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Iqaluit

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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Speaker

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(Iqaluit East)

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Minister of Executive and
Intergovernmental Affairs; Minister
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Minister responsible for Immigration*

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Minister of Environment; Minister of
Languages; Minister responsible for the
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(Rankin Inlet North)

Hon. Monica Ell

(Iqaluit West)

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Minister responsible for Homelessness;
Minister responsible for the Qulliq
Energy Corporation; Minister
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Iqaluit, Nunavut
Monday, March 18, 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 10:00*

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. Ningark to lead us off in a prayer, please.

>>*Prayer*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningark. (interpretation ends) Before we go on with our orders of the day, I would just like to inform members that we only have one page here with us this morning. So I'll let members know that the page will be restricted to the Chambers and not running stuff, notes or messages, up to the staff on any of the floors.

We will move on in our orders of the day. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Minister responsible for the Department of Human Resources, Minister Ell.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

Minister's Statement 265 – 3(3): Inuit Learning and Development Pilot Project (ILDPP)

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning, residents of Iqaluit West and my colleagues. I would like to take this opportunity to talk about the recently announced partnership between the Government of Nunavut, the Government of Canada, and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated in the creation of a new internship pilot project.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, this new initiative will introduce eligible youth to career opportunities in the public service, with placements in a variety of work roles with the three organizations. The pilot project will take place here in Iqaluit.

Mr. Speaker, the internship will begin with an initial in-class orientation and skills development component, followed by four-month work placement rotations in each of the three organizations. To support the interns while in their placements, they will be paired with a workplace mentor to coach and guide them throughout the 16-month pilot project. The interns who successfully complete the internship will be set in a pre-qualified pool for potential employment in the Nunavut public sector. Once the pilot project is completed, an assessment and feasibility study will determine if the project can be expanded.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, this pilot project could not have gathered momentum without the partnership building and determination of all the stakeholders involved. Please join me in

thanking our partners, the Government of Canada and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Ell. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Minister Taptuna.

**Minister's Statement 266 – 3(3): NHC
Projected Construction Activity
Report 2013/2014**

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning, colleagues, Nunavummiut, and Kuglukturmiut. Mr. Speaker, at the request of the Committee of the Whole, the Nunavut Housing Corporation has tabled a complete listing of the 2013-14 community allocations of new public housing and staff housing units throughout the territory.

Mr. Speaker, the Nunavut Housing Corporation's 2013-14 capital budget is \$28,800,000, of which \$8 million has been allocated towards the Public Housing program and \$5 million to staff housing.

Based on community need and lot availability, new construction in 2013 will be undertaken in Arviat, Clyde River, and Cambridge Bay. Arviat will receive 20 public housing units, another 5 public housing units will go to Clyde River, and 10 staff housing units will be built in Cambridge Bay.

Mr. Speaker, the Nunavut Housing Corporation has planned to build in 2013 ten units in Arviat and another ten units in Iqaluit. However, due to infrastructure issues, the City of Iqaluit has advised

that they cannot service the building lots they provided to the Nunavut Housing Corporation. Mr. Speaker, the city expects to rectify this situation in time for the 2014 construction season.

To accommodate these circumstances, the Nunavut Housing Corporation deferred the 2013 projected construction for Iqaluit to 2014 and advanced the planned 2014 construction in Arviat to 2013. Current projected construction for Iqaluit is for 20 units in 2014.

Mr. Speaker, the Nunavut Housing Corporation is aware of the shortage of public and staff housing across the territory and is making every effort to respond to the acute need with very limited resources. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Minister responsible for the Department of Health and Social Services, Minister Peterson.

**Minister's Statement 267 – 3(3):
National Social Work Week**

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and good morning. Mr. Speaker, this week is National Social Work Week, and I want to thank all of our social workers for the work and dedication they provide every day on behalf of the people of Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, our social workers are the men and women on the front line of social work in our communities, giving assistance and guidance to families in times of need. They are a valuable resource in our communities.

It is important for us to celebrate the commitment of our social workers, who work for safety, well-being, and family harmony. I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking our social workers for their contribution towards a safer and better quality of life for Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Peterson. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation, Minister Ell.

Minister's Statement 268 – 3(3): QEC Inuit Employment Plan

Hon. Monica Ell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At this time, I would like to inform you of a plan being implemented to enhance Inuit employment with the Qulliq Energy Corporation. In November 2012, QEC hired an Inuit employment administrator. This new employee will work out of the Baker Lake office and will spearhead a new direction for the Inuit Employment Plan program.

Mr. Speaker, the Inuit Leadership Development Program will focus on the identification of top Inuit students in secondary education programs within Nunavut and the hiring and development of these individuals over the long term. The individuals chosen will be supported by the corporation in their pursuit of post-secondary education in one of the fields of engineering, finance, accounting, information technology, and human resources management.

Mr. Speaker, over a period of four to five years, students will participate in

both a peer mentorship and professional mentorship program. Peer mentorship will create a network of Inuit participants which students can turn to for support, and the professional mentorship will help ensure job readiness at the time of their graduation.

Mr. Speaker, the first 12 months will involve significant planning and the building of a sound program infrastructure. This September, the program will admit a limited number of participants constituting the first phase of implementation.

Mr. Speaker, these graduates will represent a significant step forward towards QEC's future leadership.

The Inuit Leadership Development Program complements the existing four components of QEC's Inuit Employment Plan program, which are:

- The Inuit Employment Plan Committee;
- The Apprenticeship Program;
- The Inuit Summer Student Employment Program;
- The Inuit Employee Individual Development Plans.

Mr. Speaker, QEC's human resources and organizational development department is presently working towards releasing a public awareness campaign dealing with its Inuit Employment Plan to the general public. I would like to congratulate Qulliq Energy on this important initiative. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Ell. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Environment, Minister Arreak.

**Minister's Statement 269 – 3(3): GN
Supports Pro-Sealing
Demonstration**

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning, Nunavummiut. Mr. Speaker, as many members may know, March 15 is known among so-called animal rights groups as International Anti-Sealing Day and was marked this year on Saturday, March 16, by anti-sealing demonstrations in many major cities worldwide.

I am pleased to announce that my department has partnered with NTI and the students of the Nunavut Sivuniksavut Program to counter this propaganda by holding a pro-sealing rally in downtown Toronto on March 16 to publicly demonstrate support for sealing and to distribute factual information on the seal hunt.

The Government of Nunavut continues to be a strong supporter of Nunavut seal hunters at the local, national, and international level both through the purchase and marketing of sealskins and through educating the public on the importance of the seal to Inuit and Nunavut.

Past international anti-sealing days have seen anti-sealing demonstrations on Parliament Hill; however, no such event is planned this year. We are hopeful that this is an indication that the Canadian public is tiring of the lies and misinformation spread by anti-sealing lobby groups at the expense of sealers and their families.

Today, I would like to offer all members a made-in-Nunavut sealskin ribbon, and I hope that you will all wear them proudly to demonstrate our unanimous support for Nunavut's seal hunters and celebrate the importance of the seal hunt to our culture and well-being. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Arreak. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Item 3 in the *Orders of the Day*. Members' Statements. Member for Akulliq, Mr. Ningark.

Item 3: Members' Statements

**Member's Statement 441 – 3(3):
Nunavut MP Visits Repulse Bay**

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to express my gratitude to Leona Aglukkaq, the federal Minister of Health and our elected MP. She was able to travel to Repulse Bay during our session.

I regret that I wasn't able to attend to this event, so I apologize to our MP, the Hamlet of Repulse Bay, and the residents of the community. However, I extend a big "thank you" to them since they understand that other commitments sometimes bar their representatives from attending the events, especially during our sessions at the Legislative Assembly.

Last week during our sitting, our MP went to the community, and I am always grateful to Ms. Leona Aglukkaq. So through your position as the Speaker, on behalf of all our colleagues, I want to extend our gratitude to Ms. Leona Aglukkaq. Thank you.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 442 – 3(3):
Kivalliq Mine Training**

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) Good Morning, Baker Lake. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, before I begin my statement, I would like to take this opportunity to offer my congratulations on two happy events.

Firstly, congratulations to Rebecca Kudloo from Baker Lake on her acclamation to the Presidency of Pauktuutit.

Secondly, congratulations to our neighbours in Greenland for having established a new Council on Human Rights. Well done.

Mr. Speaker, the challenge of preparing our regions, communities, and residents for the opportunities that exist in the mining sector of the economy is a significant one.

As you know, Mr. Speaker, I recently had the opportunity to attend this year's international convention of the Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada. Mr. Speaker, one of the clear messages that I heard was the critical need to ensure that our communities and residents are ready for mining. As many of my colleagues have noted with respect to developments in their regions, the Kivalliq is embracing opportunities to provide training to our people.

Mr. Speaker, we often speak of partnerships in this House. Mr. Speaker, there are a number of partners who have been working hard to provide training to Kivalliq residents, including my constituents in Baker Lake. The Government of Nunavut, Nunavut Arctic College, and the Kivalliq Inuit Association are at the forefront of this effort.

Mr. Speaker, as you know, the benefits of economic development come with responsibilities: the responsibility to ensure that mining activity is conducted in an environmentally responsible way; the responsibility to ensure that our constituents have the opportunity to develop the skills and training that will allow them to obtain meaningful and rewarding employment in this critical sector of the economy; the responsibility to ensure that a portion of the wealth that is extracted from our land is given back to the communities.

Mr. Speaker, these are exciting and challenging times. I ask all members to join me in supporting those partners who are working to make these times as bright as they can be for all of our people in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 443 – 3(3):
Tribute to Volunteer Interpreters**

Mr. Ningeongan (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say "good morning" to the people of Coral Harbour,

Chesterfield Inlet, and Nunavut.
(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to those Nunavummiut who go the extra mile to make the lives of our elders a little bit easier.

Mr. Speaker, as Members of the Legislative Assembly, we have the right to speak in the language of our choice in this House. As Members of the Legislative Assembly, we also have the privilege of being served by some of the finest professional interpreter/translators in Nunavut. Mr. Speaker, I can rise in my place with the confidence that what I say will be understood by all of my colleagues and the listening public, regardless of which language I choose to use.

Mr. Speaker, life is not always as easy for our elders, many of whom are unilingual. On a day-to-day basis, many elders encounter hurdles and frustrations when it comes to communicating with business and government. I am hopeful that this situation will improve over time as our new official languages legislation is fully implemented.

In the meantime, I would like to acknowledge the many bilingual residents of our territory who go out of their way to help elders. Mr. Speaker, hardly a day goes by without my seeing at least one example of someone taking the time to help an elder. Whether it's helping an elder at the bank, the post office, or even at a restaurant in an unfamiliar town, the efforts of people to act as volunteer interpreters deserve our recognition, acknowledgement, and appreciation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for South Baffin, Mr. Schell.

**Member's Statement 444 – 3(3):
Nutrition North Does Not Work
for Nunavut**

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to speak about a terrible injustice, one of the biggest smokescreens and rip-offs ever perpetuated on Nunavummiut.

Mr. Speaker, what would you say if you knew that perishable food, such as apples, oranges, milk, and bread, could be shipped from Ottawa to Nunavut free of charge or better yet, you could even make money to ship these items? Yes, Mr. Speaker, there is such a thing as a free lunch, but don't get too excited because it's only for a few major retailers.

Mr. Speaker, some of our major retailers are paying nothing to ship apples, oranges, milk, and other Nutrition North eligible food items. You don't believe it? Well, look at the facts. The subsidy rates are available on Nutrition North's website and the freight costs are posted on the respective airlines' websites. Mr. Speaker, I encourage you to take a look.

The full consumer freight rate non-discounted from Ottawa to Kimmirut on our airlines is \$5.29/kg. Nutrition North's subsidy for perishable food delivered to Kimmirut is \$5.40/kg. So, Mr. Speaker, not only would it cost you nothing, you would actually make 11 cents on every kilogram of fresh food shipped. Of course, our two major retailers, Northern and Arctic Co-operatives Ltd. do not pay the general

cargo shipping rate because they are volume shippers and have negotiated much lower rates.

Mr. Speaker, it appears as though these retailers are making a tidy sum. Share prices are up and management is thrilled. Meanwhile, Nunavummiut are stuck struggling to pay these outrageous food costs to try and feed their families. Well, Mr. Speaker, this is what's happening under the Nutrition North program, not just in my constituency of Kimmirut; it's happening across all communities.

Mr. Speaker, recently, the UN representative raised issues of food security and questioned whether the subsidies were being passed on to the consumers. Former public servants are suggesting that federal bureaucrats are spending and not properly monitoring retailers. Our own Government of Nunavut has done a lot of talking about food security.

However, Mr. Speaker, no one, not even our Diamond Jubilee and award-winning local editor has bothered to point out the truth. This program is nothing more than a corporate welfare for a few retailers. Maybe CBC's fifth estate could help us get the message out.

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

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

Mr. Schell: Thank you, members. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Let me make this clear: if you or I were to buy ten cases of apples from a retailer in Ottawa and ship them to Kimmirut, the shipping cost would be 10 kilograms at \$5.29/kg and of course, Northern and ACL pay much less. At 10 kilograms at \$5.29, it would cost \$52.90 and the subsidy on the apples would come to \$54, which means that I just made \$1.10 to ship the apples. However, individuals cannot excessively be shipping bananas up because it's designed for the big retailers, the same band of brothers who joined forces to lobby the federal government in their design of this program.

Mr. Speaker, under the old Food Mail Program, everybody paid the same rate like the postage stamp. Under Nutrition North, the larger shippers, the Northern and ACL, pay much less than the subsidy they collect from the bureaucrats in Ottawa. If it doesn't cost the retailers anything to ship perishable foods to Kimmirut and they are making money by shipping food, then why are my constituents paying 40 to 60 percent higher prices than retailers in the south?

Mr. Speaker, for years, the retailers blamed the high prices on freight costs, but now that they're making money on freight, what's their excuse on these shamefully high prices?

Mr. Speaker, we all know that Nutrition North benefits the retailers the most, and it's no surprise that these big retailers have come out as cheerleaders for the program. However, if the program was a success and if subsidies would be passed onto the consumers, we wouldn't see protests outside our grocery stores. We wouldn't see a Facebook site with more than 20,000 members dedicated to

raising awareness of these outrageous prices. We wouldn't have spent several days in committee hopelessly searching for straight answers from the bureaucrats and retailers behind this boondoggle.

Personal food orders must go through these selected retailers, which has significantly cut our choices in retailers. Nutrition North has basically forced us to shop at Northern and ACL, so it is no surprise that these retailers are boasting of increased sales because they have rigged the deck. Worst of all, our tax dollars, Canadian tax dollars, are being used to directly subsidize the retailer, which means they put the fox in charge of the henhouse.

I ask this House to join me in asking for a formal motion to have the Auditor General of Canada investigate the Nutrition North program in order to determine what is actually happening with Canadian taxpayers' dollars and to find out exactly where the subsidy is going. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 445 – 3(3):
Recognition of Social Workers**

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I almost feel like talking about Nutrition North Canada, but that's not what I have on my agenda for today.

>> *Laughter*

Thank you, Mr. Schell, for pointing out the things that have been pointed out many times.

Mr. Speaker, I, too, rise today to recognize Social Work Week in Nunavut and in our sister territories.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to rise in my place every year to recognize the hard work and effort of our social workers during the month of March. However, they deserve that recognition each and every day.

An Hon. Member: Hear, hear!

Mr. Elliott: Mr. Speaker, this year, the theme for Social Work Week is "Social Workers Defending Social Programs for a Stronger Canada."

Social workers across the north are renewing their commitment to the struggle to balance the broad demands on government with limited economies, increased demand for infrastructure, environmental pressure, high costs of living and doing business, and the ever increasing health and social needs.

Mr. Speaker, they are telling us that in an environment of competing demands and priorities, it is imperative that social programs are not lost. These are the programs that serve the most vulnerable populations, those who often have no voice. I agree that it is crucial that all northerners, regardless of their race, culture, age, or where they live, have equitable access to programs and services to support living with dignity and respect.

Mr. Speaker, the Association of Social Workers in Northern Canada and the

Social Workers Program at Nunavut Arctic College have extended their hand to us as northern leaders to work with them towards these goals. I, for one, am proud to lend my voice in support. I ask my colleagues to join me in doing the same. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 446 – 3(3):
Tribute to Jean Charest**

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I send my greetings to the people of Rankin Inlet and Nunavut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to somebody who was a leader in Canada, not just for the whole of Canada, but for the provinces. I'm sorry if I mispronounce anything.

I would like to congratulate the Premier of Quebec, who resigned last fall, the Hon. Jean Charest. I'm not talking about the Liberals. In the 1980s, there was a threat of separation by Quebec from the rest of Canada. The Party Quebecois, led by Rene Levesque and other leaders like Lucien Bouchard, along with Parizeau, started a referendum on separation. Right on the cusp! Canada was on the verge of separation if the referendum had been passed.

This person who was amongst the youngest leaders, the Hon. Jean Charest, was tasked to fight against separation, which must have been quite daunting, especially since he didn't hold a seat in the Quebec legislature. Mr. Charest took on that challenge. I totally was in awe

over his leadership, as he provided quality leadership, which is something all leaders have to be aware of. This man provided (interpretation ends) grace under fire and pressure, but he took it head-on.

(interpretation) He was one of the leaders in Quebec at the time of this threat of separation with the support of many Canadians, not just the elected representatives, but the public. For this reason, I have always wanted to express my gratitude to Mr. Jean Charest because of his tremendous assistance to Canada as a country.

Furthermore, he was able to respect the Inuit of Northern Quebec in his plans. (interpretation ends) Plan Nord was one of them. (interpretation) If the man had some faults, at least he was able to provide funds to them.

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

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you. (interpretation) Thank you, members.

Due to these reasons, Mr. Speaker, I wanted to express my appreciation of Mr. Charest since he has a good memory of people he has met and doesn't forget them.

I met him twice over a period of a year and ever since, he has sent Christmas cards and letters to see how we are

doing. I would be remiss without mentioning his wife, as she stood side by side with him during this period. Let us always remember our spouses, as they stand by our sides when we are dealing with weighty matters.

Further, Mr. Speaker, with respect to the newly elected leader, I have those same expectations from Philippe Bouillard. I apologize if I mispronounced it. “Quillard”? Please forgive me if I bungled the name, but I also have expectations that when the new leader assumes his chair, he won’t be fighting for separation and we hope he works with his caucus. Apparently, he was previously the minister of health in the Quebec government and I certainly wish him well in his leadership, as he doesn’t support separation from Canada, but continued federalism.

