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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Speaker

Hon. Hunter Tootoo

(Iqaluit Centre)

Hon. Eva Aariak

(Iqaluit East)

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Minister of Executive and
Intergovernmental Affairs; Minister
responsible for Aboriginal Affairs;
Minister responsible for Immigration*

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*

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(Baker Lake)

Tagak Curley

(Rankin Inlet North)

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Minister responsible for the Status of
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Hon. Keith Peterson

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of Health and Social Services*

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Hon. Fred Schell

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Hon. Daniel Shewchuk

(Arviat)

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Iqaluit, Nunavut
Thursday, May 31, 2012

Members Present:

Honourable Eva Aariak, Honourable James Arreak, Mr. Moses Aupaluktuq, Mr. Tagak Curley, Honourable 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, Honourable Peter Taptuna, Honourable Hunter Tootoo, Ms. Jeannie Ugyuk.

>>*House commenced at 15:01*

Item 1: Opening Prayer

Speaker (Hon. Hunter Tootoo): *Qujannamiik*, Sergeant-at-Arms. Before we commence today's proceedings, I would like to ask Mr. Elliott to lead us off with a prayer, please.

>>*Prayer*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Elliott. (interpretation ends) Moving on in the orders of the day. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Health and Social Services, Minister Peterson.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

Minister's Statement 147 – 3(3):
World No Tobacco Day – May 31

Hon. Keith Peterson: Mr. Speaker, smoking rates in Nunavut are more than double the national average. Over 50 percent of Nunavummiut over the age of 12 and 80 percent of pregnant women in the Baffin region smoke on a daily basis.

Tobacco is a major risk factor for most of the leading causes of death in this territory.

Mr. Speaker, as members know, the Department of Health and Social Services developed a five-year Nunavut tobacco reduction framework for action plan and the "Tobacco Has No Place Here" campaign.

Today, I ask this House to join me in recognizing World No Tobacco Day. Mr. Speaker, in recognition of World No Tobacco Day, communities and groups were offered funds to host community breakfasts promoting this important day. Sixteen will be held across the territory. Here in Iqaluit, the community breakfast will be held June 2 at the Parish Hall from 10:00 a.m. to noon.

Please join me today at the break when my tobacco reduction team and I will screen a one-minute animated short video created specifically for Nunavummiut. The video shows the global connection between tobacco production, Big Tobacco's role, and the health and social consequences of smoking in Nunavut. The video will be shown on CBC television, in the Astro Theatre in Iqaluit, and social media sites, including YouTube and Facebook.

Mr. Speaker, today we also have the winners of the tri-territorial "Get Reel" anti-tobacco video advertising campaign. Students from grades 6 to 12 were invited to participate. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Nola Hicks' grade 5/6 class at Victor Sammurtok School in Chesterfield Inlet. Her class was Nunavut's grand prize winner and receives \$500 for their "Smokes Make You Broke" video.

We congratulate the three semi-finalists who receive \$100 each:

- Kassidy Koaha-Laube, Tyshauna Atighioyak, Natasha Angulalik, and Eliza Cockatt of Kiilnik High School in Cambridge Bay;
- Adam Hicks' grade 7/8 class of Victor Sammurtok School in Chesterfield Inlet; and
- Pootoogoo Ivvaluajuk, Naiomi Ottokie, and Laina Geetah of Peter Pitseolak School in Cape Dorset.

Mr. Speaker, World No Tobacco Day encourages each of us to talk about how tobacco has affected our lives, our families, and our communities. Our government supports a healthy lifestyle that is tobacco-free. Thank you, Mr. Speaker

>>Applause

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

**Minister's Statement 148 – 3(3):
Devolution Takes a Step Forward**

Hon. Eva Aariak: *Uqaqtittijii*, I rise today to update my colleagues on Nunavut's devolution. I am pleased to say that the federal government has appointed a chief negotiator for devolution negotiations and has taken the next step in devolving northern governance in Nunavut.

Currently, the federal government makes decisions on what happens to over 80

percent of the land in Nunavut. However, on May 18, 2012, the Government of Canada appointed a negotiator to start the process of devolving this decision-making authority to Nunavummiut.

Mr. Speaker, Nunavut's lands and natural resources rightfully belong to Nunavummiut to develop and protect according to our needs and priorities. Reclaiming the ability to make the decisions about how our lands and resources are managed is the next chapter in building a self-reliant Nunavut.

I would like to thank Prime Minister Harper for his strong and personal commitment to strengthening governance in Canada's North, and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated for their partnership and unwavering support for Nunavut's devolution.

Uqaqtittijii, our economic development and self-reliance depend on getting to the negotiating table and coming to an agreement to transfer land management responsibilities to Nunavut. Devolution will not happen overnight, but the appointment of a federal negotiator moves the process to the next step.

Uqaqtittijii, I have great confidence in our Chief Negotiator, Mr. David Akeeagok, and am certain that he will work together constructively with Chief Federal Negotiator, Mr. Dale Drown, and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated on a devolution agreement for Nunavut. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Madam Premier.

Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Minister responsible for Community and Government Services, Minister Kusugak.

**Minister's Statement 149 – 3(3):
Annual Reporting for the Gas Tax
Agreement**

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I rise today to update members on the Gas Tax Agreement which was officially signed by Nunavut and the Government of Canada in 2005.

CGS administers the Gas Tax Fund and provides project oversight for initiatives funded under this program. To date, over 45 projects have been initiated with gas tax funding, many of which have since been completed. Some of these projects have now resulted in improvements to water, wastewater, and solid waste services to communities.

As part of this multi-year funding agreement, there are reporting requirements that have to be filed with Canada on an annual basis.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to say that Infrastructure Canada has recognized that Nunavut consistently files the Annual Expenditure Report (AER) on time and has also noted that our report is among the most organized and accurate that Canada receives from provinces and territories.

>>Applause

I am to happy to say that Infrastructure Canada is now using Nunavut's Annual Expenditure Report as a model of "best practice" as an example for other

jurisdictions. Mr. Speaker, this shows the quality and attention to detail that the Department of Community and Government Services strives to obtain. It is a testament to the efforts of our committed and hard-working project team members and program and financial managers with the department. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Minister responsible for the Department of Environment, Minister Arreak.

**Minister's Statement 150 – 3(3): Bill
S-210 to Amend the Fisheries Act
and Ban Commercial Seal Hunting**

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say "good afternoon" to the residents of Clyde River and Qikiqtarjuaq. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to my colleagues' and Nunavummiut attention a bill that was recently introduced by Liberal Senator Mac Harb to amend the federal *Fisheries Act* to ban commercial seal hunting in Canada. This bill marks Senator Harb's third attempt to ban the commercial hunting of seals, following his two previous bills, S-207 and S-229, which received little support and were unsuccessful.

