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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Speaker

Hon. Hunter Tootoo

(Iqaluit Centre)

Hon. Eva Aariak

(Iqaluit East)

*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 and Heritage;
Minister of Environment; Minister of
Languages; Minister responsible for the
Utility Rates Review Council*

Moses Aupaluktuq

(Baker Lake)

Tagak Curley

(Rankin Inlet North)

Hon. Monica Ell

(Iqaluit West)

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

Ron Elliott

(Quttiktuq)

Joe Enook

(Tununiq)

Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole

Hon. Lorne Kusugak

(Rankin Inlet South – Whale Cove)

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

John Ningark

(Akulliq)

Johnny Ningeongan

(Nanulik)

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

Hezakiah Oshutapik

(Pangnirtung)

Hon. Keith Peterson

(Cambridge Bay)

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

Allan Rumbolt

(Hudson Bay)

Hon. Fred Schell

(South Baffin)

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*

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Hansard Production
Innirvik Support Services

Box 1200

Iqaluit, Nunavut, X0A 0H0

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

Website: www.assembly.nu.ca

Table of Contents

Opening Prayer.....	3070
Ministers' Statements	3070
Members' Statements	3073
Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery.....	3080
Oral Questions.....	3081
Tabling of Documents	3099
Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters	3100
Report of the Committee of the Whole	3126
Orders of the Day	3126

A.

Daily References

Tuesday, October 30, 2012.....3070

B.

Ministers' Statements

199 – 3(3): Inuit Language Program Training and Official Languages Act Initiatives (Ell)3070
200 – 3(3): Polar Bear - CITES (Arreak)3070
201 – 3(3): Iqaluit Airport P3 Project (Taptuna).....3071
202 – 3(3): Governor General Medals for Firefighters (Kusugak).....3072
203 – 3(3): Influenza Campaign (Peterson)3073

C.

Members' Statements

327 – 3(3): Inuit Traditional Food for Medical Travellers (Ningark)3074
328 – 3(3): Family Violence and Sexual Abuse: Time to Stop the Silence (Aupaluktuq).....3074
329 – 3(3): Finding Solutions, Finding Space (Rumbolt)3075
330 – 3(3): The Lack of Essential Social Services (Tapardjuk).....3076
331 – 3(3): Congratulations to Pagnirtung's Long-Serving Volunteer Firefighters (Oshutapik)
.....3077
332 – 3(3): Nunavut Tourism AGM Delegates (Ell).....3077
333 – 3(3): Strengthening the Public Service (Enook).....3078
334 – 3(3): Congratulating Nanulik's 2012 Graduates (Ningeongan)3079
335 – 3(3): Correspondence from Young Constituents (Curley)3079

D.

Oral Questions

442 – 3(3): Inuit Traditional Food for Medical Travellers (Ningark)	3081
443 – 3(3): Status of the Ilagiitsiarniq Family Violence Prevention Strategy (Aupaluktuq)	3083
444 – 3(3): Youth Centres in Nunavut Communities (Curley)	3086
445 – 3(3): Planning Community Specialist Visits (Enook)	3088
446 – 3(3): Fire Prevention Initiatives (Oshutapik).....	3090
447 – 3(3): Suicide Prevention Action Plan (Elliott)	3091
448 – 3(3): Lack of Essential Social Services (Tapardjuk)	3093
449 – 3(3): Strengthening the Public Service (Enook).....	3096

E.

Tabling of Documents

259 – 3(3): 2009-2010 Annual Report for Nunavummit Kiglisiniartiit (Aariak).....	3099
260 – 3(3): 2010-2011 Annual Report for Nunavummit Kiglisiniartiit (Aariak).....	3099
261 – 3(3): 2011-2012 Annual Report for Nunavummit Kiglisiniartiit (Aariak).....	3099
262 – 3(3): Uqausivut Plan – The Comprehensive Plan Pursuant to the Official Languages Act and the Inuit Language Protection Act 2012-2016 (Arreak)	3099
263 – 3(3): 2009-2011 Annual Report – Nunavut Human Rights Tribunal (Shewchuk).....	3099
264 – 3(3): 2013 Sitting Calendar for the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut (Speaker).....	3099
265 – 3(3): Report of the Integrity Commissioner to the Speaker Re: The Hon. Fred Schell, MLA (Speaker).....	3099
266 – 3(3): Speaker’s List of Outstanding Statutory Tabling Requirements (Speaker)	3099

F.

Committee Motions

011 – 3(3): Tabling of Community Allocations of New Public and Staff Housing Units (Curley)
.....3104

G.

Bills

Bill 41 – Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2013-2014 – Nunavut Housing Corporation –
 Consideration in Committee3100

Bill 41 – Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2013-2014 – Health and Social Services – Consideration in
 Committee.....3109

Bill 41 – Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2013-2014 – Economic Development and Transportation –
 Consideration in Committee3121

**Iqaluit, Nunavut
Tuesday, October 30, 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 Daniel Shewchuk, Mr. Louis Tapardjuk, Honourable Peter Taptuna, Honourable Hunter Tootoo, Ms. Jeannie Ugyuk.

>>*House commenced at 13:30*

Item 1: Opening Prayer

Speaker (Hon. Hunter Tootoo):

Qujannamiik, Sergeant-at-Arms. Before we proceed with today's sitting, I would like to ask Mr. Elliott to lead us off with a prayer, please.

>>*Prayer*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Elliott. (interpretation ends) Good afternoon, everybody. We will move on in our orders of the day. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Minister responsible for the Department of Human Resources, Minister Ell.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements**Minister's Statement 199 – 3(3): Inuit Language Program Training and Official Languages Act Initiatives**

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) As Minister of the Department of Human Resources, it is a great pleasure

for me to rise today to share our department's initiatives in support of the *Inuit Language Protection Act* and *Official Languages Act* to strengthen the teaching and learning of Inuktitut, Inuinnaqtun, and French languages in the public service across all regions of Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, we are pleased to report that Inuit language training will be offered in all three regions across Nunavut in 2012-13. Our language training will include both Inuktitut as a first language and Inuktitut as a second language and Inuinnaqtun language training.

In the 2011-12 fiscal year, we had 89 participants in Inuit language programs, 44 of whom were beneficiaries. In our 2012 offering, we had 13 successful participants completing beginner to advanced levels, 5 of whom were beneficiaries. *Nakurmiik*, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Ell. (interpretation ends) Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Minister responsible for the Department of Environment, Minister Arreak.

Minister's Statement 200 – 3(3): Polar Bear - CITES

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say "good afternoon" to the residents of Clyde River. Hi, Jimmy. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to my colleagues' attention that, once again, the United States has submitted a proposal to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species, or CITES, attempting to have

the polar bear up-listed. The proposal will be considered and voted upon at the CITES Council of the Parties, or COP16, meeting in March 2013. If this proposal is approved, it will restrict the export of polar bear hides and parts throughout the world.

Mr. Speaker, we do not support this proposal, which has no rational conservation basis nor does the World Wildlife Fund or TRAFFIC, the wildlife trade monitoring network. Canada has an effective system for managing polar bears which is founded on the principles of conservation. Canada's polar bear management system supports the sustainable harvest of polar bears, which remains an important part of Inuit culture and economy.

Our government, along with our partners at Environment Canada, NTI, and Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami, met with the US Fish and Wildlife Service last month in an attempt to educate them on the implications and negative consequences that such an up-listing would have on Inuit and to point out that the polar bear does not meet the criteria for up-listing. Our voices seem to have fallen on deaf ears.

Mr. Speaker, polar bear management should be left with the countries that have polar bears to manage – the signatories to the International Agreement on the Conservation of Polar Bears. The GN and Inuit organizations will continue to work with Environment Canada and the other Range States to oppose the US proposal at COP16. Once again we will work to ensure that our voices are heard and that the world understands that we manage our polar

bears well and sustainably. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Arreak. (interpretation ends) Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Minister responsible for Economic Development and Transportation, Minister Taptuna.

Minister's Statement 201 – 3(3): Iqaluit Airport P3 Project

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, colleagues, Nunavummiut, and Kuglukturmiut. Mr. Speaker, I welcome this opportunity to rise today before the Members of this House to update them on the progress of the Iqaluit International Airport Improvement Project.

As many of the members are aware, Nunavut's Member of Parliament was in Iqaluit in September to announce a \$77.3 million contribution to this project. This contribution came from funding the federal government has set aside to encourage large infrastructure projects under the P3 model. Mr. Speaker, without this contribution, we would not have been able to deliver this project, and I would like to thank the Government of Canada for helping move it ahead.

This past week, the three proponent teams that were short listed in the request for qualifications have been in Iqaluit for the project kick-off meetings. While here, I know those proponents have been meeting with local businesses, especially Inuit owned businesses, about the many opportunities that come along with this project.

These opportunities are important, but I would like to remind the Members of this House that this project is really about safety. The number of aircraft, vehicles, and passengers that come together at the Iqaluit airport are a serious concern. This major expansion of the facility is the only way we can be sure the growth we all know is coming can be accommodated safely, and the P3 model is the best way to fit this project into the Government of Nunavut's budget.

As you know, Mr. Speaker, large undertakings like this project do not happen without many departments pulling together, and I want to thank all the departments and individuals who have helped bring this project together. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Minister responsible for the Department of Community and Government Services, Minister Kusugak.

**Minister's Statement 202 – 3(3):
Governor General Medals for
Firefighters**

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day, Nunavummiut. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise today to inform the House of six firefighters from Pangnirtung who recently received the Governor General's Fire Services Exemplary Service Medal. It was my pleasure to present these medals on behalf of the Governor General of Canada, David Johnston, alongside the MLA for Pangnirtung and the Minister

of Human Resources at a medal awards ceremony held in Pangnirtung on Friday, October 26.

Mr. Speaker, the Fire Services Exemplary Service Medal honours members of Canadian fire services who have completed 20 or more years of service, 10 years of which have been served while performing duties that involve potential risks.

Five firefighters from Pangnirtung were presented with this medal to recognize their years of distinguished service: Larry Dialla, Robert Dialla, Jonah Akulukjuk, Norman Nowyook, and David Uniukshagak.

- Larry Dialla, a firefighter with the Pangnirtung fire department, where he has been a member for 20 years and 6 months.
- Robert Dialla, a lieutenant with the Pangnirtung fire department, where he has been a member for 23 years and 2 months.
- Jonah Akulukjuk, a lieutenant with the Pangnirtung fire department, where he has been a member for 24 years and 2 months.
- Norman Nowyook, a fire captain with the Pangnirtung fire department, where he has been a member for 27 years.
- David Uniukshagak, a firefighter, former captain and deputy fire chief with the Pangnirtung fire department, where he has a member for 29 years and 8 months.

Timusie (Tim) Dialla received his 20-year Fire Services Exemplary Medal in 1987 from Governor General Jeanne Sauvé. At the medals ceremony, Tim received an additional two bars to

accompany his medal to mark two additional 10-year periods of service he has provided to the Pangnirtung fire department. Tim has retired from the Pangnirtung fire department, where he was a former fire chief, and had been a member for an impressive 47 years and 5 months.

Canada's Exemplary Service Medals recognize the men and women dedicated to preserving Canada's public safety through long and outstanding service. These six individuals exemplify this dedication, experience, and excellence in fire services.

Together, these firefighters have helped to raise awareness in Pangnirtung about the importance of fire safety and are continuing to educate youth and adults alike on fire prevention at home and in the community.

On behalf of all Nunavummiut and Canadians, and on behalf of the Governor General, I would like to thank these six award recipients for dedicating their lives to making ours safer and congratulate them on this outstanding achievement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Kusugak. (interpretation ends) Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Minister responsible for the Department of Health and Social Services, Minister Peterson.

**Minister's Statement 203 – 3(3):
Influenza Campaign**

Hon. Keith Peterson: Mr. Speaker, I would like to inform all members that our 2012-13 Influenza Vaccination

Program is now underway at health centres across the territory.

Influenza is a virus that affects a person's lungs and breathing. It can be dangerous to young children and babies and our elders. Vaccination is the most effective way to prevent influenza.

Mr. Speaker, this vaccine is free for anyone who wishes to be vaccinated. Nunavummiut are encouraged to get vaccinated to help prevent infection or reduce severity.

I would like to invite all of my colleagues to join me in the lobby this afternoon where I will be getting my flu shot. I encourage all members to join me.

I want to encourage all Nunavummiut to get their flu shot this fall. It's an easy way to protect families and ourselves and friends from influenza.

Health and Social Services will be promoting the influenza campaign through public service announcements and posters throughout the territory to ensure that all Nunavummiut are aware of the benefits of free flu vaccine. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Peterson. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Akulliq, Mr. Ningark.

Item 3: Members' Statements

**Member's Statement 327 – 3(3): Inuit
Traditional Food for Medical
Travellers**

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to talk about *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit*. Since we have the Nunavut government, I just want everyone to believe in *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit*.

Years ago, people used to get sick, and they used to be asked by their family and friends whether they're eating the right kind of food for their body. Also, the person who is sick would get help from his family, a family member who does not live in the same community, and were given nutritious food for them to eat, whether that person who is sick is young or old. As a government, we have to believe in that.

Mr. Speaker, it was used today and a long time ago, and people would give them a certain kind of food to make sure that they get back to being healthy. Sometimes people get asked whether we are eating the right kind of food because sometimes there is no right kind of food anymore. So we have to believe in that. It has been our tradition for many years. The individual who was sick would feel better. If you eat the same kind of food all the time, there has to be variety.