I wanted to mention these issues, particularly our need to express our appreciation of Mr. Jean Charest. He stood up for Canada in a very strong way and we wish him, along with his family, the best in his new career. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Curley. Item 3. Members’ Statements. Member Nattilik, Ms. Ugyuk.

**Member’s Statement 447 – 3(3):
Appreciation to Hunters in
Netsilik**

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say “good morning” to the people of Nattilik. Mr. Speaker, (interpretation ends) the Minister of Environment (interpretation) and my

colleague, Tagak Curley, came back with very good news regarding the polar bear meeting they had overseas.

The people of Netsilik, Gjoa Haven, Taloyoak, and Cambridge Bay were very pleased with the meeting. Around that area, there has been support for the conservation of polar bears they have practised for years. There has been a ban on harvesting polar bears around that area.

The people of Netsilik would like to thank you for representing the people of Nunavut at that meeting. I send my congratulations for supporting the hunters of Netsilik. Thank you.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. Item 3. Members’ Statements. Moving on in our orders of the day. Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Minister responsible for the Department of Justice, Minister Shewchuk.

Item 4: Returns to Oral Questions

**Return to Oral Question 551 – 3(3):
Government of Nunavut’s
Intervention Respecting Senate
Reform Reference Questions**

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to return to oral question in response to the Member Ron Elliott from Quttiktuq on March 11, 2013, Question No. 551 – 3(3).

The question was:

“Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Justice in his capacity as the Attorney General for Nunavut.

Last month, the Government of Canada submitted a number of reference questions to the Supreme Court concerning the issue of Senate reform. The reference questions concern a number of options and issues related to reform of the Senate.

On Tuesday of last week, Nunavut's Attorney General joined a number of other provinces and territories in filing a notice of intervention concerning this matter. For the benefit of Nunavummiut who are following our proceedings today, can the minister explain why our government wishes to intervene in this matter?"

Mr. Speaker, my response is: All ten provinces of Canada and both Nunavut and the Northwest Territories have filed notices of intervention with respect to this important issue and case.

The Government of Nunavut filed an intervention in this matter as this case not only concerns questions relating to the reform of the Senate but also will be the first time that the Supreme Court of Canada has been asked to consider the operation of the "Amending Formula" provisions of Canada's Constitution that came into effect in 1982. It will therefore set important precedents for the future of Canada and Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Minister Ell.

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am very pleased to recognize a few people who are presently in the House.

The leaders of the Pauktuutit youth forum are:

Sharon Nochasak-McLean and Elana Nightingale.

The youth are:

Nelson Tagoona
Brenda Jararuse
Jana Angulalik
Jerri Thrasher
Kelly McLean
Lavinia Flaherty
Gerard Mesher, and
Dang-Dang Gruben.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Ell. Welcome to the Gallery. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Baker Lake, Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure when a fellow Baker Lakemut is in the Chamber as it re-instills to remember where we come from and where we are headed. There is a young man who has reached out to his peers in Nunavut and all across Canada to raise awareness of our social challenges with his unique gift of throat-boxing.

This young man was nominated by many of his peers, community members of Baker Lake, and Nunavummiut, and

received the Diamond Jubilee award. I ask my colleagues in the House to welcome this young man, as well as his colleagues into the Chamber, and welcome Mr. Nelson Tagoona. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It gives me great pleasure and honour today to recognize a young lady to the House. I have known this young lady since she was very small, probably since she was a baby, but I have watched her grow up in Cambridge Bay, [attend] elementary school and go through high school. I am very proud that she has gone on and done well in her life. She currently works for my Department of Health and Social Services in Cambridge Bay and it is a very difficult job, of course, the dental program, but she does a great job of organizing the appointments and calling people to make sure they get in for their appointments when the dental folks are in town. I would like to welcome Jana Angulalik, who is sitting over there at the end there. Welcome to the House, Jana.

>> *Applause*

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

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 576 – 3(3): Training for Local Radio Operators

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I send my regards to the people of Repulse Bay and Kugaaruk. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of CGS.

I took note of a matter that may or may not be a concern. Mr. Speaker, we have heard about local radio announcers being required to take a training program under the auspices of the MTO, the Municipal Training Organization. I thank the minister and totally support and approve this initiative.

I certainly encourage the department to provide this training, as the radio airwaves are subject to regulations, especially for announcers who will be broadcasting any public radio shows. This includes subjects as well as specific language not suitable for broadcast in the community radio stations. There are certain things that can't be said on the air, whether it is on CBC, Iglaaaq, Northbeat, and our national radio and TV.

Certain issues can't be spoken about on the local radio stations, so I want to ask the minister this question: will this radio announcer training program be made available within Nunavut? If his response is yes, I thank him in advance and when it would become available. I ask if he could please provide a short response. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning to the people of Nunavut. In regard to your question, yes, we are going to have a training program made available to the radio announcers through the municipal training organization.

All of the Nunavut communities have local radios and announcers. Some of the individuals have been there for a long time. There is a need for a training program to be made available regarding what should not be said on the airwaves.

There were some questions about whether there would be a training program, and yes, we are planning to set up a training program for local radio announcers regarding that issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the minister. When is that training program going to be made available? I am sure that you are going to be going through the hamlet councils to make that date available. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are quite a lot of individuals who work for the hamlet councils and we are going to set up this training program through the computer; we will give you an update once we have dates set. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 577 – 3(3): Physician Recruitment and Retention

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

Mr. Speaker, considerable attention is being paid by Nunavutmiut to the issue of physician recruitment and retention. Recent information has come to light which indicates that the government spent close to \$12 million on short-term contracts for doctors over a 20-month period.

We know that the government recruits many of its nurses through formal arrangements with nursing agencies. This allows for some predictability in costs.

Can the minister explain exactly how physicians are hired for short-term work and who makes the decisions about which doctors to hire? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Curley for the question. I appreciate the question. Mr. Curley knows full well the challenges that I have as the Minister of Health and Social Services to ensure that we keep our hospitals and health centres staffed with health practitioners who can

provide a high degree and level of health care to all of our communities.

Mr. Speaker, we have a group of individuals at the Qikiqtani General Hospital. I think they're relocated right now because they're doing renovations. They contact physicians and go under recruiting programs across Canada. We do have to compete with other jurisdictions for physicians and for nurses. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know it's a challenging job in that department, particularly when trying to recruit physicians and so on.

Mr. Speaker, my first supplementary is this: it appears that the terms and conditions for short-term physician contracts can vary dramatically. In some cases, doctors may work only for a few days, and it is not at all clear whether remuneration for physicians is consistent, from what we have read. What is the minister doing to bring greater consistency to the terms and conditions for short-term physician contracts? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Curley for the question. Mr. Chairman, obviously, on a longer term locum, you could get a better deal with a physician, but on shorter term contracts, we absolutely have to have physicians. Although they

may be short term, it's important that we have them. I believe our team does a great job in negotiating with the physicians the fees and rates that they offer.

I don't know what Mr. Curley is referring to. There's information reported in the media and we know that that's not always correct all the time. Without the benefit of seeing specific contracts, I can't tell if one doctor gets a better deal than the other doctor, if one doctor is there for two days and one is there for two weeks. The level of detail that I would have to get it down and to reviewing contracts, it would be very challenging. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In my previous question, I did try to help the minister that the contracts appeared to have been varied significantly. We noted right in the paper that one exceeded over \$2,000 a day whereas the other doctor, I do not know whether or not disqualified, but did receive over \$1,500 a day.

My second supplementary is this: it is beyond dispute that communities in Nunavut benefited from the services of doctors who make long-term commitments to live among the population whom they serve. What incentives does the government provide to physicians who demonstrate a willingness to live in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

of Health and Social Services, Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Curley for the question. Obviously, we would appreciate and welcome physicians who make it their career in Nunavut. We do have several physicians who have made that decision.

I cannot give Mr. Curley or the House specific details about what incentives we offer doctors to make a career in Nunavut. I do know, through an initiative that began when Mr. Curley was the minister, NunaFam. We are working with Memorial University to train or work with them on the six year program to have interns from Memorial University to work at the Qikiqtani General Hospital to gain experience. Perhaps, when they become full-fledged doctors, they can make Nunavut a choice where to begin their career.

We are also supporting a number of medical students from Nunavut during their studies in the south and we are very encouraged that they will return to work in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think it is well known that in BC, the government offers \$100,000 to work in rural communities. I believe there are examples how the incentive can be developed.

It is essential that this government recognize that we are competing with larger jurisdictions for the services of physicians. For example, it has been

reported that the Government of BC has introduced programs to attract doctors to live and work in rural areas.

What is this government doing to convince doctors to give Nunavut a shot? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Curley, again, for the question. It is no secret that Nunavut is a very challenging territory in Canada. We have to ensure that our facilities have the equipment that doctors would need to support them in their career up here.

Mr. Speaker, again, our team goes to all the career fairs where all provinces and territories meet to encourage doctors to come work for them. Our package for the doctors is what we use to encourage them to come and work in Nunavut; it is very competitive with the other provinces and territories. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 578 – 3(3): Government of Nunavut's Intervention Respecting Senate Reform Reference Questions

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Justice. I would like to thank the Minister for providing a return to my earlier question concerning the

Government of Nunavut's intervention respecting the federal government's Senate reform reference questions that it has submitted to the Supreme Court. Can the minister outline the timeline for this process? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the member for that question. No, at this point in time, I cannot outline any timelines involved in this process. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. One of the reference questions that the Government of Canada has asked the Supreme Court to respond to concerns the issue of Senate appointment consultations.

The wording of the reference questions asks if it is within the legislative authority of the Parliament of Canada to establish a framework setting out a basis for provincial and territorial legislatures to enact legislation to consult their population as to their preference for potential nominees for appointment to the Senate.

What is the Government of Nunavut's position on the issue of introducing such legislation in our House? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank Mr. Elliott for keen interest in Senate review. As you all know and he well know this is a very new initiative that has gone to the Supreme Court of Canada.

Our main view on this whole initiative is that Nunavut be involved when questions and situations arise so that we could put input into any Senate reform that may happen in the future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that response. Another one of the reference questions that the Government of Canada has asked the Supreme Court to respond to concerns the issue of Senate term limits. What is the Government of Nunavut's position on the issue of Senate term limits? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, this is a very new initiative; we will wait and see what responses come from the Supreme Court of Canada and other jurisdictions and review them case by case and we will have a better understanding and position at that time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Although I thought that the Government of Nunavut had already put in its position on these types of issues. Another one of the reference questions that the Government of Canada has asked the Supreme Court to respond to concerns the issue of Senate abolition. What is the Government of Nunavut's position on the issue of whether or not to abolish the Senate? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, this is a very new initiative. The Government of Nunavut has no position on abolishment to reform the Senate at this point in time. However, we do want to hear what the Supreme Court has to say and other jurisdictions across this country before we review this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 579 – 3(3): Cancer Prevention and Early Detection

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Health and Social Services, Hon. Keith Peterson. Mr. Speaker, I am confident that everyone in this House has experienced loss and despair as a result of a blight that is cancer.

Mr. Speaker, the most effective way to address this serious is to identify its most critical aspects. In order to address the prevalence of cancer across Nunavut, we need to know with certainty exactly what types of cancers are most common.

It is my understanding that medical practitioners are required to report on the types of cancers that are diagnosed. Can the minister update this House on when accurate, detailed, and up-to-date information on the prevalence and types of cancer across Nunavut will be published and made available? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Aupaluktuq for his question. We all know folks in our communities and many of our relatives who have succumb to cancer or are fighting cancer. It is a nasty illness. I guess that would be the best description of it.

Mr. Speaker, I can tell Mr. Aupaluktuq that our department has undertaken a review of the cancer registry, and I'm hopeful that we would be able to provide an update on that later this spring. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I respectfully would like to thank the hon. minister for that. Mr. Speaker, while having information on the types of cancer that are most

prevalent in Nunavut should help to focus our resources, ideally we would want to prevent the disease from taking root in the first place. Can the minister clarify what cancer prevention activities and programs are currently being offered by his department and how much money is spent on those initiatives? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Aupaluktuq for the question. Mr. Speaker, there's no doubt that cancer is a real challenge for all of our provinces and territories.

In Nunavut, the number one cancer that doesn't get a whole lot of notice and attention is certainly lung cancer. Our tobacco reduction and cessation team is actively encouraging Nunavummiut to quit smoking or not to start smoking, but it's a type of cancer that's very difficult to detect and treat. By the time it's detected, it could be very advanced.

Mr. Speaker, we also have programs underway for colon cancer. We do have the breast cancer screening program. I can't give the member a number of how much funding we spend on cancer treatment, but I can assure the member that we encourage people to go to the health centres and get into the hospital. Early detection is critical. Our health practitioners will put individuals on a program, which will likely include a lot of travel north/south, stays at hospitals, treatment down south.

It's very difficult to put a number on that because it's spread throughout the department, medical travel, client escort travel, out-of-territory physician costs, out-of-territorial hospital costs, so it's usually very expensive, but we do work very hard to help people who are diagnosed with cancer. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I very much appreciate the hon. minister's response. I'm glad to hear that there are programs currently in place, as well as the resources and additional assessments can be provided with improvements by bridging services.

Mr. Speaker, I have heard from my constituents and many of my colleagues have raised similar concerns that far too many cancers are being detected for the first time when they are already in the late stages of the disease. Can the minister indicate what efforts are being made to conduct cancer screening clinics on a regular basis across all of Nunavut's communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Aupaluktuq for the question. Mr. Speaker, again, early detection is critical. Through our health centres and hospital, we have nurses and doctors who deliver the Well Men clinics and the Well Women clinics on

an annual basis. I always encourage my constituents, if they're not feeling well, that they should go into the health centre; don't wait for your annual checkup. Go to the health centres and talk to your nurses and talk to your doctors.

I don't believe we have a specific program, but we encourage, through our public health, that people look at early detection. It's helpful if the individuals, if they're feeling unwell, call the health centres, and then the doctors and nurses will work with the patients to treat and diagnose them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With many constituents going to health centres, a lot of their assessments, no doubt, are very difficult to pinpoint as to what the actual issue is, but in some cases, detection and awareness, no doubt, is being practised by the frontline workers such as the nurses in the health centres.

Mr. Speaker, in order to address this very serious issue I believe that we need a comprehensive cancer strategy to prevent, screen for, and detect the disease as early as possible.

Will the minister commit to creating a Nunavut cancer care strategy at the earliest possible opportunity and, if not, with respects, why not? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

of Health and Social Services, Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can't make that commitment. I'm very confident that my Health and Social Services staff, all the doctors and nurses, and other health practitioners are working with people throughout Nunavut. If people will go to the health centres when they're not feeling well and they explain to the doctors and nurses why they're not feeling well, our doctors and nurses can screen them or send them for screening or diagnosis to a health facility down south where they have the sophisticated equipment to make those kinds of determinations.

I will assure my colleague that, again, cancer is a very high priority issue in Nunavut and we will continue to make it a high priority issue to ensure that Nunavummiut get the best care and attention that we can provide them early on in their treatment and as they go forward. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 580 – 3(3): Status of Mary River Project

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning to the people of Pond Inlet and people of Nunavut. Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation.

Mr. Speaker, last fall in our October session, I raised several questions and I want to return to this line of questioning

to the minister. Last fall, I asked the minister whether this government had entered into negotiations with the Baffinland Iron Mines Corporation related to their Mary River proposal.

My own personal translation into Inuktitut of the title in English is “For development purposes partnership agreement.” (interpretation ends) The English title is “Development Partnership Agreement.”

(interpretation) Furthermore, although in January, the project proposal was approved by NIRB, Baffinland requested changes in their proposed development of the mine at Mary River, as they wanted to amend the permit and to change certain sections of the original approval for the project. With respect to the development partnership agreement, let me first ask whether this has commenced or what the status is at this time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Member for Tununig for that question. Mr. Speaker, there is no development partnership agreement at this time with the proponent of Baffinland. The project certificate that was issued in December, NIRB has reviewed that the project scope has changed, and the Nunavut Impact Review Board is calling for reconsideration of the permits. Therefore, at this time, there is no DPA, development partnership agreement, with the resource development company.

Mr. Speaker, once the IIBA is completed with the proponent; the company will then forward a letter of intent to negotiate a DPA. That is forthcoming. That will not happen until they complete their Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) When I raised the issue with the minister last fall, I noted that NIRB’s final hearing report on the Mary River Project indicated that a development partnership agreement between Baffinland and the Government of Nunavut could result in a number of benefits, including “Organizational infrastructure, physical infrastructure, and communications infrastructure.” Can the minister tell me what this means? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Member for Tununig for the question. Mr. Speaker, again, at this time, there are negotiations that are taking place, but the intent of a development partnership agreement is to benefit Nunavummiut, and through this, I mean there has to be benefits for both sides, the territory, the Government of Nunavut, and the communities that are affected.

Mr. Speaker, once the negotiations start, these recommendations that come from

the Nunavut Impact Review Board will be considered. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just recently, I believe it was the week prior, there were questions posed in the House about this committee. The term in English is: “sustainable development committee” and apparently this committee is involved in reviewing proposals or whenever a hearing is held to review mining development proposals, when NIRB conducts development review hearings and they are able to speak to the issues.

Can the minister inform me as well as this House, whether or not this committee has come up with a position on the proposed amendment if there is going to be a supplemental hearing to review the changes Baffinland wants to undertake? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. Mr. Speaker, when the sustainable development advisory group participates in these types of hearings it involves other departments from the Government of Nunavut.

Of course, Mr. Speaker, as mandated through our Nunavut Mining Strategy and uranium policies, we abide by our mandate. Throughout this process, we participate as unofficial interveners for

any kind of resource development taking place within the territory.

Mr. Speaker, I will note that most of the development that is happening right now is on Inuit-owned lands and under Article 12 we do play a key role in reviewing, commenting, and participating fully on the proposed development that has taken place out there. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister provide information to me and this House, how does this sustainable development committee consult those who are impacted, such as from the residents of Pond Inlet? How do they collect concerns prior to making their position known on the proposed amendments? In particular, how do they know about community concerns with respect to the proposed development at Mary River? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for the question. The committee, the advisory group, determines, examines, evaluates, and assesses the project scope with its partners. We do have a lot of departments within the Government of Nunavut that participates through the Department of Environment, Health and Social Services, ED&T, Finance, there are a couple of other departments that do participate and examine the impacts that are being presented by the proponent.

All of these comments and evaluations are posted on the Nunavut Impact Review Board's website.

Throughout the process, it is determined how the proponent can improve their impact mitigation, environmental impact, whether it is people safety. It comes to all these impacts that are discussed throughout the scope of the project. We do have experts that help us in this field, and at the end of the day, as I have indicated before in the past sittings that we do have a socio-economic monitoring committee that evaluates the developer's production once the proponent established a project environmental impact statement.

