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Iqaluit

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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Speaker

Hon. Hunter Tootoo

(Iqaluit Centre)

Hon. Eva Aariak

(Iqaluit East)

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

Hon. James Arreak

(Uqqummiut)

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

Moses Aupaluktuq

(Baker Lake)

Tagak Curley

(Rankin Inlet North)

Monica Ell

(Iqaluit West)

Ron Elliott

(Quttiktuq)

Joe Enook

(Tununiq)

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Hon. Lorne Kusugak

(Rankin Inlet South – Whale Cove)

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Community and Government Services;
Minister responsible for the Qulliq
Energy Corporation*

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Johnny Ningeongan

(Nanulik)

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

Hezakiah Oshutapik

(Pangnirtung)

Hon. Keith Peterson

(Cambridge Bay)

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Financial Management Board; Minister
of Health and Social Services*

Allan Rumbolt

(Hudson Bay)

Hon. Fred Schell

(South Baffin)

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

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk

(Arviat)

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

Louis Tapardjuk

(Amittuq)

*Deputy Chair, Committee of the
Whole*

Hon. Peter Taptuna

(Kugluktuk)

*Deputy Premier; Minister of
Economic Development and
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Iqaluit, Nunavut**Tuesday, February 28, 2012****Members Present:**

Honourable Eva Aariak, Honourable James Arreak, Mr. Moses Aupaluktuq, Mr. Tagak Curley, Ms. Monica Ell, Mr. Ron Elliott, Mr. Joe Enook, Honourable Lorne Kusugak, Mr. John Ningark, 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.

>>*House commenced at 13:32*

Item 1: Opening Prayer

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

>>*Prayer*

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Shewchuk. Moving on in our orders of the day. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Environment, Minister Arreak.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

**Minister's Statement 124 – 3(3):
Russia, Belarus, and Kazakhstan
Ban Harp Seal Pelt Imports**

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to say "hi" to the people of Clyde River and my grandchildren, as well as Jimmy.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to express my deep concern and disappointment with

the import ban on harp seal pelts recently implemented by the Russian Federation, Belarus, and Kazakhstan.

Our government strongly opposes the adoption of trade bans that are brought about by political pressure or the emotional response of the public to the seal hunt based on the misinformation campaigns of anti-sealing lobby groups. It is our contention that trade bans must only be adopted for species that are scientifically demonstrated to be threatened or in decline, of which the harp seal is neither. In fact, recent estimates of the northwest Atlantic harp seal population exceed 9 million animals.

Seal hunting in Nunavut is humane, sustainable, and is a vital part of Inuit culture. Seals provide a source of both income and nutritious food in our communities where economic opportunities are limited, costs of living are high, and agriculture is impossible.

As you are all aware, Nunavut hunters harvest numerous seal species, foremost of which is the ringed seal. History has shown, such as the EU import ban, that trade restrictions on harp seals also have negative impacts on trade in other seal species.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly urge the Russian Federation, Belarus, and Kazakhstan to reverse this import ban immediately before further harm is done to the livelihoods of seal hunters in Nunavut and in Canada's Maritime Provinces. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Arreak. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Minister Taptuna.

Minister's Statement 125 – 3(3): Air Greenland Link

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, colleagues, Nunavummiut, and Kuglukturmiut. Mr. Speaker, there have been two recent announcements that will have a very favourable impact on the travelling public in Nunavut, Greenland, and other destinations in Canada.

Mr. Speaker, in mid-January, Air Greenland announced the opening of an air link between Nunavut and Greenland, with service between Iqaluit and Nuuk starting in June of this year.

An Hon. Member: Hear, hear!

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Mr. Speaker, shortly after this announcement, Provincial Airlines and Air Greenland jointly announced that they have signed a memorandum of understanding which will allow same day connections between Newfoundland and Labrador and Greenland through Iqaluit.

Mr. Speaker, these developments will provide passengers from Europe and Greenland a much more convenient route to many Canadian destinations and will allow for expanded opportunities in areas such as tourism, construction, mining, and exploration in Greenland, Nunavut, and of course, in other parts of Canada.

Mr. Speaker, these exciting announcements will also mean an

increase in traffic at the Iqaluit International Airport. Mr. Speaker, my department will continue work that is underway to ensure that the much needed improvements to the airport become a reality in the very near future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Minister responsible for Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, Madam Premier.

Minister's Statement 126 – 3(3): Decentralized Functional Review

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Good afternoon, Mr. Speaker. In March 2011, this government began a review of decentralization as part of our continuing efforts to strengthen the public service committed in *Tamapta/CL^{CC}: Building Our Future Together*.

Let me begin by saying that this government supports the principle of decentralization in the organization of government services and will continue to situate at least 60 percent of all public service jobs outside of Iqaluit.

Mr. Speaker, the review by the consulting firm of Oliver Wyman looked at how decentralization was implemented, its current status, and how decentralization is working today. The purpose of the functional review was to identify strengths and weaknesses of decentralized offices, as well as opportunities for realizing the initial intent of decentralization in Nunavut.

The consultants met with a total of 94 GN personnel in departments and agencies at all levels, from frontline workers to executives. In order to get a good sample of communities with decentralized offices, they also visited the communities of Arviat, Baker Lake, Kugluktuk, and Pond Inlet. While in those communities, they met with both staff and mayors. However, mayors in all decentralized communities were invited to respond to a survey.

The final report was submitted to the department on August 31, 2011 and offers 29 recommendations for our consideration in the following areas:

- Making changes in decentralization policy and governance
- Strengthening the decentralized model
- Improving structures and supports for a decentralized public service
- Enabling decision-making and influence
- Promoting Inuit employment
- Practicing Inuit societal values

Mr. Speaker, there is an action plan being developed to move ahead with the recommendations and improvements to decentralization that I look forward to sharing with my colleagues during the spring session. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 172 – 3(3): Thanks to All Volunteers

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to thank all the parents, volunteers, teachers, coaches, and our district education authority in Baker Lake for instilling confidence and challenging our youth in academics and sports. Everyone contributes, commits, and students are supporting each other.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank all and state as community members, we recognize all of our important people who contribute to society. I ask my colleagues in acknowledging the many volunteers who can and do make a difference in our communities because, with volunteers in our communities, they remind us as a society that reaching our goals can be reached together.

Community members are taking action voluntarily. They are instilling pride in our youth by continually supporting at a local level our school athletes, the Baker Lake Blizzards. I would like to thank the parents and volunteers as it does start at home and it does start by community members volunteering because they believe in contributing and participating in our community programs as well as the enhancement of our youth. That is why the Blizzards program is successful, as a result of the many volunteers who contribute and make it a successful program.

Thank you, volunteers. Our community thanks you. As well, this also applies to the many volunteers who are providing contributions to our communities, such as the firefighters, as well as other breakfast program volunteers. I think, at this time, I would like to recognize all

the volunteers in Baker Lake as well as all those in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 173 – 3(3):
Narwhal Consultations**

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to applaud this month's announcement that Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated and the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans will be holding community consultations on a draft integrated fisheries management plan for narwhal and to discuss the total allowable harvest levels for narwhal.

Mr. Speaker, this issue is of concern to my communities in the High Arctic. I am pleased to note that consultations will be held in Arctic Bay from March 28 to 29 and in Grise Fiord from March 23 to 24. I also note that the consultation meeting that will be held in Kugaaruk from March 19 to 20 will include representatives from Resolute Bay.

Mr. Speaker, NTI's announcement indicates that regional wildlife organizations, hunters and trappers organizations, the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board, and the Government of Nunavut will also participate in the community consultations.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to playing my part in ensuring that my communities are aware of these important consultations. At the appropriate time, I

will be asking the responsible minister to provide more detail on our government's role in this process. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Member's Statement 174 – 3(3):
Potential Impact of Global
Warming on Water Situation in
Kugaaruk**

Mr. Ningark: Thank you and good afternoon, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to speak about a situation that occurred in December late last year.

Mr. Speaker, a tidal heave washed salt water into the community's fresh water reservoir in December. As a result, the municipality worked with the Department of Community and Government Services to build a new ice road to the new fresh water supply. I applaud this cooperation between different levels of government.

Mr. Speaker, my concern is that incidents such as these ones may be connected to global warming and rising sea levels. Our Department of Environment has indicated that one of its priorities is to undertake an arctic sea level rise assessment.

As a courtesy to the minister's office, Mr. Speaker, I wish to advise the Hon. Minister of Environment that I will have questions for him at tomorrow's sitting on this issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Arviat, Mr. Shewchuk.

Member's Statement 175 – 3(3): Sila Rainbow in Arviat

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to recognize three women from Arviat who have created what is called the Sila Rainbow Organization. Sila Rainbow helps to encourage people about healthy living in the community of Arviat. They educate and discuss such issues as bullying, staying in school, suicide prevention, and much more.

This past December, Sila Rainbow hosted the second annual group competition. Twenty groups of one to four persons entered in this competition. The focus of the whole competition was about encouraging people about working together, motivating their self-esteems, healthy living, and making friends.

Mr. Speaker, Sila Rainbow also involved raising funds to help the community. To date, they have actively been involved in the recycling program initiated by our local co-op store. They have so far collected two sea containers full of pop cans each worth \$1,500 to fund the organization and now they're on their third sea container.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the Sila Rainbow members Doreen Ikakhik, Melinda Kaviok, and Laura Tassiuk for their hard work in making Arviat a better place to live. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Shewchuk. Members' Statements. Member for Amittuq, Mr. Tapardjuk.

Member's Statement 176 – 3(3): Igloolik Participants at the Arctic Winter Games

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Good afternoon, my colleagues. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to celebrate with you about a recent announcement regarding the Arctic Winter Games in Whitehorse that will commence this weekend.

I would like to acknowledge and recognize these athletes from Igloolik who will be participating in the Arctic Winter Games. We are quite proud whenever we have participants involved in sporting events. They do compete very vigorously, but in terms of competition for the wrestlers, it's quite hard.

For wrestling, I would like to acknowledge Uliipika Irgaut, Morgan Taqqaugaq, and David Haulli Jr.; for table tennis, Edmund Qaunaq; for girls' hockey, Monica Qattalik; for boys' soccer, Jesse Tulugarjuk. Mr. Speaker, the high school principal in Igloolik, Vincent Pickett, will be participating as a coach for the 18 and under girls' volleyball.

I am very proud of these athletes and I wish them the best. I hope they are able to compete and if they win a medal, that's icing on the cake. So let's enjoy the sports during the Arctic Winter Games. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Tapardjuk. Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Iqaluit West, Ms. Ell.

Member's Statement 177 – 3(3): Best Wishes to Iqaluit Athletes at the Arctic Winter Games

Ms. Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon to my constituents in Iqaluit West. Have a good day. As per my colleague's statement about the Arctic Winter Games, I also want to make a statement regarding the athletes who will be participating.

Team Nunavut will be heading to Whitehorse very shortly. Iqaluit is a fairly large community and there will be over 60 participants. The diversity of Iqaluit's contribution to Team Nunavut is a reflection of the diversity of the community itself. I wish them luck and I hope they represent Nunavut well. I am proud of every one of these individuals.

I will try and state their names, but I may mispronounce some of them as there are quite a number of them. Some of the athletes who will be forming the team come from other constituencies.

I used to play badminton. In the 1970s, I have competed in the badminton trials.

Mr. Speaker, our badminton players are:

Brittany Masson
Jonah Oolayou
Faith Twerdin
Asini Wijesooriya; and
Louis Lebel-Wong

Our basketball players are Emmanuel Omole and Mary Omole.

Our curlers are:

Katie Chislett Manning

Emily Matthews
Christianne West; and
Sadie Pinksen

Our many hockey players are:

Lee Cloutier
Daniel Kolola
Jonathan Kingwatsiak
Austin Bruce
Michael Uniuqsaraq
Jordan Macmunn
Patrick Macmunn
Nathan Gardner
Mathew Gardner
Max Shoo
Alex Suvega
Saimanaaq Pitseolak

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

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

Ms. Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to return to:

Max Shoo
Alex Suvega,
Saimanaaq Pitseolak
Ryleigh McPherson; and
Naja Lea Machmer

These are the hockey players representing Nunavut.

Our soccer players are:

Sarah-Anne Shaimaiyuk
Tina Qaunirq
Annie Nowdlak

Natashia Allakariallak
 Natasha Wisintainer
 Jazmyn Perkins
 Dayna Cox
 Christopher Freda
 Wesley Siutinar
 Daniel Kigutikakjuk
 Gabe Choquette
 Herbert Eaton; and
 Daniel Kootoo

Our speed skaters are:

Mitchell Courtney
 Mitchell Tilley
 Zachery Roberts
 Emilia Nevin
 Kara Ashley
 Papatsi Rojas
 Taya Tootoo
 Hayden Hickey
 Mathew Cooper
 Tyler Kirk
 Alashua Crowley
 Alexia Alainga
 Annie Neevee; and
 Mary Dunphy

Furthermore, our table tennis player is Beetanie Eeseemailie. I wish you luck and have a good time.