Senator Harb's bill contains an exemption for aboriginal people. However, the EU seal ban has demonstrated that any ban related to the commercial seal hunt negatively impacts the market for Inuit seal products. This means that Nunavut communities are affected. Senator Harb has publicly suggested that sealing activities are not

“befitting a modern country,” ignoring the fact that seals continue to be an essential source of both food and revenue for Nunavummiut.

I have written a letter to the Liberal Party Leader Bob Rae urging him to address Senator Harb’s radical anti-hunting agenda because it violates accepted principles of conservation and sustainable resource use. It has the potential to cause direct harm to seal hunters, families, and communities.

Mr. Speaker, we will continue to work to support and defend the Nunavut sealing sector. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Arreak. I’ll just note the appropriate letter is preceding the numbers of that bill.

Item 2. Ministers’ Statements. Moving on in the orders of the day. Item 3. Members’ Statements. Member for Baker Lake, Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Item 3: Members’ Statements

Member’s Statement 242 – 3(3): Infrastructure Needs in Baker Lake

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to speak about infrastructure needs in Baker Lake. Mr. Speaker, as you will recall, I made a series of statements in this House during our recent winter sitting on this issue.

As we approach the introduction of the Government of Nunavut’s 2013-14 capital estimates later this year, I would like to take this opportunity to again

emphasize the importance of addressing Baker Lake’s needs.

Mr. Speaker, according to 2011 census data from Statistics Canada, Baker Lake’s population is approaching 2,000. We are now the fourth largest community in Nunavut. As I have noted, Baker Lake is looking forward to a new middle school, and I continue to urge the Department of Health and Social Services to take a close look at whether our community’s health centre is adequate to the needs of our rapidly growing population.

Mr. Speaker, I have risen in this House on a number of occasions to speak about the benefits of strategic transportation infrastructure in Baker Lake. Air and marine infrastructure are critical. I continue to encourage the federal and territorial governments to work closely with the Municipality of Baker Lake to identify areas of potential for investment.

Mr. Speaker, I note that our neighbours in Rankin Inlet recently received assistance from the Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency for the development of a business case for the construction and operation of a port.

As an integral part of the dynamic Kivalliq region, Baker Lake is positioned to make significant contributions to achieving environmentally responsible economic development.

Mr. Speaker, I continue to advocate for strategic investments in Baker Lake. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Nattilik, Ms. Ugyuk.

Member's Statement 243 – 3(3): Child and Youth Representative

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I rise today to make a statement that comes from my heart.

Mr. Speaker, I was very pleased to hear our Premier announce at our last sitting that the government is moving ahead with the establishment of an independent child and youth representative for Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, as you know, my background is in the field of social work. For many years, I worked closely with families, children, and the community. I passionately believe that we have a responsibility as leaders to speak and act on behalf of the most vulnerable people in society.

(interpretation) Our societal values were instilled through oral tradition and unwritten laws. We used to be a society with specific roles in the family unit. Today, it is a sad fact, but that society no longer exists. In today's Nunavut, we face many challenges, from high unemployment to issues, such as spousal abuse, child abuse, and elder abuse. (interpretation ends) We need to move with the times and find new ways to help the vulnerable and to address family problems within the family unit.

Mr. Speaker, we are lawmakers and we have a responsibility to pass laws that reflect the values and priorities of our society, communities, and constituents.

The challenge before us is to pass legislation that accomplishes the goal of taking care of our people in a way that recognizes and respects those things that make us unique in Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, in March, when the Premier updated us on the status of the child and youth representative initiative, she indicated that the government's consultation process has been considering a number of important questions.

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

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

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank you for the members' consent.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I strongly believe that we should not be afraid of initiatives such as this. This is an important opportunity for us as a society to take on greater ownership and responsibility for the well-being of our children in a way that does not undermine the responsibilities of parents and families.

As a proud Inuk and Nattilingmiuq, I see this initiative as having the potential to establish a strong foundation based on our sense of cultural identity and show that we are capable of protecting the rights and safety of the most vulnerable in our society.

I have said on many occasions that we need to regain our strength and move past being victims. I have said on many occasions that we are in danger of losing our sense of responsibility. I have said on many occasions that we cannot go on blaming addictions, foreign ways of decision-making, and other outside forces for the problems that face our communities.

Mr. Speaker, I see the child and youth representative as having the responsibility of ensuring that the government is living up to its obligations with respect to what should be provided to children and youth. I see the child and youth representative as having the responsibility of reporting his or her findings to us, the elected leaders, for action.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage the government to ensure that its work on the child and youth representative takes into account two other important initiatives: the review of our *Child and Family Services Act* and the review of the structure of the Department of Health and Social Services.

As you know, I strongly support creating two separate departments, which will allow for better focus on issues related to children, youth, and families. I also support improvements to the *Child and Family Services Act* that will address issues that I faced for many years working in the field.

Mr. Speaker, I very much look forward to working with my colleagues on these important initiatives and I am confident that we can work together and move forward. *Qujanarluaqutit*, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Tununiq, Mr. Enook.

**Member's Statement 244 – 3(3):
Thoughts and Prayers for Pond
Inlet Residents**

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon to my constituents.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart due to the fact that yesterday, in Pond Inlet, we lost two residents, one elder and the other a young adult. All of us who live in Pond Inlet are deeply affected by these two deaths.

I would like to inform those who just lost their dear ones that they are in our thoughts. We sympathize with your loss. I, my colleagues, and all Nunavummiut will keep you in our thoughts and we will ensure that you are in our prayers. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 245 – 3(3):
Progress on Devolution**

Mr. Ningark: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to express my support for the recent progress that has been made towards achieving a devolution agreement with the federal government.

Mr. Speaker, I was very pleased to note that the Government of Canada has now

appointed a chief federal negotiator for Nunavut devolution.

I would also like to note with appreciation the support that Nunavut received earlier this week from Canada's Western Premiers concerning devolution in the north.

Mr. Speaker, I do wish to sound a cautionary note today. In the federal government's own announcement of this appointment, the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development stated, and I quote, "An important element" of the federal negotiator's mandate "will be to engage key stakeholders on their views with respect to devolution to identify the next steps required to advance negotiations and to examine how land and resource management capacity can be improved in Nunavut."

Mr. Speaker, these cautious words suggest to me that the federal government's timetable for achieving a devolution agreement may not be as ambitious as our timetable. At the appropriate time, I will have questions for the Premier on this issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Member's Statement 246 – 3(3):
Qikiqtarjuaq High School
Graduates**

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to share some good news. I rise today to congratulate students who will be graduating tonight at a graduation

ceremony in Qikiqtarjuaq. I consider all successful students excellent role models. I would like to encourage all current students to pursue their education, especially after graduation from high school, to pursue their post-secondary education.