We do have regional committees in all three regions that also monitor what is happening within the communities, and they are the ones that help us with negotiation of development partnership agreements. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 581 – 3(3): Why is the Nutrition North Program Not Working?

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As per my Member's Statement, my questions are for the Premier.

As per my Member's Statement, recent articles in the media as well as concerns raised across Nunavut and the north demonstrate and show that the Nutrition North Canada Program is broken and worse, the actual subsidy provided by the federal government is not being applied fairly to the food prices. Can the

Premier advise this House and Nunavummiut if her government will be addressing the concerns raised? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Schell. Minister responsible for Economic Development and Transportation, Madam Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the people of Nunavut and the member for his question. During our meeting, the Nunavut government has started a review on 10 communities in regard to the prices in the stores and the Co-ops, and how expensive it is to live in Nunavut. (interpretation ends) The food price survey that will be launched this month in 10 communities will allow us to monitor the cost of many food and household items. This includes subsidized Nutrition North Canada Program, as well as the cost of living in Nunavut more broadly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We all know that the Nutrition North Canada Program is a federal program. Will the Premier and this government support a motion to ask the Auditor General of Canada to investigate the program and include interviewing the retailers, airlines and indeed our constituents who are being ripped off by this program? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Schell. Minister responsible for Economic Development and Transportation, Madam Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. After the review is done, I am sure that we will be able to find out what we are going to do once the review is done on Nutrition North Canada Program. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Has the Premier directed any of her staff or any of our GN departments to monitor and to follow up concerns raised across Nunavut with this program? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In speaking about food prices, discussions have been ongoing here in Nunavut over months and years, because the price of food is exorbitant up here in the North.

I believe that progress has been made on the Makimaniq Plan, and this includes the employees of our government, specifically our researchers in the Anti-Poverty Secretariat as well as Statistics Nunavut, which are their titles in English. They are working towards completing this, and I have good expectations that this work once completed will provide us with the type of information we require to address these challenges. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the Premier write the Prime Minister and our MP and table that letter in this House and make it public so all Nunavummiut know what our government is doing with an issue that affects every family and every person in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This issue is vital especially our dissemination of the information based on our knowledge and beliefs about the extremely high costs of living in Canada's north, here in Nunavut especially.

When we have the occasion to meet with our MP for Nunavut, as well as with the Primer Minister of Canada, we continually reiterate the facts of the high cost of doing business. In English (interpretation ends) Cost of doing business.

(interpretation) These costs are quite high, especially the prices of healthy foods and we try to convey that message at every opportunity we get. We will continue to pound that message to them, and this practice will not be stopped. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Madam Premier. Oral Questions. Member for Nanulik, Mr. Ningeongan.

Question 582 – 3(3): Abandoned MOT Building in Coral Harbour

Mr. Ningeongan (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my questions to the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation.

As the minister is well aware, there is an old MOT building situated in our community of Coral Harbour near the vicinity of the community airstrip. We have been informed that this building has toxic compounds such as lead paint and asbestos, at least based on the findings to date.

Last year, I believe the hamlet set aside some land towards this project, namely to place the non-toxic materials in a landfill site and bury it. I would like to ask the minister whether or not funding has been allocated towards completing the cleanup and to urge his department to continue to work on the cleanup as toxic compounds such as lead paints and asbestos.

I would like to know whether or not this project has received funding towards the destruction, cleanup and completion of this project? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. Minister responsible for Department of Economic Development and Transportation, Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. Mr. Speaker, the old MOT garage that is sitting outside the airport of Coral Harbour has been evaluated, analyzed, and there's a proper disposal approved for disposal within the

outskirts of the airport there. Mr. Speaker, that work is going to be dealt with this summer and we intend to complete the project before next winter. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Ningeongan (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for his response. Can the minister, due to the critical importance of communication when it relates to these types of projects in our communities, when the plans have been finalized and the dates set inform me as well as the Coral Harbour hamlet council about the proposed plans for this project as well as the dates scheduled for the demolition this summer? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. Minister responsible for the Department of Economic Development and Transportation, Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we will keep the community and the MLA informed of the progress and status of the project. Mr. Speaker, the work started last year for a site to dispose of the material and that work has been completed. This summer, the demolition of the infrastructure, the building there, will be completed. We've had assistance from CGS. We worked together on this to make sure that the demolition of the hazardous materials were handled properly and that will be done this summer. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 583 – 3(3): Federal Bill C-10 and its Implications for Nunavummiut

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

On October 24, 2011, I first asked questions of the department on the implications of the new federal legislation on crime, Bill C-10, more commonly known as the tough-on-crimes legislation. In earlier responses, the minister had noted that the new legislation will have a significant impact on the number of individuals who will be required to spend time incarcerated.

Can the minister advise the House what steps he and his officials have taken to analyze the financial impact the new legislation may have on the cost of providing correctional services in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Elliott for the question. Mr. Speaker, there's no question that Bill C-10 is going to have an impact on crime rates or our correctional facilities and inmates arriving in our correctional facilities in Nunavut.

We estimate that there will be an increase of approximately 25 percent over 20 years, so it will have effects. As

far as economic effects, this has not been analyzed fully yet. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Nunavut's correctional system also includes such programs as on-the-land camps. Can the minister update the House on how the proposed new federal legislation will impact the delivery of important programs such as on-the-land camps? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On-the-land camps are a very good way for rehabilitation for inmates that we have in Nunavut. There are a few that are being operated. We would like to see more being operated and are open to proposals for that to happen. As far as the effect of Bill C-10 on those camps, it will have very little effect because we're talking about mandatory minimum sentences that will be going into our facilities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Many of Nunavut's clients of the justice system are victims themselves. Can the minister describe what supportive and rehabilitative programs are currently offered within the correction system and whether these programs will be able to

continue with the anticipated increase in the number of Nunavut inmates? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can supply that very detailed list of programs that are offered in our corrections facilities within Nunavut. Many inmates are victims of crime, as well as many victims of crime that we have in our communities. It is a very sad state that we have those victims.

We do have programs, I would just like to say at this time, that assist our victims of crime in communities to allow community justice committees to access programs to offer to rehabilitate victims of crime. We also have a program for victims of crime that will enhance their capability and give them funding to travel to criminal trials that might take place. We are always trying to enable rehabilitation of inmates, and that will continue, Mr. Speaker. Thank you very much.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If an individual or an organization would like to offer on-the-land camps across the territory for individuals, who would they contact within your department? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If anybody is interested in offering programs on on-the-land camps, the contract person would be the Director of Corrections, Mr. J.P. Dero. Even if you are interested, I am not sure if you have the proper infrastructure in place, he would be the man to contact to help you out. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 584 – 3(3): Training for Local Radio Operators

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I forgot to ask a question a while ago, perhaps due to my old age. This is for the Minister of Community and Government Services. I forgot to ask the minister during my question period about the local community announcers. Is it going to be that the radio announcers have to take a mandatory course? This is for the Minister of Community and Government Services. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you. I thank Mr. Ningark for the question. The course that is going to be taken for the radio announcers in the communities will start in September. At present, they are working with my department, and they will be outlining the courses to be taken by those radio announcers in the communities. They will learn what they can and cannot say on the radio. This is going to be a very

important course, and the radio announcers that are going to be taking the course, the people they are looking for to take the training is being done by the hamlets.

The hamlets are the ones who have the radio stations, and they are the ones who decide who they are going to hire. The hamlets are always looking for somebody that is capable to do radio announcements, so there will probably be different courses that they will have to take. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is going to be very important for the radio announcers because they have to follow the rules of the CRTC. I am pretty sure that the CRTC will probably give out what kinds of courses that they will have to take. Is that going to be the case? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The announcers will be employees of the local hamlets and each hamlet will decide on the selection of their radio announcers, whether they wanted a trained individual or someone who has never operated a radio station.

Each hamlet has the authority to hire their own employees and we aren't mandated to oversee these operational issues by dictating who they can hire as

a radio announcer. The hamlets, when looking for local radio announcers will have the discretion to hire who they prefer, whether that is a trained individual or not.

Once they have hired the announcers, I assume they would offer the training as it will now be available in the future for this need. The hamlets will make their own choices on the selection of radio announcers, including the requisite training they may need. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Ningark: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't like to refer to what I hear in the papers in the House because they don't run our agenda. (interpretation) However, I noted as I read the papers that this course will be mandatory for all radio announcers as this was brought up at the Baffin Mayors Summit, and I believe a resolution was passed to this effect.

I thank them for their foresight as the course will be mandatory for radio announcers at the local level. I am unsure whether this is true or not, but based on what I read, I thought it was to be a mandatory requisite for all radio announcers. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This course is indeed a real course, based on previous complaints to the CRTC, as they are the

body that the public can send their complaints to. If you are unhappy with anything you hear on the air, or on a radio program, then CRTC is where you submit those complaints. The complaints have been increasing with more listeners sending complaints to CRTC about radio announcements.

Based on these complaints, the MTO developed a course, in partnership with the Department of Culture, with our department as well as the CRTC and CBC and the communities on a specific course outlining proper protocol when announcing matters in the local radio stations. This is scheduled to start in September, with the first participants taking the course for local radio announcers. However, the hamlets are ultimately responsible for these decisions.

(interpretation ends) The hamlet has the final say on who they choose to be their community radio operator. What qualifications they look for, that's their prerogative and it will remain so. The hamlets decide who they want to hire in any of their positions and it will be up to the hamlets whom they choose to hire. One with or without radio training, that's still up to the municipalities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 585 – 3(3): Open Government

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Premier.

One of the seven guiding principles of *Tamapta* is *Tunnganarniq*, which is described as “fostering good spirit by being open, welcoming and inclusive.” Can the Premier confirm if the Government of Nunavut still supports this principle? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Nunavut government supports and has total faith in all of these principles listed in the *Tamapta* mandate. (interpretation ends) The Government of Nunavut supports all of the principles. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Some communities are represented in the Legislative Assembly by MLAs who are ministers and some communities are represented in the Legislative Assembly by MLAs who are not ministers. In a case where a community is represented in the Legislative Assembly by an MLA who serves as a minister, are Government of Nunavut employees permitted to raise concerns directly with their own elected MLA, yes or no? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The ministers

represent their community even though they are ministers and they talk with their fellow ministers in regard to the concerns of the people out there who are their constituents. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to hear the Premier confirm that the Government of Nunavut is committed to openness and transparency, and I am pleased to hear that the government understands the role of all 19 Members of the Legislative Assembly.

Given this commitment, can the Premier explain exactly why a number of my constituents who are employed by the government have received instructions from their department headquarters that they are no longer permitted to communicate with their elected Member of the Legislative Assembly? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Government of Nunavut always believes in communication. I do not know what he is talking about, and if he wants to find out, he can go to the department to find out what he had heard. We want good communication with the people of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to hear the Premier state clearly today for the public record the Government of Nunavut employees who raised concerns with their elected Members of the Legislative Assembly will not suffer any form of reprisal, retaliation, or retribution. Will she make this commitment today, yes or no? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe that anyone, even if they work for the Government of Nunavut, has the right to talk about their concerns and needs to their MLAs, and I believe that the Government of Nunavut have to give the people the right to talk to their MLAs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Madam Premier. Members will note that the allotted time for question period, according to our clock, has expired. We will move on in our orders of the day. Item 7. Written Questions. Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Minister of Justice, Minister Shewchuk.

Item 8: Returns to Written Questions*

*See Appendix for full text of Returns to Written Questions 25 – 3(3) and 27 – 3(3) filed with the Clerk.

**Return to Written Question 027 –
3(3): Correctional Facilities,
Recidivism Rates and
Rehabilitation Programs**

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a return to a written question 27 – 3(3) asked by the Member for Quttiktuq on February 27, 2013 concerning recidivism rates and rehabilitation programs.

Mr. Speaker, the return is quite detailed. I have filed it with the Clerk for transcribing into *Hansard* for the public record and for distribution to all members. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Minister responsible for the Department of Human Resources, Minister Ell.

**Return to Written Question 025 –
3(3): Direct Appointments under
Section 18 of the Public Service
Act**

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Return to written question on February 26, 2013, No. 25 – 3(3) asked by the Member for Tununig, Mr. Enook in regard to direct appointments under section 18 of the *Public Service Act*.

Mr. Speaker, the return is quite lengthy and I would ask that this document be entered into the record as read. We will also distribute it to the members. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Ell. Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Item 10.

Petitions. Item 11. Responses to Petitions. Item 12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills and Other Matters. Mr. Ningeongan.

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

**Committee Report 027 – 3(3): Bill 53,
An Act to Amend the Medical
Care Act**

Mr. Ningeongan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to report that Bill 53, *An Act to Amend the Medical Care Act*, has been reviewed by the Standing Committee on Legislation and that the bill is ready for consideration in Committee of the Whole.

Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to waive Rule 68(6) and have Bill 53 immediately moved into the Committee of the Whole. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. There is a request for unanimous consent to waive Rule 68(6) so that Bill 53 can be immediately referred to Committee of the Whole. Are there any nays? There are none and as such, Bill 53 is referred to Committee of the Whole.

Item 12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills and Other Matters. Mr. Ningeongan.

*See Appendix for full text of Committee Report 29 – 3(3) filed with the Clerk.

**Committee Report 028 – 3(3): Bill 55,
An Act to Amend the Student
Financial Assistance Act**

Mr. Ningeongan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to report that Bill 55, *An Act to Amend the Student Financial Assistance Act*, has been reviewed by the Standing Committee on Legislation and that the bill is ready for consideration in Committee of the Whole.

Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to waive Rule 68(6) and have Bill 55 immediately moved into the Committee of the Whole. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. There is a request for unanimous consent to waive rule 68(6) so that Bill 55 can be immediately referred to Committee of the Whole. Are there any nays? There are none, and as such, Bill 55 is therefore referred to the Committee of the Whole.

Item 12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills and Other Matters. Mr. Elliott.

**Committee Report 029 – 3(3):
Recommendations for
Amendments to the Rules of the
Legislative Assembly of Nunavut
and Other Matters**

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have the honour today of presenting the second report of the Legislative Assembly's Standing Committee on Rules, Procedures and Privileges.

As members will recall, the standing committee's first report of this Assembly was presented to the House on October 27, 2010. The recommendations

presented in that report for amendments to the *Rules of the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut* were unanimously adopted by the House and came into effect on the first sitting day of the 2011 winter sitting of the Legislative Assembly.

I would like to express my appreciation to my committee colleagues for the collegial manner in which we have worked together. The recommendations in the standing committee's report reflect the unanimous consensus of the committee and have been ratified by the Legislative Assembly's Full Caucus.

For the benefit of all Members of the House and the listening public, I wish to take this opportunity to highlight the standing committee's recommendations for amendments to the *Rules of the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut*. I am confident that all members will concur that these recommendations will serve to enhance our deliberations.

The standing committee's first recommendation concerns government responses to reports of standing and special committees. At present, Rule 91(5) of the *Rules of the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut* provides that the government shall, upon the request of a committee, table a comprehensive response within 120 calendar days to report presented under Rules 91(1) and 91(2). However, the rules are currently silent with respect to the granting of extensions to government responses to the committee's reports.

At present, there is no authority for the government to request a formal extension, and there is no authority for the Legislative Assembly to either grant or deny a request for an extension. This

is in contrast to the existing provisions in the rules concerning returns to oral questions, returns to written questions, and responses to petitions.

In order to achieve greater consistency with respect to provisions concerning the extensions, the standing committee is recommending that Rule 91 be amended to allow for the government to file a maximum of two provisional responses to a report of a standing or special committee. Each provisional response must indicate the reason for the delay in tabling the government's response to the committee's report and the date upon which the response will be provided. This date must be within 30 calendar days of the date of the filing of the provisional response.

The standing committee's second recommendation concerns the issue of oral question period. As members will recall, Bill 22, *An Act Respecting the Constituencies of Nunavut*, received assent during the fall 2011 sitting of the Legislative Assembly. As a consequence, there will be 22 Members of the Fourth Legislative Assembly. The next Assembly is anticipated to convene in November of 2013, following the upcoming general election.

At present, there are 10 Regular Members of the Legislative Assembly. Assuming that there are between seven and nine cabinet ministers in the Fourth Legislative Assembly, it can be anticipated that the number of regular members will be between 12 and 14. This constitutes a 20 to 40 percent increase in the number of regular members.

An underlying principle concerning the conduct of oral question period in the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut is that each regular member is provided with the opportunity to pose questions. Once a member has posed questions, he or she is not recognized by the Speaker until every other member wishing to pose questions has done so.

In order to accommodate the increased number of regular members while preserving the aforementioned approach to oral question period, the standing committee considered two basic options: increasing the length of oral question period or reducing the number of allotted supplementary questions from three to two.

It should be noted that the length of oral question period in the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut is currently among the longest in Canada.

During the Third Legislative Assembly, to date, regular members have posed over 1,000 original oral questions. However, members do not always use their full allotment of three supplementary questions. Statistics indicate that members, on average, use their full allotment of three supplementary questions on less than half of the occasions that they pose oral questions.

The standing committee is, therefore, recommending that Rule 39(4) of the Rules of the Legislative Assembly be amended to reduce the number of allotted supplementary questions from three to two.

The standing committee's third recommendation concerns the issue of petitions.

In his ruling of November 5, 2012, the Speaker stated that the Standing Committee on Rules, Procedures and Privileges exists to consider matters arising under our Rules. In the event that the standing committee chooses to review the existing provisions concerning petitions, I am confident that the House will review its report and recommendations with interest.

As of the adjournment of the fall 2012 sitting of the Third Session of the Third Legislative Assembly, a total of 72 petitions had been presented in the House by MLAs since April 1, 1999.

All three petitions presented to date during the current Third Session of the Third Legislative Assembly have concerned employees and/or former employees of the Government of Nunavut. Two of the three petitions presented in the House contained allegations against current employees of the Government of Nunavut.

Concerns have been expressed about the appropriateness of permitting petitions, which become matters of public record, to include potentially libellous or defamatory allegations against identifiable individuals.

Although Rule 43(5) of the *Rules of the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut* provides that a member presenting a petition shall be answerable for any impertinent or improper material that it contains, the Rules do not provide a precise definition of what constitutes "impertinent or improper material," or

the exact process by which a member "shall be answerable."

A review of publicly-accessible documents from other Canadian legislatures concerning petitions indicates that a range of practices exist with respect to petitions. Some jurisdictions provide little guidance concerning petitions. Others provide extensive guidelines. Canadian jurisdictions also differ with respect to the permissible contents of petitions. For example, some jurisdictions explicitly prohibit petitions from containing requests for the expenditure of public funds. Others permit such requests. Some jurisdictions explicitly require that petitions be addressed only to legislatures. Others permit them to be addressed to the legislature or to the government. Some jurisdictions explicitly prohibit the use of petitions to make allegations against identifiable individuals. Others are silent on the issue.

