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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Speaker

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(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
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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*

Ron Elliott

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Joe Enook

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Community and Government Services;
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Allan Rumbolt

(Hudson Bay)

Hon. Fred Schell

(South Baffin)

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk

(Arviat)

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College*

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(Amittuq)

*Deputy Chair, Committee of the
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(Kugluktuk)

*Deputy Premier; Minister of
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Iqaluit, Nunavut
Wednesday, June 6, 2012

Members Present:

Honourable Eva Aariak, Honourable James Arreak, 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.

>>*House commenced at 15:01*

Item 1: Opening Prayer

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

>>*Prayer*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Oshutapik. (interpretation ends) Members, before we proceed with the orders of the day, I wish to make a statement.

Firstly, I would like to express my appreciation to all Members of the House for the support that they have shown to the community and people of Iqaluit during the spring sitting. The attendance of many members at the recent memorial services held in Iqaluit has been very much appreciated by the community.

I also wish to take this opportunity to note that today's sitting of the House marks a very historical milestone for us.

As members are aware, for sure, I'm sure you all know, today is the 500th formal sitting held by the Legislative Assembly since April 1, 1999. Being the only member of the current House who served in the First Legislative Assembly, this milestone brings back numerous memories, some fond and some not so fond.

For those of you who aspire to being in this House on the occasion of the next milestone, its 1,000th sitting day, you have my very best wishes.

Also, I would like to mention that I had a very nice goose lunch with our interpreters today. It was a very good lunch and I appreciate it. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the person who gave me the tips on how to cook a goose properly.

We will move on with our orders of the day. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Education, Minister Aariak.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements**Minister's Statement 166 – 3(3): New Licensed Early Childhood Programs**

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Good afternoon to the people of Iqaluit and my constituents in Iqaluit East.

Mr. Speaker, studies have proven that a child's future is largely written in the early years of their life. It is during this period that their minds and bodies are undergoing the fundamental development that will determine their ability to be contributing members of society.

Our government recognizes the importance of investing the resources needed to ensure that every child has the opportunity to reach their full potential. That is why it is with great pleasure that I announce today that the Department of Education has licensed six new early childhood programs since September 2011.

Mr. Speaker, in September 2011, two new francophone programs opened here in Iqaluit. In January 2012, the Arviat Aboriginal Head Start Preschool Program opened an additional licensed preschool. This allows them to teach more children before they enter the formal school system.

In March of this year, Najuqsivik Infant Centre finally opened its doors in Sanikiluaq. This facility was built by high school students in the community and offers much needed additional infant spaces.

Also in March, we licensed Iqaluralaaq Pairivik in Iqaluit.

And finally, in April, the Qarmartalik Preschool Readiness program opened for young learners in Resolute Bay.

Mr. Speaker, it has been a priority of this government to increase the quality and availability of early childhood education. I would like to take this opportunity to thank those involved in the development and operation of these new licensed early childhood programs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Aariak. Ministers' Statements. Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Minister Taptuna.

Minister's Statement 167 – 3(3): NHC Supports Third Habitat for Humanity Project

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Good afternoon, colleagues and Kuglukturmiut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As we all know only too well, Nunavut continues to endure a housing shortage which seriously limits the range of housing options for Nunavummiut. Homeownership in particular remains sadly out of reach for the great majority of our people in Nunavut. So when an organization like Habitat for Humanity decides to make a difference in a place like Iqaluit, we must support them in their endeavours.

Mr. Speaker, Habitat for Humanity, the local affiliate for Habitat for Humanity Canada, is a community-based, charitable, non-profit organization committed to improving housing conditions for people who are gainfully employed and could maintain a home but are unable to afford the cost of financing a house in the north.

This organization has invested itself in Iqaluit for the past seven years, counting two builds to date and another planned build in Apex starting this month. I am proud to announce, as was the case with the previous two builds, that the Nunavut Housing Corporation has donated a lot for the build in Apex as its contribution to this third project.

The true strength of an organization such as Habitat for Humanity Iqaluit is its ability to unite many paths and many stakeholders to make the dream of homeownership a reality for those who would otherwise not get the opportunity. To encourage their continued support and inspire others to join, I would like to

publicly thank the following organizations for pitching in and making a difference:

Igloo Building Supplies, First Air, Nunastar Properties, Canadrill, Nunavut Construction Corporation, the Iqaluit Rotary Club, the Tower Group of Companies, R.L. Hanson Construction, MacKay Landau, Atiigo Media, Outcrop Nunavut, SILA Management Services, and there are many more.

Mr. Speaker, it is truly an honour to count the Nunavut Housing Corporation among Habitat for Humanity Iqaluit's key partners. I look forward to continuing this tremendous partnership as Habitat for Humanity Iqaluit implements its recently approved strategic plan to build a further eight homes by 2020. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Taptuna. I look forward to seeing you at their annual fundraising golf tournament that they have every year.

Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Minister responsible for the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth, Minister Arreak.

Minister's Statement 168 – 3(3): Elder Abuse Awareness Day

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Each year, the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth assists communities in supporting the Elder Abuse Awareness Day. This awareness day falls on Friday, June 15, this year. Recognition of this

day highlights the importance of sharing information, learning more about the issue, and discussing the prevention of abuse of elders. Public awareness is one way to addressing the needs of abused and neglected elders.

The Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth works throughout the year with elders committees across Nunavut to encourage their activities and program development. This year, the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth will provide funding to each community in supporting the activities for the elders on June 15 to bring light to the issue of elder abuse awareness and the important place that elders hold across Nunavut.

Please join me in encouraging all Nunavummiut to get involved and advocate on behalf of elders, our valuable sources of knowledge and cultural history. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Arreak. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Minister responsible for the Status of Women, Minister Ell.

Minister's Statement 169 – 3(3): Nomination to the Qullit Nunavut Status of Women Council

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I stand before you today as the Minister responsible for the Status of Women in order to request names for possible nomination to the Qullit Nunavut Status of Women Council.

The Qullit Nunavut Status of Women Council plays an important role in advocating for women and in advising the minister in matters of importance to all women in our territory.

Mr. Speaker, there are currently a number of vacancies on the council and we are looking for candidates who collectively have a wide variety of experience, knowledge, and skills. This will ensure a well-rounded council that is representative of Nunavut's population.

