



**Nunavut Canada**

**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NUNAVUT**

**3rd Session**

**3rd Assembly**

**HANSARD**

Official Report

**DAY 62**

**Wednesday, February 27, 2013**

**Pages 3397 – 3452**

**Iqaluit**

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

## Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

### *Speaker*

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(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)

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Minister responsible for Homelessness;  
Minister responsible for the Qulliq  
Energy Corporation; 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 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)

**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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**Iqaluit, Nunavut****Wednesday, February 27, 2013****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, Mr. Fred Schell, Honourable Daniel Shewchuk, Mr. Louis Tapardjuk, Honourable Peter Taptuna, Honourable Hunter Tootoo, Ms. Jeannie Ugyuk.

>>*House commenced at 13:31*

**Item 1: Opening Prayer**

**Speaker** (Hon. Hunter Tootoo): Before we proceed with today's sitting, I would like to ask Mr. Ningark to lead us off in a prayer, please.

>>*Prayer*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningark. (interpretation ends) We will move on in our orders of the day. Item 2. Budget Address. Minister of Finance, Minister Peterson.

**Item 2: Ministers' Statements****Minister's Statement 227 – 3(3):  
Budget Address**

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon to all Nunavummiut and good morning to my constituents, friends, and family in the Kitikmeot, Cambridge Bay and Kugluktuk. Good afternoon, colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to present the government's budget for fiscal year 2013-14. In doing so, I want to make three key points.

First, we made a commitment through the *Tamapta* Action Plan to improve the lives of Nunavummiut, and this budget furthers that commitment in delivering greater funding for improved programs and services.

Second, we made a commitment to improve how the government delivers those programs and services, and this budget will show how we are doing just that.

Third, our financial situation is reassuringly stable and I can report that the government projects a modest surplus for another fiscal year.

>>*Applause*

The bottom line is that we are managing our resources prudently so that we can achieve the future we all desire.

Before we get down into the details of my budget, let us take a moment to consider where we are and how far we have progressed.

As this territory approaches its 14th anniversary, this government believes that we are making good progress toward the vision on which this territory was created. In that vision, Nunavummiut control our destiny and, through our government, shape a better Nunavut.

In *Tamapta*, our government said the future would bring Nunavummiut a better standard of living. Families would

be active, healthy, and happy. Communities would become more self-reliant. And we would be recognized for our unique culture and our contributions to Canada and the world. I believe that we are on course.

The First and Second Legislative Assemblies provided the base on which we could proceed. Those bodies improved our governance, our infrastructure, and the programs and services that we provide to the public. This Third Assembly has built on their work and soon the Fourth Assembly will continue our forward movement.

My role has been to ensure that our financial resources would enable our progress. You may recall my 2010-11 Budget Address. My key word in that speech was “prudence.” I felt the need for a cautious approach. Today, as I present my fifth budget, I will say that I consider prudence the best guide we could have had. Our finances are sound, our programs and services are improving, and our future remains within our grasp.

>>*Applause*

Let me turn now to a summary of our financial situation.

I am forecasting today that the government’s expenditures next year will reach \$1.48 billion. Most of this will be spent on operations and maintenance, while \$153 million of this amount will fund investments in capital infrastructure: the schools, hospitals, and other public works that keep Nunavut moving.

The operations and maintenance forecast is \$1.33 billion for next year, a rise of less than 5 percent from this year’s revised estimates.

On the revenue side, I project we will receive \$1.56 billion next year, excluding third party revenues. This number is also up nearly 5 percent from the current year. Most of the increase comes from a rise in the territorial formula financing arrangement. Our own source revenue will also rise modestly thanks to increased receipts for personal income and payroll taxes, and tobacco taxes.

I’ll note for the record that the higher tax rate on tobacco products imposed at this time last year has raised our tobacco tax revenues by \$2.3 million. I’ll also note that overall reported tobacco use has gone down about 3 percent since we raised the tax rate.

Taking all of that into account, my budget calls for a surplus next year of \$21.9 million.

>>*Applause*

This amount represents just over 1 percent of our expected revenue, and we have put aside \$45.6 million for contingencies.

So here we see the big picture, Mr. Speaker. We are managing to improve programs and services to Nunavummiut currently. At the same time, it is crucial that we rebuild our cash reserves that had been depleted through previous deficits. By restoring these reserves, we will be better able to make prudent investments that will enable more programs and services in the future.

>>Applause

This is especially important as we take on larger capital projects, such as the new Iqaluit airport. We can attract partners and financing only if we demonstrate that we can manage our own resources properly.

On that point, I'm pleased to note that the Government of Nunavut earned an Aa1 rating this year from Moody's Investors Services. Moody's rates us higher than six provinces, which is excellent news. Our stable outlook suggests we can keep this rating if we maintain our fiscal discipline.

I began my remarks today by saying that we would further improve programs and services next year. Our commitment to do just that stands out clearly in the creation of the Department of Family Services. The government looks forward to the department's official launch on April 1. On that day, services that had been spread across the government will come together in one place. Nunavummiut will gain single-window access to the social safety net.

The establishment of this department is a significant accomplishment. Many of its services have been transferred from my own Department of Health and Social Services. It is also taking over services that had been provided through five other departments. Pulling this together as quickly as we have was a great deal of work, Mr. Speaker, and I congratulate all of our people who helped make this happen.

On April 1, the family services department begins work with a budget approaching \$113 million. That is a rise

of 7 percent from the funds allocated for its responsibilities this fiscal year.

Among its first-year priorities, the family services department will work with its partners to complete the Nunavut Food Security Strategy. It will complete and implement the Homelessness Strategy. It will prepare to implement the *Collaboration for Poverty Reduction Act* that the government plans to introduce in this House in the coming days.

Mr. Speaker, these issues of poverty, hunger, and homelessness are serious. They are exactly the issues that we need to resolve if we are to fulfill our vision of Nunavut. Establishing this new department is only the first step. We need to continue our discussions with the public and with our partners to develop our social safety net.

As those talks move forward, we can also take steps to improve the situation today by equipping the Country Food Distribution Program to improve food security and reduce poverty. Over the current fiscal year, the Department of Economic Development and Transportation has built and broadened partnerships with hunters and trappers. Our goal is to help Nunavummiut improve their ability to obtain affordable and healthy country food. In this budget, we are allocating nearly \$900,000 of additional support for the Country Food Distribution Program.

>>Applause

Housing our growing population remains an important priority. In this budget, the government has allocated nearly \$29 million to the Nunavut Housing



Corporation's capital budget. This includes \$8 million to build 20 public housing units in Arviat and five units in Clyde River, and \$5 million for 10 new staff housing units in Cambridge Bay.

>>Applause

As well, the Nunavut Housing Corporation's Public Housing Program will receive an additional \$6.4 million next year, mostly to offset rising operations and utilities costs.

Housing remains a serious challenge for this government, which we are addressing through the development of a long-term housing strategy.

At the health department, we will continue to strengthen and expand mental health services to Nunavummiut. The relocated Akausisarvik facility in Iqaluit will open in April. As well, the department will strengthen health care in the Qikiqtani region through greater use of community therapy assistants and community health centre administrative assistants. In the Kivalliq region, we will add a nurse to each of the three-nurse stations.

Mr. Speaker, improving all of these services - family services, health care, and housing - will mean a lot more if we can deliver these services in communities that are safe and stable. We are taking needed steps to improve law enforcement and providing the Department of Justice with an additional \$8 million next year.

Effective police work depends on many things, including an effective dialogue between the RCMP and the public. The RCMP is working to improve their Inuit

language skills. At last count, our police force employed 19 Inuit in the territory and the force is finding ways to hire more.

>>Applause

As we improve the quality of life in all of our communities, we must also see that we are creating opportunities for growth. We know that our territory has great resource wealth, and we have been seeing good, solid increases in business investment and employment. We expect our steady economic growth will continue, with my department projecting an inflation-adjusted rise in gross domestic product next year of 3.5 percent. The rate should rise in the following year to 3.9 percent.

What do these numbers mean, Mr. Speaker? More jobs and better wages. The wage economy now employs about 55 percent of working-age Nunavummiut. Our services sector is growing and, as it does, there will be real opportunities, but there are also challenges, Mr. Speaker. To get these jobs, Nunavummiut need skills and access to places where they can use them. We can help Nunavummiut to get these skills.

We want to make sure that a good education is available to everyone in our territory. That's why the government will invest in a program to help adults get their high school diplomas. We call it PASS, the pathway for adult secondary school graduation. We're investing nearly \$1.9 million next year to get it started.

>>Applause

The Department of Education and Nunavut Arctic College are joining forces for this important program. They are developing a program specifically for adult learners. Very soon, Inuit adults can return to the classroom to earn their high school diplomas. We look forward to welcoming these adult learners in the coming year and helping them open the doors to a better future.

The government will also help to open further opportunities by improving how we buy goods and services. In the coming year, this government will take further steps to ensure that Inuit firms continue to be treated fairly in competing for government business. The Department of Economic Development and Transportation will soon complete its review of the NNI Procurement Policy. After that, Economic Development and Transportation will revise the policy in consultation with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated. We look forward to completing that work during the coming fiscal year.

Mr. Speaker, as much as we are interested in developing Nunavut's resources, we are also interested in preserving our environmental heritage for future generations. Our responsibility is to ensure a high standard of environmental stewardship in sustainable development.

Through our internal Sustainable Development Committee, nine departments and agencies take part in environmental assessments for major mining projects. This will enable the government to participate continuously in assessments for major mining projects conducted by the Nunavut Impact Review Board.

Mr. Speaker, I said at the beginning of this address that the government would not only improve programs and services to the public, but that we would also manage our own work better. In fact, the more we can make the government efficient and effective, the more we will be able to meet the needs of Nunavummiut and help build our territory for tomorrow. Behind the scenes, we are making good progress, especially in the areas of managing our people and our finances.

As you know, the government has placed a significant emphasis on improving our human resource management. The Auditor General's report in 2010 brought clarity to our issues and we took significant steps this year to resolve them.

As we start a new fiscal year, the work that had been performed by the Department of Human Resources will now be carried out by two other departments. The Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs takes up responsibility for the training and development of the government's workforce. It will also manage Inuit employment planning. Meanwhile, my Department of Finance takes on all other responsibilities of the human resources department. That includes recruiting and staffing, employee relations and job evaluation, organizational design, as well as human resources policy and systems.

The government made these changes to ensure that we can recruit and retain the workforce we need. Already we see progress. The government has completed the Human Resources Strategic Framework. It includes revised staffing

practices, and we are working now to automate our processes and offer more training initiatives.

The Department of Finance will work closely with Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs to develop a government-wide human resources strategy. The purpose of this strategy is to ensure that we have the right people in the right place at the right time. This will allow us to meet the government's strategic goals and carry out our operational plans. When the Auditor General looked at this in 2010, it was clear that we had a long way to go. Today, we can see that we are on the right track to a better future.

We can also see that Inuit are increasingly taking up opportunities in the public service. At last count, in June of last year, beneficiaries held 49 percent of all filled positions in the ten government departments. By the latest projection, beneficiaries will hold 52 percent of all filled positions by the end of the coming fiscal year. There are plenty of opportunities, Mr. Speaker. We still need skilled applicants.

In addition to these measures to improve our human resources, we are also taking steps to restore and maintain the government's fiscal resources. Shortly, the government will adopt a fiscal management strategy that will help all government organizations to improve their long-term planning and budgeting. The strategy builds on five core principles, Mr. Speaker. They are as follows:

First, all of our planning needs to look forward, to anticipate how events could help or hurt our fiscal situation.

Second, we will remain prudent in how we budget so that we remain in good fiscal shape over time.

Third, we will make choices that are responsible. That means each decision will be considered for how it fits into the big picture and how it affects our long-term fiscal goals.

Fourth, we will provide reporting that is transparent. We will provide Nunavummiut with information that helps the public to understand our fiscal decisions.

Fifth, we will be accountable for our decisions. We will explain our choices, report our results, and face the consequences, both for success and for failure.

>> *Applause*

Mr. Speaker, we have been doing all of these things until now. By making these principles formal, the government expects that our fiscal management will improve further. After all, strong fiscal management is at the heart of good governance.

Mr. Speaker, I have talked about how the government is improving its internal management and operations, and I have described some of the improved programs and services that we provide. There is another area for improvement and that is in how we communicate with the people whom we serve.