Mr. Speaker, I am quite proud of these students' accomplishments. They are: Melanie Nookiguak, Charlie Nutaralak, and Kayla Qappik. The graduation ceremony to be held in Qikiqtarjuaq tonight is in their honour. So I urge my colleagues to share in my appreciation of these students' success. 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. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Minister of Health and Social Services and Finance, Minister Peterson.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I have said on many occasions over the years, it's always a special occasion when I get to recognize a constituent from the Kitikmeot. It's my pleasure today to recognize Susan Anderson from Cambridge Bay. She's sitting in the Gallery over on the other side there. She's also the acting territorial director of mental health and addictions for the Department of Health and Social Services. I welcome Sue to the Gallery. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Peterson. Welcome to the Gallery. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Moving on in our orders of the day. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Rumbolt.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 351 – 3(3): Granular Stocks in Nunavut

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Community and Government Services.

Mr. Speaker, during the minister's opening comments of his department's 2012-13 capital estimates, he indicated that his department is developing a comprehensive management strategy to address the lack of granular stock in the territory. Can the minister indicate if this management strategy has been completed and will he commit to tabling it in the Legislative Assembly? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the member for the question. Mr. Speaker, I will commit to tabling the document once it is ready for tabling. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister highlight for us today

the key elements of the strategy? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understand the strategy is not completed yet and when it is, I will table it. We have an ongoing shortage of gravel in almost all the communities. We have communities with mountains of gravel and then we have communities with mountains or none of the above. It's something that our department has been working very hard with.

We have been working with the municipalities in trying to alleviate the issue of gravel shortage. We began by doing what we can, at least to start by getting some gravel screeners into eight municipalities last year. I believe we're at the end of that. We're hoping that will alleviate some of the requirements of gravel.

In the meantime, we are doing a study on gravel crushers and how they could best be used in the municipalities. We need to figure out the best kind of gravel, the amount of gravel that will be required in municipalities, how we could secure the gravel, and then, in turn, how much does it cost to produce an X amount of gravel to resell it so that we could make more, or rebating the municipality if the municipality were to take on that responsibility.

So there are many aspects to this study that is being done and I look forward to its completion so that we can bring some proposals to some municipalities and this House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for his reply. During the minister's opening comments on his department's 2012-13 capital estimates, he also indicated that his department was expanding the Kitikmeot Granular Program for gravel crushing projects for both Gjoa Haven and Kugluktuk for the upcoming 2012 summer. Can the minister confirm if these gravel crushing projects are on schedule and if the program will be expanded to other communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I could assure my colleague that they are, as far as I'm concerned, on schedule. We're hoping to be able to wrap up this stuff probably by the end of the gravel crushing season and shortly thereafter. Once we find out the details of that, I would really like to see it expanded throughout Nunavut. I'm sure that there will be a priority list. Before we get there, yes, the idea is, "Let's see what we could gain from the knowledge from these two," and then expand it as quickly as possible, at least through the five-year capital plan if need be, and get it out to the communities that require crushed gravel. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would just like to make a final comment if I could. The department's

2012-13 capital estimates allocated Sanikiluaq a gravel screener, but given the condition of the roads in the community, the screener is not producing adequate granular material to resurface all the roads.

I received correspondence from the municipality concerning this issue and will be passing this correspondence on to the minister. I ask the minister to review the correspondence carefully and I look forward to his reply on the issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: That was just a comment, I believe. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I realize there's no question, but I look forward to seeing the letter and I will review it with my colleagues and the MLA. I'm sure I'll be in communication with the Municipality of Sanikiluaq to see if there's any way that we can deal with the gravel crusher in that community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Oral Questions. Member for Baker Lake, Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Question 352 – 3(3): Uranium Mining Issues in Nunavut

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs.

On October 19 of last year, I asked the minister for an update on the status of the Government of Nunavut's development of a formal uranium mining policy. At that time, the minister

indicated that work was continuing and that the GN would be discussing the issue with Nunavut Tunngavik. Can the minister advise the House today what progress has been made on this issue? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Firstly, I would like to welcome the newest member of the Executive Council sitting on my left, Minister Ell, to cabinet and in the portfolio of my colleague with the same surname, Minister Arreak.

This is a very good question you have just raised. As most members are aware, there was a consultation tour on the uranium mining policy in Iqaluit, Rankin Inlet, and Baker Lake to listen to the concerns of residents. I believe the tour has been concluded.

This deals with mining, so I would ask that this question be redirected to the Hon. Minister Taptuna, as he is the minister responsible for mineral development. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Madam Premier. The question has been redirected to the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. Of course, in February of 2010, as cabinet, we directed our departmental officials to conduct further research and analysis in coordination with our Sustainable Development

Committee, which is made up of deputy heads within various departments.

As the Premier has indicated, we did public consultations in Baker Lake, Iqaluit, and Cambridge Bay. All the input has been received and consolidated into a report. Throughout the process of making the policy and report public, we have approved in principle the Uranium Development Policy for Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Mr. Aupaluktuq, you can direct your supplementary question to either the Premier or Deputy Premier. Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In reference to EIA and the question of mining and the Nunavut Impact Review Board, my question is to the minister's department that has been coordinating the Government of Nunavut's submissions to the Nunavut Impact Review Board in relation to its review of the proposed Kiggavik uranium mine near Baker Lake. My question is: can the minister highlight the government's main concerns in relation to this project? If Madam Premier wishes to answer or defer the question over to the Minister of Mines. If I can have some assistance on this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, I really didn't understand his question. If it formed part of his question, I want to respond to that part. I assumed he was asking about another matter.

The Nunavut government has been involved in the appointment process for quite a while and has also presented their recommendations under Part 5 of the environmental assessment process of NIRB, as per the requirements laid out in the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement, Article 12, for the review of the Kiggavik project.

(interpretation ends) NIRB provided a positive conformity determination on the draft environmental impact statement provided by Areva Resources Incorporated. The Government of Nunavut continues to support the existing Nunavut Impact Review Board regulatory process as set out in the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement and as a comprehensive, inclusive, and effective means of evaluating projects in Nunavut on a case-by-case basis. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) That is all for now.

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

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the hon. member for the responses and updating us on the position of the GN in regard to uranium mining. The minister has just returned from the annual conference of western premiers. Welcome back. The official communiqué from the conference, which was issued on Tuesday of this week, specifically noted uranium as being a national energy source. Does this mean that the Government of Nunavut fully endorses uranium mining? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Uranium mining policies are discussed nationwide. Some provinces actually have uranium mines throughout Canada. In that announcement, the Minister responsible for Mines announced that these policies that have been developed for the Nunavut government remain the same and mining will continue to be reviewed (interpretation ends) on a case-by-case basis. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for that information as well. It has been reported that the federal Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development has decided not to reappoint the chairperson of the Nunavut Impact Review Board, which is currently reviewing the proposed Kiggavik project near Baker Lake. Mr. Speaker, the people of Baker Lake would like to know: can the minister indicate what the Government of Nunavut's position on this issue is? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, Madam Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would prefer if the member clarified his comment

because I believe he was talking about a federally mandated responsibility. Just for my own clarification, I would like to ask the member to elaborate a bit further. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Madam Premier. Mr. Aupaluktuq, could you clarify your question, please.

