



**Nunavut Canada**

**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NUNAVUT**

**3rd Session**

**3rd Assembly**

**HANSARD**

Official Report

**DAY 63**

**Thursday, February 28, 2013**

**Pages 3453 – 3511**

**Iqaluit**

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

## Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

### *Speaker*

**Hon. Hunter Tootoo**

(Iqaluit Centre)

**Hon. Eva Aariak**

(Iqaluit East)

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

**Hon. James Arreak**

(Uqqummiut)

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

**Moses Aupaluktuq**

(Baker Lake)

**Tagak Curley**

(Rankin Inlet North)

**Hon. Monica Ell**

(Iqaluit West)

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

**Jeannie Ugyuk**

(Nattilik)

### *Officers*

Clerk

John Quirke

Deputy Clerk

Nancy Tupik

Clerk Assistant

Stephen Innuksuk

Law Clerk

Michael Chandler

Sergeant-at-Arms

Simanek Kilabuk

Hansard Production

Innirvik Support Services

**Box 1200**

**Iqaluit, Nunavut, X0A 0H0**

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

**Website: [www.assembly.nu.ca](http://www.assembly.nu.ca)**

## Table of Contents

Opening Prayer.....	3453
Ministers' Statements .....	3453
Members' Statements .....	3456
Returns to Oral Questions .....	3459
Oral Questions.....	3460
Revert to Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery .....	3476
Tabling of Documents.....	3477
Motions.....	3477
First Reading of Bills .....	3483
Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters .....	3484
Report of the Committee of the Whole .....	3510
Orders of the Day .....	3510

**A.**

**Daily References**

Thursday, February 28, 2013.....3453

**B.**

**Ministers' Statements**

228 – 3(3): Circumpolar Conference on Education for Indigenous People (Aariak).....3453  
229 – 3(3): Nunavut Food Security Symposium (Taptuna) .....3454  
230 – 3(3): Polar Bear – CITES Update (Arreak).....3454  
231 – 3(3): Coming into Force of the Nunavut Official Languages Act (Arreak) .....3455  
232 – 3(3): Call for Nominations (Ell).....3456

**C.**

**Members' Statements**

387 – 3(3): Acceptance of the Integrity Commissioner's Report (Schell) .....3457  
388 – 3(3): Importance of Safe Housing (Ningark) .....3457  
389 – 3(3): Congratulations to Diamond Jubilee Medal Recipients (Rumbolt).....3457  
390 – 3(3): Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal Recipients from Rankin Inlet and Whale  
Cove (Kusugak) .....3458  
391 – 3(3): Search and Rescue in Nunavut (Elliott).....3458

**D.**

**Returns to Oral Questions**

Return to Oral Question 487 – 3(3): Activities of the Office of the Chief Coroner (Shewchuk)  
.....3459

## **E.**

### **Oral Questions**

502 – 3(3): Search and Rescue Priorities of the Government of Nunavut (Ugyuk) .....	3460
503 – 3(3): Rabies Vaccinations across Nunavut Communities (Aupaluktuq) .....	3462
504 – 3(3): Status of Health Technology Initiatives (Oshutapik) .....	3464
505 – 3(3): Nunavut Food Security Symposium (Elliott) .....	3466
506 – 3(3): Heated Shelter for School Bus (Ningark) .....	3468
507 – 3(3): Status of New Baseball Field for Pond Inlet (Enook).....	3468
508 – 3(3): Request for Additional Funding from Ottawa (Schell).....	3471
509 – 3(3): Restructuring of Social Services Program Delivery (Curley).....	3472
510 – 3(3): Improvements to Nunavut’s Education System (Tapardjuk).....	3474

## **F.**

### **Tabling of Documents**

311 – 3(3): Implementation Update on the Evaluation of Business Development Centre, September 2012 (Taptuna).....	3477
--	------

## **G.**

### **Motions**

041 – 3(3): Extension of the Review Period for Bill 32, An Act to Amend the Legal Services Act (Ningeongan) .....	3477
042 – 3(3): Extension of the Review Period for Bill 44, An Act to Amend the Justices of the Peace Act (Ningeongan) .....	3480

**H.**

**Bills**

Bill 47 – Supplementary Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, No. 3, 2012-2013 –  
    First Reading.....3483

Bill 48 – Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 1, 2013-2014 – First Reading.....3483

Bill 51 – An Act to Amend the Child and Family Services Act – First Reading .....3483

Bill 53 – An Act to Amend the Medical Care Act – First Reading.....3483

Bill 55 – An Act to Amend the Student Financial Assistance Act – First Reading .....3484

Bill 49 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2013-2014 – Community and  
    Government Services – Consideration in Committee.....3484

**Iqaluit, Nunavut  
Thursday, February 28, 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):

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

>>*Prayer*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. (interpretation ends) We will move on in our orders of the day. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Minister responsible for the Department of Education, Minister Aariak.

**Item 2: Ministers' Statements**

**Minister's Statement 228 – 3(3):  
Circumpolar Conference on  
Education for Indigenous People**

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Good afternoon, Mr. Speaker and Nunavummiut. Mr. Speaker, improving education for indigenous peoples across the Arctic was the focus of a conference

hosted by the governments of Nunavut and Kalaallit Nunaat in December. More than 100 educators from throughout Inuit Nunaat as well as northern Europe travelled here to Iqaluit to attend. I was pleased to take part and I thank my colleague, Joe Enook, for participating. There were a number of important discussions on improving the quality of education, delivering early childhood education programs, and re-engaging families and communities in teaching and learning.

Mr. Speaker, the conference strengthened our efforts to build education that will ensure our students gain academic knowledge and practical skills, an education that serves them well in the real world.

At the conference, we also reaffirmed our shared commitment to bringing more of the knowledge and values that come from the Arctic into our school system. This is essential as we prepare the next generation to meet the challenges that are reshaping our part of the world.

Mr. Speaker, we have much to share and to learn in terms of best practices and innovation in education. Conferences such as these are essential to making that happen by building relationships among arctic educators across the vast distances that separate us.

In the near future, we will be signing a memorandum of understanding with our arctic partners to strengthen our working relationship and provide direction for our ongoing work together. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

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

**Minister's Statement 229 – 3(3):  
Nunavut Food Security  
Symposium**

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, colleagues, Kuglukturmiut, and Nunavummiut. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that several members of this House were able to attend some of the discussions that took place during the Nunavut Food Security Symposium which took place here in Iqaluit January 21 to 24. The event was organized and co-sponsored by the members of the Nunavut Food Security Coalition, which was formed in June last year by government departments and Inuit organizations.

The symposium was a great success, with more than 125 delegates from government, Inuit organizations, non-governmental organizations, communities, and the private sector in attendance. Delegates agreed on 39 "priorities for action." Particular emphasis was placed on support for community initiatives and access to country food. These priorities will be included in the Nunavut Food Security Strategy to be prepared this spring.

Mr. Speaker, I was particularly pleased with the involvement of the private sector at the symposium. The major retailers in the territory have agreed to participate in the ongoing work of the Nunavut Food Security Coalition and to support community initiatives, such as breakfast programs for children.

>> *Applause*

The symposium was the first opportunity for all of those involved in food security in the territory to meet face to face and discuss how they can work together. I am confident that with everyone's involvement in this way and with the goodwill and cooperation shown by all during the symposium, collaborative solutions for food security will be found.

Work is now proceeding on the preparation of the Nunavut Food Security Strategy and I look forward to updating the House on its progress in the spring. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Minister's Statement 230 – 3(3): Polar  
Bear – CITES Update**

**Hon. James Arreak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say "good afternoon" to the residents of Clyde River and Qikiqtarjuaq. Mr. Speaker, I would like to share with my colleagues and Nunavummiut the various initiatives the department has undertaken to prepare for the upcoming Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) meeting.

As I reported during our last sitting, the United States has once again submitted a proposal to CITES to have the polar bear up-listed from Appendix II to Appendix I. If the proposal is approved, it will effectively end the export of polar bear products from Canada due to increased



trade restrictions. The proposal will be considered and voted upon at the upcoming CITES Conference of the Parties next week.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, of course, we do not support this proposal which has no rational basis. Over the past several months, the department, along with our wildlife co-management partners, has worked hard to engage and educate organizations about Nunavut's successful polar bear management system. Many of the world's leading wildlife conservation organizations, including the World Wildlife Fund, Polar Bears International, and TRAFFIC, have joined the fight to oppose this proposal. We are in agreement that polar bears do not meet the necessary criteria for an Appendix I listing. The CITES Secretariat themselves have recommended against the up-listing.

Mr. Speaker, our staff, Tagak Curley and I, and our colleagues in Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board, Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami, Environment Canada, the Nunatsiavut government, the Northwest Territories government, and the Inuvialuit Game Council have been working tirelessly to get the message out that Canada has an effective system for managing polar bears that is founded on the principles of conservation. The world needs to know that our management system is based on rigorous scientific information and *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit* and that it supports the sustainable harvest of polar bears, which is an important part of Inuit culture and Nunavut's economy.

Mr. Speaker, we remain committed to our position that polar bear management should be entrusted to the countries that have polar bears to manage: the signatories to the International Agreement on the Conservation of Polar Bears. I will be travelling to the CITES meeting next week to ensure that our voices are heard and that the world understands that Nunavut manages its polar bears effectively and sustainably. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister Arreak. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Minister for Culture and Heritage, Minister Arreak.

**Minister's Statement 231 – 3(3):  
Coming into Force of the Nunavut  
Official Languages Act**

**Hon. James Arreak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to inform the Members of the Legislative Assembly that the Nunavut *Official Languages Act* will come into force on April 1, 2013, except for subsection 12(7)(c).

The new *Official Languages Act* will maintain the rights and privileges for English and French speakers while finally elevating the Inuit language to equal status. To the extent set out in the Act, all three official languages will enjoy equality of status and equal rights and privileges as to their use in territorial institutions, namely, in the Legislative Assembly, the courts, and the Government of Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, I tabled last fall the Uqausivut Plan. Under this plan, GN

departments and public agencies will take steps to improve their delivery of services to the public in the official languages. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

### **Minister's Statement 232 – 3(3): Call for Nominations**

**Hon. Monica Ell** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Qullit Nunavut Status of Women Council issued a Nunavut-wide call for nominations for which the deadline is today, February 28. I would like to encourage ladies in Nunavut who wish to be a voice for women in Nunavut to apply to be a Qullit council member today if they have not already done so.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, as a council member of the Qullit Nunavut Status Women Council, you would volunteer to raise public awareness of issues affecting the status of women while promoting a change in attitudes in order that women may enjoy equality of opportunity. The council does advise the government on issues and policies affecting women.

The time commitment is anywhere from 10 to 20 hours per month which would consist of participating in regular teleconference calls (sometimes meetings occur during the evening and weekend hours), and responding to emails on certain issues that need council approval and/or attention and feedback.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, council members usually serve a two-year term on the council. As this is a volunteer position, council members are provided per diems and modest honorariums for meetings.

Qullit has helped advance the interests of Nunavut women in many ways over the past years, including:

- Preparing submissions on legislation;
- Researching projects on violence against women and homelessness;

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, we are looking for women who take an active interest in advancing women's issues in the territory and who are willing to dedicate time and energy to this important role.

The deadline for nominations is today, February 28, 2013. If you are interested, there is still time to get your nominations in. Call the Qullit Nunavut Status of Women Council office toll-free, 1-866-623-0346, or my office at 867-975-5026. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Ell. (interpretation ends) Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Moving on in our orders of the day. Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for South Baffin, Mr. Schell.

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

**Member's Statement 387 – 3(3):  
Acceptance of the Integrity  
Commissioner's Report**

**Mr. Schell:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to acknowledge that I personally accepted the Integrity Commissioner's report in November 2012.

At this time, I would like to extend my sincere apologies to my peers, colleagues, and all of my constituents in Cape Dorset, Kimmirut, and all Nunavummiut. I am sorry for my wrongful conduct laid out in the Integrity Commissioner's report. I have met with the elders and discussed my conduct as a Member of the Legislative Assembly.

In the future, I promise to be more conscientious and faithful in fulfilling my commitments under the *Integrity Act*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 388 – 3(3):  
Importance of Safe Housing**

**Mr. Ningark** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the Minister of Education, who just came back from Kugaaruk to meet with the parents and students. We received a bus and it has been used this winter.

I would like to thank the Hamlet of Kugaaruk because the bus is being stored at their garage, but where it is stored is not heated. It is a computerized

vehicle, and it is very difficult for them to keep it running in winter.

I am not sure which government to turn to. Perhaps with summer or later on, we would like to see a heated garage for the bus. I just want the government to know this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Member's Statement 389 – 3(3):  
Congratulations to Diamond  
Jubilee Medal Recipients**

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to recognize and congratulate four constituents from the community of Sanikiluaq who have been awarded the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal.

