



Nunavut Canada

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NUNAVUT

3rd Session

3rd Assembly

HANSARD

Official Report

DAY 35

Thursday, March 1, 2012

Pages 1938 – 2001

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)

Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole

Hon. Lorne Kusugak

(Rankin Inlet South – Whale Cove)

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

John Ningark

(Akulliq)

Johnny Ningeongan

(Nanulik)

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

Hezakiah Oshutapik

(Pangnirtung)

Hon. Keith Peterson

(Cambridge Bay)

*Minister of Finance, Chair of the
Financial Management Board; Minister
of Health and Social Services*

Allan Rumbolt

(Hudson Bay)

Hon. Fred Schell

(South Baffin)

*Minister of Human Resources;
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
Transportation; Minister of Energy*

Jeannie Ugyuk

(Nattilik)

Officers

Clerk

John Quirke

Deputy Clerk

Nancy Tupik

Clerk Assistant

Stephen Innuksuk

Law Clerk

Michael Chandler

Sergeant-at-Arms

Simanek Kilabuk

Hansard Production

Innirvik Support Services

Box 1200

Iqaluit, Nunavut, X0A 0H0

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

Website: www.assembly.nu.ca

Table of Contents

Opening Prayer.....	1938
Ministers' Statements	1938
Members' Statements	1941
Returns to Oral Questions	1944
Oral Questions.....	1944
Tabling of Documents	1962
Second Reading of Bills.....	1962
Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters	1965
Report of the Committee of the Whole	2000
Orders of the Day	2001

A.

Daily References

Thursday, March 1, 2012.....1938

B.

Ministers' Statements

130 – 3(3): Nunavut Supports Artists' Resale Rights (Taptuna).....1938

131 – 3(3): Curriculum Resources in Nunavut (Aariak)1939

132 – 3(3): Dedication and Professionalism Demonstrated by Nunavut Arctic College and the
Community of Iqaluit Applauded (Shewchuk).....1939

133 – 3(3): Nunavummi Nangminiqaqtunik Ikajuuti (NNI) Policy Review (Aariak)1940

C.

Members' Statements

189 – 3(3): 2012 TV Nunavut Conference (Ell).....1941

190 – 3(3): Successful Start to Winter Turbot Fishery (Oshutapik).....1942

191 – 3(3): Northern Youth Abroad (Elliott)1942

192 – 3(3): Kugluktuk Participants at the Arctic Winter Games (Taptuna).....1943

193 – 3(3): Qikiqtarjuaq Participants at the Arctic Winter Games (Arreak).....1944

D.

Returns to Oral Questions

Return to Oral Question 259 – 3(3): Establishment of Total Allowable Take of the Southern
Hudson Bay Polar Bear Subpopulation (Arreak).....1944

E.

Oral Questions

289 – 3(3): Fire Safety Inspections (Ell)1944

290 – 3(3): Security at Nunavut Airports (Enook)	1945
291 – 3(3): Community Freezers (Ningeongan).....	1947
292 – 3(3): Government of Nunavut Policies Regarding Construction Contracts (Ningark)	1948
293 – 3(3): Safety and Security of Students (Curley)	1951
294 – 3(3): Affordable Housing and Nunavut Trust (Elliott).....	1953
295 – 3(3): Total Allowable Harvest of Polar Bears (Rumbolt)	1954
296 – 3(3): Alberta Curriculum and Entrance Exams (Oshutapik)	1956
297 – 3(3): Inuit Societal Values (Tapardjuk).....	1958

F.

Tabling of Documents

160 – 3(3): Quttiktuq Constituency Newsletter (Elliott)	1962
161 – 3(3): Interim Report of Members’ Absences from Sitzings of the House and Meetings of Committees and Caucuses for the Period October to December of 2011 (Speaker)	1962
162 – 3(3): Report to the Management and Services Board on Procurement and Contracting Activities for the Legislative Assembly for the Year 2010-2011 (Speaker).....	1962

G.

Committee Motions

008 – 3(3): Review of the Patient/Client Complaints Procedure of the Department of Health and Social Services (Tapardjuk)	1990
--	------

H.

Bills

Bill 28 – Write-off of Assets Act, 2011-2012 – Second Reading	1962
Bill 29 – Write-off of Assets Act, No. 1, 2010-2011 – Second Reading	1963
Bill 30 – Building Code Act – Second Reading	1963

Bill 31 – An Act to Amend the Consumer Protection Act – Second Reading	1964
Bill 32 – An Act to Amend the Legal Services Act – Second Reading	1964
Bill 33 – An Act to Amend the Labour Standards Act – Second Reading.....	1964
Bill 24 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2012-2013 – Health and Social Services – Consideration in Committee.....	1965

Iqaluit, Nunavut
Thursday, March 1, 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 13:31*

Item 1: Opening Prayer

Speaker (Hon. Hunter Tootoo):

Qujannamiik, Sergeant-at-Arms. Before we proceed, I would like to ask Mr. Ningeongan if he could lead us off with a prayer, please.

>>*Prayer*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. (interpretation ends) Moving on in our orders of the day. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Minister Taptuna.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

**Minister's Statement 130 – 3(3):
Nunavut Supports Artists' Resale
Rights**

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, colleagues, Nunavummiut, and Kuglukturmiut. Mr. Speaker, in fewer than 50 years, through the production and sale of art, Inuit have

established an international reputation for the distinctiveness and quality of their work.

Inuit artists have brought their vision of the world to an international audience and built an economic sector that creates jobs and contributes tens of millions of dollars every year to Nunavut's economy.

Mr. Speaker, in *Tamapta*, we committed to increasing support for culture and the arts. We also committed to reducing poverty in our communities. Today, we add our voice to support artists' resale right and encourage Canada to address this critical piece of legislation.

Mr. Speaker, an artists' resale right would entitle visual artists like Nunavut's Pitloosie Saila, Qavavau Manumie, Paul Maliki, and Nick Sikkuark, just to name a few, or their estate, to a 5 percent royalty payment on art resold through an auction house or commercial gallery.

The artists' resale right was first introduced in France in 1920. Since then, 59 countries worldwide have enacted legislation to establish resale royalty rights for their visual artists.

As just one example, in November, two prints by Kenojuak Ashevak sold at auction for a total of \$29,620. If Canada had an artists' resale right, she would have received a royalty payment of \$1,481.

Mr. Speaker, visual art, more often than any other art form, appreciates in value over time as the artist's reputation grows. It is time for Canada to recognize the right of Nunavut's artists to benefit

from the resale of their work. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Minister responsible for the Department of Education, Madam Minister Aariak.

**Minister's Statement 131 – 3(3):
Curriculum Resources in Nunavut**

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Good afternoon, Mr. Speaker. I would like to invite my colleagues to review the curriculum and resource display my department has set up in the lobby of the Legislative Assembly. Here you will see an example of the extensive resources we have in Nunavut to support learning from early childhood to grade 12.

Mr. Speaker, the Department of Education, in consultation with elders, has been working hard to develop curriculum and resources that reflect the unique culture, heritage, and history of Nunavut. When you look at these materials, you will see reflections of what makes us Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, we also work closely with our curriculum partners from the Northwest Territories, Yukon, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta to develop curriculum that meet the high standards our students expect and deserve, Canada-wide standards.

We are working to ensure our students are engaged in their learning through a balance of academic studies and practical hands-on coursework. We believe in a system based on mandatory

core subjects, such as language, math, science, and social studies.

...(interpretation ends)... Mr. Speaker, the social and economic strengths of the community to provide education that helps students become proficient, capable, and contributing members of society. Our students will gain essential knowledge and skills to continue their studies anywhere in Canada, to gain employment, to serve their families and communities, and to create the Nunavut envisioned by the mothers and fathers of Nunavut. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Aariak. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College, Minister Shewchuk.

**Minister's Statement 132 – 3(3):
Dedication and Professionalism
Demonstrated by Nunavut Arctic
College and the Community of
Iqaluit Applauded**

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to say how proud I am of the staff at Nunavut Arctic College and thank them for their professionalism and dedication to the students who suffered losses on Sunday night's fire. The staff at Nunatta Campus and the Nunavut Research Institute has given more than their time and effort to volunteer and to take responsibility to make sure that our student families can return to some sense of normality. They have worked as a true team with the City of Iqaluit, the landlord, local businesses, the Canadian Red Cross, local

authorities, and many volunteers to make this happen.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to say “thank you” to the hundreds of people across Nunavut, Canada, and around the world for their donations of time, money, love, and support for all those who have been affected by this week’s events.

We extend our sincere and heartfelt thanks to the City of Iqaluit, the Iqaluit fire department and its emergency responders who braved extremely cold weather to battle the fire. We would also like to thank the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and also the staff of the Qikiqtani General Hospital.

Mr. Speaker, the generosity and random acts of kindness from Nunavutmiut, Canadians, and others from around the world is deeply appreciated. Eighty-three people are sleeping in their own warm beds tonight because a community pulled together.

>>Applause

It would be impossible to thank each and every person, but they know who they are and we want them to know we will be forever grateful.

My congratulations to the President of Nunavut Arctic College, Michael Shouldice, and his fine team of college staff who were there for their students and their families.

This week, Mr. Speaker, we learned the true meaning of *Tamapta* (all working together).

We are a strong and resilient people and we will rebuild and move forward together. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. I’m sure that all members take their hats off to all those involved in helping out this past week. Item 2. Ministers’ Statements. Minister for Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, Madam Premier.

**Minister’s Statement 133 – 3(3):
Nunavummi Nangminiqagtunik
Ikajuuti (NNI) Policy Review**

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As was noted in the Budget Address, although it is a year earlier than expected, we have directed our officials to launch a comprehensive review of the Nunavummi Nangminiqagtunik Ikajuuti Policy, or NNI Policy, in collaboration with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated. There is a general agreement with NTI that this review will take place one year earlier than expected. This is a requirement under Article 24 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement and is an important tool for ensuring that the benefits of economic development in Nunavut stay within the territory and provide opportunities to land claim beneficiaries.

Mr. Speaker, in conjunction with the NNI review, our officials will conduct a comprehensive internal review of Government of Nunavut public procurement practices. The NNI and procurement review will be coordinated through the secretary to cabinet who will report on progress to cabinet.

Interdepartmental working groups will present final results to cabinet for consideration and eventual implementation by the responsible ministers.

Mr. Speaker, public procurement plays a vital role in Nunavut's economy. Mr. Speaker, as we regain our self-reliance, we must be guided by the principle of *Qanuqtuurniq* – being innovative and resourceful so that our government reflects our unique circumstances. The objective of our internal public procurement review, when matched with the joint NNI review, is to ensure that our practices reflect emerging best practices and are effective and efficient. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Madam Premier. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Iqaluit West, Ms. Ell.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 189 – 3(3): 2012 TV Nunavut Conference

Ms. Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I rise today to inform the House of an important and exciting event that begins in Iqaluit next week.

Mr. Speaker, the 2012 TV Nunavut Conference will be held from March 5 to 9 of this year. The purpose of this event is to develop an organizational, programming, technical, and funding framework with action plans leading to the formation of a regional television network, TV Nunavut. A steering

committee will be formed, tasked with overseeing the implementation of the action plans.

Language strategists, program producers, educators, elders, youth, technical personnel, representatives from Inuit organizations, the Government of Nunavut, and funding groups will be present, working together to take the next step in forming TV Nunavut. There will be panel discussions, special presentations by stakeholders and working groups forming within the conference.

Mr. Speaker, as you know, I am proud to have worked with the Inuit Broadcasting Corporation for a number of years. IBC has played a significant and ongoing role in the use and promotion of the Inuit language. For decades, IBC's programs have informed our residents and entertained our children. A number of its programs, including Takuginai, are known throughout the world.

Mr. Speaker, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated's recent report on Inuit language emphasizes the importance of ensuring that our children and youth embrace our language. The work performed by IBC and others is critical to achieving this goal and I strongly support the initiative to ensure a vibrant broadcasting sector. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Ms. Ell. Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Pangnirtung, Mr. Oshutapik.

**Member's Statement 190 – 3(3):
Successful Start to Winter Turbot
Fishery**

Mr. Oshutapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, my constituents. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I rise today to inform the House that this year's winter turbot fishery in Pangnirtung is off to an excellent start.

Mr. Speaker, as you know, Pangnirtung Fisheries plays a major role in the community and is a critical part of our local economy. This year's turbot fishing season started on January 21. Since that time, almost 200,000 lbs. of turbot has been processed in the plant.

>>Applause

The value of the catch is close to a quarter of a million dollars.

Mr. Speaker, there are 44 fishermen to date. Approximately two dozen of my constituents are employed at the plant. Given the limited job opportunities in our smaller communities, I am proud of the commitment that Pangnirtung Fisheries has to the well-being of our residents.

Mr. Speaker, (interpretation) I have been informed that both major airlines can barely keep up with the volume of fish that is being shipped to our customers. As you know, we have achieved success in expanding our market to the United States and Japan.

I want to express my support for the programs that the Department of Environment has in the area of fisheries and sealing, including the commercial fisheries freight subsidy.

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

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

Mr. Oshutapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Fishing is a sustainable industry that is critical to our economy and communities in Nunavut. I ask all members to join me in expressing support for Pangnirtung Fisheries and my constituents who are working to build a better tomorrow. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 191 – 3(3):
Northern Youth Abroad**

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to congratulate the Northern Youth Abroad Program for another fine season of success.

Mr. Speaker, six of my constituents, April Eecheak, Nick Mukpa, and Jacqueline Arnauyumayuq from Arctic Bay, Etuangat Akeeagok from Grise Fiord, as well as alternates Saalia Pijamini and Sasha Eecheak have been selected for this year's Canadian program. I know that their experience will give them valuable knowledge to help them prepare for their future.

Mr. Speaker, the Northern Youth Abroad Program continues to be very successful, with this year marking its 15th anniversary. Last year, 44 participants have completed the program.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to acknowledge the support of the Government of Nunavut in making an additional contribution for 2011. The program has proven itself with the impressive results that it has received and kudos to the government for recognizing that fact.

Mr. Speaker, the Northern Youth Abroad Program is open to youth from across Nunavut and the Northwest Territories. The program helps participants develop professional skills while getting hands-on work experience. They earn high school credits through a cross-cultural learning experience in southern Canada or abroad.

