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**Friday, June 1, 2012**

**Pages 2579 – 2605**

**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*

**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)

**Hon. Monica Ell**

(Iqaluit West)

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Minister responsible for Homelessness;  
Minister responsible for the Status of  
Women*

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(Quttiktuq)

**Joe Enook**

(Tununiq)

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(Rankin Inlet South – Whale Cove)

*Government House Leader; Minister of  
Community and Government Services;  
Minister responsible for the Qulliq  
Energy Corporation; Minister  
responsible for the Workers' Safety and  
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Committee of the Whole*

**Hezakiah Oshutapik**

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**Hon. Keith Peterson**

(Cambridge Bay)

*Minister of Finance, Chair of the  
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of Health and Social Services*

**Allan Rumbolt**

(Hudson Bay)

**Hon. Fred Schell**

(South Baffin)

**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; Minister responsible for the  
Nunavut Housing Corporation*

**Jeannie Ugyuk**

(Nattilik)

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**Iqaluit, Nunavut  
Friday, June 1, 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, Mr. Louis Tapardjuk, Honourable Peter Taptuna, Honourable Hunter Tootoo, Ms. Jeannie Ugyuk.

>>House commenced at 9:01

**Item 1: Opening Prayer**

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

>>Prayer

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Taptuna. (interpretation ends) Good morning, everybody. Moving on in our orders of the day. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Homelessness, Minister Ell.

**Item 2: Ministers' Statements**

**Minister's Statement 151 – 3(3):  
Tunngasugvik Policy and Support  
Needed for Shelters**

**Hon. Monica Ell** (interpretation): Good morning. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I would like to bring to the attention of fellow members an issue that too often in Nunavut is out

of sight and out of mind. I am speaking to the growing presence of absolute homelessness and the more than 1,200 Nunavummiut identified in the 2010 Nunavut Housing Needs Survey who do not have a place to call home.

Mr. Speaker, as the Member for Iqaluit West, I am proud to say that in Iqaluit, these individuals have somewhere to go, at least some of them. I've recently had the opportunity to visit both the Oqota Men's Shelter and the Sivummut House for women and children operating here in Iqaluit. It was an eye-opening experience for me to see firsthand both the accomplishments and challenges that are faced by those working or living in these modest shelters.

I encourage all of my fellow members and yourself, Mr. Speaker, to go see the good work being done and the critical role that these homeless shelters play in this community. Despite their best efforts and strong support from the Nunavut Housing Corporation, these shelters are only scratching the surface of what is actually needed to adequately meet the needs of the absolute homeless.

Mr. Speaker, organizations such as these and others like the Niqinik Nuatsivik Nunavut Food Bank, Qajuqtuvik Soup Kitchen, and the Tukisigiavik Society Friendship Centre, which are run by volunteer boards and very limited staff, cannot exist solely on funding from government. It takes an entire community in order for these local shelters to continue providing basic needs.

To this end, I will be sending letters to Iqaluit's business community requesting their support in reducing the shelters'

operating costs. It is my expectation and sincere hope that local businesses will band together and provide in-kind services to help offset the escalating costs associated with running a homeless shelter.

Mr. Speaker, the Nunavut Housing Corporation supports the only two homeless shelters that exist in Nunavut. However, Mr. Speaker, homelessness of this kind is not found only in Iqaluit. To help other communities that demonstrate the need for a homeless shelter, the Nunavut Housing Corporation has introduced the Tunngasugvik Policy. I would like to direct my colleagues to contact the Nunavut Housing Corporation district offices should any of their constituents express a need for a homeless shelter in their community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister Ell. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Environment, Minister Arreak.

**Minister's Statement 152 – 3(3):  
Environment Week 2012**

**Hon. James Arreak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) I say "good morning" to the residents of Clyde River and Qikiqtarjuaq, as well as Jimmy.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, June 3 to 9 marks *Canadian Environment Week*, which is dedicated to raising environmental awareness and appreciation across the country. I would like to take this opportunity to share with you some of the initiatives the department is undertaking.

As you know, Inuit have lived sustainably for countless generations. Today, Nunavummiut continue to build upon that tradition by demonstrating respect and care for the environment. The department relies on *Avatimik Kamattiarniq*, or environmental stewardship, as a guiding principle to promote and work towards environmental sustainability.

This year, our Environment Week theme is "*Off the Grid and on the Land.*" We are encouraging, through our "*Green Up Challenge,*" Nunavummiut to share with us their "green" ideas that help towards reducing our environmental footprint.

As a means of sharing, we have developed short video clips of elders and youth sharing their stories of what protecting the environment means to them and the changes they have witnessed throughout Nunavut. These video clips will be available on our department's website for all to view. The goal of this campaign is to inspire people to reflect and take pride in both the environment and age-old traditions that continue to help people live in harmony with the land.

In addition to the Environment Week activities, the department is continuing its work on a territory-wide anti-littering campaign. We have once again partnered with organizations and other government departments to organize community clean-up events throughout Nunavut. The department also has an ongoing environmental education program that works with schools, community and non-profit organizations to promote and foster environmental leadership and literacy year-round.

Mr. Speaker, I truly believe that education and awareness are essential to Nunavut's continued dedication to environmental stewardship. Through our commitment to engaging and educating the public, the department is taking great strides towards environmental sustainability in Nunavut.  
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister Arreak. Ministers' Statements. Minister of the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Minister Taptuna.

**Minister's Statement 153 – 3(3):  
Housing is not Affordable in  
Iqaluit**

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) Good morning, residents of Kugluktuk (interpretation ends) and colleagues. Mr. Speaker, you may have heard in the news recently that a market analysis from Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation was quoted as saying, and I quote, "...in terms of housing affordability; it's so far a bit easier for folks working in Iqaluit"

Mr. Speaker, we do not agree with this analysis of the affordability of housing in Iqaluit and can only assume that there has been some misinterpretation of the facts. I say this because CMHC's definition of affordability is that the carrying costs of shelter, which include the mortgage, taxes, heat, utilities, and maintenance, must not exceed 32 percent of a household's gross income. As such, the purchase price alone is not sufficient to determine affordability.