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The point was in regard to the Kiggavik project near Baker Lake. As we know, NIRB is reviewing this proposed project. The question I wanted to ask was: what is the GN position on the issue of not reappointing the chairperson of NIRB that's reviewing the proposed Kiggavik project near Baker Lake? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, Madam Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the member for clarifying his question. The Nunavut government generally provides assistance and direction to the federal government upon request of advice on who to appoint to the position.

Regarding the chairperson for NIRB having to be appointed by the federal government, NTI and the Nunavut government get together to discuss who they wish to recommend for that appointment. Since it is the federal government that ultimately decides on the appointment to that position, we are waiting for their decision on the individual we have recommended. The Nunavut government did notify the federal government about the need to

extend the term of office for that position. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Madam Premier. Oral Questions. Member for Rankin Inlet North, Mr. Curley.

Question 353 – 3(3): Cabinet Code of Conduct

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Good afternoon, residents of Rankin Inlet. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Premier.

Mr. Speaker, in my preamble, I would like to state that this Assembly is not only blessed with the *Integrity Act*, which is enforced by the Assembly's independent officers to hold all Members of the House accountable, particularly in questions of ethics or misconduct involving Members of the Assembly.

Without prejudicing any reviews or whatnot, can the Premier clearly explain to the House why she is not prepared to develop a cabinet code of conduct and guidelines and, if not, why not?

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

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Nunavut's *Integrity Act* states that integrity is the first and highest duty of elected office. As Premier, it is my responsibility to uphold the integrity of the Executive Council. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Premier must explain to Nunavutmiut, who are concerned and worried that cabinet ministers are not held accountable. The *Integrity Act* itself is not sufficient to hold members of the cabinet accountable when questions of ethics or misconduct do occur. All cabinet members in the nation do have extra guidelines that specifically apply to members of the Executive Council. Will the Premier once again explain why she is not prepared to develop cabinet guidelines for this government? Thank you.

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

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The ministers who are appointed by the members are governed by rules, such as those considered misconduct and those that are acceptable. Clear rules of conduct have been provided to the ministers as well as to all elected members. As I stated earlier, Nunavut's *Integrity Act* clearly identifies these rules. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you. As I said, the *Integrity Act* falls short in its applicability to Executive Council members since there are no policy guidelines for the cabinet should any member commit acts of misconduct, which would clearly define the

Premier's powers to follow through with. I believe that you, as the Premier, have to institute extra cabinet guidelines, such as those established by provincial governments and the federal government's cabinet guidelines, which are even stricter than the provincial ones. In light of these facts, I ask why the Premier refuses to reconsider this request.

Some Nunavutmiut are becoming increasingly concerned about our government and whether they bother disciplining members who commit acts of misconduct. I know for a fact that the Integrity Commissioner is fulfilling his duties honourably. However, without any cabinet guidelines available, they cannot be enforced. Why is the Premier refusing to produce cabinet guidelines that would help allay concerns of Nunavutmiut about their government in the future? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Let me first clarify that I have never stated at any time that I refuse to develop guidelines. My colleague says that I refused to develop guidelines. That is not the case. When a situation requiring resolution comes up, we can look at the situation, especially if we need to make improvements. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The reason why I raised

that question is our government has yet to implement any meaningful guidelines. Even after four years as a government, we still haven't seen any cabinet guidelines and that is why I made that statement.

I would like the Premier to elaborate why she refuses to consider guidelines for the cabinet, even though they're needed to govern their conduct and it is your duty to do so. Can you state in this House that you are willing to reconsider this matter? I don't think it requires any further debate since cabinet guidelines have to be established. Can you move forward with this? That is my question on behalf of Nunavutmiut so that their concerns are allayed. That would definitely strengthen the governance of this territory. Thank you.

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

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, I would like to say that whenever cabinet members are appointed, they are given guidelines to follow in their portfolios. They are provided with a ministerial handbook, its proper title in English, which outlines all of their responsibilities and mandate.

I don't want Nunavummiut to be concerned at all. Whenever a minister has any ethical issues in question, we deal with it on a case-by-case basis. Just recently, I had to deal with such a case. There are a number of guidelines in the ministerial handbook. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Madam Premier. Oral Questions. Member for Akulliq, Mr. Ningark.

Question 354 – 3(3): Status of Devolution Negotiations

Mr. Ningark: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Hon. Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs.

As I noted in my Member's Statement today, I am concerned that Nunavut's timetable for achieving a devolution agreement with the federal government may not be the same as Ottawa's timetable. My question is: can the hon. minister indicate what the Government of Nunavut's current timetable is for achieving an agreement-in-principle on devolution? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Whenever an agreement is being negotiated, it's almost impossible to present a timeframe on the date when it would be concluded. Be that as it may, I have great expectations now that the federal government, Nunavut Tunngavik, and the Nunavut government have each appointed a chief negotiator and have announced their names. They will be able to initiate the negotiation process and to start providing a list of issues to each other. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Ningark: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the hon. minister for the response. Mr. Speaker, my first supplementary is that the federal government's announcement of the appointment of its chief negotiator indicated that one of his mandates is to, and I quote, "examine how land and resource management capacity can be improved in Nunavut." My question to the Hon. Premier is: can the Premier indicate what specific improvements need to be achieved before a devolution agreement can be reached? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, Madam Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With respect to the issues for negotiation when they're sitting across the table from each other, those will be identified at that time. I am happy to announce that this negotiation process for devolution has resulted in our chief negotiator communicating initially with the other appointees prior to the process being initiated.

With respect to the employees and exactly what work they will do and how many would be hired, that can only be identified within the negotiation process. That's where the issues will surface. This negotiation process is dynamic and you try to negotiate the best agreement that you can. Thank you, Mr. Speaker

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

Mr. Ningark: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I would like to ask my second supplementary through you, Mr. Speaker. Devolution talks will involve the Government of Nunavut, the Government of Canada, and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated. Can the Hon. Premier confirm who will be representing Nunavut Tunngavik at the negotiating table? Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Ningark. I wish I could answer that question, but the Minister responsible for Executive Intergovernmental Affairs, Madam Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The chief negotiator for the Government of Nunavut will be David Akeagok. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Ningark: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That was ignorant of me; I heard that earlier and just carried on with the questions. Sorry about that, Mr. Speaker.