Mr. Speaker, the recipients are:

- Elijah Sala, a former mayor of Sanikiluaq;
- Mina Inuktalkuk, an 81-year-old elder who has contributed to the community in many ways over the years and still serves on the hamlet council today;
- Moses Appaqaq, who was an MLA in the NWT legislature; and
- Mr. Speaker, a person you know well, Peter Kattuk, who was an MLA in this legislature for two terms and also served as mayor of Sanikiluaq for many years.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating my constituents on

their well-deserved awards. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. I join in wishing all the recipients congratulations.

Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Rankin Inlet South and Whale Cove, Mr. Kusugak.

**Member's Statement 390 – 3(3):  
Queen Elizabeth II Diamond  
Jubilee Medal Recipients from  
Rankin Inlet and Whale Cove**

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day. I, too, rise today to share my pride and recognize a Rankin Inlet resident who also received a Queen Diamond Jubilee Medal. This fall, while in Whale Cove, we also recognized Arualaaq and I gave a brief background on it.

However, with the onset of the new year, another person was also recognized in Rankin Inlet is Veronica Manilak, who is well known by many Inuit and she is no stranger to most Nunavummiut and even the world as she has had her work showcased in various art shows, specifically sewing crafts. She sews sealskin items and her sewn items are well known for their elaborate and colourful designs. She has been sewing them for many years, with some items smaller while others are larger items.

As a matter of fact, I recall in Expo '86, when we were still under the NWT administration, Mr. Curley was a minister at the time, we were in Vancouver and Veronica was at the

exposition to showcase Inuit crafts and the manner she sewed the items. People would watch her sewing and sometimes you couldn't see her due to the crowd surrounding her.

She doesn't just sew; she is a very active person involved in many activities, and she partakes in drum dancing events in Rankin Inlet and wherever they are holding Inuit drum dancing events. She goes to sing at these events as she knows many traditional songs. As a matter of fact, she taught me a song my grandfather Pujjut had composed and I am practising that song from her. She never stops and she is always present whenever the elders' drum dancing group gets together. She also goes to the schools to visit the classrooms and continues the Inuit culture awareness.

I would like my colleagues to join me in recognizing her accomplishments. I also thank the Premier, our Commissioner, Minister Shewchuk, and Mr. Curley, who were able to attend to the award ceremony in our community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 391 – 3(3):  
Search and Rescue in Nunavut**

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to join with my colleague from Nattilik who spoke so eloquently yesterday concerning the issue of search and rescue in Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, I want to pay tribute today to the many residents of the High Arctic who are active search and rescue volunteers.

Mr. Speaker, in Grise Fiord, Resolute Bay, and Arctic Bay, there is good cooperation between the municipalities, HTOs, the Canadian Rangers, and other search and rescue partners. I strongly support a well-funded and well-resourced search and rescue infrastructure in Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to take this opportunity to also highlight the good work that the Civil Air Search and Rescue Association is doing in the High Arctic. As you may be aware, CASARA currently has an active presence in Resolute Bay. In the near future, CASARA will be calling for volunteers and providing training in Arctic Bay.

Mr. Speaker, an ongoing issue for Nunavut is the need for enhanced federal support for search and rescue in the north. As I have noted on a number of occasions, Resolute Bay's existing infrastructure includes the Polar Continental Shelf facility, a modern airport, and significant DND presence. I continue to join with our government in calling on Ottawa to strengthen its search and rescue capacity in Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to conclude by asking my colleagues to join with me in paying tribute to the residents of the High Arctic who put their lives on the line to come to the aid of their fellow citizens. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Item 3. Members' Statements. Moving on in our orders of the day. Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Minister of Justice, Minister Shewchuk.

#### **Item 4: Returns to Oral Questions**

##### **Return to Oral Question 487 – 3(3): Activities of the Office of the Chief Coroner**

**Hon. Daniel Shewchuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to provide clarification to a question asked by the Hon. Louis Tapardjuk, MLA for Amittuq, on February 26, 2013, question No. 487 – 3(3). This is in regard to activities of the Office of the Chief Coroner.

The question is:

“...under subsection 21(2) of the *Coroners Act*, an inquest is required by law to be held in circumstances when a death occurs in a jail, lockup, or correctional facility. Under the *Coroners Act*, inquests must be held in public.

...can the minister advise the Legislative Assembly when the inquest will begin into this incident? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.”

The response, Mr. Speaker:

As required by the *Coroners Act*, there will be an inquest into the death in the RCMP cells in Igloolik. However, cases such as this are investigated by an external investigator before they go to an inquest. Once the coroner has received the external investigative report, she will begin the steps to take to hold an inquest. The chief coroner attended the

scene in Igloolik shortly after this incident to begin her investigation. Also in attendance was an external investigator from the Ottawa Police Service. The chief coroner also met with the GLO at the local hamlet office to advise of the situation and that there will be an inquest into this case.

The second question, Mr. Speaker, from Mr. Tapardjuk:

“I would like to thank Minister Shewchuk for that response. If there should be an inquest, can the minister indicate how the family of the deceased will be kept informed of the status of this situation? It has to be an open inquest.”

The response:

When an inquest date is set, the Office of the Coroner will send a written letter to the immediate family of the deceased informing them of the upcoming inquest, times, dates, and place. In addition, time and place will be announced on the local radio.

All coroner inquests are open to the public. The Office of the Coroner conducts inquests in the home community of the deceased in order to make it easy for family members and friends to attend and understand the circumstances surrounding the death of their loved one. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Natilik, Ms. Ugyuk.

### **Item 6: Oral Questions**

### **Question 502 – 3(3): Search and Rescue Priorities of the Government of Nunavut**

**Ms. Ugyuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) My questions are for the Premier. I’m going to approach the issue of search and rescue from a different angle today.

In June of last year, the annual meeting of the three territorial Premiers was held in Iqaluit. Following that meeting, the three Premiers announced that they “look forward to working with the federal government and Arctic search and rescue partners.” Can the Premier indicate how the three territorial governments have been following up on this issue? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the member for asking that question. The emergency management and safety issues have been very important here in Nunavut ever since people moved to communities. We can only successfully fulfill this role through partnership. (interpretation ends) It should be addressed by intergovernmental cooperation and sharing of resources. (interpretation) This is due to its importance.

Here in Nunavut, the priority has been on this issue and it continues to be a prime concern to many people. This is especially true with emergency search and rescue missions. At this time, I am also quite grateful to the search and

rescue volunteers who conduct searches by plane and land. All volunteers are appreciated for their dedication and for setting aside everything to assist. People with the RCMP, CGS, our conservation officers, and the HTOs are all working together to deal with emergencies and they work quite well together.

I also understand where the member's question is coming from. We continue to voice our concerns on this subject, especially the long distances required at present. We keep voicing the fact that search and rescue aircraft have to be sent from the south whenever we require SAR aircraft since there are no bases up north. This is one of our primary concerns that we are always voicing. We will continue to speak about this issue at every opportunity. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Madam Premier. Your first supplementary, Ms. Ugyuk.

**Ms. Ugyuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) As the Premier is aware, Canada will be assuming the chairmanship of the Arctic Council under the leadership of Minister Aglukkaq. One of the issues that the Arctic Council has been working on is search and rescue in the Arctic. Can the Premier indicate how the Government of Nunavut will be working with the Arctic Council on this issue during Canada's chairmanship? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Eva Aariak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is indeed an important

issue and this should be addressed through continued cooperation between other arctic states, as well as federal, territorial, and community governments.

Additionally, a stronger financial commitment at the federal level for assistance with Nunavut-based search and rescue operations is required, as we all know.

We have also commenced a pan-territorial public awareness campaign on individual responsibility and the need to be properly prepared for land/sea excursions.

We are also interested in exploring new models of delivery, such as Discovery Air, an Airbus military proposal to provide and maintain Canada's fixed-wing search and rescue fleet from a northern base.

So, obviously, it will be important for Nunavut to have a dialogue on those kinds of things with the Arctic Council. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Madam Premier. Your second supplementary, Ms. Ugyuk.

**Ms. Ugyuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the Premier. (interpretation ends) The president of Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated is on record as saying that search and rescue is an important priority for Nunavut. The Government of Nunavut and NTI signed a new cooperation protocol in 2011. Can the Premier indicate how she is working with the president of NTI to address this issue? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. Minister of Executive and

Intergovernmental Affairs, Madam Premier.

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Through negotiations and various agreements, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated and the Nunavut government discuss a number of issues, which includes partnership on other issues and working with other associations. I can ensure that we invite the member in future meetings with NTI when we have set up another meeting with them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Madam Premier. Your final supplementary, Ms. Ugyuk.

**Ms. Ugyuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) The need for the federal government to permanently station search and rescue assets in the north, including aircraft, has been discussed on many occasions. Can the Premier indicate what the Government of Nunavut's current position is on this issue? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This issue is very critical, especially the issue of proximity when it comes to search and rescue aircraft and to have faster response times in these cases. We will work with various partners, organizations, and different levels of government to voice our concerns and to ensure that this continues to be brought

up at every opportunity. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Madam Premier. Oral Questions. Member for Baker Lake, Mr. Aupaluktuq.

**Question 503 – 3(3): Rabies  
Vaccinations across Nunavut  
Communities**

**Mr. Aupaluktuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Environment.

Mr. Speaker, approximately one year ago, I rose in this House to question the minister on his department's activities to address the threat of rabies across Nunavut's communities. I believe it's called *Pillanngillaqtut* in the Baffin. In the Kitikmeot, they're called *Uimmaumajut*. We call them *Aangajaaqtut* in the Kivalliq and Baker Lake. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, our own dog, Buddy, a Jack Russell terrier, gave his life to protect our home from an attack by a rabid wolf in Baker Lake. He was a brave little fellow. We, Bakermiut, even established a fund in his name, the Buddy Fund, to meet the need for vaccinations in our community.

On March 6, 2012, I asked the Minister of Environment whether rabies vaccination programs were provided by his department and he indicated that he would look into the issue and provide an answer "later." I hope that the minister has had sufficient time to be able to provide an update on this issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.



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

**Hon. James Arreak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank Mr. Aupaluktuq for the question. For pets that have rabies, they have been dealt with by the hamlet council and the municipalities.

If there is a rabies outbreak, then they provide vaccination for the dogs, but people who are bitten or scratched by rabid dogs have to be dealt with by the health officials. The vaccination for the dogs is provided by the by-law officers, and you can approach the hamlet council and they can be dealt with by the conservation officers. They also take samples from the rabid or supposedly rabid dogs.

For the question from Mr. Aupaluktuq, I gave him a response by letter on March 13, 2012. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Aupaluktuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have seen the correspondence, but I wanted to bring it up again so that the people of Baker Lake will hear the response. Even if the dogs and other pets in our communities have been vaccinated against rabies, a rabid animal can be very dangerous. Can the minister clarify whether specific training is provided to conservation officers and other safety personnel, such as RCMP, to recognize and handle threats from animals which may be rabid? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. James Arreak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The conservation officers in the communities are not responsible for people's pets. They're responsible only for wildlife issues. If there are any by-law officers in the hamlets, they are authorized to give the vaccination shots. However, if a person happened to be bitten or scratched by a rabid animal or by a suspected infected animal, that person should go to the health centre to get the appropriate medical treatment from the nurses. That is how we manage this process to date. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Aupaluktuq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the response as well. There are a lot of sled dog owners and a lot of dog owners in Baker Lake.

Earlier in our sitting, one of my colleagues addressed the importance of prevention and how it can improve the overall health and well-being of our population. Would the minister support the introduction of a robust vaccination program for all dogs in our communities, whether they are working dogs, such as sled dogs or family pets, as a preventative activity for the overall health and well-being of our communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. James Arreak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank Mr. Aupaluktuq for his efforts to inform the general public in Nunavut, especially in trying to make improvements in the dog vaccination program in the communities.

We encourage and urge dog owners to take proper stewardship over their dogs and in trying to vaccinate their dogs against rabies. We can only encourage all owners to vaccinate their dogs, but every person who owns dogs has the right to refuse treatment, as per their ownership rights.

Additionally, I also thank the member and his community for the Buddy Fund that works towards providing animal services in his community and in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Aupaluktuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That is very good news for my fellow residents of Baker Lake, both those who own sled dogs or pets. They are very responsible in looking after their dogs.

To cite the example of the Buddy Fund, these volunteers fundraise throughout the year to bring in veterinarians. There are several veterinarians who have travelled to Baker Lake over a few years and it would be appreciated if this program received more support.