Mr. Speaker, it was reported that a house in Iqaluit costs almost four times the average salary while the rest of Canada can expect to pay seven times their income. We are not sure what is meant by the rest of Canada, but it would seem that this type of analysis is comparing Iqaluit, as Nunavut's only market community, to other major markets, such as Vancouver and Toronto.

Further, the statistics quoted by CBC only refer to purchase price, not the ongoing operational and maintenance costs. As you are aware, Mr. Speaker, the costs of utilities and maintenance are higher than the rest of Canada. As such, Iqalumiut have much less disposable income that can be devoted to the financing of a home purchase.

Mr. Speaker, we recognize CMHC's role and appreciate their efforts in providing market data to help housing stakeholders develop policies and programs and make investment and purchase decisions. It is also important to remember that when interpreting this type of information, any one measure on its own is insufficient to providing an accurate picture.

While we should take this kind of news story with a grain of salt, I am pleased by the swell of public debate on the issue of housing affordability and I encourage more discussion on its challenges facing housing in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Education, Minister Ariak.



**Minister's Statement 154 – 3(3):  
Nunavut Education Week 2012**

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation):  
Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning. Mr. Speaker, I would like to provide my colleagues with an update today on an annual event, the Nunavut Education Week. This year, Nunavut Education Week was celebrated from April 23 to 27. The theme this year was “Learning is Everywhere.” It was a busy week with many activities.

Mr. Speaker, to celebrate Education Week, my department invited students to produce a short video focusing on the many places they learn in their communities and all the educators who support their learning. Of the 15 participants in the video project, winners will be chosen to receive a BlackBerry PlayBook as an award.

I was very pleased to launch the Education Week video project at Aqsarniit Middle School in Iqaluit. Students at Aqsarniit have recently produced several powerful videos dealing with the social challenges that young people face, such as bullying, suicide prevention and alcohol and drug abuse awareness.

Mr. Speaker, the Seventh Annual Territorial Skills Competition was held during Education Week, showing students the role education plays in reaching their career goals.

Finally, I had the pleasure of travelling to Igloolik during that week, with Amittuq MLA Louis Tapardjuk, to certify 15 elders as *Innait Inuksiutilirijiit*. It was a special event to celebrate elders who work in schools and

help create a Nunavut education system that is based on Inuit societal values.

I would like to thank, Mr. Speaker, all the staff and students who helped to make Nunavut Education Week a great success. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister Aariak. Ministers' Statements. Minister responsible for the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth, Minister Arreak.

**Minister's Statement 155 – 3(3):  
Developing the New Uqausivut Plan**

**Hon. James Arreak** (interpretation):  
Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A year ago, I had the honour of presenting to this Assembly the first draft of the *Uqausivut Plan* for the implementing Nunavut's new language legislation.

In the past year, we listened to and heard from more than 100 Nunavummiut. They generously shared their thoughts and hopes with us. Their wisdom has kicked off our work to a great start.

Mr. Speaker, in compliance with Article 32 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement, the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth has collaborated with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, under the guidance of the Languages Commissioner, in developing a new and comprehensive version of the *Uqausivut Plan*. I would like to acknowledge and thank them for their contribution and support in this process. I am sure we can all appreciate the intensive work that went into this

process from all parties involved over the past few months.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to advise members that the new *Uqausivut Plan* has been reviewed and approved in principle by Cabinet. The next step is to submit the plan to FMB for their review and to identify the financial resources required to implement it. This may delay the process somewhat, but I remain hopeful that I will be in a position to table the *Uqausivut Plan* during the upcoming fall session of the Legislative Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister Arreak. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Iqaluit East, Ms. Aariak.

### **Item 3: Members' Statements**

#### **Member's Statement 247 – 3(3): Recent Deaths in Iqaluit**

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say "good morning" to my constituents in Iqaluit East and to Adamie Itorcheak, who is my assistant.

Mr. Speaker, I want to speak to events that occurred just recently, namely, a number of people within my constituency who passed away, who were large contributors to the community at large, especially in the early development of the community. I will mention several of these memorable people.

First, Joe Tikivik, who just recently passed away, contributed immensely to the development and growth of Iqaluit. Most, if not all, students who passed

through Ukiivik knew Mr. Tikivik. He also worked at the high school for many years. If I were to mention all of his worthwhile accomplishments, I think I would talk too long.

Another person who passed was Oleepeeka Gordon, who also provided assistance to many Nunavummiut in her capacity as a worker at the Tammaativvik Boarding Home. She did her utmost to assist her fellow Iqaluit residents throughout her life.

Most recently, we all heard of the passing of Jonah Kelly, an iconic person who helped Iqalummiut and all Nunavummiut, especially with the usage of Inuktitut and in broadcasting in Inuktitut, as well as voicing Inuit concerns in their own language. Mr. Kelly worked for many years at CBC. I am proud of the fact I was able to work with Mr. Kelly when I worked at CBC. He was also an advocate of Inuit games and he would tirelessly work during Christmas as a volunteer.

Another person who is not from my constituency was remembered at a memorial service. The service commemorated Jim Currie, who made country food available and help people everywhere in Nunavut.

With that in mind, we send our condolences to the families, spouses, and children of these three people who will be in our thoughts and prayers. We want to express our love to them. The tremendous contributions of these people will be greatly missed. However, we all have to move forward. So I want to state that they are all in my thoughts. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Ms. Aariak. Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Nanulik, Mr. Ningeongan.

**Member's Statement 248 – 3(3):  
Smokes Make You Broke Video**

**Mr. Ningeongan:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to congratulate Nola Hicks' grade 5/6 class at Victor Sammurtok School in Chesterfield Inlet. Her class won the grand prize and received \$500 for their "*Smokes Make You Broke*" video in recognition of *World No Tobacco Day*. I also wish to congratulate Adam Hicks' grade 7/8 class at Victor Sammurtok School for having attained a semi-finalist and receiving \$100. I am proud of these students at the Victor Sammurtok School. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Nanulik, Ms. Ugyuk.