Our volleyball players are:

Cassandra Coman
 Marlene Idlout
 Crystal Mullin
 Emily Kenneally-Sloan
 Brandon Oolayou
 David Kullualik
 Ipellie Ootoova; and
 Saumik Darehshoripour

Our wrestler is Morgan Taqqaugaq.

Those are the participants for the Arctic Winter Games and our cultural participants are:

Terrie Kusugak
 Nicole Panipakoocho
 Marley Dunkers
 Alianai Nivisatsiak
 Alexie Baillargeon; and
 Christine Tootoo.

We are very proud that these athletes from Iqaluit will be representing Nunavut. Please join me in wishing all of the Iqaluit athletes a safe journey to Whitehorse and tremendous games. We look forward to watching their performance as they represent Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, Ms. Ell. I'm sure we all wish all members of Team Nunavut to have lots of fun and success in Whitehorse, especially my daughter Taya, who is going for speed skating. She has accomplished something that I was never able to do, which was to be good enough to go to Arctic Winter Games.

Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Nanulik, Mr. Ningeongan.

Member's Statement 178 – 3(3): Visit to Baffin Correctional Centre

Mr. Ningeongan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to express my appreciation to the Minister of Justice and the staff of the Baffin Correctional Centre.

Last Friday, a number of my colleagues and I visited the Baffin Correctional

Centre. This was an excellent opportunity for all of us to learn more about the challenges facing the institution. As a Member of the Legislative Assembly who represents two communities in the Kivalliq, I would like to take this opportunity to suggest to the minister that a similar visit to the new correctional facility in Rankin Inlet later this year would also be much appreciated.

Mr. Speaker, during our visit last Friday to BCC, I was very impressed by the dedication of the staff. They work under challenging circumstances and have a very difficult mandate to fulfill. I was especially impressed with the willingness of staff to go above and beyond the call of duty with respect to the effort that they make to contribute to the rehabilitation and healing of inmates.

Mr. Speaker, I recognize that the government's capital budget is extremely limited and I recognize that building a brand-new prison, which would likely cost between \$100 million and \$200 million, may not be feasible at this time. However, I encourage the department to bring forward other measures in its next capital estimates to address the issue of overcrowding at the Baffin Correctional Centre that we saw with our own eyes last week. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 179 – 3(3): NIRB
Approval of Access Road**

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Good afternoon, residents of Rankin Inlet and our listeners. I rise today totally delighted to speak to an initiative I am in full support of and I thank the Nunavut Impact Review Board for approving the access road to Meliadine, consisting of an all-weather road from Rankin Inlet to the Meliadine exploration site and future gold mine about 24 kilometres away. Many residents are happy to see this development.

The President of Agnico-Eagle, who also happens to be the CEO, Shawn Boyd, stated that this decision is a very important matter that will enable the company to advance the Meliadine gold mine project to the next level. Additionally, once the road has been converted to an all-weather road, they will be able to operate all winter long.

We have been informed that they will start working on the road in March. We thank the decision-makers for that again. The reason for our gratitude is primarily because our young people who don't have employment opportunities and who are looking for work will at least have some hope of opportunities to fill positions that may open.

With the development of this access road, the project will be able to progress faster to the next level as material can be delivered without delays. We appreciate this development, especially our business community and those businesses involved in the goods and services field. The hotels, airlines, and truck rental companies will benefit from this development as it proceeds further along.

There is still a lot of work required, but it will benefit all of the Kivalliq, not just Rankin Inlet, and I wanted to speak to this exciting development.

(interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Curley. Item 3. Members' Statements. I have no more names on my list, but I would just like to make mention to congratulate. This weekend, the Iqaluit Curling Club had its playdown for the Dominion men's nationals being held in southern Ontario next November. I would like to congratulate Team MacDonald, consisting of Ed MacDonald, Kyle Nowlan, Glenn House, and Darryl McGrath, for successfully winning this weekend and will be representing Nunavut at the Dominion next November in Ontario.

>> *Applause*

Moving on in the orders of the day. Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Minister Taptuna.

Item 4: Returns to Oral Questions

Return to Oral Question 227 – 3(3): Security at Nunavut Airports

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to take this opportunity to respond to the questions directed to me at the House on February 21, 2012, Question No. 227 – 3(3). The question was asked by the Hon. Member of Tununig.

Mr. Speaker, the only real vandalism incident in Pond Inlet in recent years occurred in April of 2011, when a Canadian North Dash 8 was parked on the ramp overnight. Someone attempted to open the door of the cargo bay of the aircraft.

Mr. Speaker, in response to this incident, the department increased lighting on the ramps and locked the gate that allows access to the ramp overnight and after hours. The department also met with the hamlet council that increased surveillance on the airport with their by-law officers. Mr. Speaker, the department is initiating camera security at the Pond Inlet Airport this year that will provide coverage of that air terminal building and ramp area.

Mr. Speaker, across Nunavut, the incidence of aircraft vandalism is very low. However, the department initiated the procurement and installation of more airport fencing and will be installing camera security systems in more airports in the upcoming fiscal year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Madam Premier.

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Hon. Eva Aariak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize two visitors from Norway. The Norwegian Ambassador to Canada, Her Excellency Else Berit Eikeland, is here in the Gallery along with Jan-Terje Studsvik Storaas, Cultural Affairs Officer. They are both based in Ottawa at the Royal

Norwegian Embassy. We welcome you to Nunavut.

The ambassador will be giving a public lecture tonight at 6:00 p.m. at the Unikkaarvik Visitors Centre on Norway's High North Strategy in connection with the photo exhibit that is currently on display at the museum and all are welcome to attend.

I would also like to recognize my constituency member, Jack Hickes, who works at Arctic College. Welcome.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Madam Premier. Welcome to the Gallery, the three of you. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am very pleased to rise today and to take this opportunity to recognize our two pages from Pond Inlet: Suzanne Killiktee and Kimberly Angnatsiak.

Mr. Speaker, the pages just started with us yesterday and they will be pages for this week. I am very happy that they are able to provide services here and I look forward to seeing them perform their duties.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in welcoming these two pages here. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Enook. Welcome, pages. We look forward to you hopefully having an enjoyable educational experience this week. Item

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

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 270 – 3(3): Baker Lake Airport

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, the Hon. Peter Taptuna.

Mr. Speaker, on June 8, 2011, I asked the minister questions concerning Baker Lake's airport. At that time, the minister informed me that his department had completed a new master plan for the Baker Lake Airport and that he would make it available once it was ready for tabling in the House. Mr. Speaker, my question is: can the minister update us today when we can expect to see this important document? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that very important question. Mr. Speaker, the planning and design phases of this project are currently underway. The Government of Canada, under the Building Canada Fund, has approved 75 percent of the contributions. The project amount is estimated to be around \$5 million. As I mentioned, the project is underway. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last year, I spoke about the importance of a new airport in Baker Lake. In his responses to my questions, the minister indicated, and I quote, “the Baker Lake Airport is adequate for the community’s domestic needs but it is really not adequate for jet services.” The minister indicated that it would cost about \$5 million, but as well, I want to ask in a sense: can the minister provide an estimate of how much a new airport for the community would cost? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again I thank the member for that question. It isn’t up to the government to influence air carriers to bring in their jet aircrafts into a community. It’s going to be up to the demand. Of course, Mr. Speaker, the amount of traffic that goes through there is adequate at this time.

The previous estimates that were in one of the proposals that we have see from the community had estimated it at around \$22 million. We believe, within the department, that it’s going to be well over \$40 million to build a new airstrip. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the response because, with my preamble, I had indicated that the demands in Baker Lake are expanding with the population growth as well as the exploration and enhancement of mining activities and other developments.

When our Member of Parliament recently visited Baker Lake, I spoke to her briefly about the need for federal support for a new airport for the community. Can the minister whether his department has formerly approached the Government of Canada on the issue? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Absolutely and that’s why we’re getting 75 percent of the estimated cost for the critical improvements that are happening at this time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you. I’m glad he kept bringing that number amount of 75 percent because the next question I did ask was in relation to the federal government as well as other avenues.

Mr. Speaker, the question I do have is the government has announced that it is using a public-private partnership, or P3, approach to developing a new international airport for Iqaluit. My question, Mr. Speaker, is with P3s, they’re often used for major

infrastructure projects. Can the minister tell me if he has considered a P3 approach for developing a new airport for Baker Lake? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that excellent question. Mr. Speaker, we're trying to develop the Iqaluit airport improvements with a P3. At this time, we have no initial plans to do Baker Lake under a P3. There are strict criteria that we have to use with the federal government, with P3 Canada. At this time, we have not initiated or we are not looking for a possibility of P3 with Baker Lake. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 271 – 3(3): Community Morgues

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Health and Social Services.

We have been kind of misled about a project geared toward Hall Beach. On May 31, 2011, I asked questions concerning the issue of community morgues. As the minister is aware, the residents of Hall Beach have been requesting this facility for quite some time. To date, I am quite confused as to who is leading this project. Also, the community of Hall Beach raised this issue at last year's annual general meeting of the Nunavut Association of

Municipalities and they passed a resolution.

Mr. Speaker, when I asked my questions last year, the Premier told me, and I quote, "We now realize that we have to make this a priority."

My question for the Minister of Health is this: what has his department done to address this issue, Mr. Speaker?

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Tapardjuk for the very good question. I always respect and appreciate the hard work of the Nunavut Association of Municipalities. They bring up a lot of important issues for the community. We had similar issues in Cambridge Bay. Mr. Speaker, at this time, I'll have to tell Mr. Tapardjuk that I'll get back to him on it as soon as I can. It has been some time, I realize and apologize, but I can't give him an answer. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister for at least saying that he will be responding to me later. I would like the minister to understand that it has been a number of years, perhaps six or seven years, since this request was first presented to the Nunavut government. That is why I wanted to get clarification on the matter, Mr. Speaker.

Furthermore, I expect, Mr. Speaker, that there was confusion between whether this project falls into EIA or the Department of Health and Social Services. It seems to me that this is a project that would be led by the Department of Health and Social Services. Mr. Speaker, I shall patiently await the response from the Minister of Health and Social Services. This is just a comment, not a question, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Tapardjuk. That was just a comment. We will move on. Oral Questions. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. Elliott.

Question 272 – 3(3): Narwhal Consultations

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my questions to the Minister of Environment and are based around narwhals and narwhal populations.

A number of our hunters were hit hard this past 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 vital part of their livelihood. It is part of food security.

With the federal government's ban on the sale of narwhal tusks outside of Canada, a number of our hunters have lost a 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 the ban?
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister responsible for the Department of Environment, Minister Arreak.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Department of Environment in Nunavut does not deal with marine mammals because they're not part of our mandate. The Department of Fisheries and Oceans in Ottawa is responsible for that. However, we collaborate with them, especially when a hearing or public meeting is required, and we are involved with these processes as well as sending correspondence on these matters.

I am very happy that the freeze on the sale of tusks has temporarily been lifted and it has been removed from the following communities: Arctic Bay, Clyde River, Qikiqtarjuaq, Pangnirtung, and Iqaluit. There used to be 17 communities that were banned from exporting tusks, especially to points outside of Canada. There are still some communities that are in that same boat.

The following communities are still banned from exporting tusks: Kimmirut, Cape Dorset, Repulse Bay, Whale Cove, Coral Harbour, and Chesterfield Inlet. I don't think this community has any narwhals, but Baker Lake is included on that list. Oh, they do. Rankin Inlet, Arviat, Sanikiluaq, and Grise Fiord are still banned from exporting narwhal tusks.

We continue to work collaboratively with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans. When there is another hearing for this matter, the Department of

Environment will also be included in that process. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Further to my Member's Statement, in the news release that was put out by NTI, it mentions that the Government of Nunavut will also participate in the community consultations. I was wondering if the minister could explain how his department will participate. Will they be acting as observers or will they be doing presentations? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister responsible for the Department of Environment, Minister Arreak.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. From December 13 to 16, 2011, the Department of Environment held a meeting with the representatives of NTI, the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board, the regional wildlife organizations, the Nunavut government, and DFO to deal with marine species, including narwhal. Prior to the narwhal consultation tour, these organizations held a fact-finding meeting and they will continue to have representatives attending the tour. These bodies will be included while these matters are under negotiation and will be able to voice their positions. As to whether they will be able to vote on matters, I don't think that would be the case since they are primarily staff and I cannot answer that aspect at this time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Locally, when speaking to the hunters and trappers organizations from across the territory about this issue, what concerns is the minister hearing? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Prior to the consultation tour, I haven't even been informed as to which communities have been consulted, so I can't state which communities have been visited. When I have been provided an update as to the communities being toured, I will be able to provide the update to the members. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the past, the federal government has been criticized for its efforts to effectively consult with the communities. Currently, NTI and the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans are engaging stakeholders on developing a management plan for narwhal. Is the minister happy with the manner in which the federal government is doing the consultation and does his department consider it to be meaningful? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister responsible for the Department of Environment, Minister Arreak.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Whenever we are involved in wildlife matters with potential impacts on our animals, we are generally quite pleased about it. So I am quite ecstatic that our government will be involved, especially on a tour that is consulting with the public at large, and I am thankful for this process being undertaken.