Mr. Speaker, the nomination process closes on June 15, 2012. For nomination forms or for further information on how a woman in Nunavut can be a voice for her community and for all women in Nunavut, I ask you to contact the Government of Nunavut's Social Advocacy Office at 867-975-6018 or the Qullit Nunavut Status of Women Council toll-free at 1-866-623-0346. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Ell. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Minister responsible for the Department of Economic Development and Transportation, Minister Taptuna.

**Minister's Statement 170 – 3(3):
Uranium Policy Statement**

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to update my colleagues on an important subject: the Government of Nunavut's Uranium Policy Statement, which I have the honour of communicating to my colleagues at this time and which I will now read:

The Government of Nunavut regards mining as an important potential source of revenue to meet the needs of Nunavut's growing population and also as a potential source of employment and associated skills development for Nunavummiut.

The Government of Nunavut recognizes that uranium exploration and mining places special responsibilities on government because of the nature of uranium and its by-products, the history of its use for both peaceful and non-peaceful purposes, and its potential risks to human health and the environment.

The Government of Nunavut recognizes the jurisdiction of the Nunavut Impact Review Board and the Nunavut Water Board as established by the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement in the regulation of uranium exploration and mining.

The Government of Nunavut recognizes that uranium is subject to international agreements and national laws. The Government of Nunavut supports the mandate and responsibilities of the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission.

When the Government of Nunavut has an opportunity to communicate a position on a specific uranium development project, that position will be guided by Government of Nunavut uranium exploration and mining principles as follows. The Government of Nunavut will support the exploration and mining of uranium subject to the following principles:

1. Uranium mined in Nunavut shall be used only for peaceful and environmentally responsible purposes.
2. Nunavummiut must be the major beneficiaries of uranium exploration and mining activities.
3. The health and safety of workers involved in uranium exploration and mining and all Nunavummiut shall be protected to national standards.
4. Environmental standards must be assured for uranium exploration and mining, especially for the land, water and wildlife.
5. Uranium exploration and mining must have the support of Nunavummiut, with particular emphasis on communities close to uranium development.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank all of the individuals and organizations that participated in the consultations that helped develop this policy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Minister's Statement 171 – 3(3): New Wildlife Damage Prevention and Compensation Programs

Hon. James Arreak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to inform members that the department will soon be rolling

out two new programs to assist in reducing bear-human conflict. The wildlife damage prevention and compensation programs will provide support and resources to build local capacity for protection of people and property from bears. The department has consulted with hunters and trappers organizations across the territory to seek their input on the program. Feedback received from communities has been very positive.

The Wildlife Damage Prevention Program will give Nunavummiut access to funding for a variety of prevention materials, such as electric fencing, construction supplies to help in bear-proofing cabins, electronic bear detection devices, and bear-proof storage containers. It will also provide training resources on bear deterrence measures and the proper use of equipment.

To supplement the prevention program, the Wildlife Damage Compensation Program will help mitigate the unavoidable impacts of problem bears in and around communities. This program will make compensation available to Nunavummiut who have experienced damage to property in spite of taking action to prevent wildlife conflict.

The Department of Environment remains committed to addressing the needs of communities and fostering respectful relationships with wildlife and their habitat. This program is one initiative of the department's Wildlife Deterrence Program, which helps Nunavummiut co-exist with wildlife. It is an example of proactive planning and action to support positive and sustainable relationships between Nunavummiut and wildlife. Finally some good news, Mr. Speaker.

Thank you.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Arreak. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Moving on in our orders of the day. Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Rumbolt.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 272 – 3(3): Recognition of Jessie Fraser

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to rise today to recognize another constituent of mine who demonstrates what can be accomplished by following your dreams.

Mr. Speaker, Jessie Fraser graduated from Sanikiluaq's Nuiyak High School in 2007 and completed an internship with CBC that same summer. In the following two years, Jessie attended Trent University in the field of Indigenous Studies. In 2009, Jessie applied for and won a job with CBC North in Iqaluit. I am sure many of my colleagues will be familiar with Jessie's work which brings us news from around the north.

Mr. Speaker, Jessie has decided to follow her dreams once again and in the footsteps of her father, the late Bill Fraser, and her grandmother, Winnie Fraser McKay, she will be entering the field of mental health.

This year, Jessie will be leaving the north to attend Memorial University in Corner Brook, Newfoundland, to work towards a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Psychology. Mr. Speaker, I ask my

colleagues to join me in wishing Jessie the best of luck as she continues to follow her dreams. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. I would like to wish Jessie the best of luck in following her dreams.

Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Rankin Inlet North, Mr. Curley.

Member's Statement 273 – 3(3): Security Concerns at the Nunavut Court of Justice

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to talk about an incident last November at the Nunavut Court of Justice during a homicide trial. I would like to make a brief statement and I'll read it in English, Mr. Speaker.

This incident was reported through CBC on March 27, not last fall, this year, 2012, (interpretation ends) "Nunavut judge halts hearing over security concerns." I thought at that time that cases of this nature are very serious and many families are affected, including the accused, the victims, and those who are participating in the witness file. For the many participants in the court to become the pawn of the dispute of security was one that I was concerned with as I was reading it because it referred to the fact that Nunavut's chief justice halted proceedings in a preliminary hearing on Monday in Iqaluit due to concerns about security.

We know, during the history of Nunavut, one of the longest-serving territorial court judges, Judge Sissons, when it was

still united, had never heightened security issues as he administered the justice system in the then united Northwest Territories.

I was flabbergasted, amazed, in my view, that a politically charged issue that could have been dealt with in a closed hearing was exposed to the public. We, in fact, have one of the best court facilities in Nunavut.

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

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: Mr. Speaker, I believe we have one of the best justice systems in Nunavut that we know. It works and there are many translators as well as court workers in the whole system.

But to hear out of the blue that there were security concerns was one that I don't think was appropriate for Justice Robert Kilpatrick to actually use the victims and court participants as pawns to settle a dispute with Department of Justice officials. That should never be allowed to happen, Mr. Speaker.

At the appropriate time, I will be raising a simple question to the Minister of Justice to see whether or not we do have a proper protocol to address the dispute within the justice system. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Member's Statement 274 – 3(3): Food Security

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As we approach the end of our spring sitting, I rise today to again address the issue of food security in Nunavut. Mr. Speaker, I believe that the themes and concerns that have been raised during this sitting by a number of my colleagues have been extremely helpful in keeping attention focused on this important issue.

