. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried. I will now rise to report progress. Thank you.

Speaker: *Qujannamiik*, Sergeant-at-Arms. Orders of the day. Item 21. Report of the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Enook.

Item 21: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Mr. Enook: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Bill 15 and the capital estimates, and

would like to report progress. Also, Mr. Speaker, I move that the Report of the Committee of the Whole be concurred with. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. There a motion on the floor. Is there a seconder? Mr. Shewchuk. The motion is in order. To the motion. All those in favour. Any opposed? The motion is carried.

Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. Item 22. *Orders of the Day*. Mr. Clerk.

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A reminder that there's a meeting of the Standing Committee on Legislation tomorrow morning at nine o'clock.

Orders of the Day for October 27:

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
 - Bill 22
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, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned until Thursday, October 27, at 1:30 p.m.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 18:56*