I should say I am thankful for the fact that we can negotiate the proposed changes. In the past, we would just have been notified of the changes, as was the case with the 17 communities where an export ban was implemented without any consultation or negotiations. That made us quite perturbed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 273 – 3(3): Community Health Committees

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct this question to the Minister of Health and Social Services.

When I was first elected, I had requested that the community health committee under the hamlet be empowered.

As we know, if a person goes to the health centre, they're just told they're fine. Not all patients are treated that way, but some people are. Although they complain about an issue, it's too late by the time a proper diagnosis is made. There are some people who escort a patient or who wish to escort a patient, but they are denied that right. Mr.

Speaker, some of the patients who have almost the exact same circumstances are allowed an escort. There should be a consistent method. So that is why I want to ask the minister this question.

We're not allowed to speak about issues due to confidentiality about health matters and I understand that confidentiality restraint. However, can the minister inform the House that they are working with the community health committees to try to empower them to resolve any complaints and concerns in their communities, especially where the patients are misdiagnosed?

Is it possible that the minister can empower the community health committees via the *Hamlet Act* to ensure that they are able to act on these issues immediately? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Minister responsible for Health and Social Services, Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Ningark for the question. It's quite a detailed question that touched on a couple of issues; the Client Travel Policy, the Medical Travel Policy, and the community health committees.

Mr. Speaker, the department is working with community health committees in all communities where they exist and trying to configure them where they don't exist to take a stronger role in public health in the communities. I will assure Mr. Ningark that we will continue to work with the Kugaaruk Community Health Committee in that regard. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Ningark: Thank you kindly, Mr. Speaker. I will simplify my questions. When we talk about health in our community and people complain to us as their MLAs, we're not able to talk about specific things and specific cases.

My question is there are many complaints that people go to health centres only to be told at times, not every case, "Well, you're okay. Take an aspirin or two and call me in the morning." In some cases, we hear that well, the person was diagnosed with internal cancer when it's too late.

So we are not able to talk about that in this case, specific issues, but my question is: are you seriously looking at making sure that the community health committees are given more resources and are able to meet regularly or at least once a month? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Minister responsible for Health and Social Services, Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Ningark for the question. Mr. Speaker, I can't speak to providing more resources. I believe we do provide most, if not all, community health committees, where they exist, \$10,000 for their annual operations.

But I do share his concern. Early diagnosis of many illnesses is paramount to helping the individual recover from their illness or their disease. Absolutely, a community health committee can help in that regard and work in an interagency manner with the community health

centre, with the hamlet council, and with other organizations in town to look after the well-being and public health of the community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 274 – 3(3): Dust Control in Communities

Mr. Oshutapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say "good afternoon" to my fellow residents in Pangnirtung. My question today is for the Minister of Community and Government Services.

On October 21, 2011, I asked the minister a number of questions concerning the issue of dust control in our communities. This issue about dust and its harmful impacts on human physiology was also raised last week by my colleague from Baker Lake.

In his responses to my questions, the minister indicated that his department has been reviewing different methods of dust control to identify the best approach to this issue. Can the minister provide the House with more detail today on what methods are being looked at? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the member for raising that question. Yes, dust control is a pressing concern for many communities and it's something that we have been trying to address over

a numbers of years and we are trying to work with the communities there. With regard to dust suppression methods, and I forget the actual terminology, they have been used in some of the communities. They have stated that it is a good dust suppressant.

Most communities salt the roads. However, last year or the year before, we had a pilot project to have all hamlet maintainers taught on how to maintain the dust suppressant that is put on the road so that it can be on for the longest time. So they are now starting to utilize dust suppression methods in the communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Oshutapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for providing that response. With regard to that training you just alluded to, can you provide a bit more detail on how often or how far apart it takes between these training sessions when they are touring the communities for dust control? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Let me try to recall. This year or the year before, there was a training course being offered for the road maintainers who were to apply dust suppressant onto the road. We had regional courses. There was one in the Kivalliq in Arviat, in the Kitikmeot, and in the Baffin. They also had a course where either the hamlet foreman or road

maintainer participated. They came from local road crews and they were taught how to apply dust suppressant and how best to ensure that it stuck to the road. They were taught a lot of these practices.

Mr. Speaker, I have visited many communities and I have actually seen firsthand dust suppressant being applied with a bucket and they just pour it on the road. Obviously, when it dries out, it becomes dusty again. Some other communities just shovel on the suppressant. When you apply dust suppressant properly on top of the gravel road, it takes quite a while before it dries out and this ensures the longevity of the dust suppressant.

There was a training session, but to date, I'm not aware if there were any other courses held after that date. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Oshutapik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When the government provided funding for road paving in Iqaluit in the year 2008, it acknowledged that reducing dust helps to improve public health. I believe that there are 24 other communities that would benefit from better dust control. Would the minister be willing to commit to working with the ministers of Health and Environment to develop a Nunavut-wide dust control strategy? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We're constantly trying to find a better mousetrap or a better way of suppressing dust. It is a very serious issue. There are people with chronic illnesses and stuff who have a really hard time in the summer during our dry season to be outside, especially when there's a lot of dust.

What we have found so far is the most economical way to deal with it is with the dust suppressant that the municipalities have. I think we have given a pretty good training program in that regard, and we will continue and we do continue to try to find better ways of dealing with dust control.

My colleague mentioned the paving in Iqaluit. It is a form dust control, but I assure my colleague that dust still does prevail of all things. We have to take a look at costs of paving roads, and then the maintenance, and it just goes on and on.

I assure my colleague, though, Mr. Speaker, that we will continue and we do continue to find better ways to try to deal with dust suppressants. As we find them, we will work with the municipalities to ensure there are ways we can deal with dust in our communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Oshutapik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In 2002, the government produced a publication titled "Environmental Guideline for Dust Suppression." He mentioned it. Will the minister commit to having his

department work with the Department of Environment to update this publication, Mr. Speaker? *Qujannamiik*, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the Member for Pangnirtung for raising that question. These publications are produced from time to time, as well as new initiatives. They are updated when required. When the time elapses for the produced material, it will be updated. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Oral Questions. Member for Tununiq, Mr. Enook.

Question 275 – 3(3): Power Outages in Pond Inlet

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, residents of Pond Inlet and my fellow Nunavummiut. Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my questions to the Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation.

Mr. Speaker, last week, I made a Member's Statement in the House concerning the issue of recent power outages in my community of Pond Inlet. I would like to ask the minister if he can explain what the corporation is doing to address the issue of the reliability of Pond Inlet's power generation facilities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Enook. Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation, Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank Mr. Enook for raising that question. First of all, let me state that I appreciate you thanking our employees who dealt with this issue during a very cold and dark season. I also thank them for their dedication, Mr. Speaker. I really appreciate them because I don't want to be in their shoes, working on these issues in the cold and dark.

First of all, I want to thank the employees of the Qulliq Energy Corporation in Pond Inlet. I am also very happy that I received a letter from the mayor and hamlet expressing their gratitude to the workers. It is very good to see our employees get recognized, either from the Nunavut government or the local government. It is much appreciated.

Mr. Speaker, the reasons for the blackouts seem to have been dealt with. We're not sure what else will break, but in the case of Pond Inlet, there was an electrical issue that caused the blackout. The parts that caused those blackouts have been fixed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In 2010, a news report indicated that the Qulliq Energy Corporation would be receiving federal funding to help replace aging fuel generators in eight Nunavut communities. It indicated that more fuel-

efficient and reliable generators would be installed in the communities of Arviat, Cambridge Bay, Chesterfield Inlet, (interpretation ends) Gjoa Haven, (interpretation) and I apologize for not remembering what that community is called in Inuktitut, Rankin Inlet, Resolute Bay, Whale Cove, and Pond Inlet.

My question for the minister is: can you confirm if my community of Pond Inlet received a new fuel generator and, if not, does the corporation still plan to? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Enook. Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation, Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With the power generation issue in Nunavut, some of them are indeed very ancient. They are very old in some communities. It's impossible to replace them all at once. Based on the communities he listed, we will be replacing them in the coming years.

The basis of my knowledge related to the Pond Inlet generators is they have to be changed after so many hours because they become less efficient. Based on the information I have, the generator is supposed to be replaced in 2012-14, looking at the number of hours that the generator has run, which is nearing its end. So that's all I can state based on what I know about the issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister. Just so I'm clear on this, am I to understand that somewhere in 2012, Pond Inlet will be one of the recipients of a new generator? I also apologize to the community of Gjoa Haven because I couldn't remember their Inuktitut name. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Enook. Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation, Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): No, your understanding didn't quite reflect what I stated. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What I was saying was that somewhere between 2012 and 2014, Pond Inlet ought to receive the new generator when their current generator exceeds its number of lifetime hours. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Kusugak. I think you have clarified that issue for Mr. Enook. Oral Questions. Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Rumbolt.

Question 276 – 3(3): Additional Office Space for Sanikiluaq

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

Mr. Speaker, in the past, I have raised the issue of the lack of office space in Sanikiluaq. In particular, the health centre is overcrowded with health centre staff plus other GN employees. Can the minister update the House today on what his department is doing to acquire additional office space in Sanikiluaq? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In consultation with other departments within the Government of Nunavut, we put out an RFP for office space in Sanikiluaq. Unfortunately we had no responses, but since then, we have secured office space for a GLO office, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At present, the local health centre is used by nurses, mental health workers, social workers, and home care workers, causing overcrowded working conditions for staff. Can the minister give us some sort of timeline when additional office space will be available for Sanikiluaq? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleague for the question. Mr. Speaker, I can't unfortunately give that information. We're continually trying to find office space and in cases where we don't, such as this, we have to try to seek ways in order to create office spaces in communities. It's a sad reality. We will continue, though, to try to seek ways to create more space. I could see the frustrations from government staff and the community. We continue to work with other departments within

government to try to alleviate the office space issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Oral Questions. Member for Rankin Inlet North, Mr. Curley.

Question 277 – 3(3): Contracting Process for Air Ambulance and Medical Travel Services

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to continue my line of questioning about this matter. All airlines are required to have proper licensing. Airplanes have to be completely safe operationally, especially air ambulances and medical flights.

I also want all residents of Nunavut to completely understand that the government has to inform their residents on how much the government places priority on them, particularly with respect to safety and the proposed air ambulance services they offer to our residents who are in ill health. That is my reason.

Mr. Speaker, the people of Nunavut and the public need to know that only the federal government, specifically the Canadian Transportation Agency, can provide licences to aircraft. The Nunavut government does not have the mandate to license any aircraft. Due to this reason, I would like to pose this question to the Minister of Community and Government Services. In order to make it clear, I will ask my first question in English.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I have repeatedly raised the issue of the need to ensure that the companies which the government signs contracts need to have

an air operator licence issued by the federal authorities. Why does the minister oppose this requirement? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Curley. Mr. Curley, that's an interesting question coming from the former Minister of Health and Social Services up until, I think, he resigned at the end of November.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Curley was the minister responsible on all the RFPs for air ambulances that were issued last year and all the medical travel contracts. He was the minister responsible when the RFPs were awarded. He was the minister responsible when the residents in my region, in the Kitikmeot, were asking him about concerns about the air ambulance and contract in the Kitikmeot. On October 31 of last year, he stood up in this House and reassured all members and residents of the Kitikmeot that change in service providers would not change the level and quality of service of air ambulances in the Kitikmeot.

Obviously, Mr. Speaker, the former Minister of Health had no issues with safety when he was the minister. I do not know why he has a concern now as a regular member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can certainly articulate my point of view

and recollection on these matters if I choose to do so. Mr. Speaker, the question is with respect to the current policy of the government. Why does the Minister of CG&S oppose the requirement to have the operators to have a certificate of air compliance requirements from Transport Canada or from the Canadian Air Transportation Agency? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Mr. Speaker, again, the former Minister of Health is asking questions that he could have asked when he was the Minister of Health and I guess he didn't.

An Hon. Member: Hear, hear!

Hon. Keith Peterson: Now, as a regular member, he feels he can ask.

Mr. Speaker, I am not aware that the Minister responsible for Community and Government Services opposes safety for medical travel contracts or air ambulance. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Community and Government Services.

As I have indicated, the issue of compliance to have air certificate is key for safety of passenger medical services. Why does the Department of CG&S officials oppose to requiring contractors of medical to have air certificates issued

by Transport Canada? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Curley. Mr. Curley, your first questions were to the Minister of Health and Social Services. You can't ask a different minister questions on the same one, so you would have to use another question at a different time to ask the Minister of Community and Government Services a question. So do you have a third supplementary for the Minister of Health and Social Services? Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On the question of a clarification issue, I quoted... My first question was really to the Minister of CG&S, even though I indicated in my preamble that the Minister of Health did respond to some issues the previous day. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Curley. I'll review the *Hansard*, but I'm pretty sure I heard the Minister of Health and Social Services right off the bat. If I was incorrect, then we will let you know, but we will have to review the *Hansard* and go back on that.