Mr. Speaker, it is very clear that issues of food security, poverty reduction, economic development, and education are closely linked. Action to address any one of these areas will have an impact on the others and I am very pleased that there is clear recognition that these issues need to be looked at holistically.

Mr. Speaker, it has been very encouraging to see ordinary Nunavummiut publicly voicing their concerns about food security and affordability.

Mr. Speaker, when we reconvene in this House for the fall sitting a few short months from now, the Nutrition North Canada Program's revised food list will have come into effect. I would remind the House that this will occur on October 1 of this year.

Mr. Speaker, I want to return to the theme of partnerships. I have been pleased that the Northwest Company has expressed support for an expanded food list. I will continue to advocate for

ensuring that essential non-food items, especially items that contribute to preventative health care, are covered by the program.

I continue to look forward to our own government reporting to the House on the activities of its Interdepartmental Nutrition North Subsidy Program Monitoring Committee, the creation of which was announced by the Premier.

Mr. Speaker, a visitor to Nunavut this week has been the aboriginal affairs critic for the Official Opposition in the House of Commons, who has been meeting with individuals and groups to discuss the issue of food security. I understand that she had the opportunity to visit one of our smaller communities, which is excellent. As the MLA for three of Nunavut's smallest communities, I believe that it is essential that visitors spend time outside of Iqaluit.

Mr. Speaker, I welcome any support and cooperation to raise awareness of the challenges that we face. I believe that it is a good thing for federal Parliamentarians from all political parties to take the time to learn about our way of life and our priorities.

Mr. Speaker, at this time, I request unanimous consent to continue with my Member's Statement today. Thank you.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleagues.

At the same time, Mr. Speaker, I also believe that it is important for visitors to understand that we do not want Nunavut's issues and challenges to be simply used as ammunition with which to attack the government or to score political points. My constituents want to be able to feed their families with affordable and nutritious food. They are not interested in Ottawa's political games and, as their elected representative, neither am I. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 275 – 3(3):
Crime Prevention**

Mr. Oshutapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I rise today to address the importance of crime prevention in Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, as members will recall, the community of Pangnirtung was outraged last December when a break and enter occurred at the post office. This has not been the only incident. Other break-ins and incidents of vandalism have occurred at the hamlet office, the airport, and other local businesses.

Mr. Speaker, I recognize that it is the role of the RCMP to investigate criminal activity and arrest suspects. I also recognize the importance of the federal, territorial, and municipal levels of government working together on crime prevention strategies. Mr. Speaker, I strongly support such work and I will have questions for the minister

responsible at a later date.
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Member's Statement 276 – 3(3):
Remembering David Ell**

Ms. Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say "good afternoon" to residents of Iqaluit West and my colleagues.

I know we usually don't want to hear bad news, but I would like to pay tribute to my late brother who was taken too early at the young age of 53 on March 26 of this year. (interpretation ends) The loss to his family, friends, colleagues, and community is still felt deeply and will be for some time.

David was a hard-working man who believed the importance of family and was proud to be an Iqalummiut. As Deputy Mayor of Iqaluit since 2009, David was dedicated to improving the quality of life in Iqaluit. He was a generous man with a big heart. A great hunter, David would provide country food to elders and those in need a traditional manner.

David, we miss you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Ms. Ell. David was a good friend of mine too and I'll miss him and his humour. The whole community will miss him very much.

Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Tununiq, Mr. Enook.

**Member's Statement 277 – 3(3):
Congratulations to Pond Inlet
High School Graduates**

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to wish a good afternoon to my fellow Pond Inlet residents and Nunavummiut.

I rise today to share celebratory news. My fellow Pond Inlet residents will be holding a graduation ceremony for the students graduating from high school. I apologize to the residents of Pond Inlet that I am unable to attend this important event, but I am there in spirit.

Mr. Speaker, students graduating from high school are still a cause for celebration. Until just recently, Nunavut rarely had any graduates. Indeed, it was sometimes difficult to know if any graduates would pass since students leaned towards dropping out. I thank the parents, the government, and all individuals who support education.

Mr. Speaker, while I have the opportunity, I would like to announce the names of the students graduating from grade 12, which the community is celebrating. Furthermore, I want to remind the students that many more opportunities await you in post-secondary education. They should carefully consider their options as furthering your education only benefits you.

Mr. Speaker, I want to announce these graduates' names as I am proud of their accomplishments:

James Akpaleepik,
 Letia Areak,
 Michelle Atagootak,
 Christine Awa,
 Joshia Enoogak,
 Andra Innuaraq,
 Jamesie Itulu,
 Eva Kadloo,
 Suzanne Killiktee,
 Stephen Killiktee,
 Gelena Koonark,
 Dina Koonoo,
 Amon Ootoova,
 David Jr. Panipak,
 Noni Pewatoaluk,
 Terrence Quaraq, and
 Johnny James Takawgak.

All Nunavummiut are proud of your accomplishments. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Enook. Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Baker Lake, Mr. Aupaluktuq.

**Member's Statement 278 – 3(3):
 Development and Transparency**

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to speak about the importance of transparent development in Baker Lake.

Mr. Speaker, as I have noted on many occasions, these are exciting times in the Kivalliq. New mines, new ports, new roads, and new jobs hold the promise of a brighter future for our people.

Mr. Speaker, I have always said that development must occur in a transparent and responsible manner.

On March 12, 2008, a copy of the development partnership agreement between the Government of Nunavut and Meadowbank Mining Corporation was tabled in the Legislative Assembly. Under the agreement, the company is required to produce annual reports on its activities. The development partnership agreement addresses a number of issues related to the social and economic impacts on the community of the mine. Mr. Speaker, I have called on the government to ensure that these important reports are tabled in the Legislative Assembly and made available to residents of Baker Lake.

Mr. Speaker, there continues to be concerns about excessive secrecy in such areas as IIBAs. However, I was pleased to note that on May 1 of this year, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated announced the first royalty payment as a result of mineral production on Inuit owned lands. NTI announced that the funds will be managed "in accordance with the Resource Revenue Policy passed by the NTI Annual General Meeting in November 2011."

Mr. Speaker, it is important that our residents see that the benefits of economic development are improving their lives and their community in a measurable, transparent manner. I will continue to be a voice for transparent and responsible development on behalf of the people of Baker Lake. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Firstly, I would like to recognize in the Gallery the Representative for Children and Youth Advisory Committee members, who have worked extremely hard.