Since the minister's response was quite clear, I thank him for his support in dealing with the vaccination program. I look forward to an update on this matter

some time down the road in this House if the minister is able to provide it in the Legislative Assembly. We will patiently await further news on this important program. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. James Arreak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I personally didn't hear any questions, but I take this opportunity to further direct my staff to provide an update, if any are available, so that I can provide the update in the House some time in the near future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Question 504 – 3(3): Status of Health Technology Initiatives**

**Mr. Oshutapik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon to my fellow residents of Pangnirtung and Nunavut. My questions today are for the Minister of Health and Social Services.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, following the results of the coroner's inquest that was held in the spring of 2011, a recommendation was made for the Department of Health and Social Services to purchase a new CT scanner for the Qikiqtani hospital. Can the minister update the Legislative Assembly today on the status of this issue? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Oshutapik. Minister responsible for the Department

of Health and Social Services, Minister Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Oshutapik for the question. Mr. Speaker, I can tell the Legislative Assembly that an RFP was let out last summer, there were submissions received, and a proposal was accepted. I believe the plan is to purchase the CT scanner and ship it up via ship later this year to place in the Qikiqtani hospital. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Oshutapik:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, minister, (interpretation) for your response. (interpretation ends) Last year, the Legislative Assembly approved \$4.5 million in supplementary funding for the Department of Health and Social Services to purchase new diagnostic equipment in order to “decrease patient wait times.” Can the minister update the Legislative Assembly today on how much of this funding has been spent and what equipment has actually been purchased? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't have the level of detail that Mr. Oshutapik is questioning. I can assure the member, though, that we're well aware of the budget, \$4.5 million. The RFPs for the equipment would not exceed that amount.

As I had indicated earlier, the CT scanner proposals, I believe, came under the \$1.8 million that was allocated for the CT scanner, but it is the intention to place the CT scanner in the Qikiqtani General Hospital and the diagnostic imaging equipment in health centres across Nunavut. We do hope that costs will, indeed, decrease as a result. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Oshutapik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for his response. Equipment such as CT scanners requires that staff be trained in its use. Can the minister indicate how his department and the hospital are providing training in the use of new diagnostic equipment? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Indeed, the CT scanner is very sophisticated equipment. We require highly trained individuals to work with that type of equipment. I think the contract is being developed with a health firm or hospital that can support us with that kind of training. It will be the intention for the people who work with that equipment to receive training and ongoing training. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Oshutapik:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, minister, for the response. An ongoing project of this department has been to move towards a system of electronic health records for patients. Can the minister update the Legislative Assembly today on the status of this initiative? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Oshutapik for the question. Mr. Speaker, the interoperable electronic health records project is going well. There were some delays initially getting it off the ground. I understand that in the hospital here in Iqaluit, it has reduced the wait times for diagnostic imaging already by up to three weeks. It's being implemented and phased in. I believe over 400 to 500 people have been trained how to use it. The plan is to have full implementation by December of 2015.

Again, this is an initiative that our government, with assistance of the Government of Canada, hopes will provide more accurate information on our patients, help us with our billings, improve the delivery of health care services, and provide us with some savings. It is a very good project. You have to keep in mind that we're implementing an electronic health [records] system that will be in 25 communities, stretched across three time zones and two million square kilometres. It is very challenging for the people doing the work. I would like to complement them on the hard work that they're putting into implementing the

system, and of course, all the people who are taking the training so that they know how to use it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Question 505 – 3(3): Nunavut Food Security Symposium**

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation and regarding his Minister's Statement today about the Nunavut Food Security Symposium.

Mr. Speaker, most of the work done under the Nunavut Food Security Symposium and the Poverty Reduction Strategy has been a collaborative approach involving different organizations, including NTI and a lot of volunteers and community members from across the territory.

In his Minister's Statement, he had mentioned the 39 priorities that would be included in the Nunavut Food Security Strategy, of which one of them, I think, was the idea of a *Donation of Food Act*. Technically, there are only 38 priorities left to cover under the strategy.

I'm just wondering: in terms of the strategy, since so much collaboration was done in the meetings and whatnot leading up to this point, who is actually writing the strategy? Is it a combined, collaborative approach with NTI or is it from government officials in his Poverty Reduction Secretariat? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Elliott. 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, the Food Security Coalition is an organization that is going to write the report with collaboration from the Anti-Poverty Secretariat and other partners involved, that being Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated and the committee that is out there involving private industry and the communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, I'm not totally clear on who's actually going to be coming up and writing the strategy. Is there a list of partners that would be able to be made available so that the public would know and a good way of publicizing all of the partners that are involved in the writing of this? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again I thank the member for that question. Mr. Speaker, the health department, through its nutritional foods division, is the lead on that, but I'll make the list available to the member once I get that in writing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Also in the Minister's Statement, it spoke of the major retailers in the territory agreeing to participate in the ongoing work of the Nunavut Food Security Coalition, which is great. In a sense, I know the community members sometimes feel that the stores are charging way too much and providing not enough service.

I was wondering: at the meeting, were the two major airlines or were all airlines in Nunavut participants to the food security meeting? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will provide that information once I receive the report on the conference. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again I'll await the information from the minister. When I look at the issue of high costs in the High Arctic, it always seems to be based around purchasing of food, which includes the retailers, which those individuals or those companies were at the meeting. As well, it comes back onto the airlines which bring food to the communities and the costs of freight and shipping materials to the communities.

For my final question, I was wondering if the minister has the information on whether our sealift carriers or providers,

Nunasi or NEAS, were at the meeting as well. That would be the final link in my mind to how food and how goods and services that come to our communities get there. It's either airlines or sea. So if he could provide that information as well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's quite ironic when the member speaks about the companies, the airlines, and the shippers. They do have to make a profit to assist the entities and themselves, but them participating within the conference gives us a little more leeway in finding solutions to help the ones who are desperately in need. With all of these partners, we hope to come up with a strategy that will benefit communities, especially on freight rates and whatnot.

As the member is well aware, every time you go further up north, there's a cost of fuel that is included by the shippers and hence, the costs continue to climb the further north you go. With collaboration and good exchange of information with the private industry, other groups, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, including the RIAs, the options of finding a good solution for keeping the costs down for the ones who are most in need is our target. It's one of the things that we are desperately looking at to find a way to, again, help those who are most in need. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Question 506 – 3(3): Heated Shelter for School Bus**

**Mr. Ningark:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Earlier in today's *Orders of the Day*, under Item 3, Members' Statements, I talked about needing a heated school bus shelter. Now I would like to follow up with a subsequent question to the Hon. Minister of Education.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, did the minister receive a letter from the DEA in Kugaaruk requesting a heated shelter for the school bus? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, I am pleased to have been able to visit Kugaaruk because it is always productive to see the communities with our own eyes. Mr. Speaker, I personally didn't see the letter, but I will be expecting to hear from the DEA in Kugaaruk requesting a heated shelter. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Question 507 – 3(3): Status of New Baseball Field for Pond Inlet**

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, residents of Pond Inlet and my fellow Nunavummiut. Mr. Speaker, I know for a fact that in our community, it is about -35 degrees Celsius, but I really want to direct questions to the Minister of Community and Government Services, Minister Kusugak, with respect to a

proposed ball diamond in our community. We will eventually reach springtime, although spring seems so far off at this time.

As the minister may recall, I asked him questions on June 7 of last year concerning the issue of funding for a new baseball field in Pond Inlet. In his responses to my questions, the minister stated that his department “will continue to work with the Hamlet of Pond Inlet to ensure that a ballpark is built in the community.” Mr. Speaker, the first question I want to direct to the minister is: can the minister update the House today on what progress has been made since he made this commitment to me? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Enook for his question. After our previous discussions on this matter, if my recollection is anywhere near correct, we were informed that Pond Inlet would proceed with building the baseball diamond with the assistance of private businesses in Pond Inlet. I was told that there would be an initiative, but from the departmental view, we were to be involved in the building of the diamond last summer. I haven’t been provided any updates as to whether it was successful or not. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Mr. Minister, for your response. When I raised this issue with the minister last year, he indicated that one of the issues facing the hamlet and the department was the amount of gravel that would be required for a new field. The minister felt that in order to properly build the ball field, it would require a huge amount of gravel to cover the field. The minister stated that the department and the hamlet would be considering their options in this regard. I assumed that the discussions would centre on the various issues that they faced. Can the minister indicate what options have been considered or if changes have been made about this issue since his responses last summer? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank Mr. Enook for raising this issue. The baseball field, including the placement of the field, has taken up quite a bit of time in the discussions between my department staff and the hamlet council. My department had set aside some funds within a contribution agreement outlining how our department could provide assistance. However, the hamlet wasn’t satisfied and felt the funds weren’t sufficient. Further, based on a MOU, the parties were going to look for a better location that wouldn’t require as much work to bring it up to standards, perhaps.

Now, whether or not we can come to an agreement prior to this summer will be

determined as there were meetings scheduled in the short term. I can provide further direction to the recreational division to work with the hamlet out of the Pond Inlet office. Since this involves recreation and sports beneficial to our body's health, it should be easier to accomplish. I will direct my staff to work closely with the recreation department in the hamlet or the council to try and complete this baseball diamond in Pond Inlet. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister. The minister just stated that his department would work with the community. I just want to ask the minister if he could possibly provide a response on this issue prior to our spring session.

In Pond Inlet, if members weren't aware of this fact, starting in May, we will again have no darkness until we reach September. During that time, even after midnight, people will still be playing baseball since it is still light out and that is why we want a baseball field. Therefore, if the minister could provide a response prior to our spring session as to their plans for this project, I would appreciate it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Now knowing that fact, I will ensure that I provide a response to Pond Inlet prior to the

advent of the dark season. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Furthermore, another aspect I would like to understand is whether or not his department has identified the minimum costs to build a baseball field. If we were to take the median amount required to build a baseball park, can the minister provide a figure of the approximate costs of building a baseball field? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is hard to identify simply because the cost to source gravel is different in every community. Whenever a community builds a baseball field, we see different amounts of funds used to create the field.

In some communities, gravel is right there, whereas it costs money when they have to crush gravel, but it costs less when a hamlet uses their own equipment to move gravel. Other communities ask that the gravel be paid for by the Nunavut government. It varies from community to community. Just to cite this example, in Rankin Inlet, the hamlet used their own funds to build a baseball field by appointing a committee to fundraise and direct the project. Sometimes they get assistance from other communities, such as Baker Lake.



So with all of these possibilities, it is impossible to come up with an average cost for building a baseball field. However, I commit to working with the Hamlet of Pond Inlet to work towards realizing the completion of the baseball field. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Oral Questions. Member for South Baffin, Mr. Schell.

**Question 508 – 3(3): Request for Additional Funding from Ottawa**

**Mr. Schell:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for Madam Premier. I'll go back to yesterday's question that I had asked her in regard to infrastructure money.

Like I said yesterday, one of the MPs in the House of Commons had quoted her as saying, and the quote is, "Earlier this month, the Premier of Nunavut was here in Ottawa lobbying for \$500 million over five years for only two projects." Can she explain which these two projects are that she was requesting \$500 million for? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Sometimes when I mention our needs to those in Ottawa, they respond that the figures are too high and now we are told that it isn't enough. Our needs in this territory are huge, especially since the territory is the newest region. Further, our infrastructure needs are numerous and many

infrastructures aren't even built currently.

I want to reiterate my comments from yesterday. Nunavut has a severe housing shortage and we need to resolve this issue over a period of many years. I brought the need for more housing funding and additionally, our need for better energy generators and wiring. It is a well-known fact that some community power plants are quite antiquated, with some older than 50 years.

Also, if we were to visualize some scenarios, if we look at Cambridge Bay, they will be constructing new buildings as part of the Arctic Research Station project. Once completed, will their current equipment meet these additional needs? The equipment is already pushed to its limits in many communities and additional power requirements of new construction may exacerbate these challenges.

To analogize, power generation is the heart and soul of our communities. That is how critical the infrastructure needs are that we face today. Can we try to purchase them? (interpretation ends) Is it the heart or the kidney? (interpretation) That is what we must choose since our infrastructure needs are quite varied. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Schell:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Is it fair to say, then, according to the Premier, that this Member of Parliament and the House of Commons misquoted her and that it shouldn't have been \$500 million over five years for only two

projects, but for numerous projects?  
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation):  
Thank you, Mr. Speaker. No,  
(interpretation ends) I did not say that  
anyone misquoted me and I did not say  
that my request was numerous. Thank  
you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Question 509 – 3(3): Restructuring of Social Services Program Delivery**

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you,  
Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for  
the Minister of Health and Social  
Services.

The government claims that its decision  
to split the Department of Health and  
Social Services into a new Department  
of Health and a new Department of  
Family Services is being done to  
improve the efficiency and effectiveness  
of social services delivery to  
Nunavutmiut. What proof does the  
minister have that splitting this  
department in half will achieve these  
goals? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr.  
Speaker. I thank Mr. Curley, the former  
Minister of Health and Social Services. I

would have thought he would know  
what the answer to that was.

Mr. Speaker, Health and Social Services  
is a huge department. There are over  
1,000 employees working, as I  
mentioned earlier, in 25 communities in  
Nunavut. You have the health functions  
and then you have the social services  
functions. The social services functions  
often get overshadowed by the health  
issues. We feel we split the department's  
focus on health, create the new  
Department of Family Services with  
social services in there, putting income  
support in there, career development,  
take poverty out of Economic  
Development and Transportation, take  
homelessness out of the housing  
department, and then we could have all  
of these departments focus on what their  
areas would be.