Moving on in Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit West, Ms. Ell.

Question 278 – 3(3): 2010-11 Procurement Activity

Ms. Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Economic Development responsible for the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation.

I am glad to see the procurement activity report from April 1, 2008 to March 31,

2009 and April 1, 2009 to March 31, 2010. I have had an opportunity to review this briefly and my first question on the procurement activity would be: when will the next procurement activity from 2010-11 be forthcoming? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Ms. Ell. Minister responsible for the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation, Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. As soon as it's available for tabling, I will surely do that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Ell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for the answer. In reviewing the procurement contracts for over \$5,000 in the two years the procurement activities were submitted, it seems most of the procurements were for sole sourcing and for standing offers.

My question to the minister would be in especially looking at the bookkeeping services that we can see. There were bookkeeping services acquired from BC. I'm wondering if there is a reason for not having bookkeeping services from Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Ms. Ell. Minister responsible for the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation, Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the member is well aware, between 2005 and 2007 and leading up to the end of this report, the corporation was in dire straits, as members recall,

and we needed all the help that we can get. I don't have the level of detail of why this person is from BC, but during that period of time, we were trying to fix up and update all the loan portfolios and the finances of NBCC. That's why you will see in the report most of the sole sourcing and standing offer contracts.

Mr. Speaker, once I have the level of details that she is looking for, I will surely pass that on to the member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Ell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As we move ahead and the level of (interpretation) skills and capacity of Nunavummiut is increasing, are we looking at our future needs when we try to train more people? I ask because we have many people who are already capable of filling these duties and we have many qualified people here. Can the minister provide his vision as to how people from Nunavut with the requisite skills can eventually take over these financial duties? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Ms. Ell. Minister responsible for the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation, Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again I thank the member for that excellent question. Absolutely, if there are trained personnel within Nunavut, we will surely use them.

Mr. Speaker, it wasn't too long ago when I complained to the government, before I joined the government, that there weren't enough bookkeepers in

Nunavut. I wanted Arctic College to gather up students to train them in bookkeeping skills and financial accounting. Once we have an established group of bookkeepers, surely, we will be using that. According to our policies that we have in government, we will surely look into that.

Hopefully, as things roll along within the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation, we will have more and more Inuit in the financial positions, bookkeeping positions, and managerial positions. That's exactly what we're hoping to accomplish. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't have too many questions left, but it's good to hear the minister's response as to his department's plans in this regard. Although there will be courses at Nunavut Arctic College for financial management, we already have qualified people in Nunavut who are trained in bookkeeping and finances, as well as auditors. This is just a comment and not a question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Ms. Ell. That was just a comment. Oral Questions. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. Elliott.

Question 279 – 3(3): Men's Healing Facility in Rankin Inlet

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Justice. My questions are regarding the new men's healing facility in Rankin Inlet.

Mr. Speaker, with \$40 million allocated in capital expenditures to the men's healing facility in Rankin Inlet, with the apparent overcrowding that we have in the Baffin Correctional Centre, and with the anticipation of the passing of Bill C-10, we need the new men's healing facility in Rankin Inlet to open.

Mr. Speaker, this House was told that the facility was to be opened in September of last year. Could the minister give us an update as to when the facility will open? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister responsible for the Department of Justice, Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. We're all excited to see the Rankin Inlet healing facility open up. The latest update is that we will be receiving the turnover of the building at the end of this month. At the end of March, the residence will be completed. There has been ongoing hiring now. The manager of the facility has been hired. Once that's all in place, the hiring of the rest of the staff will take place and training of that staff will commence with, hopefully, an opening date later this year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What specific problems have slowed down the opening of the facility? From the news articles in the media, it was reported that delays were due to the connection of utilidors and problems

around power with connection of transformers. Are there other factors keeping the building from being opened? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister responsible for the Department of Justice, Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The member has mentioned the problems that were faced in the delay of the facility. There were also minor problems with the residential facility that's constructed, but all of that is on track right now. As I have told the member about the timeline, that is the timeline that we're committed to and we hope that the facility opens up later this year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In regard to the staffing, I note that the minister did mention a few of the PYs being filled. When do they anticipate filling all of the PYs and when will the training begin? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again I will advise the member that the manager of the facility has been hired. Ongoing hiring will take place very shortly. I have been informed that all the competitions and all the job descriptions are in place, so everything is ready to go. As soon as we have turnover of the complete buildings,

hiring will begin. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. One of the things I will do is probably continue with the lines of questions when we're in Committee of the Whole when the minister is before us with the Department of Justice. If the building was supposed to be completed in September, you would have thought that the hiring would have been completed by now and that the training would have already been completed by now.

My final question is I know that the intent was to draw on the skill of local community members and Nunavummiut. What percentage of the people employed at the new facility are from Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again I would like to thank the member for that question. As far as hiring people when the building was supposed to open at the end of last September, it would have been possible to do. Where are we going to put the people that we hire when we don't have a place for them to live? So I think that expectation is not feasible.

However, as I have stated, we are in the process of having all the job descriptions completed. Those will be going out very shortly. A manager is in place. Again you have to appreciate the amount of

training that needs to take place to train staff to operate and work in this type of facility.

Also in regard to hiring local staff and beneficiary staff, again, we're going to go through the hiring process and targeting individuals from Nunavut. However, they will have the need for proper skills and qualifications when we move forward and when we ultimately hire and staff the facility. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. Members will note that the allotted time for question period just expired. We will move on in our orders of the day. Item 7. Written Questions. Mr. Tapardjuk.

Item 7: Written Questions

Written Question 013 – 3(3): Government of Nunavut Responses to Resolutions Adopted at the 2011 Annual General Meeting of the Nunavut Association of Municipalities

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Since I was elected as a Member of the Legislative Assembly, this is my very first written question and that's why I'm smiling a lot.

>>*Laughter*

Mr. Speaker, my written question is directed to the Premier of Nunavut. It is in regard to Government of Nunavut responses to resolutions adopted at the 2011 Annual General Meeting of the Nunavut Association of Municipalities. My question is:

1. What were the Government of Nunavut's responses to the resolutions adopted at the 2011 Annual General Meeting of the Nunavut Association of Municipalities?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Tapardjuk. Item 7. Written Questions. Congratulations on your first written question, Mr. Tapardjuk.

>>*Applause*

Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Item 10. Replies to Budget Address. Item 11. Petitions. Item 12. Responses to Petitions. Item 13. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters. Item 14. Tabling of Documents. Madam Premier.

Item 14: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 154 – 3(3): Report on the Functional Review of Decentralization, August 31, 2011

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table the Report on the Functional Review of Decentralization, August 31, 2011. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Madam Premier. Item 14. Tabling of Documents. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. Elliott.

**Tabled Document 155 – 3(3):
Correspondence Regarding
Nutrition North Canada Dated
February 24, 2012**

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to table a letter that I received from the president and executive vice-president of the North West Company. The letter is in response to the joint letter I tabled earlier this sitting.

Mr. Speaker, in his letter, he states that through the Nutrition North Canada Program, the average price on a basket of healthy products in Nunavut has decreased by 20 percent. The letter further assures that 100 percent of the Nutrition North Canada subsidy is being passed on to the consumer. Mr. Speaker, the letter continues to state that, and I quote, the North West Company “fully agrees with your statement that the program needs to be expanded to include more eligible items and access to country foods.”

Mr. Speaker, I am encouraged that we have been able to find some common ground on the issue of the Nutrition North Canada Program, especially with a retailer as influential as the North West Company. The expansion of the product eligibility list is needed for the success of the program. Mr. Speaker, I’m sure all of my colleagues will take care in reading these documents. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Item 14. Tabling of Documents.

**Tabled Document 156 – 3(3): Report
of the Auditor General of Canada
to the Legislative Assembly of
Nunavut – 2012 – Procurement of
Goods and Services**

Members, I wish to table today the *2012 Report of the Auditor General of Canada to the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut on Procurement of Goods and Services*. Thank you.

Item 15. Notices of Motions. Item 16. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 17. Motions. Item 18. First Reading of Bills. Item 19. Second Reading of Bills. Item 20. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bill 21, Bill 24, and Bill 34 with Mr. Ningeongan in the Chair.

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

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House recessed at 15:14 and
Committee resumed at 15:39*

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

Chairman (Mr. Ningeongan) (interpretation): Thank you. (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 21, 24, and 34. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Ningark.

Mr. Ningark: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We wish to continue with the review of Bill 24 and the Department of

Health and Social Services. Mr. Chairman, if time permits, we will proceed with the review of the Department of Community and Government Services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Ningark. (interpretation) Do we agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Bill 24 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2012-2013 – Health and Social Services – Consideration in Committee

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. According to yesterday's session, opening comments were made by the minister and the committee co-chair. At this time, I would like to ask Minister Peterson if he has witnesses that he would like to bring the witness table. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I would like to bring in some witnesses. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Thank you, Sergeant-at-Arms. (interpretation ends) Minister Peterson, please introduce your witnesses.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my left is my Deputy Minister of Health and Social Services, Peter Ma, and to my right is Debora Voth, Executive Director of Corporate Services for the Department of Health and Social Services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Peterson. (interpretation) Welcome, along with your witnesses. At this time, do any of the members have any general comments to the minister's opening comments? Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome to the Hon. Minister Peterson, as you as your officials, Mr. Ma and Ms. Voth.

In the opening comments, he requested, informing us by telling us, that with the increased revised amount of \$6,987,000 in the 2011-12 main estimates. If I may ask the hon. minister, on page 1 of your opening comments, the fifth bullet, you noted that mental health workers is quoted as \$1.65 million. I wanted to ask: with this amount directed towards mental health workers, how many do you anticipate would become employed, as well as where and when? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. We're under general comments. Please take note of that. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Aupaluktuq for the question. Mr. Chairman, I believe the funding will be for 12 mental health worker grads from the Nunavut Arctic

College Mental Health Diploma program. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask as well on the first page in regard to the opening comments. The minister indicated that there are existing initiatives in introducing additional initiatives, followed by the first bullet on the bottom of the page. It states, “Strengthening the provision of mental health services in” Nunavut. Can the minister educate me on this, as well as be able to elaborate or expand on what this means? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Aupaluktuq for the question. Mr. Chairman, in my previous answer with the hiring of 12 mental health workers, we’re also looking at an initiative here in Iqaluit to acquire the old boarding home near the Inuksuk High School and refurbishing that into a mental health facility. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have two issues that I don’t quite get, so I would like to ask questions on them. Mr. Chairman, they’re related to the minister’s opening comments. It talks about these issues at around the middle of the first page. It talks about the cost of living increases and these are forecasted. Further, they

delineated the previous increases that were to be implemented.

Mr. Chairman, perhaps if I state it in English, it will be a lot easier to say exactly what is stated here. It goes like this: (interpretation ends) “recognize recent cost increases.” (interpretation) I would like to ask what that’s talking about.

Mr. Chairman, with your indulgence, on the fourth bullet, it states in English, (interpretation ends) “Interoperable electronic health records.” (interpretation) I don’t know how to say that in Inuktitut and I apologize, Mr. Chairman. What is that exactly?

Those are my questions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Enook for his questions. To answer the first part of his question about the anticipated demands or recognizing recent cost increases, those would be costs that have increased in out-of-territory hospital costs and out-of-territory physician costs, primarily for costs down south. As everyone knows, health care costs are rising in Canada. It’s no different for us.

The second one is interoperable electronic health records. That’s a national initiative that both provinces and territories are participating in. It’s to put all of our medical records on electronic databases so it’s easy to access health data, regardless of where you are in the territory or in Canada. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Oshutapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If you look at the bottom of the first page in the minister's opening comments where it states, (interpretation ends) "In 2012-13, the department will continue to move forward," (interpretation) underneath that, (interpretation ends) in the second bullet, (interpretation) it states, (interpretation ends) "Establishing a culturally relevant pilot program for addictions treatment." Can you give me one or two examples of culturally relevant programs that you will be including in this, Mr. Minister? (interpretation) Thank you.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Oshutapik.

An Hon. Member: You got it, buddy.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you. It's a tough name to... I apologize. When I responded to Ms. Ell the other day in question period, we were talking about a mobile addictions treatment centre. It's a pilot project that would be based in Cambridge Bay because we have a facility there where that pilot project could be set up in. What we're now going to do is involve the elders and local people. I think part of the plan would be to use their knowledge to help people, elders' knowledge to help people, and also to take them out on the land. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Oshutapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the minister for responding to my question. That's the very first time he has ever pronounced my last name properly.