(interpretation ends) If you can stand when I mention your name.

(interpretation) Here are the names of the individuals:

Leslie Leafloor,
Virginia Lloyd,
Connie Merkosak,
Steven Mansell,
Lynn Matte,
Lynn Ryan Mackenzie,
Monica O'Connor, and
Rhoda Audla.

(interpretation ends) The advisory committee worked collaboratively as a forum for the discussion of issues, ideas, questions, and the exchange of information during the Representative for Children and Youth project, all of which helped shape the design of Bill 40, *Representative for Children and Youth Act*.

(interpretation) Without the hard work of the advisory committee members, we would not be having the first reading of Bill 40, *Representative for Children and Youth Act*, later today. Thank you and please share their accomplishments.

Additionally, I would like to further recognize representatives visiting our territory from other jurisdictions.
(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I would also like to welcome to the Assembly Jean Crowder, Member of

Parliament for Nanaimo-Cowichan. Welcome to Nunavut once again. I believe this is your fourth trip up here.

Again, a member from my constituency also is Jack Hicks, from my riding. Welcome to the Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, Madam Premier. I welcome you all to the Gallery. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) I would like to recognize a fellow resident. She has been involved in many activities in her lifetime. In her work, she has touched upon many of our lives, especially in life skills, education, literacy, and everything else in between. Now she is an elder. I would like to recognize Elisapee Ootoova and her granddaughter, Connie Merkosak. Welcome to the Gallery.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you. Welcome to the Gallery. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. I would like to welcome everyone to the Gallery who's here. Mr. Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you. I would like to recognize an individual who had lived in Rankin Inlet and whom I had worked with before, Mr. Hugh Lloyd. Welcome.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Kusugak. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery.

I understand that there are people who just walked in and I would like to welcome them to the Gallery. I understand that they are the Governor General's Canadian Leadership delegates who are here visiting. Welcome to the Gallery.

>> *Applause*

Moving on in our orders of the day. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Rankin Inlet North, Mr. Curley.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 386 – 3(3): Security Concerns at the Nunavut Court of Justice

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) In my Member's Statement, I said that I would ask a question in regard to the court system. I know that there is a lot of hardship that people experience when there is a trial of an important nature. I would like to ask the Minister of Justice in English.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Justice.

As I stated in my Member's Statement, in the short time that the western civilization of justice administration was introduced, Inuit have been most respectful and I have never seen any security breach imposed upon the members of the judiciary or the judge for that matter.

Will the minister state to the House exactly what Justice Robert Kilpatrick was talking about, that the safety of the court was put into question? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that concern, question, and comment. As the member well knows, we had a discussion on this earlier this morning in standing committee and this brings up a real issue when it comes to security in our courthouses.

The incident that he speaks of, which happened this past March, is very concerning to the Department of Justice. The Department of Justice is here to assist and to ensure the security and safety of all our people who attend our court [proceedings].

The statements that were made and the outcomes of court during that period, during that incident, at the Department of Justice, we feel that it could have been addressed differently. I think there were options open to the judges involved, the chief judge involved, as to providing more information before the court... . Actually, the court started. The court process was scheduled. We could have found solutions to address security if it was to be an issue.

There were options of holding in-camera sessions with the victims and the witnesses and the accused, and everybody would still know what's going on. There was also the option of closing the court and just having the victim's family and the accused family there for the proceedings. So we feel there were options.

This concern has been voiced to the chief justice. We do want to work with

the court and the judges to benefit the system in Nunavut on a daily basis. We do have, I believe, quarterly meetings with judge officials and this concern was voiced. So I hope, into the future, that we can communicate better to not let a situation like this happen again. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the minister. I think it's important not only for Members of this House but for Nunavutmiut that they are participants of the judiciary and court of justice proceedings.

Having said that, Mr. Speaker, I think we need to remind the judge as well that the victims and those possible witnesses involved who were affected, they too have the right enshrined in the Constitution of Canada, that scheduling of court at reasonable timeframes is accorded to all victims of justice.

Having said that and in view of the fact that it will be very complicated sometimes to reschedule court hearings, any attempt to delay court proceedings without a legal reason, other than administrative issues of the court, should be prevented. Will you confirm to this House that you will communicate that to the officials in the court of justice? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister of Justice, Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that comment. I assure the member that the

message has been communicated and will further be communicated on our meetings with the judge and his officials.

I would just like to say that security in the court is a concern to us as a government. We are, in fact, bringing forward legislation to deal with that later today. The members are all aware that we had standing committee this morning on court security and we will be trying to move forward to provide that to Nunavutmiut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you. Mr. Speaker, it was quoted in the paper, at least in the CBC report, that Judge Robert Kilpatrick indicated that enough was enough. We would also like to communicate to him as well that the whole judiciary not be used as a pawn to settle disputes within the Department of Justice.

I think it's important that the minister indicate, aside from the legislation, that there be a proper protocol established that is clear and written as a policy guiding, if there are any disputes, whether it be security or it could be political in nature, that they address these issues with you confidentially. Would that be possible, Mr. Speaker? Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister of Justice, Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am sure that there are going to be lots of Nunavutmiut and the judges seeing this correspondence and dialogue going on today. So I think the

communication is there. I will commit that we will continue our efforts to communicate and work together with the judges to provide safety and security in our courtrooms. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 387 – 3(3): Status of Removal of Abandoned Buildings in Nanulik

Mr. Ningeongan (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Community and Government Services.

As the minister will recall, he and I have been exchanging correspondence over the past two years concerning his department's role in removing abandoned MOT buildings in Chesterfield Inlet. This project requires the removal of asbestos from the structures. Can the minister update me today on the status of this project? I believe the cleanup was to start this summer. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you. Good afternoon, Mr. Speaker. I thank you for your question, Mr. Ningeongan. I believe it's nearing three years since we initiated discussions on this topic. It's unfortunate that some of these projects are held back by certain problems.

What I can tell you is that the cleanup action items were identified, but we sought to ensure that the occupational and safety hazards were not a risk to the workers who had to do the cleanup. When we ran into that problem, it was exacerbated by the fact that cold weather had arrived and the project ground to a halt.