We have already taken several steps forward by engaging government liaison officers in the communities. So far, 16 hamlets have these officers in place,

where they provide a single point of contact for government information.

Now it's time to enable Nunavummiut to find more information online. In the coming weeks, we will bring a stronger client focus to the government's website. The changes should make it easier for people to learn more about what the government can do on their behalf.

Our ability to handle questions by phone will also improve now that the government has completed the first step of a telecommunications upgrade. The department will continue the upgrade in the coming year to improve telecommunications services and bring us all a little closer together. The government has invested an additional \$7 million for this work next year.

In this budget, we are making two other key investments in Community and Government Services. The first is an allocation of \$1.3 million to establish a project management office. We need this centre of technical expertise as we prepare to take on large infrastructure projects, starting with the new Iqaluit International Airport. Community and Government Services is evaluating other projects as well, including solid waste infrastructure for all communities.

Our other Community and Government Services investment benefits all communities directly and immediately. In this budget, the government is announcing a new municipal funding formula. Collectively, the hamlets will receive an additional \$4.2 million next year to improve their services to Nunavummiut.

Part of our overall approach to improving the government's approach to business is to see that we serve Nunavummiut in the Inuit language. The Department of Culture and Heritage will take several steps forward with this in the coming year.

The government has allocated an additional \$7 million to the department for next year. We will invest most of this money into the Official Languages program, which promotes the equal status of Inuktitut, English, and French.

Through the new \$5 million Language Implementation Fund, the department will help all government departments and agencies to meet their language obligations. The fund will advance key programs to promote the Inuit language within government. It will also support programs in the communities to help the hamlets and private sector organizations to meet their legal obligations.

Mr. Speaker, improving our communications with the public, our ability to manage people, to provide rewarding opportunities, and to manage our finances prudently: these are all examples of what I meant when I said that we are improving how the government performs its role.

As we improve that capability, we also improve the scope and quality of the programs and services that we provide to the public. Our ability to accomplish this within the fiscal framework and to produce another surplus, to me, stands as proof that we are managing our resources prudently. We are well on the way to achieving the future we all desire.

Mr. Speaker, this is the last Budget Address that I will deliver in this Third Assembly. I would like to make a final point: I think it's important that we work together to improve how we live together.

When I look back over the work we have done to prepare five budgets, it is clear to me that our finances are better managed today than they were five years ago.

>>Applause

The credit for that belongs in part with the Department of Finance and the other departments and agencies, but the credit also belongs with the Members of this Assembly. Your continuing encouragement has helped my officials and me a great deal, and I thank you all for your support. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister Peterson. Item 3. Ministers' Statements. Item 4. Members' Statements. Member for Natilik, Ms. Ugyuk.

#### **Item 4: Members' Statements**

##### **Member's Statement 378 – 3(3): Search and Rescue in Nunavut**

**Ms. Ugyuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Minister of Finance for delivering his Budget Address.

I rise today to pay tribute to the efforts of all those who take part in search and rescue activities in Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, every community knows how it feels when a hunter is missing on the land or the water. We cannot rest until our loved ones are successfully located and returned to safety.

Mr. Speaker, there are many organizations and individuals who contribute to our search and rescue system and who deserve our thanks and appreciation for their willingness to risk their own lives.

Mr. Speaker, we have search and rescue committees that organize operations to locate missing persons.

We have hard-working employees in our Emergency Management Organization.

We have many volunteers who belong to such groups as the Civil Air Search and Rescue Association.

We have hunters and trappers organizations whose knowledge of the land often saves lives.

We have the Canadian Rangers and the Canadian Armed Forces.

Mr. Speaker, as you know, I have raised concerns about the need to strengthen federal support for search and rescue in the north. I will have questions on this issue at the appropriate time.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in paying tribute to everyone in Nunavut who takes part in search and rescue activities in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 379 – 3(3):  
Importance of Conservation  
Officers**

**Mr. Ningark:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to speak about the importance of conservation officers in our communities.

Mr. Speaker, for countless generations, Inuit have had close and enduring ties with the land. For many years, our way of life depended on a respectful relationship with the land and its wildlife that provided us with sustenance.

Mr. Speaker, in today's world, the role of conservation officers has become extremely important. Conservation officers provide vital services to our communities and serve as a valuable linkage between hunters and the government.

Mr. Speaker, the community of Kugaaruk is currently without a conservation officer. I would like to underline that. I urge the Minister of Environment, through you, Mr. Speaker, and his department to take action to fill this essential position at the earliest opportunity, and I urge the minister and his department to ensure that services continue to be provided to the community until this position is filled. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Item 4. Members' Statements. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. Elliott.

**Member's Statement 380 – 3(3):  
Community Action against Food  
Insecurity**

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rose in the House yesterday to congratulate and pay tribute to residents of Grise Fiord, Resolute Bay, and Arctic Bay who were recently honoured with Commissioner's Awards and the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal.

Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to pay tribute to some unsung heroes in the three communities which I represent in the Legislative Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, I was extremely proud of the way in which the Members of this House worked together yesterday to pass Bill 46, the *Donation of Food Act*. As legislators, we moved decisively to help build an appropriate legal framework within which community action against food insecurity can take place. I would again express my appreciation to my colleagues in this House.

Mr. Speaker, I want to share some examples of how individuals and organizations in the High Arctic work every day to help ensure that our families, friends, and neighbours do not go hungry.

Mr. Speaker, I received word last evening from Grise Fiord that a group of hunters was anticipated to be returning to the community. We honour their skill, determination, and courage in providing for our elders.

Mr. Speaker, although the High Arctic is currently enduring the cold of our long winter, women are active throughout the communities in sewing clothing that

allows our hunters to survive the harsh conditions on the land. We honour their skill, commitment, and dedication.

Mr. Speaker, Arctic Bay celebrated recently at the successful harvesting of over 20 caribou. The fact that it has been a number of years since caribou were last in the area makes this hunt particularly special.

Mr. Speaker, during my opening comments yesterday concerning Bill 46, I made reference to a hunter in Grise Fiord who recently spoke publicly about the impact that the increase in the total allowable harvest for narwhal. He indicated that the community is looking forward to an increase in the amount of country food that will be shared as a result of the increased quota.

Mr. Speaker, the work undertaken by our hunters and trappers organizations, regional wildlife organizations, and Nunavut Tunngavik to achieve a new integrated fisheries management plan for narwhal is another example of how cooperation and determination has a real impact on the daily lives of our communities and constituents.

Mr. Speaker, strategic support from the government to community-based organizations is also making a difference.

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

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

Mr. Elliott.

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

The Department of Economic Development and Transportation's community freezer program is an excellent example of a practical initiative that helps to strengthen food security.

Mr. Speaker, there are many more examples to share and many more heroes to acknowledge. I would like to conclude by reflecting on how important it is for all of us to find strength in the knowledge that our individual gifts and actions contribute to a greater good for all. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Item 4. Members' Statements. Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Rumbolt.

#### **Member's Statement 381 – 3(3): The Need for Preventative Dental Care**

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to raise concerns about the lack of preventative dental care in Nunavut's communities.

Mr. Speaker, many communities across Nunavut do not have local dental care providers. Dentists and dental hygienists can play an important role in promoting good dental health, as well as providing care and treatment locally.

Mr. Speaker, far too many infants and children in Nunavut end up suffering from cavities or other types of tooth decay. When dental issues become

urgent, instead of receiving care in their home community, children have to be flown out with a parent or guardian as escort to receive treatment at a regional centre. This is a very expensive way of addressing a mostly preventable situation.

Mr. Speaker, to make matters worse, when dental issues are not adequately addressed at the outset, the ongoing poor dental health can then lead to a number of other health complications, such as heart disease and diabetes.

Overall, the lack of preventative dental care at the community level not only costs the health care system a considerable sum of money for dental services, but it leads to the need for further care and additional costs to address the additional health consequences of tooth decay.

Mr. Speaker, programs relating to dental hygiene, such as encouraging children to brush their teeth, good nutrition, and other principles of dental care could be promoted at the community level in schools and community health centres.

Mr. Speaker, I would also ask that the government give full consideration to providing regular dental hygienist services in all Nunavut communities. I am confident that preventative activities such as this would significantly reduce the impact on our budget and, more importantly, on the health of all Nunavut residents. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Item 4. Members' Statements. Member for

Nanulik, Mr. Ningeongan.

**Member's Statement 382 – 3(3):  
Congratulations to Nanulik  
Recipient of the Queen Elizabeth  
II Diamond Jubilee Medal**

**Mr. Ningeongan** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to congratulate and acknowledge constituents from my constituency of Nanulik who recently received the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal.

Mr. Speaker, the Diamond Jubilee Medal is a national award which recognizes significant contributions and achievements by Canadians. Individuals are nominated through the Office of the Governor General of Canada.

From the community of Coral Harbour, the recipients were:  
Elizabeth Mai Shapangak,  
Raymond Ningeocheak, and  
The late Mikitok Bruce, whose medal was received by his grandson Darren Bruce on behalf of the family.

From the community of Chesterfield Inlet, the recipients were:  
George Tanuyak,  
Eli Kimmaliardjuk, and  
Andre Tautu.

I was very honoured to be the one to present the medals to Ms. Shapangak, Mr. Tanuyak, and Mr. Kimmiliardjuk.

The Hon. Senator Dennis Patterson travelled to Nanulik to present medals to Mr. Ningeocheak, Mr Tautu, and the Bruce family.



Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating my constituents on their well-deserved recognition. I am very proud of them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. I join you in congratulating all of them.

Item 4. Members' Statements. Member for Baker Lake, Mr. Aupaluktuq.

**Member's Statement 383 – 3(3):  
Congratulations to Baker Lake  
Recipients of the Queen Elizabeth  
II Diamond Jubilee Medal**

**Mr. Aupaluktuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I rise today to pay tribute to four of my constituents who were recently honoured with the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal.

Mr. Speaker, on February 8, I had the honour of hosting Premier Aariak and a number of her cabinet colleagues on the occasion of their official visit to Baker Lake.

Mr. Speaker, the community of Baker Lake shared a profound sense of pride in the accomplishments of our people who were honoured on that day.

Mr. Speaker, the ceremony on February 8 was held to recognize and celebrate the contributions of four of my constituents: Philippa Martee, Nelson Tagoona, Susan Toolooktook, and Thomas Qaqimat.

Mr. Speaker, although all four of Baker Lake's recipients of the Diamond Jubilee Medal come from different walks of life

and have pursued different paths along their journeys, they are united in their deep commitment to the well-being of our community and all of its people.

Mr. Speaker, I am also pleased to take this opportunity to note that the Premier's visit provided an excellent opportunity for the community's leaders to provide updates on Baker Lake's ongoing initiatives and priorities.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in congratulating the Baker Lake recipients of the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. I, too, join in congratulating all of them.

Item 4. Members' Statements. Member for Tununiq, Mr. Enook.

**Member's Statement 384 – 3(3):  
Appreciation for Enhancements to  
Security at Pond Inlet Airport**

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, Pond Inlet residents and fellow Nunavummiut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to give credit where credit is due.

Mr. Speaker, as you will recall, I raised the issue of security at Pond Inlet's airport on a number of occasions last year in response to serious incidents of vandalism that had occurred at the airport. These incidents were not simply causing great inconvenience to my constituents; they were threatening to seriously disrupt our community's vital air linkages and schedules.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, when the people of Pond Inlet entrusted me to serve as their representative in this House, I promised to hold the government to account when necessary, but to work with it wherever possible.

Mr. Speaker, before I boarded my flight to Iqaluit this past weekend to attend our winter sitting, I had the opportunity to take a look at the new security cameras that are now in place at the Pond Inlet Airport. It is an impressive set-up, and the community is optimistic that this will help to deter further incidents of vandalism or crime at the airport.

Mr. Speaker, when I raised this issue in the House last year, the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation's most recent responses to my questions indicated that he and his department were working closely with the municipality and the communities of Igloolik and Cape Dorset to address airport security concerns.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that this experience has clearly demonstrated the value and importance of close cooperation between different levels of government in Nunavut. Regardless of whether we sit in the House of Commons, this Legislative Assembly, or a municipal council, we are all serving the same people: the people of Nunavut. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Enook. Item 4. Members' Statements. Member for Amittuq, Mr. Tapardjuk.

**Member's Statement 385 – 3(3):  
Appreciation to Queen Elizabeth  
II – Diamond Jubilee Medal**

**Mr. Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say "good afternoon" to my constituents. Mr. Speaker, I also want to rise today to celebrate the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal.