Mr. Speaker, the Northern Youth Abroad Program has a number of objectives: building knowledge, cross-cultural awareness, completion of high school, global education, job training, community development, leadership development, international citizenship, and improved self-confidence. Any one of these is incredibly worthwhile to the youth in our society.

Mr. Speaker, times are tight for many entities and organizations in the current fiscal climate. I am pleased that the minister and her officials have provided support to this program to enable it to continue providing such wonderful opportunities to our youth to develop and grow.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating all of this year's successful participants in the Northern Youth Abroad Program. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Kugluktuk, Mr. Taptuna.

**Member's Statement 192 – 3(3):
Kugluktuk Participants at the
Arctic Winter Games**

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to congratulate 11 young members of my constituency of Kugluktuk.

Mr. Speaker, the 11 young members have been selected and will be participating in the Arctic Winter Games in Whitehorse.

Mr. Speaker, in Inuit games, there's going to be Andrew Atatahak, Andrew Bell, Ikey Bolt; for soccer, Kendra Bolt, Carmen Aviak, Aislyn Bolt, Scott Hala, Doyle Algona; for table tennis, Krista Niptanatiak, Corey Niptanatiak, and Ellie Okaitok.

I want to take this opportunity to congratulate all of these young folks who are going to be participating and I thank the coach and volunteers who have put in a lot of time to make this a reality for our young folks. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Taptuna. Best of luck to those young individuals in

Whitehorse. Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Uqqummiut, Mr. Arreak.

**Member's Statement 193 – 3(3):
Qikiqtarjuaq Participants at the
Arctic Winter Games**

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say "good afternoon" to my constituents in Clyde River and Qikiqtarjuaq. (interpretation ends) Hello, my friends.

(interpretation) I, too, wish to celebrate along with my colleagues. Although I had already made a statement earlier about the Arctic Winter Games, I also want to name athletes from my constituency who will participate.

In basketball, Kyle Hainnu; table tennis, Jay Sanguya; and in badminton, Jenny Mosesie will partake in the AWG. In particular, Jenny has participated in several tournaments throughout Canada and I am quite proud of this young lady from Qikiqtarjuaq.

Additionally, our youth throughout Nunavut should continue to improve their skills, especially those activities that result in a healthy physical state. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Arreak. Item 3. Members' Statements. Moving on in our orders of the day. Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Minister responsible for the Department of Environment, Minister Arreak.

Item 4: Returns to Oral Questions

**Return to Oral Question 259 – 3(3):
Establishment of Total Allowable
Take of the Southern Hudson Bay
Polar Bear Subpopulation**

Hon. James Arreak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to provide a response to an oral question posed to me on February 27, 2012 by the member from Hudson Bay, Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to inform the hon. member that the Government of Nunavut representative on the Nunavik Marine Region Wildlife Board is Mr. Sandy Akavak from Kimmirut, who is presently planning to attend the upcoming public hearings when it occurs.

I trust this answers the member's question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Arreak. Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in Gallery. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit West, Ms. Ell.

Item 6: Oral Questions

**Question 289 – 3(3): Fire Safety
Inspections**

Ms. Ell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Community and Government Services.

The 2010 Annual Report of the Office of the Fire Marshal was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on March 9, 2011. When will the minister table the 2011 annual report? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Ms. Ell. Minister responsible for the Department of

Community and Government Services,
Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day, my colleagues and the residents of Rankin Inlet and Whale Cove. With respect to your question, I will release the report once it becomes available. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister. The 2010 annual report indicates that 1,815 fire prevention inspections... I'll switch to English. (interpretation ends) ...fire prevention inspections took place of various facilities. Can the minister clarify what authority the fire marshal has to inspect privately owned apartment buildings and can he indicate if such inspections are routinely undertaken? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Ms. Ell. Minister responsible for Community and Government Services, Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't have that kind of detail available to me. In light of that, I will unfortunately have to take the question as notice, as much as I hate to, but I don't have that information before me. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Kusugak. The question has been taken as notice. Oral Questions. Member for Tununiq, Mr. Enook.

Question 290 – 3(3): Security at Nunavut Airports

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, my fellow residents of Pond Inlet and Nunavummiut. Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation.

I want to begin by thanking the minister for getting back to me so quickly with respect to the questions that I asked him last week concerning security at Nunavut airports. I appreciate his efforts.

In his return to my question, the minister indicated that his department is “initiating camera security at the Pond Inlet Airport this year that will provide coverage of that air terminal building and ramp area.” I would like to ask the minister to provide me with some more detail concerning who will be operating this new security system and what training will be provided to them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. I believe, in the return to oral question, I did indicate that we're looking at that and in the coming months, we're going to be putting out RFPs or requests for quotes on providing such services. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Mr. Minister. I would like to raise this additional question. In his return to my questions, the minister also indicated that his department has “initiated the procurement and installation of more airport fencing and will be installing camera security systems in more airports in the upcoming fiscal year.” I’m sure that many of my colleagues will also be happy to hear this. Can the minister indicate which airports will benefit from these upgrades? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Enook. Minister responsible for the Department of Economic Development and Transportation, Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I indicated in the return to oral question, there are going to be some communities that will benefit by having secure fencing around the airport and terminal area. I don’t have that level of detail on which communities those are going to be. Once we prioritize them with some assistance from other departments, we will bring that information forth. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to thank the minister. I would like to get further clarification on this issue. In his return to my questions, the minister also indicated that his department “met with the hamlet council that increased surveillance on the airport with their by-law officers.” Can the minister clarify which level of

government has responsibility for ensuring security at our territory’s airports? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that very important question. Nunavut airports do have that responsibility to a certain degree. As everybody is well aware, to put high security fencing and cameras in all the communities is just not feasible. It takes a lot of money and a lot of maintenance costs.

Once we prioritize the needs of the securities within these communities, we will get that information out. As usual, it will take several departments to get to that point. We’re always looking for assistance from the hamlets in doing some of these security things. Once the department has solid priorities in place, we will get that information out to the member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the hon. minister for that. I know for a fact that it’s a very complex issue. However, I want to raise this other question. What timeframe and what order of communities will be followed in trying to get this work completed? When will the dates for construction commence for these projects? I wonder if the minister can respond to that question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Iqaluit being an international airport, of course, that will have priority. It's more or less to keep in code with all the regulations that are required for an international airport. Usually after that, it's going to be the regional hubs, with more activity, more traffic, and more requirements for security. Again, we will prioritize and get that information out to the House here once we have done that with our partners. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 291 – 3(3): Community Freezers

Mr. Ningeongan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation.

I would like to follow up today with the minister on the issue of community freezers under his department's Country Food Distribution Program. Can the minister provide the House with an estimate as to the average cost of a new community freezer? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Community freezers were built in, I believe, Repulse Bay and Chesterfield Inlet a few years ago and the average cost was between \$100,000 and \$230,000. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Ningeongan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The department's budget for its new Country Food Distribution Program is just under \$1 million. Can the minister indicate how much of this budget is available for the purchase of a new community freezer? Thank you.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I indicated earlier in the session, it has been very slow with the uptake and receiving proposals. We're prepared to assist any community in developing a proposal and get it to a point where we can actually start building a community freezer. There has been interest from 14 communities and the applications of proposals are still being evaluated.

At this time, Mr. Speaker, we're still looking at communities to give us any kind of indication as to what extent they're willing to take ownership of the infrastructure. Again, Mr. Speaker, as I indicated earlier, it has been a bit of a sticking point for the communities when it comes to the ownership of community infrastructure. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Ningeongan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Before I ask the second supplementary question, I would like to stress that I'm not necessarily being directed to ask this question by my constituents.

Earlier this week, the minister indicated that relatively few communities have applied to the department funding to acquire new community freezers. As the minister is aware, the government's approach to mobile equipment funding for municipalities was changed a few years ago to provide for block funding to the communities. Would the minister commit to considering the idea of providing block funding to communities for the renovation and purchase of community freezers and related activities concerning food security and poverty reduction? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, Mr. Speaker, we're open to any proposal or recommendation from the communities. If it's sustainable and beneficial for the communities, we will certainly look at that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Ningeongan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the

minister for not taking my question as notice.

My last supplementary question: has the minister's department undertaken an inventory of the age and condition of existing community freezers across Nunavut and, if so, would he commit to providing the results of the survey to the Members of the Legislative Assembly? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. Mr. Speaker, I'm not going to speculate if there is existing data out there on the condition and community freezer infrastructure that's available, but I'll certainly make it available to the member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 292 – 3(3): Government of Nunavut Policies Regarding Construction Contracts

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to wish a very good afternoon to all of my constituents and Nunavummiut. I would like to direct my questions to the Minister of Community and Government Services. I imagine he will completely grasp the question I'm about to raise and that he will agree with it because in past, he has been a mayor of a community. Perhaps I should announce his title,

(interpretation ends) the Hon. Lorne Kusugak.

(interpretation) I just recently had a teleconference with the mayor and SAO of Repulse Bay. We all know and the government knows about the health centre construction project currently underway in that community. Concerns have been brought to my attention that the contractor is not using local equipment and facilities, such as hotel rooms for its workers. Furthermore, the construction workers brought in their own vehicles.

So there are no economic side benefits accruing to the community as the hotel sits empty, whereas if it had been used, it could have benefited the hotel. This includes the local truck rental companies that could have benefited, such as the drivers, mechanics, and local workers who could have received these benefits.

We also know that whenever the Nunavut government contracts out a large project in the community, it is ostensive to ensure that the community gets economic benefits. At least that was the principle we tried to follow. Can the minister respond as to whether or not the government's policies and practices that apply to these contracts were adhered to?

Do you have an agreement in place which outlines that any contractor that is not local, when they are undertaking their project, should try to utilize the local resources, such as hotels and truck rental companies, so that there are economic side benefits? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Minister responsible for Community and

Government Services, Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank Mr. Ningark for raising that question. I agree with his position completely, as per the comments you just stated. Yes, as I was a mayor in the past, I totally understand where the member is coming from and what a community expects as benefits. I agree with your comments on this aspect.

The projects are all different as they follow the RFP criteria and conditions which outline what the job entails, what resources are available locally, and what materials they have to bring into the community, including their billeting arrangements. Unfortunately these contract details are usually very different and are not singularly applicable to every contract.

However, if the hamlet has issues with this particular project, there is a staff member that manages these contracts. So I will task that official to look into that contract and determine what details are included in the contract and what is included with respect to using local resources, such as local hotels and businesses. I imagine that it is appended, so I will have it looked at. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Although I didn't give the hon. minister advance notice regarding the other question I was going to ask, it seems as if he read my mind because I was going to ask if he was

going to review that matter. Even though I had not given him advance notice, he seems to have read my mind, so I'll raise the question anyway.

He spoke about an agreement, but whenever you're talking about large contracts, does he know whether or not there are stipulations for purchasing materials from the communities that they're working in? The contractors ought to be utilizing more of the communities' resources to ensure that the communities' commercial operations can also benefit from the influx of construction workers. So I urge the minister to encourage these contractors to use as much of the communities' resources as they can. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): I doubt that I could have read your notes even if you had given them to me.

However, with respect to contracts, it depends on the contract. As we all know, they can have an impact on a community, especially in a smaller community. Whenever they're working on larger construction projects, it's quite obvious that a lot of people also want to benefit from them.

So I will ensure that my officials look into this matter, as well as whether they are following the conditions that are included in these contracts, and whether or not we can have a set agreement outside of these contracts. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Since this is my second supplementary question, I want to ask this question, but I would like to thank the minister for his responses. On behalf of the Repulse Bay mayor and the residents, I thank him.

As we are sitting in this session that is supposed to end on March 9, can he task his officials to discuss this matter with the mayor and council of Repulse Bay? Sometimes MLAs don't always make sense when we are trying to voice our constituents' concerns. Perhaps he can ask his officials to check into this with the hamlet prior to March 9, 2012. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe some of my officials are watching and listening. If one of the officials hasn't already sent a text message or called, then as soon as it's practicable, they will get to that. Again, our officials have a myriad of tasks and they're quite busy, but I will ensure that it's included as one of our priorities. Once the time is available to do that, they will proceed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 293 – 3(3): Safety and Security of Students

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Good afternoon, residents of Rankin Inlet. I would like to direct my question to the Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College.

When students, actually quite a few students, arrive into Iqaluit to attend courses at Nunavut Arctic College, their sole purpose moving to Iqaluit is to complete their education, but this includes families and children. When students move to Iqaluit, they have to stay at Nunavut Arctic College residences.

Based on some of the events, it's quite obvious now that the students have to be looked after. They should never be put at risk or put into dangerous situations. Can the minister report on how they offer security or how the security is looked after to ensure that students are not put at risk here in Iqaluit? Thank you.

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

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for the question. The security that the college gives to students who come to Iqaluit to take courses is different in different properties that we have.

At the old residence and the single facilities, there's 24-hour security there with security guards. In our main campus and our new campus that we have, there are security cameras in some buildings. Also, all the tenants who come into all Arctic College facilities go

through an orientation process, with emergency phone numbers, contact information with the hospital and police, and obviously, each one of them have their own security keys for their own residence. So the orientation session goes on.

Most of these people are adults. It's up to them to be responsible for living in Arctic College residences too. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That is a response that is understandable as it relates to the schools and institutions with facilities specific to single students, such as the old residence, which is called Ukiivik.

It's quite noticeable, as well as at the main campus, that we could provide better security as some facilities have good security while others don't. However, with respect to the accommodations for the students, it's too lax as people could drink all night with access to firearms. In my opinion, any firearm shouldn't be readily available to anyone at the college.

Perhaps the minister can elaborate on the types of safety precautions people should be observant of in order not to be in a risky situation when they are attending courses at the college. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister of Nunavut Arctic College, Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again I thank the member for the question. Yes, it's very important that when the students come in, they understand the rules of Arctic College of living there too.

The member is absolutely correct in saying that there is no alcohol or drugs allowed in college premises. However, we do encourage that anybody who finds out or has information about that happening in our college residences, they make the college aware of that and we will take action. It is very hard to enforce that as we just cannot go and do random searches of college residences.