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

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

Mr. Ningark: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my hon. colleagues. (interpretation) I thank you for letting me complete my statement.

Probably not every day, but once in a while, and I don't think I'm the only one, I ate something from yesterday and it didn't seem right. Say, for instance, if a person is in a boarding home... . During question period later on, I will be asking the minister of the boarding homes about the food that they eat. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Member's Statement 328 – 3(3):
Family Violence and Sexual
Abuse: Time to Stop the Silence**

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to speak about the issues of family violence and sexual abuse.

Mr. Speaker, earlier this year, Statistics Canada released a report concerning criminal victimization in Canada's three territories. Mr. Speaker, this report makes for shocking reading. According to Statistics Canada, just over one-third of residents aged 15 years and over reported being victimized at least once in the previous 12 months. Close to one-half of all self-reported incidents were violent.

Mr. Speaker, although the issues of family violence and sexual abuse are incredibly sensitive, I believe that we will not make any progress unless we stop being silent about them.

Mr. Speaker, I have been asked by many of my constituents to make it clear that family violence and sexual abuse is completely unacceptable. My constituents expect their government to make real progress towards implementing strategies that will reduce violence in our communities.

Mr. Speaker, family violence and sexual abuse cannot be allowed to remain hidden issues. In the same way that we have made progress as a society towards a more open dialogue about suicide and suicide prevention, we must confront violence and abuse in an open and honest manner.

Mr. Speaker, I will have questions for the government on this issue at the appropriate time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Rumbolt.

**Member's Statement 329 – 3(3):
Finding Solutions, Finding Space**

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning to the people of Sanikiluaq. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my frustration at the government's lack of progress in finding a solution to the overcrowded conditions at the Sanikiluaq Health Centre.

Mr. Speaker, I have addressed the lack of GN office space in the community of Sanikiluaq many times over the past four years. I have raised the issue in this House. I have brought it to the attention of the ministers. I have approached GN staff directly and held private meetings

to put forward suggestions and propose possible solutions.

Mr. Speaker, I recognize that the government issued a request for proposals for office space and got no response. However, it appears that no further efforts have been made whatsoever. It seems they simply stopped trying.

Mr. Speaker, when the Sanikiluaq Health Centre was first built, the population of the community was around 500 people. Today, it is closer to 900 residents. The health centre does not have the space within its walls to accommodate the health centre staff, the social worker, the mental health worker, and the home care workers. When outside specialists or doctors visit the community, the staff offices become patient rooms and closets become offices. Mr. Speaker, this situation cannot continue.

Mr. Speaker, the occasion is long overdue for this government to hold some round-table discussions on what solutions can be found to address this situation. Government officials need to seek out community input and ideas, ask for suggestions, and make a real effort towards finding solutions to this ongoing and growing concern.

Mr. Speaker, I have raised this issue many times. I sincerely hope that this time, the government is listening. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Amittuq, Mr. Tapardjuk.

Member's Statement 330 – 3(3): The Lack of Essential Social Services

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to say “good afternoon” to my constituents in Igloolik and Hall Beach.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the lack of adequate resources and services to assist and support Nunavummiut in dealing with overwhelming social problems.

Mr. Speaker, according to the Department of Health and Social Services, there are social workers assigned to every community. However, it is not clear that the individuals in these positions are available to assist residents with counselling and support. In too many cases, the energies and efforts of our community social workers appear to be focused solely on child protection.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to suggest that if more resources and supports were directed towards assisting Nunavummiut in addressing family violence issues, substance abuse problems, and mental health issues, such as depression, anger, and suicidal tendencies, then the focus on child protection would very likely be relieved.

Mr. Speaker, I am growing more and more concerned that without the appropriate counselling services. . . .

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

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Tapardjuk. The member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Are

there any nays? There being none. Please proceed, Mr. Tapardjuk.

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleagues. I really want to finish my statement.

Mr. Speaker, I am growing more and more concerned that without the appropriate counselling services and support mechanisms, parents and families will begin to act out in response. I fear for the social workers in these situations which can easily become volatile.

Mr. Speaker, the government has often spoken of the need to incorporate Inuit societal values and *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit* into its daily operations and policies. If ever there was an area which needs to take cultural roles and values into consideration, it is in the way we handle the care of our children.

Mr. Speaker, the mechanism of child apprehension or even the immediate removal of a woman and her children from a difficult situation is not our culture's way of resolving family difficulties. There needs to be ongoing counselling and discussion instead of such immediate and drastic action. The way of addressing a problem often determines its outcome. The current policies may be provoking an unhealthy response.

Mr. Speaker, I call upon the government to ensure that community social workers are able and willing to provide essential services, such as counselling and support to community residents. At the appropriate time, I will have questions

for the minister on this issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Member's Statement 331 – 3(3):
Congratulations to Pangnirtung's
Long-Serving Volunteer
Firefighters**

Mr. Oshutapik (interpretation): Good afternoon. Mr. Speaker, I thank you for giving me the opportunity to make my statement. I wish to extend a good afternoon wish to my constituents and my relatives who I have left behind in Pangnirtung.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, (interpretation) this has been talked about by the minister already, but I rise today to congratulate a number of long-serving volunteer firefighters in Pangnirtung, which was talked about by Minister Kusugak. I would like to congratulate the longstanding services that were provided by the volunteer firefighters in Pangnirtung. Members, please join me to congratulate those volunteer firefighters.

Volunteer firefighters put themselves at risk and it's important that we recognize their courage. They have been doing volunteer work for quite some time, but I will talk about these individuals and congratulate them. They are:

Tim Dialla, for 47 years of service;

David Uniukshagak, for 29 years of service;

Norman Nowyook, for 27 years of service;

Jonah Akulukjuk, for 24 years of service;

Robert Dialla, for 23 years of service; and

Larry Dialla, for 20 years of service.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, (interpretation) please join me in paying tribute to Pangnirtung's long-serving volunteer firefighters. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 332 – 3(3):
Nunavut Tourism AGM Delegates**

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to speak about Nunavut Tourism. I say "good afternoon" to the people of Iqaluit West. They will be meeting again from November 13 to 15 here in Iqaluit. (interpretation ends) Approximately 30 members from all three regions of Nunavut will be in attendance. Mr. Speaker, during the AGM, the Canadian Tourism Human Resources Council will be conducting a training seminar for the attendees.

Established in 1993, the Canadian Tourism Human Resources Council provides professionalism in the Canadian tourism sector. Skills training, upgrading, and certification are all core components of the council's mission.

Mr. Speaker, the council has created its own merit tourism training brand, which is the most comprehensive industry developed training available anywhere in the world. All merit products and programs are based on industry-defined standards and are recognized across Canada. Available for a wide range of occupations and experience levels, merit products include occupational-specific training, either online or in the wordbooks, as well as human resources and business tools for employees and businesses.

I know the Canadian Tourism Human Resources Council will teach many useful skills to the Nunavut Tourism AGM participants, but also that the CTHRC members will, in turn, learn many things from Nunavummiut they will meet during the AGM during their stay here in Iqaluit.

Have a great AGM, Nunavut Tourism delegates and enjoy Iqaluit.
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 333 – 3(3):
Strengthening the Public Service**

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to say "good afternoon" to the residents of Pond Inlet and Nunavut. I will try to read my statement in English.

(interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to add my voice to those who are calling for strong action to

address concerns about the management of our public service.

Mr. Speaker, it is critical that our constituents have confidence in the fairness of the government's recruitment and hiring process. As the Member of the Legislative Assembly for Tununig, I am concerned when I hear many constituents tell me that they do not have that confidence.

Mr. Speaker, nepotism in the government's public service recruitment process is utterly and absolutely unacceptable.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Enook: Yesterday, my colleague from Pangnirtung asked clear questions about how the government ensures that managers are not involved in hiring decisions involving their own relatives. Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, I did not hear a clear answer.

I call on the government to ensure that this very basic aspect of fairness be rigorously enforced in every department and Crown agency.

Mr. Speaker, it is essential that our constituents have confidence in the government's commitment to Article 23 and its enforcement of the Priority Hiring Policy.

Yesterday, my colleague from Pangnirtung asked clear questions about how Nunavummiut can formally raise concerns in circumstances where they believe that the government's procedures have not been followed. Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, I did not hear clear answers to this question either.

I call on the government to ensure that the process is clearly communicated to all employees in every department and Crown agency.

Mr. Speaker, I have used my time today to raise two significant concerns. I will continue to pursue these issues with the government on behalf of my constituents and I will be asking questions at the appropriate time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 334 – 3(3):
Congratulating Nanulik's 2012
Graduates**

Mr. Ningeongan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to congratulate the high school graduates of 2012 from the communities of Coral Harbour and Chesterfield Inlet in my constituency of Nanulik.

Mr. Speaker, there were 11 graduates from Coral Harbour's Sakku School and they are:

Kerri Ningeocheak;
Delilah Netser;
Donna Saimout;
Mavis Ell;
Becky Ottokie;
Maaki Nakoolak;
Naiomi Emiktowt;
Bernard Angootealuk;
Samson Gibbons;
Joey Angootealuk; and
Jupie Angootealuk.

There were six graduates from Chesterfield Inlet's Victor Sammurtok School and they are:

Abraham Kadluk;
Jordin Ippiak;
Thor Ittinuar;
Scott Sammurtok-Walters;
Darrin Tanuyak; and
Savanna Issaluk.

Mr. Speaker, I am very proud of these young graduates. They are examples and role models for all the youth in my constituency. I wish them success in their future.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the 2012 Nanulik high school graduates on their achievements. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 335 – 3(3):
Correspondence from Young
Constituents**

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say "good afternoon" to the residents of Rankin Inlet, as well as the general public listening in to the session throughout Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share with you the concerns of our youth and the type of assistance they would like to receive. In order to make this understandable, I would like to read the contents of the letter I received from a young person in grade 10 in Rankin Inlet.

(interpretation ends) Dear Tagak Curley,

I live in Rankin Inlet, Nunavut. I have lived here since I was three years old. I'm now 16 years old. I'm writing this letter to you because I believe Rankin needs a teen centre. The teens in Rankin don't have a lot to do other than sports. Kids are breaking into buildings and vandalizing them.

There is a lot of under-aged drinking in Rankin Inlet. That's a big problem because our brains are still developing and if the under-aged drinking continues, our brain cells will die and we won't be the smartest. I don't think you will be able to change the under-aged drinking right away, agreed, but a place for teens to go to and hang out will help decrease the amount of people drinking.

The teen centre would be a place for people to go to at reasonable hours when they don't have a place to go to hang out, to have some fun. At this centre, there would be or could be counsellors for people to speak and talk to when they need someone to talk about anything. With the teen centre, the teens will be getting into less trouble. There could be a number of events, including teen dances that could be supervised.

Mr. Speaker, I share the concerns and I will be asking for a reply on behalf of my constituent for that will form a reply to the young person. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Curley. Item 3. Members' Statements. Moving on in our orders of the day. Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Item 5. Recognitions of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Tapardjuk.

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are some people sitting immediately behind me and I believe they will be recognized. However, there is a Hall Beach resident from my constituency, Eric Tungilik. Welcome to the Gallery. Although there are many visitors, you are the only one I recognize. I would like my colleagues to welcome him to the Gallery, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Tapardjuk. Recognitions of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As Minister of Nunavut Arctic College, I am very proud and pleased to recognize and introduce the 2012-13 Foundation Year Program students in Nunavut Arctic College who are currently taking a course in politics in Nunavut. It's very fitting that they're here today.

I would like to recognize Amy Kalluk from Iqaluit, Eric Tungilik from Hall Beach, Kyla McConnell from Iqaluit, Margaret Mike from Iqaluit, Rita Kunilusie from Pangnirtung, Natasha Curley from Qikiqtarjuaq, Ooloota Kilabuk from Iqaluit, Nuka Fennel from Iqaluit, and Faith Ningeongan from Coral Harbour. Also with them is their instructor, Saa Pitsiulak from Iqaluit, I believe.

So welcome to you all and hope that you being at the sitting today helps you in your studies. Thank you very much.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. Welcome to the Gallery. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Pangnirtung, Mr. Oshutapik.

Mr. Oshutapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also wish to welcome the students who are visiting in the Gallery, particularly this individual who partook in the Youth Parliament several years ago. This program is still ongoing. This person acted in the role of the Speaker for the Youth Parliament, my daughter Rita Kunilusie. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Oshutapik. Welcome to the Gallery, Ms. Former Speaker. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Ningeongan.

Mr. Ningeongan (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like everyone to also welcome my daughter Faith. Thank you.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you. Welcome to the Gallery. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Moving on in our orders of the day. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Akulliq, John Ningark.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 442 – 3(3): Inuit Traditional Food for Medical Travellers

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also would like to welcome the students to the Gallery.

Earlier on in my Member's Statement, I was talking about the health issues when people are ailing and our bodies are no longer normal. The stomach feels this symptom. Alternatively, if we had medication, such as through an IV, then the stomach will notice that medication. If you've had surgery, then your stomach also notices that. This is part of our Inuit traditional knowledge. When something is wrong with your body, the person has to eat food that the body is most familiar with.