Mr. Speaker, I'm fully aware that our current government is representing our Queen and the fact that she truly cares about the people, it is evident today. Tagak was also one of the first people who tried to empower Inuit.

I often thought about the fact that if we were defeated during World War II, I would assume that in England and Canada, we would be speaking in German instead of English.

>> *Laughter*

However, I want to be proud of the fact that it's good for us. Also, she is our Queen and we can see today that she truly cares about the Inuit. She is represented by the Assembly and I think we should be grateful to our Queen.

The Queen gave out 60,000 medals, which included recipients in Igloolik and Hall Beach.

First of all, every day, Jack Kammuka and his wife go on the radio encouraging people to go eat at their place. They help the less fortunate and I am very grateful that they were recognized for that.

Jopie Kaermerk was recognized because he made himself available whenever the

need arises in the communities and he's always available.

I presented a medal to Paul Haulli and he received the honour for his work in the Nunavut Association of Municipalities.

Mr. Speaker, the recipients from Igloolik were: Ike Haulli, Elijah Evaluarjuk... .

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

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

**Mr. Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you.

We, as Inuit, are able to get around businesses. Ike Haulli and Elijah Evaluarjuk have a hotel and they're able to employ people and their employees are paying taxes. It's evident that the Inuit have more businesses.

Paul Quassa, who is well known, used to be a chief negotiator for the NLCA.

Zack Kunuk is also available to help people in need on a voluntary basis.

Guillaume Saladin started Artcirq and he's well known across the world.

My colleagues, I want you to join me in congratulating these individuals. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Item 4. Members' Statements. Member for Rankin Inlet South and Whale Cove, Mr. Kusugak.

**Member's Statement 386 – 3(3):  
Tribute to Yvo Samgusak**

**Mr. Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day. Today, Mr. Speaker, I do want to remember a former long-time resident of Rankin Inlet. He passed away, so I wanted to remember him. We lose a lot of family members or people.

Even though this person was mute, he was able to use sign language and he was very welcoming. Whenever you saw him, he was always smiling and he was always happy. It was pleasant to be living with Samgusak in Rankin Inlet. We're going to miss him in our community.

He was very welcoming and he was a very capable hunter. I think he was the best fisherman of all and no one could match his skills. He was a good fisherman and knew all the fishing spots.

It's obvious that Rankin Inlet people will miss him. His wife and children are in my thoughts. We miss Samgusak dearly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for the opportunity to make my statement.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Kusugak. Item 4. Members' Statements. We will move on in our orders of the day. Item 5. Returns to Oral Questions. Item 6. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Item 7. Oral Questions. Member for Tununiq, Mr. Enook.

**Item 7: Oral Questions****Question 491 – 3(3): Marine  
Infrastructure in Pond Inlet**

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation. As the minister is well aware from his recent visit to Pond Inlet, the community still lacks modern marine infrastructure.

It is my understanding from reviewing recent correspondence from the minister that his department has allocated \$19,200 from his department's small craft harbours budget for the "preliminary design of a boat launch" in Pond Inlet. For the benefit of Pond Inlet residents who are following our proceedings today, can the minister outline the scope and timeline of this project? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question and his Member's Statement. I appreciate that. Mr. Speaker, I did have an opportunity to visit Pond Inlet last summer in early June. It's very beautiful there. The only problem is there is no boat launch. It is a huge problem for the community, though we did discuss this with the hamlet councillors and some outfitters who were there, available to help us evaluate some certain things along the beach there.

Mr. Speaker, we hired an expert to take a look and evaluate some of the beach

lines for a possible building of a boat launch. Mr. Speaker, we did just recently receive a report from a consultant and we look forward to discussing the findings of this report with the Hamlet of Pond Inlet. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Mr. Minister. I want to ask more questions. If you can inform the residents of Pond Inlet, I would appreciate it.

My supplementary is you have been saying that you have an ongoing dialogue with the federal minister with regard to the need for marine infrastructure in Nunavut. It's a matter of fact that it is a very important issue in Nunavut. Can the minister update the Legislative Assembly today on the status of his ongoing discussions with the federal Minister of Fisheries and Oceans concerning the urgent need for federal investments in new marine infrastructure in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. Yes, I and the Minister of Health, our MP for Nunavut, do discuss some of these marine infrastructure needs in all communities. It is a major deficit that hinders economic development in Nunavut. At this time, we do have an ongoing dialogue on ways to try and come up with solutions, identify some ways of working and finding solutions that are sustainable.

At this time, in Pond Inlet, we're just looking at a boat launch. As the member is well aware, to build something like a small craft harbour in Pond Inlet alone is well over \$40 million. The boat launch that pertains to his first question is just a smaller boat launch that will benefit the harvesters and the residents of Pond Inlet and make it easier for putting out their small craft boats and for getting away from the inclement weather. As you know, Pond Inlet is open to the ocean. The community residents do have a major problem in launching and getting their boats off the beach. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Mr. Minister. I want to ask about the funding available for small craft harbours which is available annually from your department. Will the minister commit to tabling an annual report in the Legislative Assembly during the spring sitting concerning his department's expenditures under its Small Craft Harbours Program? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. Mr. Speaker, again pertaining to the first question, once our officials have their discussions with the hamlet officials in Pond Inlet, there are a couple of options that they will be looking at for the boat launch. The budget for that

hasn't been determined yet. Overall, one of the things that we want to do is make sure the boat launch can be built locally with existing equipment at the local level and local labour. Once we have this preliminary option discussion with the hamlet, I'll be certain to put forth more information or possibly table the other document that he is referring to. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>>*Laughter*

**Speaker:** Getting ready for Committee of the Whole, I think, eh, Minister Taptuna? Thank you.

Oral Questions. Member for South Baffin, Mr. Schell.

#### **Question 492 – 3(3): Update on Federal-Territorial Relations**

**Mr. Schell:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Premier.

I guess we're all aware that this summer, when they had the "Idle No More" protest with all the aboriginal groups down south in regard to lack of funding from the federal government for housing and infrastructure, we all remember Chief Spence going on a hunger strike because of lack of housing and infrastructure in her community. Although it was not a hunger strike, I don't think it was fasting because she was consuming fish broth.

Of course, the information for broth is any liquid that is boiled with meat and that could include seal meat. Also, in High German, broth means "to boil," and when you're talking about a young man, a broth young man is a sturdy young man.

So my question is: has the Premier planned any protests in regard to lack of funding from the federal government for housing and infrastructure in Nunavut? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleague for asking that question. With regard to infrastructure and capital funding, we have a severe shortage, especially to housing and other issues. Every time I meet with the government officials, I bring these issues up. I was in Ottawa recently to talk about these issues. (interpretation ends) The issues of discussion with my counterparts in Ottawa were exactly that: the housing infrastructure and our dire needs of other infrastructure, such as energy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Schell:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday, in the House of Commons, one of the subjects discussed by the Members of Parliament was the issue of infrastructure needs in the north. In reviewing *Hansard*, I noted that one of the Members of Parliament stated, and I quote, "Earlier this month, the Premier of Nunavut was here in Ottawa lobbying for \$500 million over five years for only two projects. That did not go very far." Can the Premier clarify what projects she was requesting half a billion dollars in funding for, and can she indicate what

the federal response was to her request? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Eva Aariak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will repeat what I just said earlier because that's exactly what I was talking about when I was in Ottawa, housing infrastructure and energy infrastructure, with my meetings with my counterparts.

You know, when you meet with your counterparts, with the federal government, the dialogue is ongoing and you are not given an immediate answer to your requests, as we all know. So I will wait and see what the federal budget will bring us. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Schell:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My next question is: was there any response from the Prime Minister? Was there any specific commitment that we will be receiving funds from the federal government? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Eva Aariak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There was no specific commitment, but the dialogue is ongoing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Schell:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My next question is: why weren't the appropriate ministers present when she was requesting funds for housing, infrastructure, and energy? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Eva Aariak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My colleagues were well aware of the reasons why I was going to go to Ottawa and I worked closely with the Minister of Finance, my colleague. When the Premier is meeting with his or her counterpart, that is the normal practice and I was conducting my business as a Premier, as I always do. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Madam Premier. Oral Questions. Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Rumbolt.

### **Question 493 – 3(3): Preventative Dental Care**

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my questions to the Minister of Health and Social Services.

Mr. Speaker, as I noted in my Member's Statement earlier, an increase in preventative dental care services in Nunavut's communities could go a long way towards improving the health and well-being of all of our residents.

Can the minister clarify what kinds of preventative dental care programs are delivered in Nunavut communities on a regular and ongoing basis? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Rumbolt for asking that question. Mr. Speaker, it's no secret that the earlier children begin oral hygiene the better their teeth will be. Of course, we know that teeth are important throughout life, right up until old age. Not looking after teeth could lead to some serious health consequences, as Mr. Rumbolt mentioned in his Member's Statement.

I can tell Mr. Rumbolt that on a regular basis, [we offer] the Nunavut dental preventative programs. We have a school fluoride rinse program, a school tooth brushing program, prenatal and postnatal presentation at the health centres, and the daycare tooth brushing program.

We're also working, through the Territorial Health [System] Sustainability Initiative, THSSI for short, the current two-year extension to develop an oral health program that will have an emphasis on children and youth. We are evaluating different models to improve oral health care in the communities. We're also currently working with Health Canada to increase dental services provided in communities.

We recognize that there are issues. It is a real tragedy when you see 2- to 5-year-old kids with a whole mouthful of silver teeth. The earlier we address preventative tooth decay, the earlier it can benefit the kids. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for his response. The high cost of providing medical transportation and accommodation for clients who have to be flown out of their home community to receive treatment and services has been well documented. Can the minister clarify whether his officials have undertaken any cost analysis to compare the cost of providing regular dental care at the community level to the cost of transportation and accommodation for dental care clients who require dental treatment? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That's a good question. Mr. Speaker, I'm not aware that the health department has done a detailed cost analysis. As a finance type person, common sense tells me that if you could do it closer to home, there will be savings. Unfortunately, that's not possible in our communities.

We do have contractors who come in to visit all communities in Nunavut to provide dental services on a contractual basis. There's a schedule to visit all communities. Where necessary, we will send children to Churchill, Manitoba if they have to go under general anaesthesia to receive treatment.

We're looking at the possibility of using the Qikiqtani General Hospital for children in the Baffin to address the

huge backlog we have in this region. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's interesting the minister mentioned the contractors coming to the communities because it seems that contractors who do come to the communities come to pull teeth, not to prevent people from getting teeth decay or anything like that.

My next question is: can the minister indicate how many full-time dental care providers, such as dental hygienists, dental therapists, or dentists, are employed by the Department of Health and Social Services and in which communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Rumbolt. Yes, it is unfortunate that when dentists do come into communities, they have to pull teeth. Even a person who regularly looks after their teeth could occasionally expect to get cavities. I'm well familiar with that situation.

I don't have an exact number of how many dentists are in Nunavut. As I said, we have dental contracts. We have dental therapist positions in 7 of 12 communities: two in Iqaluit, one is filled; there's one in Arctic Bay that's filled; Arviat is filled; Baker Lake is filled; and Rankin Inlet is filled. Where possible, we request these dental



therapists to go visit other communities to help the communities there.

Mr. Speaker, there's a real backlog of vacancies for all of these type of positions across Canada. As I said, we're working with Health Canada through the Non-Insured Health Benefits Program to address dental care in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My final question will be: will the minister commit to reviewing the level of regular and preventative dental care provided locally in Nunavut's communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Rumbolt for the question. Mr. Speaker, dental care is a high priority concern for our department. As I indicated earlier, our department is working with Health Canada to address dental care. We will continue to make it a high priority for our department and help the residents of the communities in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Question 494 – 3(3): Update on Hamlet Office/Community Hall in Kugaaruk**

**Mr. Ningark:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Hon. Minister of

Community and Government Services pertaining to plans for a new hamlet office and community hall, but I will leave it up to you to determine if these are two different issues. Thank you.

(interpretation) The Minister of Community and Government Services and I had the opportunity to discuss the draft plans for the hamlet office and what stage the plans were at. Additionally, I alluded to the community hall, dance hall, or whatever they are called. I asked the minister what stage the planning was at for the Kugaaruk project plans. The Kugaaruk hamlet office is quite old and further, I was informed that it is becoming harder to maintain. So my question is: what stage is the planning at for these projects? Thank you.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Ningark. I believe that could be lumped together as municipal infrastructure. Minister of Community and Government Services, Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for lumping them together. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Ningark, for asking that question. With the fact that community halls or offices require more maintenance where the public gathers, it causes challenges and urgency to replace them.