As far as firearms, again, we understand that in a lot of these family residences, they come here and hunting is a practice and part of what they do, going out on the land. We do have secure facilities where the students can lock up their firearms and their ammunition, so that service is provided. We will ask that question upon people coming if they wish to have a firearm and outline to them how they can secure that firearm. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I am happy to hear that. Some of the more noticeable issues indicate that perhaps Arctic College administrators aren't aware of which students or units have firearms, although the administration has to be fully aware of these details, especially in light of the minister's statement about secure firearm checks that can be viewed digitally.

From my perspective, it would be advantageous if the minister agreed to conduct a thorough review specifically related to security and whether or not security is appropriate for their facilities. We don't want any of our students to be placed in a dangerous situation and in particular, to strengthen and enforce these existing rules.

I know for a fact that many students would be traumatized if they heard a gunshot. It would impact not just the residents of the units, but it would put at risk all people within the vicinity of the units. Due to that reason, I want to reiterate my request to the minister to initiate a review of the security details pertaining to the college. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can commit to do that. In fact, I've had conversations already this morning about reviewing our security in all of our college facilities, but I think all of us are striving and learning to make the college residence a safer place to be and the safest place to be that we can. So yes, we will always be reviewing this, especially when it comes to the education and the rules we have for drugs and alcohol, and the firearm issue too. We will review it and see how we can maybe do business better. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 294 – 3(3): Affordable Housing and Nunavut Trust

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation. I want to follow up on some of the questions that I was asking the minister last week regarding the Nunavut Housing Trust and the affordable housing initiative. I never had a chance to actually ask for an update on those programs.

So my first question would be, in terms of the Nunavut Housing Trust program, if the minister could provide us with an update as to how many houses have been turned over to the local housing authorities and whether the project was within budget. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Minister Schell.

Hon. Fred Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. Obviously it was not on budget, but if you take the over-expenditures, it will be within the extra \$60 million that was allotted for it. As of the end of March of this year, we will have all the units completed and ready for occupancy, except for 30 units that won't be completed by the end of March. Thank you.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In terms of the affordable housing initiative, if he could give us a number of how many houses were completed

and when they will be completed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Minister Schell.

Hon. Fred Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. Of the 285 units, they will all be completed by the end of this March, except for 10 units. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A lot of times, one of the things that kept coming up was supplies getting to the community and having extra pieces and parts, maybe two boilers or extra toilets. What is going to happen with that extra stuff? Will that be turned over to the housing associations as part of their stock or will they be sold? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Minister Schell.

Hon. Fred Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank you for that question. Yes, there is quite a bit of material left over and there are 880 containers in the 25 communities. They don't all have material, but a lot of material is there. What we're going to do is look and see what the LHOs can use and the other material that they cannot use will be put out for sale. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Of those 880 sea cans, I know I had asked in the past, a specific dollar value of around \$3,000 was allocated to them. At one time, it was said that those sea cans would be sold and people were allowed to contact the Nunavut Housing Corporation or the local housing authority to work out an agreement to purchase them. Since that time, I've had individuals tell me they have tried to purchase those sea cans and were not allowed to. Maybe the minister could explain what's happening with those sea cans and whether people will be able to purchase them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Minister Schell.

Hon. Fred Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank you for that question. At the present time, the reason they can't purchase them is because most of those containers are filled up with material, but once we do a complete inventory and find out what the LHOs can use and what other material we're going to sell, once those containers are empty, the communities will have the first option to purchase them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 295 – 3(3): Total Allowable Harvest of Polar Bears

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Environment.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to start by thanking the minister for the information

he provided today in a return to an oral question. However, I do have a couple of other questions.

Mr. Speaker, the minister stated in his return to an oral question that the GN representative was planning to attend the upcoming polar bear hearings in Nunavik. Mr. Speaker, the hearing dates are scheduled for April 17 through 19 of 2012 in Kuujjuaraapik, Northern Quebec. The public hearings notice indicates that the board invites all interested parties to file written submissions and supporting documents concerning the establishment of a total allowable take for polar bear harvesting.

Will the GN take this opportunity to file a written submission regarding the outstanding transboundary issues with other jurisdictions? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I had stated that I felt my previous response was adequate. Apparently, it wasn't adequate enough in this case.

With respect to the hearings that were scheduled from April 17 to 19, it was changed and delayed due to the fact that the aerial survey results weren't available for that area. Once the report has been completed and in the hands of the departmental officials, we will reschedule the hearing at that time.

As per my earlier response, the government will have a representative from Nunavut at these hearings. The

appointed representative from Nunavut is Sandy Akavak, who will represent our territorial interests. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm aware, from his return to an oral question, that he stated in there that there was a participant from the Nunavut government who is going to be attending these hearings. My question was if the government was going to be doing any written submissions concerning transboundary issues that they have with Quebec. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the Member for Hudson Bay for raising that question. Sandy Akavak will be the representative for Nunavut. If we have to do a written submission, we will do so, but Sandy Akavak will be the representative for Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, the purpose of these hearings is to establish a total allowable take for polar bears in the southern Hudson Bay subpopulation.

It's my understanding that the GN and the Government of Nunavik have a voluntary quota system in place right

now. Can the minister indicate whether or not this quota system is being followed and how it is being enforced? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As a matter of fact, we have been in discussions with the representatives of Nunavut to come to an agreement and these discussions are progressing to the point where we're almost in agreement.

We had to comply with the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement. However, the total allowable harvest for bears ranged from 60 to 64, which was the minimum, and it could be surpassed on occasion and they have surpassed it a number of times.

We're negotiating with the parties on polar bear issues, such as establishing seasons for polar bear harvesting in the region. We're still negotiating with the parties via face-to-face meetings, correspondence, and other means to come to an agreement. This is progressing slowly.

Our expectations are that after the hearings, we will be able to lay further groundwork towards an agreement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. During consultations and meetings in the spring of last year, it was my understanding that the communities in

Northern Quebec agreed to take only 30 polar bears out of the Hudson Bay subpopulation. I was asking the minister whether or not they are following this quota. If he could answer it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If there happened to be an agreement previously, it may have just been a verbal agreement as I haven't heard about any prior agreement on this matter.

The James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement establishes the number of polar bear harvests, which is not subject to limitation, and it is rather high. Additionally, in the past year in 2010-11, Northern Quebec residents harvested 74 polar bears in their region. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 296 – 3(3): Alberta Curriculum and Entrance Exams

Mr. Oshutapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister responsible for Education.

Up to today, many of us have personal experience with students on the verge of graduation. Those students who graduate from grade 12 do so because of the dedication of the parents, who continually work hard to have their children or grandchildren graduate. In

my case, it would be grandchildren as I am past the child-bearing age now. As parents, we share this challenging work by continually encouraging and pushing our children to attend school and to graduate from high school.

Even after the students complete their high school education and apply for further courses at a college or university, many of them experience challenges due to the higher entrance requirements. Our high school education system follows the Alberta school curriculum. My question to the minister is this: does the Alberta curriculum we currently follow also show that the Alberta students who follow this curriculum have difficulties trying to enter institutions of higher learning? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Oshutapik. Minister responsible for Education, Madam Minister Aariak.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't have any information pertaining to the question that the member just raised about whether or not students from Alberta experience these same issues related to institutions of higher learning. We haven't received this type of information from the Albertan government. I believe the member asked whether or not Albertan students also experience difficulties when applying to these institutions of higher learning, but we haven't heard back from the system administrators. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Oshutapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, that's the response I was expecting. However, we want more concrete answers as we debate educational issues related to a curriculum from outside of Nunavut and that was why I asked a question about the Albertans.

When the curriculum is implemented in our schools here in Nunavut, perhaps we're not utilizing the courses relevant to people who wish to continue their education. I wonder if the minister or her officials can look into my question further so that when we understand the systemic barriers in the future and if they also experience these issues, then we can outline the reasons for our students experiencing these difficulties.

We have to revise our educational system if we want our students to succeed in post-secondary educational courses. We want them to succeed. If we're aware of the current barriers, then we can fix the system. We really have to improve our education system today. Can the minister look into whether or not Alberta experiences these same issues with their students? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Oshutapik. Minister responsible for Education, Madam Minister Aariak.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have no idea whether the Albertan government would want to provide that information to another government associated with their student post-secondary entrance success rate.

In our case, we have been using the *Education Act* here in Nunavut upon passage of the legislation by the legislature over two years ago now. We're trying to implement the sections related to curriculum specific to Nunavut's education system and more relevant to the daily lives of our students. As I stated in my Minister's Statement earlier about the display on education, the display on curriculum development is in the foyer and members will be free to peruse the display to see curriculum development in Nunavut developed by Nunavummiut for Nunavut students, as per the Department of Education's mandate.

With respect to school operations and to facilitate student attendance, there are several initiatives being researched to encourage attendance. Data is available showing the importance of attendance to student success. As another example, within the student body, boys tend to miss more school than girls and this challenge is being reviewed as to the options we have to encourage boys to attend school regularly in order to complete their required courses for graduation. Moreover, it has been proven that attendance is very important and when students miss too many days, it impacts their grades and required credits, which can also affect their ability to pursue post-secondary education as some students end up with incomplete credits. This is also part of my earlier statement today.

My senior officials are currently writing letters to our colleagues identifying the course requirements for students who graduate from grade 12, with the type of requisite academic courses they need in order to advance their education. We

currently have three levels of courses for the different streams. The letter you will receive identifies what a student needs to include in their accredited courses. As I was asked to provide more details in the recent past about this issue, I will be moving forward with that request for more information. So this letter details out what is required and it will outline the types of courses they need for graduating grade 12. This includes the shared responsibility of the parents, schools, and students.

I certainly hope my response is understandable. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Oshutapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister for her response. My question was with respect to the Alberta curriculum we face and your response was fairly long.

I think most of us are aware of the issues affecting our children and the circumstances surrounding the challenges we face. I think that as parents, we all try to encourage our children, but some children don't respond well to encouragement and part of the problem is with the parents.

I would like to ask another question. Prior to students even reaching grade 12, there should be a guidance counsellor who can help the students to review what possible courses they may be able to attend once they graduate from grade 12. So is that a possibility? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Oshutapik. Minister responsible for Education, Madam Minister Aariak.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When students reach grades 8, 9 and 10, the students are canvassed as to what they want to pursue prior to moving up to the higher grades. However, at that age, it is very hard to make a choice as to what they may wish to pursue once they have completed their high school education.

Every school tries to provide assistance and support to each student. As an example, if the student happens to be interested in a career requiring mathematics, then they are guided towards those courses that focus on mathematics all the way to their graduation. This follows what the student plans to do after secondary school, whether it is a job or post-secondary courses.

Once the counsellors are aware of a student's wishes, they are guided towards the courses that meet that need. Further, there is a committee that provides assistance to the students at that level for guiding the student towards a career path. That is how we try to provide assistance when students have reached these higher levels. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 297 – 3(3): Inuit Societal Values

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

my question to the Premier, the Hon. Eva Aariak.

I would like to get further clarification. One of my colleagues keeps referring to the *Tamapta* Mandate and I feel obligated to also ask about that mandate. It's very good to read what you wrote in one of the principles outlined in the *Tamapta* Mandate because it leads to higher expectations. It states that we will follow what the Inuit goals and aspirations are, especially in trying to use the best practices of our Inuit ancestors. It was only through the hard plight of the people before us that we were able to fight for Nunavut and when we fought for it, we thought the Inuit cultural practices would be incorporated as part of the foundation for the territory. Within the *Tamapta* Mandate, it also states that and it looks like it will be implemented.

What I want clarified is what the Minister of Finance stated when he delivered the Budget Address speaking to the upcoming budget. I'm referring back to his opening comments. The Inuit language will become a very strong part of the Nunavut government and that the Nunavut government will strive to protect and conserve the Inuit language. The recognition of the Inuit language is a primary reason. The Minister of Languages also stated that they will be working towards making it a language of operations.

The Inuit language forms just one part of being an Inuk within our culture. You have to look at Inuit societal values and you also have to look at different ways where Inuit have best practices. So how is the government going to best protect

these Inuit societal values? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleague for raising that matter. For all of us, irrespective of whether we're employees in the Government of Nunavut or an MLA, this has to be our primary focus.

All the departments, as part of their mandated responsibilities, have to identify these values as they also believe that Inuit societal values and language are intrinsically important to this government, especially in light of the fact that the foundation for the creation of the territory was the Inuit culture and language. When they're trying to identify action items or when they're trying to create a new policy, they try to utilize *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit*.

The government has a separate department that is specific to culture, language, elders, and youth. So that is our lead department that is working towards protecting the language and culture of Inuit. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the Premier for that response. Mr. Speaker, I believe the Premier is cognizant of operations and administration challenges of any organization. Further, if you were

to look at Inuit societal values, sometimes operational values and Inuit values butt heads.

As an example, let us look at social services. If we look at the southern way of dealing with social services, the government controls all aspects, whereas if you use Inuit societal values, Inuit have different expectations when dealing with social services. In looking at the western cultural values, although the social services worker may believe that this method is the best way, it contrasts with Inuit societal values, especially when speaking about teaching our children to be Inuit. Let us use that example.

Mr. Speaker, the question I wish to raise is that as part of these plans for regional operations and also based upon the Minister of Finance's Budget Address, where he identified that the Department of CLEY's mandate was being divided up amongst the departments, he stated that language was being moved to the Premier's Office under Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs while culture would be transferred to Nunavut Arctic College.

What about Inuit societal values and *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit*? Where will these be moved to? Is it going to be applicable to all departments or will you be creating a separate department that will be protecting Inuit societal values and *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit*? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Since the day Nunavut was created, we have wanted to envision our future and we have a vision for our future where we no longer need a protectorate of the Inuit language and culture and the incorporation into government operations as this has to be central to our operations using Inuit cultural practices and language.

Currently, the government practices to date, as my colleague's statement about operational issues related to government paperwork, is all in English at this time. There is also a statement included that this government will include the Inuit language as part of its operations and we now have to start implementing that in the workforce.

With respect to the two pieces of language legislation, specifically the *Inuit Language Protection Act* and the *Official Languages Act* for the three languages, the drafting and contents were entirely driven by the Department of CLEY. They are now completing the final stages related to the implementation of the legislation. The Department of CLEY fulfilled its mandate when the legislation was passed and became the *Official Languages Act*.