Having reviewed this issue with care, the standing committee's position is that the purpose of petitions is to provide members of the public with a means to convey concerns to the Legislative Assembly and the government regarding matters of public policy, not to pursue grievances against specific individuals. The standing committee is also mindful of the importance of recognizing that such individuals do not have the opportunity to defend themselves.

The standing committee is, therefore, recommending that Rule 43(5) of the Rules of the Legislative Assembly be amended to provide that a petition may not contain potentially libellous, false, defamatory, scandalous, or groundless

statements or allegations against any identifiable individual or official.

I would also like to take this opportunity to note that the *Speaker's Guidelines for the Use of Portable Hand-Held Electronic Devices, Laptop Computers and Other Technologies in the Legislative Assembly Chamber and Committee Rooms* will be included as an appendix to the next edition of the *Rules of the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut*. These guidelines were agreed to by the Full Caucus during the fall 2012 sitting of the Legislative Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to conclude by thanking all members for the valuable contributions and comments that have been received by the standing committee during the course of its deliberations.

Pursuant to Rule 91, I move that the report of the standing committee be received and adopted by the House, its appendix entered into the record as read, and its recommendations for amendments to the Rules of the Legislative Assembly be deemed to have been accepted, effective the first sitting day of the spring 2013 sitting of the Legislative Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Do members agree with the chairman's request?

Some Members: Agreed.

Speaker: There is an agreement and it shall be done so. Thank you, Mr. Elliott.

Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Member for South Baffin, Mr. Schell.

Item 13: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 339 – 3(3): Member's Statement about Nutrition North Program that is not working for Nunavut

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table my Member's Statement today. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Schell. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Member for Baker Lake, Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Tabled Document 340 – 3(3): Correspondence to Nunavut Impact Review Board Concerning Kiggavik Technical Review

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have the honour of tabling today copies of recent correspondence sent to the Nunavut Impact Review Board concerning the Kiggavik project near my community of Baker Lake. The correspondence was submitted to NIRB by the Beverly and Qamanirjuaq Caribou Management Board and the Canadian Arctic Resource Committee. I respectfully encourage all of my colleagues to review these documents with care. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Minister responsible for the Department of Environment, Minister Arreak.

Tabled Document 341 – 3(3): Natural Resources Conservation Trust Fund Financial Statements March 31, 2010

Hon. James Arreak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table the

Natural Resources Conservation Trust Fund Financial Statements for 2010. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Arreak. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Item 14. Notices of Motions. Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 16. Motions. Mr. Enook.

Item 16: Motions

Motion 046 – 3(3): Extended Adjournment

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet South and Whale Cove, that pursuant to the provisions of Rule 3, that when the House concludes its winter 2013 sitting, it shall be adjourned until May 7, 2013.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Item 16. Motions. Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Minister of Education, Minister Aariak.

Item 17: First Reading of Bills

Bill 52 – An Act to Amend the Nunavut Teachers Association Act – First Reading

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet South and Whale Cove, that Bill 52, *An Act to Amend the Nunavut*

Teachers Association Act, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Madam Minister. The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour. Any opposed? The motion is carried and Bill 52 has been read for the first time.

Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Minister of Justice, Minister Shewchuk.

Bill 57 – Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act, 2013 – First Reading

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet South and Whale Cove, that Bill 57, *Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act, 2013*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour. Any opposed? The motion is carried and as such, Bill 57 has been read for the first time.

Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Minister of Human Resources, Minister Ell.

Bill 58 – Public Service Act – First Reading

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet South and Whale Cove, that Bill 58, *Public Service Act*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Madam Minister. The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour. Any opposed? The motion is carried and Bill 58 has been read for the first time.

Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Minister responsible for Economic Development and Transportation, Minister Taptuna.

Bill 59 – Collaboration for Poverty Reduction Act – First Reading

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet South and Whale Cove, that Bill 59, *Collaboration for Poverty Reduction Act*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Taptuna. The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour. Any opposed? The motion is carried and Bill 59 has been read for the first time.

Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Minister of Justice, Minister Shewchuk.

Bill 60 – An Act Respecting the Nunavut Law Foundation – First Reading

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet South and Whale Cove, that Bill 60, *An Act Respecting the Nunavut Law Foundation*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called.

All those in favour. Any opposed? The motion is carried and Bill 60 has been read for the first time.

Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Item 19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bills 47, 48, 49, 53, 54, 55, and 56 with Mr. Ningeongan in the Chair.

In accordance with the authority granted to me by Motion 44 – 3(3), the Committee of the Whole will stay in session until it reports itself out.

Before we proceed into the Committee of the Whole, we will break for lunch and report back to start at 1:30 p.m.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 12:04 and Committee resumed at 13:29*

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

Chairman (Mr. Ningeongan) (interpretation): Good afternoon, committee members. I would now like to call the committee meeting to order. In Committee of the Whole, we have the following items to deal with: Bills 47, 48, 49, 53, 54, 55, and 56. Chair of the standing committee, Mr. Rumbolt, do you have any comments?

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The committee wishes to continue with the review of the main estimates for Culture and Heritage, followed by the review of the following departments: Environment and the Legislative Assembly. We would then

wish to review the following: Bill 47, Bill 48, Bill 54, Bill 56, Bill 53, and Bill 55, in that order. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Does the committee agree that we continue with Culture and Heritage?

Some Members: Agreed.

Bill 49 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2013-2014 – Culture and Heritage – Consideration in Committee

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

Our Sergeant-at-Arms is not here to escort the witnesses in. We will continue from where we left off. Does the committee agree to bring in Minister Arreak's witnesses?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. For the record, Minister Arreak, please introduce your witness.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On my right is Simon Awa, my deputy minister. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Arreak. I would like to welcome you and your official. On Friday, you made your opening comments and so did the chair of the standing committee. At this time, I'm going to ask the members if they have general comments. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): I'm sorry, Mr. Chairman. I just wanted one of the pages to come here. I'm sorry.

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

Mr. Oshutapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister and his deputy for being available. I would like to make general comments regarding your opening remarks, Mr. Minister.

Here in Nunavut, when you're out hunting far from your community, sometimes you don't even know the Inuktitut names of the places that you're going to. A lot of people don't know the names of the places. I am happy that there are place names being worked on and being put on maps. This is an ongoing project that is being done by younger people. A lot of people have wanted to know the Inuktitut names of places. As for myself, it is very helpful for me. There are a lot of place names outside of Pangnirtung that I know of and that is the only thing that I know about Inuit place names.

This is a very good project that the department is doing. When a hunter, especially a young person, or any of us requires assistance, it's easier to determine your location on the map if you know the place name, not just by using GPS or other locator devices. I am quite pleased with this initiative and approve similar types of initiatives from your department.

Another issue you spoke about related to Inuit tools, especially traditional tools used by Inuit hunters, or if you are a woman, the intricacies of traditional

clothing and seamstress skills. In talking about our Inuit traditional designs, I feel they are threatened due to knock-off replications. We have already seen some designs copied or stolen. Before any more designs are replicated, we have to ensure that we are copyrighting them. If your department hasn't already deliberated on this issue, I would urge that this be developed to protect our intellectual property.

In just looking at Inuit names, you can already see boots with the name "Kamik" on the boots. Even our names of certain clothing types are being misappropriated. I am worried that our traditional Inuit designs and methods will become irrelevant if they continue to copy our intellectual property. This is worrisome in that it can impact our younger people. I am unsure if this will land in the laps of the MLAs elected in our next set of territorial elections, if these issues haven't been resolved by this department.

This is my last remark on part of your opening comments related to our language. Although we are seeing more protective measures to strengthen the Inuit language, we mustn't forget that we have to understand the language used, irrespective of the wording being in Inuktitut or English or any other language, since language is dynamic and changes all the time.

I don't think we have enough measures to protect our language since our language changes over time and most people will go with the flow linguistically. This is a good start, including the work done by the *Taiguusiliuqtiit* committee, the language authority, but we have to remember that

practically every community has their own dialect, even those in close proximity to each other. We all have our dialects and we have to protect our language in all aspects.

This is in relation to the comments made by the minister in his opening comments. My commentary now hasn't identified any particular solutions, but at the appropriate time, I will have questions on this issue. I will stop here for now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Oshutapik. I have no more names on my list. Please go to page F-4. Culture and Heritage. Directorate. (interpretation ends) Total Operations and Maintenance. \$5,505,000. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good afternoon, minister and your officials. This issue which I feel can fit into this category of Directorate relates to financial management and corporate services.

I want to start off with this question first, Mr. Chairman. Last week, I raised some questions to the Minister of Finance and he told me at that time that I would have to raise this issue separately for each department regarding financial-related questions I was asking. With that being the case, I am happy this afternoon as I agreed to request this information separately. I also enjoy querying departmental officials so that I can completely understand the issues.

Let me start off today with the issues I raised regarding travel costs, such as airline travel costs and per diems. Now that I have the opportunity, I want to ask this question. In this department, under

Directorate, it states in the 2013-14 fiscal year, there is a fund listed at \$1,259,000 for travel costs, perhaps including accommodation costs.

The English version lists travel and transportation separately, so I have often wondered about the difference between the usages of the terms. I assume travel costs includes hotel accommodations, so when I refer to this, that is what I mean when I state those terms, travel and transportation.

Can the minister inform me today how much of the \$1,259,000 figure is specific for duty travel for his staff? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In our plans for travel and transportation, you can see the separation of these costs on page F-3. I believe that's what he's asking about. It's for the *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* Committee, the Inuit Language Authority, as well as Department of Culture and Heritage staff. These funds are specifically for travel costs and hotel costs for all the divisions I mentioned. However, that is the extent of the travel costs which can reach \$1,259,000. If travel requirements fall below that amount, that is what we will be spending. I can't tell the member exactly how much of this budget will be expended at this time because we haven't begun to use the funds yet. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In your department, approximately \$958,000 was used for travel and transportation in the 2011-12 fiscal year. Can the minister tell us exactly how much was used for travel, per diems, and other expenses? Can he give us detailed information on that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't have the information in front of me at this time on the detailed breakdown of money being used for travel and transportation, but we can give you detailed information on that later. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for his response and I will be expecting the detailed information. Another question that I have is in that section. The Minister of Finance told the House that each department must adhere to the FAM directives with regard to travel and transportation. What does your department do to ensure that the Financial Administration Manual is being followed, especially for staff on duty travel? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have to be able to make sure that the money we are spending is quite adequate. Through

you, I'll have my deputy minister respond to that question. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Arreak. Mr. Awa.

Mr. Awa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. All government employees have to follow the manual when they are on duty travel. They have to follow the Financial Administration Manual.

Also, the minister said that there are quite a few board members, for example, for the *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit* Committee and the Inuit Language Authority. When they need to travel, they have to follow the manual as it is stated. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Awa. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There is a travel policy you follow. How do you ensure this travel policy isn't being abused? What measures or accounting is used to ensure that these policy requirements are being followed properly? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to have my deputy respond to that question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Arreak. Mr. Awa.

Mr. Awa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Using this as an example,

we know that in the government department, if you're on duty travel, your per diem could go to a certain amount. In Nunavut, it is a little bit more expensive, but you have a smaller amount as your per diem down south. Those manuals are followed and the per diem rates are determined by location.

Also to return to the committees I referred to earlier, there is a policy outlining the number of days for each meeting as it is tied to their honoraria. The members are required to adhere to this policy, as the honoraria goes with the number of meeting days. With respect to per diem costs, they follow the government policy on per diem rates based on their travel dates. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Awa. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know that all government departments have to follow the manual and the per diem rates. My question is: how do you know whether or not your employees are following the manual properly? Thank you.

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

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Employees who are on duty travel are provided with their airline tickets, which they have to keep. They must also keep their receipts for taxis, meals, and hotel bills. They have to fill out a form upon their return from travel specifically outlining their expenses. Once they have the form completed, it is signed by their supervisor. The minister also has to sign

those forms. This way, we make sure that these are the amounts of money that are expended by those people who are on duty travel. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that information. Mr. Chairman, I want to raise another question. Over the past five years, within the Department of Culture and Heritage, have there been any concerns about travel costs resulting in his department having to request the Auditor General to audit the expense portions of employees due to suspicions of abuse of the travel costs? Thank you.

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

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To date, we don't have a requirement to have any audits on travel costs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For any employee in the department, what is the absolute amount of days allowed for duty travel or how many days can an employee be on duty travel? What is the limit? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will have

my deputy minister respond to that question because he works closely with the staff. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Arreak. Mr. Awa.

Mr. Awa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have now been in the Department of Culture and Heritage for about two and a half years, yet I have never been required to place a limitation on an employee's travel. We've never had that occur in this department. I can't recall any cases where we've had employees transferred to our department requiring any lengthy hotel stays. I have never heard of any such cases to date. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Awa. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Let me try to reword my question so that it is clearer. Does your department have a policy that one employee is limited to a set number of days within one calendar year for duty travel to fulfill their job duties? Within one year, how many days can an employee be on duty travel with associated travel costs? Do you have such a policy? Thank you.

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

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

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Arreak. Mr. Awa.

Mr. Awa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Department of Culture and Heritage doesn't have a specified policy related to the number of days for travel. We follow the GN travel policy. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Awa. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When I raised the issue, the Minister of Finance was unable to provide any answers yesterday. Perhaps the Minister of Culture and Heritage can tell me this: what does the travel policy dictate as the absolute number of days an employee can remain on duty travel in one year? Thank you.

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

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

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Arreak. Mr. Awa.

Mr. Awa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As per my previous response, we're just following government policies. As the Department of Culture and Heritage, we don't have a separate policy for this item.

As I stated earlier, I've never had to initiate any investigations into financial misappropriation of the funds. This is due to the reason that if any departmental employees are required to go on duty travel to attend meetings or workshops, their travel usually doesn't extend into multiple weeks.

The only extended travel period we see are for courses that take several weeks, such as our employees who may be on educational leave. Most of the daily operational travel requirements are usually not for long periods of time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Awa. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Having just heard that the government has an overarching travel policy, I now understand that to be the case. I also fully understand that each department doesn't have their own travel policy, in particular, the Department of Culture and Heritage, who uses the GN policy.

My question is this: how many days are allocated for an employee to be on duty travel for their positions within one fiscal year? You stated that this policy is for the entire government. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll have Mr. Awa respond to that question through you. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Arreak. I believe Mr. Awa will be able to respond to the question. Mr. Awa.

Mr. Awa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Actually, I can't provide an exact number as I seem to be misunderstanding his question. I've never had to provide a directive, at least

to our employees in the Department of Culture and Heritage, about the maximum number of days they can travel. We don't have employees who travel for extended periods, as per my previous response, other than for employees on educational leave.

I'm not sure if I get the gist of his question. Is he referring to one employee and the total number of days they can travel? I don't quite understand the question as he worded it. Was he talking about 30 days or for three months in total? Due to my inability to comprehend the basis of his question, I can't really respond at this time. I'm sorry, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Awa. Mr. Enook, perhaps you should note that we are dealing with matters under the mandate of the Department of Culture and Heritage and you may ask questions related to their plans. You may continue, Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank you for providing me with an opportunity. I apologize if I'm not clear with my questioning. Let me rephrase my question in this manner: within the Department of Culture and Heritage, respecting your employees' travels over a period of a year, how many days can they be on duty travel?

I now know this department doesn't have their own policy and I thank you for that response. I also now know that most departments use the same government-wide travel policy. Does the policy state that over a period of a year, an employee can be on duty travel for up to a certain number of days? What is the

limit of travel one employee can embark on, regardless of whether it is one long travel period or a number of separate travel periods? What is the limit? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Our employees tour communities depending on the issues or consultation requirements for their position in a particular community as long as there is no weather situation. They go to the communities to do what they have to do; to attend board meetings, to hold workshops, and so on. There is no limit on the number of days that they can be on duty travel and we just follow through with the budget. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I hope this is going to be the last question and I hope I can make it understandable. What they stated was that the Department of Culture of Heritage just follows a government-wide policy. That's how I understand it. There is nothing written within the government as to how many days they can be on duty travel. Is it unlimited? Just a yes or a no would do. Thank you.

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

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will have my deputy respond to your question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Arreak. Mr. Awa.

Mr. Awa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With the Department of Culture and Heritage, I am the one who authorizes the travel of employees. If I realize that one of the employees is going on duty travel too often or if I notice it, I would have to look into it. Well, there has never been such a case, but I would have to look into the situation if an individual was travelling too frequently on behalf of Culture and Heritage.

I'm the one who gives the authority for an employee to go on duty travel and I keep an eye on it. I usually look through where they are going and what the purpose of their travel is. Lastly, if they don't have any backup or indicate the reason they are travelling, I will not authorize it. There has to be a reason why they are travelling to a particular community or place and only if they identified the reason or some supporting documents would I authorize their travel. I'll again say that I haven't noticed any employee of the Department of Culture and Heritage travelling too frequently. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Awa. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm not concerned about whether or not an individual is travelling too frequently. The basis of my question was predicated on finding out how many days any employee can be out on duty travel within a one-year period and whether there is a limit.

I guess I can characterize my understanding as there being no limit to the number of travel days that an employee can take. I will take that as my understanding based on this issue. Is it that this government doesn't know? The government has no set number of days that can't be exceeded, as I'm getting a typical bureaucratic answer, so I will keep that as my understanding on the issue.

I have one other question, Mr. Chairman. For instance, within the department, there are employees located outside of Iqaluit in one of the outlying communities somewhere in Nunavut. Let's say they're in the Baffin region. How many employees located outside or roughly how many employees can be characterized as being required to be in Iqaluit for over 30 days within one calendar year due to their job duties? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Our employees on duty travel are representing the Nunavut government, which by virtue of our representation of the public, requires that they travel for their work duties. We do have employees located outside of Iqaluit in Igloodik, Kugluktuk, and Baker Lake. There are offices located outside of Iqaluit. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Arreak. Mr. Enook, your allotted time has expired. I have no other names on my list. We're on page F-4. (interpretation ends) Culture and Heritage. Branch Summary. Directorate.

Total Operations and Maintenance. \$5,505,000. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Go to page F-5. (interpretation ends) Branch Summary. Culture and Heritage. Official Languages. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$10,905,000. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Go to page F-6. (interpretation ends) Culture and Heritage. Branch Summary. Heritage. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$5,897,000. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Go to page F-7. (interpretation ends) Branch Summary. Culture and Heritage. Elders and Youth. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$2,322,000. Ms. Ugyuk.