In Kugaaruk, the plans for the hamlet office are ongoing, and for the fiscal year 2013-14, we identified funding for the planning process, such as looking for the site and the designing stages. This will be undertaken in this upcoming fiscal year, 2013-14. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Ningark** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Apparently I can also ask questions about the community hall, which I believe the minister said, so I thank him for that opportunity. I would like to ask then: what's the status with the planning stages for the community hall? Can you respond, Mr. Minister? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will see if I can have these two plans reviewed simultaneously during the planning process. We will include it in this process. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Question 495 – 3(3): Federal Support for Search & Rescue in Nunavut**

**Ms. Ugyuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Premier.

(interpretation ends) As the Premier is aware, an ongoing concern for me is the need to strengthen federal support for search and rescue in the north. Can the Premier indicate what commitments the federal government made to her on this issue during her recent meeting with the Prime Minister in Ottawa? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. Minister responsible for Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, Madam Premier.

**Hon. Eva Aariak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The actual search and rescue topic was not on my agenda with the Prime Minister in my last visit. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Madam Premier. Oral Questions. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. Elliott.

#### **Question 496 – 3(3): 2013 Budget Issues**

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Finance and are based around the 2013 Budget Address that was delivered by the minister earlier today.

Mr. Speaker, we rely quite heavily upon the federal government for funding through the territorial formula finance. I had noticed that in the minister's Budget Address, there was no reference to that. In the 2012-15 Business Plan of the Department of Finance, it indicated that one of its priorities for the 2012-13 fiscal year was to begin substantive negotiation, and I'll emphasize the word "negotiation," of the Territorial Formula Financing Agreement to achieve a greater capacity for the GN. The current TFF expires in 2014.

I guess the question I have for the minister is: as the year has progressed, the word "renegotiate" has sort of turned to "renewal," and what I was hoping for was a clarification if work around the TFF has actually been a negotiation and whether there will be significant changes

or is it merely just a renewal of the funding that is already received by the territory. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister responsible for the Department of Finance, Minister Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Elliott for the question or should I say questions. Mr. Speaker, as Mr. Elliott will recall, it was December 19, 2011 when I was in Victoria at the federal/provincial/territorial finance ministers' meeting and Mr. Flaherty announced to the finance ministers present our funding with respect to health care, the TFF, equalization payments, and more so the health side.

Mr. Speaker, there haven't really been any negotiations, more of technical discussions on our gross expenditure base. I believe there were some ongoing discussions there, but I don't believe that we should be concerned that our funding will be reduced when the current TFF expires. I think we have a five-year extension, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last year, the minister's Budget Address indicated that increases in tobacco taxes would produce additional revenue of \$3 million and that the government would use a portion of these new revenues for smoking prevention and cessation programs. How much funding from these new revenues has actually been allocated to date for smoking prevention and cessation programs? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister of Finance, Minister Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I had mentioned in our Budget Address, early indications in the first nine months of the fiscal year is that we collected more tobacco taxes, but cigarette smoking has decreased.

In the Health and Social Services business plan, which will be coming up here in the coming days, you will see that we will be allocating over \$2 million to the Tobacco Reduction Cessation Program. The Department of Finance and the Department of Health and Social Services have been working very closely on that. That was a commitment I made last year in Committee of the Whole. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In March of 2012, the minister announced that the federal government had agreed to increase Nunavut's borrowing limit to \$400 million. What is the current status today of the GN's debt position? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister responsible for the Department of Finance, Minister Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Elliott for the question. He's really testing my memory today.

Mr. Speaker, we were very grateful that the Government of Canada increased our

debt cap to \$400 million. That allowed us to look at investments in infrastructure. Of course, the first investment that we're looking at is the Iqaluit International Airport P3 project. It's a very exciting project. As of today, I can't give you an exact number, but I believe our available debt cap is about \$197 million to \$200 million. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As for my final question, in terms of some of the other projects that have been announced and in light some of the answers received from the Premier this afternoon about her discussions with the Prime Minister, it seems as though and I have heard mention of possible hydro infrastructure, and we have been reading in the media about QEC and the hydroelectric dam. Is there any way that we would be able to finance with our budget and with our borrowing room to be able to manage a P3 project, as he's already mentioned, with an airport and other huge projects, such as what the QEC is actually working towards? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister of Finance, Minister Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With the current use of the limit on our debt cap and taking into account the guarantees for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, QEC's lines of credit, and our capital leases, and then factoring in Iqaluit's P3 airport, we will be very close to our limit on the \$400 million debt cap. So unless Canada was to increase our debt cap significantly

beyond the current \$400 million, I don't think we could... Well, we couldn't incur any more debt beyond \$400 million. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Question 497 – 3(3): Policy on Polar Bears as Endangered Species**

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon to the people of Rankin Inlet and Nunavut. Mr. Speaker, I want to direct my question to the Minister of Environment.

I think our polar bear management is one of the best in comparison to Canada and other arctic nations like the United States, Russia, and Norway. Our management of polar bear systems seems to be right on. I think Canadians harvest over 500 polar bears annually. The management plan is perfectly in place and everyone is aware of it and people know how many polar bears will be harvested.

Inuit are always participating in the planning stages. Based on that fact, the United States is also part of the jurisdiction where polar bears travel, but the US government is saying that the polar bears are an endangered species under Appendix II, based on CITES information. Starting today, they are going to have a meeting. Can the minister report to the people of Nunavut whether Nunavut likes what the United States is pushing for or can you explain what the Nunavut government's policy is on the polar bears being identified as endangered? (interpretation ends) Thank you.

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

**Hon. James Arreak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for his question. It's included under Appendix II. It's currently cited as a species at risk, I believe, under Appendix II. They want it listed under Appendix I as an endangered species. Currently, the Nunavut government is satisfied with the current appendix. If they want to move it to Appendix I, the government does not support it.

I suppose that if they want to try and move it to Appendix I, polar bear products would not be able to be sold outside of Canada, even though they can be sold within Canada. If that were to be the case, then we assume the price of the polar bear products would plummet. So the Nunavut government does not support the fact that they want to elevate it to Appendix I. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Speaker, I want to commend the hunters and trappers organizations. Even though they have a limited budget, they have such huge issues to deal with. I'm aware that they have heard about Appendix II. If it were to be elevated to Appendix I, then it would definitely have an impact if the polar bear products are no longer sold in the USA or if sport hunters would not be able to hunt.

The minister mentioned that polar bear products would still be sold in Canada.

Based on that, Nunavutmiut have to be fully informed as to when they plan to move it to Appendix I. If they do, would there be a vote? What process would they take? Perhaps the minister can state whether they will be involved when they start to discuss this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. James Arreak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We support the people. We had a meeting with four communities pertaining to polar bear issues. They wanted to come up with ways to support us. That is the request that we had.

They are also going to have a two-week meeting commencing next week. At that time, they will be taking a vote. I think there are 176 countries that will be participating. Canada will have one vote. The federal environment minister will have the vote.

The fact that the United States government will be conducting that vote they are being encouraged to be in favour of the USA resolution. The CITES Secretariat, TRAFFIC, World Wildlife Fund, Polar Bears International, and other groups are lobbying to support us and they will not be voting in favour of the motion.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Curley and I will be going to that meeting. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you. I am pleased that the minister invited me to that conference because this is our traditional way of life. We know that the polar bears are not at risk. They're not at risk and they're starting to be a nuisance for the people who go out on the land.

He said that there is going to be one vote for Canada and that there are going to be other organizations. Who are those organizations that are going to be involved? I know that there are lots of people who are going to be supporting the Nunavut government. Thank you.

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

**Hon. James Arreak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As we all know, there are a lot of polar bears that are being nuisances to the hunters in the communities. They are becoming a danger.

I'm not really sure about the rest of the organizations. There are people from ITK and NTI that will be supporting, along with the federal Department of the Environment. They will be supporting us in our vote. I said WWF, TRAFFIC, and other wildlife organizations, and we also have people from our government who are going to be involved. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Let's hope people believe actual information, unlike those who are trying to change it and believe the propaganda that they listen to.

Oral Questions. Member for Baker Lake, Mr. Aupaluktuq.

### **Question 498 – 3(3): Operations of the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission**

**Mr. Aupaluktuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister responsible for the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission.

Mr. Speaker, the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission has announced that its Rankin Inlet office will be closing at the end of this month. Can the minister explain why the decision was taken to close the WSCC's Rankin Inlet office? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. Minister responsible for the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission, Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like thank the member for asking the question. There is no one reason for closing down that office. I will elaborate on some of them. There was lack of positions that go to Rankin Inlet. That's why WSCC's office was closing. The operations of that office in Rankin Inlet could not keep up with insurance and other stuff. That's one of the reasons why that office will be closed. The

position has been moved here to Iqaluit.  
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Aupaluktuq:** Thank you, Mr.  
Speaker. As the minister will recall, I  
had asked questions during our recent  
fall sitting of the Legislative Assembly  
concerning the WSCC's role in mine  
safety and mine inspections. As the  
minister is well aware, the Meadowbank  
mine and other developments in the  
Kivalliq mean that our region has a  
strong need for good service from the  
Workers' Safety and Compensation  
Commission. Can the minister indicate  
how the WSCC plans to maintain its  
service levels to the Kivalliq given that  
the Rankin Inlet office is shutting its  
doors? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq.  
Minister responsible for the Workers'  
Safety and Compensation Commission,  
Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation):  
Thank you. The inspections on the mines  
and other workplace by the WSCC will  
be done by the office in Iqaluit. I believe  
their vision is that there won't be any  
concerns related to their inspections. The  
inspections will be done by staff here in  
the Iqaluit office. We expect that they  
will be able to keep pace with the needed  
inspections and other work. Thank you,  
Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Aupaluktuq** (interpretation): Thank  
you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the  
minister for his response. There are quite  
a number of people working at the  
Meadowbank mine and they referred  
their questions about the WSCC  
inspections to me, so I am now posing  
those questions.

(interpretation ends) As the minister is  
aware, the WSCC has been working for  
several years to develop new  
Occupational Health and Safety  
Regulations that would replace the  
current regulations. The WSCC has  
indicated that the current regulatory  
framework is "fragmented, outdated,  
unclear and difficult to enforce." Can the  
minister indicate when the new  
Occupational Health and Safety  
Regulations will be approved by the  
WSCC's Governance Council and as  
such, provide that to the Nunavut and  
NWT ministers for a final review?  
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq.  
Minister responsible for the Workers'  
Safety and Compensation Commission,  
Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr.  
Speaker. I understand that the review of  
the Occupational Health and Safety  
Regulations were being done since 2004.  
I understand the third volume of the  
study was released to stakeholders in  
February 2012 for final review. The  
third volume contains final proposed  
Occupational Health and Safety  
Regulations. We're at that stage and I  
hope, in the near future, that the final  
regulations will be ready. Thank you,  
Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Aupaluktuq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the response. No doubt his constituents in Rankin Inlet as well with the Meliadine [mine] opening, with the Meadowbank mine operating, and the potential for Mary River as well, there are people, though, who have the direction needed in order to understand the Occupational Health and Safety Regulations. In light of that, I wanted to ask: can the minister indicate when he will next be meeting with his counterpart in the NWT and can he describe what issues they will be discussing at that meeting? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. Minister responsible for the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission, Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When I have plans to meet with my counterpart in the NWT, I'll be sure to notify my colleague. At that time, I should have a clear agenda of what we will be meeting about. When that comes to surface, I will share it with my colleague. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Question 499 – 3(3): Vacant  
Conservation Officer in Kugaaruk**

**Mr. Ningark:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I made a statement regarding the importance of the conservation officers in our communities across Nunavut, I will not bother with a preamble.

(interpretation) The Minister of Environment is the next minister I wish to ask a question related to the Kugaaruk matter. I want to ask when Kugaaruk can expect a conservation officer to start working in their community. I would also like to ask what stage the hiring process is at for this position. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. James Arreak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the member for his question and for not making a long preamble.

>> *Laughter*

Tomorrow is the date set for the reviewing of the applicants who applied for the conservation officer to screen for applicants who can be interviewed. So the screening will commence tomorrow, but this means that the interviews will need to be undertaken before they select a candidate for this position, so this also includes the time needed for a job offer. It means that we will be dealing with this process over the next month. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Question 500 – 3(3): Inadequate  
Specialist Services**

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like direct my questions to the Minister of Health and Social Services. These questions have been asked by members before, but there



are a lot of people in Nunavut who are concerned about specialists who come into our communities.