Part of CLEY's mandate was fulfilled in finalizing the plans for the Piquisilirivvik Cultural School. With the completion of the plans towards the establishment of this facility, the focus has shifted to the operational matters related to the facility teaching adult students. With the exceptional work having been completed by CLEY for establishing the facility, the focus is shifting towards educational issues and they will implement them. The facility

will teach Inuit culture and language. I cannot say at this time whether it will indeed be transferred to EIA as this is just an idea at this time.

With respect to the official languages legislation that was drafted by the Department of CLEY, the monitoring of the implementation of the legislation will be taken over by the EIA. As an example, if a certain body is not adhering to the legislation, they have to produce such-and-such; an enforcement body in other words.

These are some of the options that have been discussed to date within the Ken Lovely report, which also includes a list of recommendations. All of us have to be involved in incorporating the Inuit culture and language into government. This is the same as it applies to our schools and workplaces. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the Premier for that response. Nunavummiut have to understand exactly what the government's plans are because they want the government to operate in a transparent, effective matter. So for that, I am very thankful and I would like to thank you first.

Mr. Speaker, when we talk about Inuit societal values and *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit*, they're the two favourite pet academia, which are words used by the department, yet they never define these properly. That doesn't help to make it clear. Mr. Speaker, can the

Premier think about or commit to defining one single policy that all the government departments will use which relate to Inuit societal values and *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit*? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Absolutely, I can think and deliberate on that matter. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I find just thinking about it too insignificant. You have to think about it, you have to plan it, and then you have to draft it.

Nunavummiut have high expectations and we're still waiting for the Inuit government because Inuit originally felt that the government would operate exactly the way Inuit do. However, without a proper foundation and without a proper policy agreed to by everyone, it's quite obvious that my colleagues are also asked by their constituents about this matter.

Will she work towards creating a one-definition policy that respects Inuit societal values and *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* and whether that's something that her government can try to create, to not just think about it but to deliberate on it, to draft it, and to complete it? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleague for his question. First of all, he asked if I would consider that. Secondly, he asked if I was going to consult with the members. I thank him for that question and I concur with that assessment. I will keep the members informed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Madam Premier. Members will note the expiration of the time allotted for question period has passed, so we will move on in our orders of the day. Item 7. Written Questions. 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. Mr. Elliott.

Item 14: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 160 – 3(3): Quttiktuq Constituency Newsletter

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table today a copy of my most recent constituency newsletter. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased with the way that my constituents in Grise Fiord, Resolute Bay, and Arctic Bay have provided me with feedback on their priorities, which are reflected in my newsletter. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Item 14. Tabling of Documents. I have a couple of items to table today.

Tabled Document 161 – 3(3): Interim Report of Members' Absences from Sittings of the House and Meetings of Committees and Caucuses for the Period October to December of 2011

Tabled Document 162 – 3(3): Report to the Management and Services Board on Procurement and Contracting Activities for the Legislative Assembly for the Year 2010-2011

Members, the first item is the Interim Report of Members' Absences from Sittings of the House and Meetings of Committees and Caucuses for the Period October to December of 2011.

And the second item is the Report to the Management and Services Board on Procurement and Contracting Activities for the Legislative Assembly for the Year 2010-2011.

Item 14. Tabling of Documents. 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. Minister Peterson.

Item 19: Second Reading of Bills

Bill 28 – Write-off of Assets Act, 2011- 2012 – Second Reading

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet South and Whale Cove, that Bill 28, *Write-off of*

Assets Act, 2011-2012, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill authorizes the write off of assets in accordance with sections 24 and 82 of the *Financial Administration Act*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Peterson. The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill. Question has been called. All those in favour. Any opposed? The motion is carried and Bill 28 is referred to the Standing Committee on Legislation.

Item 19. Second Reading of Bills.
Minister of Finance, Minister Peterson.

**Bill 29 – Write-off of Assets Act, No. 1,
2010-2011 – Second Reading**

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet South and Whale Cove, that Bill 29, *Write-off of Assets Act, No.1, 2010-2011*, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill authorizes the write off of assets in accordance with sections 24 and 82 of the *Financial Administration Act*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Peterson. The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill. Question has been called. All those in favour. Any opposed? None. The motion is carried and Bill 29 is referred to the Standing Committee on Legislation.

Item 19. Second Reading of Bills.
Minister of Community and Government Services, Minister Kusugak.

Bill 30 – Building Code Act – Second Reading

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Cambridge Bay, that Bill 30, *Building Code Act*, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill authorizes the adoption of the National Building Code of Canada. It also contains various provisions to implement that decision: appointment of building officials and creation of the Nunavut Building Advisory Committee; imposition of requirement for permits; authorization of inspections by officials; conferral of power to issue several types of orders; appeal to the Nunavut Building Advisory Committee and then to the Nunavut Court of Justice; offences and penalties; regulation-making provisions; and consequential amendments to related statutes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Kusugak. The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill. Question has been called. All those in favour. Any opposed? There being none. The motion is carried and Bill 30 is referred to the Standing Committee on Legislation.

Item 19. Second Reading of Bills.
Minister of Community and Government Services, Minister Kusugak.

Bill 31 – An Act to Amend the Consumer Protection Act – Second Reading

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Cambridge Bay, that Bill 31, *An Act to Amend the Consumer Protection Act*, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill prohibits credit grantors and collection agents from adding more to a debt than the amount that is legally owing to it or collecting more than the amount legally owing on a debt. Regulation-making powers are added concerning debt collection practices and consequential amendments to the Consumer Protection Regulations are included to regulate debt collection practices and to correct references to the Northwest Territories and other minor errors. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Kusugak. The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill. Question has been called. All those in favour. Any opposed? None. The motion is carried and Bill 31 is referred to the Standing Committee on Legislation.

Item 19. Second Reading of Bills.
Minister of Justice, Minister Shewchuk.

Bill 32 – An Act to Amend the Legal Services Act – Second Reading

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet South and Whale Cove, that Bill 32, *An Act to Amend the Legal Services Act*, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill amends the *Legal Services Act* by repealing provisions allowing for choice of counsel in serious criminal cases. The bill also adds a provision protecting board lawyers against professional penalties for perceived conflicts of interest. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill. Question has been called. All those in favour. Any opposed? None. The motion is carried and Bill 32 is referred to the Standing Committee on Legislation.

Item 19. Second Reading of Bills.
Minister of Justice, Minister Shewchuk.

Bill 33 – An Act to Amend the Labour Standards Act – Second Reading

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet South and Whale Cove, that Bill 33, *An Act to Amend the Labour Standards Act*, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill amends the *Labour Standards Act* to provide leave for reservists during periods of service. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill. Question has been called. All those in favour. Any opposed? None. The motion is carried and Bill 33 is referred to the Standing Committee on Legislation.

Item 19. Second Reading of Bills. Item 20. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bills

21, 24, 25, 26, 27, and 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 15:11 and Committee resumed at 15:40

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

Chairman (Mr. Ningeongan) (interpretation): Thank you. We now have quorum. I would now like to call the committee meeting to order. In Committee of the Whole, we have the following items to deal with: Bills 21, 24, 25, 26, 27, and 34. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Mr. Aupaluktuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We wish to continue with the review of Bill 24 and the Department of Health and Social Services. If time permits, we will commence the review of the Department of Community and Government Services, followed by the Department of Economic Development and Transportation. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. Do you agree with those departments?

Some Members: Agreed.

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

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I have two witnesses. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson. My colleagues, do you agree to bring in the witnesses?

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Thank you. Minister, for the record, please introduce your witnesses. Minister Peterson.

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

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson. I would like to thank your officials for being here. Welcome. We were on page H-7 yesterday. Health and Social Services. Treatment. We will proceed with questions. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good afternoon. Welcome, Mr. Minister, along with your officials. I would like to return to my line of questioning previously because I want to have it completely clear, as well

as for the benefit of our fellow Nunavummiut.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to return to the response from the deputy minister. If a doctor states that a medical patient requires an escort, then the deputy minister can veto that escort requirement. I'm quite concerned of that and I would like to see or at least hear sound reasoning as to why that can be vetoed.

My thinking is that as a doctor, they're very serious and they don't play at their occupation. It's a very confidential and serious matter, so I don't believe a doctor would frivolously request an escort just for the sake of an escort. In my way of thinking, the only reason that a doctor would request an escort is if he felt the patient would benefit from that or if he felt that an escort would be able to assist the patient.

When a doctor is requesting an escort, what reasoning do you use to veto that decision? 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 follow-up question. Mr. Chairman, the deputy minister will answer the question. Thank you.

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

Mr. Ma: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We look at each case on a case-by-case basis. We look at the medical reasons behind the request by the doctor. In some cases, there is that service

provided elsewhere within the system, so we would then rely upon that care elsewhere. We do not ignore the advice of doctors. We take that into consideration in making the decisions that we make.

Typically, on the advice of a doctor, we would approve an escort if the individual is incapacitated in some way medically. So in other words, if they cannot get around, then that is a reason perhaps for providing an escort. Having said that, if they are incapacitated, perhaps there are other means, such as a wheelchair. So if there is a wheelchair available, that would likely mean not an escort, but it depends on the circumstance.

Sometimes the reasons provided by physicians are what I would consider more compassionate type reasons. As much as I try and the department tries to take into account compassionate reasons, we do have, at the end of the day, to also make sound medical decisions and sound fiscal decisions. I know it's difficult for patients and it's difficult for families, but that is what we have to do.

I'll leave it at that, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just for my own clarification. When a doctor recommends that this patient requires an escort, from my perspective, the doctor would most likely request a relative, perhaps if the patient is too sick and basically for compassionate reasons if the doctor feels that the patient will undergo more stress.

In my opening comments, I also raised this question: can the medical escort policy be given more compassion or heart? As humans or as Nunavummiut, patients who leave generally tend to be elders because as we get older, we tend to get more sicknesses. In this day and age, elderly patients generally don't speak English.

When a doctor requests an escort for their patient, who is already undergoing personal challenges and stresses in undertaking this trip, a person not even involved can veto this decision. I consider this a very urgent priority. I just recently found out that this occurred to a patient in our community. A doctor requested an escort for this patient, but the deputy minister vetoed it. That is so callous. It was such a personal issue, so they had to fundraise to pay the escorts down, and that is aside from the government.

I believe this has to be deliberated on carefully. This is not a question. This government has to provide direction. I'm very passionate about this and I think we all agree, now that we know, even if a doctor requests an escort, that the deputy minister can veto that. Now Nunavummiut will be able to know that. I would like to ask another question related to that and if they don't want to respond, I would like to proceed.

I would like to raise another question to the same person. Whenever a person goes to a hospital, the nurse-in-charge will state whether or not they can get an escort. Whenever a person is told that they cannot have an escort, what appeals process is there for them to undertake? In Nunavut, we need to know if there is an appeals process when the request for

an escort is turned down. Do we have no other alternatives? 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 concern for Nunavummiut who require escorts. He raises good points. The Department of Health and Social Services is not unsympathetic to the needs of folks who require escorts, but as we have indicated before, there are monetary considerations. It is a very large budget we have for medical travel and medical escorts.

We did develop a policy. The policy has been reviewed a few times. The current Client Travel Policy is expiring at the end of March of this year. As I indicated yesterday, it is under review. We have asked clients for input on what they think should be included that's not currently in the policy. We have asked other people, management and operational staff, what should be in there that's not currently included so that we can consider all the pros and cons and make it a better policy that will better serve everybody who uses it.

Mr. Chairman, I'm going to ask my deputy minister to provide some specific details to Mr. Enook's question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Ma: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As the minister has indicated, we very much appreciate the interest by members and in particular, Member Enook, with

respect to medical escorts. Perhaps this is a good time for me to outline the policy and how it works in a little more detail.

For the Client Travel Policy, there are, in essence, two types of escorts. One is a medical escort and that would normally be a physician, nurse, or social worker, so some sort of health professional, and they would provide professional care to the client when the client is travelling. The second type of escort is I think what Member Enook is speaking about and that's a client escort. That's typically an adult who has been authorized to accompany our client, who is unable to travel without some assistance or who is authorized to stay for part or all the travel.

I think Member Enook mentioned family. As much as possible, we try to make it a family member. Obviously, that's of some comfort to the client. We take that into consideration. Again, I think members here spoke earlier yesterday about being compassionate and taking Inuit societal values into consideration, so that is one way to do that.

Now, I'll give you some examples of some of the ways medical travel is authorized for clients. I think we spoke to some of this yesterday.

If a client is a unilingual Inuktitut-speaking elder over the age of 60, unless they say they don't want an escort, we would provide them with an escort. It's what we call a negative confirmation in my old accounting days.

If there is a language barrier that exists or interpreter services are not available

at the centre where they're receiving the service; if the client is medically incapacitated, it's the third criteria we look at.

There's a fourth criteria and that's the need for legal consent by a parent or guardian. Most of that is in the case of minors.

The fifth one is if the client has a mental or physical condition such that they're unable to travel unassisted. I used an example of someone who may need a wheelchair.

And lastly, an escort that will participate in the client's treatment program; let's say I'm going down and I need help every day to take some sort of shot in the arm or whatever or some medication and I can't do it by myself. So there would be a need to take the escort down and train that escort in how to do that.

There was something else Member Enook said and I'm trying to remember what it is.

Just to be clear and I may have heard the translation wrong and if I did, then I need to apologize, but the translation I heard was I can only deal a second escort. They come to me. The first escort is at a different level. That's why we're making a reference to case-by-case situations, just to make that clear.

As the minister has also said, this particularly touches, I think, upon every person, whether they're a patient or family member. That's why we're doing the client travel review. Obviously, we're going to think through a lot of things and there are some things that we

have identified that we want to have a further look at.

I hope that clarifies things a bit and I appreciate the time that you have given me. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ma. Mr. Enook's question was in regard to a patient being turned down when he requested an escort and if he has other options he can use, such as an appeals process. Mr. Ma, if you would touch on that, please. Mr. Ma.

Mr. Ma: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My apologies for misunderstanding Member Enook's question. Yes, I can address the member's question.