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under this page related to elders and youth, our elders have concerns related to their children or grandchildren taking advantage of their situation. Does the toll-free number still exist where elders can call in with their concerns about elder abuse? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we still have the same number that individuals

can call to report elder abuse and the 1-800 number is in the Culture and Heritage office. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If an elder calls about their concerns, what kind of assistance for elders is available? If an elder is in a certain situation, then they can do the following action items. I'm asking about cases of elder abuse called in to this number. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When we do get a caller, we take action and, if required, we also talk to other departments to deal with the problem. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is the government drafting a bill in regard to elder abuse? In the Northwest Territories, they have set up an elders' society. Is your department planning to establish that type of board or society? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just to supplement my last response, when we correspond with the other departments,

we talk about how we're going to resolve the issue.

There is an elders' entity. They're not a society, but they work very closely together with the Nunavut government. They were established about three years ago. There are 10 individuals sitting on the board of elders. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If anybody ever suggested setting up a Nunavut elders' society, would your department take the lead and set one up? Thank you.

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

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. All communities have an elders' entity and they can decide whether or not they want their status to be a society. If anybody is interested in setting up a Nunavut elders' society and they're looking for some kind of support, our department can help. The only one we have is the elders' board that was set up by the department and that is the only one we are responsible for. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Oshutapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a question for the minister. Elders usually go through very heavy challenges, including financial support. Only a small amount is set aside to be used for the elders and

that is a Nunavut-wide program. Again, this is in regard to the finances. They have to cry for grants or contributions for any type of programs they would like to start in their community. They can't even get an employee or somebody to do certain tasks for them.

We keep saying that the elders are very important to us. Yes, we do care very much about our elders, but when it comes to money for elders' programs, it seems like they are never given enough. My question to the minister is: if there are sufficient funds available, are the funds given to the elders' groups out there? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are applications every year and we give them \$5,000 for operations on an annual basis, which is given out automatically. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Oshutapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that response. Then again, \$5,000 is not that much, so they have to kind of use it and there are no other alternatives. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. They have to apply should they want some more funds either for operations or programs. They have to apply if it goes over \$5,000 and

if one of our employees is in one of the communities, they also provide training programs. They do have to apply if they want funds over \$5,000. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Oshutapik (interpretation): Thank you. In Nunavut, the elders are listening to or watching the proceedings on TV and I'm sure they are getting this information. Is your department still gathering traditional stories from people of Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we do it on a continual basis. I will have my deputy respond to your question. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Arreak. Mr. Awa.

Mr. Awa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We're still doing recordings of elders and traditional stories. We're recording them and then transcribing them. In the beginning of 2013 in January, the recordings in Kugluktuk and Cambridge Bay were completed. Right now, we're in the planning stage to start recording stories in April in Iqaluit, Kimmirut, and Cape Dorset.

It's sometimes quite hard for us to find people in the community who will do the interviews and pay them on an hourly basis. We know that elders feel more comfortable if they're being interviewed

by a community member. The compilation of Inuit traditional stories is still not completed and it's still ongoing. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Oshutapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is going to be my last question, again, a supplement to my last question regarding traditional legends or stories. What are you planning to do once the story gathering is completed? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the member for those questions. Most of our future strategic plans revolve around school curriculum subjects, libraries, and for public information purposes. This is generally the way elders are interviewed about these issues. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't have a lengthy commentary, although I do have a question related to my colleague from Pangnirtung Mr. Oshutapik's previous comments.

As Inuit, we are known to not have a literary-based society, but rather we were an oral society with no written language until the purveyors of the Anglican and Catholic faiths taught us the syllabic system to be our writing system. I thank the missionaries for that

gift, obviously, since we now have a writing system.

On another note, with respect to the English wording under the minister... . Let me say that I have been friends with this minister since we took courses in Rae Edzo to become hamlet administrators. That was so many years ago.

To return to the English title, (interpretation ends) “recording of Inuit oral history, (interpretation) it’s absolutely edifying. I thank you for that. Inuit didn’t have a writing system, so let’s now pull together to record our elders’ stories. We’re often told that elders will always be around since we are the next generation soon to become elders, as the current elders keep telling us. When it’s our turn to pass away, our descendants will become the next set of elders. That cycle will continue to revolve with others replacing us.

I personally don’t have that perception simply because the elders well versed in *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit* are fewer and dwindling. We, the next generation, are getting older, which will always continue until the end of days. I believe that particular saying. However, in this day and age, the elders who have that knowledge and who lived in that age, still depending on that knowledge to survive and succeed, should be recorded, even if it’s only their life histories.

Even if we just record elders’ stories and legends, they contain information much like the Bible. They are that important to our people. It speaks to Inuit cultural practices, healthy living, and stories of consequential actions based on whether you are a good person or not. If you

misbehave, something will happen. Alternatively, if you’re a good person, then animals will present themselves to you. If you’re respectful of animals, certain things will occur. If you’re hospitable and welcoming to your fellow Inuit, then benefits will accrue to you. If you mistreat those who are poorer or an orphan, then consequences will follow. These are part of our cultural traditional beliefs.

Now, with respect to this minister and his deputy minister, I believe, I encourage and insist on the recording of traditional Inuit history and life experiences of our elders that we can use in our educational system, particularly as it relates to our traditional Inuit laws. Our traditional laws outline the correct ways to treat your people and respecting our wildlife, as we were always advised on these issues by our elders. That may not be known by non-Inuit.

Even the smallest organisms, such as mosquitoes, ticks, flies, vegetation that we are allowed to trample on, food species, and water organisms that we can stomp on if we aren’t careful, we were always advised that since these are all living things, we have to be respectful, especially smaller organisms. Due to their smaller size, we can inadvertently trample them or we may be able to pick them up and extirpate them. It is contrary to the Inuit law that if you aren’t going to eat the organisms or you aren’t harvesting it for clothing purposes, you should leave them alone. That was the advice our elders gave to us based on our traditional Inuit customs and laws.

Please record these stories and legends. I urge your department to compile these

recordings of our elders to ensure that Inuit don't forget their history.
(interpretation ends) Recording of Inuit oral history, (interpretation) why am I so passionately urging that this be done? It's simply because they aren't written elsewhere due to Inuit being an oral society in the past.

So I wonder: will this be a priority? Particularly in this day and age, elders will always be present, but this knowledge has to be recorded. So I urge you to prioritize this initiative to write up our Inuit oral history. I want to ask the minister if this will be the case. I fully support this initiative. I have no questions on this issue, unless there is no movement to record our Inuit histories. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningark. As a reminder, we had completed general comments and we're going to go to the page-by-page review. Minister Arreak.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also appreciate the sincerity behind the member's comments on Inuit history. We will not be abandoning this program and it will continue to be a priority for this department.

In our communities, we're trying to record our elders' stories, but we run into the problem of oral history workers, so we usually return to that community to continue our recording of Inuit oral histories. Sometimes we lobby the communities for a person to assist us in that regard.

The commentary by the member was appreciated. We will continue this

program as it is laid out in our plans. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you for giving me my 10-minute allotted time. Thank you. That's it for me.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Yes, we have 10 minutes allotted for questions. I would now like to recognize Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you. Yes, my colleague was stating that he was using his privilege.

Mr. Chairman, some of the questions I have may not be related specifically to elder and youth issues. It is exceedingly hard to verbalize the question as it is quite complex, but I've always had a concern on this issue. Here is my reasoning behind this issue first of all: Nunavut is quite small population-wise, as most members here are aware.

We're continually bombarded with facts, such as Nunavut is the youngest population in Canada. Does this mean that our elders' base in Nunavut is quite small? The minister can respond to this if he wants to. If we were to think on this matter, we could come to the conclusion that our base of elders is shrinking. They may be dwindling quite rapidly.

What happens when we lose our knowledgeable elders? Will we wait for older Inuit to become recognized elders? When Inuit of this generation finally get older, does this mean we can finally concentrate on *Inuit Qaujimagatugangit* and fix it up?

>> *Laughter*

It's really not that funny, except for this generation.

From my personal perspective, I believe that our elders are disappearing, especially elders born around the 1920s. If they were born in that decade, then they are past 90 years of age. Further, Inuit born in the 1930s are mostly in their 70's reaching up to age 80 or maybe 79. So if you look at Inuit born in the 1940s, I think that perhaps our generation constitutes the largest number of people still living. I am talking of our generation born in the 1940s.

What I'm trying to voice here is the fact that I keep trying to raise. Our elders' base knowledge pertaining to animals and polar bears are what I really wanted written down in the past. This was due to this reason: the Inuit culture is being attacked by a different mentality that can now bar certain age-old practices of Inuit. As an example, the trade in sealskins has been banned by different perspectives of other societies.

Seals and the meat have allowed many people to survive, including many early explorers, our Canadian explorers especially. Vilhjalmur Stefansson, who was a renowned Canadian specialist explorer, was entirely dependent on seal meat if they weren't camping, especially if they wanted to survive. They could only subsist on seal meat. So we know that seals have allowed many people to survive, especially explorers of the arctic regions. If you read the stories and reports of these past explorers, you will find anecdotal evidence of certain areas that retain the same number of polar

bears in the middle of the 1800s as they do today.

Today, *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* has been belittled by academia, especially these so-called scientists. Once a person shows their scientific papers, more people believe their reports since they assume scientists only spout factual information. I disagree. Scientists' reports are generally assumptive. You can read many assumptions if you peruse these reports. The definition of assumption is their scientific beliefs. (interpretation ends) It's not a fact.

(interpretation) With respect to *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit*, we have to ensure that we compile our elders' stories, especially regarding certain animal species, Inuit life skills, family values, as well as specific skills meant for outdoor survival, including traditional Inuit clothing that Inuit women used to make. Have you put any thought into these types of categories as a conceptual basis when you are recording the stories? Is the emphasis on information required for teaching particular skills when you are dealing with elders and youth issues?

I know this is quite a lengthy commentary, Mr. Chairman, but I would like to understand the department's position on this. Thank you.

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

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for his question and his comments. I would like my deputy to respond to that question if you would allow him, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Arreak. Mr. Awa.

Mr. Awa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With respect to the member's question about teaching of wildlife, as a department, we haven't done anything of that sort by recording animal behaviour and migration, including all the other stuff. Maybe we can work with the Department of Environment to start writing down the skills and hunting techniques from the elders.

To date, the minister said that what we do is still mostly with culture and heritage. We also gather family kinship ties and this has been compiled. Elders have been gathered together to discuss traditional values, such as life skills. This initiative was completed previously. Another initiative we have introduced is to record Inuit traditional clothing designs, particularly clothing made from caribou skins. That will be our focus over the next year.

The other issues alluded to earlier related to animals and the need for knowing animal behaviour. We will be recording these thematic categories as it would have a benefit for many people. Perhaps once the life skills and family values we have worked on to date have been largely written down, we would be able to focus on other matters. However, it is also largely dependent on budgetary considerations which would have to be approved, but this area is another good one to work on. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My preference is that if the department starts to focus on these issues or, alternatively, request further funding for recording these oral stories.

Perhaps if we were to request proposals for oral history projects with recording elders' stories, it would be good. My reasoning here which has been in my mind over many years is the fact that our base of elders is dwindling. Here I talk about expertise gained over a lifetime which is lost forever when that elder dies and can't be reclaimed. Some elders pass away without their stories being recorded.

I believe our first priority should be to target the elders who were born in the 1920s since their connection to our ancestors is still strong. Many of these elders are unilingual with nary a word of English spoken in some communities amongst them. These elders born in the 1920s were living prior to the introduction of the school system. I believe this generation is largely dying off.

I would want youth to make proposals to conduct oral history recordings, particularly related to traditional Inuit customs, accumulated knowledge of particular species, especially in light of the global tendencies to try to manage our animals and especially if we were to talk about polar bears and/or seals for that matter.

We aren't allowed to trade our sealskins anymore internationally, and the extremist animal rights groups are really trying to place the polar bears in that category which would severely impact our Inuit people. These ignorant fanatics

completely believe their own lies, which are largely based on the name, polar bears, in my opinion.

If the polar bear was less specialized, like a black bear that lives in the forest, then the perception of the southerners wouldn't be so ubiquitously focused on this falsehood. They believe polar bears, due to their namesake, only live on the ice and that they don't go on land. That is why the fanatical propagandists spout the lie that polar bears will have no place to live since the ice is shrinking. They don't even ponder the food species that the polar bears live off of. From the Inuit perspective, if the seals die off, then the polar bears would really be in the plight they are so often stated to be in.

I am in support of the department's initiatives and the minister and his officials, but I would prefer that the program be the priority before we lose more precious elders who hold such tremendous knowledge of the animals we have subsisted on for generations. As the Member for Akulliq stated, we have to compile Inuit oral history. Perhaps we can request the department place an emphasis on this initiative and specifically target our oldest and most knowledgeable elders, as many are already dying off. I refer to our elders born in the 1920s and 1930s. Thank you.

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

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, those are the exact type of comments and suggestions we want to hear and to get further queries from the members about possible alternatives. We like advice especially related to these issues.

If anyone was interested in submitting proposals, even though we have this oral history project, and if they required funding for recording these stories, for their recording equipment for capturing these elders' stories, our department has specific funding for these types of project proposals. Upon submission, it would be reviewed by our officials.

We can provide funds for these types of projects that are proposal-based, along with our current project of recording Inuit oral history in our communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With respect to the figures that were mentioned, as Inuit, we also rely on these numbers, especially when dealing with the government. In light of these numbers we review, we can expect that in the short-term future, our elders will start to increase in numbers here in Nunavut. They will also be going up in numbers in the long term.

(interpretation ends) Your department's 2013-14 draft main estimates include \$608,000 for elder and youth administration. Can you describe what kinds of programs and services will be covered by this funding? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Through you, I would like to have the question responded to by my deputy. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Arreak. Mr. Awa.

Mr. Awa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the member tell me which page I can find the \$608,000 for elders and youth administration that she is referring to? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Awa. Ms. Ugyuk, can you tell us what page you're asking about?

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you. It's on page 67.

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

Mr. Awa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The money that is going to be used for elders and youth are for programs and services. If they have to have somebody help them out in the office to fill out the applications for funding by elders and for the elders, for instance, to be interviewed and recorded, that is how we're going to use the money. For the youth, what they will do is if they want to do something with youth programs, they can apply for that funding. The grants and contributions are in the range of \$800,000 for elders and youth, if they were given that amount of money. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is the last question I have. The 2013-14 (interpretation ends) draft business plan indicates that your department's two priorities for 2013-14

will be to compile information on family relations and to document and preserve various clothing patterns. How will the information be collected and reported on? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's what we're working on right now in regard to family relations, documenting information, for instance, kinship. There are a lot of families who get together nowadays and they don't know if they are related because they are not really sure about how they are related. This has been done in some communities and it is all going well.

With various clothing patterns, Igloolik and Hall Beach are the first communities to be documenting and preserving various clothing patterns. That's what we are doing at this time. It's in our business plan and this is ongoing. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With respect to clothing and making clothing, you stated that our clothing has different patterns, even though they are a little bit similar. You also stated that they will start in Igloolik and Hall Beach. What other communities will also be involved? Will other communities be involved in this? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When communities that have similar clothing patterns, such as Igloolik, Hall Beach, and Repulse Bay, want to do that sort of work, they're more than welcome to do that sort of thing as long as their patterns are quite similar and if they want to work together with different communities that are more similar to the patterns that are out there. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Arreak. I have no more names on my list for F-7. (interpretation ends) Branch Summary. Culture and Heritage. Elders and Youth. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$2,322,000. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Go to F-8. (interpretation ends) Culture and Heritage. Branch Summary. Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$1,157,000. Mr. Oshutapik.

Mr. Oshutapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister. I would like to ask the minister and I would like to get a good answer. To date, I know the department is doing their ongoing work in regard to *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit*. Minister for Culture and Heritage, to date, how many stuff have you gathered in regard to *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* that is used within the Government of Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will have my deputy respond to that question as to what stage we are at in that regard, if that's okay with you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Arreak. Mr. Awa.

Mr. Awa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can't specify a number when we speak about how much *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* has been compiled.

What I can say is that when the *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* Committee is set to meet, just prior to the meetings being held, we inform various departments about the planned meeting. If they require any assistance from the committee, then they should prepare for the next meeting set up and any questions they may have should be submitted. This includes any requests for clarification as the committee would be available.

However, we request advance notice about which issues or areas that department may require assistance with. As an example, when the government is drafting up policies or legislation, perhaps all issues related to life issues or if it will impact Inuit, that department should request advice on specific wording to accommodate Inuit or to further incorporate *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit*. This is better, as those are the types of questions posed to the committee and their advice assists the departments in their work, and it is always a joyful exercise when their advice is sought.

On another issue, it has been perhaps three months since the Department of Culture and Heritage has started compiling data on how certain aspects of *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit* have been incorporated into various departments. We're currently compiling this information, but quite a number of aspects have been included. We feel that once the data has been compiled and the report completed, we may be able to table it in the House in the short term. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Oshutapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the deputy minister for his response. It leads directly into my next question. Actually, he touched up on my secondary question. Let me ask it anyways since he didn't mention which departments request the most assistance from this committee. We have a myriad of ministers responsible for different departments. Which departments are the most prolific when it comes to requesting advice from this committee your department works with? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Yes, the departments requesting assistance varies with most having already requested assistance. However, the departments who are usually at the meetings include the Department of Education, the Department of Justice, the Department of Health and Social Services, the Department of Environment, and other departments.

These departments have requested assistance from *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit Katimajit*. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First of all, let me state my own position. Personally, I have no knowledge of *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit* and I can't even fathom its depths. I am extremely proud of the elders who partake in this work since they retain this knowledge. However, what I really respect is their breadth of knowledge, although I personally haven't practised it. From a personal perspective, I will do my utmost to use all of my skills to try to incorporate *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit* as it is a foundational matter.

The Minister of Human Resources just recently announced recent developments where *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit* would start to be used more frequently here in Nunavut. Mr. Chairman, I believe there was a specified day identified. Do I understand now that this department was involved in the final drafting of these activities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm not exactly sure what the discussion was, but if I can get Mr. Awa to respond to that question. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Arreak. Mr. Awa.

Mr. Awa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, the Department of

Human Resources policies, particularly the two policies, were developed and the Department of Culture and Heritage partook in the development of these policies. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Awa. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Let me ask the minister this question then. This day that was identified for the IQ day and which is recommended for implementation as part of these activities, did the minister personally get involved when it was first discussed for approval? What specific activities did the minister want included as part of the IQ days? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When the initiative was first discussed for creation of this day, our department had to work with their department. The committee deliberated with their officials within the Department of Human Resources for identifying the IQ days. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The minister is the lead minister for the Department of Culture and Heritage. Was he leading the Department of Human Resources on what kinds of things to be included in the IQ days? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is to do with the GN staff and everyday operations of the Government of Nunavut. I will have Mr. Awa respond to the question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Arreak. Mr. Awa.