I know personally that in Pond Inlet, we had a problem. Even though it is good to have specialist visits, there are a lot of people who have not been seen. Just before I came here, they also stated that there would be eye doctors coming in to Pond Inlet, but because there are so many people who wanted to see the eye doctor, they couldn't commit to them all.

Mr. Speaker, I have been thinking that visits from the specialists are very expensive, but I also think that it is more expensive to have those patients go out to the southern institutions for treatment. The first question that I have is: who figures out how many days the eye doctors, for instance, will be in a certain community? 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. I don't have the specific name, but I know our officials in the health department here in the region work with the Non-Insured Health Benefits people to determine, through an RFP process, how many visits a community in Nunavut should receive under the contract. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Mr. Minister. I realize his response is saying that they cannot have the certain people in the

communities for a long time. My question is: as a minister, can you decide if the people in the communities can all be seen? Would it make sense if these individuals who come to the communities can be in the community longer? There are many patients needing to be seen, but they are not seen. Can the minister consider whether those individuals can come to the communities longer than a few days? 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'm well aware of Mr. Enook's concerns and indeed all MLAs and ministers have the same concerns from their constituents, but the situation is such that there is only so much funding available through non-insured health benefits and our RFP process to allow a certain number of visits a year. That's what we have to work within.

Your concerns are duly noted. We do talk to the Non-Insured Health Benefits people and Health Canada. I was mentioning to Mr. Rumbolt earlier about dental care. They're well aware of our concerns with a number of health issues in Nunavut. As the Minister of Health, I'll continue to make your concerns known to our federal counterparts. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Question 501 – 3(3): Nunavut Construction Association**

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation.

The reason for the question is related to a meeting taking place during our session here in Iqaluit for the (interpretation ends) NWT and Nunavut Construction Association. (interpretation) While these groups are meeting here in Iqaluit, what support does your department provide to these organizations that are currently meeting here? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll have to check with my officials on exactly what assistance they provided to the conference that is happening here with the construction association. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Curley:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understand one of the items that the group is discussing with all the representatives from the membership of the Nunavut and NWT Construction [Association], one major item is the NNI Policy. Is this part of the review process as was directed by the Premier? Does that include consultations on the NNI Policy and thereby, his department has some involvement in it? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. If there is any conferences pertaining to the NNI Policy, of course, my officials are there attending the conference with the construction association of the NWT and Nunavut. They participate in the discussions. We await the outcome of the conference and we will go from there. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Curley:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I believe the substance of the discussion is really quite important. I'm surprised that the minister wasn't fully up to date on the matter.

It was indicated through his officials that any questions raised with respect to contracting experiences had to have an approval of the board of this particular organization. Why would the departmental officials make it conditional, if they are to ask questions pertaining to their experiences in dealing with the contracting procedures previously, that they had to have an approval first from the board? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like the member to

rephrase and clarify the question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Can you clarify your question? Mr. Curley.

**Mr. Curley:** Thank you. Mr. Speaker, this is my second supplementary, I believe. A clarification for that is it was indicated by one of his officials that any questions that any participant was to ask, if they were to ask a question, they have to have an approval first from the board of directors of this particular organization. Why would the officials of the department make it conditional to ask the questions that have to be vetted through the directors first? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Curley, for clarifying that. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Minister Taptuna.

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The comprehensive review on the NNI Policy is ongoing. There's no requirement for me to attend every review that is happening out there. The conference, as the member is well aware, is happening right now, and I can't be at two places at the same time. I do have my officials looking into the matter and discussing issues that I brought up for the NNI Policy.

Mr. Speaker, the review is ongoing and with cooperation with our partners, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated and other partners that are participating. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Curley:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe that if the proper consultation is ongoing, you would think that it would be much broader than just a construction association and that there would be no condition like that for raising questions because it's a broad public policy specifically related to Nunavut Land Claims provisions.

Also, Mr. Speaker, I would like to indicate that it was alluded to by one of your officials that in order to ask questions, there has to be no finger-pointing. Maybe the minister can clarify, once he checks on this issue, that if the finger-pointing was to continue, it may harm the funding of this organization. Why would that be a condition for raising a question or concern by a member from participating in the review process? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. Mr. Speaker, I'm not aware of any finger-pointing and restrictions on what's happening at this conference. As I made the member aware, we're reviewing the NNI Policy to make it better and we hope to complete that and have it tabled before the end of this government's mandate. I'm not aware of finger-pointing and restricting participants from speaking out. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Members will note that the allotted time for question period has expired. Given that, we will continue on with our orders

of the day. Item 8. Written Questions. Item 9. Returns to Written Questions. Item 10. Replies to Opening Address. Item 11. Replies to Budget Address. Item 12. Petitions. Item 13. Responses to Petitions. Item 14. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters. Item 15. Tabling of Documents. Minister responsible for the Nunavut Development Corporation, Minister Taptuna.

#### **Item 15: Tabling of Documents**

#### **Tabled Document 308 – 3(3): 2011-2012 Annual Report of the Nunavut Development Corporation**

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table the 2011-12 Annual Report of the Nunavut Development Corporation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Item 15. Tabling of Documents. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. Elliott.

#### **Tabled Document 309 – 3(3): December 2012 Report of the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food**

#### **Tabled Document 310 – 3(3): Federal Publications Concerning Food Safety**

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table today two items.

The first is a copy of the December 2012 Report of the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food concerning his office's recent mission to Canada. I encourage all members to

review the document with care.

The second item, Mr. Speaker, during yesterday's deliberations of the Committee of the Whole, a number of important questions were raised concerning the issues of food safety, best-before dates, and expiration dates. I am pleased to table today two publications on these issues from the federal Department of Health and the federal Canadian Food Inspection Agency. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Item 15. Tabling of Documents. Item 16. Notices of Motions. Item 17. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Minister of Finance, Minister Peterson.

#### **Item 17: Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills**

#### **Bill 49 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2013-2014 – Notice**

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Friday, March 1, 2013, that Bill 49, *Appropriations (Operations and Maintenance) Act, 2013-2014*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister Peterson. Item 17. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 18. Motions. Item 19. First Reading of Bills. Minister of Finance, Minister Peterson.

#### **Item 19: First Reading of Bills**

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I request consent of this Assembly to waive the two-day notice

requirement to allow for the first reading of Bill 49, *Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, 2013-2014*.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister Peterson. The member is seeking consent to waive the two-day waiting rule so that Bill 49 can be read for the first time today. Are there any nays? There are none. Please proceed, Minister Peterson.

**Bill 49 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2013-2014 – First Reading**

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet South and Whale Cove, that Bill 49, *Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, 2013-2014*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister Peterson. The motion is in order. All those in favour. Any opposed? The motion is carried and Bill 49 has had first reading.

Item 20. Second Reading of Bills.  
Minister of Finance, Minister Peterson.

**Item 20: Second Reading of Bills**

**Bill 49 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2013-2014 – Second Reading**

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet South and Whale Cove, that Bill 49, *Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, 2013-2014*, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill authorizes the Government of Nunavut to make operations and maintenance expenditures for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2014. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister Peterson. The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill. Question has been called. All those in favour. Anxious today, aren't we?

>> *Laughter*

Any opposed? The motion is carried. Bill 49 has had second reading and is also referred to the Committee of the Whole.

Item 21. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bill and Other Matters. Bill 49 with Mr. Tapardjuk in the Chair.

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

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>> *House recessed at 15:34 and Committee resumed at 16:04*

**Item 21: Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters**

**Chairman** (Tapardjuk)(interpretation): Just before we start, on February 18, 2013, our Speaker had written a letter to all of us in regard to the operation of the Committee of the Whole procedures. I just wanted to indicate that before we start. Thank you.

I would like to call the committee meeting to order. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We wish to start with the review of Bill 49 and commence with the Department of Community and Government Services. If time permits, we will proceed with the review of the Department of Health. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Are we in agreement to deal with Bill 49?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Bill 49 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2013-2014 – Community and Government Services**

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak, please go to the witness table.

Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Would you like to make your opening remarks? Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank my colleagues. Thank you for the opportunity to appear before the Committee of the Whole to review the Department of Community and Government Services 2013-14 main estimates and business plan.

(interpretation ends) We've had very productive and informative discussions at the standing committee phase, and I always welcome the opportunity to clarify any issues and concerns my

colleagues may have in regard to the work that we are undertaking on behalf of the Government of Nunavut and Nunavummiut.

Mr. Chairman, the Department of Community and Government Services continues to manage programs and services for local government, government services, petroleum products, procurement, protection services, informatics, and project and asset management, in addition to sport and recreation now as well.

When the Petroleum Products Division Revolving Fund is included, CGS has an overall annual budget exceeding \$400 million, with 360 positions spread out across Nunavut. Our projected budget includes a modest net increase over last year's main estimates of \$14 million.

In the coming year, CGS will roll out the new municipal funding formula that has been developed in close consultation with all Nunavut municipalities. This year, CGS will add an additional \$4.2 million to Nunavut municipalities' core funding. This increase in funding is a result of the municipal funding review and will help to ensure community governments have adequate funding to serve their residents.

Mr. Chairman, the Department of Community and Government Services is continuing to explore all potential opportunities for infrastructure funding, including public-private partnerships, or P3. A P3 model was applied to the Iqaluit airport project and a similar model is being examined by CGS to address solid waste infrastructure for communities. The feasibility of the P3

model for other infrastructure initiatives will continue to be examined.

In reference to waste management, research into the performance of wastewater facilities in Nunavut is continuing with the cooperation and assistance of Dalhousie University as part of our ongoing partnership. The study will provide preliminary recommendations for the development of appropriate effluent quality standards for Nunavut and the far north by January 2014.

The *Building Code Act*, which allows for the adoption of the National Building Code, received assent in June 2012. Over the next year, the department will be working to develop regulations and establish a building advisory committee with the participation of stakeholders.

CGS continues to invest in government operations by increasing our funding to maintain our facilities and support our IT infrastructure. This is increasingly important as the number of people on the government network expands due to decentralization and other factors and the types of devices they need to work and communicate.

Mr. Chairman, the department's Protection Services Division has been working hard to improve search and rescue response programs available to the public. The number of search and rescue incidents is on the rise in Nunavut. In 2012, for example, there were 178 searches for 301 individuals. We continue our efforts to promote the use of SPOT devices and increase awareness of safety preparedness measures for all individuals going out on the land or water.

During the fall of 2012, CGS, in consultation with municipalities and other stakeholders, conducted emergency exercises in Cambridge Bay, Iqaluit, and Rankin Inlet.

The promotion and development of sport, physical activity, and recreational opportunities at the community level is essential to building healthy communities. In 2012, through the Sport and Recreation Division, we were able to provide over \$250,000 toward leadership programs for coaches and recreation leaders, and over \$2 million in support toward intercommunity programs initiated by volunteer organizations throughout Nunavut.

Our Petroleum Products Division continues to manage the fuel provision mandate for the Government of Nunavut. While PPD has no control over commodity prices, we have been able to moderate the cost impact on Nunavummiut during the mandate of this government. We have capitalized on lower global fuel prices through the early purchase of our fuel resupply. As a result of this early fuel purchase, we have been able to maintain the cost of gasoline and diesel for all Nunavummiut over the past year. This fuel freeze will continue in 2013.

However, I must emphasize that global markets dictate the overall price and we must be prepared for future fluctuations. You will note that in other Canadian jurisdictions, there have been substantial price increases over the last four years and we are not immune to these price pressures.

Mr. Chairman, I hope my comments give an appreciation of the progress that

my department is making in addressing *Tamapta* priorities. As we have demonstrated through initiatives mentioned above, there is great value in partnerships and collaboration when we work together to meet the needs of government departments, communities, and all Nunavummiut.

I look forward to your questions, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Before I ask the chairman of the standing committee to make his opening comments, do you have witnesses that you would like to bring to the table?

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak**: Yes, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Do the members agree to bring in the witnesses?

**Some Members**: Agreed.

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

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On my left is Mr. Roy Green, my Deputy Minister, and on my right is Alma Power, our former Director of Finance, whom I thank for being here. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Welcome, Mr. Green

and Ms. Power. Does the chair of the standing committee have opening comments? Mr. Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to provide opening comments on behalf of the Standing Committee on Community and Economic Development on its review of the 2013-14 main estimates and 2013-16 business plan of the Department of Community and Government Services.