So there is no further appeal beyond the deputy minister. However, having said that, I know that each and every person that doesn't get a second escort will go to their MLA or whoever. It will come back to me and we will take a second look at it sometimes. So that's the nature of the territory we're in and that's fine. That's the reality. That's where we are.

Having said that, where we do turn down the second escort, we are considerate where possible and there are options. Like I said, we try to be as compassionate and as helpful as we can. So I'll pick on our region, which is where Member Enook is from. So if I turn down a second escort, there are other options.

Family members perhaps could go down on compassionate travel through their regional Inuit associations or Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated. In terms of accommodations, if they happen to go down, there are other options besides

Larga, such as Rotel. That's a non-profit accommodation that is operated by the Rotary Club in Ottawa.

So there are other options and we try to help clients in finding those other options. It doesn't always work, but we make the best efforts that we can. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for assisting me in trying to obtain an answer when my question was not answered.

If I went to the health centre in Pond Inlet and I was of the mind that I required an escort, I was informed that the nurse-in-charge would be the spokesperson and would make the determination as to whether I would come alone or with an escort. So the question that I tried to raise is: if the nurse-in-charge states that the patient has to travel alone, is there an appeals process if I don't believe I could travel alone? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you to Mr. Enook. Ms. Voth will answer that question. Thank you.

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

Ms. Voth: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The nurse-in-charge would actually make a recommendation to the director of health benefits in the regional office

that an escort is required. The director of health benefits would make the decision of yes or no after reviewing the circumstances of the escort against the policy.

The client does have one appeal process and that is to the regional director of the regional office, so the executive director or the regional director that's the head of the region. So that's the one area of appeal. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Now, having requested a response to my question, it just muddles the water. Yesterday, I seemed to have understood that the nurse-in-charge in a local community is the sole determiner of whether an escort is required.

(interpretation ends) Are you done?

(interpretation) Now I'm being led to understand that another person at a higher echelon approves this. Am I misunderstanding this? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank Mr. Enook for asking for clarification. Ms. Voth will respond to that question. Thank you.

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

Ms. Voth: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The health practitioner, whether it's the nurse-in-charge or the doctor on call,

makes the recommendation to the regional office for an escort. This is for client escorts. What happens is that request will go to the director of health benefits, who considers the request against the policy and accepts or denies that request for escort. The recommendation comes from the health practitioner, but the health practitioner does not approve escorts. The appeal process goes to the regional director of the regional office. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Now I finally understand that in the community, the nurse-in-charge is not the sole determiner of whether or not the patient requires an escort. Do I understand that they just recommend it?

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Enook for the question. Yes, the nurse-in-charge would only recommend. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you. I thank the minister for the really concise response. The nurse-in-charge in the local community recommends that this patient requires an escort or alternatively, if they state they don't require an escort, let's say in Pond Inlet, and if I were the one to request a change

to that, who would I speak to? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Enook. As I understand it, medical travel has to be recommended by a Nunavut health practitioner. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): That's why I'm trying to ask the question. If the nurse-in-charge does not give the recommendation for an escort, it means that I have no alternative but to travel alone. I have absolutely no appeals process to try and get an escort. In my own estimation, I may want an escort. So if it's recommended that a patient doesn't require an escort, is that final? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Enook for again seeking clarification. There is an appeal option. The patient could appeal to the director of regional operations. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you. I think those of us in Nunavut now understand that if we don't agree with the nurse-in-charge about the need for an escort, we can appeal to the regional director of operations. Do they have

people who are bilingual in those offices? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is correct. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister and I am also more gratified by the minister since Nunavummiut don't always understand these policies, particularly when these policies aren't consistently applied throughout Nunavut.

There's another matter that is included within your policy in one of the last sections pertaining to medical travel. I want to be totally clear in my understanding of the language since it has been mentioned as a concern previously to me. If a parent is required to escort two of their children simultaneously on medical travel, how does this policy speak to that situation? Does the parent have to escort both their children or can both children qualify for an escort individually? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Enook for the question. I believe that one adult can escort two children. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Mr. Chairman, let's say two young children are going to the hospital at the same time, can both parents escort these two children? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Enook for the question. As I understand, under the current policy, no. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Mr. Chairman, I based this on the written sections of this policy. I may have misunderstood the language as it speaks to only one escort for the children. The way I read the language, I understand it to say that both parents have to agree if one escort is acceptable for both of their children. That is how I understand it. So maybe I could get further clarification on this matter. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Enook for the question. I'm going to have my deputy answer that question.

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

Mr. Ma: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I understood the member's question

correctly, there would be an escort approved if there's a need for legal consent by a parent or guardian. His question is a bit broad. So if the patient has some other medical reason, then yes, there would be an escort, but that's why it's kind of hard to answer his question. We kind of have to have the specifics. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ma. Mr. Enook, you have nine seconds.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): My measly nine seconds will most likely be wasted as the witnesses didn't grasp my question, although it was very clearly articulated. Let my time expire and I will wait until all members have asked their questions to see if I can get a chance to ask my questions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Enook. Mr. Ningark.

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll ask a very short question and I'll try to make it clear. Is it H-7, or what page are we on again?

With respect to medical travel, I also discussed this issue with a medical patient. Let's say they were going to Winnipeg. It's not always the elders who go to medical institutions. There are also young people who go, along with pregnant women who go to give birth. This is particularly truer in smaller communities because they have no choice but to go to Winnipeg or Edmonton and a lot of them don't want to go out and about because they're not used to large cities.

I'll also cite this example. In the Kivalliq region, in Repulse Bay, they would most likely go to Churchill, Manitoba. Churchill tends to have a lot of polar bears, especially in the fall, and a lot of people don't walk around or go outside because they're generally in a boarding home. People don't go out a lot, and here I'm talking younger people. The telephone is very expensive and I imagine there is only one phone.

I would like to ask about computers because some people want to bring their laptops so they can chat on the Internet. What about the webpage? I believe that's the proper terminology. Do the boarding homes have Internet access provided for these patients? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Ningark for that interesting question. Mr. Chairman, we don't know the answer to that question. We will have to look for that information and provide it to Mr. Ningark. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the minister for his response. With the importance of the Internet to people today, especially where one doesn't have access to telephones and with many people wanting to utilize the Internet, if the boarding homes don't have Internet access, can the department reconsider this since it is a medium people are now used to?

In light of several policies and the fact that people aren't going out, and with the patients asked not to consume alcohol or to go out drinking while at the boarding home, these are the policies in use today, which is a very good policy for patients. However, with most patients unable to go places outside of the boarding homes, Internet access can provide people with a time-consuming activity which also battles boredom.

If the boarding homes don't have Internet access, then I would like the department to establish it at the boarding homes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will make this my last question at this time.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningark. I didn't hear a question. Minister Peterson, I'll give you an opportunity to respond if you would like to. Mr. Minister.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Ningark for raising that. It's actually a very good thought. I know many of my own constituents are very active on the Internet, Facebook, and emails. They have iPads, notebooks, BlackBerrys, and a whole lot of technical gadgets that they use to stay in contact with each other in our communities.

I had an opportunity to go to the Larga facility in Yellowknife a few weeks ago, a very nice facility. I did observe that one of my own constituents was on the computer in the front office area. There is a computer that is made available to them by the facility. At least in that facility, there is Internet access. It's a public one. I think what you're referring to is whether they can have access to their own computers and we will

certainly look into it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to ask this question. In June 2011, the coroner's report included recommendations for implementation after a person passed away here in Iqaluit. The Department of Health is well aware of the case. With my assumption that this is part of the treatment system, I want to question and if I'm wrong, please correct me, Mr. Chairman.

An expensive piece of diagnostic equipment called a CT scanner was announced as being in the works for the hospital here in Iqaluit. I had heard the federal government promised to provide funding for the purchase of this CT scanner. During Ministers' Statements of our daily session, the Minister of Finance announced that the government would purchase a CT scanner for the hospital. I would like to know what the status of this initiative is, whether or not the equipment is now at the hospital here in Iqaluit. Can the minister provide an update on this matter? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Ms. Ell for that very important question. Yes, we are aware of the coroner's recommendations and it is very important that we pay attention to recommendations like that. I had an opportunity, being a month and half into it, to tour the Qikiqtani General Hospital.

I thank the executive director and other officials for giving me an excellent tour. I had an opportunity to view the area where they're proposing to put a CT scanner.

We do have a request in through a supp bill that we will be considering in this House next week for a CT scanner and we do have the draft RFP ready to go as soon as, hopefully, the funds get approved. We will be accessing the funds through the federal government program. I think it's called the Patient Wait Times Guarantee program. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Have those funds been made available? I imagine that you know the final cost of the CT scanner by now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Ms. Ell for the question. The request for the funding has gone through the Financial Management Board. Now it will come to this House through a supp bill to get it approved, move the money out of what we call the boutique trust, then into the department so that they can put the RFP out, then when there's a response to the RFP, they would be able to select the best proposal, and then purchase the equipment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Ell (interpretation): When can we expect the release of this request for proposals and how long would we have to wait before the CT scanner is available for use here in Iqaluit? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Ms. Ell again for the question. The RFP itself is ready to go. We just need approval of the funding in the request in the supp bill and if that's done next week in this House... I will be here at this witness table to speak to all the supp bills. If the funding is approved, then the RFP could go out and then the money would be transferred internally to pay for the equipment when the winning RFP is selected. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I imagine this is already known by the hospital staff and they know how to operate this machine. In the case that they did not, is there any kind of training program that has been included in the RFP for training staff to run the CT scanner? Will there be a training program for technicians to operate the CT scanner? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Ms. Ell again for the question and I appreciate her concern that when we do get the equipment, we

actually use it. That is the plan. I'm just reading the notes here. There's a new radiologist contract that's being developed, operational planning, the creation of a CT program, and guidelines are underway. So we're not just going to purchase equipment and then put it in the hospital and not use it. We intend to use it.

I did talk to the officials at the hospital when I had the tour. They're quite excited about the possibilities of having a CT scanner that could be used to treat people here in Iqaluit and if they come in from the other communities rather than having to send them all the way to Ottawa to get a CT scan. So there are very exciting possibilities in terms of saving time for people having to travel but also cost savings for the Government of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. He has already responded to one of my questions that I was going to direct, but I'll raise it irrespective of the response.

If those of us from Nunavut have to be sent down for a CT scan, we currently have no choice but to go south as there is no CT scanner in Nunavut. The minister stated that it would lead to cost savings for the government if there was a CT scanner here. That is the same scenario I see. Would the minister know or have an idea as to the amount of funds we may possibly save in our costs if the CT scanner was here in Iqaluit? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Ms. Ell for her question. With the preliminary estimates we have, we could save \$2 million over a five-year period. At the same time, aside from the monetary benefits by having a CT scanner here, it will give us better diagnostic abilities to provide better medical care for people. So a CT scanner here may still require a person to go to Ottawa or wherever they have to be sent or may eliminate the need to go to Ottawa and provide the treatment here.

At the same time, we are looking at renovating the hospital up here to provide even more services to the Baffin region. So it's very exciting. I'm looking very much forward to the future of health in Iqaluit and the Baffin. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to welcome the witnesses to the Committee of the Whole. Last year, there was an announcement about Memorial University where a contract was signed for providing medical services to Nunavummiut. With respect to the students who will be part of this service provision, how many students from Nunavut will be involved? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Tapardjuk for his question. I had a great time. I had an opportunity to meet all the people involved in the Nunavut initiative the other night at the Discovery Inn from Memorial University out of Newfoundland, our officials here at the Qikiqtani General Hospital, and a lot of other people.

Again, it's quite an exciting initiative and it's an initiative that is funded through the federal government, but it will help us perhaps acquire more physicians in the future. Currently, the program is in its early days. We have, I believe, one resident from the University of Newfoundland up at the Qikiqtani General Hospital. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Let me raise this other question. In the past, most people didn't go for physician or doctoral training, let's say, from Igloolik. Are any Inuit included in the internship program where they are working under supervision of a doctor?

Since Inuit will be treated by these interns who are working towards the completion of their doctoral studies, I asked whether or not there will be any Inuit students. Have any interns completed their work and became doctors due to their work in Nunavut in the past? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Tapardjuk for his question. I'm unaware myself of an intern program in the past. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The only reason I raised that matter is we have heard of certain cases. As an example, there was a story about an intern who was on a tour and went to Igloolik and did his examinations of patients there. Since he was only an intern, his examinations resulted in misdiagnoses of patients' health complaints with no treatment of their health concerns. It led to one person paying his own way down to the hospital here in Iqaluit for a medical checkup to allay his health concerns.

I don't think Inuit should just receive trainees' or interns' medical assessments. I believe we also require the top health professionals to provide medical treatment and not just be a stepping stone for students in the medical field. That was why I asked the question. I have no idea whether there was an intern treating people in Igloolik as I have just heard about it and it may be hearsay, which is why I'm asking about it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate Mr. Tapardjuk's concern. Mr. Chairman, as I understand, under the NunaFam initiative, interns would work and train at the Qikiqtani General Hospital and as it is an

accredited hospital, they would work under the supervision of doctors. There are not only interns from Memorial University in Newfoundland who would come up. There could be interns from other medical schools who would come up to work at the Qikiqtani General Hospital, but again, they would be under the supervision of a physician because it's an accredited hospital. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to ensure I understand this clearly. On another matter, a previous question was raised by my colleague relating to patients who are complaining about health issues and don't believe a physician's diagnosis after their appointment. If they're just told that it's a symptom of old age and that all they have to do is to take a Tylenol and they should feel better, where can they turn to? Who can they register their complaint with? How can they, pun intended, get a second opinion medically? Most people are quite aware of their bodies. If they feel that a doctor has made a misdiagnosis, what then? I hope I can be understandable about this, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Tapardjuk for the question. Mr. Chairman, doctors are regularly scheduled to go into the various communities in Nunavut. If the patient feels that they didn't receive the proper treatment, they can request a

second opinion from a doctor when they visit. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I doubt that this will occur. Seriously, I don't think that would matter because once a physician or doctor proclaims that a person is in good health in their assessment, that person is viewed medically as being healthy, even when they believe they're suffering from a medical ailment.