Mr. Awa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The work that was done by the Department of Human Resources was done by that department. As the Department of Culture and Heritage, we are more than willing to give them advice on what should be included, but this has to do with the everyday operations of the government. Once they were completed the assignment or what they were writing down, the government had to agree to what they wanted to do. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Awa. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In this document tabled recently, it states that the new *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* and Cultural Immersion Day directives and customs would be incorporated within the IQ days. In English, (interpretation ends) Cultural Immersion Day directives.

(interpretation) What about the departmental committee ultimately responsible for Inuit customs that has that mandate? As the protectors of these cultural issues, weren't they involved in identifying these activities? Were they provided with the opportunity to provide their advice only after the Department of

Human Resources completed their directives? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will have my deputy respond to that question and explain exactly what happened in that regard. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Arreak. Mr. Awa.

Mr. Awa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I stated earlier, we were consulted during the process and we participated while they were dealing with the Cultural Immersion Day. That is the only thing I can respond with. It is a directive for all GN employees and it is under the Department of Human Resources. The Department of Culture and Heritage was just consulted and helped out with the plan. We had meetings with them. There was a working group that was set up and we fully participated as a department. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Awa. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I get concerned about Inuit societal values and the preservation of Inuit traditions. *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* is just a word. I don't think they even know what *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* means. Even though that is the case, it is just being used without being fully implemented within the government; it is just paying lip service.

My question is in regard to the Cultural Immersion Day. Is it mandatory for the government to use it or is it at their discretion? We're just paying lip service because it's not mandatory to use the Cultural Immersion Day. Obviously, it's not important. It's up to the Department of Culture and Heritage to protect the culture. I just wanted that information about your participation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Even though some people think we're just paying lip service, we will keep working hard to make sure that *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* is implemented within the government. That's one of our objectives as a department. We will have a continuing dialogue with the Department of Human Resources and their minister. Even though some people out there may think we're just paying lip service, we're going to keep working to make sure that it's being implemented within the government. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the minister for stating that these will continue to be implemented. We are also quite proud of these initiatives.

However, it becomes quite noticeable that our government only uses *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* when it suits their purposes. That's usually when they say they have implemented it. On the other hand, if it becomes too burdensome or

difficult, then this government seemingly throws it out the window. Personally, this is the cause of my biggest concern. From my personal perspective, if we say that we're going to be using *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* or its principles, we can't just have it apply for certain times, but keep it as a foundation. Here I refer both to *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* and Inuit cultural customs.

For example, if we're going to have the Cultural Immersion Day, where the employees will practise cultural activities on a trip outside, I would imagine an accompanying directive so they aren't just going for a social tea outing. What I'm trying to ask the minister is this: as a department, what foundations or policies do you apply when you're setting up such programs that involve Inuit culture and language? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As this is an operational question, I will refer it to my deputy. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Arreak. Mr. Awa.

Mr. Awa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What I can say to this question is that when the directives were being drafted, we were able to voice our recommendations on certain activities we wanted included and we were grateful for that opportunity. Additionally, as the Inuit Cultural Immersion Day was being identified, we

specified that elders should be included in any type of outing, just as an example.

For instance, some employees of the Department of Culture and Heritage weren't able to participate in this day due to other work-related duties or other reasons. The participants who were able to attend the activities or who partook in the particular lessons about *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* have to attend a debriefing meeting outlining what activities were undertaken, as well as a particular lesson learnt by the participants. They would discuss these issues at that meeting. A follow-up meeting is one of the requirements.

I have just used these two examples where we were able to provide recommendations to the department as they developed the directives. Although I only mentioned these two examples, we also participated in other aspects of the drafting of the directives. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Awa. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask the minister maybe in another way. I have never asked a minister this: as ministers, are you given the opportunity to say that you're going to go do this and that or not? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If anything, a program or if anything is set up or if there is going to be a change, the ministers are always consulted and asked

for their opinion, whether they approve or not. We're given every opportunity to be consulted on any new program.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For further clarity, as a minister, if there has to be any changes or if there is a new program coming up, are you asked or consulted of who can participate? If you're consulted and as minister responsible for *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit* and Culture and Heritage, what did you want included in the Cultural Immersion Day activities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The question posed by Mr. Enook is particularly a good question. However, if you were to direct these questions to different departments on the ability of the minister to make recommendations and especially if it is directed at all ministers, I would be more comfortable if the Premier answered those questions.

The Minister of Culture and Heritage is only able to respond directly to questions related to cultural matters, as he isn't the spokesperson for all ministers. That is the Premier's responsibility and I want that noted here. We have the Premier responsible for assigning portfolios based on their capabilities. I would prefer that this question be directed to our Premier, if my response is understandable. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't know what your response was, so I will just proceed. We're under *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit* and I thought I was just referring to *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit*.

As the minister responsible for *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit* and as one of the people involved in this process, can he provide recommendations when a particular program is being deliberated on and that certain activities are required? If the minister has that ability, what suggestions did he provide for this IQ day that was recently announced for implementation? I don't want every detail, but maybe he can provide some examples, such as perhaps his own personal recommendations he wanted included. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Though we have already responded to your question, this program was set up by the Department of Human Resources. If you should have any problems about this program or if you feel the need to make some changes, you should ask them. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm confused. I don't know how to ask that question because I'm not getting any responses here. The only question I have is this: as the

Minister of Culture and Heritage, were you able to make suggestions on what you would like included in the Cultural Immersion Day? This is what I would like see in the program. Were you able to do that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we were consulted. As my deputy indicated, we responded to your question. Yes, we were consulted and we are consulted on anything new. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that response. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Culture and Heritage. The Minister of Human Resources announced the *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* and Cultural Immersion Day directives. As the minister, what did you want included for Cultural Immersion Day? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We didn't see any problems when this was being drafted. I think everything that was being proposed was acceptable. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you. I am glad that the minister approved the Cultural Immersion Day. My question is: when this was being set up, as the Minister of Culture and Heritage and minister responsible for *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit*, what did you want included under that program? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I had already responded to that question. We approved this proposal. If you have any problems, they could be identified. This day was set up by the Department of Human Resources and if you have any problems with it, you can talk to them. If they had any concerns, it would be reviewed by cabinet. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm just going to complete my allotted time. We try and represent our constituents, and it is sad that I ask a question for which I don't get a response.

Mr. Chairman, my question was: were you able to participate and did you contribute to the design of this Cultural Immersion Day? He is the minister. He can say, "Do this and that. You have to include this." That's all I wanted to know so that the people of Nunavut will know what this Cultural Immersion Day is. I just want the minister to indicate what programs or what types of activities he wanted done on that day. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We do keep trying to respond to your question. We like the set-up of this program. There weren't many changes that we made. We did put in a few. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Please let me know if I talk too long, even though I haven't reached my 10-minute time allotment.

With respect to *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit*, especially today, we can work closely with the Minister of Culture and Heritage, Minister Arreak. I hope the minister urges the departments and his deputy would urge the government departments to include *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit* with the Nunavut government.

If they went to the United Nations, they could have a speech using *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit* as their foundation. It's very hard to define what *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit* is. If they go abroad or to different countries, it's very difficult to define what *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit* is.

I would like to ask the minister about Inuit societal values. During cabinet meetings, are you going to be urging your minister or talk to the deputies about integrating or implementing *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit*? As a minister, you have every authority to do so. Are you going to be urging the departments to

implement *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit* or would you give a directive to the departments?

I believe in Inuit societal values and Mr. Awa knows it too. He can lobby the ministers to integrate it into their departments. Regular members can urge you so that you can talk to the rest of the cabinet about implementing IQ into their departments. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Ningark, for urging us to do that. What we usually do if there are any proposals is we check to see how the Inuit societal values will be affected by that new proposal. I do urge my department and the ministers about integrating or implementing Inuit societal values. Yes, we will keep urging the departments. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Ningark: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Let me try to put a perspective on Inuit societal values the way I grew up and was taught. In fact, I spent a good many years before I went to school learning about Inuit societal values. It's a family value to begin with. Why? Well, there is a saying, "Who can look after the family, neighbourhood, and extended family better than the family itself?"

Why do we always want to make sure that when a child is taken away from the home, they stay within the community?

Well, why not? Who knows better than the one who conceived the child before it was born and knows different habits, different fears, and different tastes in food and everything else? It's the family. If the family can't look after the child, then why don't we make sure that that person is safe? That's what Inuit societal values are all about.

When we travel abroad from Nunavut, we talk about the Inuit way of living, way of life, societal values, and stuff like that. We always use that. That's the only way. If you want to try and make sure that you have quota in any given animal, narwhal, polar bears, or any other animal that is perceived endangered, you always go back to Inuit societal values, but in this government, perhaps it's only perceived.

We try to ensure that Inuit societal values are not only embedded in the statutes of the government. People say "embedded," which means firmly established. That's not good enough. We want to make sure that Inuit societal values and beliefs are enshrined in the statutes, meaning it is preserved, protected, and ensured, for the people in the judicial system to interpret in the end that it's preserved and protected. So I want to make sure that when we talk about societal values, we not only talk about societal values, but we make sure they're enshrined in the statutes that we pass in this House. I think the only way that we can ensure that is through the Department of Culture and [Heritage].

We're putting a lot of faith in the minister. I know that he is more than capable of ensuring that Inuit societal values, through his department, are passed on to the ministers. By the same

token, his deputy minister is more than able. He believes in Inuit societal values. I believe that Mr. Awa, through the bureaucracy, is more than able through the minister. I say that through you, Mr. Chairman. He's more than able and he knows and understands what the societal values are all about.

So I want to ensure that my friends over there at the witness table, through me and the people of Nunavut, do everything they can to make sure that our beliefs and values, while recognizing that we are a public government, are enshrined.

(interpretation) Mr. Chairman, I'm urging the minister and his deputy because I know that they are very capable. At times, I'm sure that everything they request is not going to be approved by cabinet, but they do have the authority. We talk about *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* not only in Ottawa or the United Nations or in Europe. We should not only pay lip service, but practise Inuit societal values in our House. So I'm urging your department to work hard so that it could be set up. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First of all, I would like to say that I'm sorry, but we're doing our best and we're working our best to include *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* here in this House. We want to make sure that it is visible and being used. We're doing our best to make sure that *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* is being used within the government and in this House. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a few questions, not many. First of all, I would like to make a comment. The \$1,157,000 the department is going to be using doesn't seem adequate because of this very discussion that we're having. The money for Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit doesn't seem to be adequate at all and it seems like our bark is bigger.

The sky's the limit for Inuit societal values and *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit* to be implemented into the government departments. For that reason, my question is: what criteria are being used for IQ days? Exactly how are IQ days used? If a day is set aside, do you have criteria and who approves them? Is it the manager or the director that approves them? (interpretation ends) Thank you.

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

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for his question. I think my deputy would be in a better position to respond to that question since he deals with them on a daily basis. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Arreak. Mr. Awa.

Mr. Awa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First of all, based on the budget the member referenced in his question, this is my own opinion, but that amount is fairly low when you talk about a budget set at slightly lower than

\$1.2 million, with only two employees in the IQ division.

It is obvious that as we continue to work on the IQ issues and with future priorities laid out by the government, the amount of work required for compiling these issues for further integration into government operations will increase. I'm only making this comment, but hopefully we would have to come back for supplementary appropriations based on the amount of work required to implement IQ further. To use this example, just for the legal requirements of the *Inuit Language Protection Act*, we had to requisition further funding to implement these provisions. I expect this to also occur in this field as we move further down the line.

Now, regarding the identification of the Cultural Immersion Day related to *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit*, including the criteria the member made his query on, each department and agency develops their own criteria. As each department has different requirements and the criteria are adapted to each department based on their needs. To cite this example, if I were to designate an IQ day within the Department of Culture and Heritage, perhaps I would provide a directive around family kinship or the need to foster a good working relationship, even without going on an outing outside of the city or the land to go fishing. This can occur within an office setting, an outside venue, such as a park, and each department has discretion to plan out their activities and themes.

At least within the department I am responsible for, when we start planning for the Cultural Immersion Day, as the head of this department, I have to

approve this activity. I assume that is the same in other departments. These days have to be approved by the departmental deputy minister and then the employees can partake in this IQ day upon approval. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I understand it a little bit more. The Inuit *Qaujimajatuqangit* program primarily seems to be for the government departments. Is that the case? (interpretation ends) Thank you.

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

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will have my deputy respond to that question. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Arreak. Mr. Awa.

Mr. Awa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Katimajit* deals with the government departments, but as a government, we deal with the departments. When it comes to *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit*, if there is somebody or a group who wants to do something in the community, then they ask for funding. The *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Katimajit* have talked about what has to be done. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you. I understand a little bit more. If you're going to have an IQ day, for instance, the managers plan what they want to do and go out on the land, do they just go ahead and do what they want to do and there are no criteria put in there? It seems like they can misuse *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* by doing something else. Some people don't go out on the land or hunt during IQ days. Is there a lecture program that can be put out there? It's hard to know what they are doing when there are no criteria. Thank you.

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

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will have my deputy respond to that question, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Arreak. Mr. Awa.

Mr. Awa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Like I said, the government departments are able to write down what they want to do or do what they want to do out on the land during IQ days.

In regard to Mr. Curley's question, whether there is a lecture program or not, there is one that happens. A while ago, when there was an IQ day, they had a lecture program where they brought in two elders who told stories about when Iqaluit was a smaller community, what people did, and what kinds of traditions they had. That is the kind of stories that the two elders told and they talked about what changes happened, what happened in the early days of Iqaluit and the latter

part of Iqaluit days. There were quite a few people who wanted to be involved in the lecture.

What we do is we have lecture programs, inviting elders in, and if they want to talk about something like hunting, they can bring in hunting experts. If the theme is on the historical background of Iqaluit as an Inuit area and its development as a community, then we would invite an elder specifically knowledgeable of the history of Iqaluit's development over time. So yes, this can occur in that manner. Each department makes their choices of categories or themes for their Cultural Immersion Day. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Awa. I have no more names on my list. We will go back to F-8. (interpretation ends) Culture and Heritage. Branch Summary. Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$1,157,000. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. We will go back to F-3. (interpretation ends) Culture and Heritage. Detail of Expenditures. Department Summary. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$25,786,000. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Do we agree that the Department of Culture and Heritage is completed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. I will give you the opportunity at this time, minister, if you have any closing remarks. Minister Arreak.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the members for their questions and for their comments when we were discussing my department's budget.

I would also like to thank the staff that was in the Gallery for my department's discussions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Arreak. I thank your official, Mr. Awa. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses out.

We will move on to another department, the Department of the Environment.

I would like to remind the members that whoever is going to be the Chair of the Committee of the Whole usually says that he will give everyone of you a chance to make opening remarks for the minister's opening comments and detailed question period is given to you during the page-by-page review of the departmental main estimates. I would like to ask that members keep their preambles short. Chairs of the Committee of the Whole have rules in order for the proceedings to continue properly. This is just to remind the members.

I was told that there are some refreshments for us. We will take a short 15-minute break and when we return, we will deal with the Department of the Environment. Thank you.

>> *Committee recessed at 15:43 and resumed at 16:03*

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you for coming back. We will continue with the (interpretation ends) Department of Environment. I would like to ask the Minister responsible for Environment, Minister Arreak, to go to the witness table to make his opening remarks. Minister Arreak. You may proceed, Minister Arreak.

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Hon. James Arreak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to be here today to present my department's business plan and main estimates for the 2013-14 fiscal year.

The Department of Environment's proposed budget for 2013-14 is \$23,994,000. This represents a \$1.26 million increase from the 2012-13 fiscal year. This increase is a combination of \$327,000 in salary increases resulting from the new collective agreement, \$826,000 in new money to increase overall government participation in the environmental assessment of major resource development projects in the territory, and \$107,000 to hire an additional conservation officer for the community of Arviat.

Mr. Chairman, the Department of Environment works with various organizations and by partnering with these organizations whenever possible, we have continually been successful in maximizing the impacts of our funds. In the 2012-13 fiscal year, we obtained

over \$3.4 million from outside sources for various projects and we expect to be equally successful in leveraging funds again in 2013-14.

In order to maximize the benefits of our funding to Nunavummiut, the Department of Environment's business plan and main estimates are focused on the priorities and goals outlined in *Tamapta*. They also uphold the Government of Nunavut's obligations and areas of responsibilities under the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement that relate to the management of natural resources and ensure that the department's many statutory obligations are fulfilled.

Avatittinnik Kamatsiarniq, or environmental stewardship, continues to be a key element of our departmental focus. This includes working with government, business, and industry to ensure that industrial projects in Nunavut are undertaken in such a manner that negative impacts to the environment are minimized. Through proactive pollution prevention initiatives and inspection and enforcement measures under the *Environmental Protection Act*, we will continue to monitor and protect the environment for current and future generations.

In the coming year, the Department of Environment will continue to promote leadership and best practices in environmental assessment by participating in the review of Kiggavik, Meliadine, and other development projects. As I noted earlier in the sitting, I am pleased that the department has partnered with Nunavut Arctic College to deliver a new environmental assessment training course this winter.

We will provide ongoing training to the students of the Environmental Technology Program, who are the future stewards of Nunavut's environment and to the Nunavut public service. This will contribute to our local capacity to manage the wide range of new development projects being proposed in the territory.

For the past several years, the Department of Environment has been working to help Nunavummiut adjust to the potential impacts caused by climate change. This coming year, we will continue with the ongoing implementation of *Upagiatavut*, Nunavut's strategic direction for climate change adaptation. A draft Nunavut climate change adaptation action plan is presently being developed, and in cooperation with various stakeholders and Nunavummiut, and it will be finalized in 2013-14.

In the 2013-14 fiscal year, we will advance our development plans for potential parks in the non-decentralized communities of Kugaaruk and Clyde River, and continue with feasibility studies for possible parks in Sanikiluaq, Arviat, and at Napaaqtulik on Axel Heiberg Island.

The Government of Nunavut research vessel, *Nuliajuk*, completed another very successful research season in 2012, continuing with important turbot and Greenland shark research and bottom mapping near Pangnirtung, Qikiqtarjuaq, and Clyde River. We also carried out a successful inshore, small vessel turbot fishing project in Pangnirtung to introduce open water fishing techniques used in Greenland, but new to Nunavummiut. In 2013-14, we plan to

undertake a number of projects related to market and product development for fish and fur within Nunavut.