I want to direct my question to the minister, but if I am mistaken, please correct me, Mr. Speaker. Perhaps it should be directed to the Minister of Health and Social Services. This is with respect to the boarding homes that the government contracts for medical purposes. My question is with respect to the food service program. Is the type of menu that patients are to eat monitored by the department? The menu, I imagine, varies from day to day. So that is my first question to the minister. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If I understand Mr. Ningark's question correctly, the boarding homes are under contract through the Department of Health and as such, the

contractor would provide the food to the individuals. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you. My first supplementary question... . Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Since the government is responsible, I would like to know what kind of food they will be serving under the food service menu. Do you agree with the contractors as to what kind of menu they will be serving daily to the patients? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Ningark for the question. Mr. Speaker, when we contract the contractors who operate the boarding homes, we do ask them to serve nutritious foods to our patients. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also would like to thank the hon. minister for his response. Perhaps, do you monitor or have a close watch to make sure that the agreement is being abided by? I know that they're serving nutritious food. Inuit diet is different from that of the patients. Do you monitor to make sure that the contractors are serving to Canada's Food Guide? Thank you.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the member's concerns for the patients at the boarding home and the escorts. Mr. Speaker, being the Department of Health, we would ensure that the contractors serve nutritious foods. I know that most of the boarding homes also endeavour to serve country food to their guests when available. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the hon. minister. If there was a complaint coming from my constituency, where would they direct their complaint to under your department? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Ningark. Mr. Speaker, obviously, the first level would be to the boarding home. If they have a problem with the food, if there's a particular issue with a meal, bring it up with the boarding home executive director.

If that doesn't work, as we discussed the other day, we are developing and revising a patient travel complaints process. Until such time that occurs, there is a territorial patient complaints program in place where they can call individuals. I don't have the details, but

there are a couple of individuals they can talk to or if they get back to their community, their health centre, I'm sure the travel coordinators in each region would be pleased to take the concern and move it to an appropriate level.

As I noticed in the last 11 months as the Minister of Health, there are MLAs and ministers emailing me constantly. I get complaints and I redirect them to our officials and they will follow up as expeditiously as they can. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 443 – 3(3): Status of the Ilagiitsiarniq Family Violence Prevention Strategy

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my questions to the Minister of Health and Social Services, the Hon. Keith Peterson.

Mr. Speaker, according to its current business plan, the Department of Health and Social Services should have been well underway in implementing the Ilagiitsiarniq Family Violence Prevention Strategy.

In March of this year, the minister indicated to my colleague from Nattilik that he had sent the draft action plan back to the drawing board. In June of this year, the minister stated that he would be bringing the revised strategy to cabinet for review and approval. It is now the end of October.

Can the minister update the House today on the current status of the Ilagiitsiarniq

Family Prevention Strategy? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Aupaluktuq for the question and I'll be blunt with Mr. Aupaluktuq. As I told my colleague from the Kitikmeot in March and June, I have reviewed the 100 pages of what I call research documentation. It was supposed to be an action plan; I didn't think it was an action plan. I was not satisfied. I'm not prepared to put a strategy or action plan out there that can't be backed up with action. That's what we need in this territory, action on violence, not another document that's going to sit on the shelf gathering dust. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the response from the hon. minister. I'm sure a lot of our constituents will be eagerly awaiting what this government will be doing about this strategy.

Mr. Speaker, it is important that a strategy document as important and critical as one intended to curb family violence and abuse be a good quality product that can be understood and used. Can the minister clarify what elements of the draft strategy required changes and can he describe how the latest version is an improvement? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Aupaluktuq for the question. Mr. Speaker, as I said earlier, I want a document that actually will generate results. I looked at the document I received. I have asked the officials, when they bring it back to me, "Is this the best you can do?" And they keep telling me, "No, it's not." I have asked them to do better.

As I said, individuals, folks in the communities in this territory need an action plan that will accomplish what we are striving to accomplish. I don't believe in this territory that we're going to eliminate family violence, as all of us around this Legislative Assembly House know. Family violence has been with us for a long time. There are many factors; there's booze, there's intergenerational trauma, you can name it.

Having a strategy and action plan is not going to solve our problems; it will help coordinate efforts of different groups and agencies. There's the Government of Canada, Government of Nunavut, there are regional Inuit associations, and there are the hamlet councils, wellness groups and committees. Just because the government doesn't have an action plan and a strategy, it doesn't mean the people out there can't be working at it now.

Family violence starts at home. We've got to take steps on our own at the community level to start addressing these issues. If the people out there are listening in, look to yourselves first and then seek help. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank my colleague for addressing that as well, that it starts at home, but it also starts as a governing body. We have to initiate and implement these strategies, and I think it's a start, and what Nunavut would like to move forward with is building a foundation in creating a stepping stone on which we can move forward.

Mr. Speaker, one year ago, the amount of \$177,000 was transferred from the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs to the Department of Health and Social Services for the purpose of completing the Family Violence Prevention Strategy. Can the minister provide an update on how much has been spent towards completing the strategy to date and can he clarify how much more funding will be necessary to finally complete it? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When I first started as a cabinet minister or shortly after, I became the Minister of Justice. There was a strategy or action plan called the *Family Abuse Intervention Act*, which the government of the Second Assembly hastily rolled out and funded. There was an evaluation about a year later where the evaluation team hit the government hard and basically said that it wasn't working.

I had been the Minister of the Department of Justice at the time. I realized that there were problems. I went around myself and talked to people, the legal aid people, the RCMP, and hamlets and found out it was a well-intended document, but there had been a lack of consultations and there were no real measurable deliverables. I don't know how it's working to this date, but certainly as a minister, I strived to get it working. I know my colleague, Minister Shewchuk, is continuing that effort.

This government is cognizant of the fact that we just can't roll out strategies and action plans and expect things to change overnight. When I became the Minister of Health, I reviewed the document. I was not satisfied. As I said, it may have been rewritten that there was \$170,000 transferred, good, but that doesn't mean it was done. I have asked for it to be rewritten, looked at closer, come up with a strategy and action plan that will have the intended results. I hate to raise people's expectations unduly because when you raise expectations and you don't meet them, people are dissatisfied. We just set ourselves up for failure.

What I want to do is have a strategy and action plan and actually accomplish what we want to do with the action plan and strategy. I don't know what else I could say. Mr. Speaker, I am on this constantly with my officials to give me a document or something I can table. There's a draft, but I'm still not satisfied with the draft. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr.

Speaker. The hon. minister mentioned "measurables." I believe the "measurables" are seen and felt every day and we interact with them. Specifically, I would like to give thanks. I think we should give consideration as well to frontline workers, such as social workers, foster parents, nurses, RCMP, and teachers.

I think the fact that we are creating discussion as well as want to implement the strategy, it is a strategy that we should move forward collectively with. I think we should have it implemented as soon as possible to ensure that the most vulnerable residents are protected and for those who can't speak for themselves or who are reaching out and asking for help.

Mr. Speaker, I can appreciate that the minister wants to get it right the first time and it's going to be a very extensive as well as a very worthwhile cause to make sure that we use this to ensure that we are all protected. However, while the strategy is being polished, the most vulnerable residents of our territory continue to suffer. Will the minister commit to tabling the Family Violence Prevention Strategy before the end of the fall sitting? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Aupaluktuq. Of course, I can't say enough for frontline workers out there; the social workers, the mental health workers, the RCMP, and all the other people who work so hard in our communities to make our communities safe. As the Minister of

Health and Social Services, I get updates regularly from the communities about incidents that occur. Many of our social and mental health workers face verbal and physical threats in the communities. It's very hard for me to see that because they're there to help people; they're not there to hurt people. It's the same with all of our frontline people.

As I said to Mr. Aupaluktuq earlier, I only have a draft document, so I can't commit to tabling anything in this fall session. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 444 – 3(3): Youth Centres in Nunavut Communities

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the minister responsible for youth.

Many young people are saying that there has to be a youth centre where they can have discussions and interact with the elders. For example, I read a letter from one of the youth and it indicates that there's too much underage drinking because they don't have the support staff.

I would like to ask the minister if the government is considering the needs of the youth, especially youth centres or establishing youth centres. That's my question. Thank you.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thought it was being forwarded to the Minister responsible for Youth and Elders, but I couldn't agree with Mr. Curley more. There is a big need for more recreation facilities and places for young people to gather. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In reference to the letter that I read and another letter that I read last year, it states that the youth are saying there should be a youth centre where they could interact or gather after school because the schools are not available for after school activities for youth. Due to this reason, can the government indicate whether or not there are any plans to establish teen centres in the communities, as it would assist in crime prevention? I would like to ask if the government has any strategies towards youth or are the needs of the youth not even in the picture? Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister responsible for Sport and Recreation and Community and Government Services, Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank Mr. Curley for speaking to the youth issue. I totally concur with your assessment and I agree wholeheartedly with the youthful author of the letter. I know the author was speaking to the issue in Rankin Inlet. However, I believe all youth in Nunavut are voicing those

feelings that they require a teen centre in their communities.

We are working with the hamlet councils to identify the needs of their communities, such as arenas, gymnasiums, or drop-in centres. As hamlets identify their needs, our department will work with the hamlets to identify their priorities and to look at how they can meet the needs and how to ensure it can be included in their plans. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am very pleased to hear that. We have to put a priority on the youth because we're not only talking about the youth. There are other youth out of the school environment and I think we have to start planning. They bring up issues. Like he said, there's too much underage drinking. Their brain cells are busting because they are drinking under age. They're not developed yet. The youth of Nunavut need a future and we should be there to give them support. The government should have a strategy for youth. Could the minister tell us if there's a youth strategy within the government? Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister responsible for Community and Government Services and Sport and Recreation, Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In regard to recreation and leisure activities, there are more and more communities that are focusing on different sports activities

like basketball, baseball, and so on, but we also have to look at the non-sports activities and I'm sure that they're lacking... We're lacking on those types of issues.

I understand exactly where you're coming from and when I first became the minister for recreation... I will look into it and we will see what we can do about leisure activities or drop-in centres. My department will look at it and consider some of the factors that have been brought up. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understand that it's not going to take overnight. It's very obvious that we have left behind the youth, not only in leisure and gathering places, but in other areas. After school, they're just walking around town and some of them are just walking around late in the night.

There are a lot of departments that we can talk to, such as the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth, and the mayors of communities because I know they're very big on youth activities. I think it would help a lot if the government sets up a strategy. I'm sure you can work with the Minister of Finance, but could you give us an update on what kind of strategy your department might bring? The government has to work in partnership and with other entities. I urge the minister to give us an update, possibly in the winter session. Is that going to be possible? Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We shouldn't just be writing strategies. If there is an opportunity arising at the community level, they can take the initiative and start it and we, as a government, can support them. We can't only follow rules or strategies. We know that each individual community has initiated some activities for youth.

I know that during the Kivalliq Inuit Association meeting in Coral Harbour, they talked about youth activities being set up. In Rankin Inlet, there is a youth drop-in centre which is administered by the hamlet. I'm not exactly sure where it is at currently, but there are some activities happening in some communities, not all communities, only in some communities.

I can tell my colleague that we will look into it. I agree with you completely that the Members of the Legislative Assembly should be lobbying on behalf of the youth, including the Inuit organizations and the people out there.

I know that in Rankin Inlet, during the KIA annual general meeting, the president stated that she gets the youth together on a regular basis and have discussions with the parents and the youth, and so on. We hope to see those types of activities flourish at the community level.

As it goes forward, when there is an update available, I will do so. I can't tell you whether there's going to be an update for the winter session or not. If it takes too long, I'm sure that my

colleague will remind me. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Laughter*

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

Question 445 – 3(3): Planning Community Specialist Visits

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to go back to the Minister of Health and Social Services, the Hon. Minister Peterson.

Mr. Speaker, providing health and social services to Nunavummiut is an important issue across the territory. Specialist visits to communities for services, such as dental and eye care, are critical to the health and well-being of our residents. However, in far too many cases, the appointments fill up completely and many people are left to wait until the next visit, which may not be for another two or three months.

Can the minister clearly explain why specialist visits are not planned so that the specialist team stays in the community until every person who needs to be seen is seen? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Enook for the question. Mr. Speaker, I can't give a clear answer to that, Mr. Enook.

Mr. Speaker, non-insured health benefits pay for the eye exams and dental. We have contractors who are on contract to provide services to the communities and they have schedules that they work on. I know the opticians and ophthalmologists try to coordinate their visits. The appointments are scheduled three to six months in advance.

I know there are a lot of people in many communities who do need to see the specialists. The department makes a very concerted effort to make sure that all the people with critical needs do see the specialists when they are in the communities and, if not, if it's really urgent, I'm sure there are alternative arrangements available. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This issue has been raised on many occasions and by a number of my colleagues. After hearing the same concerns raised so many times, can the minister indicate whether he has ever asked his officials to look into the planning of specialist visits to Nunavut's communities and, if so, what improvements have been suggested? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Enook for the question and for the concern for the constituents in his riding and of course, all of Nunavut. Mr. Speaker, of course, I talk to my officials all the time. I am

aware that the dental contracts are coming up for renewal or extension or going out to RFP. I have asked them to look at incorporating clauses in there that would provide longer services in communities and better coordination.

I'm striving to push for the idea that the Department of Health and Social Services should be more efficient, more effective, see as many people as you can. I even talked to them about, rather than sending people down south, if we can use the Qikiqtani General Hospital, the operating room to bring, especially our younger folks in Nunavut, children... There's quite a backlog of kids who need to see a dentist and use the operating room up there. There are ways. It's just a matter of focusing our energies on finding efficiencies and effectiveness that reduce the waiting times and provide a timely service to Nunavummiut.