Devolution will involve the transfer of land management responsibilities to Nunavut. It is no secret that the current federal government is committed to making major changes to the environmental screening process for major natural resources projects, especially in the energy sector. Can the Premier clarify how devolution will impact the environmental review process for major projects taking place in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Don't worry about it. It's okay. You didn't need to apologize.

Minister responsible for Executive Intergovernmental Affairs, Madam Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am quite happy that progress has been made with the appointment of the chief negotiators to represent the three parties, Nunavut Tunngavik, the Government of Nunavut, and the federal government.

Currently, approximately 80 percent of Nunavut's territory is Crown land. Long-time Nunavut residents must have a voice on how their lands and waters should be developed, particularly for economic benefit. These will be determined through negotiation.

Among the most important issues on the table will be environmental stewardship over our lands and waters. We believe that should be the basis for economic development. We will want to see a balanced give-and-take as resource development takes place. I firmly believe further that when the negotiation process finally begins, all of these issues will be fully examined. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 355 – 3(3): Offshore Drilling in the Canadian Arctic

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Environment. I would like to ask some more questions today to the minister concerning the issue of offshore drilling in the Canadian Arctic.

In December 2011, the National Energy Board issued a major report on this issue. The National Energy Board's report was undertaken following the Deepwater Horizon disaster that occurred in the Gulf of Mexico. As members will recall, the world watched in horror as tens of millions of litres of oil polluted the ocean.

My question for the minister is this: is Nunavut prepared to deal with a major oil spill? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When these issues are discussed in the smaller communities, the ones we're dealing with at least on a local level, if there's a fuel spill, we do have responsibility for terrestrial fuel spills. With respect to marine and offshore, we have absolutely no mandate for it. The federal government is responsible for that, as well as for other legislation that deals with marine and offshore areas. This being a federal responsibility, I don't have any kind of information that would provide a response to the member's question about this offshore oil spill contingency plan. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister for that response. The National Energy Board's report stated that, and I quote, "Many people from Northern communities expressed their concerns

about spill response. We heard comments about their desire to play a meaningful part in spill response and about the need for proactive and timely training before drilling starts.” Can the minister indicate how the GN is working with its partners to ensure that this takes place? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With respect to the quote made by the member, I can only concur. Whenever any kind of development is occurring in the Nunavut territory or in the marine offshore, the Nunavut Impact Review Board, which is governed by the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement, and additionally, with officials from the Department of Environment always present at these meetings, the government is involved in a lot of the reviews of these developments here in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Enook: *Qujannamiik*, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) I also thank the minister. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, (interpretation) as the minister and all members are aware, offshore exploration drilling has been taking place off the coast of Greenland. Can the minister indicate how the Government of Nunavut works with the Greenlandic Home Rule Government on the issue of planning for potential oil spills or other environmental disasters? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As per my earlier response about environmental reviews of development in Nunavut, the Nunavut government is involved in a lot of developmental reviews. Whenever anything is occurring, our officials try to ensure that they’re aware of these developments.

With respect to any kind of oil spill contingency plan, when we’re able to produce that or provide more information on that matter, I would be able to provide an update to my colleague from Tununig. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Earlier this week, the annual conference of western premiers took place. The communiqué that was issued by the Premiers specifically noted that Nunavut’s energy resources include oil and gas. Can the minister give me a sense today of when offshore drilling will begin taking place in Nunavut’s waters? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At this time, I can’t respond to the question as to when offshore drilling would occur within Nunavut’s offshore marine waters. If that were to happen, it would take a

number of years of planning prior to any drilling actually occurring. So currently no, I cannot even provide an idea as to when any kind of offshore drilling would occur in Nunavut's offshore waters. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 356 – 3(3): Human Resources Management Issues

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have some questions today for the Minister of Human Resources concerning the management of the public service.

As the minister is aware, the Government of Nunavut has not released a quarterly report on Inuit employment since March of 2011 and has not yet tabled the 2010-11 Public Service Annual Report. I am confident that the minister recognizes the importance of these items as tools with which to evaluate the government's progress in meeting its Article 23 obligations and other matters. Can the minister indicate what she is doing to ensure that these items are tabled in the Legislative Assembly in a timely manner? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister responsible for the Department of Human Resources, Minister Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for the question. The Nunavut government (interpretation ends) is committed to building an effective, functional public service that is

responsive to the public it serves and providing accountability and information provisions through consistent public reporting. The 2009-2010 Public Service Annual Report was tabled to cabinet and is now posted on the HR website. If that was not the one that he was referring to, I apologize and he could re-ask the question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Ms. Ell. Your first supplementary, Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know that the minister recognizes the importance of fostering strong morale in the public service, which will help us to retain experienced employees and reduce turnover. A concern that has been brought to my attention by constituents is that employees who are eligible to be recognized by the government's long-service awards recognition program are sometimes not recognized until a year or even longer after they have reached their service milestone. Can the minister commit to reviewing this issue? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister responsible for the Department of Human Resources, Minister Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The continuing service awards, I believe, are something that the government recognizes. Its employees are valuable to Nunavut and I believe we do recognize long-service employees. I will commit to recognizing long-service employees, if that was not the case, but as of now, I do believe that we do recognize long-service employees. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for that commitment. You're the third minister I have brought the issue before and hopefully we can get some of the GN employees that I have in my constituency recognized for 5-, 10-, 15-, and even up to 25-year long-term service.

My second question is: I believe that we should encourage a workplace that supports innovation and accomplishment. I have noted that information on the website of the Department of Human Resources indicates that the department is "developing an Employee Recognition Program designed to encourage employee involvement, increase employee retention and reward significant accomplishments made by Government of Nunavut staff." Can the minister provide the House with an update on this excellent-sounding initiative? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister responsible for the Department of Human Resources, Minister Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Government of Nunavut believes that people come first. The Government of Nunavut recognizes public service employees for dedicated service and contributions they make during the course of their employment. Employees are formally honoured for long periods of continuous service with the GN.

The Department of Human Resources is responsible for organizing long-service

awards. These awards take place once every two fiscal years. Employees are recognized when they reach their employment anniversaries of 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, and 35 years of continuing service with the GN. The long-service awards will be held in 2012 in various communities throughout Nunavut. At this time, I do not have a schedule for that, but I will be pleased to provide that as soon as I have it available. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The minister noted in my first question that the 2010-11 Public Service Annual Report was approved by cabinet and is now on the website. Obviously, when I checked the website, it wasn't there, but maybe it has been updated since.

As of today, how many of the government's full-time positions are filled and how many are vacant? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister responsible for the Department of Human Resources, Minister Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do not have current statistics on how many are vacant and how many will be filled at this time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 357 – 3(3): Staff Housing for Taloyoak Teachers

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation about the lack of available housing for teachers in Taloyoak. I would like to know when housing units will be made available for these teachers.