This cleanup has not been abandoned. As a matter of fact, during this month, we envisioned that preparations will begin and that the cleanup project will be completed by the end of July. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Ningeongan (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for clarifying the matter. Mr. Speaker, it is my understanding that the Municipality of Coral Harbour sent correspondence to the Department of CGS last year concerning a similar situation in the community that relates to an old MOT building at the airport. The building is also abandoned, deteriorating, and filled with asbestos. Would the minister commit to providing me with a written update after the spring sitting has concluded on the status of this issue? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The previous project in Chesterfield is still ongoing. Initially, it was just going to be a review

of the building materials and my department decided to take it on fully.

With respect to the other building that the member is now alluding to, this building is still owned by Transport Canada. So long as the federal Department of Transportation still retains ownership, we cannot do much. With respect to the derelict building that we're talking, we still have no idea as to what plans or actions will be taken. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Ningeongan (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister. As I indicated in the preamble to my question, these projects require the removal of asbestos from the abandoned buildings. I recognize that this has complicated the situation, because of the need to meet health and safety requirements during the process. Can the minister indicate how his department ensures that contractors have appropriate training and certification in the field of asbestos removal? The previous contract was tendered to a group that didn't really have the expertise to remove asbestos. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the member for that question. Yes, this has been identified as an issue in the contract you referred to in Chesterfield Inlet. That was halted until a safety inspection was completed. The current contractors

have certificates to conduct hazardous cleanups.

Asbestos is not a garden variety chemical, but it requires specialized cleanup procedures outlined in the legislation governing their removal. These regulations will be complied with during this cleanup. It is quite clear that the Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety will also be conducting further inspections on this cleanup. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Ningeongan (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the minister's response. Can the minister indicate if his department has undertaken any kind of inventory to determine how many other abandoned structures in Nunavut communities contain asbestos? I would like to know if his department has received any reports about hazardous materials. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have no idea because we're not told ahead of time what chemicals there are, so I really don't know if there are any. There could be, but I don't know the answer to that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Tununiq, Mr. Enook.

**Question 388 – 3(3): Complaints
Before the Department of Health
and Social Services**

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

Mr. Speaker, I recognize that when our constituents experience difficulties of a very personal and sensitive nature, it is not our role as MLAs to raise those issues publicly, to try to help them be resolved. I recognize further that the Department of Health and Social Services has established a “Patient/Client Complaints Procedure” for individuals to bring their complaints forward.

Can the minister tell this House and for the benefit of the listening public what assurances he can give the residents of Nunavut that complaints from Nunavut residents about health services will be addressed and responded to in a timely manner? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Enook. Minister responsible for the Department of Health and Social Services, Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Enook for the very good question. Mr. Speaker, since I have been the Minister of Health for a little over six months now, I sometimes feel like I’m part of a large complaints department because I get a lot of emails, phone calls, people stop me in airports, stores, or on the street. I’m sure my colleague, Mr. Curley, the former Minister of Health, knows what I’m talking about.

I assure Mr. Enook that we take all concerns very seriously. Sometimes we can’t get back as fast as we would like to because we have to contact many different people who could have been involved in the issue to get their input. We do take all complaints seriously. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have received several letters and verbal communications from constituents which describe in detail the difficulties they have faced and continue to face with respect to health services. In some cases, my constituents have repeatedly sent letters to the Department of Health and Social Services and still have received no reply. I have even taken it upon myself to forward concerns to the minister’s office in the hope of getting some response on behalf of my constituents. And I do not get a reply.

Can the minister clarify for this House what steps are taken when he or his departmental officials receive a complaint about health services from a Nunavut resident? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Enook for the question. Mr. Speaker, after the winter session, I sat down with the senior officials in my department and reviewed all the concerns that were raised in this House, very important concerns from all the MLAs. I directed them to come up

with a process that would expedite the complaints process so that people can get some timely answers.

An individual in a community should not have to email the minister or phone the minister's department to get an answer. I believe that most complaints originate at the regional level. We have people in all communities and health centres. We have executive directors in all regions. Those individuals should be able to address concerns. There is a process. If you send a complaint to certain levels or the wrong people, complaints get lost sometimes. It's a little bit challenging to get an email, and then have to go back through the system to get to the person who should be addressing it.

I assure Mr. Enook that we are working on it, we have taking it very seriously, and my officials are looking into it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the minister for his response. On March 1, 2012, my colleague from Amittuq brought forward a motion in Committee of the Whole during our deliberations on the budget and business plan for the Department of Health and Social Services that the department undertake a comprehensive review of the effectiveness of its patient/client complaints procedure. Can the minister provide an update on the status of this review and confirm that he will indeed table a report on his findings no later than the first day of the fall 2012 sitting of the Legislative Assembly? Thank you,

Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Enook again for the question. Mr. Speaker, again, the Department of Health is a very large department; we are in 25 communities. Stats are daunting. There are 40,000 medical and escort travel one-way tickets that are issued every year. We have thousands and thousands of people staying in boarding homes. We have over 1,500 medevacs and probably have 250,000 to 280,000 visits to health centres and at the hospital here in Iqaluit annually. So there are a lot of opportunities for issues to arise. Our staff is very busy providing health services to Nunavummiut.

As I said earlier, we are taking the complaints process very seriously. I have instructed my officials to look at a way to provide faster response times to people who have complaints. They have assured me that they're working on it. I'm well aware of the motion that was made in the House. Members recommended that we do this. Again, my officials are working on it as well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am aware of a number of complaints about health services in my constituency that have been raised with the Department of Health and Social Services. I am confident that almost every single one of my colleagues will

be aware of a situation where a constituent has raised a serious concern about the health services they have or have not received. Can the minister tell this House how many complaints about health services in Nunavut have ended up being brought forward as malpractice suits during the term of this Third Assembly to date? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I again thank Mr. Enook for the question. Mr. Speaker, I am unaware of any malpractice suits in the Third Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Peterson. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Rumbolt.

Question 389 – 3(3): Status of Decentralization Review

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

On October 21 of last year, I asked the minister a number of questions concerning the government's functional review of decentralization, which her department was leading. Yesterday, a decentralization action plan was tabled in the Legislative Assembly by the Minister of Human Resources. Which minister has the primary responsibility for leading the government's review of decentralization? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the member for the question. EIA has the widest responsibilities in the whole government. Sometimes they carry out such responsibilities as the decentralization review, which EIA did.