I don't have any evidence, but the people  
who understand these things, efficiency  
is doing things right; effectiveness is  
doing the right things. We're going to  
monitor that, but we believe that this is  
the right thing to do. Thank you, Mr.  
Speaker.

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

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you,  
Mr. Speaker. The government's new  
Department of Family Services is  
scheduled to come into existence in less  
than 35 days. What assurances can the  
minister provide this House that the new  
department will be able to take on its  
critical responsibilities starting on day  
one of its existence? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Curley for the question. Mr. Speaker, I think it's important to remember that we're not just creating a new department with a number of positions that are unfilled. We're actually taking entire divisions and sections out of other departments that already have budgets and have PYs attached, and most of the positions are filled. There are some vacant positions coming over, but the new department will set out to staff those positions on April 1 and that's the intention.

The new department will be able to focus on all the social issues that we discuss in this House every sitting. We often hear about it in the media. On April 1, I'm not guaranteeing overnight results. It's going to take time. A new department, a new minister, all the new directorates will set about working together to review the programs they take on and streamline processes. I'm sure they will come back to this House for capital estimates and main estimates next year, looking for additional funds for capital items or O&M.

We have to keep a positive outlook on this. I recall the Office of the Auditor General of Canada's report from 2011. She was quite critical of the child, youth, and family services and programs and the way the government had oftentimes failed to deliver those programs and services over the years. We can focus exclusively on those areas. I think we're going to have a very positive change in the way this government delivers supports to communities and families in

the coming years. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Curley (interpretation):** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Nunavutmiut were shocked at a recent incident that took place in the Kivalliq involving a young woman. The decision of the Nunavut Court of Justice in this matter has gained national attention. The judgment of the court raised a number of concerns regarding our territory's social services system. Can the minister indicate if he has directed his officials to review the judgment closely and to implement any needed changes to the delivery of social services in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Curley again for the question. Mr. Speaker, I can't speak specifically to that case, but I can assure Mr. Curley and, indeed, all Nunavummiut and this House that we are reviewing the judge's decision. We respect the views of the Nunavut Court of Justice.

Of course, as I mentioned the other day, patients and clients come first. Anything we can do to improve services to Nunavummiut, we will take them seriously. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have consistently maintained that the design and delivery of social services programs in Nunavut must come from the ground up, not from the top down. Due to these reasons and with the critical shortages we already face with social service workers, how is the government working to achieve this? (interpretation ends) Thank you.

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

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Curley for his question and comments. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Curley knows that I believe in it as well. The people in the communities know best how to do certain things and they can make good recommendations to the government, to all organizations. It's important to listen to the voices of the people.

Mr. Speaker, I have to complement Mr. Curley as a former Minister of Health and Social Services. He did the Knowledge Forum and we got a lot of good input from people across Nunavut, elders included. He commissioned the Child Welfare League of Canada consultations that went around all the communities. I participated in Cambridge Bay.

Those reports plus the report from the Auditor General of Canada have largely formed the basis for the work that's undertaken under the Social Services Transformation Plan. We're building upon what Mr. Curley initiated when he was the minister. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Question 510 – 3(3): Improvements to Nunavut's Education System**

**Mr. Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my questions for the Minister of Education.

I am very proud that they had a major meeting here in Iqaluit. Here it indicated that they would like to strengthen and train the employees. This is with regard to the Circumpolar Conference on Education for Indigenous People.

Even if you have achieved grade 12, we don't come to par with the grade 12 graduates in the rest of Canada. Mr. Speaker, is your department going to look at the education system so that we become up to par with the rest of Canada? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for the question. Yes, they had a very good meeting at that time. They worked very closely together and they identified their needs in their own communities. This also is another goal we want to implement to that end.

Again, another important matter that cropped up was acknowledging other partners and working with early childhood education program delivery agencies. This includes looking at improvements to the quality of education within the school system, such as

innovative thinking or innovative ways of improving education.

Additionally, we looked at how we could utilize the long-distance Internet education media and how to use that in our communities to offer more choices to our students.

Other issues were voiced, particularly in improving our quality of education through cooperative means. The groups brainstormed these issues in the plenary sessions. They also identified that educators have to re-engage parents, families, and communities so that we work together in this field.

(interpretation ends) Parental and community engagement priorities were discussed; roles that education plays in our changing world; the experiences of students and communities as they relate to students; causes and costs of disengagement; and transforming the education system to engage family and communities.

(interpretation) I just reiterated that in English. They covered a variety of subjects and they're also signing an agreement some time in the future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What I wanted to know was once the *Education Act* is enacted and since we're looking at improving and reinstating the usage of the Inuktitut language, are there any hindrances or challenges we might find in the new Act? For example, when my

grandchild achieves grade 12, will her education quality be up to par with the rest of Canada? I would like a response to that question, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do apologize for making a long reply. Yes, the Department of Education is doing an assessment on the quality of our education and they are looking at the assessment and review policy.

Just recently, we started hearing about our grade 12 graduates who don't meet the grade 12 standards in the south. So we're starting to do an assessment and review of the education system and how we can make changes so that we get a true grade 12 graduate at the end of the day. So that's what we are doing now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the Minister of Education. On behalf of my constituents, I would support this assessment and review. If there is going to be an assessment with your department, are you going to give us a report or give us an update once that review process is over? Will we see improvement or changes afterwards? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The assessment and evaluation process has started. However, they don't want to rush to make a report. I'm sure that at the end of this assessment and evaluation, the results will be given to the House and the communities, but I can't say when that will be coming about. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Madam Minister. You are finished? Okay. Members will, indeed, note that the time for question period expired. We will move along in our orders of the day. Item 7. Written Questions. Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Item 10. Replies to Budget Address. Mr. Ningark.

**Mr. Ningark:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Through you, I would like to ask my colleagues and you that I wish to go back to Item 5, Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Ningark. I would be more than happy, through me, to convey that to your colleagues.

>> *Laughter*

The member is seeking unanimous consent to go back to Item 5, Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Are there any nays? There being none. Please proceed, Mr. Ningark.

#### **Revert to Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery**

**Mr. Ningark:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is a privilege and an honour to recognize a young lady from Kugaaruk. His name is Josephie Serkoak. He is here

for the Adoption Commissioner's meeting. I think we all can appreciate the services they render for the people of Nunavut. Welcome, Josephie. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Welcome to the Gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Ms. Ugyuk.

**Ms. Ugyuk:** I wish to be so distinguished like my colleague, but it's pretty hard.

>> *Laughter*

(interpretation) I would also like to recognize somebody from Gjoa Haven, Kelly Putuguk, who is in custom adoption. Welcome to the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. Welcome to the Gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, would like to recognize a constituent from Cambridge Bay, not only a constituent but also a very good friend of mine and a friend of my family for many decades. She has done a lot of great work in Cambridge Bay on adoption issues. Her name is Susie Koaha, sitting over here. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Welcome to the Gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. We will go back

to our orders of the day. Item 10. Replies to Budget Address. Item 11. Petitions. Item 12. Responses to Petitions. Item 13. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters. Item 14. Tabling of Documents. Minister responsible for the Department of Economic Development and Transportation, Minister Taptuna.

### **Item 13: Tabling of Documents**

#### **Tabled Document 311 – 3(3): Implementation Update on the Evaluation of Business Development Centre, September 2012**

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table the implementation update on the evaluation of the Business Development Centre, September 2012. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Item 14. Tabling of Documents. Item 15. Notices of Motions. Item 16. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 17. Motions. Mr. Ningeongan.

### **Item 16: Motions**

#### **Motion 041 – 3(3): Extension of the Review Period for Bill 32, An Act to Amend the Legal Services Act**

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

WHEREAS Bill 32, *An Act to Amend the Legal Services Act*, received second reading on March 1, 2012;

AND WHEREAS Bill 32 has been referred to the Standing Committee on Legislation for consideration;

AND WHEREAS the standing committee requires additional time to complete its work;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the Hon. Member for Amittuq, that the period of time for the standing committee to report Bill 32 back to the House be extended by a further 120 days.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. The motion is in order. To the motion. Minister Shewchuk.

**Hon. Daniel Shewchuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Maybe you can help me out with the procedure here. I heard the motion and I oppose the motion. Could you advise me of when the proper time to speak to the motion is, please. Thank you.

**Speaker:** Right now, Minister Shewchuk. You wish to speak to the motion? Minister Shewchuk.

**Hon. Daniel Shewchuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the Minister of Justice, I rise before you today to speak to Bill 32, *An Act to Amend the Legal Services Act*. This is a very important bill, and I rise to voice my opposition to the motion.

The committee has been given extensive responses to all of its written questions, and I am available to discuss this bill further during my scheduled appearance before the committee next week.

The removal of section 40 of this bill would coincide with most jurisdictions in Canada. An unfettered choice of counsel poses concerns as it does not give the Legal Services Board the ability to scrutinize the qualifications or the costs of chosen counsel. With a number of section 40 matters on the docket, it is important that we remove this section and give the Legal Services Board management the ability to ensure qualified, experienced lawyers are assigned to those most serious offences as soon as possible.

Providing conflict of interest protection for the Legal Services Board lawyers is important to the administration of justice in Nunavut. The Legal Services Board conducts the vast majority of our cases in Nunavut. Currently, Legal Services Board lawyers are open to professional and civil liability for conflict of interest. With the Legal Services Board conducting so many cases, it is nearly impossible to avoid the appearance of conflict of interest.

This bill should be passed as soon as possible to allow the legal services lawyers to focus on their clients and not have to worry about professional sanctions. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I would ask all members not to support this motion so that we can proceed with this bill as scheduled. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. To the motion. Mr. Curley.

**Mr. Curley:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) I will be speaking in Inuktitut.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, (interpretation) we can say that the (interpretation ends) members on this side (interpretation) are not opposed, but there are quite a few questions that we still have and I'm sure that we can complete this before the end of our mandate.

Again, there are quite a number of issues outstanding and it's quite a thick bill. We need additional time and I do believe that if we make an extension, it will give us the opportunity to review, but I can tell you that it could be done before the end of our mandate, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Curley. Are there any more comments to the motion? Minister Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the former Minister of Justice for the Department of Justice and responsibility for the Nunavut Legal Services Board, I'm well aware of the work that the Legal Services Board performs on behalf of all of our people we represent in all of our communities across Nunavut. It's a system that has become very complicated.

We do need good lawyers, we need to attract good lawyers in Nunavut, and we have to encourage lawyers that Nunavut is a place where they're not putting their professional careers at risk. I believe that this issue was raised when I was Minister of Justice and I appreciate my colleague for continuing to pursue it.

I believe that it's important that we pass this legislation as quickly as possible. I urge my colleagues to vote against this request for extension. As the minister



said, he's available to answer questions next week and we are here until March 20. There's plenty of time to get the information out there. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister Peterson. Are there any more comments to the motion? Mr. Tapardjuk.

**Mr. Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you. I don't have the questions that the chair had and we outlined those in the letter to the minister. I don't have a copy of the responses the minister made and I don't know whether they were lost. So I don't want to make guesses, but we just recently got the reply. We haven't had time to scrutinize it because of other matters that we have to deal with.

We, as elected by the people, have to know exactly what implications these laws will have. We're not opposed to this bill, as my colleague stated, but we need additional time to review the bill properly. We are MLAs. We review laws and pass laws. We would like to see the review extended by 120 days. We want to know exactly what kind of implications this bill will have and we don't want to just rush the review of the bill. So I suggest you vote for the motion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Tapardjuk. To the motion. Mr. Elliott.

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My comments are similar to what Mr. Tapardjuk's are in the sense that I don't believe any of the regular members are opposed to what's in the bill and the changes that the government wants to make. It's more of a matter of time where we, as a committee of legislation,

will have the time to sit down and review the bill properly.

I know there were some concerns in terms of the government funding and the ability to fund lawyers, and whatnot. At this point, with the information we have received, it doesn't seem to support that. So I'm sure the minister will be getting information from the chair seeking more information to justify some of the claims that have been mentioned in the bill.

I think it's wise, as legislators, to make sure we have all the information before making a decision. We don't want to rush into something, so we're asking the government for a little bit more time to reflect and make the best possible piece of legislation that we can. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Elliott. To the motion. Mr. Ningeongan.

**Mr. Ningeongan:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With the nature of this bill being very important, when we come to a vote, I wish to have a recorded vote undertaken on this motion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. I have no more names on my list. A recorded vote has been requested. I'll ask all those in favour of the motion to please rise and sit down once I have called your name. All in favour, please rise.

Mr. Ningeongan.

Mr. Ningark.

Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Tapardjuk.

Ms. Ugyuk.

Mr. Oshutapik.

Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Curley.

Mr. Enook.

Mr. Schell.

All those opposed to the motion, please rise and sit down when I call your name.

Minister Peterson.

Minister Kusugak.

Minister Ell.

Madam Premier.

Minister Taptuna.