Mr. Chairman, as you can see, the Department of Environment's 2013-14 main estimates and business plan support the obligations and priorities of the Government of Nunavut and provide real benefits to Nunavummiut. Thank you.

I will be pleased to take any questions you may have. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Arreak. Do you have witnesses that you would like to bring to the table?

Hon. James Arreak: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Does the committee agree to bring in the witnesses?

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Thank you. (interpretation ends) Minister Arreak, for the record, please introduce your witnesses.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On my left is David Akeeagok, Deputy Minister, and to my right is Steve Pinksen, Assistant Deputy Minister. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Arreak. I welcome you and

your officials. (interpretation ends) Does the Chair of the Standing Committee on Community and Economic Development have comments? Mr. Rumbolt.

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

The standing committee notes that the department's proposed 2013-14 operations and maintenance budget of \$23,994,000 has increased by approximately 7 percent since the introduction of the department's 2012-13 main estimates. The number of positions in the department is 128.5. This is an increase of 4 PYs from its 2012-13 main estimates.

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

The department's proposed 2013-16 business plan provides an update on one of its previous priorities. It indicates that "The Elders Advisory Committee has been engaged and provided input into all major DOE initiatives." The standing committee supports the department's continuing efforts to integrate Inuit societal values into its programs and looks forward to ongoing updates on these initiatives.

Members note that on February 11, 2011, the Government of Canada announced that it had taken formal action at the World Trade Organization

against the European Union's ban on trade in Canadian seal products. The news release indicated that the federal government would request the establishment of a World Trade Organization dispute settlement panel on this issue. During the minister's recent appearance before the standing committee, members were informed that the World Trade Organization has not yet reviewed this issue and that the department has provided funding to assist with the legal costs associated with this matter. Members look forward to ongoing updates on this issue.

Nunavut's *Wildlife Act* was passed by the First Legislative Assembly in 2003. Although Wildlife Transitional Regulations were published in Part II of the June 2005 edition of the *Nunavut Gazette*, a comprehensive set of new regulations has not yet been approved. The Nunavut Wildlife Management Board has held a number of hearings since 2003 on proposed new regulations under the Act. The department's proposed 2013-16 business plan indicates that one of its priorities in 2012-13 is to, and I quote, "Complete implementation of the *Wildlife Act* and regulations." The standing committee encourages the department and its partners to work on resolving any issues that have delayed finalizing the regulations and looks forward to the *Wildlife Act* regulations being approved.

Mr. Chairman, on June 5, 2012, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated issued a news release titled, and I quote, "Narwhal Tusk Trade Restriction Lifted in All but One Community." The release indicated that the "Department of Fisheries and Oceans lifted international trade restrictions on narwhal tusks for all

Nunavut communities except for Grise Fiord.” It also indicated that “Grise Fiord is the community that continues to have a restriction on the international trade of narwhal products, as DFO has no scientific information on the distribution or abundance of narwhals in Jones Sound, Smith Sound or Parry Channel.” The standing committee was pleased with this announcement and looks forward to ongoing updates as the Department of Fisheries and Oceans and the community of Grise Fiord work together to gather scientific and traditional knowledge on narwhal stocks near Grise Fiord.

The standing committee notes the announcement in October of 2009 regarding the signing of a memorandum of understanding with Greenland and the federal government on the Baffin Bay polar bear population. The department’s 2011-14 business plan indicated that “The joint committee expects to finalize an action plan by the end of the 2010-11 fiscal year. Pilot studies including a feasibility assessment of aerial surveys are expected to be reported on in winter 2010-2011. A new recommended harvest level should be available by early 2012-2013.” The standing committee looks forward to ongoing updates on this issue.

Mr. Chairman, the department’s 2011-14 business plan also indicated that “One full scale and two pilot aerial surveys were conducted in 2010. Preliminary results from aerial surveys in the Foxe Basin indicate the method will work for that population. Aerial surveys are planned in 2011-2012 for the Western Hudson Bay and Baffin Bay populations. Research and development of alternative less invasive research methods is

ongoing.” Members are encouraged to see that the department is incorporating concerns from elders and hunters to use less invasive methods for wildlife research in Nunavut and look forward to the minister providing the results of the aerial surveys in the western Hudson Bay and Baffin Bay [polar bear] populations with members at the earliest opportunity.

The department’s proposed 2013-16 business plan provides an update on one of its previous priorities. It indicates that the territorial polar bear “management plan has been initiated and it is anticipated to be finalized and in place by 2013. Community consultations to be conducted in spring 2012.” Members look forward to ongoing updates on this issue.

Section 177 of the *Wildlife Act* requires the minister to table an annual report in the Legislative Assembly on the administration of the Natural Resources Conservation Trust Fund. On June 8 of 2010, the minister tabled the 2006-07, 2007-08, and 2008-09 annual reports in the Legislative Assembly. The department’s 2010-13 business plan indicated that one of its priorities was to “Build the Natural Resources Conservation Trust Fund as a permanent source of funding for promoting awareness and wise use of wildlife and habitat through initiatives such as education, research and conservation.” It indicated that the “Terms of reference have been drafted.” The standing committee looks forward to the minister tabling the 2009-2010, 2010-11, and 2011-12 annual reports under this section of the Act.

I would also like to note, Mr. Chairman, that earlier today the minister may have tabled one of these documents.

Mr. Chairman, the department's proposed 2013-16 business plan provides an update on one of its previous priorities concerning caribou management. It indicates that the department "Completed all community and stakeholder consultations." It is anticipated the Caribou Management Strategy and implementation plan will be "completed prior to the end of the 2011-2012 fiscal year." Members look forward to the completion of the Caribou Management Strategy and encourage the minister to table it in the Legislative Assembly at the earliest opportunity.

The department's proposed 2013-16 business plan provides an update on one of its previous priorities. It indicates that "Work continued on each of these initiatives. Under the Nunavut Fisheries Science and Research Agenda, DOE continued to implement research programs of offshore and inshore projects. Detailed multi-year branding and marketing strategies were developed for the Nunavut Fisheries and Nunavut Seal and Long Fur sectors." The standing committee looks forward to ongoing updates on these initiatives.

Mr. Chairman, the department's proposed 2013-16 business plan provides an update on one of its previous priorities. It indicates that the department is "Supporting major multi-year Arctic char research project with Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) aimed at increasing commercial supply in all regions. Also working with fish plants to support commercial fishing trails in new communities/areas." The standing

committee encourages the minister to table an annual report in the Legislative Assembly on the department's expenditures and activities under its Fisheries Diversification Program, Commercial Fisheries Freight Subsidy Program, and Fisheries Training Consortium Program and looks forward to receiving ongoing updates on these initiatives.

Members note that on October 31, 2011, the minister delivered a statement in the House detailing the 2011 commercial fishery results. The minister indicated that "Nunavut holds more than 9,350 tonnes of turbot quotas in these adjacent waters, which will be fully harvested in 2011, providing income and jobs for Nunavutmiut." He also indicated that the new research vessel, the MV Nuliajuk, conducted "research in Cumberland Sound and in areas near Clyde River and Qikiqtarjuaq." The standing committee was pleased to note the department's efforts to support a sustainable fisheries industry in Nunavut and looks forward to ongoing updates on this important issue.

Mr. Chairman, the department's proposed 2013-16 business plan provides an update on one of its previous priorities, which was to "Develop a Spill Level II Course (Environmental Investigations for Enforcement Officers) for Nunavut." It indicates that "With the recent staffing of the Enforcement and Compliance Manager this priority is expected to be complete in 2012." The department's proposed 2013-16 business plan also indicates that the department will "Develop Used Oil and Waste Fuel Management Regulations." The standing committee is pleased to note that the department is working on enforcement

and compliance issues and looks forward to ongoing updates on these initiatives.

The standing committee also notes that the Department of Environment is working with the Department of Community and Government Services on an inventory of all sewage and waste management facilities in Nunavut and looks forward to the completion of the Waste Management Strategy.

The standing committee notes previous issues relating to the water use inspection licences prepared by the Department of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada in all Nunavut communities. These water use inspection reports clearly illustrated Nunavut's lack of adequate sewage and waste management facilities.

The standing committee notes that the department's budget for grants and contributions for harvester support programs has remained largely unchanged for a number of years. Members encourage the minister to review the adequacy of these funding levels.

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

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Do members have any general comments to Minister Arreak's opening comments? Mr. Ningark.

Mr. Ningark: Thank you kindly, Mr. Chairman, for giving me the privilege to speak to this very important department,

opening remarks for the Hon. James Arreak, Minister of Environment.

On page 3 of the minister's statement, there's a positive note, "plans for potential parks in non-decentralized communities" like Kugaaruk. I think this has been anticipated for many years and people are looking forward to it becoming implemented one day under Parks and Special Places.

I don't have anything else, but I'm heading over to the airport to see my wife, Celine, off to go home. I have been in politics for about 15 years together in NWT and Nunavut, but I have been married to Celine for over 40 years, so she's my priority. Thank you.

>> *Laughter*

>> *Applause*

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningark. (interpretation ends) Bye.

>> *Laughter*

Chairman: I have Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome to the minister as well as his officials. I'm really glad to see many young people and a variety of people of Baker Lake as well as all of Nunavut would welcome the minister's comments, such as the environmental stewardship and, as he noted in his opening comments, to ensure that industrial projects in Nunavut are undertaken in such a manner that negative impacts to the environment are minimized through proactive pollution prevention initiatives and inspection and

enforcement measures under the *Environmental Protection Act*.

For the young people listening as well and who have asked of their local as well as regional and territorial leaders, just to remind again that the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement's intent was to protect and advocate for the Inuit values and protection of cultural and traditional practices, traditional areas, and environmental areas that implement the land claims agreement. So it's very welcoming.

I would just like to comment on the fact that many people back home as well as Nunavut welcome these opening comments, no doubt. I'm sure my colleagues will have further questions as well as I in the page-by-page process. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you. (interpretation) I envy those people who can make short opening comments.

Mr. Chairman, this is a very important department and I would like to welcome the minister, the deputy minister, and the ADM. I have a question regarding the Department of Environments' mandate and prior to that, I want to make a short preamble.

I want to bring up the issue of scientific facts versus assumptions. What I think and what a scientist thinks is the same thing, an assumption. I think greater emphasis is placed on a scientist's assumptions, which are then considered to be scientific facts. We place more emphasis on their assumptions than

facts, if you understand me. I'm going to make a preamble on whether it's an assumption or the truth and you can decide.

I believe in *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* when somebody tells me about it. I think it was 40 or 50 years ago in the Kivalliq that I was told about *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit*. He was saying something about dog teams. Qamutiks had sod runners and it was very hard to find polar bear skin that you could use to fix the sod runner on your qamutik. What does that mean now?

Maybe they didn't have any polar bear skins. Maybe they didn't get polar bears 40 or 50 years ago or maybe there was a very small population of polar bears at that time. I believe that the polar bear population was very small at that time. What about the sealskin or the caribou? It had to be polar bear hide. If you're putting sod and glazing on your qamutik, it's the best material to put glazing on your qamutik. This is an indication that the polar bear population was very small. Was it an assumption or was it a fact?

At the appropriate time, I'm going to be asking questions on those issues while we're on the wildlife subject. I think that the scientific community thinks that *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* are assumptions and that they don't apply. Even if Inuit say that the mosquito population was overwhelming this past year, I would say, (interpretation ends) "How do you know? Did you count them?" Sometimes assumptions help. They indicate whether there is more wildlife or species.

(interpretation) These questions are what I will be raising as I believe we have to

improve this situation, Mr. Chairman. I will end there for now, and I am only halfway through my time allotment. Thank you.

An Hon. Member (interpretation): Can I borrow your leftover time?

>> *Laughter*

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. I also noted that you didn't use the entire time allotment. I have no further names on my list and I would like to move to the page-by-page review. (interpretation ends) I-4. Environment. Branch Summary. Corporate Management. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$4,325,000. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to return to the earlier comments, which I just want clarified. There are numerous items, but I am unsure as to the exact placement and whether I should have dealt with it earlier. I am slightly unsure, so if I am mistaken, you can direct me further, Mr. Chairman.

On I-4, in the English version, it talks about training of employees and career development training. If we are on I-4, I wanted to ask a question in this category of planned activities related to the elders' advisory committee. If this was part of this area, which I suspect it is, I just want further clarification exactly what their role is, where they are, who they are, and obviously what their mandate is. It's quite vague in this area. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Enook. Was there a question in there

to the witnesses at the witness table? Minister Arreak.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The legislation requires the creation of the committee, which is why it has been established, but this isn't the first iteration of this committee as it has been in operation for awhile. For operational details, I would ask that David Akeegok, my deputy, be allowed to respond with more details, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Arreak. Mr. Akeegok.

Mr. Akeegok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Currently, we have nine members on this committee. Unfortunately, I don't have the list handy, but we can provide that information shortly. Furthermore, the elders' advisory committee was established under the *Wildlife Act* and we have their terms of reference along with their mandate. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Akeegok. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the deputy minister. In my ignorance of their actual duties or work... The concept is acceptable and I respect their experience, which I want utilized to its fullest extent. I doubt there are more knowledgeable people than our elders, especially related to our environment, the wildlife, the land, and marine areas we use.

I don't have a copy of the legislation just mentioned, the *Wildlife Act*, within

which the details were said to be written out. Can he provide a short overview of this committee for Nunavummiut exactly what they do? How many times do they meet in a year? Who decides when this committee meets? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank my colleague for asking those questions. It is a very important entity because they know about the environment and wildlife. In regard to your question, they have met three times so far and they only met once last year due to lack of capacity. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Arreak. Minister, I would like to remind you that part of the question was: can you give us a brief overview of exactly what this entity does? Maybe you can respond to that portion of the question. Minister Arreak.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can have our ADM, Mr. Pinksen, respond to your question.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Arreak. Mr. Pinksen.

Mr. Pinksen: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The elders' committee was set up to provide advice directly to the minister on any matter that he feels he could use advice on. They can initiate advice on other matters on their own. In recent years, the elders' committee has provided advice on all of our major

projects, such as the caribou strategy development, development of our climate change framework, *Upagiaqtavut*, and similar projects like that. That's the type of work that we refer to the elders' committee. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Pinksen. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am very pleased to hear that they are used as consultants. There are a lot of challenges when you have the environment portfolio. I hope the minister utilizes the elders' group. What have you consulted your elders' group on? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. They have a meeting once last year and it has been two years since they were created. I have not utilized them very much to date. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will ask more questions at a later time. Again, we have training here. In the minister's opening comments on page 3, it states here that they will provide ongoing training to the students at the Environmental Technology Program. It is a very important program, especially when they have the training program in Pond Inlet. Exactly what does it mean by providing ongoing training and support to that program? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is a very important program. In the past, it has been very helpful and it will be very helpful in the future. I'll have Mr. Akeegok answer your question, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Arreak. Mr. Akeegok.

Mr. Akeegok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This past year, we just created this program, which is an environmental assessment in English. The environmental technology students started this training program this year. We also send our staff up to teach the students and they also give support to the students. For example, if there was an oil spill or wildlife subjects, we can send our staff up to help with the training. This year, we're focusing on environmental assessment and they're geared towards the students who are taking the Environmental Technology Program. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Akeegok. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am proceeding very well for a change. Maybe my questions are finally making sense.

I have another question. I have been an MLA for the last 18 months and before that, I was involved and I was given direction by the people of Pond Inlet to get another wildlife officer. I am envious that Arviat is getting another wildlife officer or conservation officer. Could

you tell the people of Pond Inlet why we can't get another conservation officer? We have been asking for one for a long time. Why is it that we can't fill the conservation officer position? Is it impossible? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. All 25 communities would have a conservation officer if we had unlimited amounts of money. However, Arviat is one of the larger communities. Iqaluit is the largest and Arviat is second only to Iqaluit in Nunavut. There is a need to have that type of service available. They have one conservation officer and due to forced growth in that community, there is a requirement for another position.

Pond Inlet is quite large, but one position is adequate according to the size of the community. We can ask another conservation officer from another community to help that conservation officer if there is a requirement. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you. I also thank you for slowly drawing out the details, making it clearer in my head.

Based on that response, I take it to mean that Pond Inlet residents are dealing with enough wildlife-related matters. Time and again, researchers have indicated that the Pond Inlet area has some of the most abundant wildlife, with many different species in the vicinity. However, the department's response is

that Pond Inlet doesn't have enough wildlife for this purpose.

Now, let's say that a community requests more officers. I'll use Pond as an example. Based on their request for additional manpower, do I understand that as long as HQ refuses to believe that there is a need, it will never be approved? Am I correct in my understanding of this departmental bias? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As a department, we aren't stating that Pond Inlet doesn't deserve of another position due the lack of wildlife, but that all the activities can be handled by one conservation officer at this present time. Although we maintain that position, it doesn't stop any community from submitting further requests. We would look at how we can assist community requests, not just Pond Inlet, but all Nunavut communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the minister for his observation and that he didn't believe that Pond Inlet lacks in wildlife. We are certainly appreciative that we occupy lands with such abundance in wildlife. The reasoning for my raising the question was based on Pond Inlet residents' belief due to the abundance of many species.

As the minister responded, he never said Pond Inlet doesn't have wildlife. Pond Inlet probably has more species of wildlife than many other communities. More activities could be undertaken in the area and a lot of activities aren't necessarily just about wildlife issues. We are faced with more requests for passage along our marine areas and we have to deal with a national park, amongst other things. Let me get some clarity on this matter.

Even if we were to provide proper justification in Pond Inlet or another community for that matter, does this mean that as long as the minister isn't convinced of our arguments for another officer, he won't approve it? Will it not be approved even when a community is trying to make their case known about their issues since they are familiar with their community, the lands their people use, and due to their knowledge of the required activities? Even when we try to use proper justification for these requests as a community, does this mean it will always fall by the wayside so long as the minister personally doesn't believe the arguments the community is trying to use? Is that how I should understand it? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Right now, I continue to maintain our position. The current day-to-day operations in Pond Inlet can easily be handled by the conservation officer there. The employee was unable to conduct his duties during his sickness, but he seems to be back to normal and we believe he has the capability for that. If we can get

notification from the member or the people of Pond Inlet when he is overloaded, we can help out, but we don't have any funding in place to get another conservation officer other than the one for the community of Arviat.

With your permission, my deputy minister can elaborate on that, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Arreak. Mr. Akeegok.

Mr. Akeegok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We review the communities to find out what is happening. We have employees who work here in the department and they assist us to find out what communities are doing in regard to their conservation officers. Sometimes there are different things that are brought out, especially dangerous polar bears that come into the communities. If they need help, we can provide that. The day-to-day operations are reviewed every year with our departmental staff to find out from the communities themselves.