In 2010, members were informed that previous teachers who taught in the community and who were leaving owned their own home. So when our community had to hire replacement teachers, housing was not available for them. I would like to know when this situation will be resolved. Teachers are important since they have to teach our children. It is becoming an embarrassing situation to face that as an MLA. I would like to get clarification on this situation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Member for Nattilik for that excellent question. Mr. Speaker, GN staff housing is one of the critical points in retaining our employees of the GN. In Taloyoak, it's a situation where it has been an ongoing issue. At this time, the Nunavut Housing Corporation intends to renovate two single dwelling units to accommodate some of these GN workers, especially in Health and Education. At this time, we're acquiring, which Nunavut Housing Corporation has already done, and plans to renovate two accommodations for staff housing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation for that response. Yes, it's good to know they're doing renovations, but can the minister say if new housing construction is being planned by the housing corporation? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As you know, there's a major shortage of housing throughout Nunavut, up to 3,600 units, and Taloyoak is no exception. There is a major shortage of public housing, including GN staff housing. At this time, with the budgeting available, as I mentioned, we're going to be renovating two single dwelling units into staff housing that the housing corporation already owns. At that time, once we complete these renovations, we will be looking at any alternative way of creating more GN staff housing within the smaller communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was asking about new housing units, but he didn't respond to that. Yes, I understand that these two older units will be renovated and refurbished, which are for the staff working at the health centre.

The shortage of GN staff housing for both nurses and teachers is causing issues with new employees in Taloyoak. They are willing to work, but with the lack of housing, it becomes impossible. Can the minister respond to my question on whether the department has future plans for new staff housing in our community? I would like a response to that first. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As with all infrastructure needs within the communities, it does have to go through a process. At this time, we do not have a budget allocated or identified for building new units in Taloyoak. As processes move along, we do know that these smaller communities lack staff housing. So we will consider the facts of all of these little communities. Once we go through the process of allocating budgets, we will take a good, hard look at the issues that the hon. member from Natilik has brought up. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe it was last year when the sealift delivered construction material that was supposed to be for the new housing units. I'm not sure whether they have cancelled those units. Can I be assured that these units that were supposed to be for GN staff housing will be completed? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll have to review the situation that she has indicated. I believe the units belong to the Nunavut Construction Corporation and not necessarily the Nunavut Housing Corporation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 358 – 3(3): Ministerial Handbook

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask another question to the Premier.

The Premier stated that there was a ministerial handbook for members of the cabinet which outlines their responsibilities and mandate. Perhaps this has given members an understanding of how the cabinet deals with their conduct and what they should do. Can the Premier explain some of the contents of the ministerial handbook, particularly those related to ethical conduct? Thank you.

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

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If members of the executive commit acts of misconduct, the Premier has the authority to deal with those issues. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you. Mr. Speaker, the Premier indicated earlier that the ministers are provided with a handbook, which I assume guides them for any eventual occasion that may occur, including possible misconduct. Does the handbook clearly explain or clearly have a provision if misconduct does occur that they should or one of the options is that they do resign from the Executive Council? Thank you.

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

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my responsibility as Premier to deal with misconduct by any cabinet minister. I don't have the contents of that handbook in front of me, so I can't provide any details at this time. What I can say is that this is my responsibility. I will state it in English. (interpretation ends) As a Premier, I know my responsibilities. If there is misconduct within my ministers, I have authority to do certain things. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In view of the fact that the Integrity Commissioner, as required by the *Integrity Act*, if and when a complaint is received from any Members of the House or the public involving ethical misconduct, he has up until 90 days to review and prepare the final report to the Assembly. The Integrity Commissioner

does not report to the cabinet or to the Premier. Why is the Premier reluctant to establish cabinet guidelines specifically under the authority of the Executive Council? Thank you.

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

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I said, if a complaint was made about a cabinet member's conduct, I have the authority to deal with it. It is in my power to strip them of their portfolios. Even as Premier, I don't have complete authority to do everything within our government. If there was misconduct, I can't take the member out of the cabinet. I can only strip them of their portfolios. It is your prerogative as the Legislative Assembly to consider adding that authority to me as Premier. This is something you can debate as a whole. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With all due respect to all Members of the House, ethical [questions] and misconduct will happen in the future. It is really important that the guidelines be established by the Premier and Executive Council to guide the cabinet when and if questions do occur.

The Premier indicated earlier that she has the authority. She certainly has the authority to propose and develop those guidelines. It's not up to any members on this side; the Executive Council has that authority to establish the guidelines,

similar to provincial guidelines, and we would certainly be willing to look at the guidelines. Why is the Premier reluctant or unwilling to submit a document for consideration? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Eva Aariak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I said earlier, I have the authority as the Premier to remove the portfolios if I feel there is a need to. The removal of a minister from the cabinet is something that has to be done by the Legislative Assembly, including all the MLAs, by a formal motion.

As the Premier, I know what I can do and I have practised that. Like I said, if there is a need to review the authority of the Premier, this is something I would be willing to have a dialogue with the members and cabinet. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Madam Premier. Members will note that the allotted time for question period has expired, so we will move on to the orders of the day. Item 7. Written Questions. Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Rumbolt.

Item 7: Written Questions

Written Question 017 – 3(3): Annual Fuel Purchases by the Government of Nunavut

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The issue of communities having an adequate fuel supply and proper fuel storage facilities is an ongoing concern. This has been further highlighted by the

fact that many communities have in the past and will in the future require additional fuel to be airlifted prior to the annual fuel resupply activities.

My written question relates to the annual fuel purchase activities conducted by the Department of Community and Government Services. The questions are very detailed, so I ask that they be entered into the record as read.

1. Expressing the data in the same format as that which the Government of Nunavut provided in the Return to Written Question 3-3(2), which was tabled in the House on June 1, 2010, what quantities of fuel were purchased and delivered in 2010 and 2011?
2. As of May 30, 2012, what is the current bulk fuel storage capacity in each of Nunavut's communities?
3. From January 1, 2010 to December 31, 2010, which communities in Nunavut received fuel deliveries by airlift?
4. From January 1, 2011 to December 31, 2011, which communities in Nunavut received fuel deliveries by airlift?
5. What policies and/or procedures does the Government of Nunavut follow with respect to the rationing of fuel supplies in communities in circumstances where shortages exist?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Do members agree that the written question

posed by the member from Hudson Bay be entered into the record as read?

Some Members: Agreed.

Speaker: It has been agreed to and so it shall be. Moving on. Item 7. Written Questions. Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Item 10. Petitions. Item 11. Responses to Petitions. Item 12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters. Mr. Elliott.

Item 12: Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters

Committee Report 018 – 3(3): Report on the Review of the 2012 Report of the Auditor General of Canada to the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut on Procurement of Goods and Services

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have the honour today of presenting the report of the Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts on its review of the 2012 *Report of the Auditor General of Canada to the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut on Procurement of Goods and Services*.