I assure my colleague and all members that Health and Social Services is very committed to providing good health care and programs and services to Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. From time to time, specialist visits to Nunavut's communities are arranged when people are not in town, for example, when we traditionally go out on the land. In those cases, if an individual is unavailable for an appointment because they like to go on the land, they lose their priority on the list and sometimes have to wait another year before they can get another appointment. Can the minister indicate

what steps are taken to ensure that an individual is not unfairly deprived of their right to timely services from visiting specialists? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Enook again for the question. Mr. Speaker, it's an interesting question. I think the individual and the department would have to work together to coordinate the appointments. If that individual has planned to be out on the land at a certain time when the dentist or eye doctor comes to town, I think they should let the department know so they can coordinate around that.

I don't think an individual, in most cases, would wait a year. I know that there are three or four visits by a specialist every year to communities. Every community, most communities receive 50 to 100 days of visits by specialists per year. So it's just a matter of making sure that the department knows if you will be in town or if you will be engaged in some other activity and they can work around that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 446 – 3(3): Fire Prevention Initiatives

Mr. Oshutapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for providing me this opportunity. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, my

questions today are for the Minister of Community and Government Services.

The current business plan of the Department of Community and Government Services indicates that one of its current priorities is to review and amend the *Fire Prevention Act*. Can the minister indicate what issues the department is looking at and what changes it is considering making to the legislation? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The *Fire Prevention Act* has to be updated and that's what we would be dealing with. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Oshutapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the minister for responding to my question. (interpretation ends) Earlier this year, the minister tabled the 2011 Annual Report of the Office of the Fire Marshal. The report indicated that a general level firefighting course was delivered in Pangnirtung last year in partnership with the Municipal Training Organization. Can the minister indicate approximately how many fire service training courses will be delivered this year across Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Government Services, Minister
Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you for asking that question. I don't have any figures to tell me how many courses will be offered within this year and there are courses being offered already. Once I find out how many there are, I will bring it up. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Oshutapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) The 2011 Annual Report of the Office of the Fire Marshal indicated that Nunavut suffered over \$53 million last year in fire-related damages. Can the minister indicate what new fire prevention initiatives his department has undertaken this year? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With respect to fire prevention and fire safety, this is an ongoing matter being dealt with here in Nunavut. These procedures are being drafted for the firefighter brigades to comply with, especially fire prevention and safety. These training courses are provided by the firefighters through written material as well as classroom presentations. This is to be aware of fire hazards. This program is ongoing this winter. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Kusugak.

Your final supplementary, Mr. Oshutapik.

Mr. Oshutapik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The 2011 Annual Report of the Office of the Fire Marshal indicated that 2,382 fire prevention inspections were performed across the territory last year. Can the minister tell me how many inspections have been performed this year in Pangnirtung? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't have that level of detail, in fact, in terms of how many inspections were done in each individual community available at this time. As soon as I get that information, I would be more than happy to forward it to my colleague. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 447 – 3(3): Suicide Prevention Action Plan

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Health and Social Services.

Could the minister confirm that the Nunavut Suicide Prevention Strategy Action Plan is being implemented as outlined in the action plan or is it one of the action plans that, as he stated earlier, is collecting dust? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Elliott for the questions. As in the matter of fact, Mr. Speaker, that particular strategy isn't collecting dust because I'm checking on it quite regularly to make sure that all the "measurables," all the timelines and everything else are being followed. It is a magnificent document.

Mr. Speaker, I have to say it's a very important document and this government takes suicide very seriously. It's no question that suicide is one of the most pressing issues in the north. I was up in Fairbanks in August 15 at the 15th International Health Congress. I learned from my colleagues over there from all the circumpolar countries that suicide is an issue in all circumpolar countries. So that wasn't particularly good news, but I learned that we can all work together on this.

I was very proud to tell my colleagues up in Fairbanks that we do have the strategies, action plan and we're implementing it with our partners, the RCMP, the Embrace Life Council, and NTI. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for that. Could the minister elaborate on some of the milestones or some of the tangible, measurable outcomes to date? Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister responsible for Health and

Social Services, Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Elliott for the question. Well, it's quite a long document here; you can see. Mr. Speaker, it covers a period of September 1, 2011 to March 31, 2014.

One of the tangible outcomes is we provided more funding to the Embrace Life Council. That was a recommendation. I can't point to the specific item in here, a clause that was done.

There has been more ongoing work on the Mental Health Strategy. We're doing an internal review of the *Mental Health Act*. We are having meetings regularly with our partners, as I indicated earlier, four partners, to make sure that everybody's engaged and working hard on this strategy and action plan. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In regard to the ASIST workshops that were supposed to be happening across the territory to help frontline workers and constituents to better understand and help deal with or talk someone down from suicide, I was wondering if the minister could update the House on how well those are being received with it being "Nunavutized," as it was described, and whether the workshops are being implemented across the territory. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Elliott for the question. Mr. Speaker, that program is going well. Nunavummiut, communities, and organizations continue to request the program.

I have a schedule of workshops delivered to date since April of this year, April 2012, to their most recent, September 26. I have a schedule of programs and workshops to be delivered in communities from September 26 this year all the way up to February of 2013.

The uptake on the program is going well. There have been over 600 Nunavummiut who have taken that program. One of my friends is a trainer. He was recently in one of the communities offering the training and he said that it is well received; people are very enthusiastic about the program. The more training we can provide, he feels, the better it will be.

Keep in mind, Mr. Speaker, the ASIST program is only a first responder. It only helps people identify or potentially identify the signs that someone's suicidal. It's not going to work in all cases. It is something the people appreciate, but it's not going to identify everybody who could be suicidal. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know, during the consultation process and the development of the strategy and action plan, NTI played a vital role.

Mr. Speaker, our government spends a considerable amount of money on the

implementation of the action plan. How much financial support does NTI provide? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Government of Nunavut appreciates and welcomes the support of all of our partners in this strategy and action plan. As I indicated earlier, NTI and Embrace Life Council are engaged with other organizations.

I can't provide a figure of how much funding everybody puts in, but it's not always about funding; there are other intangibles that organizations or individuals provide to this action plan. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 448 – 3(3): Lack of Essential Social Services

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the minister about the Member's Statement that I made earlier today. In my member's Statement earlier, I spoke of the need for community social workers to focus more on counselling instead of immediately resorting to child apprehension.

My first question, Mr. Speaker, is: can the minister clearly describe how many social workers there are in Nunavut and how many of these social workers are aboriginal or Inuit? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Tapardjuk for the question. Mr. Speaker, I believe there are over 40 social workers in Nunavut right now. I can't give him a breakdown between beneficiary and non-beneficiary at this time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The reason why I raised that question was to provide some background for the questions I wanted to ask.

Mr. Speaker, I understand the workload for the social workers is already full, which seems obvious to people who see the social workers in action. Can the minister provide more details as to whether social workers' mandates include counselling for families in crisis, to develop healthy families or are their mandated focus only on apprehending children? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Tapardjuk for the question. Mr. Speaker, the apprehension would be the easy part. However, that's when the social worker's job starts. That's when you apprehend a child, and then you start working with the family, the individuals involved, and the community on how to bring the family

back together and reconcile them. So that's when the social worker's job really begins, on the counselling side.

I know many social workers across Nunavut, many of them are my friends, and I know that they work hard to bring families together. It upsets them that they do have to apprehend children. Mr. Speaker, I don't know if my colleagues will recall, last year, in this Assembly, we had Madam Sheila Fraser, who tabled her 2011 report on child, youth, and family programs and services in Nunavut. It documented a lot of horrible things that have happened to our children out there in our communities.

It's incumbent upon us as politicians, leaders, and officials to support our social workers and support our communities to help our most vulnerable. That's why this government has decided to create the Department of Family Services, so that we have more focus on our families, our children, and our communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That was a cookie-cutter response. Indeed, in this House, we have continually heard the government line. Actually, our Nunavut residents are given this government's line that Inuit societal values will form the basis of the government's operations. They keep giving us this line to date, stemming all the way back from 1999, that *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit* will form the basis of government policies and operations.

Can the minister provide an update on the incorporation of Inuit societal values, as well as *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* and cultural and family principles, and when will these values be implemented into government operations? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Tapardjuk for the question. Mr. Speaker, we heard from Nunavummiut on the Child Welfare League of Canada in consultation with communities. We heard through the Knowledge Forum what people felt. We have read the Office of the Auditor General's report. We've had people involved in the establishment of the family services department. I have spoken to the new Deputy Minister of Family Services, Aluki Rojas, about the absolute necessity to incorporate Inuit societal values in the new department. I believe it will be reflected in the legislation that the department is currently reviewing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank you for allowing me another opportunity. Mr. Speaker, we all know that with Inuit best practices, counselling, and advice provision, along with improving one's self, is how Inuit traditionally corrected a person's behaviour.

Apprehension of children leads to anger towards the system. As per the minister's statement, their priority is to protect the child by apprehending the child from the family and the end result is anger towards the system. He further states that this will be part and parcel of the draft legislation.

Mr. Speaker, let me reiterate this question. In what other area can social workers provide assistance to dysfunctional families or those in crisis that lead towards child apprehension? How can we stop them from getting to that point? 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, under the current Act, there's an option to look at plan of care communities and community plan of care committees. I have sat on several plan of care committees in my community of Cambridge Bay where the social worker and the family members would come together to help the family. We make recommendations and then we support the family.

On a plan of care committee, there would be individuals like the mayor or elders or family members or anybody they know and trust who will support them. I believe this, again, starts at the community. I have seen many occasions in the past in Cambridge Bay where I come from where children were being apprehended and sent off to other communities, oftentimes down south. It's not a good situation.

Personally, I believe that children should remain in their own communities. It's where they have their friends, they know their schoolmates, and they've got their families. I believe in that. That's what we're going to endeavour to do when we start up the new Department of Family Services.

We will stick to the current legislation until we get the new legislation. It is going to be reflected in our new operation that families, children, and communities come first. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 449 – 3(3): Strengthening the Public Service

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In my Member's Statement earlier this afternoon, I spoke about human resources and in particular, hiring practices, which I want to raise questions about to the Minister of Human Resources.

Mr. Speaker, the people of Nunavut are very observant of malpractice, especially when it revolves around hiring public servants. We see too often bureaucrats simply bypassing the requirements they ought to follow. Many southern hires especially flout the system as they only hire their family members or their friends. People note these cases.

Firstly, I want to ask this question. We have seen cases where current employees are overlooked when a new position is advertised, although they may have worked for over a year or two.

They are qualified for the position, but they hire a person from the south. There are many cases where that happens, Mr. Speaker.

I want to ask first of all: when a position is opened within the Nunavut government, do they have to advertise that position, such as advertisements through the media? Do all positions require that they be advertised in the media? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, I will answer the first question. The government believes that they should have qualified workers in all communities. (interpretation ends) We believe in the highest standards of conduct among public service employees and that it's essential for maintaining and enhancing the public trust and confidence in the public service.

The GN must ensure that the possibility of conflict between an employee's private interest and public service duties is minimized. The Government of Nunavut is committed to building an effective and functional public service that is responsive to the public it serves with an organizational structure governed through integrity and values.

If members have specific concerns, I would like to recommend that they or their constituents inform me and I will have the incident investigated. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We hear that the Nunavut government believes in my statements about this issue. Why is it that there seems to be no enforcement of these policies? It seems the policies are continually abused.

I can cite examples, but this is not the proper forum for these types of examples, particularly when we are debating hiring practices and the lives of our employees. However, when we keep hearing about the abuse of the system, not all of the people who complain are lying when they talk about how the system is being abused. Not all of them are lying.

I want to ask this question to the minister: who determines that a position will be opened for advertisement? Let me get a response to this first. Is the manager of a department responsible for determining a position is required within their sole discretion or is a hiring committee responsible for opening these positions? Who makes these decisions? I want to understand that first, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Hon. Monica Ell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There's a priority hiring policy that gives priority consideration in the recruitment and selection of GN employees to Inuit beneficiaries based in the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement.

The new policy review included a second consultation with Human Resources, coordination and consultations with the Department of Human Resources regional directors, and directors of employee relations and training and development. A final priority hiring policy was submitted to cabinet in June 2011 and was approved. The new Priority Hiring Policy is posted on the HR website.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, we have given responsibility to the various departments, such as Department of Education, Nunavut Arctic College, and social services, for hiring those individuals for the departments. Qulliq Energy and other Crown corporations have their own way of hiring their employees within Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Enook: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) Perhaps I can ask the Speaker if I can use one of my questions as a preamble. I don't believe the minister understood my question. I was trying to ask a question in regard to the departments.

In departments, who decides to put out an employment opportunity? Who decides that they need a new position or if they need to hire anybody? Who decides that? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With respect to

employment opportunities in Nunavut, sometimes it can be very difficult to find out where the employment opportunity is coming from and who's applying, so I can't respond to that.

With respect to the human resource personnel, each department publicizes the position once it has been vacated, and it goes up the chain of command to determine which positions will be opened for competition. With respect to other positions opened in other departments, such as the health and social services department, this is the responsibility of that department and not of the human resources department.