**Member's Statement 249 – 3(3):  
Spring Activities in Gjoa Haven**

**Ms. Ugyuk** (interpretation): Good morning. I am actually from Nattilik. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Laughter*

Today being Friday, it is a happy occasion. I say "good early morning" to the residents of Kitikmeot. As it is very early in the morning there, I imagine some people are still snoring away or dreaming still, so I ask them to enjoy that.

>> *Laughter*

As is the usual practice of today being Funny Friday, Members of the Legislative Assembly like to listen to funny stories. In that vein, in Gjoa Haven, a long-time practice of residents is when they're enjoying the weather, some people pretend to go camping and daydream about going to *Honeymoon Island*.

These three couples, accompanied by a child, apparently pretend to go camping, with all the camping gear that families take when they go for a couple of days. They made tea and refreshments, but then they got spooked and raced back to town, although they had just pretended to be out camping. These are not the first couples to pretend to go camping in that area.

Jacob Keanik, Eva Kogvik, with another person accompanying them, as well as Molly Apina, Paul Kayurluk, and the third couple who made this story funny were Simon Komangat, and the elderly lady Nujaqqiq, also called Susie Konana. I can just imagine them pretending to go camping while enjoying the land, so I am very happy that they are able to do that in their community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk, Member for Nattilik. Members' Statements. Member for Akulliq, Mr. Ningark.

**Member's Statement 250 – 3(3): Elder  
Certification in Nunavut Schools**

**Mr. Ningark** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Hon. Minister of Education made an announcement about

activities within the Department of Education. Additionally, she announced that just recently, elders were accredited to teach in Igloodik. I am both envious and delighted to hear that. I also want to see this practice continued.

In Repulse Bay and Kugaaruk, there are many qualified elders who could teach youth about life skills. I urge the minister to continue this throughout Nunavut. Perhaps, as representatives of our constituents in the year 2013, we can see this realized in all communities throughout Nunavut, to have certified elder teachers. This accrues tremendous benefits to our students.

Mr. Speaker, we hear about many Inuit in our communities who are qualified to teach *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit*, but are not allowed to teach simply due to not having certification to teach. Some elders are vastly more knowledgeable and skilful than even some teachers with proper certification. So perhaps these elders could be recognized through DEAs in the communities.

At the appropriate time, I will be asking questions to the Minister of Education about how Repulse Bay and Kugaaruk can get their elders accredited. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Cambridge Bay, Mr. Peterson.

**Member's Statement 251 – 3(3):  
Cambridge Bay High School  
Graduates**

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On behalf of all residents of Cambridge Bay, I am very proud to

congratulate our six high school graduates. The Killinik High School graduates are:

Kati Omilgoitok;

Ryan Gillis;

Audla Buchan;

Neil Bligh;

Tyler Angulalik; and

Melynda Minilgak, who worked as a page in our Assembly last year and found it to be a rewarding experience.

Mr. Speaker, at graduation ceremonies on May 26, these six young people were recognized in front of their proud parents, families, and friends for all the hard work they put in to achieving this well-deserved honour.

Mr. Speaker, I have watched these young people grow up and I know they will use their solid education in the years ahead as they embark upon their next journey.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House to join me in congratulating these young Nunavummiut and wish them all the best in the future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 252 – 3(3):  
Correspondence from Rankin  
Inlet High School Students**

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wanted to rise today to announce the high school students who write letters to the representatives of Rankin Inlet where they outline their concerns and priorities. They speak about many issues. This is just a list of the correspondence I received.

One in particular talks about the spring when the snow is melting, and it sometimes causes difficulties for elders and that the community should be clearing the roads so that the elders don't have to walk through slush.

There was another letter regarding housing. The local housing associations are apparently practising nepotism where they provide housing to their relatives and based on what I was informed of, this requires resolution.

There are also facilities aside from the hockey arena that are also missing. A student mentioned drama arts as well as other types of activities. A lot of youth in Rankin Inlet are very talented in arts and I am very proud of them as they're showcasing that through their correspondence.

I would like to read this letter, if I may, Mr. Speaker. The student's name is Tyson, who is 16 years old, and I will read this letter in English so that you will hear his actual words.

(interpretation ends) "I am a resident of Rankin Inlet, Nunavut. I am writing this letter because we need a better transportation system. Rankin Inlet is

now big enough and still getting bigger that we need a bus that we can get on and paid for, like in the cities down south.

Everybody is waiting a very long time for taxis, even up to an hour. Also, school buses are used for personal use. Sometimes one of the two buses breaks down and we, the students, wait up to about an hour to get home by bus for lunch and end up being late for school in the afternoon."

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

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

**Mr. Curley:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a very short letter.

"My solution is that Rankin Inlet should get a bus system going on. It would help the town so much. The elders without transportation could get around the town easier.

During the evening, the bus can go around half an hour to an hour. During the day, the bus can get around every hour. Students can get on for \$2.50, adults, \$3, and elders 55 years and over can get on for free, seasonal passes, \$50 every four months. The bus can go on starting at seven o'clock and ending at 10:00 p.m. I have made up a map to help with any trouble."

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Laughter*

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Curley. Members' Statements. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. Elliott.

**Member's Statement 253– 3(3): Grise Fiord Graduation Ceremony**

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That was definitely an interesting letter. It shows the talent that we have with our youth in the communities all across the territory and it brings me to what I'll be speaking about today in my Member's Statement, Mr. Speaker.

Today is a very special day in Grise Fiord. It's the annual graduation ceremony and I would like to thank Leslie Turpin, the principal, for inviting me to go, but obviously, with the work in session, I'm unable to attend.

The graduation ceremony at Umimmak School is definitely a full community involvement. Preparation started about a week before and everyone pitches in, either donating food or getting ready. This afternoon, Michael Muckpa, Kristine Watsko, Ooleesee Akeegok, Saalia Pijamani, and Leah Audlaluk will be graduating with their grade 12 graduation certificates.

A special note, we just found out that Saalia Pijamini has been accepted into the Students on Ice program, which is another amazing program which allows students to have an experience outside of communities.

I ask all members to please join me in congratulating the students for their hard

work. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Elliott. I'm sure all members wish them the best of luck in their future endeavours. Item 3. Members' Statements. Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Pangnirtung, Mr. Oshutapik

**Mr. Oshutapik:** Sorry, Mr. Speaker. I meant to be on Item 5. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize... .