Mr. Speaker, as you will recall, the Auditor General's report was tabled in the House on February 28, 2012. As with all other reports presented to the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut by the Auditor General since April 1, 1999, this report was referred to the appropriate standing committee for consideration.

The Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public

Accounts held its hearings on the Auditor General's report from April 24 to April 26, 2012. The hearings were open to the public and news media to observe. The hearings were broadcast live across Nunavut on cable television. Transcripts of the hearings are available for downloading from the Legislative Assembly's website.

Mr. Speaker, the presentation of this report marked Mr. Michael Ferguson's first formal appearance before a standing committee since his appointment as Auditor General of Canada in November of last year. Members of the standing committee are very much looking forward to his continuing the practice of appearing in person before our standing committee on the occasion of our annual public hearings on his office's reports.

I would also like to take this opportunity to note that the standing committee looks forward to following Mr. Ferguson's future reports to the Parliament of Canada that address federal programs that are of importance to our constituents in Nunavut, such as the Nutrition North Canada Program. I would also note that the Auditor General may wish to consider submitting a report to Parliament concerning the extent to which the Government of Canada is meeting its specific obligations under Article 24 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement concerning its procurement activities in the territory.

I would also like to acknowledge the participation of witnesses from the Government of Nunavut's Department of Community and Government Services, the Department of Economic Development and Transportation, the

Nunavut Housing Corporation, and the Qulliq Energy Corporation.

The Auditor General's report presented ten specific recommendations. These recommendations addressed the following thematic areas:

- Procurement Framework;
- Awarding of Contracts;
- Administration of Contracts;
- Entity Information;
- Awarding of Scheduled Medical Travel Contracts;
- NNI Policy; and
- Common Causes of Non-Compliance.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to note that the standing committee concurs with the recommendations of the Auditor General and notes that the government itself substantially agreed with all of the Auditor General's recommendations.

I would note that this is not the first time that the Office of the Auditor General has reported to the Legislative Assembly on the Government of Nunavut's contracting practices.

In its 2004 report to the Legislative Assembly, the Office of the Auditor General recommended that "all departments should review their practices to ensure that...government contracting procedures are understood and followed" and that "key documents of all types are filed and indexed in a manner which allow them to be located and retrieved readily." At that time, the government's response to the Auditor General's report indicated that it would ensure that "contracting procedures are understood and followed and key documents are retained and filed."

In recent years, Members of the Legislative Assembly have raised a number of concerns regarding the government's procurement, contracting and leasing activities. As members will recall, the government's annual reports on departmental procurement, contracting and leasing activities were referred to the Committee of the Whole for detailed consideration during the spring 2010 and spring 2011 sittings of the House. Annual procurement, contracting, and leasing reports from the Nunavut Housing Corporation and the Qulliq Energy Corporation have also been considered in the Committee of the Whole.

During these proceedings, members raised a number of important issues and questions concerning the government's practices with respect to the sole sourcing of contracts; the extent to which the government relies on consultants to perform work that should be performed by its own employees; the need to ensure that reports produced by consultants are tabled in the Legislative Assembly in a timely manner; the means by which the government ensures that safeguards are in place to protect itself against such practices as bid rigging; and the manner in which the government evaluates the results of its contracting, procurement and leasing expenditures.

I would also note that this standing committee has made a number of formal recommendations to the government in recent years concerning the timely preparation and tabling of its annual reports on contracting, procurement, and leasing. For example, in its October 29, 2010 report on the review of the 2009-2010 Annual Report of the Information and Privacy Commissioner, the standing

committee reiterated its recommendation that the Government of Nunavut table annual reports in the Legislative Assembly on the contracting, procurement and leasing activities for all of its Crown corporations and agencies.

The government's response to the standing committee's recommendation stated that "The Government [of Nunavut] agrees. The Public Agencies Council will work closely with the Ministers responsible for our territorial corporations with respect to the reporting of their contracting activities to ensure the timelines of reporting, transparency and accountability to Nunavummiut."

Over the past year, there has been improvement in this area. Ministerial letters of expectation to the government's Crown agencies for the 2011-12 fiscal year were tabled in the Legislative Assembly on October 27, 2011. Annual procurement, contracting and leasing reports have been tabled by the Nunavut Housing Corporation, the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation, and the Qulliq Energy Corporation. However, the timeliness of these tablings could be improved.

Mr. Speaker, a number of themes and issues emerged during the standing committee's review of the Auditor General's most recent report to the Legislative Assembly. Accordingly, the standing committee makes the following recommendations:

1. **That the formal action plans of the Department of Community and Government Services, the Department of Economic Development and Transportation,**

the Nunavut Housing Corporation, and the Qulliq Energy Corporation in response to the report and recommendations of the Auditor General be tabled in the Legislative Assembly no later than the first sitting day of its fall 2012 sitting. During the standing committee's recent hearings, members were disappointed to note that although witnesses representing the audited entities indicated that action plans were at various stages of development, these were not provided to members at the time of the standing committee's hearings. This was in marked contrast to the practice of the Department of Health and Social Services and the Department of Human Resources, both of which presented detailed action plans on the occasion of the standing committee's hearings on the Auditor General's 2010 and 2011 reports to the Legislative Assembly. The standing committee also notes that the Department of Finance has tabled a number of status reports concerning its action plans to address past reports of the Auditor General. The standing committee also notes the importance of ensuring that departmental and Crown agency action plans include clear timelines and measurable outcomes to address the recommendations contained in the report of the Auditor General.

2. **That the Government of Nunavut's Public Agencies Council (PAC) and the responsible minister provide clear direction to the Qulliq Energy Corporation by means of such mechanisms as the corporation's annual letter of expectation and ministerial**

directives concerning the application of the NNI Policy to the corporation's contracting and procurement activities. During the standing committee's hearings, testimony from the president of the Qulliq Energy Corporation made reference to language in Article 24 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement which provides that the definition of "territorial government" excludes the Northwest Territories Power Corporation. However, members note that the Qulliq Energy Corporation's 2012-17 corporate plan, which was tabled in the Legislative Assembly earlier this year, specifically acknowledges that "QEC operates within the context of an 85% Inuit population, and the framework built by the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement*. In particular, the Corporation works to implement Article 23 of the Agreement, which requires efforts to create a representative public service, and Article 24, which sets up a procurement preference for Inuit, Nunavut and local contractors." Members also note that although the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission (WSCC) of the Northwest Territories and Nunavut is shared between the two jurisdictions, the entity utilizes a "Northern Incentive Adjustment" in its contracting and procurement activities.