I can't answer specifically that an overarching committee will deal with all opportunities, especially when it is difficult to decipher which position is being queried about. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I stated, there are many Nunavummiut who do believe and they have seen and they perceive that hiring practices have been abused, especially when managers are hiring their relatives. As I stated before, not all complaints must be a lie. If Nunavut employees are concerned and if they believe that there is cronyism happening, they should feel safe to make complaints. Where would they go to make a complaint? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Enook. Minister responsible for Human Resources, Minister Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) The GN applies the Priority Hiring Policy to all job competitions fairly and equally. All public servants are obliged to conduct themselves under the GN Code of Conduct and Conflict of Interest Directive.

If a member of a hiring committee discovers that a relative has applied for a job, that public servant must [excuse] themselves from evaluating that application to be involved in the interview process. If the candidate is screened in, the public servants must conduct themselves as required by the *Public Service Act* and regulations.

Beneficiaries and employees have appeal rights for job competitions through the staffing appeals process (BNC 13).

We can review any files that are brought to our attention, and I urge members that if they have heard of any nepotism going on, they must let our department heads know and/or they can let me know directly and I will have this investigated. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Ell. Members will note that the clock is indicating that the time has run out for Oral Questions. So we will move on in our orders of the day. Item 7. Written Questions. Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Item 10. Petitions. Item 11. Responses to Petitions. Item 12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Minister responsible for Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, Madam

Premier.

Item 13: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 259 – 3(3): 2009-2010 Annual Report for Nunavummit Kiglisiniartiit

Tabled Document 260 – 3(3): 2010-2011 Annual Report for Nunavummit Kiglisiniartiit

Tabled Document 261 – 3(3): 2011-2012 Annual Report for Nunavummit Kiglisiniartiit

Hon. Eva Aariak: (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table three documents, Mr. Speaker. The first document is the Nunavummit Kiglisiniartiit Annual Report for 2009-2010, as well as the Nunavummi Kiglisiniartiit 2010-11 Annual Report. The third document is the Nunavummi Kiglisiniartiit 2011-12 Annual Report. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Madam Premier. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Minister responsible for the Department of Culture and Heritage, Minister Arreak.

Tabled Document 262 – 3(3): Uqausivut Plan – The Comprehensive Plan Pursuant to the Official Languages Act and the Inuit Language Protection Act 2012-2016

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table now the Uqausivut Plan for the Implementation of the *Inuit Language Protection Act* and the *Official Languages Act*.

Mr. Speaker, there were two people who were very supportive, Virginia Lloyd from NTI and Maude Bertrand from the Office of Languages Commissioner.

Mr. Speaker, if anyone would like the copy of the report, they are also available from Leevede Attagoyuk. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Arreak. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Minister of Justice, Minister Shewchuk.

Tabled Document 263 – 3(3): 2009-2011 Annual Report – Nunavut Human Rights Tribunal

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have one report to table with two years of information. I am pleased to table the Nunavut Human Rights Tribunal's annual reports for 2009-2010 and for 2010-11. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Tabled Document 264 – 3(3): 2013 Sitting Calendar for the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Tabled Document 265 – 3(3): Report of the Integrity Commissioner to the Speaker Re: The Hon. Fred Schell, MLA

Tabled Document 266 – 3(3): Speaker's List of Outstanding Statutory Tabling Requirements

Members, I have three documents to table today. As required by Rule 3(2), I wish to table the Legislative Assembly's

2013 Sitting Calendar. Members will note that the sitting calendar contains information concerning the date of the next general election and the convening of the Fourth Legislative Assembly.

As required under section 44 of the *Integrity Act*, I am tabling the report of the Integrity Commissioner concerning the Member for South Baffin.

Also, I wish to table the *Speaker's List of Outstanding Statutory Tabling Requirements*. This list is current as of the end of the October 29 sitting of the House yesterday. Thank you.

Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Item 14. Notices of Motions. Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 16. Motions. Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Item 19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bills 41, 42, and 43 with Mr. Enook in the Chair.

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

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>House recessed at 15:30 and
Committee resumed at 15:57

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

Chairman (Mr. Enook)(interpretation): I would now like to call the committee meeting to order. Good afternoon. In Committee of the Whole, we have the following items to deal with: Bills 41,

42, and 43. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We wish to continue with Bill 41, *Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2013-2014*, and the Nunavut Housing Corporation, followed by the departments of Health and Social Services, Economic Development and Transportation, and, if time permits, the Department of Education. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Does the committee agree to continue with the review of the capital estimates for the Nunavut Housing Corporation?

Some Members: Agreed.

**Bill 41 – Appropriation (Capital) Act,
2013-2014 – Nunavut Housing
Corporation – Consideration in
Committee**

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Does the committee agree to bring in the minister responsible for the housing corporation and his witnesses?

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Thank you, Sergeant-at-Arms. Minister Taptuna, for the record, please introduce your witnesses. Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On my right is Mr. Alain Barriault, President of the Nunavut Housing Corporation. On my left, Lori

Kimball, Chief Financial Officer of the Nunavut Housing Corporation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Taptuna. I welcome your officials. We're just going to start off where we left off yesterday during Committee of the Whole. On my list, I have Mr. Ningark.

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I apologize, I forgot what my general comments were going to be and I have nothing written, so can you go to the next member? Thank you.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. From the minister yesterday and on Friday's meetings, it's becoming evident that Nunavutmiut need to hear more, and we'd like to see the completion of the construction of the staff units.

If you can identify the location, that would be most ideal. This \$5 million was going to Nunavut various, and they estimated that there would be 14 new units with this \$5 million at \$350,000 per unit. If it was a five-plex perhaps there would be three of them. Due to lack of information being provided, it was only estimated that each unit would cost \$350,000, so \$8 million would be used for 18 units.

The minister stated that the 22 units constructed under public housing. We do need the assistance of the minister, especially for those of us sitting on this side. If we're going to be approving the capital estimates, we would like to know

the location. I don't believe it's just members that would like to know the location of where the staff housing units will be. I believe that Nunavut residents would like to know where the staff housing units are going to be located.

Therefore, we're asking for the assistance and the help of the minister, but the minister stated before that he was going to have a meeting today. Can the minister update us on what happened in their meeting today? Thank you.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The meetings were conducted with the cooperation of the Human Resources department and these are preliminary agreements with the Department of Human Resources. One of the biggest we indicated that we're going to use the assessment needs for the staff housing most needed in Nunavut. We're looking at two five-plexes in Cambridge Bay. Currently, there are five vacant staff units, nine active competitions, and 103 vacant GN positions. According to the needs assessment, this is the highest priority.

For public units, Iqaluit, as usual, under the needs assessment, we're looking at two five-plexes. It has the longest waiting list and the highest waiting list percentage of stock at 50 percent. The highest being two-bedroom on a waiting list in Nunavut. The second location we have identified according to its needs assessment is Arviat at two five-plexes. It has the second longest waiting list next to Iqaluit and the second highest waiting list percentage. So we have identified these under our needs

assessment. The third community would be Clyde River at one five-plex. Of course, again, this would be the third highest waiting list percentage at 44 percent, again, for one- and two-bedroom units.

Mr. Chairman, this is just preliminary. There's still a lot of work to do on this, but hopefully this will be our guide. Having said that, this more or less takes away our opportunity and flexibility in pursuing other avenues of trying to find alternative ways to increase the housing units, but this is a list that we have come up with. I'll leave it at that for now, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is at least a bit of a step. At the same time, it was quite clear the minister appeared to say that he needs to do somewhat more work on the needs assessment after he had stated that we need about 900 staff housing units. I don't know whether that figure is credible or not if you're trying to convince us that you need to do a needs assessment to back that up or to prioritize it and whatnot.

What I'm not sure is: have you had a chance at all to consider exactly how you're going to approach the public housing allocation? What is required to provide backup information to the Committee of the Whole in order to justify the \$8 million that's not specifically allocated? So I think it would help the committee to know exactly what more work is required to figure out whether or not \$8 million is the right figure or not. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. (interpretation ends) Minister Taptuna, comments?

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, we have used the needs assessment and we're looking at these known estimates that have been used in the past. For a five-plex in Iqaluit, it's approximately \$2.1 million. In Arviat, we know the estimates in building a five-plex is \$1.9 million and in Clyde River, it is \$2 million for a five-plex. Again, these are well-documented facts that the housing corporation has and again, this is based on the needs assessment of overcrowding that we have this data on and the waiting lists that we use for evaluating where the next allotment is going to be. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you. Mr. Chairman, there are a number of locations in Nunavut, including Iqaluit, Rankin Inlet, and Cambridge Bay, that are considered at least with a strong enough market to acquire apartment units and units for private housing. In places like Iqaluit, there's tremendous growth here with the apartments being built which are on the market. They're looking for tenants. Still, the government's only priority is to build their own units here. The priorities appear to not be the right approach because here, you have the biggest market of surplus housing, surplus apartment units, and they're looking for commercial. They're not looking for individual tenants.

Can the minister or his officials explain why they were not prepared to just ask

for five extra units from the private market? Thank you.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As the member is well aware, in Iqaluit the housing market is one of the tightest Nunavut; in fact, in the entire nation. We're trying to maximize our allotted amount and as the member is well aware, we do have some identified lots that the housing corporation is able to use. If you check out some of the prices of these commercial houses that are available out there, they're at a tremendous cost to the housing corporation if they try to buy commercially.

Once a lot is acquired by the housing corporation from the city we do have to do something with them, build some kind of infrastructure on them, of course, the infrastructure being whether it's staff housing or a public unit. We're going to have to use that.

Mr. Chairman, I would like the president to elaborate a little more on the details to that answer. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Mr. Barriault.

Mr. Barriault: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The tenants and most of the clientele we have in public housing, as we've seen through our rent scale and the information we do have, 58 percent of all of our tenants currently pay \$60 or less rent. And so, most of our clientele are lower income Nunavummiut who do not have the means to rent on the private market, especially at some of the higher

corporate rates that are currently being made available.

That being said, we do know that Iqaluit has the longest waiting list in Nunavut currently. Also, the percentage of their housing stock, they need 50 percent more housing stock on public housing to meet their current waiting list. That is the highest ratio of waiting list to housing in all of Nunavut currently.

In terms of where we can build in Iqaluit, we're seeing building lots for multi-unit buildings being made available by the city in the order of \$500,000 for building lots. The Housing Corporation currently has some single family lots, which we are looking into the zoning restrictions to see if we can build our multi-unit style buildings, which are the most cost-efficient to build. So subject to this we are considering building in Iqaluit as part of the limited funds available through public housing this year. Thank you.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you. I think I understand the minister and what his official is saying. What the minister is saying, the way I understand it, there may be a huge surplus and existing pre-market built units out there but we couldn't rent them as a corporation and nor can we enter into an arrangement with the builder, as we haven't built them. The government prefers to build them and say now we own it. If we supply, ship and build it or contract it, the unit complete, 100 percent unit, then it can be transferred over to local housing for public housing.

What I don't understand is, why can't you lease a number of units from private builder or tender it, get the cheapest price from them, at least five or ten or fifteen public housing spaces from that apartment building built on lot A or B or C and let them compete and give you the best price. What's wrong with that kind of a scenario? Thank you.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Mr. Chairman, I'll have the Nunavut Housing Corporation experts and the president respond to that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Barriault.

Mr. Barriault: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Nunavut Housing Corporation is intending to do a request for proposals for design build structures. So we will get as much private sector involvement as possible in the construction of these units. As previously mentioned or stated to this House, we do not intend to be separating labour and material, as was done in past years. We wish to use general contractors as general contractors and take advantage of their expertise in that business to get at the best price possible.

The leasing of units, if we enter into long-term leases, will have an accounting issue and that they become deemed capital leases and have a direct impact on the debt cap of the Government of Nunavut. We have to be careful as to what kind of leasing arrangements we do consider because that will affect the government's

borrowing ability for other priorities. Thank you.

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

Mr. Curley: Mr. Chairman, it's certainly going to take time to gather that information, and that's going to take at least a couple of months to advertise, and so on, to put the RFP together, request for proposal.

In view of time, I think the other minister answers to have their budget considered by the committee. So I do have a motion that I would like to bring before the committee which would commit the information that the committee members are seeking, allotted time for the minister to consider. If it's okay with you, I would like to read the motion.

Chairman: Go ahead, Mr. Curley.

Committee Motion 011 – 3(3): Tabling of Community Allocations of New Public and Staff Housing Units

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move that this committee recommends that the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, in the interest of transparency concerning the government's capital expenditures, table a complete listing of the 2013-14 community allocations of new public and staff housing units on the first sitting day of the winter 2013 sitting of the Legislative Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. There is a motion on the floor. I will give you a brief overview.

Before we proceed with the debate in motion, every member has the right to speak once to the motion for a total time of 20 minutes. The mover of the motion speaks first. The mover of the motion has the right to the last reply, which closes the debate. To the motion. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Mr. Chairman, I will be speaking in Inuktitut.

We are pleased that the minister stated that it can't be done overnight during the debate yesterday. He would have to have debates with the third parties and decide on where these houses are going to be built. That's especially true with the staff housing. Of course, they have to have a dialogue with the other departments. That will go ahead.

It's approximately three months before the winter 2013 sitting of the Legislative Assembly, and I'm recommending that we table a complete list of the 2013-14 community allocations of public and staff housing units. There is approximately \$8 million that is going to be expended, and we want to know exactly where those houses are going to be located, and I'm sure there's a shortage of housing everywhere.

Especially and most importantly, we would like to see more details on cost; whether these houses are going to be contracted, and I'm sure that we will have further information for the 2013 winter sitting of the Legislative Assembly.