The first bullet speaks to recruitment. Without reading the entire wording, the second bullet talks about Nunavut nursing recruitment. I would like to know if the goal here is to recruit more nurses to work in Nunavut. That's my question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Oshutapik for the question. The Nunavut Nursing Recruitment and Retention Strategy, if I understand it correctly, that's a five-year strategy that was signed, I believe, in 2007. The department is required to review that and they will be reviewing it to see how successful it has been in recruiting and retaining nurses. I believe there is some information that indicates that there has been a decrease in our dependency on agency nurses and an increase in indeterminate nurses. It's something that we're going to be review and I believe it is necessary. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Peterson. I would just like to remind members that 99.9 percent of the time when the minister has the opening comments, it relates to page by page in our O&M estimates. Now I have Mr. Ningark.

Mr. Ningark: Thank you for the reminder, Mr. Chairman. As a member of the new *Liquor Act* task force

appointed by the minister at the witness table, we attended many public meetings. We had radio talk shows. There were comments about not having treatment centres in Nunavut on the radio talk shows and public meetings. My question subsequently to what I have stated is: how many addiction treatment centres do we have in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Ningark for the question. Currently, we do not have any treatment centres in Nunavut. Hopefully we will have a mobile addiction treatment program after this initiative starts. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Ningark: Thank you. I thank the hon. minister. Now that connects me to the issue of significant areas of proposed increases which include travel and transportation in the social services area, which is in the amount of \$4.34 million. Is that related to not having treatment centres in the jurisdiction? For that, we have to travel outside of the jurisdiction. Does that include people going to treatment down south? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Ningark for his question. Mr. Chairman, no. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Ningark: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Now I go to the bottom of the page of the hon. minister's opening comments, the very last bullet, and I quote, "Continuing the implementation of the Public Health Strategy." Now my question is: does this include a suicide strategy in Nunavut? I don't think I have to emphasize that because in every community and every level of government, we talk about the high rate of suicide in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Ningark for the question. Mr. Chairman, I don't believe that we will tailor the suicide prevention strategy into the Public Health Strategy. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Ningark: Thank you. That concludes my questions and comments at this point until we get into the page-by-page [review]. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Ningark. I have Mr. Tapardjuk.

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to welcome the Minister of Health and Social Services, along with his officials. I'm just going to make a comment with respect to the opening comments, but I

will save my questions for the page-by-page review.

Based on the minister's opening comments, it has become a lot clearer and my colleague also raised a question on this matter that I really want clarified. I would like to understand why the department requires an extra \$4.3 million for transportation costs in our fiscal year.

Additionally, it includes a reference that a review will be conducted. Based on the comments here, it also states that there will be a review of current legislation, particularly the *Child and Family Services Act*, *Public Health Act*, *Vital Statistics Act*, and *Mental Health Act*. We will have to be very careful in deliberating the language. If we're conducting a review, I do understand that aspect of what you're planning to do, but I want to totally get clarified so that I can understand.

Mr. Chairman, when we look at the costs of air travel and transportation for the department, the \$4.34 million of additional funding that they're requesting immediately popped in my mind. Perhaps they're anticipating that there will be an additional cost and that's why they're requesting additional costs. Is this geared towards patients who have to leave family? It really causes a lot of concern when there's nothing clarified and what the budget is for. In order to satisfy myself, I will have to get a good idea.

For the time being, I'll forewarn the minister. I'm just speaking to the issue, but I will be raising questions when we go to the page-by-page review. If the minister is willing to provide a response

at this time, I'm willing to hear it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll wait until we get to the appropriate page and then respond. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Peterson. (interpretation) I have no more names on my list. Would you like to proceed to the page-by-page review?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. We're on (interpretation ends) Health and Social Services. Branch Summary. Directorate. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$21,310,000. (interpretation) Do you agree?

We're on page H-4. I apologize if I didn't say that we're on page H-4. I asked if you agreed. Are there any questions? Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In regard to the electronic health records, I was just wondering... I know I had asked this question before, but there was a Minister's Statement that was out in June. It talked about the implementation of the electronic health record system. It will decrease the turnaround time for reports and eliminate the need for film handling for X-rays and patient records will be available to all appropriate practitioners across Nunavut anywhere, anytime. That was what the Minister's Statement from June said. I was just wondering: how much time savings does

the minister anticipate with the new electronic health records?

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Elliott for the question. Mr. Chairman, it's hard to put a figure on it right now. There are probably more efficiencies that we're going to experience from the system. If I'm a person from Cambridge Bay and I get sick in Iqaluit, they can access my medical records here in Iqaluit very quickly and diagnose me and help me out. So that will be a major improvement. If I'm down south, it's the same thing. That's what we're looking for. Once this is implemented, we will be able to assess the turnaround times on reports and diagnostic testing, and then put some savings figures on those. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In terms of X-rays not requiring film, is that already going on in the communities? I'm assuming they're scanning them and then sending them as JPEG or something. Is that already happening? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Elliott. That will be part of our capital supp when we see it later this week. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In terms of access to the information, I know, in terms of when the Privacy Commissioner was before us, she seems to feel that the department is working really well in terms of ensuring privacy of information. Will this be inter-jurisdictional or is it just kept in Nunavut? Will our health records be accessible if we're getting treatment, let's say, in Edmonton or Winnipeg or Ottawa? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Elliott for the question. Mr. Chairman, when we send people south to our referral partners, they will be able to access that information. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know we spent a lot of money over the years in terms of increasing the bandwidth and the speed of Internet access and fibre optics in the communities for Intranet. I'm just wondering: with the information that is collected on individuals across the territory, is that housed on a server in Nunavut or is it on multi-servers in different jurisdictions? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the question, Mr. Elliott. The information will be on, I believe, two servers here in Iqaluit and hopefully be backed up in Ottawa. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know, within the government, a lot of times, we don't have the capacity, so we do contracts and sometimes sole source too much. Is this done by GN employees and the servers are maintained by GN employees or are we contracting a different party to handle this information? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's done through CGS. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So again just for clarity, should I ask the minister if it's a GN employee within his department who handles this or is it contracted out? I'm just wondering if it's a GN employee who actually handles the documents. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Elliott for the question again. It is done by CGS staff. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On page 132 of the business plan, one of the priorities for this year is to "Establish a Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) program." I'm just wondering: in terms of that program being offered with Nunavut Arctic College, are there students within that program now or is the program going to start in September of 2012? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Elliott for the question. Mr. Chairman, the program was postponed and I believe it will be offered again in September 2012. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On the same page, on 132, the final bullet for the priorities for this year is to continue to collaborate with EIA and the Department of Finance to "ensure that a renewed Territorial Formula Financing arrangement addresses the fiscal needs of the department." I guess maybe the first question would be: in terms of the allocation of funding that we give to your department every year, you're consistently coming back and asking for supplementary appropriations. Is the budget or the territorial transfers that we receive from the federal government not adequate? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can assure the member that there will be close collaboration between the Department of Finance and the Department of Health. I was at the FPT in Victoria when Minister Flaherty gave us the news. FPT stands for federal, provincial, and territorial. At the time, there was a little bit of fear, panic, and terror when a letter was handed out. There were a lot of upset people.

To answer your question, it's hard to say that the costs will be contained. Right across Canada, in all provinces and territories, the health care costs are increasing. We have an expression in the Department of Health and Canada-wide of bending the cost curve. I believe the premiers met, I believe, in Victoria in January and they have asked the health ministers to have a couple of meetings and talk about how we can be more innovative and bring our costs down.

I did meet with the federal Minister of Health in Iqaluit last month or earlier this month, pretty close to month-end, to talk about how Nunavut could work with Health Canada to bring some of our costs down. So I can't say with any certainty that we will keep our costs down, but right now, the cost drivers are out-of-territory hospitals, out-of-territory physicians, and medical travel, so it will be difficult and it will be a challenge. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I never heard it expressed that way for FPT. I think I'm going to remember the fear, panic, and terror.

In terms of the minister's department, have you completed a business case outlining the resources it needs to provide health and social services to Nunavut residents, to come up with a dollar figure, not a wish list, but a more realistic dollar value of what is needed to provide health services to the territory? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Elliott for the question. Again, Mr. Chairman, with news from Mr. Flaherty in Victoria in December and the premiers' meetings, and the meetings that health ministers will be having, I think this is an important initiative that we will have to undertake this year. My deputy has indicated that it is something he planning to do. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, with the idea of there being fear, panic, and terror and the way this is worded for a priority, is this renewal of the territorial formula financing or is this renegotiation? Is there any ability to negotiate a better deal to get the needed resources to provide better health care and social services to our residents or is it just a renewal and whatever they will be passing on, they will be passing on? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Elliott. The

current TFF agreement expires on March 31, 2014 and they extended it at 6 percent of a year for five years. They will make the necessary legislative changes.

We did talk to Minister Flaherty as the three territorial finance ministers that we need some help here. I specifically mentioned to him and my officials have been talking to his officials about reviewing the gross expenditure base so that it more accurately reflects the current needs of providing basic services to Nunavummiut.

So we're hoping that, through technical adjustments and other changes, we will get an increase in our TFF, but there is no guarantee. It's very difficult nowadays in terms of getting funds. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the department's business plan on page 131, one of the priority bullets there was referring to "phase-in implementation of the Office of the Auditor General cost-recovery recommendations." I'm wondering: to date, has your department been tracking how much it has recovered and how many more dollars they have been able to recover, following the Auditor General's recommendations? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Elliott for the question. Currently, we have not done

that, but it will be part of our medical travel audit when we proceed with that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again on page 131 with the implementation of the communications strategy, what is the role of his department in implementing that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Elliott again for the question. We're working on a newsletter that will be sent out controlling the message on health initiatives, putting out positive news about health initiatives and generally educating people about the importance of health across the territory. There will probably be TV spots, radio spots, and those kinds of initiatives. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again on page 131, one of the goals from last year was to "Continue to develop a health services strategic plan based on the health care gap analysis." I'm just wondering: in terms of the health care gap, what specific things were they targeting? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Elliott. One of the areas that we would focus on the gap would be Inuit social workers. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Was the need seen as hiring more Inuit social workers or training more Inuit social workers? What exactly was found? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Elliott for the question. We're developing the program or will be developing the program with Nunavut Arctic College. I believe that in Cambridge Bay, there's a human services class, year one and year two classes. I'm not sure of the exact numbers of the folks over there, but there are Inuit who are training to be social workers. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The director of the department is actually tasked in its... In the O&M main estimates, it says it's for the development of policy and legislation. In your opening comments, you mentioned the *Child and Family Services Act*, the *Public Health Act*, the *Vital Statistics Act*, and the *Mental Health Act*. That's four pieces of fairly big legislation. Could the minister go through and maybe give us an update on what's

happening with those pieces of legislation?

I know we received some information about the *Child and Family Services Act* with consultation all across the territory, but maybe now would be a good time to find out, with not very many more months left in our mandate, when he anticipates bringing these forward into the House. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Elliott for the question. I believe the legislative proposal for the *Child and Family Services Act* will be developed and introduction then brought into the House in 2013. We're currently revising and updating the *Public Health Act* and the work on a legislative proposal will be brought later this year. A review of the *Mental Health Act* has been initiated for 2012-13. The department is updating the *Vital Statistics Act*, and then at some point, the legislative proposal will be developed and brought into the House. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In terms of the *Mental Health Act*, it's nice that the department is putting more resources into more mental health workers in the communities to help continue with healing in our communities. I was hoping to maybe get a little bit more detail specifically on the *Mental Health Act*. When will your department start going to the communities or speaking directly with

the frontline workers in terms of what needs to be done to improve the Act and what needs to be built into the Act to make it better? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Elliott for his question. Mr. Chairman, we're at very early stages on this. When we get further advanced on the planning, we will have to get back to him with that information. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Peterson. Mr. Elliott, you have 34 seconds.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In terms of the *Mental Health Act*, could the minister provide us with a list of potential contacts of who they will consult with? Will this go to the Inuit organizations, social workers, and community groups? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Elliott's playing games with the clock. I see he's got 11 seconds left and talking faster.

Yes, Mr. Chairman, we have already begun some early discussions with other government departments, agencies, and non-government organizations, such as NTI, regional Inuit associations, the RCMP, and the public, so I believe we can provide that information. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I assure the minister that I was just trying to get as many questions as I can to help understand what's going on within his department.

When his predecessor was minister, one of the things he committed to was to try and stay from sole source contracting and rely on full-time, indeterminate, and casual employees. I'm wondering: is that still the mandate of the department? Maybe report back on how well that policy is being followed through on. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. You're working overtime. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Elliott for the question. I believe we have heard loud and clear from MLAs that the government departments should try to rely less on sole source contracts and our department is no different. However, it is a medical department, so we do have to provide... For example, out in the communities, there is a need for nurses. If we don't have a nurse, we will have to rely on an agency nurse or a casual nurse. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Peterson. More questions on Directorate on page H-4. Mr. Ningark.

Mr. Ningark: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have one question similar in nature to what Mr. Elliott has been asking. This has to do with recruitment and retention of the beneficiaries in

Nunavut. We all know that over 85 percent [of the population] are Inuit who live in Nunavut. We know that there are graduates from the Nursing Program thanks to the Government of Nunavut, but there are other opportunities in Health and Social Services that our beneficiaries can work.