3. **That the Government of Nunavut, in its response to this report, clarify its position concerning the territory's participation in the Agreement on Internal Trade (AIT).** The Agreement on Internal Trade is "an intergovernmental trade

agreement signed by Canadian First Ministers that came into force in 1995. Its purpose is to reduce and eliminate, to the extent possible, barriers to the free movement of persons, goods, services, and investment within Canada and to establish an open, efficient, and stable domestic market." At present, Nunavut is the only Canadian jurisdiction that is a non-signatory to the agreement. However, the business plan of the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs indicates that one of its priorities during the 2012-13 fiscal year is to address "Nunavut's accession to the Agreement on Internal Trade." During the standing committee's hearings, testimony from the Deputy Minister of Economic Development and Transportation noted concerns with respect to Nunavut's participation in the agreement in relation to the preferential nature of the NNI Policy. However, the standing committee also notes that the Northwest Territories, which is a signatory to the agreement, continues to maintain its own preferential business incentive policy in relation to government contracting and procurement.

4. **That corrected versions of the 2009-2010 reports on contracting, procurement and leasing activities of the Nunavut Housing Corporation and the Qulliq Energy Corporation be tabled in the Legislative Assembly no later than the first sitting day of its fall 2012 sitting.** The report of the Auditor General noted that both of these documents contained errors. It

is essential that accurate information be provided to Members of the Legislative Assembly concerning the contracting, procurement and leasing activities of the government's departments and Crown agencies.

5. **That the Government of Nunavut's comprehensive reviews of the NNI Policy and its public procurement practices specifically address the authority and mandate of the Contracting Appeals Board.**

On March 1, 2012, the Premier announced in the Legislative Assembly that a comprehensive review of the NNI Policy will be undertaken in cooperation with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated (NTI). This announcement indicated that the Government of Nunavut will also undertake a parallel internal review of its public procurement practices. The standing committee emphasizes the importance of ensuring that these reviews are mindful that Article 24 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement is the foundation of the NNI Policy. The standing committee notes that NTI has publicly announced that it will undertake a review of its Inuit Firm Registry. At present, the Contracting Appeals Board's jurisdiction is limited to hearing appeals based on the application of the NNI Policy and its recommendations are not binding on the government. Strengthening the board's authority to address appeals based on broader concerns could serve to enhance public confidence in the fairness and transparency of the government's contracting and procurement practices, as well as

fulfilling an important dispute resolution function.

6. **That the Government of Nunavut's comprehensive review of the NNI Policy specifically address the issue of bonuses and penalties as they apply to small, medium, and large firms; the issue of monitoring contractors' compliance with Inuit labour and training requirements and targets; and that the Government of Nunavut's annual [departmental] reports on contracting and procurement activities resume the practice of including detailed information concerning anticipated and actual bonus payments and penalties.**

The standing committee emphasizes the importance of recognizing that the fundamental purpose of such tools as bonuses and penalties are to support Inuit employment and training in Nunavut. Although information concerning NNI Inuit labour bonuses and penalties was contained in prior years' reports, it was not included in the government's most recent annual reports for the 2010-11 fiscal year. The standing committee would also note the importance of ensuring that the government's annual reports include detailed information concerning Inuit labour content on construction projects, including actual numbers of Inuit employees, apprentices, and trainees. This information is an important tool with which to evaluate the effectiveness of the NNI Policy in this area.

7. **That the Government of Nunavut's comprehensive reviews of the NNI Policy and its public**

procurement practices specifically address the issue of the NNI Policy as it applies to municipal contracting and procurement.

Section 5.1(c) of the NNI Policy states that it applies to any contract “where the Government of Nunavut provides directly more than 51% of the annual operating funds of one of the parties.” Although municipal governments in Nunavut receive a significant portion of their operating budgets from the territorial government, the extent to which they are required to apply the NNI Policy is unclear. The standing committee notes that a recent tender issued by the City of Iqaluit for landfill water management improvements specifically indicated that the NNI Policy would be applied.

8. **That the Government of Nunavut, in its response to this report, provide a list of the specific issues identified for discussion by the Procurement Division of the Department of Community and Government Services, as noted in the formal opening statement to the standing committee of the department’s lead witness, in relation to the government’s comprehensive review of the NNI Policy.**
9. **That the Government of Nunavut, in its response to this report, provide a list of the specific forms and templates that have been developed and/or amended by the Department of Community and Government Services within the preceding 12 months utilizing input from the Department of Justice, as noted in the formal**

opening statement to the standing committee of the department’s lead witness, and that the list include a detailed rationale for specific changes to previously existing forms and templates.

10. **That the Government of Nunavut, in its response to this report, provide detailed information concerning its contract awards for scheduled medical travel and government duty travel made pursuant to its 2011 *Request for Proposals for Medical Travel on Scheduled Airlines (RFP 2011-22)*. The information provided should address the following issues.** During the standing committee’s hearings, members were surprised at the lack of information in the possession of government witnesses concerning such issues as which airlines or entities were awarded contracts under this RFP, the market shares awarded to each successful proponent, the reasons for the government’s delay in signing the formal contracts, the rationale for increasing the number of possible contract extensions, and the methodology by which the government will evaluate the extent to which its contract awards will achieve the RFP’s stated goal of “improving scheduled airline services throughout Nunavut.”

Mr. Speaker, I will conclude by noting that the standing committee, pursuant to Rule 91(5), formally requests that the government table a comprehensive response to this report within 120 days.

Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of the standing committee be received by the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Do members agree that the report of the committee has been received by the House?

Some Members: Agreed.

Speaker: Thank you. The report, therefore, has been received by the House.

Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Minister responsible for Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, Madam Premier.

Item 13: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 191 – 3(3): Nunavut Social Safety Net Review – October 2011

Hon. Eva Aariak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table the Nunavut Social Safety Net Review done in October 2011. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Madam Premier. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Item 14. Notices of Motions. Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 16. Motions. Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Item 19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. As there is nothing for Committee of the Whole, we will move on to the next item. Item 20. Report of the Committee of the Whole. There is none. Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. Minister of Finance, Minister Peterson.

Item 21: Third Reading of Bills

Bill 36 – Supplementary Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, No. 1, 2012-2013 – Third Reading

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet South and Whale Cove, that Bill 36, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 1, 2012-2013*, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Peterson. The motion is in order. All those in favour. Any opposed? The motion is carried and Bill 36 is ready for assent.

Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. Minister of Finance, Minister Peterson.

Bill 37 – Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 2, 2012-2013 – Third Reading

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet South and Whale Cove, that Bill 37, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 2, 2012-2013*, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Peterson. The motion is in order. All those in favour. Any opposed? The motion is carried and Bill 37 is now ready for assent.

Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. Item 22. *Orders of the Day*. Mr. Clerk.

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. *Orders of the Day* for June 1:

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
 - Bill 38
 - Bill 39
18. Second Reading of Bills
19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters

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, June 1, beginning a new month tomorrow and actually today celebrates my one-year anniversary looking at the House from this angle, at 9:00 a.m.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 16:54*