The appointments for these visits are made by the people working at the health centre. If your name doesn't appear on this list, then a person has no ability to see the doctor, even if they want to see the doctor. The nurse may feel that it's a waste of an appointment, even if you clamour for an appointment. How can we best fix the system so that there are options?

We also talked about an appeals process and someone mentioned the regional director of operations for health or something to that effect. This avenue has absolutely no use. Some of us have tried to conduct appeals through that process. It's just a paper trail. When we tried to undertake that process, it was just a waste of time, with no results. I believe it requires a review. It is nothing but a bureaucratic exercise in paperwork and it's almost impossible to complete to its conclusion.

The appeals process that has been introduced to handle these concerns is nothing more than that. People have tried to use it, but with nary a result and it's basically useless. You stated that you

were conducting a review of the Client Travel Policy and that this review will be completed by the end of March. I certainly hope that this concern is also being addressed as part of the review, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Tapardjuk for his question. I understand his concern that patients sometimes want a second or third opinion. Most patients know their bodies pretty good. They feel the pain. The doctor might not know that there is pain there, so the patient may request a second opinion.

I do know from my own experience. One time, because I'm quite adept at Googling, I self-diagnosed myself and went to the health centre. This was years ago. The nurses didn't believe me, and then the doctor came in and confirmed what my own diagnosis was. I got it off the Internet and fortunately it wasn't serious.

Mr. Chairman, the deputy minister has told me that he and the assistant deputy minister are taking these things into consideration and are reviewing. It's good to have this kind of dialogue in the House because we don't always hear these things. So it's a good opportunity to hear the concerns and then our officials can look at them and see how we can address them. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you. This is a matter that definitely requires further review. It is apparent that the minister is inundated with concerns and problems from all over. During the Baffin mayors' meeting, some concerns were expressed and I know that your department was presented with these health concerns.

What one has to realize is that the community health centres and the nurses-in-charge all operate differently in our communities. Some communities have very good nurses-in-charge, which is quite enviable, while some of our communities don't have any options related to situations where the community is in disagreement with the individuals and dislikes the health care provision.

Again, the health professionals protected by the bureaucratic leaders. The appearance is that the health system turns their back on the patient requiring medical attention in order to protect one of their own employees. This is absolutely ludicrous since the medical people are sent there to provide adequate health care to the people, to treat medical ailments, and to look after the health care of the residents. I know that this will be looked at. It's basically a comment.

I would like to raise this last question. The matter is also identified in the capital estimates where the amounts for the medical travel fund have been estimated up to 2014. I cannot recall the response to a prior question about this, but when we're looking at the medical travel budget estimates for this year, are you expecting this medical travel portion to rise? This will most likely be my last

question for the time being. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Tapardjuk. Could I ask Mr. Tapardjuk just to clarify what page he is on in the business plan? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson. Mr. Tapardjuk, if you can identify what page you are on.

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): This was when the minister was meeting with the Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts while he was the Minister of Finance. When he was under that portfolio, he also tabled a document about agreements with the federal government with respect to the medical travel fund that will help offset the medical travel costs accrued by the Nunavut government up to 2014.

It seems to me that medical travel is continually rising and that is my reasoning for asking about this matter here. It's not listed in the portfolio you're currently holding, but I'm just recalling back to when you held a different portfolio as the Minister of Finance and tabled that document related to the medical travel fund, which would be offered until 2014. I'm just trying to get more clarification, Mr. Chairman.

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

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

clarification. Yes, the territorial health initiative sustainability system program was THSSI. We all call it THSSI. It's the acronym. It was actually extended by two years until March 31, 2014. It was going to expire at the end of this fiscal year, but with the hard work of our former health minister and our MP, it did get extended. Out of that program, \$10.2 million goes to medical travel.

When I was in Victoria at the finance ministers' meeting in December, all the finance ministers for the three northern territories asked Minister Flaherty if we could get some certainty or guarantee that THSSI funding would be extended permanently because of our, particularly in Nunavut, high travel costs. We absolutely need funding for travel. But out of the THSSI funding, there's [also] money for a lot of our public health programs that we deliver in Nunavut and across the north. So we're continuing to work on that.

We will continue our dialogue with our MP and with the Minister of Finance for Canada to extend the funding even beyond 2014 and make it more permanent so that we have some certainty and guarantee of the amount of funding we [receive] every year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson. I think Mr. Tapardjuk said that that was his last question.

Just as with a flock of sheep, one does not want to be the black sheep of the family. However, while we are on page H-7, we are set for the second or third round of questioning. So I want to remind members that you can write, email, or set up an appointment with the

minister or his deputy to ask your additional questions. If we cannot utilize these other avenues, we always have the chance to direct our questions during our daily question period. This is just to remind the members of their options when it comes to asking questions.

Mr. Enook, you wanted to be provided more time. You may proceed.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank you for offering me this second chance. I would like to return to the medical travel portion. I don't have a whole lot of questions, but I just want further clarification.

First of all, as it's written down with respect to the medical travel and escort policies, based on No. 2, Mr. Chairman, I will say this phrase in English because I'll run out of time again by being misunderstood. Let me read it in English so that I, too, will personally understand it. It reads, (interpretation ends) "Note: One adult can act as an escort for a group of children when appropriate (e.g. travel for orthodontic procedures) subject to consent being obtained from the relevant parents or guardians." (interpretation) My comprehension of English isn't that great, so I would like to get that clarified if I may. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Enook for seeking clarification. Mr. Chairman, the deputy minister will attempt to clarify that clause. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Ma: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't have the documents in front of me, but I did hear Member Enook clearly, so let me try and give an example to best explain it. I think that might be the way to do it.

So an example picked is I think an actual live example, before I was deputy here, of patients being brought, I think, from the minister's region, from the Kitikmeot, to Baffin to get dental services. So in that case, I think there were some young adults or young minors, I guess is a better phrase, or children, let's say that. In that case, let's say there was ten kids, if the parents of all ten kids say, "Yes, they can go with Ms. Voth to Iqaluit," then that would be an example of that particular situation that Member Enook has described. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate that clarification of the issue. I have another matter I want to ask about and I'm not expecting an instantaneous answer today. I know it is possible to do so data-wise, perhaps with the last decade or perhaps back to the time Nunavut came into being. I wonder if the minister could agree to my request if I were to provide it. Of the requests that were turned down initially that went through the appeals process, what's the total number of cases that were successful? Alternatively, how many times has a patient had to undergo this process and what was the end result?

I hope I can be understood. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Enook for the request. Mr. Chairman, our officials can go back a few years. I think that would be reasonable, but to go back 10 years, that would just be too onerous and difficult for us. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Let me ask then: can't you even go back within a five-year period? That would be acceptable as it would provide an idea. However, I just don't grasp what you mean by your statement about this request being too onerous. Is it too onerous because of the vast number of appeal requests? Is that why it would be too onerous? Is this because of the fact that there are so many appeals? 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 request again. Just talking to my officials here, they think it would probably be fine if we could agree to go back to October 2007, the start of this last Client Travel Policy. We would have some data from then and we could come forward. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That leads me to expect this information to be tabled in the future for our review. I appreciate that, Mr. Minister. Finally, I am thankful for the answers provided as Nunavummiut can now understand what these policies state. I'm not stating that I agree wholeheartedly with all of them nor do I disagree with all of them. At least it really helps to get this clarified and I thank the minister for that.

So the last question that I want to raise, which is a result of discussing medical issues with my colleagues and Inuit from all over Nunavut, is why we are hearing the same things over and over in the communities. My colleague, Mr. Tapardjuk, touched on this issue. Whenever anyone feels sick, their first thought is to book an appointment at the health centre. In most cases, people are being told, "You're fine" or "All you need is two Tylenol and you will feel better." Doesn't the department consider these?

I know this is not the first time you have heard about it because it has been an ongoing issue. However, we're starting to hear it all over. It's not just in Pond Inlet or Igloolik. We're hearing it from across the territory. Why is this happening? When a person feels sick, they go to the health centre. People know their own body and what is bothering them. The only thing people are not hearing is, "You are lying." What's wrong with the scenario here? Where is the bottleneck in this system? Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am finished.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Enook for the question. I'm not sure how I can answer that. I know, right across Nunavut, in every community, we have a lot of hard-working and dedicated health professionals, nurses, and physicians, when they visit, who work very hard to provide care and treatment to all the people who come to health centres and hospitals.

It's a real challenge. We do live in a territory that's two million square kilometres and three time zones. We're really challenged. I understand that people are concerned about their health and I just don't know how to respond to questions about... I couldn't imagine nurses or doctors telling the patients that they're lying about their health because people who get into health professions, they get into it for a reason. They want to help people stay healthy and get healthy. They're not going into those kinds of professions because they don't want to help. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Peterson. (interpretation) I believe that was your last question, Mr. Enook. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wasn't going to speak to this issue, but there are continual complaints about these issues, which I believe all members are informed about, especially regarding elders. Elders are still fearful of going to the health centre. Many of them fear their upcoming appointments at the health centre. If elders are not made to feel welcome, it is

unacceptable as an Inuk. I believe that we need to study this very carefully and resolve it.

The number of people going out for medical travel keeps increasing for appointments as many medical ailments cannot be treated at the local level, especially in cases where people have major health problems. This has to be completely understood and this is why the concern is brought up time and again. I just heard recently today on the radio about issues discussed at the Baffin mayors' meeting regarding this matter.

My thinking on this is perhaps the minister could task his officials to remind all health care workers to have a welcoming attitude in our communities. How can the minister provide more assistance to the local community where people feel they're not receiving proper health care? If people feel they're not getting proper service, can an official visit the community to discuss the health issues faced by the community?

Is the situation at a point where, when people know that nothing will be done, they don't bother going to the health centre since they know that they will just be told that they are fine? Now it's becoming a bigger problem because it's leading to people developing sicknesses that could have been caught, at least from my perspective. When you have been in the field for a while, eight years in my case, this concern is brought up and I hear about this concern. If I were to go on the radio in my hometown, that is what my constituents would pass along.

Can the minister at least task his department and his health professionals

to be more accommodating to Inuit when they believe they're sick? The only time Inuit go to health centres is if they feel there's a problem with their health. I would like to have that clarified. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Curley for the question. Mr. Chairman, over the last three days, we have talked about public health and health in the communities. Our health centres are called community health centres. I appeared before the Baffin mayors yesterday and heard similar concerns.

Just in response to Mr. Enook, I did indicate that health professionals are in the business of helping people stay healthy, get healthy, and care for them. I don't believe that health professionals would deliberately turn away people or work towards trying not to help them.

I mentioned to Mr. Ningark yesterday and also to the Baffin mayors that if we have health committees in the communities, if they become more active and more vocal in their communities, work with the hamlet councils, and work with interagency groups, I think things could improve where they're not working good now.

I heard yesterday at the Baffin mayors' [meeting,] one of the mayors said that it's important for the community health centres and other organizations to work together in the communities. As department officials here, we will certainly continue to communicate that to our health officials and other officials

in the Department of Health that we're here to help people and to work with them in the communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We hear that standard response, but I believe we need to make a better effort to resolve the issues. Whenever other departments experience issues with their programs, their answer usually is that the matter is under review, that the review will be completed in such-and-such a time, and that the report will be tabled at this particular session.

Whenever we debate health issues, even though our residents have major concerns with the health system, the system has never undergone a thorough review, especially at the community level. With respect to this issue, can the minister expound on whether his department will conduct a review of the system or will the current system continue as is, without any changes?

Many people who are experiencing health issues are starting to feel unwelcome at the health centres, especially elders or unilingual Inuit who cannot communicate their symptoms as most physicians and nurses are, for the most part, unilingual English speakers. Due to that reason, I ask how we can improve this situation in the communities so that people can go to the health centre without feeling fearful and to ensure that the government is providing proper health care.

Can the minister think about making improvements to our current system? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Curley for those questions. Again, just to go back to my last answer, if we had better relations in the communities working with health committees of council, working with the hamlet council, work on developing interagency relationships so that everybody... . We're all working together in the communities to help each other. Through the interagency and health committees work to facilitate the understanding of each other's roles and responsibilities, and how to help each other, I think that would be one way to help that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you. Yes, that may be so and that ought to be the case as I know that some members really do try in these committees. What I'm trying to ask of the minister is that other departments, for example, the Department of Education, conduct a review whenever problems crop up in the system and present recommendations to resolve it. Last week, there was a motion on the floor momentarily to that effect. We almost tabled the motion for a comprehensive review, which may still surface at a future time.

Can the minister task an experienced bilingual investigator to look into the health concerns of the patients, to review the complaints about the lack of proper

health care or service? I would like to know whether or not the minister will approve a review on this matter.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Curley for the question. Mr. Chairman, as everybody can see from our business plan, it's quite ambitious. We have a lot of work ahead of us in the next year to year and a half, reviewing numbers and strategies, initiating other programs, and trying to upgrade our facilities across Nunavut. We just committed to Mr. Enook to review the client travel issues going back to October 2007.

We're constantly receiving complaints from people on a daily basis and we look into them. Through a review and analysis of the issues that people raise, we do strive to improve the delivery of our programs and services. It's not like we're ignoring the people's concerns; we do review them. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you. I know some aspects of the departmental operations are occasionally reviewed. However, many of us know the situation in our communities as many people feel reluctant to go to the health centre. This is particularly true of men. Many men feel it is futile to go to the health centre, even though they may not be well or need medical treatment. I don't think it's appropriate.

I believe the system has to be more open, especially since the majority of the budget stems from the federal government, all of it as a matter of fact, but certain funds are specifically for Inuit, such as NIHB. We have to find a more open review and this is what we're trying to put across. Many studies and reviews are done in other areas.

With respect to patient care in the communities, a lot of people who are sick or feel that their health is degenerating are loath to go. These particular parts of the complaints have never been subjected to a review and I wonder why that is so. I would like the minister to task this review, even if it takes a long period, such as a year or six months or even three months. It would be fine as long as a review is undertaken since this review would look at this issue. They can discuss the concerns with all of the communities.

If the committees are the only avenue for this review, then a lot of the important medical and local health concerns and complaints will not be understood, at least from my view. That is the reason why I would like to know the reason the minister is not in favour of a formal review and explain that to the committee. Thank you.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Curley for the question again. Mr. Chairman, as I have said before, the department is constantly reviewing their policies. We have a policy under review. We are working on a document, the guiding principles for health committees.