My question, Mr. Chairman, is: what factors are affecting the recruitment, especially the retention, of Inuit employees in your department? Are people moving to other opportunities across the board or are they moving south looking for better jobs, higher pay, and so on? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Ningark for the question. That's a very difficult question to answer. I think what we have to do as a government, as a department, is we have to offer the training opportunities and make the training programs available for people who, when they do graduate from high school, can make a career or profession in the health department if they want to be a nurse, a social worker, or another type of health professional. So it's important that we make those opportunities available for training, and then when openings are available in the Department of Health, we encourage people to plan for those positions and then we support them.

I do believe, at some point, that it will be important for Nunavut to have a largely homegrown group of health professionals to work in all of our communities and our hospitals. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Peterson. H-4. I don't have any more names here. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you. Mr. Chairman, right from the outset, I will limit my questions to the department in view of my previous involvement with the department.

That being said, Mr. Speaker, I do have some questions with respect to the national context of the issue as well, particularly with respect to the federal government's unilateral announcement earlier this fall about the health transfer agreement to remain at a particular set of financing, which the minister already indicated in response to one of the members.

Subsequently, there have been some disagreements with the federal announcement. I wonder exactly what the Nunavut government's stance is with respect to whether or not they agree with the federal unilateral decision as to how the funding should remain without negotiating the whole health transfer complexities that the provinces articulated together.

So could the minister give us some insight as to exactly where he stands, whether he agrees with the federal approach, or does he agree with some of the provinces that do feel that there should be some series of negotiations prior to the final date being, I think, which the minister indicated was extended to 2017? Thank you.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Curley for the question. Mr. Chairman, coming from a territory where we're always experiencing shortage of funds for all of our operations, obviously I was concerned that the Canada health transfer funds were going to be at 6 percent for the next few years and then they were going to be lowered to 3 percent.

In our circumstances, we do sort of have a unique situation where our Canada health transfer funds only comprise, I think, \$31 million this coming fiscal year of the total \$316 million that we're seeking. So the bulk of our funding comes through the Territorial Formula Financing Agreement. On the finance side, we're working with the federal government.

Our Premier was at the premiers' meetings in January. All the premiers from all the provinces and territories were there and most of them expressed their concerns. I indicated earlier that the health ministers from most of the provinces and territories were tasked with having to hold a couple of meetings to get together and discuss how this unilateral action affects us and how we can approach Ottawa to perhaps back off or find another way to help us with funding. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you. Mr. Chairman, I certainly agree with the minister. I think all the Members of the House have a very important obligation and responsibility to say to the federal government that we need help with

respect to medical and public health services in Nunavut. I appreciate the minister indicating that the territorial formula financing transfer itself is really not enough because the concept of doing business and services up here is staggeringly misunderstood, I think, by the federal government.

I think it's my responsibility as a member of Nunavut that the federal government has not only just an obligation to provide services on an ongoing basis but they also have a fiduciary responsibility for Inuit people, despite the fact that they are providing some 30-some-odd million dollars for non-insured health programs. It is not enough. It is outdated. The cost of doing business, including energy infrastructure, is really staggeringly dangerously high. I think, when you look at the energy prices picking up now, all the facilities are going to be tabbed with the price.

So I would like to continue to give the minister the full support and encourage all members that, not only the finance minister but our own MP as well, it is important to me that she is a member of the federal cabinet and also an MP from Nunavut. I think sometimes she misunderstood the staggering nature of the costs of health. The minister needs help from all of us that the federal government has to live up to its obligations not only to provide some level of service but to look at this part of the north that hasn't got any means of reducing costs because we're limited to flying patients in and out of communities.

I would like to certainly encourage the minister to continue to advocate strongly

that we cannot just depend on the Prime Minister's announcement of 6 percent a year and hope that by the end of 2016, we would have better health financing for Nunavut. Can the minister indicate to me that support from this Assembly is important? Thank you.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I certainly appreciate Mr. Curley's support and endorsement of the health department. I know he did a lot of work in that capacity as the former minister.

I remember a few years ago, while I was the Minister of Finance and Mr. Ma was the Deputy Minister of Finance, I made a prediction. I could see the costs going up on the health side and it is very expensive. Minister Curley would have to come back to us all the time for supplementary bills. I predicted by 2020, there will only be two departments in the Government of Nunavut: the Department of Health and the Department of Finance, one to incur the bills to provide health care to our residents and the other department to pay the bills, and then eventually there will only be one department. That's the way it's going because the health care costs in Nunavut are rising.

We have so many challenges up here that other jurisdictions don't have to provide an adequate level of health care to our residents. We struggle every day to find the resources to help people. We hear from MLAs quite often and individuals via emails about the provision of the same type or level of

treatment and health care that folks elsewhere in Canada get.

Yes, to your answer. If I can get support from all the MLAs and all ministers in this House, it would send a strong message when I'm talking to my counterparts across Canada. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you. I have one last point with respect to that. I appreciate the Prime Minister has come up here, and so on, and I think he certainly needs to be informed better about the serious situation that we face with the costs of health care in Nunavut. Also, I think that we cannot take for granted that our MP, who is also the Minister of Health federally, Leona Aglukkaq, understands the whole degree of costs of delivering health care and medical for Nunavutmiut.

I think it's also our responsibility, each one of us, that we can't just be expecting programs and everything else to increase in our communities without getting some federal help. We've just simply got to get more federal attention. I think the situation that we're facing cannot wait until 2017 because the costs are going up. The air transportation is definitely going to go up now that the driving force of the costs of the airlines we're dependent on for patients is going up, indicators, and they are not going down. So to me, we're facing a very serious situation.

I certainly encourage the minister again to continue to forecast and submit those forecasts to the federal minister

continually because it's one of the major, critical issues that we're facing. I will certainly give you all of my support if you need it somehow. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Curley. Although I didn't hear any questions in the comments, I would like to ask Minister Peterson if he wishes to comment on that.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Curley for those comments. Mr. Chairman, the Department of Health and Social Services really is a very special department. It's unique from other government departments because it actually is a department that touches every one of us in Nunavut daily or almost daily.

Everybody knows someone who is sick or has died or is in care. It touches us all. So we all want the best health care for our relatives, friends, and neighbours. When we hear that someone is sick or is being medevaced, that's one of the most terrifying sounds when you hear a medevac jet taking off at two o'clock in the morning from your community because you know somebody is in great danger.

I think there are going to be some positive things happening in the future. I won't say they're all doom and gloom. We are making some inroads in addressing some of the concerns that we're talking about daily. We are looking at initiatives to expand our health facilities in Nunavut. I said earlier that we're trying to train more

Nunavummiut to get into health professions and that alone will help bring down the costs.

So there are some positive initiatives on the horizon, but the health care costs are very expensive and I don't believe that they're going to actually really go down because we have changing demographics in Nunavut and Canada and with the different structural arrangements that we have in Canada, the costs will continue to rise. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Peterson. Thank you, Mr. Curley, for your comments and support. We're on page H-4. Health and Social Services. Branch Summary. Directorate. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$21,310,000. Agreed? Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Your 2012-13 draft business plan indicates on page 131 that your department's Client Travel Policy has been reviewed and one of your priorities for 2012-13 will be to incorporate findings from that review to establish consistent guidelines and strengthen coordination of medical travel. Do you anticipate that this initiative will result in cost savings for the department? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Elliott for the question. Mr. Chairman, I'm going to have my Executive Director, Debora Voth, respond to that question. Thank you.

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

Ms. Voth: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We anticipate that we will be finished with the review of the Client Travel Policy at the end of March.

The current status is we have gone out and consulted clients in multiple boarding homes and boarding facilities that are actually accessing the medical travel system. We have consulted key informants within the Department of Health and Social Services that work within the medical travel system on a daily basis. We have also done a fairly comprehensive cross-jurisdictional review. So what we're doing right now is we're gathering that information and we're just taking a look at the picture of what are the current benefits that are provided within our current Client Travel Policy and what is the information that we're getting in from our consultation process.

At this time, we can't say that it would be a cost reduction or a cost increase, but we should know more at the end of March. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When the report is complete, will you commit to tabling the Client Travel Policy in the House? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Elliott. I can't

make that commitment at this time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Peterson. We will try again. H-4. Health and Social Services. Branch Summary. Directorate. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$21,310,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Page H-5. Branch Summary. Health and Social Services. Social Services. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$47,463,000. Mr. Tapardjuk.

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Firstly, I want to ask this question. In your opening comments, there was a reference to the Department of Health and Social Services increasing costs for travel and transportation. The figure under social services totals an increase of \$4.34 million for transportation costs. This was a figure I wanted to ask about. What exactly is the purpose for this increased cost, Mr. Chairman? Is it for air travel and transportation costs associated with social services? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Tapardjuk for the question. My executive director of corporate services would like to answer that question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Voth: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The total cost of \$4.3 million is addressing two areas of shortfall that we're experiencing today for travel and transportation. It's not for additional services *per se*, but it's to fund a deficit that we have been experiencing for the last number of years. Previously, we were able to cover off this deficit through surpluses that we had experienced in compensation and benefits.

The costs under this program are for social services. Examples of client and family travel that would not fall under medical travel would be, for example, a child or a permanent ward on adoption pre-placement visits with potential adoptive parents. Also, when a child is living in a residential care facility outside their home community, a family member may visit this child twice a year. An adult in residential care may have one family member visit them once per year. If no foster placement is available in the child's home community, the child is sent to the nearest community with an available foster placement.

The second portion of this request of \$4.3 million is for costs that the department is experiencing for relocation travel, for the increase in casual nurses and casual social workers. So each casual professional generates costs for travel, such as a roundtrip ticket, taxis, travel per diems, accommodation, and excess baggage. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Indeed, it seems

apparent that when the draft legislation for the *Child and Family Services Act* is being reviewed, I'm just imagining that things may change, at least this particular part. It has been clarified in my mind, but just below that, there's wording to that effect. Excuse me. It's not related to social services but health centres, so let me ask a different question, Mr. Chairman.

Social services used to be administered by the municipality in Cape Dorset for many years, but it was eventually transferred back to the Nunavut government. How much additional funding was required to fulfill this social service to Cape Dorset after the hamlet no longer undertook the provision of that service under contract? Let me first get that clarified, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Tapardjuk for the question. The funding was already in the CGS budget, so we just transferred it and the amount was \$300,000. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Another matter close to this area is residential care, which is \$4.1 million. You referred to residential care in your opening comments. Is this for residents requiring care at home or in a care centre?

It states in the English version of the plan that they will be drafting a residential care strategy in the 2011-12

fiscal year. I imagine we will be given a vision of how the department plans on meeting these challenges via their strategy. Additionally, we have been notified that it may not be completed in the fiscal year.

Now, where exactly does this strategy fit into? Has it been vetted as to what else is missing or what requires further study? What barrier or problem exists that this has to be revisited for further review, especially for people who require residential care? What is the problem causing this need for review? Let me start with that question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Tapardjuk for the question. I'll ask my deputy minister to answer that question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Ma: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As part of the *Child and Family Services Act* review, we recognize that residential care is a big component of social services and rather than doing that component separately, because we are doing an overall review of the Act, we thought it would be easier if we just tie it together. So that's what we're going to do now. We will just tie this in as part of the overall review of the Act rather than have it as a separate component. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you. Further to that point, when we speak about care required outside of Nunavut, particularly physically disabled people or other people who require daily care, can you clarify whether or not social services has contracted out care centres outside Nunavut? For instance, how many Nunavummiut with physical disabilities are currently in the care of institutions or centres in the south? I would like to get an answer to that, please, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I apologize for the delay. For 2011-12, the number of children and youth in out-of-territory placements is 64. For 2011-12, for adults and elders in out-of-territory residential placements, the number is 84. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The facilities in Gjoa Haven and Igloolik constructed by the government to provide facilities to residents with physical disabilities requiring daily or all-day care are up and running. Has this lessened the number of residents requiring care outside of Nunavut?

Additionally, what type of vision do we have for our future needs in Nunavut? An example is: if a facility was created in Iqaluit, would we have to repatriate residents to Iqaluit from outside of Nunavut? I would first like to get an idea of what type of plan or strategy they

have with respect to the people who require residential care currently being housed outside. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Tapardjuk for the question. Mr. Chairman, I recall in September 2004, a Full Caucus Retreat in Arviat where we discussed the importance of continuing care facilities and I recall that we wanted to build a continuing care facility in every community in Nunavut. Here we are, almost eight years later, and there are only two continuing care facilities. I believe each one can only accommodate 10, so it's a total of 20 clients. We need to do more work in that area. They are 24/7 facilities and I believe they're making tremendous use of the facilities and promoting them. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Peterson. I have Mr. Ningark.