(interpretation ends) The functional review of decentralization was commissioned by EIA as an overall government entity and Human Resources is responsible for making the decentralization plan, of which the member tabled. Just like with other overarching government initiatives, the initiative will be started by the Department of EIA and the actual plan and implementation of the plan will be carried out by the department. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last year, I asked if the Premier would be willing to commit to me that the government would be prepared to move more positions out of decentralized communities if the review determined that their location has a negative impact on service delivery to the public.

The Decentralization Action Plan indicates that the government will, and I quote, "aim for a better fit between positions and community, including strengths, characteristics and labour market." The timeline given for this action is March of 2013. Can the

minister indicate approximately how many decentralized positions that are currently located outside of Iqaluit may need to be moved? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Eva Aariak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Government of Nunavut supports the principle of decentralization in the organization of government services. The Government of Nunavut will also continue to situate at least 60 percent of the public service jobs outside of Iqaluit.

The task that the Department of EIA has done is over in terms of doing the functional review of decentralization. It is now the task of the Department of Human Resources to take into the action plan. So I believe the member's question would be more suited to the Minister responsible for the Department of Human Resources. Thank you.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions were to the Premier, but if she wants to direct it to other ministers responsible, that's fine if it's okay with you. I would just like to know: as of today, how many of the government's decentralized positions are vacant? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Minister of Executive and

Intergovernmental Affairs, Madam Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't have that kind of information in my department, but the Department of Human Resources would have that information. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Madam Premier. Are you redirecting the question to the Minister of Human Resources? Madam Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I would. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Madam Premier. Minister responsible for the Department of Human Resources, Minister Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) Thank you for the question. In regard to how many decentralized positions are vacant, I don't have that information in front of me. I can provide a response later on, but not at this time. I believe 60 percent of positions are required to be decentralized. That's all I know. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Decentralization Action Plan indicates that an overall goal of the government is to maintain 60 percent of all public service jobs outside of Iqaluit. In the event where government jobs are or may be taken out of communities, how does the government intend to

maintain the 60 percent decentralization level? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Eva Aariak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, the executive office's task was done in initiating the decentralization functional review and it has been passed onto the Department of Human Resources for the action plan. The Department of Human Resources will have those statistics and so on in working with the action plan. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Madam Premier. Again, can I just ask you if you are redirecting that question to the Minister responsible for Human Resources? Madam Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think, at this time, the Minister of Human Resources would be the best person to respond to that if she has the information right now and, if not, she will tell you when. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Madam Premier. The question has been redirected to the Minister of Human Resources. Minister Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Department of Human Resources will coordinate implementation of an action plan formulated from the recommendations of a functional review of decentralization tabled as part of the commitment to strengthen the public service in

Tamapta: Building Our Future Together.

Once the action plan is developed, it will be presented to cabinet for consideration. There are about 29 recommendations in the action plan, covering a number of critical areas, including things as follows:

- Improving structures and supports for decentralized public service;
- Building capacity and capability to delivering programs and services;
- Addressing the issues in at-risk decentralized functions;
- Promoting Inuit employment; and
- Practising Inuit societal values.

At this time, I do not have an exact number that the member is seeking. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 390 – 3(3): Minimum Wage Rate in Nunavut

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Justice.

Earlier this week, the minister tabled his department's statutorily-required annual report on the minimum wage rate in Nunavut. For the benefit of Nunavummiut who are following our proceedings today, can the minister indicate what his department's report concluded? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. I think the member has the report in front of him too, but the report basically concludes that the minimum wage in Nunavut is \$11 an hour and it has comparisons across other jurisdictions across the country. Nunavut has the highest minimum wage. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister indicate if his department has been able to determine approximately how many residents of Nunavut are employed in jobs that pay only minimum wage? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Mr. Speaker, that would be quite an undertaking to have done that and no, we do not have that information at present. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A major theme of our current sitting has been how to address poverty in Nunavut and help our constituents face the high cost of living in Nunavut. Although Nunavut's minimum wage is the highest

in Canada, I have a hard time seeing how anyone could support a family up here on \$11 an hour.

In 2010, the Legislative Assembly approved amendments to the *Labour Standards Act* to increase the minimum wage to \$11 per hour. Can the minister indicate when he plans to introduce legislation to increase the minimum wage? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my understanding the minimum wage is set using certain criteria, that is, cost of living, inflation rates, and other information that is used standard across the country. That information is reviewed annually and when an increase is warranted and reach a threshold, that would be looked at. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for that reply. As I mentioned earlier, I sometimes wonder how people actually are able to maintain a household at minimum wage. Within the public service, if you're a Government of Nunavut employee, you receive your northern settlement allowance, which, in some cases, the per-hour breakdown for your settlement allowance is actually more than what the minimum wage is. So we have residents out there across the territory who are living off of very little. So I would ask if the minister could commit to seriously looking into this issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As costs of living go up across the country, especially in Nunavut too, we're always looking into this issue and considering what a fair minimum wage would be. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Pangnirtung, Mr. Oshutapik.

Question 391 – 3(3): Crime Prevention

Mr. Oshutapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Justice.

(interpretation ends) One of the priorities in the Government of Nunavut's *Tamapta* Action Plan is the development of a "comprehensive crime prevention strategy based on Inuit societal values and involving Nunavummiut in efforts to reduce the need for intervention by the justice system." Can the minister tell us when he will be tabling the government's comprehensive crime prevention strategy in the Legislative Assembly? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Oshutapik.
Minister of Justice, Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have no final dates that I can commit to the member on when that document will be tabled, but it will be as soon as it's complete. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Oshutapik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I noted in my Member's Statement, there have been a number of break-ins and incidents of vandalism occurring in Pangnirtung. Earlier in our sitting, we learned that the government has been working with the Municipality of Pond Inlet to address vandalism at the airport. Can the minister indicate if the government would be open to working with the Municipality of Pangnirtung to address security needs in the community? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Oshutapik.
Minister of Justice, Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for his question and concern in Pangnirtung. I can assure this House that not only the Department of Justice but the government as a whole is very concerned about crime prevention in all communities. Funding is provided through community justice committees to prioritize their needs, views, and priorities in each one of their communities in regard to crime prevention.