Minister Shewchuk.

Minister Arreak.

The results of the vote are 11 for, 7 against, and 0 abstentions. The motion is carried.

We will go back to Item 17. Motions.  
Mr. Ningeongan.

**Motion 042 – 3(3): Extension of the Review Period for Bill 44, An Act to Amend the Justices of the Peace Act**

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

WHEREAS Bill 44, *An Act to Amend the Justices of the Peace Act*, received second reading on October 26, 2012;

AND WHEREAS Bill 44 has been referred to the Standing Committee on Legislation for consideration;

AND WHEREAS the standing committee requires additional time to complete its work;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the Hon. Member for Amittuq, that the period of time for the standing committee to report Bill 44 back to the House be extended by a further 120 days.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. The motion is in order. To the motion. Minister Shewchuk.

**Hon. Daniel Shewchuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Once again, as Minister of Justice, I rise to speak to Bill 44, *An Act to Amend the Justices of the Peace Act*. Mr. Speaker, this is another very important bill that we are introducing into the House, and I do rise today to voice my opposition to the motion.

Once again, Mr. Speaker, the committee has been provided with extensive responses to all of its written questions and concerns. I'm available to discuss this bill further during my scheduled appearance before the committee next week. As well, the committee has asked for a number of amendments which I have agreed to.

Mr. Speaker, last month, the Nova Scotia Supreme Court determined that Nova Scotia's JP program was unconstitutional. This ruling was another in a line of court rulings finding JP programs invalid because they lack adequate independence or autonomy. This bill was brought in direct response to case law and an appeal from our court.

The Nunavut JP program is essential to the administration of justice in Nunavut. We must pass this bill to allow for more independence and the hiring and compensation of JPs to ensure that the program is operating within the law. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I would ask that members not support this motion so that we can proceed with this bill as scheduled. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. Are there any more comments to the motion? Mr. Curley.

**Mr. Curley:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If I may, in short, indicate to the minister, the sponsor of the bill, this bill will be passed during the mandate of this Assembly. There is no way that we're trying to delay it. We're going to make it more effective. There are questions. There are also provisions in the bill.

The standing committee members have asked questions, but during our deliberations today, there was obviously not enough adequate time to deal with the questions that were submitted to you. It is quite a major bill, including the legislative proposals from the government that we were asked to approve, which we did.

So in short, Mr. Speaker, nothing in the motion says that this bill will not be passed during the mandate of this Assembly as scheduled. I believe the schedule that we have is a mandate of this Assembly. So it will be passed, but we need more time to do the work as the 120 days have expired already. We're going to simply have to have more days. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Curley. To the motion. Mr. Tapardjuk.

**Mr. Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Indeed, I could also repeat the reasoning for trying to make improvements to the bill.

We have reviewed part of the bill, but we still have several concerns. In particular, your response to the chairman's requests was just received recently and we haven't had the opportunity to review it. We want to ensure this bill, meant for Nunavut, is relevant to our constituents because they take pride in having this Nunavut government. Additionally, they also believe that their representatives, when considering bills, will enact legislation that benefits our residents.

We aren't necessarily fighting this bill, Mr. Speaker. Rather, we want an opportunity to review it further based on our mandate as elected officials, as our constituents elected us to provide oversight and review of proposed legislation. Due to these reasons, we are not against the bill. However, we want further understanding of the provisions to ensure that it fits all Nunavummiut.

I want to see this bill passed, but I also want you to give us a further extension

to review it, Mr. Speaker. We're not going to be voting against this bill; we just want more time to review the bill and that's why the motion was brought forward. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Tapardjuk. Are there any more comments to the motion? Mr. Ningeongan.

**Mr. Ningeongan:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Once again, the committee has indicated the importance of Bill 44. Tomorrow, I will table the standing committee's letters and responses on this bill for the public to see.

In the meantime, I ask for a recorded vote. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. To the motion. Mr. Elliott.

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again I would encourage all of the members to vote in favour of the motion.

Once again the committee is asking for an extension to be able to review. As the minister had spoken already, the possibility of getting a meeting with him next week if the committee is willing to, there is a possibility if our schedule... . As he said, it's not like we're saying this is it and we won't discuss it in this sitting or during this sitting, so there is still a possibility of continuing forward with it.

I'm not sure, in terms of the government being afraid, that it's a stall tactic of some sort. It's more, as legislators and the longer we do this, now that we're in our fourth year, we want to make sure that we're passing pieces of legislation

that are for the best of our constituents and actually are of benefit to our constituents. With that said, Mr. Speaker, thank you very much.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Are there any more comments to the motion? Question has been called. A recorded vote has been requested again for the motion. Again I'll ask all those in favour of the motion to rise and sit down once your name has been called.

Mr. Ningeongan.

Mr. Ningark.

Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Tapardjuk.

Ms. Ugyuk.

Mr. Oshutapik.

Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Curley.

Mr. Enook.

Mr. Schell.

I ask all those opposed to the motion to please rise and sit down when I call your name.

Minister Peterson.

Minister Kusugak.

Minister Ell.

Madam Premier.

Minister Taptuna.

Minister Shewchuk.

Minister Arreak.

Again the votes are 11 for the motion and 7 against, with 0 abstentions. The motion is carried.

Item 17. Motions. Item 18. First Reading of Bills. Minister of Finance, Minister Peterson.

### **Item 18: First Reading of Bills**

#### **Bill 47 – Supplementary Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, No. 3, 2012-2013 – 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 47, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 3, 2012-2013*, 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.

Item 18. First Reading of Bills. Minister of Finance, Minister Peterson.

#### **Bill 48 – Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 1, 2013-2014 – First Reading**

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet South and Whale Cove, that Bill 48, *Supplementary Appropriation*

*(Capital) Act, No. 1, 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.

Item 18. First Reading of Bills. Minister of Health and Social Services, Minister Peterson.

#### **Bill 51 – An Act to Amend the Child and Family Services Act – 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 51, *An Act to Amend the Child and Family Services Act*, 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.

Item 18. First Reading of Bills. Minister of Health and Social Services, Minister Peterson.

#### **Bill 53 – An Act to Amend the Medical Care Act – 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 53, *An Act to Amend the Medical Care Act*, 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.

Item 18. First Reading of Bills. Minister of Education, Minister Aariak.

**Bill 55 – An Act to Amend the Student Financial Assistance Act – First Reading**

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Iqaluit West, that Bill 55, *An Act to Amend the Student Financial Assistance Act*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Madam Minister. The motion is in order. All those in favour. Any opposed? The motion is carried.

Item 18. First Reading of Bills. Item 19. Second Reading of Bills. Item 20. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills 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 15:37 and Committee resumed at 16:07*

**Item 20: Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters**

**Chairman** (Mr. Tapardjuk) (interpretation): Thank you, members. I would like to call the committee meeting to order. In Committee of the Whole, we

have the following item to deal with: Bill 49. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We wish to continue with the review of the Department of Community and Government Services, followed by the review of the Department of Health. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Are we in agreement that we will continue with our review of the Department of Community and Government Services?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

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

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

**Some Members:** Agreed.

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

Thank you. Minister Kusugak, please introduce your officials. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman and members. I am pleased to be here. Mr. Chairman, on my left is my Deputy Minister, Mr. Roy Green, and on my right is our former Director of Finance, Ms. Alma Power, and I thank her for being here with us. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Welcome, Mr. Green and Ms. Power. We're on page J-7. (interpretation ends) Branch Summary. (interpretation) Community and Government Services. Protection Services. Before I recognize Mr. Enook, if you look in the business plan, it is on page 145. Mr. Enook.

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's not necessarily written here under J-7, but I wonder if I can ask a question on the minister's opening comments, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Yes, you may proceed, Mr. Enook.

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Protection Services, I assume, includes all things, including safety issues. I assume it also includes search and rescue organizations.

I want clarification from the minister. He has stated, and I will quote, "The number of search and rescue incidents is on the rise in Nunavut. In 2012, there were 178 searches for 301 individuals." I want to ask why. I can understand it in two ways. Maybe it's because they're now using the SPOT devices. Those are very good devices to use. Once you press a button, you can automatically figure out their coordinates. I want clarification as to how it has increased, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It basically reflects the increase in the number of search and rescue activities. Totalled last

year, in 2011, there were 163 search and rescue activities and this past year, some of the parties had multiple people, such as fathers and sons. However, over this past year, there were 178 searches, which led to that increase. That is what we ended up with in conducting searches, as more hunters had to be rescued, and that is all they identify as the increase. Hopefully that is understandable. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I may be misinformed, but I can't find the Inuktitut translation, so I will read the English version. I will quote the wording.

(interpretation ends) "The number of search and rescue incidents is on the rise in Nunavut. In 2012, there were 178 searches for 301 individuals."

*Iksivautaaq*, my question was: do we know if this was a result of people starting to use the SPOT devices? If it is, then it is, in a bad way, I guess, a good number if it's the result of those SPOT devices being used. Does this number tell the department anything? Are there any indicators as to what this number means? (interpretation) Thank you. I hope that made sense.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This number actually indicates exactly what it is. There are more searches regardless of whether they are SPOT activated or not. There are still searches.

In terms of SPOT, it's not searching anymore, it's gone to react to a SPOT activation, but it's still in the searches. Although there have been more SPOT activations now, they're still in the same category. There were still 178 searches for 301 individuals. As one can appreciate, sometimes there is more than one person in a hunting party. It is still at its total under the individuals searched for, but it's still just searches. If he chooses, I could break that down in terms of what, when, and where. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll try to rephrase it. Government Services and the Government of Nunavut, as all of us do, encourage the use of these SPOT devices in the event of an incident. There were 178 searches. Of those, how many of them were as a result of the usage of the SPOT devices? I hope that clarifies my question. Mr. Chairman, I'll have further comments following the reply. Thank you.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you. We already know the number. Of the 178 searches from either breakdowns or being lost, 53 searches were as a result of the usage of SPOT devices. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for recognizing me. From the 178, there were 53 usages of SPOT devices. One tends to think that it would be best to use SPOT devices so they can be found using the coordinates. Due to that, it reduces long searches because they go directly to where the coordinates take them.

I will ask, Mr. Chairman. There were 53 SPOT devices activated. Is it higher than the previous years? If it's increasing, that means the SPOT devices are being used more. We encourage the hunters to use them. So it is evident that the hunters are starting to use these SPOT devices, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I'm glad to say that these are very good questions and the people have to be informed.

We know that some people own their own SPOT devices and the people who use them are increasing. Most of the time, the search and rescue parties don't have to search for them. They just go directly to where the coordinates were recorded. I think that we sent them to the communities and people are continually purchasing them. We don't want people to get lost. When you are a hunter, you don't want your snowmobile to break down. When the hunters use the SPOT devices, they are able to be picked up sooner. I believe that the usage is increasing.

I want to add, Mr. Chairman, out of the 53 people who used the SPOT devices, there were some unfortunate incidents.



There were six or seven SPOT devices that were activated just to see if a search and rescue party would come and look for them. So looking at that, it's unfortunate for the search and rescue parties and also for the search and rescue personnel. Their lives might be in danger when they're responding to people just pressing these devices to test.

Some of the SPOT devices were accidentally activated. So there are some instances and there are also seven as well, but they were accidentally activated. SPOT devices were also being activated deliberately. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank Mr. Minister for his response. The issue he elaborated on is definitely a cause for concern.

I think we all know that the search and rescue personnel who conduct searches sometimes forget their own safety simply due to their desire to assist, and some searchers will abandon their own safety in their quest to find the person still alive and to offer assistance. Even when the situation seems dire, they will continue to search.

A big concern of mine that the minister spoke to is that certain people activate their SPOT devices solely to see if it would work. In my opinion, they should be stopped immediately. How can we ensure no one frivolously activates their devices? The search parties undergo tremendous stress and hardship in fulfilling their duties and I prefer that their dedication not be tarnished by these

hunters who insist on testing their devices.

Do we have any legislation in place, for example, if we find that a person had been just testing their device to check on the rescue party's response time? Do we have any laws or consequences for these types of acts? I am not sure how, but perhaps there should be a fine. To say it in English, "the consequences" of activating the SPOT devices in jest as they aren't toys to play with. Can you provide some background on these concerns? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What I can relate to Mr. Enook is that once people started using these SPOT devices, we hadn't thought of anyone contemplating a testing of the devices. However, it was only after this happened that our EMO staff sat down with legal staff to review this issue and what type of consequences would befall anyone frivolously activating the devices. We require a written policy for these situations and we're moving towards drafting up a policy. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Rumbolt**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My questions will be along the same lines as Mr. Enook's with the use of SPOT devices. In the minister's opening comments, he stated, "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.” Can the minister tell us what his department is doing to promote the use of SPOT more in our communities?

Thank you.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Our department is working with the local search and rescue community and the HTOs to promote the use of the SPOT devices that our department has forwarded to the municipalities. Some are there to be used by the searchers and some are there to be taken free of charge and used by the local hunters who go out. We continue to promote that and it’s taking effect.