We believe that health committees, once they're functioning more effectively and understand their role, can bring a lot of concerns that Mr. Curly is raising, bring them up with hamlet councils, bring them up with our health officials in the communities, and bring them up with my senior officials and also with myself. So I think we're on the right path.

I can't make that commitment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you. I understand that matter. The hamlets have to encourage their health committees to pursue this avenue, which is easy enough to do, to state that we will make more efforts. However, as I stated earlier, there are people who have a myriad of medical illnesses requiring complex medical terminology that the committee would most likely not be able to undertake.

Other departments hire consultants or professionals who conduct the review with appropriate terms of reference that focuses their study. I believe that this has to occur in the communities so that we will know not just the community perspective. I would like the minister to elaborate to the members of this committee and to Nunavutmiut as to the reason why he cannot commit to an independent review. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have only been a minister

for... I think this is my 100-day anniversary, so I have some ideas and thoughts about how to improve health. I have to talk to my health officials. I have gone around and talked to a lot of health officials. I have lived in the communities. I do believe in communities. I met with a committee yesterday where they are very proactive. They have initiatives and ideas that they believe will improve health in our communities.

It's all about delivery at the community level. I believe that the health committees, if we can strengthen them and help provide them with good guidance, can improve the communication, the relationships with our health centres and our health professionals at the community level. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you. That is believable. However, since people are truthful in their recounting of their experiences, they feel intimidated and unwelcomed at the health centre due to expressions of that attitude. Some patients don't want to see certain people at the health centre. This complaint has been lodged with quite a few members. I would like the minister to speak to this issue.

How can people who are suffering from health problems or our elders in our communities approach the health centre comfortably without feeling intimidated or unwelcomed? In particular, even though men may be seriously hurt, they don't want to go to the health centre. This is especially true of full-time

hunters. They know that the prognosis will be that they're fine.

How can the minister ensure that people who require medical treatment can go to the health centre without feeling intimidated? The treatment is only available at the health centre. That is the way it ought to be. If the minister makes that commitment to the members here, we will put more faith in your statement as we believe that people should feel comfortable in their home communities' health care system. We don't think there should be health care workers with condescension towards patients. Thank you.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Curley for his comments. I'm not quite sure what he's driving at, but when I go to health centres and I wasn't always the kind of guy who would go to health centres and I thought I was a pretty healthy guy, but then I educated myself. I heard promotions of the Department of Health over the years, the last 10 to 12 years, that it's important to visit health centres for regular checkups.

Don't be afraid to go. Even nowadays, when I go to the health centre, my blood pressure goes up. You go in there to get your blood pressure checked, but you end up getting what they call the white coat syndrome, where your blood pressure actually rises because you're afraid to get your blood pressure checked.

Men, in particular, are more prone than females. Men are more prone to not go

to health centres because we, as men, feel that we are healthy. We're going to live forever. We can't be felled by an illness. That's not true. We all can. We're all aware of cancer. We're aware of many other diseases that we have to get checked up, especially when we are older.

Through the programs that the health department has, there's a big promotion on public health and education. We will continue to encourage all Nunavummiut to get their checkups, go to the health centre, and not to be afraid of the health practitioners. Even if you're afraid or intimidated, then talk to someone who is not and they will probably support you and encourage you to come to the health centre.

Again, I do not believe that our health professionals are people who would try to intimidate you or scare you. They're health professionals and that's their job. They're there to help you and check you out and help you overcome your illnesses and keep you healthy. That's why they get into this kind of profession.

We are trying to encourage a lot of our young Nunavummiut and some of our older Nunavummiut residents to get into the health profession so they can help Nunavummiut. That's the kind of business we are in. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I understand you exactly, but one thing I don't quite appreciate is your statement about what I'm trying to

push with these statements. I thought our statements were quite clear.

Since some elders feel apprehensive to this day, they're not simply trying to denigrate an individual; they're fearful of receiving perfunctory health care without proper treatment. They fear the generic response about their health being fine and that there is nothing wrong with them. That has happened. As we stated earlier, this leads to people feeling unwelcome, especially when the sick person's complaints are not believed, and this leads to a feeling of contempt for their health complaints.

Inuit are a minority in Canada. Inuit tend to be more timid than non-Inuit and we know that for a fact. It's just a traditional cultural value. Inuit tend to be more fearful and that's why I was trying to bring up the idea of a more welcoming attitude. I'm making this comment simply to make it clear because the minister asked what I was pushing and I didn't really like what he said.

Nunavutmiut should not be fearful nor feel apprehensive when they go to the health centre. So if the department can keep making statements to the public that if anyone feels sick, they have to go get a checkup. Maybe we can make this a recurring theme, not just the public health side but the medical professional side as well. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Curley for his comments. Yes, Mr. Chairman, any patient in Nunavut, whether you're young or old, should feel welcome at a

community health centre or hospital. We understand that and we will continue to strive to make people feel welcome in the communities or the city of Iqaluit when they come to our health facilities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson. Mr. Curley, you ran out of time, so we will move on to another member. Mr. Oshutapik.

Mr. Oshutapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I, too, have some comments to pass along to the Minister of Health while we're discussing this matter.

The issue of people's experiences, as we hear from other parts of Nunavut, seems to be primarily related to one of attitude. Although the higher echelons of management continually make the statement that the health care profession is largely made up of dedicated and welcoming people, that principle is very easy to state. However, your department doesn't see this at the local level daily since you don't see the workers conducting their activities.

The fact that the headquarters level of your department is espousing a welcoming attitude is commendable. It is gratifying to hear that from headquarters, but it doesn't seem to be filtering down to your frontline workers at the local level. If you were encouraging all of your health officials and if you filtered down that attitude of a welcoming spirit starting now, then perhaps a lot of these nurses and employees in the health centres who are the cause of these complaints would hear this message louder and it would help to improve their attitude.

I think, occasionally, you should be reviewing local health centres. In some cases, I don't think it has been properly reviewed in a while because I also heard the mayors speaking to the same issue. Wherever there is a gathering of leaders, we tend to hear a lot of these complaints. There should be an attempt to resolve it immediately as we want to ensure that the people we represent are serviced properly. A one-size-fits-all approach cannot meet the unique circumstances of every community. Hopefully, down the road, the operations could be looked into soon and improvements made.

As MLAs, we cannot make that change. Even as individuals, if we go to the health centre and are not made to feel welcomed, then we will not return. Directives originating from headquarters or a review about whether the situation is true based on the large number of complaints or recommendations coming from headquarters are more dramatic to your employees. We really want to push for enhancement and improvement in the way health services are provided. I think we're all trying to represent our constituents.

We keep hearing about the *Tamapta* Mandate. Within the meaning of the word, we cannot deal with it piecemeal but as a whole. If the health system is not fixed, then other parts of operations that we're trying to resolve will be impacted. In order to ensure that we fulfill the *Tamapta* Mandate and we can put faith in becoming more self-sufficient and self-reliant, it has to apply to everybody. We will continue to have problems if you allow it to fester and not resolve these problems, and we will never attain the principles listed in the *Tamapta* Mandate.

This was just a comment and thank you for allowing me time to speak, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Oshutapik. (interpretation ends) Minister Peterson, there were no questions asked, but if you want to comment. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would just like to thank Mr. Oshutapik for his comments. We hear what he says. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson. I would also like to thank you for pronouncing Mr. Oshutapik's name properly. I have no more names on my list. (interpretation ends) Branch Summary. Health and Social Services. Treatment. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$176,298,000. Mr. Tapardjuk.

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just prior to voting on approval of this, I would like to put forward a motion. Mr. Chairman, maybe you can provide direction as to whether I can put forward a motion now or maybe we could have a short break. Mr. Chairman, can you provide direction on this, please. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tapardjuk. You stated you had a motion available. Could you provide a copy? Mr. Tapardjuk.

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have not had this translated into Inuktitut, so perhaps we could have a five- or ten-minute break. I have prepared the motion, but it has not

been translated into Inuktitut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tapardjuk. The policy states that when we are in the Committee of the Whole, we have to follow the procedures laid out. I would like to have a short break while Mr. Tapardjuk's motion is being translated. So we will try to ensure that it is very quickly translated. Once it's completed, we will be able to read the motion. Once it has been prepared and in front of all of the members, I will ensure that I ring the bell to call you back. For the time being, we will take a short break in order to accommodate the translation requirement. Thank you.

>>Committee recessed at 17:17 and resumed at 17:33

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you for coming back. Welcome back. This wasn't intentional. First of all, I want to state that Mr. Tapardjuk had the motion in English only. In my discussion with him, he stated that he preferred to read the motion in Inuktitut. Since the motion was not translated into Inuktitut, I ordered a break to translate it.

Apparently, the usual practice was to read the motion in English immediately and then to take a break while the motion was being translated. We could have done that as well, but as the Chair, I felt that the Inuktitut language, which is now an official language of Nunavut, and with the preference of the member to speak to the motion in Inuktitut, I wanted to accommodate that.

He is an Inuk and he has the right to speak in the Inuktitut language. I had to take that into consideration in my role as

the Chair. Although this is quite a complex matter to consider, I doubt I will have any regrets as I too am an Inuk. It is due to this reason only and I don't mean it to oppose any other procedure.

At this time, since Mr. Tapardjuk wanted to move a motion, you have the floor. Mr. Tapardjuk, if you want to read your motion, your motion is ready for reading. Mr. Tapardjuk.

Committee Motion 008 – 3(3): Review of the Patient/Client Complaints Procedure of the Department of Health and Social Services

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for giving me the opportunity. We have been listening to the proceedings or statements this afternoon during Committee of the Whole and via complaints aired on the radio. As MLAs, we receive complaints about the health system from our constituents with no avenue to make any changes to these complaints.

For that reason, Mr. Chairman, while we are on the review of the main estimates for the Department of Health and Social Services, I wish to move that this committee recommend that the Department of Health and Social Services undertake a comprehensive review of the effectiveness of its patient/client complaints procedure, with a view to ensuring consistent standards of service and care at all territorial health facilities; and that the minister report on the findings of the review no later than the first day of the fall 2012 sitting of the Legislative Assembly.

Mr. Chairman, I move the motion to initiate the comprehensive review that will report on the issues and to provide recommendations to improve the system. I believe that this is the only way we can move forward and that was my reasoning for making this motion. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tapardjuk. There's a motion on the floor. The motion is in order. Before we start debating on the motion, I have a few comments as to the procedures.

Every member has a right to speak to the motion for a total of 20 minutes. The mover of the motion speaks first and has the right to the last reply, which closes the debate.

The motion is in order. This motion does not require a seconder, according to the understanding I have. To the motion. Mr. Tapardjuk.

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Members of Legislative Assembly have questioned aspects of the health care system in Nunavut without any progress or improvement in the system.

Although we seem to continually complain about the issues with the departmental policies as well as the fact that when patients feel their health complaints are not being resolved, this causes many difficulties, especially for those people who are unilingual. This process is very complex, especially if you have no English language comprehension. For that reason, I urge the minister and the department to conduct a comprehensive review to study whether improvements can be

wrought and to look at standardizing the service and care in Nunavut.

In order to fill some of our expectations of improvements through this review based on the numerous complaints lodged without any improvements, if this motion was to pass, then our expectations about the improvement of the system will become more concrete as it relates to problems experienced by patients requiring care in the communities.

I would like to see this motion passed and I urge the Members of the Legislative Assembly to support this motion in order to represent their constituents on the review of patient/client complaint procedure. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tapardjuk. He just spoke to his motion. To the motion. Mr. Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good day. I would like to take a short five-minute break so I can review the motion that was just given to us. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Kusugak. I also had that question when conferring with the staff as the Chair. If the Executive Council members raised this matter, I was notified that in this case, the motion will remain on the floor and members of the cabinet can hold a caucus. We can take a short break based on my powers as the Chair. If I have to identify a timeframe, five minutes should be appropriate while they hold their caucus. When I ring the bells, please come back. Thank you.

>> *Committee recessed at 17:42 and resumed at 17:49*

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you for coming back. I thought I was going to be alone sitting in the House.

>> *Laughter*

Just kidding. There's a motion on the floor. The cabinet had an opportunity to hold their caucus for five minutes. We will return to Mr. Tapardjuk's motion. Are there any comments to the motion? Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When I took on the health department, nobody told me that I would have this much fun and excitement in 100 days. It's like being on a rollercoaster. I think, right now, I'm at the top, so I'm hoping that I don't go down to the bottom again.

Mr. Chairman, if members recall, when I did my opening comments, I said that the department has set out an ambitious business plan in the upcoming year, one that would depend upon adequate fiscal and human resources. As all members know, I don't utter words like that unless I mean them.

As set out in the business plan and in my comments, in the upcoming fiscal year, we have a lot of work to do on the *Child and Family Services Act* and a lot of work to do on the review of the *Public Health Act*, the *Mental Health Act*, and the *Vital Statistics Act*.

I have talked at great length about strengthening health committees in the communities. We want to develop the guiding principles to get health

committees more vocal and more active in the communities, working with our department.

We have talked about the Nunavut suicide action plan. We have a lot of work to get that underway. I appreciate the hard work that all the partners are doing in that regard. We're one of the partners. We have staff and resources tied up in that.

We just talked today about reviewing the Client Travel Policy and trying to get that underway and complete.

The five-year review of the Nursing Recruitment and Retention Strategy is coming due, so we will have people tied up in that.

We have to continue to implement the electronic health records. That's a key initiative. It's a very ambitious initiative. We have to that in all communities in Nunavut and we have committed to having that done by 2014.

We're working on the mobile addictions treatment initiative. That's going to be very important to our territory.

We're coming into the capital estimates cycle for the upcoming year. We're working on a whole lot of these THSSI and THAF initiatives that are very important to us, and public health initiatives.

Mr. Chairman, I appreciate Mr. Tapardjuk's concerns about the patient/client complaints procedure. I hear complaints all the time, but I'm a new minister. I would like to have the opportunity to work with the department and direct them in how to improve

relationships with communities and with the people of Nunavut.

There just isn't enough time. The first day of the fall sitting of 2012... . Three months of summer are coming up, and I just listed off all the stuff we're working on. They're vitally important to Nunavummiut that we have to roll out. That's the plan.