If this motion should go through, there will be more information being made available to the Members of the

Legislative Assembly and the general public. We have to ensure Nunavutmiut are aware of these expenditures and these are vast amounts we are discussing, to the tune of \$15 million currently under review, both for staff and public housing units.

That is the first part of my comments, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. To the motion. Mr. Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to request a five-minute break, please. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Does the committee agree to take a five-minute break?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): We will take a five-minute break.

>>Committee recessed at 16:20 and resumed at 16:27

Chairman (interpretation): I don't know if our equipment is the problem. Am I even on?

An Hon. Member (interpretation): We can now hear you.

Chairman (interpretation): You can hear me now? I am unsure if the bell is working to notify staff and witnesses. I don't know at this time. Even though that is the case, I will try to keep time for the members to ensure that the proper

time limit is observed. Alternatively, this is to ensure that I don't keep members from speaking to the matter.

I will work with our staff here to resolve this. To the motion. We will be dealing with this now that we have resumed our meeting. Thank you for returning. Are there any further comments to this motion? Mr. Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Is it ready? Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With respect to the motion, as a government, we have no concerns with it and we support our colleague who made this motion and we urge our colleagues to support it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Kusugak. To the motion. Mr. Ningark.

Mr. Ningark: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The principle of the motion is not an unreasonable request. Therefore, I'm going to support the motion. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Are there any more comments to the motion? Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Before this motion was presented, I had some comments written that I was going to present to the housing corporation. After the motion was presented, I think my comments are still sufficient, mostly to speak towards the motion, so I will read the comments that I have.

For the past two days, we have been debating the Nunavut Housing Corporation's proposed 2013-14 capital

estimates budget on staff housing and public housing. Members have raised many questions on how the proposed budget would be allocated. However, the Nunavut Housing Corporation has not been able to clearly identify how this money will be spent.

There's no doubt in our minds that there is more staff housing and public housing is needed throughout Nunavut. I would like to make it very clear that none of the members here want to stop the building of these additional housing units. The issue we're having is that the Nunavut Housing Corporation wants us to approve a large amount of money without providing details of how it will be spent.

If we approve such a budget as it is presented and Nunavut Housing Corporation comes back to this House in February with details on how this budget is to be spent, we will not have the ability to debate its decision because the budget has already been approved. If any other GN department presented a budget between \$5 million and \$9 million without clear details of how it will be spent, it would probably be deleted from the budget. Why should we make an exception for the Nunavut Housing Corporation?

So, Mr. Chairman, like I said, I wrote these comments before and I think they still stand as a comment of motion and I would stand in support of the motion. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Mr. Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to speak on

behalf of the motion there, too, Mr. Chairman. Before I always went through the Committee of the Whole here we discussed it through the standing committee.

In keeping with the recommendations of the standing committee and that *Tamapta* direction for Nunavut Housing Corporation in seeking innovative ways to deliver and increase to the number of units to Nunavutmiut.

One of the things that we try to do or are in the process of doing is maximizing the best value for the taxpayers' dollar. I am glad that we had been given this opportunity to where we could actually look at other innovative ways to try and maximize that budget we're allotted for much needed public units and much needed staffing units.

Mr. Chairman, the Nunavut Housing Trust and Canada's Economic Action Plan are nearing completion and there are no new federal funds that have been identified. Nunavut Housing Corporation requested funding for at least 90 just to keep pace with the population growth of Nunavummiut.

Of course the Government of Nunavut have many, many infrastructure needs beyond housing and, of course, the Nunavut government has many limited funds to be able to care of the infrastructure needs and housing needs for Nunavummiut.

Mr. Speaker, again, I've got to indicate that this was one of the first times and under the recommendations of the standing committee we were trying to find innovative ways to maximize the budget allotted towards that. Having said

that, as the minister responsible for the housing corporation my intention is to continue doing that, but I will surely support the motion that was put forward by the committee. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Taptuna. I have no other names on my list. I would like to ask the mover if he has any last reply, which will close the debate.

Mr. Curley: Yes. Thank you. I appreciate the cabinet's indication that they would support the motion and I would certainly hope that they would continue to support that kind of principle that we need to be transparent. Prior to asking for the vote that the budget presented must have at least backup material.

The minister says that he is trying to find innovative ways to find units to be built in Nunavut, but we don't know; we haven't gone into details. We haven't gotten any submissions either through of the standing committee. There has been a lot of discussion, including the advice from the committee members that there has to be innovative ways to build housing units involving, if possible, the private sector, but details have not come out yet. We have not had an announcement on exactly how the minister proposes to build units throughout Nunavut.

Mr. Chairman, I think we need to be mindful that this budget for the capital estimates is one that probably is the last budget, as was indicated a few days ago, for this current mandate that we have for Nunavutmiut. So it's really quite important that the details be submitted

before we issue a final consideration further.

I know we're going to probably have some comments on it when the details come out on exactly which communities will be allocated units for staff housing and for public housing. So we look forward to that and the minister will have an opportunity to make an announcement when we reconvene in the winter sitting.

So for that reason, I'm grateful for the support and I will be asking for a recorded vote on this motion. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. I will now close the debate on the motion and there will be no further comments. For my information, did you request a recorded vote? Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Yes.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. The mover of the motion requested a recorded vote. Therefore, all those in favour of the motion, please stand up and sit down when I call your name.

I will start with Mr. Curley.

Mr. Taptuna.

Mr. Arreak.

Mr. Shewchuk.

Madam Aariak.

Madam Ell.

Mr. Kusugak.

Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Ningeongan.

Mr. Ningark.

Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Tapardjuk.

Madam Ugyuk.

Mr. Oshutapik.

Mr. Elliott.

All those in favour of the motion, 16.
The motion is carried. Thank you.

We're on page J-3. Nunavut Housing Corporation. Branch Summary. Nunavut Housing Corporation. Total Capital Expenditures. \$28,841,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Go back to page J-2. Department Summary. Nunavut Housing Corporation. Detail of Expenditures. Total Capital Expenditures. \$28,841,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Do you agree that the Housing Corporation's capital budget is finished?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Taptuna, do you have any closing remarks?

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I do. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the committee members and my staff here for the support in getting the budget through. I know it's been a little difficult, and Mr. Chairman, we have to remember, when we first got into the government, we were in a difficult situation in dealing with the housing situation right from the get-go.

I appreciate the fact that there has been previous ministers that have contributed to dealing with the problems that we had a major issue with. We did, through the help of our colleagues, the Minister of Finance, the Minister of CGS and the cabinet members, where we did complete the units requested and built the much needed housing for Nunavutmiut.

I thank the members for all of their hard work, and I know it's been very difficult for the housing staff where there's a lot of criticism borne, again, some for a certain number of unwarranted, inherited things. I appreciate the fact that they have been working hard and I want to thank all the committee members, again. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Just before we move on to another department, Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses out.

We can continue. In Committee of the Whole, we will deal with the Department of Health and Social Services and the budget for capital.

I would like to ask Minister Peterson if he has any opening comments. Please go to the witness table. Minister Peterson, if you have any opening comments, you may proceed.

Bill 41 – Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2013-2014 – Health and Social Services – Consideration in Committee

Hon. Keith Peterson: Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman and members. I am pleased to introduce the 2013-14 Capital Estimates for the Department of Health and Social Services.

The department has a number of capital projects planned to continue the replacement and renovation of our aging health facilities. Almost 70 percent of the department's health facilities are 20 years of age or older. For 2013-14, the department is requesting \$24.6 million. I will briefly provide details of each capital project.

With the new Repulse Bay Community Health Centre nearing completion this fiscal year, the department will focus attention on the construction of the new community health centre in Taloyoak in 2013-14. The department is requesting \$15.7 million to commence the first year of construction of this two-year \$25.7 million capital project.

In 2013-14, the department will continue with the second year of the Baffin Regional Hospital renovations. As such, the capital estimates reflect the expected \$7 million in cash flow needed to complete the renovations. The construction contract was awarded to NCC Dowland Construction Ltd. in July.

In addition, the department is requesting a continuance of \$700,000 for minor projects and an annual increase to \$1 million for small capital from \$700,000 annually.

Lastly, the department would like to set aside \$100,000 for minor construction completion items for the new Repulse Bay Community Health Centre and \$100,000 to commence the design work for the replacement of the Qikiqtarjuaq Community Health Centre.

Mr. Chairman, I would be pleased to take questions. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson. Do you have a witness you would like to bring to the table?

Hon. Keith Peterson: Mr. Chairman, yes, I would. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Does the committee agree to bring in the witness?

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Thank you, Sergeant-at-Arms. Minister Peterson, for the record, please introduce your witness.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My witness is Peter Ma, Deputy Minister of Health and Social Services. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson. Welcome, Mr. Ma. Does the chair of the standing committee

have comments? Ms. Ugyuk.

Ms. Ugyuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to provide opening comments on behalf of the Standing Committee on Social Wellness as the Committee of the Whole begins its consideration of the proposed 2013-2014 capital estimates of the Department of Health and Social Services.

The standing committee notes that the department's proposed capital budget for 2013-14 is \$24.6 million, which is more than twice the budget approved for 2012-13. Members continue to note that the department's actual expenditures for past fiscal years differ considerably from approved budgets often due to carryovers, budget transfers, and delays in implementing plans. This situation can lead to confusion as to the actual status of planned projects and the amount of funding that has been expended on them to date.

Members of the standing committee have raised a number of concerns with the capital planning process. The government submits for review by the standing committees a five-year capital plan along with its draft capital budget for the fiscal year in question. Although funds are only allocated and voted on by the Assembly on a yearly basis, the proposed five-year plan often raises expectations at the community level for future year projects.

Members are concerned with the number of projects that have been identified on five-year plans and that are being pushed back and deferred until later years, occasionally no longer appearing in the plan at all. It is not clear how established criteria for the capital planning process

are being applied to prioritize projects. At the same time, many projects that have already been allocated funding are not proceeding according to schedule.

For example, less than six months ago, this House approved over \$24 million in carryovers for projects under the Department of Health and Social Services' capital budget alone. Despite the fact that progress on approved capital projects is clearly not proceeding as planned, new projects continue to be added to the capital plan. Standing committee members have expressed concern that current capital planning practices will overwhelm the capacity of the government to deliver projects in a timely manner.

Members recognize the Government of Nunavut's considerable investments in major infrastructure projects across the territory over the past decade.

Unfortunately, staffing, housing and training issues have resulted in a number of health facilities not being used to their full capacity. The standing committee supports the minister in his efforts to address these issues.

Mr. Chairman, the Department of Health and Social Services' proposed capital budget for 2013-14 includes funding for four infrastructure projects and two blocks of funding for minor capital and small capital projects.

The health centre replacement project for Repulse Bay is in its final stages while construction will begin on the Health Centre replacement project for Taloyoak. Two other health centre replacement projects are identified for future years funding, with planning

dollars allocated in 2013-14 to Qikiqtarjuaq new health centre project.

Mr. Chair, the standing committee was pleased to note the department's progress towards opening a new mental health facility in Iqaluit. Committee members look forward to regular updates on plans for this facility as well as updates on related initiatives being considered for the Kivalliq and Kitikmeot regions. Members note that the government's Tamapta Action Plan's commitment to open a "culturally-relevant substance-abuse treatment facility" still does not appear on the capital plan.

Mr. Chairman, the Department of Health and Social Services includes blocks funding for small capital projects and for minor projects in its 2013-14 capital estimates.

With respect to small capital projects, standing committee members recognize that many community health centres are aging infrastructures and occasionally have serious and outstanding repair needs which interrupt the delivery of service. The committee notes that the department's efforts in this area have made such improvements that plans for replacing some health centres are no longer considered a priority.

With respect to minor capital projects, the standing committee continues to look forward to updates regarding new medical equipment purchases. Members recognize that efforts are underway to purchase a new CT scanner and anticipate an announcement of this service being available to Nunavummiut in the near future. Committee members encourage the minister in his efforts to

provide specialty clinics and services in the territory and closer to the homes and families of residents. Members have noted that some communities are anxious to be able to provide local transportation for individuals who receive health and social services and encourage the minister and his staff to give further consideration to supporting community-driven initiatives in this area.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening comments on the proposed 2013-14 Capital Estimates of the Department of Health and Social Services. I am confident that individual members will also have questions and comments as we proceed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. Before we start, there are two rules: 77(1), you know what it says; 77(2). I don't have to read them because you all know what they mean. Are there any general comments to health and social services at this time? No questions, just comments? Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do have some general comments in regard to the Department of Health and Social Services' 2013-14 capital estimates.

As the MLA representing the community that will receive the next replacement health centre and, as the minister has pointed out in his opening comments, the need that we have across the territory for our aging health infrastructure and the Member from Hudson Bay actually spoke during his member statement today, a lot of the same issues that we experience in Arctic

Bay, a health centre that was built over 26 years ago and constantly has renovations and different pieces of equipment that need to be fixed.

I know, this summer actually, while I was in the health centre for my annual checkup, I think my heart kind of went out to the staff who actually work there and live there during the day. I walked into the health centre and the smell of sewage was enough to make you gag and almost want to throw up. The health staff actually works on a daily basis in conditions like that and, unfortunately, since they live above the health centre, they have to experience that in the evenings.