If I may, Mr. Chairman, I’ll say that when the polar bear hunting season was opened in Rankin Inlet, people were told that if they’re going to go polar bear hunting, they should take a SPOT device and that they are available at the local HTO. We also did that when the narwhal hunting season was opened. So there’s that kind of promotion happening. Our department continues to support that.

We are looking at ways to see how we could promote personal purchase of these goods and seeing how we can maybe help in trying to find ways to be able to help them in being able to activate and keep up with the activation charges. We’re still looking at that avenue because it is a lot cheaper to go and retrieve someone instead of searching for them. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I’m just wondering if the number of SPOT devices that were issued to municipalities is adequate to suffice for the communities or if there is a need for more SPOT devices for our municipalities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I’m one who hopes that we don’t have enough SPOT devices out there. As the incall increases from municipalities that people are taking all the devices out or they are being used heavily, it would be good news for us.

We are currently looking at seeing if we should be purchasing more devices to make available to hunters in the communities in conjunction with trying to figure out if we should maybe have people purchase their own and we would somehow find a way to help them make the SPOT device activations. So we are doing both of them at the same time. We are looking into that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Ningark:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under page J-7, Branch Summary, I wanted to briefly speak about emergency preparedness. I think it’s critical at this point that we, in our communities, especially small communities, are well prepared for any event of a disaster happening. This is not a small task.

It is my understanding that this is a joint emergency preparedness program, which means territories, provinces, and their federal counterparts. I have a document here, the Nunavut Emergency Management Annual Report 2011-12, tabled on No. 271 – 3(3). This document was tabled on November 1, 2012. On page 7, under the heading of Municipal Emergency Response Plan Status as of March 31, 2012, Kugaaruk's emergency preparedness is still pending. I'm wondering if that's still the case. Also, Pond Inlet, Chesterfield Inlet, and Pangnirtung are still pending.

Mr. Chairman, as small territory, there are times when we are not able to fund our own programs, especially in the event of a disaster. Under Public Safety Canada, if we are not able to meet the disaster by way of funding it, the federal government, under the counsel of the Emergency Measures Organization, is able to jointly fund in the event of an emergency. If my understanding is correct, Mr. Chairman, if we are not prepared, will the federal counterpart continue to provide funding for enhancement to emergency preparedness in Nunavut? I think that if we're not prepared, the funding that we have from the federal government could be seriously affected.

(interpretation) Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask the minister or his deputy minister or officials: today, in February 2013, what's the status of the municipal emergency response plans? Do all the hamlets have an emergency response plan now in place? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. They're all completed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Ningark** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. From what I mentioned, the Canadian Council of Emergency Management Organizations, through Public Safety Canada, are we still going to be receiving funding from them? Does it seem like they will be continuing to fund this? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, the funding that we receive will stay the same. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Ningark** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Since he answered my question, I don't have any further questions. Thank you.

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

**Ms. Ugyuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I have some questions for the minister concerning search and rescue in Nunavut.

For the benefit of Nunavummiut who are following our proceedings today, can the minister or his officials outline the process by which decisions are taken to

assigning air support when searches are ongoing? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When there's an emergency search, all the search activities are consistent. They talk to the communities. They talk to search and rescue and the RCMP. We listen to what the community decides, along with our search and rescue employees at CGS, and that's how we work together. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Ms. Ugyuk:** *Qujannamiik*, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask again: which decisions are taken to assigning air support when searches are going on? Is it the RCMP? Is it CGS? Is it search and rescue? There have been times that they were waiting for each other or an answer wasn't given. So I would like for him to be very detailed. It's a simple question. Who assigns air support? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was very clear. I'll be very clear again, this time in English.

Mr. Chairman, in terms of seeking support from aircraft in doing the search, that decision is made with the local search and rescue committee, the local RCMP, and the search and rescue employees within CGS.

That decision is not an easy one. There are many factors that go into deciding at what time an airplane becomes available or usable at any given time and location. That decision is made collectively by the three parties, if I may use the term loosely, by the local search and rescue people, in consultation with the RCMP and our emergency measures office.

The decision is made if an aircraft is needed. Sometimes an aircraft is needed, but at the time it is called for, there might not be enough daylight. They may not be able to get an aircraft available immediately at that time. Weather plays a very big role in being able to use an aircraft. It depends on many of those combinations, Mr. Chairman.

I hope that makes it clear. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Ms. Ugyuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Can the minister outline what aircraft assets are available for searches in the three regions of Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Within our government, we don't have airplanes specifically for searching. Often, it becomes availability of aircraft within the area or region or territory. We don't have a specific aircraft available to us at any given time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Ms. Ugyuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr Chairman. (interpretation ends) If that's the case and if a search is going on in Taloyoak or Gjoa Haven or in the Kitikmeot area, is there an aircraft in the Kitikmeot that is readily available to service the Kitikmeot for searching if one was called for? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the question. Mr. Chairman, unfortunately, there isn't any aircraft readily available anywhere, not just in the Kitikmeot but in any community at any given time. As I said, it relies heavily on availability of aircraft and location. Sometimes the planes aren't readily available if they're doing normal business. We often have to scramble to try to find aircraft in any region. Thank you, Mr Chairman.

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

**Ms. Ugyuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Thank you, minister. I watched a documentary on the RCMP planes doing a search. Can that be one of the assets that can search for missing people if they're part of the searching? Thank you, Mr Chairman.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When it comes to air

searching, the searchers in the community, like I said, the RCMP, the searchers, and our emergency measures office seek any and all aircraft available at any given time. If the RCMP plane was available and if it was there, then I'm sure they would not hesitate to let us use it. If any aircraft are available anywhere at any time, they are often more than happy to help out in a search. Thank you, Mr Chairman.

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

**Ms. Ugyuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) As you know, I was asking questions today to the Premier about search and rescue in the Arctic. From her responses, it seems like a long way from getting aircraft assets for search in Nunavut or in the Arctic.

In our region, we've had some fatal searches, people frozen or not found. We have struggled to get aircraft support in the Kitikmeot for searches. I think it needs to be looked into more in detail to serve all Nunavummiut. It doesn't have to be a designated aircraft, but some kind of an agreement with the airlines or RCMP planes while we don't have search and rescue in the Arctic.

I think every life is valuable. It's hard when you come from a community where people froze to death because we weren't able to find them. The searchers work hard to find missing people. We need to do the best possible thing to assist searchers. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Ms. Ugyuk for the questioning. This is an issue not just in the Kitikmeot; it's even an issue in communities like Iqaluit and Rankin Inlet, where we have many airplanes that fly through our airports every day. It was unfortunate, over the Christmas too, we had a person who got lost in Rankin Inlet and died very tragically. I mean every death is tragic when they're lost.

There is no guarantee that an airplane would find anybody. Let me put it this way: they have a very low success rate in terms of finding. They do find people and we appreciate that very much. We appreciate the searchers out there. They risk their lives to save those who didn't make it home for one reason or another.

Our department fully understands where Ms. Ugyuk is coming from. We do our best to try to get aircraft regardless of where they are. There is no less effort to get an aircraft to the Kitikmeot than anywhere else. We do our best, and I commend our departmental staff who do this and the local search and rescue and the RCMP, who work through these very trying times to try to find the lost people out there. I commend them for it. It's just one thing that we don't have any means of knowing where aircraft are available at any given time. It's a very stressful and hard situation regardless of where the search is. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Ms. Ugyuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for his responses. (interpretation ends) The document showed that where the RCMP

was used, they didn't have a heat sensor or a body sensor. Can the department look at getting one of those sensors when they're searching through air? I can't remember what they're called, but if you look through a binocular, you could see orange or something if there's heat. If you can help me on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I can reiterate, we use any aircraft that is available to do searches. I don't know if it would be feasible to take on a project. I don't know any particulars about installing heat-sensing equipment on aircraft. I can't respond to that, Mr. Chairman. We use any aircraft at any given time when possible. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Ningeongan** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We're under Protection Services. There are some questions that have been raised and I would like to get some clarification. The airlines have to be notified for so many hours, which has been a problem. Is there anything done to make this more efficient? That's the first question I would like to ask. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank Mr. Ningeongan for asking the question. I do not know any airlines

stating that they cannot do search and rescue. As I said, there are different types of searches. We have to follow the weather conditions and other conditions when there's a search and rescue. Sometimes we might need an airplane right away. There's nothing that I have heard that they need so many hours of notification, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Ningeongan** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This problem I referred to earlier has caused issues in the past. I brought it up as a question only because I wanted to know.

This other matter which affects smaller communities in particular is searches via water. Although some people aren't lost, if their motor dies or they can't start their motor, this can cause hardship to some families when their family members go through those difficulties. Some communities have been informed that in those cases, the family is responsible to assist them.

Some families may not have an extra boat. We have faced this problem before in Coral Harbour. I doubt that this is part of the discussion, Mr. Chairman, but I wanted to better understand the background. At least in Coral Harbour, we have seen those cases. This can also occur when a hunter purchases a boat from another community and faces difficulty on the trip. They can't ask for assistance from their relatives, and then they are faced with the predicament of calling the search and rescue personnel.

Has the department put any thought towards these types of situations,

especially marine rescues, where the parties can't escape to sheltered coves as they can also face dangers in open water? I wonder if the department has looked at that situation in their review of the issues to date and I would like to get clarification on it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's a good question. They're all good questions on emergency issues. According to the example that he used, if the local search and rescue is unsure as to what to do, they usually call CGS officials and we can assist them. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Oshutapik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. All the communities in Nunavut have concerns on search and rescue and they have appreciated the assistance that they received from CGS, but their funding is not increasing.

There's a committee and they run the search and rescue. They tried to raise some funds, but the funds that we received is usually not enough and this is being felt by most of the communities, which we hear about. We have to use our own equipment to conduct a search and rescue, whether it's winter or summer. We appreciate the funds that we receive. You don't have the equipment available, so we have to use our own equipment to do the search and rescue. We do use our equipment to go hunting to get food and they break down.

What I would like to say is, as we heard from the Premier, that they are working with the federal government. My question is: how much do you work with them in regard to emergency responses? Are you working with the federal government?

I will have further questions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to make a comment on Mr. Oshutapik's question. We help out the search and rescue. If an individual volunteers to go do a search and rescue, we usually help out, for instance, whether they need to replace a broken belt or something along those lines, if they are using their own equipment to search for an individual.

The Premier stated that she is working with the Prime Minister in regard to search and rescue. If individuals who volunteer can state that they use their own equipment, we can help them out, but this is being done by the Premier. However, we still talk to each other about the replacement of personal equipment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Oshutapik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the response. I'm pretty sure that this will eventually come to your department. I just want to make sure that you are respected because we really need that sort of help. We need help from anybody when we are doing search and rescue

and those people who volunteer to search using their own equipment and their own funds, including the aircraft that help cover a lot more landmass. Sometimes it's unfortunate that we cannot find those people who are lost.

It seems like it has been the policy of the government departments how long the searches should last, even though it's the federal government's responsibility. Is there anything in writing whereby if an individual is not found by the government, the federal government has to take the searchers' place?

Even though there is not enough funding, search and rescue parties usually just go out there to try to find those individuals who are lost. Even though some of them provide assistance, is there someone else who can take over? Due to life being precious, people volunteer. The question that I had was: after how long can you give up searching? Is there anything in writing whereby it says that we haven't found them and this is how long we can search for them? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't think there is anything written down there. We try to help out search and rescue as long as they're searching for someone. As long as no one gives up, the department tries to help them as much as possible. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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



**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It has been great, actually, hearing all the discussion about search and rescue. I wanted to touch up on some of the other protective services that the department is responsible for and, in particular, in terms of human resources in dealing with O&M.

I know we passed the legislation for the Nunavut Building Code. I believe there were three positions that were supposed to be attached to that. I can't remember exactly. In terms of territorial building inspectors and whatnot, do we have that sort of structure in place? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If you would allow, Mr. Chairman, my deputy, Mr. Green, to respond to that. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Green:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. CGS is now in the process to issue a competition to hire a building code advisor. Once the building code advisor is recruited, this person will then be responsible for the development of regulations and, from there, will determine what resources that we would need to implement the building code. At this point in time, we're just in the recruitment stage for the building code advisor. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So at this time, in terms of the piece of legislation that we passed with the Nunavut Building Code, I believe, when we had the discussions for that, we were told that the department and the government follow the Canadian codes for building. Are we following the national code still until these technical people are hired or what's the transition of this? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we will follow the building codes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just so I understand the process, who would be following it? At this time, you would have a personal homeowner who is building a house. I'm assuming, as the house is being built, a building inspector has to come and do different stages to make sure that it's built correctly to code. I imagine the Nunavut Housing Corporation, with some of the houses that it is building in Arviat and whatnot, would have to do that as well. Do we have the staff to accommodate that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Everybody who builds a building, homeowner, or contractor has to follow the building code in construction or whatever they might be

building, Mr Chairman. We're hopeful that we will have adequate staffing when it comes time to implementing it. Thank you, Mr Chairman.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I admit that I'm not up on building codes and stuff like that. If I'm building a house, somebody comes in from outside of the community. I know we did end up talking about and it was discussed that Iqaluit would be the only community that would probably have a building inspector who was hired because of the amount of construction. I'm just wondering: what happens when that occurs in the smaller communities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At the time when it becomes required to do those, there will be people doing that, but it's not a requirement at present. Thank you, Mr Chairman.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr Chairman. So if I was to start construction this summer on a house in Arctic Bay, I would not have to have a building inspector come and inspect the work that is being done by a contractor. Thank you, Mr Chairman.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Mr. Chairman, I believe that if Mr. Elliott decides to build a house this summer in Rankin Inlet or Resolute Bay, he will be required to have a building permit. Thank you, Mr Chairman.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr Chairman. I don't know if that answered my question because I said "building inspector," not building permit.