**Speaker:** Sorry, Mr. Oshutapik, but you have to wait until or you can... . Sorry.

>> *Laughter*

I believe the member is asking for unanimous consent to go back to Item 5 on the order paper.

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Speaker:** Mr. Oshutapik, Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery.

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

**Mr. Oshutapik:** Mr. Speaker, *Qujannamiik*. (interpretation) I would like to recognize this individual now in Iqaluit who is providing us with page services. Although there were supposed to be two pages from our community, the other person couldn't arrive. I want to thank and recognize Jerry Laisa from Pangnirtung, who has come here to serve us as a page. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Oshutapik. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Nanulik or, sorry, Akulliq, Mr. Ningark.

### Item 6: Oral Questions

#### Question 359 – 3(3): Elder Certification for Teaching

**Mr. Ningark:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We also have polar bears in our community. Thank you for that.

(interpretation) I would like to direct my question to the Hon. Minister of Education. She made a worthy announcement about the certificates given out in Igloolik to elders. It's good to hear that elders received certificates that recognize their abilities to teach in schools. We want to see that happen in all Nunavut communities, particularly in Kugaaruk and Repulse Bay. If we want to recognize local elders through this initiative, how can we forward our recommendations? I suppose it would be through DEAs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Minister responsible for the Department of Education, Minister Aariak.

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Indeed, this initiative is very good for Nunavut. Elders still retain their expertise in the traditional language and cultural practices and our most knowledgeable elders should be teaching these skills in the schools.

The need for accredited elder teachers through the program called *Innait Inuksiutilirijiit* came out of the

*Education Act*. This legislation speaks to the need for elder teachers to teach these skills. As a result, we have started to provide accreditation, which was initiated in Iqaluit, with presentation of certificates to elders. As well, we also presented certificates to several elders during the Nunavut teachers' conference.

As I announced earlier, we accredited 15 more elders in Igloolik and they can now be teachers in cultural skills. A lot of these elders are chosen for different skill sets and this initiative will be driven by the local DEAs. They work with the school operations staff as well as the principals where they negotiate which elders have the best fit for their cultural activities. This would result in a certificate recognizing the elders' skills, for example, whether it's sewing, harvesting, or child bearing. These different types of categories are what we look at.

To date, there are 70 elders within Nunavut who have received certification. This process is ongoing and we're increasing the number of elders who are able to teach in the schools. The DEAs would initiate the certification. So you can check with your local DEA and recommend elders for recognition. I know that some communities are just starting that.

At this time, I don't have the written information on who have been certified, but they are available at all schools. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Ningark** (interpretation): Thank you. For my first supplementary, it's very good news to hear. Perhaps if we looked at Canada as a whole and looked at life in general, the traditional Inuit are most likely a very unique society.

With that in mind, when we look at fellow Canadians, could residents submit recommendations to the Department of Education about elders or could we send these requests for certification to Ontario, Alberta, or other universities where certain elders get honorary degrees, for example, journey person certificates? Is there any way that these types of certificates could be available for these elders to teach all over Canada? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Minister of Education, Minister Aariak.

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. These certified cultural teachers for our Nunavut schools are part of the implementation requirements under the *Education Act*. It is not identified as being applicable to other institutions of learning here in Nunavut; only our schools. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Ningark** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For my second supplementary question, I would prefer that this matter be announced publicly in Canada and throughout the provinces that we now have elders certified to teach cultural programs. Some elders are very capable and perhaps more skilful than other people in the whole world,

especially when it comes to *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit*.

I don't believe the minister responded to the second part of my question pertaining to Kugaaruk and Repulse Bay requesting certification for their elders to teach in their schools. Who can they send their requests to? Perhaps they can send their requests to the Department of Education or the Premier's good offices to invite them to certify elders. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Minister of Education, Minister Aariak.

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, my colleague understood that perfectly. It's usually run by the local DEA that makes these decisions as to which elder will receive certification. So it would be the local DEA that makes that decision. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Question 360 – 3(3): Mandate of the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth**

**Mr. Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say "good morning" to my constituents. Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the Minister of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth.

The Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth has recently issued a public notice which indicates that the official name of the department will be changing on July 1 of this year to the (interpretation ends) "Department of



Culture and Heritage.” (interpretation)  
The Inuit language versions of the department’s name will remain unchanged.

Mr. Speaker, my question is this: can the minister explain why the department is removing the word “Language” from its official name? The original name in English is the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth. With changes to the title of this new department, why isn’t language included in this department? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Tapardjuk. Minister responsible for Culture, Language, Elders and Youth, Minister Arreak.

**Hon. James Arreak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank my *Annuraaqatik* for listening to these announcements and paying attention. Yes, it is true that the English title of the department will change from the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth, which was too long, and it identified what the department was undertaking.

With respect to the fact that language will not form part of this new department, there is another portfolio for that. I will be the Minister of Culture and Heritage and I also hold the portfolio of the Minister of Languages. The responsibility for languages will continue to be held by this government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The reason why I raised that question to the minister is because the minister spoke about languages and the Uqausivut Plan that will be tabled this fall.

I wanted to raise that question because earlier this week, the Legislative Assembly approved supplementary appropriations that changed the responsibilities of some departments, including the Department of CLEY. Parts of the funding that we agreed to were transferred to other departments in conjunction with the transfer of authority. Mr. Speaker, can the minister indicate if additional changes to his department’s mandate are planned to occur in the coming months? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Tapardjuk. Minister of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth, Minister Arreak.

**Hon. James Arreak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Looking at the upcoming three months, there is nothing planned at all as to what other parts of the mandate will be taken out from the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth.

With respect to the second question as to the planning for *Uqausivut* with the transfer of funds to other departments, these also require a lot of preparatory paperwork, especially in relation to operational funds. Once this work has been completed, we will be tabling that documentation and we’re hopeful that it will be completed by the fall session. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister for that response. I know that this plan is delayed because it was supposed to be completed last year and now we will have expectations that the *Uqausivut Plan* will be completed this fall.