I know we're constantly going. It's nice to know that the Repulse Bay and the Taloyoak health centres are on track because I've been assured by even the previous minister that as long as those health centres were on track and being constructed on schedule that the deadlines for the Arctic Bay health centre would be met as well.

At the same time, I guess, in Oral Questions, that I asked in the House, Mr. Chairman, regarding the FPT meeting that the health minister went to with other of his colleagues from across the country. I found it, I guess discouraging, that he did not take the chance to mention the issue of infrastructure, our aging infrastructure and the need for more infrastructure funding across the territory in that discussion, especially when he had mentioned in his reply to my oral question about his, sort of, communication with the three territories communicating at the same time.

I know, in Members' Statements and also Oral Questions, I've asked over the last couple of years, there's been huge infrastructure dollars given to First Nations communities for specific health facilities to be build in First Nations communities but at no time was infrastructure dollars given to Inuit communities to build and construct health centres.

At the same time, Mr. Chairman, I would like to, while I have the opportunity to thank and congratulate the health care staff that I have in all three of my communities for the hard work that they do in terms of the nurses, who are there 24/7, giving care to all of our constituents. We have our social workers, community wellness coordinators, mental health workers, and now with, I believe the Government of Nunavut calls it health care closer to home, we have our home care workers, which I know, in speaking with a lot of constituents who have to go down to either Ottawa or here in Iqaluit, it's nice to be able to receive more care at home to be around family and relatives while they're healing.

So with that, Mr. Chairman, I thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. (interpretation) Do any other members have general comments at this time? I have no more names on my list. We're on page F-3. Health and Social Services. Branch Summary. Directorate. Total Capital Expenditures. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On F-4, and this goes to what I was speaking to in my general comments, in the minister's opening comments, he had mentioned about everything being on

track. I was just wondering if he could possibly give more of a detailed update as to what's happening with the two health centres that are in the process of being constructed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Elliott for the question. Just going back to his earlier comments about infrastructure, I didn't have an opportunity to meet with the federal minister at the FPT finance ministers about infrastructure. However, I did raise the issue with the Prime Minister and the Minister of Health, MP for Nunavut, with the Premier when they met with us in August in Cambridge Bay. So my colleague can rest assured that they are aware of our infrastructure situation up here.

If I understand Mr. Elliott's question correctly, the Repulse Bay project is nearing completion. The expected completion date is November 16, 2012 and there's a site visit planned for the end of November 2012. We're using the same design for Taloyoak and I believe they are currently planning some site visits there. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to welcome the hon. minister as well as his deputy minister. Under Small Capital on F-4, the proposed \$1 million, I wanted to ask the minister. In 2012-13, small capital funds include the replacement of a number of vehicles which are needed at

the community level for home visits, local transportation, and as backup medevac transportation when there's no private sector transportation available.

The community of Baker Lake has recognized the need for medical transportation for many years now. At a recent hamlet council meeting, the need for an ambulance type vehicle was expressed in a council resolution. Mr. Chairman, my question to the minister and the department is: can the department provide funding from the small capital budget to assist the hamlet in acquiring such an ambulance type vehicle? If not, the question I have to ask as well is why not. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Aupaluktuq for the very important question because it has come up on a number of occasions from other MLAs over the last 10 or 11 months. The quick answer from a health perspective is no, we can't assist either that way. Ambulance service would be under the *Hamlets Act* and the *Cities, Towns and Villages Act*. The council would have to establish by by-law an ambulance service. A complex process and if the hamlet council wanted to secure a vehicle for ground transportation they would have to secure those funds from CGS's Mobile Equipment Fund, possibly. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you. We have

a gentleman providing a contract service for medevac services and he's doing an excellent job. As any other place, Baker Lake is expanding. The demands are increasing, a strain on the system.

With respect as well, the department, as I have indicated in the past, deals with very sensitive issues which I think are predominant all across Nunavut. I think next to education, health services are very important to be able to support.

I want to ask the minister if he can clarify what criteria is needed to be met in order for a community to be eligible for a vehicle that could be used to provide medevac transportation for medical clients. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Aupaluktuq for the question. If it was an ambulance, as I said, it would be very complex. An ambulance, by its very nature, is a 24-hour service, so you would have to have people trained and on standby to provide that service and you would have to have a number that people could access. If the hamlet itself was thinking of providing that service... . There's a difference between ambulance and ground transportation. I'm not talking about an ambulance; I'm talking about ground transportation. If the hamlet was willing to provide that service, they could, as I said, apply to the Mobile Assistance Program. Of course, under that program, they would have to communicate with the regional CGS officials, present their budget to them, and make it a priority. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the past, I've raised the issue of need for ground transportation assistance for people traveling on medical. It was deemed at one point that perhaps maybe the municipal boundaries was an issue but at the same time, some clients were expressing, as well, that when they travel to a regional centre, like to Rankin Inlet, they received taxi chits.

For people wanting to make their appointments out of Baker Lake for medical travel, such as to Winnipeg, people have trouble accessing transportation to the airport. It's no secret that the distance from the airport to the community of Baker Lake is great and a vehicle is necessary to transport patients to and from their flights.

Does the Minister of Health agree that maybe perhaps the department bears some responsibility and ensuring that medical clients can access the services that they need? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Aupaluktuq. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and I thank Aupaluktuq for his concern for his constituents. Mr. Chairman, I'm not personally familiar with Baker Lake and I hope to get there someday to visit that community. I hear it's quite busy and expanding.

Mr. Chairman, I can ask my officials to look at that for Mr. Aupaluktuq and may warrant some additional research to

provide some assurance that the people can get from the community to the airport to make out-of-town appointments. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The minister and his department would be more than welcome in Baker Lake.

I would like to just commend the professional workers in your department, such as the frontline workers, such as nurses and social workers. They're doing an exceptional job and catering to the needs. As you may be fully aware, the resources are not always there, but you have some exceptional staff that are working very hard and that go above and beyond the call of duty.

I would like to just share again with the minister that there have been many occasions where you can hear people on the radio asking for a ride to the airport. For various reasons, when we attend to the airport, there are people coming back on medical who actually always seem to look for rides going back from the airport to the community after their visits as well.

I just want to remind the minister that, with the sensitivity of the nature and the well-being of people, even to the point of palliative care, it's kind of crucial that there is support for family members who do travel. I am pleased to hear the minister is going to enquire further about medical transportation for our clients. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just a comment.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. I did not hear a question. (interpretation ends) Minister Peterson, did you want to make a comment?

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Aupaluktuq for the comment. Again I assure Mr. Aupaluktuq that staff will look into his concern. I would just like to reiterate his comments. Our frontline workers, not only in Baker Lake but in every community in Nunavut, are very much appreciated by our government and all of us here in the House and we should always take the opportunity to send them our thanks for their hard work every day. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to welcome the minister and his officials here today. Earlier today in my Member's Statement, I stated the fact that the population in Sanikiluaq has more than doubled in the time that the health centre was built and the need for a new health centre has not gone away. Can the minister explain why the health centre replacement project no longer appears on the five-year capital plan? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Minister Peterson, tell him why.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Rumbolt for his question. Mr. Chairman, as a government, it's no secret that we have all talked about it and debated it. It has been an issue for a long time. It is

difficult to fund all the projects we do need in Nunavut, especially health centres. In the case of Sanikiluaq, we had to push it back a couple of years. We plan to do some more preplanning. It's a function of cash flow and other projects. We couldn't overwhelm the system. It is still a high priority for our department and our government. Thank you.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for the explanation. One of the pressures on our health centre, again, from my Member's Statement today, is the overcrowded situation at our health centre. I'm sure the minister is aware of the amount of staff that are having to use that facility and the "overcrowdedness" that they're having. Can the minister explain what process his department goes through to obtain office space for its staff? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm going to ask my deputy minister to answer that question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Ma: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So I'm just going to go back to, I think, May of last year. I had the opportunity at that point to go to your community, Member Rumbolt, and at the time, the minister was Mr. Curley and I think Minister Shewchuk was there as well.

So the things that you have highlighted are important. We had the opportunity to see the Sanikiluaq Health Centre firsthand. The leasing aspect of the government is actually with the Department of Community and Government Services, so our department has worked with CGS to move this process along.

I think that we did communicate to you at one point that we had identified some possible space. The cost, I guess, is a bit prohibitive in terms of what we would get in terms of value. I know there have been discussions here about getting value for money in terms of the government's budgets and whatnot.

So we will re-engage with CGS to see if we can move this process forward. I know that you're frustrated, as are your constituents, but I would also say that our staff is somewhat frustrated too. So it is a priority. Unfortunately, we have just not moved as quickly as we would have liked. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just one last question. Getting back to my Member's Statement, in there, I had asked that if officials would be willing to engage with the community, maybe visit the community, and look for suggestions and ideas of what to do. Will the minister commit to working with CGS and maybe arranging a meeting to go to Sanikiluaq, where they can talk to officials and come up with possible solutions? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Rumbolt for the question and suggestion. Mr. Chairman, if I can't make it, I'll have some of my officials get down there, but I really would like to get down to Sanikiluaq. I watched a film up in Fairbanks, in Alaska, at the circumpolar conference and it was about Sanikiluaq, so I would really like to get down there and visit the good folks. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In regard to the Taloyoak Health Centre, they built a health centre in Repulse Bay. Do you anticipate any delays or additional expenditures for this project in Taloyoak? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Ms. Ugyuk for the question. There may be some additional funding required to do preplanning and some site work, but we're not 100 percent sure. We're working CGS on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you. I understood that the Repulse Bay Health Centre Replacement Project... . Is that the same as what the Taloyoak is going to get? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Ms. Ugyuk for that question. Yes, it's the same design. Although it's the same design, the location and the community is always the factor, so we had to do some site work to make sure that it fits properly on the site. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We tend to save costs when we use the same design. Is that correct? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's correct. The government endeavours to use the same design in multiple communities to save on architecture fees and design fees. As I said earlier, the only real change would be the location in the community, which may be a factor. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Taloyoak residents are deeply appreciative of the proposed new health centre in our community as it took many years of prioritizing the health centre to realize it. Apparently the health centre design had already been printed, and we were informed of the type of health centre we would receive.

However, the design plans seem to have disappeared and we have now seen four different plans for the new health centre, and we are hopeful that we will get the new health centre next year and I am grateful for this facility, especially in light of my role as the Member of the Legislative Assembly for Taloyoak and on their behalf, I thank the government.

The other question I would like to ask, which I raised earlier as an issue relates to the Kitikmeot region, and whether the government has any plans for a mental health facility. In the Baffin region, there is a mental health plan ready for implementation. Does the government have any capital plans for a mental health facility in the Kitikmeot? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Ms. Ugyuk for her comments. Mr. Chairman, the funding for capital projects for mental health in this community was discussed at the winter sitting. We want to roll that out and then we will expand it to the other regions with facilities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Yes, I thank the minister for the understandable responses to my questions. My secondary question relates to capital plans for a healing centre for addictions. Can you provide an estimate of when we can expect a healing centre for Nunavummiut in our future? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Ms. Ugyuk for her concerns. Mr. Chairman, at this time, we're working on the mobile addictions treatment pilot project in the Kitikmeot in Cambridge Bay, but we don't have capital funds identified for addictions treatment facilities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you. While we are reviewing minor projects, I have a question related to it. Can these minor project funds be reallocated towards a women's shelter or facility? I refer here specifically to a women's shelter. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Ms. Ugyuk for the question. Mr. Chairman, no, not in this budget. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson. We're on page F-3. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you, *Iksivautaaq*. Yes, a very simple question. I know the minister is welcome to the committee from my constituency. I know you work hard to bring up to date all the capital infrastructure requirements of Nunavutmiut, particularly with health. I think, somewhat, we're making headway in Nunavut and also those smaller communities to hear you make some

statements earlier with respect to Qikiqtarjuaq. That's encouraging. These smaller and older facilities are trailer kind of units that must eventually be replaced for our growing population.

I was curious with all the work that has been going on in updating and replacing facilities that have been on track for the last few years, five years or so, within the five-year plan. I was curious as to why the work plan or work schedules for construction in places like Arctic Bay sort of disappeared from the radar. After all, they always have been on the five-year plan and the details were completed. My question is simple: what took you, as the minister, to drastically change the work plan for Arctic Bay in favour of the one in the Kitikmeot region? Thank you.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Curley for his question. Mr. Chairman, the Taloyoak Health Centre was the one closer to the next on the schedule. We had to move the Arctic Bay back because of the fiscal framework and the other capital projects are very pressing capital projects that other departments deem necessary, for example, fuel tank farms in some of the communities. So it's not that Arctic Bay isn't important; we're hoping to keep it on track and if things worked out, possibly even move it forward. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson. Mr. Curley, do you have any more questions?

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I think when the five-year plans are put in place, we tend to abide or stick to them in order to ensure that there's no appearance of any political interference. It was always ahead, considering the fact that there were a number of major renovations made to a number of units out there within the previous other administration.