I will go on to another topic in terms of inspections. As far as I know, there are only a few elevators across the territory. I was wondering if the minister could explain in terms of protective services. It does talk about doing inspections such as that. What's the status of inspection of elevators across the territory? Thank you, Mr Chairman.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Maybe you could clarify the status of the elevators in Nunavut in terms of inspections or if they work. Mr. Chairman, if you could specify that. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr Chairman. It's my understanding that for elevators at the Frobisher Inn, Capital Suites, the hospital, and a few other locations, and, I believe, the Sivummut Building, which is a government building, all of those have to be inspected. I don't believe that

it is on an annual basis, but if you read the little certificate that's in the elevator, it says they should be. At times, they're outdated. I haven't ridden an elevator lately because I'm trying to walk the stairs and get some exercise, so I haven't checked it lately.

>> *Laughter*

I remember reading something in the paper a while back that they weren't being inspected on a timely basis. I believe it was contracted out and if it was a contract, it would be something that would be in here under Contract Services. So I was just wondering what the status is of the inspections of our elevators across the territory, whether there is a contract in place for it or whether we actually have a physical body or PY that is doing that for us. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The mandate for elevator inspection falls under the *Electrical Protection Act* through the fire marshal's office, I understand. It is my understanding that most, if not all, of the elevating devices will be inspected within this fiscal year, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. You had mentioned electrical inspectors. If memory serves me correctly, there were supposed to be three across the territory. At one point, we were down to one. I was just wondering: in terms of

PYs and the status of the jobs, do we have a full slate of electrical inspectors? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I understand that we currently have three electrical inspectors on staff. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In terms of the Office of the Fire Marshal, how many staff is allocated to that office in terms of individuals who travel around the communities? I know, in speaking to some of them, they don't actually spend a lot of time at home because they are so busy travelling around to different communities. I'm wondering: is there a need for more of them? Do we have a full slate of fire marshals? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If you're asking in terms of electrical inspectors, if we need more of them, I think we will always have a need for more, but all the electrical inspectors do travel vigorously throughout the territory. That's part and parcel of why we fell behind in elevator inspections because those are the same people trying to inspect the housing initiatives and all that. Something unfortunately gave and that was that. Yes, Mr. Chairman, our electrical inspectors are always on the go. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm just wondering: in terms of the number of fire marshals that we actually have on staff, how many positions do we actually have allocated for fire marshals? 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 respond to that question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Green:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Currently, we have positions approved for seven fire marshal officers across the territory. Right now, we have four of those positions that are filled and we have one position right now that we have for competition. We are still trying to recruit the remaining fire marshal officers. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the questions. I don't know if ministers are wondering why I am asking so many questions specifically around the technical people who are involved with the inspections. It is my way of trying to ascertain whether we have enough staff or whether they are understaffed in terms of a very vulnerable area. In light of some recent fires that have occurred and the tragedy that happens when everyone loses all of

their belongings, it is nice to know that we have adequate staff to support that.

In terms of inspections that are done in communities, I know the fire marshals travel around to the communities and are constantly evaluating and trying to make GN buildings that they visit and the public places that they visit safer. I'm just curious to find out. With those inspections, I know that there is generally an amount of time where some of the deficiencies can be fixed. If they're not, I think there is a collaborative partnership where they work together to try and solve the problems.

Are there instances across the territory where buildings have to be closed down or facilities have to be closed for public safety reasons? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate your questions, Mr. Elliott, and they are important ones. Right now, there are no facilities that have to be shut down that we are aware of. There are some issues, but not enough to close down a facility. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As part of J-7, there is a grant and contribution of \$2,295,000. That's explains a little bit more on J-12. So I was hoping to go J-12 under the grants, which is part of Protective Services. It outlines that community search and

rescue organizations receive \$500,000 and the Fire Prevention Strategy receives \$1,795,000.

I'm just wondering: in terms of that \$1,795,000, where does that money go? Is that going to our local volunteer fire departments for assistance with the work that they do and training for them or is it a Nunavut-wide fund? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank you for highlighting that, Mr. Elliott. That funding is used to train firefighters in the municipalities. We also use it to purchase equipment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In terms of equipment, is it specifically the clothing that the volunteer firefighters would wear? I don't want to mix capital with O&M, but is it for fire vehicles or fire trucks in the communities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That equipment is for things like hoses, bunker gear, helmets, and things like that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

for questions has just run out. Thank you. Mr. Curley.

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will talk in Inuktitut.

I would like to thank the minister. In regard to protective services under search and rescue, there are a lot of things that we should be thankful for. It was especially hard this winter when we ran into something like that. We have a father and son in Arviat who didn't come back. It was extremely cold at that time. With the wind chill, it was about -67 degrees Celsius. I would like to say that if they had wanted to get one helicopter, it wouldn't have been okay. It came from three provinces. They were working very well together at that time and nothing fatal happened.

Yesterday, during the session, the Premier was asked a question about search and rescue. She stated that she had talked with the Prime Minister regarding search and rescue. We didn't hear about what they discussed. I'm not really sure whether it was (interpretation ends) already capped or sovereignty related; which one it is. (interpretation) Maybe we could be provided with the details. You might have to deal with it because the search and rescue provisions are under Protection Services.

I wonder what kind of help we want from the federal government. Are we trying to get a helicopter base here in Nunavut? Perhaps we could just get a little bit of information exactly what we are requesting from the federal government. Thank you.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): I thank Tagak for the question. It's very stressful when there is somebody who is lost in the community. I would like to thank everybody who has been doing search and rescue. As I said, people don't go out to get lost. They are looking for food for their families, but they didn't expect to be in a disaster or they didn't expect to be lost. I thank all the people who have helped out.

I can't speak to the Premier's statement about meeting with the Prime Minister and other government officials because I'm not involved in that at all. They are dealing with it. The Prime Minister and the Premier are in discussions on this. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Curley**: Thank you. (interpretation) I thank you as the Minister of Community and Government Services. We use the Canadian Forces at the present time. There has to be a better way because Nunavut is a vast area. (interpretation ends) It's huge. I think it spans across at least five provinces or more. We need improvement. We can't just sit back and say, "We need to have a strategy. We need to have a plan." That plan should be followed. It shouldn't be just at the scoop of the Premier, along with these meetings with the Prime Minister. We've got to have a plan. If we don't have a plan, it's not worth talking about it.

My question is: who is responsible for developing a plan to have more effective, on-site locations in Nunavut so that we don't have to wait sometimes 12

hours at least to bring in a helicopter from somewhere? That was the case. It was touch-and-go for awhile. I believe we need a more effective plan developed so that we can all put in our share in continuing to push for the federal government to bring in closer-to-home rescue equipment in terms of airplanes and helicopters. We do appreciate their help and they are responsible, but we need to have them moved up to Nunavut eventually.

So I wonder if the minister can help us out in whether or not that is the route to go. If not, what should be the basis for attempting to improve if we do need to improve search and rescue services that are based in Nunavut? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I agree. I think we need to. I think the hope of all Nunavummiut is make the air search and rescue closer to home. I think the work that our Premier is doing and meeting with her counterparts is a very important first step in that. Our department continues to meet with other emergency measures ministers in Canada. We will continue to push to have that part heard.

Maybe at some point, it is important to build a good strategy in order to make it a reality. At some point, it has to be a reality because time is important when we're doing searches and it would be good if we could have air searching planes located in the north. I couldn't agree with Mr. Curley more. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Kusugak. I don't have any more names on my list. Mr. Aupaluktuq.

**Mr. Aupaluktuq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would just like to make a couple of comments and hopefully just advise the minister and his officials that I will be following up inside the House and other forums.

As the minister and my colleagues are aware, I tabled the infrastructure and hamlet resolutions in the House. Prior to that, we had the honour and the privilege of having Prime Minister Harper as well as our MP, Leona Aglukkaq, visiting Baker Lake at the Agnico-Eagle Mines. At the time of discussion, they expressed the desire and the need to probably have Coast Guard presence. Maybe with the counterparts at the federal level, this would also be nicely addressed simply because environment safety is a concern as well as human safety.

In regard to fire prevention, there are issues that have also been raised in the community about the old and expired fire truck that was in the capital as well. The community would like to continue to see that being put back in the books and maintain that.

Mr. Chairman, I would also like to address one of the issues raised at the community level by community members and hamlet councillors that the Baker Lake detachment is too old and too small. In particular, when it comes to court dates, there is severe overcrowding as well. Basically that is a safety concern.

In regard to fire prevention and emergency preparedness, I think one of

the avenues that we should also explore and keep in mind as well is the BA (breathing apparatus). I can proudly say that I did serve as a volunteer firefighter. There have been some experiences where I did witness breathing apparatus lines that have frozen. That was a detriment to the safety of the firefighters and also an obstacle in order to take out the fire for the safety of those who are being affected by fires.

I just wanted to mention as well that we commend the work that is being done with CGS. We know for a fact that infrastructure needs under capital and O&M are demanding all throughout Nunavut. Simply because of the fact that under the Protection Services of J-7, I just want to note with the minister as well as his officials that there are some of these genuine concerns that do affect every community. I basically would like to state that I wanted to address these under J-7. I just wanted to emphasize that.

I also advise the department that there will be further questions and written letters coming from the community on behalf of our constituents. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the comments. I would just like to reiterate what I did say that I had the privilege of meeting with the Baker Lake Hamlet Council when I was there a couple of weeks ago.

I just wanted to reiterate that in terms of infrastructure needs and requirements, there is a protocol and procedure in

place for all municipalities and that is through the infrastructure advisory committee and through the Nunavut Association of Municipalities infrastructure advisory committee. That is the proper channel to put those through, and I would recommend again that the hamlet council in Baker Lake use that channel. That is the way to get your infrastructure for your municipality, including fire trucks. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. We are on J-7. (interpretation ends) Protection Services. (interpretation) Total Operations and Maintenance. \$5,721,000. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Page J-8. Before we go to that page, our colleague was just informed that there has been a death in his family. Mr. Enook will not be returning back to the House for the rest of the afternoon. That is for the information of the members. Page J-8. Please wait one minute.

**Chairman** (Mr. Ningeongan) (interpretation): Thank you. We will resume. (interpretation ends) Community and Government Services. Branch Summary. Capital Planning and Technical Services. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$38,549,000. (interpretation) That's on page J-8. Mr. Ningark.

**Mr. Ningark** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We keep our colleague and his family in our thoughts and prayers.

Under J-8, (interpretation ends) maintenance and management, (interpretation) particularly the management required under the Gas Tax Fund, I have a question. Is it one and the same? It was NAM that was responsible for that, (interpretation ends) Nunavut Association of Municipalities. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

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

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

**Mr. Ningark** (interpretation): I'm not going to debate this issue on behalf of NAM. Could you give us an update on this issue that NAM had wanted to deal with? I don't want to argue. I just want some information. Thank you.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you. From what I understand, it is not a concern for NAM anymore. It has been dealt with. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My question relates to the minister's opening comments on page 2, the last paragraph. He said, "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.” It speaks to the P3 partnership that they’re hoping to come up with the minister in terms of the capital planning and how they’re going to deal with that. I was just wondering when.

In terms of using Dalhousie University and the research that they have been doing, I know they met in Grise Fiord and checking out the sewage lagoon there and whatnot. How long is this going to be going on? Is it a five-year partnership? Is it a ten-year partnership? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It will conclude in 2014. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I’m assuming that moving forward on dealing with these issues will be reflective of the research that’s presented. Will the Legislative Assembly have an opportunity to view this information? Will it be tabled? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don’t see any issue with tabling the document once it has been completed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In terms of waste management, I know that in all three of the High Arctic communities, the issue of dumps is a concern and something as simple as, maybe, getting a fence put around the dump to stop it from having garbage and debris blow into the water lakes is something that would be nice.