Mr. Speaker, I continually bring this question up, especially in Committee of the Whole, where this issue was raised and where we talked about Nunavut, as well as the Legislative Assembly having to understand when the *Official Languages Act* will come into force. This legislation was passed in 2008. When will the new *Official Languages Act* be brought into force? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Tapardjuk. Minister of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth, Minister Arreak.

**Hon. James Arreak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just followed my previous announcement that once the *Uqausivut Plan* has been tabled in the fall session.... the plans we tabled last year and the list of activities which resulted from 35 submissions of concern related to the *Uqausivut Plan*. So we have to work with various organizations, such as NTI, the Languages Commissioner, as well as officials from the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth, who had to work to come to a consensus on this *Uqausivut Plan*. Now with the completion of this plan, I announced that we would try to have it ready for the fall session.

With respect to the operational funds for the implementation, once it has been completed and approved by the Legislative Assembly, the implementation activities can start being undertaken, although the legislation will be implemented gradually. So it would not be all at once; it would be implemented in steps. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want a response to the question which I raised. As regular MLAs, we were led to expect that the *Official Languages Act* would be in force by this spring or on Nunavut Day.

We have been given expectations as regular MLAs. The *Official Languages Act* was passed in 2008, which has yet to be implemented and is not even ready, but we were told this winter that we could expect the *Official Languages Act* to be implemented starting on Nunavut Day, which I believe is July 9. We were told that after this day, the legislation would come into force and that was our expectation.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister clearly state which date we should expect this legislation to be implemented? Will it be in the fall, when our session starts, or will it be on the date the minister mentioned, Nunavut Day? What date will it be implemented? Can the minister clearly identify the date? At this time, we're confused as to the actual date of the legislation coming into force. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Tapardjuk. Minister of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth, Minister Arreak.

**Hon. James Arreak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have been expecting the legislation to be implemented shortly after 2008. During the member's tenure as the Minister of Languages, he led us to those expectations and that is still the case currently.

Although we had expectations about the approval of the plan and our implementation to start in June or July and having it ready for the spring session, without the completed implementation plan to append to the legislation, including the O&M funding, I didn't want to see a partial implementation proceed.

Once the details have been fully approved by the House, even though it has been approved in principle by this government, we wanted to wait until all the information was available. Our expectations are now for this fall, where I will first announce the plan, and shortly thereafter as winter commences, this legislation will finally start being implemented. That is what I can state will happen, that you can expect to see the final plans during this current calendar year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Question 361 – 3(3): Poverty Reduction Initiatives**

**Mr. Ningeongan:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the

Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, whose department is responsible for the government's Anti-Poverty Secretariat.

CBC News has reported that his department is holding community consultations this week in the Kivalliq concerning the government's *Makimaniq Plan* to reduce poverty in Nunavut. Can the minister indicate to the House today which communities will be visited as part of these consultations? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. Mr. Speaker, I don't have the list of communities that the committee is visiting at this time in the Kivalliq region. Once I get access to the information on which communities they will be visiting, I'll forward the information onto the member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Ningeongan:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister outline the next steps in the process of implementing the government's poverty reduction plan after these visits have occurred and have been dealt with? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The process is ongoing. We're expecting and hoping that we can get the legislation for approval in cabinet by August. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Ningeongan:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Minister, for the response. An important component of the government's poverty reduction plan is food security. I addressed this issue in my Member's Statement earlier this week. In March of this year, I asked the minister a number of questions concerning community freezers under his department's Country Food Distribution Program. Can the minister update the House today on the success of this program? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Minister Taptuna.

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that excellent question. Mr. Speaker, there are a number of departments that are involved and of course, our partners with NTI and RIAs, including community members, businesses, and not-for-profit organizations that participate in these round table discussions to come up with the best possible plan and best possible way to benefit those folks who are most in need, especially our youth. At this time, we're hoping to launch a plan and prepare a Nunavut food security strategy in March 2013. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Ningeongan:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for the response, Minister Taptuna. The *Makimaniq Plan* for poverty reduction talks about developing a territorial action plan, as you indicated, on food security. Can the minister indicate when he expects that this will be ready for tabling in the Legislative Assembly? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Once the implementation plan has been agreed to by all partners involved, we expect... last year, we assisted 16 communities in dealing with their food insecurities and this year, we're expecting to do the same. Once the implementation plan is agreed to by all partners of the *Makimaniq Plan*, we're expecting and hoping to table the strategy by March of 2013. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Oral Questions. Member for Natilik, Ms. Ugyuk.

### **Question 362 – 3(3): Public Housing Issues**

**Ms. Ugyuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my questions to the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation. Quite a number of people in Nunavut are living in storage sheds and tents after being evicted from their public housing

units and we have an overwhelming housing shortage, including my communities of Taloyoak and Gjoa Haven.

(interpretation ends) The Nunavut Housing Corporation's 2012-15 business plan indicates that the GN Comprehensive Long-Term Housing Strategy was "still in development" and that an initial strategy document was "expected for early 2012." Can the minister indicate if this initial strategy has been completed and will he commit to tabling it in the Legislative Assembly? 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'm not aware of at what phase the strategy is at this time. Once I have that information, I will make the member aware on the timeframes and timelines, and when we expect to complete and table the strategy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Ugyuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) On December 15 of last year, the federal government and the GN announced the signing of a new Affordable Housing Agreement. The news release indicated that "Nunavut will use the funds under the new agreement to create new and renovate existing affordable housing for households in need." Can the minister provide an update on this new Affordable Housing Agreement and can he indicate how many new housing units

it will actually create? 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 apologize, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that excellent question. In Nunavut, we support any federal investment that the federal government makes in addressing ongoing housing issues.

As the member stated during the timeframe there, we've got a three-year multilateral framework and bilateral agreement for the renewal of investment in affordable housing to replace CMHC's funding under the affordable housing initiative.