As I said a few days ago, the Department of Health is a unique department because it does touch on everybody's lives in Nunavut and we all know a lot of people who depend on us daily in providing a good, high level of public health care to Nunavummiut.

I just don't know if I can continue to tie up resources when we've got so many very important initiatives to initiate, undertake, and complete so that we can make this an independent department in Nunavut.

As you will recall, Mr. Chairman, the Government of Canada gave us some news in December about our Canada health transfer money that's going to crimp us a little bit. We're working with the Government of Canada on our territorial formula financing to review our gross expenditure base. So hopefully at some point, we will make adjustments where we can get some additional funding so that we can do some more things for our health care in Nunavut.

I'll be very busy with health ministers of Canada meetings to look at how we can improve health care in Canada and in our territory so that we can provide a better level of service.

So, Mr. Chairman, we have such an ambitious business plan. I see this as something that would tie us up. I do commit that I will continue to stress throughout our department that we will work with our clients and provide a strong level of service and make our community health centres more welcoming.

If we get those health committees up and operational, I think that will go a long way in alleviating some of the concerns.

With the Client Travel Policy, as I mentioned, we are asking the clients themselves about what they think should be included and we're asking people who work with the policy about what can be included and should be included.

We have heard comments, questions, and concerns from all MLAs. I'm sure that those will be considered under the review.

So I'm very positive about the future of the health department in Nunavut. I think we can make some great strides going forward to reduce the patient/client complaints. For that reason, Mr. Chairman, I can't support this motion. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Peterson. I would like to ask the members to talk to the motion, the intent of the motion. I have no more names, actually. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you. (interpretation) Mr. Chairman, it is quite understandable listening to the comments. Our constituents tend to have a lot of concerns and issues, especially elders. I know for a fact that you really feel for

them when there is really no other alternative and they feel apprehensive about their health. This is very real.

I know that ministers can undertake anything if they want to correct the operations of their department. We're not trying to restrict or abrogate from this power. We're just trying to protect our constituents as well as yours. Our constituents should feel comfortable when they go to a health centre and when we write up their concerns and issues. This has been ongoing for so long.

"How can I be properly understood?" That is their main thought when they are worried about their health. Apparently, they are understood, but I'm not sure that is the case. For that reason, if you want to try to resolve the concerns of Nunavutmiut, there is no way other than supporting this. I would ask that this be a recorded motion so that everyone would see who supports what, especially when it comes to trying to resolve the issues we face and bear in the health care field.

I totally understand the distractions when we try to conduct our duties, and the minister apparently understands that when you're distracted, you sometimes cannot complete your duties. However, we're not just being distracted by this. This motion will resolve a lot of issues and it will alleviate the deep concerns our constituents have, especially when it comes to health or of feeling unwelcome about their concerns, which just seem to be written down without ever being resolved. This will definitely improve our health care system in my opinion.

I hope you very carefully consider this motion because it's not trying to break

down the health system, but rather, it's trying to resolve the current barriers and issues that we face in health. I'm trying to say that we should all support this. So I give it back to you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. The clock is approaching six o'clock as I speak and colleagues, as you are well aware, we usually adjourn at six o'clock in the evening. I would like to ask the committee if they wish to proceed with the business at hand and to go past six o'clock to deal with the motion. That is my question. Would you like to proceed? Let us conduct a show of hands so that it will become clear. All those in favour of going ahead to deal with the motion. Thank you. I'm trying to record a motion, Mr. Enook. Can you please be patient. All those who would like to adjourn for the day. The majority are in favour of proceeding with the business at hand. There's a motion on the floor. We will proceed past six o'clock, as per the committee's wishes, to deal with the matter. Thank you for clarifying that matter for us.

Mr. Curley, I believe you were done.
Mr. Ningark.

Mr. Ningark: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The motion that is being circulated to me is not a money bill. It is a motion that is inconsistent with the Executive Branch of the government, in this case, the cabinet mission.

I would like to read the mission statement under Health and Social Services on H-2, and I quote, "Our mission is to promote, protect and enhance," I underline the term enhance, "the health and well-being of all

Nunavummiut,” and this motion talks about all Nunavummiut, “incorporating Inuit societal values,” and we talked about that the last two or three days as we reviewed the budget, “at all levels of service delivery and design.” This is what the motion is all about.

When I mention the Executive Branch of the government, the cabinet, I’m talking about the public service is included. That’s what the motion is all about and I will support the motion. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Education, in my opinion, is the only way to advance as a society. It’s the very essence and foundation in all aspects of life. In saying that, Mr. Chairman, the health department is very sensitive and life-altering every day to Nunavummiut.

Health and social services by way of our nurses in health centres and other professionals, even those extended down in the south, all public servants and professionals, and even professionals need to continue to be educated. With Nunavut’s distinctness, we have our own distinct barriers and also along the way come education and being informed.

I think this is a very good tool that would be able to inform everybody to be able to address all the main issues where people have to leave home to deal with very legitimate life-altering issues. So with this sense, I will support the motion. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. (interpretation ends) I have no more names on my list. (interpretation) The mover has the last reply. Mr. Tapardjuk.

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The government makes grandiose statements on matters they consider important.

For the regular members, this matter is very important to address these concerns, not just stemming from this year but last year, the year before, and the year prior, with the same problems cropping up time and again based on the complaints sent to the MLAs. Yet we haven’t brought up any solutions as a government, spending our time sparring politically over these complaints with no resolution in sight. We never presented any solutions and just kept opposing the actions of the government and we also never heard of any initiatives to improve the situation.

Mr. Chairman, this motion is meant to provide this government with assistance since MLAs continually receive calls from their constituents who are experiencing problems. Although we’re not doctors or health professionals, we’re quite aware of the fact that if some individuals had received early and appropriate medical treatment, they would still be here with us today. This seems quite obvious to many of us.

With that in mind, Mr. Chairman, this recommendation for a comprehensive review is to look at the operational issues and how complaints can be lodged and through which channel. Here in Nunavut, most communities have only one health centre and if we’re not

satisfied with the care provided, we have no alternatives in trying to get a second opinion. Due to this reality, Mr. Chairman, when we're cognizant of the problems that exist within our health system, we will be better able to provide concrete solutions to improve it. Without this knowledge, we don't know how to make improvements.

The minister stated that he cannot support this motion due to the already overflowing amount of work the department has to undertake. I can make this opposite statement: I want this motion supported because too many of our constituents have received secondary health care provisions for far too long and we have to represent their interests first and foremost to be given the best health care in the health centres.

The usual precept of most Canadians is their belief that when they go for medical treatment, they will be given the assistance they require, but it hasn't turned out that way.

They become disillusioned by the health system. Although they're experiencing medical problems, they're worried that when they turn to the health centre for health care provision, they will receive no medical treatment. No one should have that thought amongst our constituents, principally our elders.

With that, I'm going to support this motion. I also requested to have a recorded vote on behalf of our constituents so that it can be visible through this vote which members are truly representing their constituents. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tapardjuk. That was the last reply to

the motion. The debate is now closed. We will now vote on the motion. We will have a recorded vote. At this time, I would like the members to stand if they support Mr. Tapardjuk's motion. Please stand and sit down when I call your name. Those in favour of the motion, please rise.

Mr. Tapardjuk.

Mr. Oshutapik.

Ms. Ell.

Mr. Enook.

Mr. Curley.

Mr. Ningark.

Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Mr. Rumbolt.

Thank you. I would now ask the members who oppose the motion to please rise.

Ms. Ugyuk.

Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Schell.

Mr. Shewchuk.

Mr. Taptuna.

Ms. Aariak.

Mr. Arreak.

Mr. Kusugak.

Thank you. The other matter I overlooked that has to be included is: are there any abstentions? No abstentions.

At this time, based on the recorded votes, I can announce that there are eight for the motion and eight opposed. As part of my mandated powers as Chair of the Committee of the Whole, it is now my discretion to vote on the motion, which happens to come in handy on occasion, such as with this moment.

As an individual from a small community, I can understand exactly where the motion is coming from. Mr. Tapardjuk stated that as residents of small communities, the only recourse we have in the health sector are the local nurses and health centres. If we aren't satisfied with the service, there are no other options, especially for our elders. With that reason and at the Chair's discretion, I support the motion. The motion is carried.

>>Applause

Thank you for the opportunity. Now we can smile and work together again, as is the usual practice.

At this time, I would like to ask the committee if they would like to complete the Department of Health as we are currently past our allotted time and that is my next request. Do you want to conclude this department?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): We're on page H-7, which the motion was specific to. (interpretation ends) Branch Summary. Health and Social Services. Treatment. Total Operations and

Maintenance. \$176,298,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Go to page H-8. (interpretation ends) Health and Social Services. Branch Summary. Health Insurance Programs. Total Operations and Maintenance. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you. I have a question regarding the NIHB program, which I believe is on this page, that we receive funding from the federal government. How many years is this current agreement for and how much is provided through this agreement annually? Can we get this information at this time? Thank you.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Curley for the question. As Mr. Curley would know as the former Minister of Health, it's renewed annually. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): The second part of my question related to the annual amount that is provided to Nunavut for this program. This was part of my previous question. Thank you.

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

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

question. The amount in the current fiscal year is \$27,750,000. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Based on the figures, it is quite understandable that the Non-Insured Health Benefits total of \$27 million is specific to aboriginal people and doesn't form part of the land claims agreement. This program is specific to aboriginal people in Canada. Even if we didn't have a land claims agreement, this fund would still be available to Inuit. I wonder: are the funds allocated to the escort policy coming out of the Non-Insured Health Benefits? Thank you.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Curley for the question. Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With the various concerns expressed and with this fund earmarked for aboriginal groups, I believe that it has to be carefully monitored as to who can benefit from these funds. I thank the minister for that.

I also want to ask this question. NTI and the other organizations conduct a review of this fund annually to analyze the utilization of the funds. Just recently, I believe it was this summer when a meeting occurred between the federal

government and our Nunavut health departmental representatives. My question is: did this meeting produce any improvements and what exactly was implemented if recommendations were provided? Perhaps the minister can elaborate.

Some of the concerns relate to the fund. To cite an example, patients need to hire a taxi because ambulances also break down on occasion, but there are no funds. Were some of these matters considered during the meeting with the federal government officials? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Curley for the question. If Mr. Curley can clarify what meeting he is referring to, it would really help us. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): As I said, I believe it was either this spring or summer when there was a meeting between the federal government and our government officials on NIHB. The official sitting beside him was there and he is quite aware of that meeting. They conducted a review of the problems with the program delivery to resolve some of the issues they face. My question is: did this meeting produce any results? If so, what kinds of improvements were produced as a result of this meeting? That is my question. Thank you.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Curley for the question. I'll have the deputy minister answer that question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Ma: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe Member Curley is referring to the Non-Insured Health Benefits audit of the medical travel component. I think that's what he's making reference to and he's nodding his head, so I'm assuming that is correct. We did, in fact... . Actually, let me give you the chronology. It's best to describe it that way.

As part of the undertaking between the respective organizations, Health Canada and ourselves, in 2011-12, we agreed that there would be a review of the medical travel component of the Non-Insured Health Benefits program. The draft report was issued, I believe, this summer. It was reviewed between the respective parties. From that, we have a management action plan that has been put into place and both sides have agreed in principle to that management action plan. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is very useful because we have to continually make improvements, especially based on the concerns expressed earlier. Could the minister agree to table the management action plan to the committee? Thank you.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Curley for the question. Mr. Chairman, I haven't even read the complete document yet. We would have to get agreement from Health Canada to do such a thing, so I can't commit to anything right now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson. I have no more names on my list. (interpretation ends) H-8. Health and Social Services. Branch Summary. Health Insurance Programs. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$54,497,000. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. We will go back to page H-3. (interpretation ends) Department Summary. Health and Social Services. Detail of Expenditures. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$316,677,000. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Do we agree that the Department of Health and Social Services is concluded?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Minister and your officials. Do you have any closing remarks? Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the

Committee of the Whole for an interesting three days. As I said before, it's like being on a roller coaster. So I thank you. We got a lot of good comments and questions. We take everything you say and all of your questions very seriously. We do know that health is near and dear to our hearts across Nunavut. As public servants, we are in the public service because we want to serve the public.

When I started in the Department of Health, I didn't realize how unique the department is. It has been a privilege in the first few months here. I have met a lot of very dedicated and hard-working health officials across Nunavut and in all the facilities. They have told me a lot of good stories. There is a lot of really caring people out there. I want to say to them today, don't feel dejected by anything I said in the House.

I think all MLAs and all politicians on both sides of the House care about what we do. It's your job to ask questions and it's our job to answer questions and strengthen our departments. I think that's what we will continue to do. We now have a lot of important initiatives that we're going to continue to work on. So that's very positive.

I would just like to thank all the officials I have met who have explained to me what they do, all the people who have worked very hard on briefing notes and taking the time to send clarifications for me. I would like to thank Debora Voth for her time here as well and to Peter Ma also for his time.

I wish you all the best in future deliberations on your next departments. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Peterson. Thank you to your officials. We do realize that the Department of Health and Social Services is not an easy task, but we mean well each time to become better instruments as we move along. So we appreciate your hard work in that regard. Thank you.
(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses out.

Thank you, Sergeant-at-Arms. Mr. Ningark.

Mr. Ningark: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to make a motion to report progress. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningark. There's a motion on the floor and the motion is not debatable. All those in favour of the motion. Thank you. Opposed. One opposed. The motion is carried. I will now rise to report progress. Thank you.

Speaker: *Qujannamiik*, Sergeant-at-Arms. Moving right along with our 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 would like to report progress, and also, there was one committee motion adopted. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I move that the Report of the Committee of the Whole be agreed to. *Qujannamiik*, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. There is a motion on the floor. Is there a

seconder? Mr. Schell. Thank you. All those in favour of the motion. Any 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. *Orders of the Day* for March 2:

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

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

- Bill 21
- Bill 24
- Bill 25
- Bill 26
- Bill 27
- Bill 34

20. Report of the Committee of the Whole

21. Third Reading of Bills

22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you very much, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned until Friday, March 2, at 9:00 a.m. in the morning. I'll see everybody bright and early tomorrow morning.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 18:28*