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Are we on page H-5? The Branch Summary under Social Services talks about children and vulnerable adults who may require protection or other specialized services. Some of the key areas are child protection, adoption, and violence in communities. The minister also stated in his opening comments that \$4.1 million will be required for residential care. Furthermore, those of us who sit here are aware of the *Tamapta* Mandate, which is the current foundation of this government and the members here.

The past Auditor General, Sheila Fraser, spoke to the issue of people at risk. Whether they are personally at risk or their children are at risk, they all require more assistance. How can we provide them with more assistance? The statement made by the former Auditor General pertaining to Nunavut's social issues related to how many smaller communities in particular don't even have a social service worker. I believe that is the term in Inuktitut.

Communities don't have social workers. Where one exists in the smaller communities, the social worker is not always present in their home community as they are responsible for several communities. The social worker rotates amongst their communities, spending several weeks or a month in each community, and then they go to the other community. Once the social worker has moved on to another community, the people at risk are left with no services or assistance and they are left in a position of risk. When the social worker leaves the people they have just visited, the community with no social worker is now at risk.

Following the recommendation of Sheila Fraser that all members here supported, my question to the minister is: how many communities in Nunavut have an existing social worker working full time in their community? I would like a response to the question I just asked. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I again apologize for the delay. My accountant was adding up the

numbers. The number is 18 out of 25 that have permanent social workers in the communities. Thank you.

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

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Now that raises another question. With the 25 communities currently in Nunavut, you just stated that 18 communities have full-time social service workers. Does it mean that these 18 communities have full-time social workers who stay in their community all year long and don't have to visit other communities? Perhaps the only time social workers would leave their community would be when they go on holiday. That is my secondary question. So these 18 social workers you noted don't have any other communities they are responsible for. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe, being GN positions, they would be entitled to some time off for vacations and other leave, but they would be covered by other social workers. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With regard to these 18 positions and if we look at the seven remaining communities that don't have a full-time social worker but have local community workers, such as wellness coordinators, income support workers, health workers, can they not deal with

these children and families at risk or wherever there are cases of family violence? Can they not look after the guardianship of these children at risk? Do they not have the ability to do that?

Again, I'm only talking about the communities that don't have social service workers because when they are requesting assistance and they don't get it, the violence in the community seems to grow bigger and it becomes very difficult to try to stop it. If we look at the government's *Tamapta* Mandate, we speak about healthy communities and healthy families, and that we will be self-sufficient in looking after ourselves. This is something that they refer to back and forth and that it is the foundation of the GN.

One of the recommendations of the Auditor General regarding Nunavut and social services was that every community needs a social worker. Have you put together a recruitment plan to ensure that all the communities get social services, especially while we are Members of the Third Assembly? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Ningark for his comments and concerns. Just to clarify, the 18 we're referring to is actually communities. So there are 18 communities with social workers. We are very concerned about the OAG's report and recommendations, and we have put a major push to hire social workers for all the communities in Nunavut to address precisely the

concerns that Mr. Ningark has raised with us here.

Mr. Chairman, I'm going to ask my deputy to provide some further information and clarity on exactly what our department is doing to recruit and place social workers in communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Ma: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As the minister indicated, we made a concerted effort just before Christmas and it has been ongoing during the last several months to get a community social services worker in every community. By and large, in every community, we will have a social worker by the end of the fiscal year.

I do want to say that there is one caveat and that caveat is that in some communities, the challenge is having staff housing units for those people. That's something that I have to commend the Nunavut Housing Corporation for working with us very closely on. That's what has allowed us to hire almost a CSSW in every community.

We have 41 positions on our org chart and we have all of those positions filled right now either by indeterminate, casual, contract, or agency. As a result of the recruitment efforts, we have 16 new CSSWs. They will be starting in the next few days and that will replace currently seven casual and agency staff. Our plan is we want to orient all of them. We will likely do the orientation out of Iqaluit.

So we can assure the member that we have taken the OAG's concerns very seriously and we have made a very concerted effort in that regard. I do want to commend my executive director of social services for the fine efforts that she has made in this regard and the human resources team both within my department and within the Department of Human Resources. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Ningark: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Did the hon. minister indicate that there are 18 communities without the service of a social worker, yes? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just to clarify, it's 18 communities with social workers. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Ningark: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the jurisdiction where there's a high level of violence against women and children, I don't think we can think or talk about... We're not about to compromise in our communities, especially in the small communities, where there are no social workers. We need the services now and we ask the government of this day, "Please, for God's sake, provide the communities with social workers," especially where people have to face, almost on a daily basis, the distasteful

violence, especially the people who are in a vulnerable home like elders, youth, and women.

Will the minister commit to ensuring, during this life of the Third Assembly, that each and every community, as recommended by the Auditor General, will have a social worker? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Ningark for his heartfelt comments. I understand perfectly where he is coming from. I have the greatest respect for the former Auditor General of Canada, Sheila Fraser. She did a tremendous amount of work on behalf of our territory. She personally came here to make her final public hearing precisely on this issue related to children, youth, and family programs and services in Nunavut. That was one of her key recommendations. This government takes OAG recommendations very seriously.

We will commit to doing our very best to make sure every community has a social worker going forward. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Peterson. I have Mr. Oshutapik.

Mr. Oshutapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to speak to the issue, but you may correct me if you feel it's outside of our review mandate. We are talking about capital purchases related to social services. This item is one many communities wish for and it's not just our community that is

requesting this. I pondered this capital purchases idea as we were debating the social services estimates.

Improving the existing child welfare system is a priority of my fellow residents because of the fact that the system is causing problems related to child welfare. Whenever the social workers find a case, their western methodology of social services is the antithesis of the Inuit way of resolving issues. The way they conduct their practices is alien.

Since the majority of Nunavut communities have mainly Inuit residents, the whole child welfare system is one of removal. The whole precept of removal is a western corporate mentality, where the social worker, upon finding a case, will work to remove the children. The removal of children is not the way to resolve issues.

This is especially important when we're talking about the budget estimates and I wanted to bring this matter up, Mr. Chairman. I am of the belief that this system needs overhauling and incorporation of the principles of *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit*, especially since this government keeps maintaining the importance of traditional knowledge in government operations. With respect to child protection, why do we keep throwing out Inuit practices?

All we see in the communities is the break-up of the family, the tearing down of family ties, as we have seen children who have restriction orders and they're not allowed to see their parents. Parents discipline or scold their children and the social worker breaks up the family over that. This is why I believe the legislation

needs to be revised in this regard and that is what I wanted to speak to while we're talking about budget estimates. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Oshutapik for the comments. I'm not sure if there was a question there, but I think parents in every community want to ensure the safety of their children. I think, as leaders of the community and as politicians, we want to ensure that our children are protected. That's why we do have the *Child and Family Services Act* to guide us. We are undertaking a review. The OAG has made all their recommendations precisely with the protection and safety of our children and youth in the provision of services.

I hope that Mr. Oshutapik understands that children do have to be protected. We have too many examples in Nunavut of serious child abuse. The social workers have the Act and they have to follow the rules, but hopefully, with the incorporation of Inuit societal values, they can call on the support and advice of elders and other people in the communities to guide them.

I know that when you live in a small community in Nunavut, which all of us have for many years, you know how things work in a community, but if you're a person who comes from the outside and you have been here six months, you still have a lot to learn and understand. That's where local people, people who have been there for all their lives, can provide you with guidance

about how you do your work. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Oshutapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Let me raise this question. I wanted to bring that issue up and I thank you for commenting on it. (interpretation ends) Your department has undertaken a very comprehensive review of child and family services. When will you be introducing new legislation for child and family services in Nunavut? Thank you.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Oshutapik for the question. I believe that the current schedule calls for us to introduce it in the winter of 2013, so that would be February-March of next year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Peterson. We're on page H-5. Branch Summary. Health and Social Services. Social Services. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$47,463,000. Agreed? Ms. Ugyuk.

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm sorry. I thought you had my name on your list. One of your department's priorities for 2012-13 is to implement the Ilagiitsiarniq (interpretation ends) prevention strategy. (interpretation) For those people who are in a violent situation, there is... . In your department, you have 2012-13 that you will be developing a system for the

people of Nunavut to deal with that.
Thank you.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Mr. Chairman, the translation wasn't coming through clear for us. I would hate to ask, but could Ms. Ugyuk repeat her question?

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

Ms. Ugyuk: One of the department's priorities for 2012-13 will be to "Implement the Ilagiitsiarniq Family Violence Prevention Strategy." Can you describe how this policy will be implemented across Nunavut's communities? Thank you.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Ms. Ugyuk for the question. Mr. Chairman, one of the first things I did when I became minister was sort of reading through all the strategies, draft strategies, and other important documents in the Department of Health.

I did read the draft family violence prevention strategy. It was quite a long document. I met with officials in my department and asked them to redraft it with the idea of making it easier to understand so that it will be easier to apply in our communities when it's implemented. The reason I did that is because I recall the *Family Abuse Intervention Act* years ago when it was rolled out too quickly, and then we ran into some problems, early problems with it. I don't want it to be the same with this

particular strategy, so we're still working on it. It is a high priority for the department. At some certain point, we will discuss it with the members. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When we were reviewing last year's supplementary appropriation in the winter, the Department of EIA requested funding for two positions and the members approved it. At that time, I asked the minister about the matter of shelters and whether the government would establish them. The answer from the minister was that the community has to support this request, with support from residents and local church groups to provide a service if a shelter is established. My question is: will there be funding made available to communities to deal with family violence? Thank you.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Ms. Ugyuk for her question. Currently, I believe there are six shelters across Nunavut and I think three are operational. There are discussions with a couple of others to bring them online. I don't believe, at this time, there's additional funding for shelters. That's the best I can answer on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My question was in relation to whether or not the hamlets

will be provided with funding for this initiative. Will the church groups that have been asked to provide more assistance to resolve family violence in the communities get this funding? This is violence in a family, irrespective of their gender. Thank you.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Ms. Ugyuk for the question. Right now, we only fund crisis shelters and safe homes in the communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you. I believe we have to be given a truthful response when we ask questions in this House. When I had posed a question on safe shelters and whether one would be opened, the previous minister stated in response that none would be established. The minister also stated that community groups and church parishes have to be included and they have to support the initiatives. When I heard that response, I took it to mean that funding would be made available in the future for this initiative. That is what I'm trying to get clarified at this time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Ms. Ugyuk for the question. I think we understand a little bit better now. If we receive proposals from groups in the communities, we would review the proposals. It's

important that, as indicated in some earlier answers, a few people in communities get more involved to address family violence.

I can't predetermine who is going to be involved. All communities are different. They have different groups that want to get involved and volunteer to help in different activities. So it would be premature for me to actually say who would get funded and who would be involved in family violence initiatives at the community level. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Ugyuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When we did a supplementary appropriation this winter or last fall, we transferred money from EIA to Health and Social Services. I specifically asked if they were going to open more shelters. I was told by the minister of the day that no, they're not going to open any more shelters. They want the communities and clergies or ministers to help in this area. I just want to know if the communities or churches are going to be helping in this area. I want to know where they're standing on this Ilagiitsiarniq. Thank you.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Ms. Ugyuk for the question. Again, as I indicated earlier, if a community has a proposal, as there are six communities with shelters or safe homes, if a community has an initiative for a crisis shelter or safe home, they could submit them to the Department of

Health and we will consider them.
Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Peterson. Page H-5. Branch Summary. Health and Social Services. Social Services. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$47,463,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. We're going to page H-6. (interpretation ends) Health and Social Services. Branch Summary. Public Health. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$17,109,000. Mr. Ningark.

Mr. Ningark: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This branch summary, this activity is dear to my heart. I talk about giving more resources to community health committees. I believe this branch summary touches on that concern. My question to the hon. minister and his staff at the witness table is under the grants and contributions. That brings us to page H-9, Summary of Grants and Contributions. I believe I'm on the right track.

Under the grants and contributions section of your draft main estimates, \$250,000 will be allocated to community-based health committees of council. My question, Mr. Chairman, is this: how many community health committees of council receive this funding? Secondly, how much does each community receive? And thirdly, what programs or services are delivered with this funding? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Ningark for the questions. Twenty-five communities have community health committees and each one receives \$10,000; \$250,000 in total. It's up to each community health committee to determine how they want to use the money in their community. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Ningark: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Perhaps I can pursue this activity tomorrow and ask the Premier of this government about the empowerment of hamlets across Nunavut. So it's just a courtesy of letting the government know that, similar to this question. So I don't have any further questions at this point. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Ms. Ell.

Ms. Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Over the years, tuberculosis rates in Nunavut have consistently been higher than the national rate. The return to written question on active TB cases in Nunavut was tabled last Tuesday, February 21, indicating that as of October 25, 2011, there were 62 cases of TB diagnosed in Nunavut since January 1, 2011. Can the minister indicate when he will be able to table the final stats on TB for 2011? Is that an appropriate question? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Ell. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Ms. Ell for the question. Mr. Chairman, I can't guarantee this, but we may be able to provide that information in the spring sitting. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Peterson. Ms. Ell.