However, I would like to state that this is not, again, an individual thing or process that we go through with crime prevention. It involves all of us, I think; the RCMP, the hamlet, the community justice committees, but first and foremost, again I think it comes to families. Crime prevention needs to start at home. Families need to take ownership and responsibility of crime prevention and educate their children on

what is right and what is wrong. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Oshutapik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for the response to my question. In my Member's Statement, I spoke about the importance of partnerships between all levels of government and the community. On March 9 of last year, the Minister of Justice tabled in the Legislative Assembly a copy of the 2010-11 annual shared directional statement between the GN and the RCMP. This important document outlines joint priorities in areas such as crime prevention. When will the minister table this year's shared directional statement with the RCMP? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Oshutapik. Minister of Justice, Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again I don't have timelines, but I assure the member that when we have information that we do work with the RCMP, I will table it at the appropriate time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Oshutapik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last year's shared directional statement between the GN and the RCMP identified crime prevention as being a priority. Can the minister highlight the major accomplishments that have taken place in the area of crime

prevention? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Oshutapik. Minister of Justice, Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I stated previously, in each and every community, priorities are different in crime prevention and what the communities would like to see delivered to the community. I know there has been work done by community justice committees in each community to deliver awareness and education in schools. Also, the RCMP has been participating in that type of process. So there is information and the crime prevention program is going on in communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 392 – 3(3): Complaints to Health and Social Services

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In this House, Mr. Speaker, most members don't like to just bring out negative topics. Nonetheless, whenever questions or information requests that our constituents relayed to us aren't addressed, we have no choice but to bring them out in the open.

I have a question to the Minister of Health and Social Services, if he is paying attention.

The Member for Tununiq, my esteemed colleague, asked about the complaints process and how concerns were dealt with and that all members face this challenge. Yes, absolutely, when we

were deliberating the budget within the House, there was even a motion made in the House directing the Minister of Health and Social Services to investigate the medical travel issue. We receive numerous concerns.

I want to ask the minister this question. Even though we lodge complaints to the appeals body, we don't get heard by the deputy minister or even by the regional offices in Cambridge Bay, Rankin Inlet, or Iqaluit. Are they paying attention? If people have complaints to us, are they being forwarded, Mr. Speaker? Thank you.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Ningark for his question. If a complaint comes to an MLA, you can forward it to the executive director of the regional offices or you can forward it to me, but I'll make sure it gets to the right people to deal with it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that response. We have tried to utilize the complaints process, as the minister outlines, but it seems as if it's a waste of time.

Mr. Speaker, as you know, if you sleep in a hotel, there is a hospitality survey card that you can fill about your stay. Perhaps we should institute those kinds of hospitality survey cards in Edmonton, Yellowknife, Iqaluit, Ottawa, Winnipeg,

and any place where medical patients travel to. If these became something standard and addressed to the minister's office or to us as MLAs, perhaps we would finally see improvements.

As it is, we don't seem to be heard. Perhaps hospitals and boarding homes can make these hospitality cards available that patients can choose to fill out or not. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate Mr. Ningark's concern for his constituents and all Nunavummiut on medical travel. Mr. Speaker, as I indicated to the member for Pond Inlet, our staff is reviewing the process and I'm sure they have taken note of your suggestion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Ningark: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My second supplementary, I think my colleague, Mr. Enook, indicated that every other MLA on this side of the table knows that constituents come to our offices, we talk with people at the airports, and they complain about the treatment they receive in different medical centres and boarding homes, and such.

I'm wondering, perhaps I hope that the hon. minister will ensure that we can complain. When we get complaints, we bring them up in the House. Sometimes

we communicate with different regional centres, but we don't get anywhere at all. What can we do to ensure that when our constituents are complaining, we get communication from the minister that the complaint is being corrected? What can we do? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I indicated to Mr. Ningark, all MLAs, if they are concerned about the process or complaints not being addressed, can give me a phone call, email me, and come meet me at my office. I know Mr. Ningark has contacted me many times over the years on behalf of his constituents, as well as most of the other members.

We do take every complaint very seriously and we work very hard to address them. I apologize if we can't get back to the members within 24 to 48 hours, but sometimes they're very complex issues and you have to talk to the people who are on the frontlines to find out what happened. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 393 – 3(3): Safety of Medical Travellers

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to give thanks to the individual from whom we heard last week about the pilot smelling of alcohol. I think it was the security guard at the airport who noticed that pilot,

according to news reports. I think we have to talk about this.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I have a question to the Minister of Health and Social Services.

I think it's important that we acknowledge the important issue of security of passengers, particularly medical passengers from Pangnirtung and Qikiqtarjuaq, who were likely on the plane en route from medical facilities, either from south or from Iqaluit.

So my question to the minister is: what, if any, has the minister communicated with the largest, over 50 percent of the market share of the medical passenger carrier under contract with GN, that the minister may have expressed concern for the breach of security of the passengers while having a pilot under the influence of alcohol? Has the minister communicated his concern with Canadian North? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The only information I have on it are the emails that I get and I think all members get through a representative of the Canadian North Airlines. They dealt with the issue swiftly within their policy. I don't have intimate details of how they dealt with it. I assure Mr. Curley that the airline took swift action, not only just for medical patients but for all travelling public. I don't have any details on the individual or what he or she was doing other than what the airline provided. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think we should be alarmed as a government. That particular airline has, I believe, more than 50 percent market share of the scheduled medical passenger contract. Therefore, we should be concerned that this may not have been the last one. I'm sure there have been other cases that may have happened.

Therefore, will the minister, as the minister responsible for implementing the contract or at least having the responsibility for having a safe and secure airline passenger obligation with Canadian North, communicate with them to ensure that you are troubled by this incident? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Curley for his concern. Mr. Speaker, Canadian North, First Air, and many airlines and private airlines in the north fly I don't know how many thousands of trips per year. This is the very first incident that I have heard of this in Nunavut. I don't know if it's a full-blown epidemic, as he is alluding to and suggests has happened in the past. This is the first time I have heard it. Our department is concerned. We have a contract with both major airlines. I'm sure the concern will be communicated through the proper channels. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate that. I think that the proper channel, Mr. Speaker, is the minister responsible for enforcing scheduled medical contracts, who is the Minister of Health and Social Services.