When you’re talking about waste management, are you talking about our water system, where water is taken from the water lakes, the sewage lagoons and our sewage waste, as well as the garbage that is taken and put in the landfills? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We’re mainly talking about waste management, excluding garbage dumps, I think, in terms of Dalhousie. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. J-8 is the Capital Planning and Technical Services. To me, it’s a very important part of how we get things done in terms of capital planning and what projects are being done, but also project officers, I’m assuming, are in this. Recently, in November, we actually did a supplementary appropriation of \$600,000 for six new program management people in the department. I’m assuming, and when we talked about it at the time, it was to actually help fill

the need for getting projects pushed faster through the department. I'm wondering: in terms of those positions, have they been filled? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe the \$600,000 was for training and development dollars that Mr. Elliott is referring to. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So there was not an increase of the number of program management officers in this department. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In this budget, we're asking for two positions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So in terms of the \$600,000 that was approved in November that was training up until March 31 of this year, will that full \$600,000 be used for the training of the employees? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you. Mr. Green can answer that for me, please, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Green:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The \$600,000 was for the workshops that we were planning to arrange this year. So far, we travelled to Pond Inlet and met with their staff for a week. So that money was used for training and development materials. It's also for the travel arrangements. We're also planning another major workshop in Iqaluit some time in March. We suspect that the majority of that money will be spent before the year-end. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I must have misunderstood. My understanding in November, when we approved it, I thought it was actually for four positions, and I was putting my mind at a little bit of ease knowing that there was going to be more project officers. What I am finding is we approve capital dollars to do projects and we are constantly being told that some projects are being pushed back and has so many different factors involved; whether it is stuff coming up on sealift in time, whether it is tenders being above what the price was when it was put out. For all members, we want to have our capital carryover projects catch up, and I am assuming this would be the place where it all happens.

We have the technical people there, we have the project officers there, and if you

have trained and good project officers that are on top of everything, then you do not have the overspending or the change orders. When I first came in 2008, I remember there was something close to \$6 million in change orders for the airport in Arctic Bay, and when questioning it, it was like that is not supposed to happen. There was definitely a capacity issue within the department in this area.

The reason why I am asking the question is because I would want to make sure, and I am hoping that we can get people trained up, get enough employees in there and get some of these projects and get a lot of our projects back on track. I'll use the health centre in Arctic Bay. We want to make sure that those things keep moving forward. With the money that is provided and the training that is going on, can we see some improvement or has there been improvement with moving past some of these capital carryover projects? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you. Unfortunately, when we had programs such as the Building Canada Fund and stuff that have to be committed prior to sometimes a year or two before, it created a lot of that.

In terms of being able to do a better job in those areas that Mr. Elliott is talking about, that is why we have four existing positions. We are asking for two more to bring it to six staff. Maybe that is where there was a bit of confusion in your numbers.

This \$600,000 that he referred to is to train more of our project officers so that they can do their job more efficiently and effectively. They do a great job as it is, but this is to give them more tools to be able to do things even better, Mr. Chairman. I really do appreciate all of my colleagues in their support in approving these funds so that we could be more effective. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Tapardjuk. I was done. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. I have no more names on my list for page J-6. I mean J-8. I do not have my glasses on. I'm sorry. (interpretation ends) Total Operations and Maintenance. Capital Planning and Technical Services. (interpretation) Total Capital Planning and Technical Services. \$38,549,000. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): We will go back to J-3, but before we do that, the Premier would like to provide clarification. Please proceed, (interpretation ends) Madam Premier.

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is regarding a question that was brought up yesterday by Jeannie about my meeting with the Prime Minister with regard to search and rescue. I stated that I didn't bring that topic up in my meeting with the Prime Minister. Earlier today, I mentioned that I was referring to the government and the Arctic Council

regarding this issue, not the Prime Minister. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** *Qujannamiik*, Madam Premier. (interpretation) Before we go back to J-3, there is one other item that we have to deal with. J-9. (interpretation ends) Petroleum Products Division. Mr. Curley.

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr Chairman. I would like more information on quite a number of issues.

First of all, I think we all know that the Rankin Inlet headquarters had over 10 employees in 2004. There were 17 positions or thereabouts before they moved to Baker Lake. I would like an update on how the Petroleum Products Division is going to be set up. They were cutting jobs and the manager was fired at that time.

We were told that the headquarters would be moved here. All of the responsibilities were taken over by headquarters. I would like to get an update because I am sure it has an impact. If the management is going to be moved over here or to headquarters, what is going to be happening with the positions? Are you going to be relocating those positions from Rankin Inlet to Iqaluit?

I will have further questions.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Nothing is going to be moved from the Petroleum Products Division in Rankin Inlet to Iqaluit. I don't know where you heard that from. The office is not going

to be moved from Rankin Inlet to Iqaluit. This is the first time that I have heard about this. I didn't hear of any positions being moved here, Mr. Chairman. I don't know how to respond to that. Thank you, Mr Chairman.

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

**Mr. Curley:** Thank you. (interpretation) I respect the minister. Please don't misunderstand what I am saying. The manager was fired when they were evaluating the fuel contracts and that was done by headquarters, not by the region. The senior officials didn't have any. Now I would like to understand what the status will be.

I brought up these questions because I hear that this will become part of the Qulliq Energy Corporation. I would like to be given an update and where the management would be located. Very likely, the movements will start in April. Thank you.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Nobody is being moved anywhere. The Petroleum Products Division is not going to be moved to Iqaluit and PPD is not going to become part of the Qulliq Energy Corporation. I hope that is clear enough. The Petroleum Products Division will stay in Rankin Inlet. There's nobody being relocated to Iqaluit and Petroleum Products Division is not going to become part of the Qulliq Energy Corporation. This is the first I am hearing of this. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There was a review process, a departmental review, and that seemed to be the case. We weren't given any information or any announcements on this issue. However, I think it's true that when there is an evaluation process, the tenders and everything that had been the responsibility of Rankin Inlet were done by the headquarters in Iqaluit. They reviewed all the contracts. I just wanted to clarify this point: do they have a manager there now at the Petroleum Products Division or did they resign on their own accord? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you. I didn't hear about anything being moved anywhere. PPD is not moving and it's not being amalgamated with the Qulliq Energy Corporation. Of course, there was no announcement or publication because there was no such thing happening.

Regarding the review of the contracts, the deputy at that time did it that way and I'm sure that this deputy is not going to be doing the same thing. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you. This is a very important service. Do we now have a new manager? Have those positions been filled? Are they in full

capacity or do they have vacancies? (interpretation ends) Thank you.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The management positions are filled and some positions are still vacant, but the director position is filled and they are going to stay in Rankin Inlet. This is the current status of the Petroleum Products Division. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you. I'll move on. Some of the contracts have been published because they do get published and are made public. I think there was one that when it was tendered out, it cost approximately \$4 million more than the amount that was awarded for. Do we look at the numbers? I don't know exactly what the criteria are, but that's what I saw in the published report. This contractor made a tender for a little more than \$6 million and the other one at \$2 million. I am unsure which of the criteria are considered the most important or whether or not it was sole sourced. Perhaps it wasn't sole sourced. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister Kusugak, would you like to respond?

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): I'm not trying to confuse anyone here, Mr. Chairman, as they were tendered and not sole sourced and the member knows that very well, as it was tendered

out and not sole sourced. The member should be aware of that.

With respect to his comments on the importance placed on certain criteria, we don't have that information in front of us, Mr. Chairman, so I can't respond to that question.

As to his comments about past contracts being larger than prior contracts, we thought it wouldn't be brought up. We didn't bring that information to this review about past contracts since we felt it was in the past.

The reason why we can't respond to the question is we don't know whether or not that information is factual and which contracts he is referring to. I don't want to cause any confusion and that is why I can't respond to the questions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Kusugak. We're still on page J-9. Are there any questions? Please be advised that members will not be voting on the funding amount as it is only open to questions at this time. Mr. Curley, do you have further questions to ask?

**Mr. Curley:** Yes (interpretation) and I also have a bit of time as well.

Mr. Chairman, our need to ask questions sometimes causes problems and it isn't fun to deal with them all. As to the factuality of the figures, I am not arguing that as I can request that information from the government as to the exact figures contained in the contract and we can get that information. I will set that aside for the time being.

It makes one think about this scenario. Many families received an evaluation. I don't know whether it was done independently or with the family as a whole. However, we have to ask questions about the funds used for contracts in Nunavut to ensure that contracts are adhered to fully. They also have to be fair. If the NNI Policy review had been fair, then this comprehensive review wouldn't have to be done by cabinet. This is already in the past now. Yes, we ought not to mention it anymore.

That leads me to my next question. With respect to the division starting operations, quite a bit of capital equipment owned by Nunavut started to break down, especially fuel trucks. Further, I have heard about communities in the Kitikmeot where the fuel trucks have to be run 24 hours a day providing jet fuel and diesel. Many of the fuel trucks were freezing up since there wasn't shelter available and that is why they now have to be run 24 hours a day. Is this beneficial? Do we have to run it in this manner?

I wonder if the fuel trucks are inspected by the staff of CG&S as to filling their operational requirements under the contract. Once the contract is awarded, are they left to their own devices? Aren't they evaluated once they have a contract? In this case, the fuel trucks have no garage to house them. We all know how cold it gets in the winter and that is why they run them all night long. Is this efficient use of fuel? It seems obvious that they are consuming a lot of fuel to run all night long. So how does the department ensure that standards are met by the contractors? (interpretation ends) Thank you.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you. I am happy to hear the questions members pose to our department. It is best to ask questions, especially when you want answers, and we are here to provide the information requested by the members.

When contracts are awarded, the companies are monitored as to whether they are abiding by the contracts, and we are talking about fuel contracts here. The fuel trucks are purchased by the government and the contractor tries to ensure that the vehicles are in good running order.

I asked my deputy whether he had heard if there was a case where a vehicle had to be kept on all day and night and he had no information. I had no information either. No one ever told me whether they had to be kept running due to the lack of a garage. We will look into this to see if that is the case and in which community it happened.

Perhaps if Mr. Curley can give me more information on that and if there was a problem, we can find out whether it's causing any environmental damage. We want to find out which community he is referring to. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, that's very good to hear. So if you do inspect these vehicles, you would already know. I don't think the expensive vehicles are being inspected to ensure they're in good

running order. Sometimes there is only one fuel truck available because there are no garages for these vehicles a lot of the time. Diesel fuel trucks should not be kept outside in the cold. (interpretation ends) These are essential equipment.

(interpretation) If you do not inspect these vehicles, I can tell you that you won't get the facts. If you periodically send in inspectors, not only buildings should be inspected. Also, airport vehicles and health facilities should be properly inspected. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. I didn't hear a question, but if you want to comment, Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Tagak, for bringing these issues up. Based on our understanding, all of the vehicles have garages. So we will look into this further. If this is not the case, they are inspected to ensure that they are not neglected. Also, in the regional offices, I will stress the fact that they need to be more informed. Having fuel delivery services is very important. I will try to instruct our staff to be more vigilant. I thank Tagak for bringing this up because it's a very important issue. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Going back to J-3. (interpretation ends) Department Summary. Community and Government Services. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$208,397,000. (interpretation) Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Mr. Ningark.

**Mr. Ningark** (interpretation): Yes, I did agree to that item. Coming from the Kitikmeot region, I just want to comment on this. In Kugaaruk, I have not heard a house freezing over due to lack of fuel. I just wanted to make that comment. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): You agreed to \$208,397 on page J-3. Do you agree that we have concluded the Department of Community and Government Services?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak, if you want to make any closing remarks, I give you the floor.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman and my colleagues. I'm glad that you are able to approve this budget. It takes a long time to prepare these figures. Thank you very much. Your questions are usually very effective. It's always pleasing when we're being advised, so please continue to advise us to ensure the smooth operation of government services. I thank everyone.

Also, I thank my officials for assisting me, especially our search and rescue partners. I think we should be very grateful as Nunavummiut because they deal with important tasks.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman, for the opportunity.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Thank you, Mr. Green and Ms. Power. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses out.

Thank you. Pursuant to Rule 6(1), I will now recognize the clock and report progress to our Speaker. Thank you.

**Speaker:** *Qujannamiik*, Sergeant-at-Arms. We will move on with our orders of the day. Item 21. Report of the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Tapardjuk.

### **Item 21: 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 on the floor. Is there a seconder? Thank you, Mr. Kusugak. The motion is in order. All those in favour. Any opposed? The motion is carried.

Item 22. Third Reading of Bills. Item 23. *Orders of the Day*. Mr. Clerk.

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

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

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



8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to Opening Address
10. Replies to Budget Address
11. Petitions
12. Responses to Petitions
13. Reports of Standing and Special  
Committees on Bills and Other  
Matters
14. Tabling of Documents
15. Notices of Motions
16. Notices of Motions for First  
Reading of Bills
17. Motions
18. First Reading of Bills
19. Second Reading of Bills
  - Bill 47
  - Bill 48
  - Bill 51
  - Bill 53
  - Bill 55
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

**Speaker:** Thank you very much, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned until Friday, March 1, at 9:00 a.m.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 18:04*

Thank you.