At this time, Mr. Speaker, this government and the housing corporation is prepared to match federal investment on a new cost-matching ratio of 50-50, which changed from the previous 75-25 of the federal-to-territorial ratio. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Ugyuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) The Nunavut Housing Corporation's 2012-15 business plan indicates that one of its priorities has been to "Adopt and implement a revised" public housing rent scale and guidelines and that "Options, along with their financial impact, are being prepared for early 2012-2013. These options aim to reduce disincentives to employment and to support the goals of poverty reduction

and other social programs.” Can the minister indicate if the revised public housing rent scale and guidelines have been completed and can he indicate when changes will be made? 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. Again I thank the member for that very excellent question. Mr. Speaker, the public housing rent is calculated on key components and of course, this ties into our reducing poverty strategy. One of the things that we’re trying to do with the review and amendments to the rent scale is to encourage economic activity and employment. At this time, Mr. Speaker, we’re preparing options for consideration, with an anticipated implementation of new rent scale by 2013. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation):** Thank you, Mr. Speaker and I appreciate the minister’s response as they are informative. It is quite hurtful to see people facing homelessness and people being kicked out of their units. The Kitikmeot is experiencing a severe housing shortage, including the communities of Taloyoak and Gjoa Haven.

(interpretation ends) The 2013-14 capital estimates will be introduced in a few months. Does the minister expect to have new funding for public housing

construction in his estimates? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon, Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, we do lobby for more funding to alleviate some of the housing pressures we have in Nunavut. Of course, once there has been approval from FMB and the Legislative Assembly, we will be releasing these figures to the standing committee and the public. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Question 363 – 3(3): Closure of the Polar Environment Atmospheric Research Laboratory**

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Environment. As the minister is aware, the Polar Environment Atmospheric Research Laboratory is located on Ellesmere Island in the High Arctic. This facility performs important work in such areas as atmospheric research and climate change.

Recent news reports have indicated that lack of funding threatens this important facility’s ability to operate on a continuous basis. Can the minister indicate if the Government of Nunavut is concerned about this situation? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Elliott.

Minister responsible for the Department of Environment, Minister Arreak.

**Hon. James Arreak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the Member for Quttiktuq for raising that matter with his question. This is a concern shared by the government. However, it's not part of the Nunavut government's mandate to operate this laboratory. This was undertaken by the federal government and they funded its operations. The decision to close the facility was due to budgetary cutbacks and that is why it will be closing in the near future. This facility that the member is asking about is not part of our territorial government's mandate. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, the minister is correct. The federal funding has been cut. Has the minister had the opportunity to raise this issue with the federal Minister of the Environment? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. James Arreak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't think we have ever even discussed what further steps to take to this day. I thank the member for expressing his concern and for providing more information about the fact that this poses a concern for many Nunavummiut. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. One of our government's priorities is to address the issue of climate change, the effects of which are being felt in the Arctic today. It's no secret that the federal government has earned a reputation as being sceptical of climate change, as was recently evidenced by Canada's withdrawal from the Kyoto Protocol. Does the minister share my concern that the lack of federal support for PEARL reflects a lack of support for action against climate change? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. James Arreak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The announcement about the planned closure of this facility caught us by surprise. The government is greatly concerned due to the importance of the environment. It is our preference to keep the facility operating and its continued funding was our expectation.

However, when the federal government makes any decisions to make budget cuts, the Nunavut government has no say, even when we voice our positions on these decisions. It is the priority of the federal government is to reduce their deficit and that is why they decided to make that cut. We are concerned about the pending closure, but we haven't initiated any discussions about it with our federal counterparts. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As previously stated, one of our government's priorities is to address the issue of climate change. The cut was announced back in March. If it was a priority, I would hope that the minister would pick up the phone and speak to the federal minister or send a letter. As he has stated in the past, he has sent letters regarding other issues based around the seal hunt, the ban, and whatnot.

I realize it can be frustrating with federal programs. When funding is cut federally, there's not much we can do. As a priority for our government and within the realm of the Government of Nunavut, what is your department doing to address the issue of climate change? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. James Arreak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the member for Quttittuq for asking that excellent question. Currently, we deal with environmental concerns. We have sent correspondence about the concerns expressed in the Legislative Assembly, as well as those by our department.

I stated this winter that we would present a report about our environmental stewardship initiatives. I used to call that the NCCC, (interpretation ends) the Nunavut Climate Change Centre. (interpretation) That is one avenue we've made publicly available on how the climate is changing throughout Nunavut. If you have access to a computer, you can access that information via the (interpretation ends)

Natural Resources Canada (interpretation) website, as well as our (interpretation ends) Department of Environment (interpretation) website. This is an ongoing initiative.

When you talk about environmental stewardship, climate change will continue to be a priority for the Nunavut government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Question 364 – 3(3): Durable Garbage Bags for Hunters**

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Environment. Based on the minister's statement, I want to thank him for announcing the anti-littering campaign. That's a very good initiative.

As people start going out on the land, people start seeing garbage. A lot of people are beginning to collect this garbage and bring it back to the community. I have been out on the land for about four or five days and one thing I have noticed is there's a lot of garbage all over the place. When I asked what we're going to do with the garbage, I was told that we're going to bring back every piece of garbage we produce.

Most hunters now are very diligent about keeping their environment clean. Sometimes we pass by sites where hunters have gone hunting and there's a lot of garbage in their camping area. The minister spoke about this initiative and that they wanted to hear the concerns of Nunavutmiut to ensure that this



continues in Nunavut. This week, I believe, is Environment Week in Canada.

We did note that hunters are bringing back the garbage they produce and that you have to be very careful about plastic bags. Can the minister consider providing a sturdier garbage bag to be given to the hunters so that they can bring back all of their garbage? I'm not talking about a big wooden crate because it also has to be accommodating to hunters so that you can tie it onto the qamutik. Can you look at some sort of durable container and not just a plastic garbage bag to be offered to the hunters to bring back their garbage that they find out on the land? Thank you.

**Speaker:** Thank you very much, Mr. Curley. Minister of Environment, Minister Arreak.

**Hon. James Arreak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) That's a good idea.

>>*Laughter*

(interpretation) I thank all of those hunters who bring back their garbage out of a sense of responsibility. When we leave, we carry a lot of heavy cargo, but after all the contents have been consumed, people are lazy to bring back the garbage, even though it's a lot lighter with nothing in them. So we have to continue to push and encourage people to be environmentally responsible, especially to not throw away any kind of coffee cups or Styrofoam cups and to try to collect all cigarette butts because you see them all over the communities.