The standing committee notes that the department's proposed 2013-14 operations and maintenance budget of \$208,397,000 has increased by approximately 7.4 percent since the introduction of the department's 2012-13 main estimates. The number of positions in the department is 360. This is an increase of 16 PYs from its 2012-13 main estimates.

During the minister's recent appearance before the standing committee, members took the opportunity to raise a number of issues and concerns.

Mr. Chairman, as we all know, the territory's lack of adequate infrastructure significantly impacts the well-being of Nunavummiut. The department's 2013-16 business plan indicates that it is continuing to develop an infrastructure plan to address the territory's existing infrastructure deficit and that the draft infrastructure plan is expected by March 31, 2013. It also indicates that the department is developing a long-term financing plan for the implementation of the infrastructure plan with the Department of Finance.

The standing committee also notes that the department's proposed business plan



indicates that it “continues to explore all opportunities for infrastructure funding - including Public-Private Partnerships. A P3 model was applied to the Iqaluit Airport project and a similar model is presently being investigated by CGS to address solid waste infrastructure for all communities. The feasibility of P3 for other infrastructure initiatives will continue to be examined.” The standing committee looks forward to further progress on the department’s work to address infrastructure needs throughout the territory.

The department’s 2013-16 business plan indicates that it is continuing to review the *Fire Prevention Act*. It also indicates that technical changes and regulations under the *Fire Prevention Act* are required due to the recent passage of the new *Building Code Act*. The standing committee looks forward to ongoing updates on this initiative.

Mr. Chairman, as you will recall, the *Northern Employee Benefits Services Pension Plan Protection Act* was passed during the 2009 fall sitting. Members were pleased to note that the government listened and acted on the concerns that members raised concerning the need to protect municipal employees and their pension plans. On November 5, 2012, the Minister of Community and Government Services tabled a copy of his department’s memorandum of understanding with the Government of the Northwest Territories concerning additional legislative initiatives related to the Northern Employee Benefits Services Pension Plan. The standing committee looks forward to further progress on the department’s work on this important initiative.

Mr. Chairman, the standing committee notes an increase in funding allocated under the Municipal Funding Policy, which is used to assist municipalities to deliver programs and services. The department’s 2013-16 business plan indicates that “a new municipal funding formula was developed and will be included in the 2013-2014 main estimates.” The standing committee is pleased to see that the department has addressed the need for improved municipal funding and encourages the department to continually review this program to ensure that adequate funding is provided to communities to delivery programs and services.

The department’s proposed 2013-14 main estimates include \$2,513,000 in funding for the Mobile Equipment Block Funding Program. This program “provides annual core funding to assist communities in mobile equipment lifecycle planning, procurement and maintenance.” The standing committee notes that funding has remained stable since the introduction of the department’s 2011-12 main estimates and encourages the department to continually review this program to ensure that adequate funding is provided to communities for their mobile equipment needs.

The department’s 2013-16 business plan provides an update on one of its 2012-13 priorities, which indicates that “the Uqausivut Implementation Plan has been approved and will provide \$1.3 million in funding to municipalities for implementing the signage strategy in the 2013-2014 fiscal year.” Members are pleased to see the department will be providing funding to municipalities to meet their requirements under the *Inuit*

*Language Protection Act* and look forward to receiving updates on this important initiative.

Mr. Chairman, the department's proposed 2013-14 main estimates include \$850,000 in funding for the Municipal Insurance Exchange to "offset incremental costs associated with municipal insurance coverage and to implement loss control program initiatives with focus on such critical areas as fire training and fire prevention." The standing committee supports the government's ongoing support of NAMIX until such time as the system can become self-funding and looks forward to ongoing updates on this issue.

The department's proposed 2013-14 main estimates includes \$500,000 in funding to provide training to search and rescue organizations and assistance with the purchase of equipment. However, the department's 2013-16 business plan indicates that \$550,000 in funding will be allocated for search and rescue initiatives. The standing committee urges the minister to clarify exactly how much funding will be allocated for search and rescue initiatives.

Mr. Chairman, the department's 2013-16 business plan provides an update on the status of one of its priorities for the Office of the Fire Marshal. It indicates that "staff are currently working with municipalities to make required changes to municipal by-laws in order to implement Standard Operating Procedures related to the *Fire Prevention Act*." The standing committee looks forward to ongoing updates on this initiative and also looks forward to the minister tabling the 2012

Annual Report of the Office of the Fire Marshal in the Legislative Assembly.

The standing committee notes that the proposed budget for the department's Capital Planning and Technical Services Branch is increasing from \$33,838,000 in 2012-13 to \$38,549,000 in 2013-14. Most of this increase is due to the building maintenance and the project management office divisions.

Mr. Chairman, the department's 2013-16 business plan provides an update on one of its previous priorities. It indicates that "Dalhousie University research into the performance of wastewater facilities in Nunavut is continuing. Two additional study sites in Pangnirtung and Clyde River have been added to investigate additional forms of wastewater treatment presently employed in Nunavut. The study will provide preliminary recommendations for the development of appropriate effluent quality standards for Nunavut and the Far North by January 2014."

MLAs have spoken on a number of occasions in the Legislative Assembly on the importance of drinking water quality and safety in Nunavut. The standing committee continues to recommend that the department prepare and table in the Legislative Assembly a comprehensive report on water quality in all of Nunavut's communities.

Mr. Chairman, the department's proposed 2013-14 main estimates indicate that the department's Petroleum Products Revolving Fund will have a deficit of \$9,977,000 in 2013-14. The standing committee encourages the department to closely monitor this issue.

On July 1, 2012, the Sport and Recreation Division of the Department of Culture and Heritage was transferred to the Department of Community and Government Services. Members were pleased with this decision and look forward to this division working closely with communities to promote and deliver sports and recreation throughout the territory.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening comments on the 2013-14 main estimates and 2013-16 business plan of the Department of Community and Government Services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Before we proceed, I would like to remind members of the following: according to Rule 77(1), you have 10 minutes to speak, and according to Rule 77(2), subject to the discretion of the Chair, a member may speak more than once to a matter under discussion but not until every member wishing to speak has spoken.

I suggest to members that wherever possible that you ask your detailed questions during the page-by-page review of the departmental estimates. Do members have any general comments? I don't have any names on my list. Go to J-4. Community and Government Services. \$9,331,000. Does anyone have any questions? Mr. Elliott.

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe this is the correct place to ask in terms of the directorate where planning would be done. It speaks to what the minister also mentioned in his opening comments on the solid waste infrastructure for all communities. When

they are talking about a P3 project for funding this type of project, he has mentioned a couple of times that it is being examined.

Can he elaborate on what is meant by them in terms of determining a P3 project for our wastewater across the territory? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Thank you for that question, Mr. Elliott. It is at a very preliminary state, but if I could, through you, Mr. Chairman, have Mr. Green elaborate on the question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Mr. Green.

**Mr. Green:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The next round of applications for the P3 Act, Canada infrastructure plan, is for June 2013. The primary category for funding is for the municipal solid waste sites, so CGS is just right now primarily putting together a feasibility study and that we would be submitting to P3 Canada in June 2013 to determine if it is viable for CGS or the GN to approach this fund as a solution to the issues that we are having with these solid waste sites across the territory. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Green. Mr. Elliott.

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The ideas of the P3 projects are kind of new for myself in terms of how they

work and how the work is divided up, and how the partnerships are arranged.

Are there other jurisdictions that have gone through the process and have done a P3 project for municipal infrastructure for sewers and water systems? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are not aware of any of the P3 projects with wastewater management. Having said that, we would like to qualify that by saying that at this point, we haven't checked in to see if other jurisdictions have done that. The purpose behind doing this P3 is just a very expensive process that we are going to go in terms of wastewater management. The estimates we have range from as low as \$340 million to a high of \$503 million to deal with solid waste management sites. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Kusugak. We are on page J-4. Are there any questions under Directorate? Mr. Curley.

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Yes, I do have a question which I previously raised in a standing committee meeting about the urgency to change the government policy for disposing of Crown assets. I ask about the Disposal policy, which is rather outdated, and it has two versions, with the first version speaking to the right of first refusal by specific departments, after which the asset can be disposed of to the public.

The public or even individual Inuit, if they want to make a bid for the disposed asset, it ties their hands and they have no opportunity to place bids on these assets. There are quite a number of assets that are given to the municipality or to charitable groups, and in particular the capital items that the government is no longer paying for the maintenance.

There are also assets, such as non-heavy equipment which has its own policy related to their disposal. It doesn't even merge into one document. The process is taking too long, and to save time, we should look at the provincial jurisdictions to see how they dispose of Crown assets and their systems, which has a large public involvement in bidding for items, or via their website which the Canadian government undertakes for their disposal, and this even includes boats, vehicles, snowmobiles, outboard motors and so on.

We have been waiting patiently although nothing seems to have been accomplished. I wonder if the minister can clarify what steps they have taken to improve the government asset disposal policy. Thank you.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Yes, indeed with respect to the issues Mr. Curley is raising, it is clear and understandable especially when we are looking at future changes. At this current time, this is what we have to deal with these issues.

To cite this example, if there is an old building that is no longer in use, the

process that CG&S undertakes if there was a building no longer needed, first of all, we ask all other departments within the GN, and to the various levels of government. We send the information to the department of Health or other departments to see if there is any possible use within their mandates. Only after these departments have identified that there is no need, then we offer this information to the Hamlet to see if there is interest in their hamlet.

This process includes other organizations outside of the Hamlet, if they aren't interested and only after this whole process has been completed with no interest, does it go to the public bidding process for interested members of the public to bid on. That is how this process is run for buildings no longer needed by government.

However, for items no longer needed such as for furniture like a sofa or a coffee table, we would open it directly to the general public. As an example, here in Iqaluit, we had a fall sale of surplus items, and everyone from the public was invited to attend this sale. It was open to the public as an open house. We haven't made any changes to this type of asset disposal. Our department hasn't heard any negative comments or complaint letters about this procedure.

If members believe that we have to review those policies outside of our regular requirements, then we would entertain the idea. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Curley:** Thank you. (interpretation) Yes, I imagine that this aspect is acceptable for these types of items for disposal. The minister stated on behalf of the government about the Surplus policy, in particular Part A under 2(b) regarding the disposal of government assets, if they are going to be sold or given as a charitable donation.

It states here that the right of first refusal goes to the departments of the GN, whether it's the department of this minister or another department, and secondly, the local governments have their chance. I'm assuming it's the municipalities. The third is the federal government. The fourth is charitable organizations. The fifth one is general public.

I have never heard about the acceptance of this particular process as I haven't been apprised of concerns, but it is becoming clearer that with respect to Crown assets or equipment, heavy equipment in particular, that once the asset has been paid for, it is usually given directly to the municipalities. With respect to the airport maintenance equipment, once the government no longer needs the equipment, they offer it to the hamlets and we see this occurring.

Perhaps we should consult the people of Nunavut as to whether they like this process or the prioritized setup. If they state no, we don't like it and if people identify that they aren't satisfied with this policy, is that the only way we can make changes to this policy?

Perhaps that is how I should be phrasing the question to the minister. Thank you.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will have my deputy minister respond to that question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Mr. Green.

**Mr. Green:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With regard to mobile equipment or heavy equipment the only GN department that would have any amount of abundance of heavy equipment would be the Department of Economic Development and Transportation and they would follow the same existing guidelines that the GN has in place for now for disposal of assets. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Green. Do you have another question? Mr. Curley.

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Yes, I think... I am trying to make this clear regarding this policy, in light of the fact that this policy is severely outdated since it was grandfathered to our government from the GNWT. We have never consulted with our people as to whether this policy is acceptable and yet we use the policy perhaps that is why we don't get feedback because we haven't asked them if it is acceptable.

However, with respect to our aging infrastructure such as buildings that are quickly aging, if they are going to be sold off, then I believe there should be an opportunity for all people to bid on, not just our government bodies and agencies.

I wonder how we could set it up, to ensure that this policy is reviewed and changed to include the public after the first refusal sections so that they have more opportunity to bid on the assets being disposed of. I believe it should always go to the highest bidder, any asset being disposed of and this includes vehicles as well.