Ms. Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the minister. Last year, the federal Department of Health provided \$709,000 for the initiative which we have heard about, "Taima TB." This initiative was funded with the purpose of eradicating TB and to educate residents about the symptoms of TB and the need for regular checkups for TB here in Nunavut. Can the minister provide an update on what has transpired within this initiative to date, and whether or not the federal government will provide more funding for this program in the year 2012-13? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Ell. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Ms. Ell for the question. Mr. Chairman, there is a meeting very soon to talk about TB, to talk about funding, and we hope to be able to get some additional funding to continue the program in the next fiscal year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Peterson. Ms. Ell.

Ms. Ell: On page 139 of the department's business plan, it indicates that the GN funding for the tuberculosis program will be significantly increased

in 2012-13. Can the minister describe what additional activities or resources will be brought forward to address the high tuberculosis rate in Nunavut in 2012-13? Thank you, *Itsivautaaq*.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Ell. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Sorry to keep you guys waiting with baited breath. We do have a lot of paper here. We're going to have to provide that information as soon as possible, but the funding, I believe, is \$717,000. I assure you that it will go to good use to promote the eradication of tuberculosis. If Ms. Ell would bear with us, we can provide that information later. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Peterson. Ms. Ell.

Ms. Ell: What is the current status of tuberculosis in Nunavut? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Ell. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Ms. Ell for the question. The information that we have, there were 75 active cases of TB reported in the territory in 2011 and 101 cases were diagnosed in 2010, and 92 percent of the cases in 2010 and 97 percent of the cases in 2011 were in the Qikiqtani region. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Peterson. Ms. Ell.

Ms. Ell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is this an increase due to the fact that you were screening more or that there are more active TB cases? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Ell. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Ms. Ell for the question. The project we have, the Taima TB, is a program that's designed to identify and provide in-home screening for latent TB, and then take proactive measures to provide treatment of active TB cases. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Peterson. Ms. Ell.

Ms. Ell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess the question is: do we have an increase of tuberculosis in Nunavut or is it because of the increased screening for the disease in Nunavut due to Taima TB that makes it look like we have more active cases of TB? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Ell. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Ms. Ell for her question. If I'm reading this information correctly, in 2010, there were 101 cases diagnosed, which was the highest number ever reported in Nunavut. In 2011, there were only 75 active cases reported. It decreased by 26, so it seems to be decreasing. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Peterson. Ms. Ell.

Ms. Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Minister, for the answer. Concerns have also been raised that there are now antibiotic-resistant strains of tuberculosis. Can the minister clarify whether any of the current tuberculosis cases in Nunavut have been identified as antibiotic resistant and what steps are taken to treat affected individuals if that's the case? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Ell. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Ms. Ell for the question. Mr. Chairman, the three of us here aren't aware of any situations that she has described. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Looking at H-7 and in reference to page 141 of the business plan, one of the priorities for 2012-13 is to undertake a review of the mental health issue. What specific aspects of the legislation will be focused on during this review? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe Mr. Aupaluktuq is one page ahead of where we are. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Peterson. It may be my oversight here. Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Certainly I do apologize if I'm on the wrong page, but I also wanted to make reference to the mental health issues, but when it's at the correct page, I will refer to that. I was jumping ahead of myself. I was also looking at the question under Treatment.

The question I want to refer as well is for those with disabilities. If there's going to be any enhanced services or reviews of any special needs as well and for those with disabilities under treatment plans. If I'm in the wrong area, I do apologize. I'm jumping ahead as well. I just want to confirm that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Just for clarification, (interpretation) we're on page H-6. Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Certainly I do appreciate that I did jump ahead in reference to treatment, but I guess the reason why I generally saw public health as an overall issue, the reason why I jumped ahead with that is to be able to... . It states in the branch summary that there's going to be collaboration, regulation, community development, and the support of effective clinical prevention and interventions.

I guess what I want to ask for clarity, my apologies, Mr. Chairman, is if there is any identification, such as what Mr. Ningark was referring to, for public health, such as local and community public health committees. Some people have brought issues in regard to accessing community initiatives, as well

as being able to express themselves through health committees. I do apologize.

In reference to Mr. Ningark's question, I was alluding to the fact about treatments for disabilities or those with community concerns from disabilities. Mr. Chairman, some have expressed concerns about wanting to be able to voice their concerns about barriers that they do face. So the question I want to ask is in regard to public health. Does the health and social services department empower local and health committees? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Aupaluktuq for the question. Several years ago, I think back in 2000, the regional health boards were disbanded by the Government of Nunavut and they did set up the community committees precisely to have them work with the Department of Health on behalf of communities and work with the hamlet councils. I recall when I was a mayor of Cambridge Bay, we did believe that the health committee was empowered to have a strong voice and say in how health services were delivered in the community, and I don't think that has changed.

If the community health committee feels very strongly about certain health practices or issues in the community, they should absolutely feel empowered to take their concern to the executive director of the region or to the mayor or to the MLA or directly to myself as minister. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the response as well and I do apologize to this committee as well because my perception at the time was specifically in terms of public health and the expression of constituents being able to express themselves. That's why I jumped ahead in terms of both the *Mental Health Act* question as well as the disabilities, but I will clarify in the proper page. I will thank the minister for directing and informing us as to how these local health committees are supported. As my colleague has indicated, he will have detailed questions as well to follow. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's just a comment.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. Minister Peterson, did you want to comment on this?

Hon. Keith Peterson: No, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The issue of fetal alcohol spectrum disorder has far-reaching consequences for those who suffer from it from early childhood, through the education system, and into their adult lives. Many individuals who suffer from FASD also end up in the justice system. What programs are currently in place to assess, evaluate, and assist Nunavut's children, adults, and their family with problems associated with FASD? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Elliott for the question. FASD is a very serious issue in Nunavut and I believe it is right across Canada. It's one of those public health issues where people who are affected can feel stigmatized in their community. Our primary focus at this time is more public awareness and public education. Don't drink while you're pregnant and encourage support from your family members. We're not just talking about the mothers, but support from the spouses and the family to not drink while you're expecting.

We also have to recognize that in the justice system, we estimate that up to 30 percent of the folks in the justice system could be affected with mental health problems. We do need recognition and awareness from our employees who are in those facilities on how to identify and how to work with individuals like that. I know the justice ministers are actually [making] a big push on that. Perhaps some of these individuals should not even be in the justice system.

It's going to be difficult in Nunavut for us because we are so greatly under-resourced to actually put diagnostic tools, programs, and systems in place so that we can identify individuals and work with them. I think it will be an important challenge for us going forward. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In terms of testing and diagnosis, is it his

department that provides that service?
Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe, on a limited basis, we could provide it. As I indicated, we're not fully resourced for some of the complex diagnostics that would be required to assess an individual. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to talk now about the breakfast programs that we have across the territory. I know, with questioning the Minister of Education when she was before us, she had said it was your department that was responsible for providing the funding for the breakfast programs. It was mentioned on page 5 of your Budget Address, the idea of new programs for breakfast and school programs. "If our children hunger for anything, it should be for knowledge."

As mentioned before, the Minister of Education said there is no funding within her department. As I was looking through your department, it looks like there is no funding as well. On H-9 under Public Health, the breakfast program received \$500,000 for last year, but there is zero dollars this year. There was \$176,000 for reducing poverty and food insecurity and there is zero dollars this year.

Where is the money for the breakfast programs coming from if it is a mandate of the government to help fight poverty

by providing breakfast programs? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Elliott is correct. The health department did provide \$500,000 in the current fiscal year for breakfast programming, but it's not in the budget for the next fiscal year. I just don't recall exactly where the funding came from, but it was a program, I think, from the federal government. There is funding for communities that wish to access funding through the Brighter Futures program. Through The Makimaniq Plan that was recently tabled, we're hoping that that initiative will help us identify sources of funds for breakfast programs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, if providing breakfast programs to communities is such a high priority, when you look at the Brighter Futures funding for this year under A-IV-2 in the appendix, there's actually a decrease. In 2010-11, there was \$15.8 million. The revised estimates for 2011-12 is \$16 million. What you're receiving this year is \$14 million. So that's less than. I'm just wondering: if we're going to support a program, why is the funding going down? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I could ask Mr. Elliott to

clarify the information where he's quoting from. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll try and find it because I moved my bookmark. It's at the back of the 2012-13 main estimates. It's under appendix IV, or appendix 4. It's at the bottom of the page. It says, "A-IV-2." Under Health and Social Services, it's third party funding, Brighter Futures, Building Healthy Communities, and Others, \$14 million. That's where I was getting my numbers from, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Elliott for the clarification. Mr. Chairman, the information he is quoting from is information we don't have available to us at this table. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So in terms of breakfast programs, what do you estimate giving to communities this year for breakfast programs across the territory since it's such a high priority for our government? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

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

question. The estimated amount, the funding would be about \$800,000, but they would have to submit proposals. Just to give an idea and not scare Mr. Elliott, we estimate that it would require about \$6,500,000 in annual costs to provide adequate breakfast daily to all Nunavut students. As a department, we're going to do some further analysis this year and provide a more detailed framework and a budget for that figure. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So in terms of the people working through The Makimaniq Plan or the Poverty Reduction Secretariat, is it their task or responsibility to find the \$6 million?

Again, I'm going from last year and, last year, I was bounced back and forth between departments to try and find out where this money was coming from to help enhance our breakfast programs across the territory. It was very hard to find out this information, so it would be nice to know. Again, I would like to go back to my communities and tell them where to send these proposals and where to access these funds to continue to build on the success of the breakfast program that they have been having. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Elliott. For the \$800,000, I just mentioned that the communities would send their proposals

to the Health Promotion Branch of the Department of Health.

With respect to the large amount of money that I was talking about and where we would access funds to provide a top-notch breakfast program, that's going to require larger policy discussion, bring everybody together and sit down and have a good discussion on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In May of this year, we will be starting into our second year of the Nutrition North Canada Program. One of the key factors of that program is providing, I think, over \$3 million of funding to northern jurisdictions for healthy eating initiatives. I was wondering if the minister could provide us with the dollar figure of what we received last year and where that money was allocated. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: It was at \$1.3 million and it was over one and a half years. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Do we know what the allocation will be for the 2012-13 fiscal year, as this program will continue? My understanding is that education and nutritional education will continue to be a key part of the Nutrition North Canada Program. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Elliott. I believe the amount annually that would flow is \$840,000. My deputy has just advised me that he is in the midst of having discussions with the funders for the funding. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So in terms of the \$840,000 that we will be receiving from the federal government this year, will communities have access to, again, like with the breakfast program, applying and providing proposals for what they want to do within their community? Are there guidelines that are based around accessing that funding? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Elliott again for the question. Mr. Chairman, the intention is to run the program as it has been run this year and run it the same way in the new fiscal year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that response, but I don't think you actually said how the money was accessed, whether it was through proposals and whether communities or organizations were able to access that

funding. Are organizations able to access that funding? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The funding is accessed through proposals to the department. I believe it's open to any organization in the community. I think it would likely go to the communities first. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Peterson. H-6. Health and Social Services. Branch Summary. Public Health. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$17,109,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll try and make you approve something that you cannot deny. If you put my name on the list for tomorrow as being the first one, I can make a motion to report progress now.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Enook. We have a motion on the floor to report progress and the motion is not debatable, as mentioned. All those in favour of the motion. Thank you. All those opposed. Thank you. The motion is carried. I will now rise to report progress. Thank you.

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses out. My apologies.

Speaker: *Qujannamiik*, Sergeant-at-Arms. Orders of the day. Item 21. Report of the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Ningeongan.

Item 21: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Mr. Ningeongan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Bill 24 and the main estimates, and would like to report progress. Also, Mr. Speaker, I move that the Report of the Committee of the Whole be concurred with. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. There is a motion on the floor. Is there a seconder? Thank you, Mr. Enook. As you said, your name is on the record. You're going to go first for questions tomorrow too. The motion is in order. All those in favour. None opposed. The motion is carried.

Item 22. Third Reading of Bills. Item 23. *Orders of the Day*. Mr. Clerk.

Item 23: Orders of the Day

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A reminder that there's a meeting of the Management and Services Board tomorrow at nine o'clock in the Tuktu Room.

Orders of the Day for February 29:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions

8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to Opening Address
10. Replies to Budget Address
11. Petitions
12. Responses to Petitions
13. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters
14. Tabling of Documents
15. Notices of Motions
16. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
17. Motions
18. First Reading of Bills
 - Bill 25
 - Bill 26
 - Bill 27
 - Bill 28
 - Bill 29
 - Bill 30
 - Bill 31
 - Bill 32
 - Bill 33
19. Second Reading of Bills
20. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
 - Bill 21
 - Bill 24
 - Bill 34

21. Report of the Committee of the Whole

22. Third Reading of Bills

23. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned until Wednesday. Adjourned, that's something we won't be able to sit again, we have been for the last four years, and we won't for another four years, is it's adjourned until Wednesday, February 29, at 1:30 p.m.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 18:00*