I think that's an extremely good idea. I think we have to collaborate with various organizations at the territorial, regional and local level because they might have their own ideas as to what would best constitute a garbage container type for the hunters. So if other members and organizations have good ideas such as that one, we welcome them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also want to acknowledge that it's becoming a lot more noticeable with garbage bags, especially shopping bags. Some of these plastics cannot degrade and cannot break down in the environment. We're starting to see that a lot of the stores are no longer offering plastic garbage bags and they're voluntarily offering paper or cloth bags.

What I want to ask about is when you're undertaking this program about the anti-littering campaign, with that as a backdrop, some of the garbage created by hunters is quite observable because there are a lot of people who go hunting. For instance, just between the three of us, we produced a lot of garbage. It can become very stressful.

I wonder whether the minister could proceed with the idea of a durable garbage container because sometimes you can't put all of your garbage into one plastic bag. So I wonder if there is any kind of initiative to that effect, whether or not you could speak to this issue during Environmental Week or even afterwards. We would like to get a response as hunters. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister of Environment, Minister Arreak.

**Hon. James Arreak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleague for raising that matter. When we were first elected in 2004, plastic shopping bags were also a concern of mine. I felt there were too many plastic bags all over the environment.

Now that this initiative has started to operate for a longer period, it's becoming easier and you're starting to see the differences. We're also asking for more biodegradable packaging and if the stores can undertake them, they are doing their utmost to comply.

Now, with respect to the member's question as to a type of durable garbage container, I stated that I would consider that. When the opportunity arises to speak to this issue, we will try to do that this week. Whenever a consensus has been reached about this idea, we would be able to table it and announce it at a future date. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Question 365 – 3(3): Correctional Facility Issues**

**Mr. Aupaluktuq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Justice. Yesterday, the Northwest Territories' Minister of Justice announced that the GNWT is considering no longer accepting Nunavut inmates at its correctional facilities.

According to information that was recently provided by the GN in its return to a written question posed by one of my colleagues, Mr. Ron Elliott, there are approximately 20 Nunavummiut serving sentences or on remand in NWT facilities.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask: can the minister inform the House if he has had discussions with his counterpart in the NWT on this issue? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Daniel Shewchuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that very good question. As far as having discussions with my counterpart, no, I have not met with Minister Abernathy in NWT. However, I'm aware of the situation and I heard it on the news last night too. The member is absolutely right. We do have a contract in place, an MOU with the NWT for the incarceration of 20 inmates, and that is running until the fiscal year-end of 2014. So that agreement will be in place until 2014. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Aupaluktuq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the hon. minister for that response as well. My question is: has the GNWT indicated to our government if it is also considering repatriating any or all of the Nunavut inmates who are currently housed in NWT correctional facilities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. Minister of Justice, Minister Shewchuk.

**Hon. Daniel Shewchuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think it would be the goal of the government to have all of our inmates incarcerated in Nunavut if we, at all, could do that. At present, I can tell you that we have approximately 40 inmates who are housed outside of our territory, territorial inmates, and approximately seven federal inmates in facilities in southern Canada. The total cost to our government at present is approximately \$4.7 million to look after these inmates outside of our territory. So I think the long-term goal would be to have all of our inmates, even our federal inmates, housed in our territory at some point in time.

As you all well know, we're opening up the correctional facility in Rankin Inlet this fall some time. Also, as this House knows, we do have plans for building a temporary structure to deal with the crowding issue that we have at our BCC facility in Iqaluit. So we are very well aware of the situation and we will deal with it as matters come forward.

As far as the inmates in the Northwest Territories, as I have spoken and said, we do have an agreement until the end of 2014. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Aupaluktuq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Recently, the Department of Justice issued a tender for the acquisition of a "men's rapid deployment structure," which is what the minister was referring to. As the minister has previously

indicated, this is designed to be a solution to overcrowding at the BCC. Can the minister indicate when he expects this structure to be operational? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. Minister of Justice, Minister Shewchuk.

**Hon. Daniel Shewchuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for that very important question too. As the member is well aware, we have been approved for planning and design of this structure. The tenders have closed for the RFP. Those will be reviewed in the next coming weeks. I would hope to have a capital plan moving forward for the earliest construction of this facility brought forward to this House as soon as possible. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Question 366 – 3(3): Rent Scale for Public Housing**

**Mr. Oshutapik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question today is directed to the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation. To date, I haven't received any response to the question I posed about overpayment of rent for public housing. Can you provide us with an update on that?

Last time, we received an update was with the previous minister. Has anything been resolved, or worked on? There are some people who quit jobs that they enjoy because of the high cost of rent. The housing corporation simply takes too much of the income they earn while working. Perhaps the minister has an

update on what has been done to the House? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Oshutapik. Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Minister Taptuna.

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will take that question as notice. I do not have that information in front of me. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister Taptuna. The question has been taken as notice. We will move on. Oral Questions. Member for Amittuq, Mr. Tapardjuk.

### **Question 367 – 3(3): Factors Affecting Suicide**

**Mr. Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Health and Social Services. The issue of suicide is a serious one across Nunavut. I appreciate that there are plans and programs in place and others being developed to help prevent suicide. However, I feel that we also need to be more informed about the kinds of factors that lead people to make the terrible decision to end their lives.

Mr. Speaker, there are sad statistics which reveal the numbers of Nunavummiut who have taken their own lives over the years, with details on their gender, age or ethnicity. Can the minister describe what activities are undertaken by his department to analyze the behavioural environment of suicide victims, to identify the kinds of mental health challenges they faced and the types of supports that were or were not available to them? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Tapardjuk for asking the question. Mr. Speaker, it's no secret that suicide is a serious issue in Nunavut. Since 1999, I believe, the numbers are staggering, I think it's close to 370 suicides in Nunavut. On average, every year, it's close to 30. Most of the suicides are in the younger age groups, mostly among young males.