If we look at how our federal government undertakes this process, all you have to do is visit their website and see the figures fly. It becomes quite interesting to view, with large boats being sold and some assets are only on the website for a week prior to being bought. I have seen outboards being sold as well, as an example in the past month we spoke about the old boat that was given as a gift without any bidding process and I was informed by a bureaucrat that this boat was now owned by this organization.

The partners got this boat, with one of the partners also working for the GN as a civil servant. How did these people get this boat? That is something I would like to find out, so what I am trying to voice here is that perhaps we should update the policy to better reflect the current situation we are in.

I wonder how we could update the Nunavut Surplus Disposal Policy, and if this is impossible, we should at least look at ways to adjust the policy for our needs. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank Mr. Curley to raising these issues

through his questioning. The government legislation outlines how this process would be undertaken with a view towards fairness for all people.

With respect to this policy, I personally don't have a concern about disposing buildings and/or equipment to the local hamlets, as well as to other organizations that may require a building for their purpose, an office building or a workplace.

I think we are mostly talking mobile equipment, heavy equipment, and whether they should be made available to the general public. My department will look into it, and if there is room for change or improvement, then we will look at it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Kusugak. Mr. Curley.

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is a lot of items. Some of them are quite old and some of them are quite expensive. Some of them are just given from one department to another, or to municipal organizations and so on. There are more and more businesses cropping up in Nunavut, and there are people who would like vehicles of all sorts.

Because of the enormity of this issue, the policy will have to be reviewed. If the minister is going to review the policy, when will he be able to make a report on it in the House? (interpretation ends)  
Thank you.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I agree with you, Mr. Curley. It is going to be an enormous task, and because of that, I can't tell you when I will be able to table a report in the House if there is a requirement to change it. It could go on for quite a while. I cannot tell the member when I would be able to table a report in the House because of the enormity of the task. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Kusugak. I have no other names on my list. Mr. Ningark.

**Mr. Ningark** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just wanted to make an addition to Mr. Curley's comment. We believe, as a government today that the Third Assembly *Tamapta* has to be directed to everyone. The hamlet government is going to be a priority, we all believe in that. I hope that the Minister of CGS will use this as a foundation and look over the review of the policy. It is probably going to be difficult, but we have to believe in it. I just wanted to bring that up. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Ms. Ugyuk.

**Ms. Ugyuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends)  
Your department's draft 2013-16 business plan provides an update on one of the 2012-13 priorities is to "Develop an advocacy plan to seek capital funding from the Government of Canada to support implementation of infrastructure plans."

The status indicates that CGS is working closely with Nunavut Community Infrastructure Advisory Committee, municipal representatives and other stakeholders to advocate for targeted infrastructure funding to address the unique infrastructure needs in Nunavut.

As of today, what is the status of the advocacy plan, and can you provide information on your discussions with the federal government to secure capital funding for Nunavut's infrastructure needs? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. Just to remind the members, when you are talking about the documents, please mention the page numbers so we can proceed a little faster, according to the letter directions that we got from the Speaker. If you are going to ask a question, please indicate what page it is in. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I thank my colleague for asking about capital infrastructure while we're talking about O&M. Let me say this: those discussions are ongoing with both levels of government in terms of trying to get capital funding for our infrastructure needs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Kusugak. I think you had a question on the business plan. Ms. Ugyuk.

**Ms. Ugyuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My next question is up to today, can you give us a new update to see if we're going to get any capital

funding for Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): I am sorry, Mr. Chairman. Can you ask that question again?

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Can you repeat your question, please. Ms. Ugyuk.

**Ms. Ugyuk**: I'll just read out the last question. As of today, what is the status of the advocacy plan, and can you provide information on the discussions with the federal government to secure capital funding for Nunavut's infrastructure needs? It's a simple question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We do have consultations. We meet about these issues as ministers, and also with the (interpretation ends) Nunavut Infrastructure Advisory Committee, municipal representatives, and other stakeholders to advocate for the targeted infrastructure funding to address the unique infrastructure needs in Nunavut. A broad group of stakeholders met with Infrastructure Canada officials in July 2012 in Iqaluit to discuss the potential framework of future federal infrastructure programs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Kusugak. We're under Directorate. CGS. (interpretation ends)



Directorate. Branch Summary. (interpretation) I have no other names on my list. (interpretation ends) Total Operations and Maintenance. \$9,331,000. (interpretation) Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Let's go to the (interpretation ends) Branch Summary. (interpretation) Community Support. J-5. The proposed funding for 2013-14. (interpretation ends) Total Operations and Maintenance. \$76,912,000. (interpretation) Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Turn the page. Government Services. (interpretation ends) Branch Summary. J-6. Mr. Elliott.

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One of the questions that I have is regarding one of the government services and the government buildings that we have in all of the communities across the territory. It's not just with the Government of Nunavut; we have federal infrastructure in Resolute Bay that is old, aged, abandoned, and at times, dangerous to community members.

We have similar issues that I have raised in Grise Fiord and Arctic Bay with some of the Nunavut Housing Corporation houses. Definitely, in all three communities, there has been a concern. The issue was brought up a few years ago, maybe two years ago now, in terms of old buildings within the community and the idea of demolishing them. I have

asked questions before in Committee of the Whole.

At one time, the government was actually, and this might seem like a capital issue, but there were O&M dollars that were being spent on doing environmental studies. At the time, I think it was explained that it was a territorial-wide issue where the government was not just looking at one community specifically but all communities to come up with a plan. Since it has been a couple of years, can the minister update me on what's happening with that plan? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I could have my deputy, through you, respond. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Mr. Green.

**Mr. Green:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Over the past six months, we have hired a consultant to go into all of our municipalities to do a conditional assessment of all municipal and GN buildings in those communities. We are currently right now compiling this information.

Once we enter this into our asset management database, we will determine then if buildings are beyond repairs. If they are, then we will be developing an action plan to dispose of any unsafe buildings that are in the communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Green. Any further questions, Mr. Elliott?

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As an MLA, at times, we receive concerns from either hamlet about conditions about buildings. There are building maintainers in the communities who do services on behalf of the government to either fix boilers or fix railings. At times, when you discuss the issues and you get constituents coming up asking why certain things are not being fixed, when you talk to some of the maintainers, it is based around work orders.

The problem is assessed to being related to whatever department it is, for the High Arctic, either Pond Inlet or Cape Dorset. Maybe I'll use an example of a business like Tim Horton's, they have a certain amount of time where they want to try and serve a customer. Do we have certain standards within the government where a work order is placed, there is a certain number of days that Community and Government Services tries to push to have a reply of some sort in terms of the standards? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Unlike Tim Hortons, we can't do it in 20 minutes or less.

>> *Laughter*

I could assure my colleague that we do our best. As soon as a work order is drawn up, that's when the work begins in terms of trying to deal with the problem. I think my colleague

appreciates that, often, if it's a busted door or window, the parts are unfortunately always readily available, but the work towards assessing what needs to be done to fix the problem begins as soon as it's practical or possible. Sometimes it means we need to work for the worker or workers to arrive, but the work towards trying to solve the issue begins as soon as possible. There is no "Let's sit on it for a weekend and see if it fixes itself" attitude; it's "Try to fix it as soon as possible." Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On page 141 of the business plan, in a priority from last year, 2012-13, and the requirements for the Uqausivut Implementation Plan, it's stated that there is \$1.3 million that will go to municipalities for implementation of the signing strategy for this coming fiscal year, 2013-14. In terms of communities actually assessing that money, will the government be producing a block number of signs that they have assessed as being needed and purchasing stop signs and crosswalk signs or will municipalities have to apply on their own to CGS to buy these signs? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What will happen in this in a nutshell is that contribution agreements will be signed with the municipalities and it will be dealt with that way. Some municipalities have a lot of bilingual signs already. Again, it will differ with

each municipality. In that case, we will do contribution agreements. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Kusugak. I have no further names. Mr. Curley.

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Mr. Chairman, are we on J-6 or J-5? I have a question on procurement because this is the department that deals with most of the procurement for the government. What is the procedure or is it just like the NNI Policy? It started in 1999. Are there any interim measures for the NNI Policy or is the NNI Policy being reviewed or are you just following the old ones? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you. While the policy is under review, we follow the old procedures. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): I think it was last year that I had some question on this issue in regard to the NNI Policy. I think they were just following the CGS procurement practices reaching government-wide. Is it possible it might happen if the policy is inadequate? Sometimes there are too many addendums added and that is one example that was a problem. Secondly, when the tender has been appealed after it was awarded and when it is under appeal, is it the usual practice? Will it still be awarded? (interpretation ends) Thank you.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you. Perhaps my deputy minister can respond to that question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman**: Mr. Green.

**Mr. Green**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The current practice for contractual procurement within CGS right now is that we do follow the existing NNI Policy in terms of issuing tender documents for contract. In a situation where there is a NNI review on the go, it's my understanding that we don't issue the contracts until the review process is completed. To the best of my knowledge right now, I'm not aware of any contract that's under review by NNI. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Green. Mr. Curley.

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to talk in English so that I'm understood clearly. (interpretation ends) I know that within the department, obviously the major source of the tender was involved previously with petroleum products-related contract and tenders subject to NNI provisions.

That was the case, but there were also other tenders like the airline contracts, like the medical contract, that there was an appeal involved, the contract is not awarded, but in the case of the fuel contract an appeal was initiated but the contract was awarded.

So the question, as an example, if any

kind of tender was involved with an NNI provision, would the department, as usual, just go ahead and award, despite the appeal in place? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** My deputy minister will answer will answer that, Mr. Chairman, yes, definitely, Mr. Green.

**Mr. Green:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can't really speak to the practices that were used for the evaluation for the fuel contracts that were used a couple years ago. It would be my understand that that if we were that situation, moving forward, we require contracts to go to NTI's evaluation committee to review the issues with unfair practices. In terms of awarding a contract, I think we would try to work with NTI to make sure that any contracts and issues are resolved before we reward that contract. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Green. Mr. Curley.

**Mr. Curley:** Thank you. I appreciate that. Just as an example, it could be any other contract. For instance, in Inuktitut, I alluded to the fact that one tender, one RFP that was outside at least seven times it was put in place, including a huge requirement to have private, more or less, medical insurance included. I know that a particular company in Igloolik did express quite a shock that his insurance requirement had more than 100 percent, you know, double.

So is it usual for CG&S to provide a provision that the company, whether it

be 100 percent Inuit, that you do have to have additional insurance coverage now? Even though that 100 percent company which encloses Inuit employment, they are already covered by the non-insured health benefits, which would provide medical coverage.

So the question is: how is the policy change reflected through the CGS practice that additional medical coverage is required by all contracts? It's quite clear that was the case with the fuel contracts. That is in your records. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Curley. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Insurance coverage is a must in almost all contracting. If in a case there are some things non-insured health benefits, maybe it doesn't cover. I don't know the details of the non-insured health benefits coverage.

But insurance is a must in most cases. Non-insured health insurance covers only Inuit and aboriginal people. So I can't remember the particular details on that particular one, but maybe my colleague, Mr. Green, can elaborate. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Kusugak. Mr Green.

**Mr. Green:** Mr. Chairman, I don't have that information before me right now, but I would certainly would take the information as notice and review the files and get back to the member. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Green. Mr. Curley.

**Mr. Curley:** Thank you. Mr. Chairman, I think we're all aware that there is minimum liability coverage required. No buts and questions about that.

What I'm saying to you is there was, in the addendum, using the fuel contracts, I think it did more than double, could have been triple. What I'm asking is this: how was the policy change started and, if so, where is it? Can we have that policy? If we believe it should be a health policy to have extra health insurance coverage over and above the liability limit that is standard within the contract, we need that information tabled. Will the minister do that? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We don't have the contracts he specifically referring to here. It's a contract that was let and dealt with a few sessions ago. So as particulars, in terms of why the addendum was done, and why the exact amounts he saying were up by that percent. I'd have to take his word for it.

We don't have those details in terms of what was in the addendums he is referring to, and how much they were up, or if they were different, we'd have to go back and review that file and those details. It's unfortunate we don't have that information before us. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Curley:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On that issue, you know the permit procedures were followed by CGS. Your officials did include a new provision. Specifically, can the minister, once he finds that, exactly that additional health coverage was required, maybe not only on that one. It better be, if it's the usual practice that the minister will table that provision as to how it was initiated, and where did the authority come from to include additional health insurance coverage?