The safety of medical passengers coming from Ottawa or Iqaluit to those two communities was compromised and was in danger. Correctly, I think the security official was able to properly report it to the officials. So therefore, I think the minister has a responsibility whether to continue with that contract in view of the fact that it was breached. The minister has an option, in view of the fact that it was defaulted, that he will cancel the contract with Canadian North. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Curley again for his concern for all medical travel patients. I'm sure he speaks, of course, for all travellers in Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, as I said earlier, we don't have the details. It was reported through the media. Canadian North Airline has assured us that they have taken prompt action. They did their internal investigation. We understand that Transport Canada's aviation enforcement folks are looking at it. The RCMP is investigating it. So everybody is taking it... . Some of the top regulatory agencies in Canada are reviewing it.

I don't think it warrants a minister to write a letter and cancel the contract. If it

came to that based on one incident that's being reviewed internally, and then by the RCMP, I don't know what we do. What happens if another incident like that happens at the other airline? We would then have two airlines that we would have to cancel contracts with. What will we do for medical travel for Nunavut?

So, Mr. Speaker, I can assure the member that we take it very seriously. Everybody is taking it very seriously. Through the proper channels, we will communicate to the airline that we are concerned. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would think that the minister would be more aware in view of the fact that my colleague from Akulliq already indicated, that we're not getting any proper responses from the Minister of Health and Social Services.

This is not a fuzzy issue. You have a contract with an airline service to ensure safety, that medical passengers are brought to communities safely, and in the most comfort, if at all possible. The contract has been breached. Will the minister at least indicate to this House that he will communicate his concerns as a first notice to that airline that you are not satisfied with the performance of that contract, as they have indicated they would do so within the contract? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Mr. Speaker, thank you again to Mr. Curley. Mr. Speaker, as I indicated earlier, through the contract process, we will address the issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Motion 032 – 3(3): Motion to Extend Question Period

Mr. Enook: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) Pursuant to Rule 39(7), I move, seconded by the Member for Rankin Inlet North, that question period be extended [for 30 minutes]. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Enook. The motion is in order. To the motion. All those in favour. Any opposed?

Thank you, Members. Maybe I can just ask members to raise their hands again; I might have missed somebody. All those in favour. All those opposed. The motion is defeated.

We will move on as the time allotted for question period has expired. Moving on in our orders of the day. Item 7. Written Questions. Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Item 10. Petitions. Item 11. Responses to Petitions. Item 12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters. Mr. Ningeongan.

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

**Committee Report 023 – 3(3): Bill 39,
An Act to Amend the Judicature
Act**

Mr. Ningeongan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to report that Bill 39, *An Act to Amend the Judicature Act*, has been reviewed by the Standing Committee on Legislation and that the bill is ready for consideration in Committee of the Whole.

Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to waive Rule 68(6) and have Bill 39 immediately moved into Committee of the Whole. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. The member is seeking unanimous consent to waive Rule 68(6) so that Bill 39 can be referred immediately to Committee of the Whole. There's a nay, so unanimous consent has not been granted.

Item 12. Report of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters.
Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Minister responsible for Economic Development and Transportation, Minister Taptuna.

Item 13: Tabling of Documents

**Tabled Document 205 – 3(3):
Government of Nunavut's
Uranium Policy Statement**

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table the Government of Nunavut's Uranium Policy Statement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Minister

of Community and Government Services, Minister Kusugak.

**Tabled Document 206 – 3(3): FPT
Report on the Meeting of
Ministers Responsible for
Emergency Management in
Victoria, BC May 2012**

**Tabled Document 207 – 3(3): Office of
the Fire Marshal's 2011 Annual
Report**

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table two documents.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to table the FPT Report on the Meeting of Ministers responsible for Emergency Management in Victoria, BC, May 2012.

Also, Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to table the Office of the Fire Marshal's 2011 Annual Report. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Minister of Health and Social Services and Finance, Minister Peterson.

**Tabled Document 208 – 3(3):
Presentation to the United Nations
on Achieving Sustainable Food
Security in Nunavut**

**Tabled Document 209 – 3(3): Public
Agencies Council's 2012-2013
Annual Letters of Expectation**

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have two documents I would like to table today.

I am pleased to table the presentation to the United Nations on “Achieving Sustainable Food Security in Nunavut.”

I am pleased to table the Public Agencies Council’s 2012-13 Annual Letters of Expectation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Peterson. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Minister responsible for Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, Madam Premier.

**Tabled Document 210 – 3(3):
Government of Nunavut’s Public
Forum on Uranium, Summary
Report**

Hon. Eva Aariak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table the Government of Nunavut’s Public Forum on Uranium, Summary Report. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, Madam Premier. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Minister of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth, Minister Arreak.

**Tabled Document 211 – 3(3): Nunavut
Lottery Financial Statements for
2010**

Hon. James Arreak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table the Nunavut Lottery Financial Statements for 2010. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Arreak. 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 40 – Representative for Children
and Youth Act – First Reading**

Hon. Eva Aariak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Arviat, that Bill 40, *Representative for Children and Youth 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 40 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. Minister’s Statement 155 – 3(3).

Before we proceed to Committee of the Whole, we will take a 20-minute break, and Mr. Enook will be in the Chair. Thank you.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House recessed at 16:52 and
Committee resumed at 17:14*

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

Chairman (Mr. Enook): Thank you. I would now like to call the committee meeting to order. In Committee of the Whole, we have the following item to

deal with: Minister's Statement 155 – 3(3). What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We wish to deal with Minister's Statement 155 – 3(3). Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Is the minister prepared to deal with Minister's Statement 155 – 3(3)? Minister Arreak.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At this time, we are not prepared to deal with this item. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Arreak. The minister has indicated that he is not prepared to address this matter, so I will now rise to report progress. Thank you.

Speaker: *Qujannamiik*, Sergeant-at-Arms. Moving right along with our orders of the day. Item 20. Report of the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Enook.

Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Mr. Enook: *Qujannamiik*, Mr. Speaker. There is no report from Committee of the Whole. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Enook. 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 of a meeting of the

Standing Committee on Legislation at nine o'clock in the Nanuq Boardroom.

Orders of the Day for June 7:

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 40
19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
 - Minister's Statement 155 – 3(3)

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. Before I adjourn for the day, I would just like to ask all members... . When I go out, I'm going to place the *Orders of the Day* for today out there and I would like to ask all members to sign it as a little token of appreciation and showing, I think, the only person who has been to all 500 sitting days, our Clerk, Mr. Quirke.

>>*Applause*

So I would like to ask all members to sign it for him.

This House stands adjourned until Thursday, June 7, at 1:30 p.m.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 17:19*