In the last year, this House has moved forward on a Nunavut suicide prevention strategy and an action plan with implementation planners. The four partners who are working together, including NTI, the Embrace Life Council, the RCMP, and the Department of Health and Social Services, on behalf of the Government of Nunavut, are working on tasks to address the suicide issue in Nunavut.

There are a number of programs to assist folks to deal with their issues. We're working on things like the ASIST program. We have adapted the ASIST program and we're slowly putting more resources into communities to assist people with mental health issues. We have people in the department who are analyzing why people might take their own lives.

It's a very difficult area because, obviously, you can't ask people why they took their own lives. You can only imagine the pressures or stresses or other things that are going through a person's mind, I think, that compels them to take their own lives. I can't imagine it myself. I have read several books about

suicide and most of the authors say it's a very difficult area to address.

We're hopeful that with the work we were undertaking over the last year and going forward, we will be able to start to come up with some good data that will help us direct our programs and resources to the communities and to help people who are likely to take their own lives. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister. Even though this is a very unfortunate situation, we always have to deal with it.

Within this Legislative Assembly, there also was an announcement that about 10 percent of the suicides in Nunavut stem from people who are in the criminal system. Now we have tried to look at the suicide data for the NWT, where they identified that 20 percent of the people who commit suicide have done so as a result of the criminal justice system.

It has obviously touched upon a lot of lives and I don't think we should put a blindfold over these figures. How can the departments of Health and Social Services and Justice work together and collaborate to ensure that we don't cause more people to commit suicide due to the lengthy court process? Where and how can we inform Nunavummiut that we will provide more solutions for them? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Tapardjuk for the question. Mr. Speaker, one of the interesting things about research and statistics is that they can produce any kind of statistic to raise all kinds of issues. I read the media reports all the time and most recently, in the last couple of weeks, there have been lots of stories about Nunavut. If we were a country, we would rank 38th in the world of 200-and-something countries, which I thought, 38, that's pretty good because I have been to some third world countries where it's a real challenge for them.

Mr. Speaker, as I said earlier in my answer, it's very difficult to determine why a person takes their lives. People feel they're under a lot of pressure. There could be issues that relate to their childhood upbringing. I read a report from the Fenbrook Correctional Centre about the Tupik program that a lot of individuals in that facility were sexually assaulted or molested as children growing up. They told the researchers that some of them thought about taking their lives. I read stories about Ed Horne and why some of the victims chose to take their lives.

There are many reasons why people want to take their lives. It's a complex area. I can assure Mr. Tapardjuk that the Department of Health and Social Services and the Department of Justice, all the departments are working together through various committees to address the issues that are affecting our residents.

Hopefully, in Iqaluit later this year or early next year, when we renovate the old boarding home into a mental health facility, we will have an ability to help provide mental health counselling to some of the folks in the Baffin Correctional Centre. That's going to be a huge bonus for us. We're making progress. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister as we are keenly aware of the complexity of this issue. This will be my last question.

The justice and court processes whereby the accused require a lawyer are, obviously, quite stressful, but these are the result of our personal actions. However, I feel that people in these situations are abandoned by the system. This is particularly true as no advisors or counsellors are provided to people facing charges. This is especially the case with couples that have been forced apart by the RCMP through a peace bond prior to the case going before the court. This is particularly draining and stressful mentally to the people in that situation.

Mr. Speaker, can the Minister of Health and Social Services and the Minister of Justice review the process to see how it can be better structured and improved? I am well aware of the fact that we cannot override federal legislation and we have to comply with the criminal justice system. However, prior to the people crossing that bridge, it seems obvious

that we can provide more assistance to the people who are in that situation.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister inform this House whether or not the Minister of Health and Social Services and the Minister of Justice can commit to reviewing this matter to search for improvements? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Tapardjuk for the question. Mr. Speaker, as my colleague indicated the other day, the Department of Justice is putting more resources into the justice system to expedite the justice process so that people have their day in court, so to speak.

We have social workers and mental health workers in most communities in Nunavut who can provide help to folks who are waiting to go to court. As I said earlier, there are people who are in remand at the Baffin Correctional Centre here. We're beefing up our mental health services in Iqaluit with a facility. I do know, as I visited three or four facilities when I was the Minister of Justice, there are mental health workers and resources in the facilities in the other provinces and territories who work with our Nunavut inmates if they require help. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister Peterson. Members will note that the allotted time for question period has expired. We will move along in our orders of the day. Item 7. Written Questions. Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Item 10.

Petitions. Item 11. Responses to Petitions. Item 12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Item 14. Notices of Motions. Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 16. Motions. Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Madam Premier.

### **Item 17: First Reading of Bills**

#### **Bill 38 – An Act to Amend the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act – First Reading**

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I move, seconded by Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet South and Whale Cove, that Bill 38, *An Act to Amend the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Madam Premier. The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour. Any opposed? The motion is carried and Bill 38 has been read for the first time.

Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Minister Shewchuk.

#### **Bill 39 – An Act to Amend the Judicature Act – First Reading**

**Hon. Daniel Shewchuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the hon. member from Kugluktuk, that Bill 39, *An Act to Amend the Judicature Act*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour. Any opposed? The motion is carried and Bill 39 has been read for the first time.

Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Item 19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. There being no items in Committee of the Whole, we will go on to the next item. Item 20. Report of the Committee of the Whole. There are none. Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. Item 22. *Orders of the Day*. Mr. Clerk.

### **Item 22: Orders of the Day**

**Clerk** (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A reminder that the Standing Committee on Legislation meets this afternoon starting at half past one in the Nanuq Boardroom and also, a reminder that the standing committee also meets at nine o'clock on Monday morning in the same room.

*Orders of the Day* for June 4:

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

10. Petitions
11. Responses to Petitions
12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters
13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motions
15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions
17. First Reading of Bills
18. Second Reading of Bills
  - Bill 38
  - Bill 39
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

This House stands adjourned until Monday, June 4, at 1:30 p.m.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 10:48*

Thank you.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Members, before we adjourn today, I would like to ask all of you to join me in thanking and recognizing the pages that were here with us this week. They are Joe Audlakiak, Cassandra Dubeau, Justine Cooper, and Jerry Laisa. I would like to thank you all very much for aiding us here this week.

>>*Applause*