I don't have that. That was initiated by the departmental official, and they did implement it, and therefore, it was very costly for usual services out there to get extra health coverage over and above the liability requirements. Thank you.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We'll have to take a look. My officials will take a look to see what that addendum was all about. We have to go back in the files to take a look at the particulars of that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Curley:** Thank you. I appreciate that. I think it's important that if the previous deputy minister initiated it. I don't know. I know that it was not done by the usual contract manager, because it would have required much more senior authority to initiate that. You'll look for that once you have more information on that.

I have another question with respect to procurement. I know, Mr. Chairman, you can help me on that one. NNI is a comprehensive provision that contains certain provisions from Article 24 related matters. One of them is that specific reference that include, in my view, that the Qulliq Energy is covered subject to Article 24. Does the minister share that view? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm not the minister of the Qulliq Energy Corporation anymore. I don't know if it's important that I share that view or not. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Do you have any more questions? Mr. Curley.

**Mr. Curley**: Thank you. With respect to the policy, though, that the department must abide by certain procurement policies and that includes that, it was on that basis that I thought it was important to indicate that all provisions related to Article 24 should be reflected by the procurement practices of the GN. If that is the case, then the Crown corporations specifically referred to in the *Financial Administration Act* are bind by Article 24. That is as general as I can get it; I won't get into specifics. The minister does support that all agencies referenced in the *Financial Administration Act* are subject to Article 24. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Qulliq Energy Corporation does its own procurement. We don't do procurement work for Crown corporations, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. I'll get back to you once all members wishing to speak have spoken. Mr. Enook.

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe we're reviewing page J-6. If we are indeed on this page, although I don't have actual documentation on hand, I want to ask this question first of all.

We are aware of and continue to hear about the dangers of hackers who work internationally, but who can hack into our systems. This seems to becoming a burgeoning danger to our computerized systems. Our computers can be hacked from far away, anywhere in the world, especially government websites and computer systems that are open to anyone with hacking experience and who could jeopardize our systems.

Just recently, as we all listen to the news media, there was a story about hackers originating from China who have been hacking into various computer systems in America and Canada as well. I believe we have to be concerned about this danger here in Nunavut since our government operations are important sources of information, such as documentation and archived materials.

With respect to this issue, how can we cooperate with the various departments on this danger, as I believe it is being handled currently by the Department of

Community and Government Services? I wonder if I can get a brief update on how this is being handled, and that is what I am now questioning, as I am aware that this is a shared concern by other officials. I would like to know exactly how this process is running. I imagine that plans are being prepared to meet this newest challenge. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you. With respect to the hacking issue, we aren't aware of any hackers accessing the government computer system as of yet. We also have programming designed to detect hackers and most government computers have limited website surfing capabilities with built-in site filters.

When computers have free access to websites, it can lead to viruses infecting the system without the operator knowing of the infection. Further, we have outlined security protocols which are based on the newest updated information and we are also using the newest equipment in the government's IT system. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (Mr. Ningeongan)(interpretation): Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Mr. Enook.

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you to our new Mr. Chairman. If I can ask another question, Mr. Chairman, with respect to the response from the minister stating that all departments are using this system. I want to ask if there are standards being used by all of the departments as I imagine that the IT

department would try to have a singular approach to deal with this issue.

Additionally, if I can add on this question to the one above: who or specifically which department is the lead department that would identify that there is a security concern and that the GN needs to update its system or purchase newer models? Will this be the way it is set up? If that's the case, it's evident that hackers will access computers. Maybe periodically, do you have modern software in place with the Government of Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Enook, for asking that question. Yes, we have some IT technicians. All of the computers are monitored and operated through IT and all of the incoming and outgoing messages are the same. Our IT technicians are already looking to see whether we need new software. We try to ensure that everything is updated, including our software. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Mr. Chairman, if I could ask another question. I believe we are still under page 143 of the business plan. The first category is pertaining to telephone systems, voice and video. In the 2012-13 fiscal year, it is \$4.542 million and for 2013-14, it will be \$12.201 million. I want to know why there is a \$7 million

to \$8 million increase. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Enook. Thank you for indicating the page number. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My former director of finance will respond to that, Ms. Power. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Ms. Power.

**Ms. Power**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If you look at the telephone systems and the information planning and services just below it, those two items go together. So it's not an actual \$7 million increase, but a reallocation between those two line items to provide more transparency. It's actually about a \$3 million increase in IT for this year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I completely don't understand. Can you repeat that, please. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Enook. If you look below the telephone systems, I think she's referring to information planning, so I will ask Ms. Power if she can reiterate her answer. Ms. Power.

**Ms. Power**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The entire budget for IT increased by \$3 million. So the telephone, voice and video systems refer to the telephone systems, the voice network or video

network which we use for telehealth and our telephones. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Although there's an increase of \$3 million, what I'm looking at is an increase of about \$8 million. I think we also discussed the one at the bottom. I'm totally confused. Can you try and explain to me? The information planning is included with the telephone system. Is that why I can't understand? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The 2012-13 budget, if we look under telephone systems, it was \$4.542 million, and also under information planning and services, it was \$18.291 million. So in the fiscal year 2013-14, the funding has been amended. They are now under one category. That seems to be a substantial increase of \$12.21 million. The \$18 million is now under \$13 million. The funding has not increased substantially. That seems to be the case due to amendments. I hope that was clear and concise. The bottom one went down and the top one, telephone systems, seems to go up. They all fall under that same pocket. Does that make sense? (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (Mr. Tapardjuk)(interpretation): Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Mr. Enook.



**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I understand. That's it.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Oshutapik.

**Mr. Oshutapik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a couple of questions on page 143. The first one is the main one pertaining to the computer award program. Basically, this is to support students. In 2012-13, it's \$25,000 and also in 2013-14, it's still the same up to 2016. Does that reflect the high cost of living or is this going to be allocated without updating the software at all? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Oshutapik. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are 25 communities and we award \$1,000 to each school to purchase computers for the students in the communities. That is how the \$25,000 is allocated to purchase computers for the students. It's an award for being the best student. So that would be awarded to the students in schools. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Mr. Oshutapik.

**Mr. Oshutapik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for answering my question. It appears that it is for communities, but it's only \$1,000 per community.

Right below that, can you elaborate on the Informatics Cooperative Training Program? There is no increase. The numbers have not changed in subsequent

years, according to the plan, so the same budget is allocated subsequently. Can you elaborate a bit on that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Oshutapik. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, that is also in the same category. The funding that we provide to Nunavut Arctic College is so that they can teach the Inuit students about computers. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Kusugak. We're under J-6. Mr. Curley.

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you. My question is with respect to procurement contracts and I want clarification. Under Article 24 and the NNI Policy, sometimes it gets confusing. Maybe the policy should be covered by all of the departments. As the minister responsible for procurement, maybe it's you who ensures that the NNI Policy is followed. Is there someone who tried to stress the fact that the policy should be followed by all departments?

Sometimes it gets confusing who the watchdog is and that's why I asked that question in regard to the NNI Policy. Some of them have to follow different procedures. Is it the Premier who is responsible for this? I want clarification. Even though you are a minister for the procurement for all departments, who issues the directives to ensure that the NNI Policy is being followed? Is it you? That's my question. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Regarding your question about the NNI Policy, it should be followed within the procurement policy and the NNI Policy should be followed. I can safely say that. So if that's the question you're asking and you probably asked earlier whether I support the NNI Policy and if I understand the policy, yes, I totally support that. The NNI Policy should be totally adhered to. All of the contents of NNI should be followed during the procurement process. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I appreciate that. (interpretation) I want further clarification. Some of the departments, I don't know, maybe all departments, maybe all Crown agencies are covered under the *Financial Administration Act* and they should follow the policy. Even though the Qulliq Energy Corporation is under the *Financial Administration Act*, Article 24 is optional. (interpretation ends) Is NNI or Article 24 optional to some Crown agencies? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can answer that question, but I'm not the minister responsible for NNI and I cannot answer on behalf of Crown agencies. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Kusugak. We're on page J-6. Government Services. Mr. Curley.

**Mr. Curley**: Thank you. (interpretation) Yes, it's slowly making sense and later on, it will be evident that we will have some questions.

If we're going to follow the procurement provision, then the NNI Policy has to be followed. (interpretation ends) CG&S rules, procurement guidelines, policies, and contract laws included, as well as financial administration provisions guide all the contracts. To me, it means that in order to implement that policy... . Maybe if I rephrase it. Is the minister aware of which departments may be exempted by the NNI Policy or are they all covered by the NNI Policy? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak**: My understanding is that they're all covered by the NNI Policy. I'm not speaking for Crown corporations, but for all the procurement we get involved with, they're all subject to the NNI Policy. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Do you have anything else? Mr. Curley.

**Mr. Curley**: Mr. Chairman, one last point. I'm not at all suggesting the minister is responsible for Crown agencies, but the *Financial Administration Act* is really quite specifically referred to in Article 24, as it binds off which particular agencies are bound by the policy.

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

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. We're on page J-6. (interpretation ends) Community and Government Services. (interpretation) Total Operations and Maintenance. \$77,884,000. Do you agree? I'm sorry. Mr. Ningark.

**Mr. Ningark** (interpretation): Thank you. Along the same line as Mr. Curley's questions, the NNI Policy is used by the department. I think it should be recognized by all the departments and Crown agencies.

In the whole of Canada, we're the poorest territory. Under the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, we are the poorest government. When it comes to contracts and everything else, we're the poorest in Canada. We are recognized by the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. If a province or territory is poor, then the aboriginal people in the territory have to be considered for contracts and so on.

As far as I'm concerned, all the departments and Crown corporations are following the NNI Policy here in Nunavut. Thank you. It's just a comment.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. That was just a comment. I thought that we just agreed to J-6. Mr. Elliott.

**Mr. Elliott**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In terms of procurement and whatnot, I think it's good that we understand the process totally on how it works. I don't think I want to talk too much about NNI.

What I was concerned about was the procurement department. I think one of the things that came out of some of the Auditor General's reports was the idea of training plans. I know one of the concerns was that the process was going to be changed to help... I guess the idea is that the people who are always procuring are not necessarily people who would be able to come up with training plans. Individual bonuses are received for having Inuit employment and stuff like that.

Just for clarification, after the procurement is done, is it your department that goes through and checks if a bonus is going to apply or no bonus is going to apply or is it ED&T that does that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak**: Thank you. If I could have Mr. Green respond to that, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Mr. Green.

**Mr. Green**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If it's a CGS contract, yes, our procurement department would be responsible for the evaluation of the NNI components that are in those RFPs within the evaluation. Also, during the process of delivery, there are tracking of all the expenses and they're audited to see if they meet the requirements under NNI.

Since the concerns have been raised by the Auditor General, the GN is currently doing a re-evaluation of the NNI process to address some of these issues that were

raised by the Auditor General and some of the concerns that have been raised here today. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Green. We're on page J-6. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$77,884,000. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

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

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

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. There is a motion on the floor to report progress and it's not debatable. All those in favour, raise your hand. Thank you. I will now rise to report progress to our Speaker.

I'm sorry, I forgot Mr. Kusugak. I would like to thank you and your officials, Mr. Green and Ms. Power. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses out.

Thank you. I will now rise to report progress to our Speaker.

**Speaker:** Moving right along with our orders of the day. Item 22. Report of the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Tapardjuk.

### **Item 22: Report of the Committee of the Whole**

**Mr. Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Bill 49 and the main estimates, and would like to report

progress. Also, Mr. Speaker, I move that the Report of the Committee of the Whole be agreed to. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Tapardjuk. There is a motion of the floor. Is there a seconder? Thank you, Mr. Peterson. The motion is in order. All those in favour. Any opposed? The motion is carried.

Item 23. Third Reading of Bills. Item 24. *Orders of the Day*. Mr. Clerk.

### **Item 23: Orders of the Day**

**Clerk** (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just a reminder that there is a meeting of the Standing Committee on Legislation tomorrow in the Tuktu Room starting at nine o'clock.

*Orders of the Day* for February 28:

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. Replies to Budget Address
11. Petitions
12. Responses to Petitions

13. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters >>*House adjourned at 17:41*
14. Tabling of Documents
15. Notices of Motions
16. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
17. Motions
- Motion 41 – 3(3)
  - Motion 42 – 3(3)
18. First Reading of Bills
- Bill 47
  - Bill 48
  - Bill 51
  - Bill 53
  - Bill 55
19. Second Reading of Bills
20. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
- Bill 49
21. Report of the Committee of the Whole
22. Third Reading of Bills
23. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

**Speaker:** Thank you very much, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned until Thursday, February 28, at 1:30 p.m.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