So I'm a bit amazed that a decision could be made that way without any real justification, from my standpoint. I know that there didn't appear to be any compelling reasons prior to other years that the project had to be scaled back. They were a lot more advanced in terms of the design phase, planning, and budget-wise. So could the minister again ensure that he will continue to abide by the five-year planning process while he is the minister? Thank you.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Curley for his question. Mr. Chairman, I know Mr. Curley has been a strong supporter of health centres in Nunavut. His comments earlier about Qikiqtarjuaq support that. He will recall from our time together on that side in the Second Assembly that we did push for the... I think it was Pond Inlet that came and then Repulse Bay, Taloyoak, and Arctic Bay. We did get Repulse Bay done and we're going to get Taloyoak. It's coming and subject to approval, and then Arctic Bay. So I will assure the [member] that we will stick to the five-year plan. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson. Let me remind

everyone that we are on page F-3. Health and Social Services. Branch Summary. Directorate. Total Capital Expenditures. \$24,620,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Go back to page F-2. Department Summary. Health and Social Services. Detail of Expenditures. Total Capital Expenditures. \$24,620,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Does the committee agree that we have concluded with the capital estimates of the Department of Health and Social Services?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. At this time, while we're concluding the department, I would like to ask Minister Peterson if he has any closing remarks. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank yourself and the committee for your excellent questions and scrutiny of our capital budget for the Department of Health and Social Services, not only today but during standing committee meetings earlier this fall.

I would like to also thank my staff in the Department of Health and Social Services and the deputy minister today for their work in preparing this, and also to the cooperation and support of the departments of Finance and Community and Government Services as well.

I know it's challenging at the best of times to deliver all of these projects on time and on budget, but we are striving to make progress in that area. We will continue to lobby to get more infrastructure dollars so that we can put badly needed health infrastructure in our communities and in Nunavut to serve our residents. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Peterson and Mr. Ma. (interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witness out.

At this time, my colleagues, we have time to proceed to the next department. We will now be dealing with the capital estimates for the Department of Economic Development and Transportation. I would now like to ask Minister Taptuna to go to the witness table and make his opening comments.

Welcome, Minister Taptuna. I will now give you an opportunity to make your opening comments. Minister Taptuna.

**Bill 41 – Appropriation (Capital) Act,
2013-2014 – Economic
Development and Transportation
– Consideration in Committee**

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to be here today again to present my department's 2013-14 capital plan to the Committee of the Whole. The Department of Economic Development and Transportation proposes a \$20,075,000 capital plan for the 2013-14 fiscal year.

Airports

Mr. Chairman, the focus of this plan is improvements to airports and airside

surfaces, as well as upgrades to airport equipment. In addition, we have allocated \$12,200,000 to advance the Iqaluit International Airport improvement project. This funding will be used to develop comprehensive documentation and planning to successfully deliver this project under a private-public partnership model.

As I have said in the past, the infrastructure at Iqaluit International Airport is approaching the end of its useful life cycle. Improvements to the airport, which serves half of Nunavut's communities, are our largest and most urgent infrastructure need.

The Cambridge Bay and Rankin Inlet airport improvement projects are driven by a need to enhance the safety of these facilities: in Rankin Inlet, by expanding the apron and in Cambridge Bay, by widening the runway. Both projects will leverage Building Canada funds and will improve the long-term efficiency of all passenger and freight operations in the Kivalliq and Kitikmeot regions. We are proposing to allocate \$2.6 million for Rankin Inlet and \$1,475,000 for Cambridge Bay.

Mr. Chairman, our Transportation Strategy addresses the need to rehabilitate and improve our community airports. We have included \$400,000 for a major surface overlay at the Kugluktuk Airport and \$400,000 to initiate design for a new air terminal building at the Taloyoak Airport.

Mr. Chairman, these are the major airport projects we will be undertaking in the 2013-14 fiscal year. There are also some other projects under \$250,000 which are grouped together under the

heading “Small Capital Projects.” We have allocated a total of \$800,000 to these projects, which will include new runway inspection vehicles for three communities – Arviat, Coral Harbour, and Clyde River – as well as maintenance equipment, such as compactors and blower attachments, for Qikiqtarjuaq, Iqaluit, Chesterfield Inlet, Cambridge Bay, and Arviat.

Several larger equipment purchases will be made under the “Minor Capital Project” heading. Under this heading, we have allocated \$1.7 million to purchase loaders for Resolute Bay, Chesterfield Inlet, Pond Inlet, and Kugaaruk, as well as a grader for Rankin Inlet.

Small Craft Harbours

Mr. Chairman, we have included \$500,000 in this capital plan to make minor improvements to community marine facilities. The inclusion of these funds demonstrates our commitment to the development of marine infrastructure, which will encourage the Department of Fisheries and Oceans to continue and expand their own investments in small craft harbours in Nunavut.

We plan to make the majority of the funding under our Small Craft Harbours Program available to communities under contribution agreements so that they can carry out their own improvements to marine facilities.

Conclusion

Mr. Chairman, this capital plan was put together with much consideration given to prudent spending, which will help to achieve the government’s goal of bringing the overall budget back to

balance. In order to do this, like other departments, we had to defer some very worthwhile projects. Though this plan is financially prudent, we have ensured that it incorporates projects that focus on safety, which is our number one concern.

I believe that this plan is in line with the department’s mandate as we continue to strengthen the partnerships with the federal government, with industry, and with our communities to ensure that the investments we make in Nunavut have a lasting value for economic and social future of our territory.

I will be glad to answer any questions from my colleagues and committee members. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Does the chair of the standing committee have opening comments? Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I do. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to provide opening comments on behalf of the Standing Committee on Community and Economic Development concerning its review of the proposed 2013-14 Capital Estimates of the Department of Economic Development and Transportation.

Members note that the department’s proposed capital budget for 2013-14 is \$20,075,000. The department’s capital budget was \$14.4 million for the 2012-13 fiscal year and \$3,925,000 for the 2011-12 fiscal year. The department’s proposed 2013-14 capital budget is focused primarily on transportation-related infrastructure.

Mr. Chairman, members again engaged in a comprehensive dialogue with the minister concerning the issue of small craft harbours during his recent appearance before the standing committee.

As members will recall, the minister tabled the government's updated Nunavut Transportation Strategy in the Legislative Assembly on June 5, 2009. Some of the objectives of the strategy are to "implement the federal Small Craft Harbours Program in Nunavut," "act on the Nunavut Small Craft Harbour Report," and "extend the Small Craft Harbours program to other communities."

The Department of Economic Development and Transportation's proposed 2013-14 capital estimates include \$500,000 in funding for the GN's contribution towards the construction of small craft harbours in Nunavut communities. This amount has been included in the department's annual capital estimates since the 2009-2010 fiscal year. The department has indicated that this funding is to be used to "undertake studies, obtain permits, undertake design work, undertake minor marine improvements and partner with the [federal] Department of Fisheries [and Oceans] on funding major works if the opportunity arises."

In June of 2009, the Senate Committee on Fisheries and Oceans released a report titled "Nunavut Marine Fisheries: Quotas and Harbours." The Senate Committee recommended that the Government of Canada "move forward to develop and implement, in collaboration with the Government of Nunavut, the harbour development plan

recommended by the DFO-Nunavut Harbours Working Committee in its 2005 Nunavut Small Craft Harbours Report."

The standing committee notes that the Government of Canada's response to the Senate Committee's report was presented on November 18, 2009. The response indicated that "There are no immediate plans to construct additional commercial fishing harbours in Nunavut at this time. However, discussions continue with the Government of Nunavut regarding infrastructure needs to further support local fisheries."

Although members remain supportive of efforts to obtain federal support for investments in this area, it is recognized that construction costs for major marine facilities can be in the millions of dollars. For example, the 2009 federal budget provided \$17.0 million towards the construction of the new harbour in Pangnirtung.

The standing committee again encourages the department to closely examine options for feasible and affordable improvements to existing community marine infrastructure that focus on the safety of boaters and protection of equipment, and which can be undertaken with available resources. I would again note that the 2005 *Nunavut Small Craft Harbours Report* indicates that "Lack of Nunavut harbour infrastructure has resulted in at least two documented cases of loss of life in recent years. In 2002, a Pond Inlet fisher drowned while paddling his dinghy from shore to his fishing vessel moored offshore. A Rankin Inlet fisher died under similar circumstances in 2005."

Mr. Chairman, in June of this year, the Legislative Assembly approved an \$871,000 capital carryover for the department's small craft harbours project. The standing committee continues to encourage the minister to table an annual report in the Legislative Assembly concerning the department's actual expenditures in this area, including a detailed list of which communities have received and utilized funding under contribution agreements with the department.

Mr. Chairman, in June of 2009, the Legislative Assembly approved \$925,000 in capital funding for the planning and design of the Iqaluit Regional Marine Facility to "meet the needs of marine re-supply as well as local boat owners and operators." In June of 2010, the Legislative Assembly approved a \$532,000 capital carryover for this project. It is the standing committee's understanding that the cost to complete a deep water dock would be approximately \$100 million. Members encourage the minister to provide regular updates to the Legislative Assembly concerning his department's efforts to partner with the federal government and industry to identify ways to fund this project.

Mr. Chairman, some of the objectives of the government's updated Nunavut Transportation Strategy are to "assure the integrity of the Nunavut transportation system by ensuring every community has infrastructure adequate for its needs within that system" and to "enhance the current airport systems." Other objectives are to "rationalize government use of the transportation system" and "revisit the government's Air Services Study."

Members note that the department's proposed 2013-14 capital estimates include \$17,075,000 in funding for a number of airport improvement projects, the most significant of which is the Iqaluit International Airport project, which is being undertaken as a public-private partnership. Members will recall that on September 20, 2012, a federal-territorial news release announced that the P3 Canada Fund will contribute up to \$77.3 million to this project.

Members encourage the department to be mindful of the potential impact of major economic development projects, such as the Mary River mine, on the development of new regional hub airports. Members also encourage the minister to provide regular updates to the Legislative Assembly concerning his department's work with such entities as NAV Canada and the Northern Air Transport Association concerning such matters as Community Aerodrome Radio Stations, navigational aids, and airport infrastructure.

Mr. Chairman, a major transportation infrastructure project with which the Government of Nunavut has been involved is the development of a Manitoba-Nunavut Road. On September 1, 2010, the Government of Nunavut and the Government of Manitoba jointly announced that the two jurisdictions would be undertaking "initial consultations on a cost-benefit study on a Manitoba-Nunavut all-weather road." Members encourage the minister to provide regular updates to the Legislative Assembly on this initiative and to table information concerning the business case for it.

The department's 2010-11 capital estimates included \$700,000 in funding for a new Kivalliq regional visitor centre. In June of 2011, the Legislative Assembly approved a \$697,000 capital carryover for this project. The department has indicated that "the design of the visitor centre is anticipated to be complete in July 2012" and that "the project is expected to be built adjacent to or attached to the Rankin Inlet Air Terminal Building."

Members note that although the department's 2012-13 capital estimates included \$100,000 in funding for renovations to existing visitor centres, the proposed 2013-14 capital estimates focus on transportation and safety-related projects. During the minister's recent appearance before the standing committee, members were advised that the minister anticipates tabling an updated tourism strategy in the Legislative Assembly prior to the end of the current fiscal year, and that this strategy will include consideration of tourism-related infrastructure issues. Members look forward to reviewing this new strategy.

The department's proposed 2013-14 capital estimates include \$2.5 million in funding for the acquisition of mobile equipment for Nunavut airports, including runway inspection vehicles, loaders, and vibratory compactors. The standing committee emphasizes the importance of ensuring that the standards and criteria for such equipment are appropriate for our jurisdiction's conditions in relation to such matters as ease of maintenance and repair. Members also encourage the department to work closely with municipal governments concerning the

administration of agreements regarding municipal use of GN owned airport mobile equipment assets for the provision of essential services in clearly defined circumstances.

Mr. Chairman, in June of 2012, the Legislative Assembly approved approximately \$12.0 million in capital carryovers for the department, including projects for new airport equipment shelters and airport improvements. The standing committee emphasizes the importance of the department keeping Members of the Legislative Assembly and municipalities fully informed on an ongoing basis of the status of capital projects that are carried over and/or delayed.

The department's proposed 2013-14 capital estimates do not include any funding for projects such as new meat or fish processing plants. While members recognize that federal investments may be essential for realizing a number of long-term capital projects, the department is encouraged to not lose sight of its economic development responsibilities. The standing committee also recognizes the role of the Nunavut Development Corporation in this area.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening comments on the proposed 2013-14 Capital Estimates of the Department of Economic Development and Transportation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Mr. Ningeongan.

Mr. Ningeongan: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At this time, I would like to move a motion to report progress. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. There is a motion on the floor and the motion is not debatable. All those in favour of the motion, raise your hand. All those opposed. The motion is carried. Thank you. I will now rise to report progress.

Speaker: *Qujannamiik*, Sergeant-at-Arms. Moving on in 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: Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Bill 41 and would like to report progress and that one committee motion was adopted. And, Mr. Speaker, I move that the Report of the Committee of the Whole be agreed to.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Enook. There is a motion on the floor. Is there a seconder? Thank you, Mr. Shewchuk. The motion is in order. All those in favour. Any opposed? The motion is carried.

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 there's a meeting tomorrow morning at ten o'clock in the Tuktu Room, the meeting

of the Standing Committee on Legislation.

Orders of the Day for October 31:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions
8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to Opening Address
10. Petitions
11. Responses to Petitions
12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters
13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motions
15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions
17. First Reading of Bills
 - Bill 45
18. Second Reading of Bills
19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
 - Bill 41
 - Bill 42

- Bill 43

20. Report of the Committee of the

Whole

21. Third Reading of Bills

22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned until Wednesday, October 31, at 1:30 p.m. I would just like to remind members, even though tomorrow is Halloween, we still have decorum rules here in the House.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 17:56*