We hear what the member is saying and we will review what is happening in Pond Inlet. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Akeegok. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Maybe the problem we have in our community or any community is that the department hears us, but they don't do anything about it. It's good to hear that they have good staff here in their department, but they don't have any good employees in the communities. I wish we could have the

luxury that your department has. We have a community that is growing. We just make our comments from the community and nothing is being done about it. It gets very frustrating if the government refuses our request. We don't understand each other that way.

Do we understand that they have staff in their department and can I say to my people of Pond Inlet not to expect another conservation officer? Thank you.

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

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for understanding our position as a department because we can't provide another conservation officer this year for Pond Inlet. However, we will keep this open. Whenever they need some assistance, we will try to provide it from other communities through a conservation officer or just hire somebody from Pond Inlet. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Arreak. I think Mr. Enook was done. Ms. Ugyuk.

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In Taloyoak, we had a conservation officer for some time. There were supposed to be two conservation officers, but they only have one in Taloyoak.

When someone wants to work as a conservation officer in another community, there is no housing available. We had a student apply for that position in Taloyoak, but there was

no housing available, so that applicant couldn't move there to assume their position. Further, Gjoa Haven has a vacant conservation officer position, but again due to the lack of housing, the position can't be filled. Now, with Taloyoak, there are two positions available, but housing isn't available. I believe that we can work towards resolving this.

There are good positions set to assist our community, but they remain vacant due to the lack of housing. This applies to our teachers, conservation officers, and probation officers. Lack of staff housing is causing problems within our communities. Students from several courses have applied for the positions, but the lack of housing continues to be the barrier. How is your department trying to meet this challenge, both in Taloyoak and Gjoa Haven? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the member for her question. However, I don't have the details, so I can't respond to it. I would ask that Mr. Pinksen be allowed to respond to that question. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Arreak. Mr. Pinksen.

Mr. Pinksen: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's correct that the GN does have some shortages in staff housing and, in a number of cases, it has delayed staffing. It's correct in a number of communities. It's a certain reality for us that we have to deal with. Health

personnel do tend to get priority over some other staff. One of my staff has been lower down on the list when it comes to staffing priorities for access to housing and we just have to manage that.

What we have been doing is, when possible, we staff the person and put them temporarily in another community and they travel back and forth. That's one solution we have tried. In some cases, staffing is delayed until we can find a house. I wish we had more staff housing, but we have a limited amount. Thank you.

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

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are three vacant positions, one in Gjoa Haven and two in Taloyoak, which could really assist these communities, especially due to their association with wildlife. What are your plans and approximate dates for when housing would become available? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will have my Deputy Minister, Mr. Akeegok, respond to that question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Arreak. Mr. Akeegok.

Mr. Akeegok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The plans related to this question are being undertaken by Nunavut Housing Corporation employees as we have identified these

issues to them. Our expectations are that the staff housing units will become available next year. We continue to identify these issues with the Kitikmeot communities. There are vacancies due to the lack of housing, but we expect that some housing units will be constructed shortly down the road. However, we aren't constructing these units, but we continue to press for more housing and we continue to make requests for these units. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): I'm not really raising a question, but I want this to be taken into consideration. Many students take courses here in Iqaluit, especially students enrolled in the Environment Technology Program. A student in the course from Taloyoak would like that position, but they don't have housing available. This has to be carefully considered as we want local residents to have employment not just in government, but in all local employment opportunities. Since this can provide a benefit, it should be considered. Thank you. That's not a question. It's just a comment.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. Mr. Curley. I'm sorry. At this time, we have Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to ask the minister what the Department of Environment's role is. We had the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation before us and asked questions about the development partnership agreements when the mines are up and running. What role does the Department of

Environment play in that? Are they a partner at the table for the negotiations? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister Arreak.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We tell the Department of Economic Development and Transportation what kinds of things we're doing. We don't really have any partnership with that department. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was just waiting for the translation to catch up. According to what I just heard, the minister was saying that his department does not work with ED&T on the development partnership agreements. I was wondering why that would be.

When I sit down and I think about what is going to happen when a big project like Mary River happens, some of the concerns that have been brought up by community members is the caribou that people are worried about, at least from the north with Arctic Bay and down in Igloolik. In Hall Beach, it would be walrus and some other marine mammals down in Steensby.

My understanding of the way the development partnership agreement works is money is generated and money goes to the territory. There is the IIBA, which has nothing to do with the Government of Nunavut. In terms of monitoring, possibly, invasive species, with different flora and fauna showing

up, maybe walrus populations, is this not something that your department should be at the table to make sure... ?

Again, since we don't know what's in the IIBAs, something that would fall under the Department of Environment and the Government of Nunavut is to track and see what species we're either losing or gaining, whether populations are growing. If it is a mine that is going to be there between 20 and 100 years, I would hope that the department would have some slight interest in what is happening with the animal populations. Otherwise, we won't have any information to see what's there.

As Mr. Curley pointed out earlier, people who were born in 1940 might not be around in 20 years to call upon that traditional knowledge to see if it is there. We might need to rely on some other type of information to see what is happening with the animals. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. James Arreak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I meant to say that we give advice to ED&T on these issues, but we're not directly involved with them. If you will allow the Minister of ED&T to speak to it through you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Arreak. Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that question. Mr. Chairman, the development partnership agreement is negotiated after a project certificate is

issued to the developer. The project certificate identifies who all the departments are going to be monitoring. It's usually all the regulators all the way from the federal government, including Environment Canada. All the departments are involved. A development partnership agreement is after the fact, once a project certification has been given to the project proponent.

A development partnership agreement has only to do with fuel tax rebates. It's voluntary to the company and of course, it's got to be beneficial for both the proponent and the Government of Nunavut. We try and include the eight principles, which are training, employment, infrastructure needs, and so forth, but it has really very little to do with monitoring of wildlife because that's already stipulated within the project certification for the proponent. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that answer. The next question I wanted to ask is in regard to and I know we're under corporate management in terms of policies and planning for the department. If the Department of Environment is going to be doing research in one of the areas across the territory, does the Government of Nunavut have to follow the same process as a researcher outside of the territory? By that, I mean: do they go to the Nunavut Research Institute to apply for a research permit and then, if so, do they have to follow through under the NIRB process? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Elliott.
Minister Arreak.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation):
Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will have
my Assistant Deputy Minister, Mr.
Pinksen, respond to the question. Thank
you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you,
Minister Arreak Mr. Pinksen.

Mr. Pinksen: Thank you, Mr.
Chairman. I think there may have been
three separate questions. The first was: is
research by the Government of Nunavut
subject to the same conditions and
process? The answer is yes. When one of
our research projects goes forward, there
are requirements for permits and
consultations. Our projects are subject to
the same process.

I think the second part was about
whether our projects have to go through
a NIRB screening for research projects.
The answer is that some do and some
don't because we negotiate exemptions
for minor issues. Normally they would
go through NIRB for review, but to
reduce the volume of minor things going
through NIRB, we would negotiate
exemptions as per the land claims, which
allows for exemptions.

I believe I may have missed the final
part of your question. My apologies if
there was a final part. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you,
Mr. Pinksen. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
No, that covered all three in terms of I
was just curious to find out if we had to,
as a government, follow the NIRB

process, but I believe the answer does
help.

In terms of projects, such as counting
caribou populations and tracking polar
bear populations, do the same processes
have to follow in terms of those
considered and classified as research or
are those just day-to-day businesses of
the department? Thank you, Mr.
Chairman.

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

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation):
Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will have
Mr. Pinksen respond to that question.
Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you,
Minister Arreak. Mr. Pinksen.

Mr. Pinksen: Thank you again. All of
our research projects, whether it be
counting caribou or polar bears or
collecting samples, require permitting.
Therefore, they go through the same
review process. Thank you, Mr.
Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you,
Mr. Pinksen. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
For the different types of research
projects, what kind of consultation... ? I
believe you had mentioned there was a
consultation portion in terms of
consulting communities. How does the
Government of Nunavut do that? Thank
you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Elliott.
Minister Arreak.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will have Mr. Pinksen respond to that question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Arreak. Mr. Pinksen.

Mr. Pinksen: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We do require consultations before we issue a research permit and it doesn't matter if you're a GN researcher or a non-GN researcher. There is a consultation requirement. The proponents are required to inform affected communities, normally through the HTOs, sometimes one community and sometimes multiple communities.

If communities raise concerns about the project, we normally would ask the researcher to address those concerns. In the vast majority of cases, the research project is adjusted to meet community concerns. We do conduct those consultations at each case. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Pinksen. I have no more names on my list for I-4. (interpretation ends) Environment. Branch Summary. Corporate Management. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$4,325,000. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. While we are on I-4, I would like to ask a question. Can you give me an opportunity to ask a question on I-4? My question is about compensation for damaged equipment. For instance, when someone lost their hunting equipment, there was about \$80,000 in funding for compensation. They want to change it to about \$40,000. It used to be in the amount of \$80,000.

Why do you want to change it to about \$40,000? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Enook. Your question is on I-5, (interpretation ends) Program Management. (interpretation) So if you can wait until we get to the next page. I have no more names on my list for I-4. (interpretation ends) Environment. Branch Summary. Corporate Management. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$4,325,000. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. We are on I-5. The first name that I have is Mr. Curley and then it will be Mr. Enook's turn. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you. They talk about the stakeholders who get funding grants and contributions. I think they're talking about the HTOs that get grants and contributions. Does the government have any concerns about the money that is being given to HTOs? It's very inadequate. They want to get permits and they want to do research, but the HTOs don't have any funding or their funding is inadequate. Do we know exactly what kind of workload they have when they are helping out the government department? Is it just community projects? I would like to find out what kind of workload they have. Thank you.

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

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. They get a small contribution from the Government

of Nunavut, but in the land claims agreement, they do get financial support from the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board. It's a requirement for them to provide funds. I can get my deputy to supplement my response, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Arreak. Mr. Akeegok.

Mr. Akeegok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To supplement the response, we provide these funds on a yearly basis. It is now through an agreement and we supplement that. If there is a requirement to make a report, we pay for their honorarium through another avenue of funds. For the yearly contribution, it is \$120,000 that is not only provided by the Government of Nunavut, but also the federal government. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you. (interpretation) It seems like there has been a slight change. When was the last time you made an increment? Of course, you need the help of the HTOs when you've got a project going. When was the last time there was an increase in the funds that are provided to the HTOs? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There has not been an increase in the funding provided since it was established. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you. (interpretation) In your opening statement, there is a requirement to increase the funds of the departmental budgets, but with the growing roles and responsibilities of the hunters and trappers organizations, there has never been an increase. Are we going to see it at the same level forever? Thank you.

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

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We provide \$125,000 in total to the hunters and trappers organizations. I'll have Mr. Pinksen supplement that response. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Arreak. Mr. Pinksen.

Mr. Pinksen: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I felt that we don't have to say this to everybody, but the territorial government provided funding for HTOs prior to the signing of the land claims. That was their only real source of funding, but with the signing of the land claims, the responsibility for funding HTOs became a federal responsibility and the government has not provided any additions to that because it's now a federal responsibility. However, the GN is a part of negotiations to support increased funding for HTOs and those negotiations are currently ongoing to seek adequate funding for HTOs through Canada. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you. Anyway, I'm going to switch to English because I don't think it's all that specifically clear about funding.

The only reason that there was a reference in the agreement is that there was a need to coordinate workloads and services to include community hunters and trappers organizations at that time. We called them hunters and trappers associations prior to the land claims agreement. In order to develop consistencies so that all communities have local organizations, the new term was used, "HTOs," so that they are properly registered and they are properly established.

It was never, ever mentioned that the role and relationship with the GN and the HTO was now "dumped" over to the federal government. That was never the intent. The intent was to make sure these organizations are registered. If it didn't do that, they probably would still not be properly registered and, therefore, functioning, as there were many organizations that were not properly registered prior to the land claims agreement was signed. I was there, so I'm aware of that.

In order to make sure that they were properly registered and functioning, the land claims negotiators took it upon themselves to make sure that they wouldn't pay, but in terms of the workloads, I don't think it's the GN. The GN is not given any less responsibility to ensure funding is adequate. The workloads have increased. No organization can function with \$120,000 overhead if that includes personnel. That's about one individual within the government's average job cost or salary.

I'm going to move on. When dealing with the program funding like the community harvest support program, again that hasn't changed from about roughly \$1,000 per community. We always talk about "We're going to use poverty reduction," yet the community harvest allowance is only \$1,000. When can we expect Nunavut community members to have a bit more community allowance funds increase and, if that is going to happen, when will that be? Thank you.

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

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We're not prepared to make an increment to the funding we provide to the HTOs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Mr. Chairman, perhaps I will ask him directly. With the community hunters facing many challenges, such as cold weather or when the caribou are long distances away, or other species that are being sought, specifically community-related hunting or fishing trips, can this matter be taken into consideration given the cost of supplies?

I don't want the government to forget that everything seems to get more expensive. I know for a fact that real hunters who are more prone to success are stuck in the communities since they can't afford the purchase costs of snowmobiles, outboard motors, or boats. There is no place to turn for assistance. There is no program available. They

don't qualify for bank loans. How can we provide more assistance to these real hunters, those who are more capable, but who can't afford to purchase the equipment?

If a hunter is going to buy hunting equipment, he will have to have at least 4 percent, actually one-quarter of the amount for purchase as a down payment. How can we provide some assistance to those truly in need? Should they continue to have no expectations of financial assistance from the Nunavut government to purchase these items? They can only turn to outside sources, such as banks. Thank you.

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

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We would like to give financial support to the hunters, but we do have an agreement. We have no plans to increase the funds, but Mr. Akeegok can supplement my response, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Arreak. Mr. Akeegok.

Mr. Akeegok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With the community contributions, we will keep this program going. To date, we haven't made any changes to the amount. There is a plan to review the program under our business plan and the hunters' responsibility is to buy their own hunting equipment. We don't have a program for hunting equipment, but there are programs available through the environment section regarding selling of pelts and so on, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you. Mr. Chairman, I understand that we are limited in providing funding, but there has been a lot of hype about poverty reduction policies and programs put in place. The best poverty reduction initiative is to give Nunavutmiut hunters some independence. If they regain their independence rather than depending on the government through income support, they can be better off in providing for their families.

The policy of this government is that the wealthier you are in Nunavut in terms of having a business, the more support you get from this government. If you are not qualified for business grants and assistance, you are at the mercy of the banks or local vendors, Co-ops or Northern, and they will charge you 28 percent for any equipment you buy. I always say that a hunter may end up tripling that amount because he has been defaulting on his payments.

(interpretation) How will our fellow Nunavutmiut be able to purchase boats or outboard motors or snowmobiles, for example, when we're not relying on dog teams anymore? I'm keeping my questions as brief as possible. Thank you.

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

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the question. Our hunters work very hard to have adequate supplies. NTI has the Harvester Support Program, but the government does not provide any

financial support directly to the hunters for hunting equipment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you. (interpretation) But (interpretation ends) it is our choice as a government and the cabinet. The choice is up to us. The land claims agreement does not prevent the government from doing additional or enhancing any other programs that exist. The NTI program is really not enough. It's under-funded. It's probably depleted now. It doesn't stop the government from doing any new initiatives.

I can give you an example. The government can choose to provide interest-free loans or it can just agree to pay the interest charges of any machines that they buy and help them out. I can tell you that if I was a cabinet minister and I relocated to Iqaluit, I would have my mortgage expenses covered by the government. Is there a policy? No. We can't do a thing for hunters. Is that what I'm hearing the minister say? Thank you.

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

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The government provides monies through different programs, such as the compensation program they have, should there be equipment damaged or destroyed. I can't say that we don't provide any financial support. We provide support through other programs. I will have Mr. Akeegok supplement my response. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Arreak. Mr. Akeegok.

Mr. Akeegok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under our department, we don't have anything directly related to subsidizing hunting equipment like snowmobiles, but we do provide subsidies through other programs. There is a business incentive through Economic Development that can provide financial support, but under Environment, we don't have anything directly related to providing a subsidy for hunting equipment and we don't have a hunter support program. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you. I understand your response and I thank you, but I think we need to provide more financial assistance to the people of Nunavut. There is not enough support provided by the government. We have to look at innovative ways on how we can provide more subsidies. There has to be a lead minister representing the hunters so that their case can be fought for and their real needs can be met. Many of these programs are antiquated and we should make improvements to the system in place.

Hunters also have expectations of assistance much like business owners who are eligible for their programs. (interpretation ends) Whether you be a co-op, a large company, a small company, a medium-size company, there are many Inuit hunters too who are looking for help. To say that we can't do anything and we're satisfied with what

we have is really not acceptable in the long run.

I will have other questions later with respect to some of the items, so I will close for now. I know my time has exhausted. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister, would you like to comment on that? Minister Arreak.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Those were sage words of advice that we can take into consideration. We won't just toss them aside and if we have room for improvements, we will try to take action. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I had an earlier question I want to ask again, but prior to asking it, I would like some clarification on the written material here. With respect to fisheries, it speaks of supporting a multi-year research program on fish resources with assistance from the fisheries and oceans department of Canada. It also speaks of marketing assistance for growing fisheries throughout Nunavut or something along those lines, as I am directly reading from the English version. Can an answer be provided to clarify the situation for us Nunavummiut? What does this mean exactly? What is the purpose of this fine program? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Perhaps Mr. Pinksen can respond to that question. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Arreak. Mr. Pinksen.

Mr. Pinksen: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We're just clarifying the question. If I understood the question correctly, it is: what are the activities of the Fisheries Division under the Fisheries Development and Diversification Program? This is a very broad program that provides support to fisheries development; fisheries stock assessments. It has included actively fishing as well as the purchase of licensing and fisheries vessels.

I don't know if I got the entire question, so I better leave it there and I'll provide additional information if there's clarification needed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Pinksen. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I apologize as I don't think he got the gist of my question. I will try to make it clear, so let me speak to the issue in Inuktitut for clarity's sake.

The department is "Supporting major multi-year Arctic char research project with Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) aimed at increasing commercial supply in all regions." What is the scope of work exactly entailed in this program? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that clarification. I'll have Mr. Pinksen respond to the question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Arreak. Mr. Pinksen.

Mr. Pinksen: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The project aims to work with Fisheries and Oceans and several other stakeholders to improve access to fish, including doing stock assessments, getting ideas of stock size, and to support marketing efforts. So it is to increase the supply of fish available for commercial usage and to increase and improve markets. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Pinksen. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that response. Are select communities going to be surveyed or are you going to be including all the communities? How long is this project for? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will have Mr. Akeegok respond to that question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Arreak. Mr. Akeegok.

Mr. Akeegok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have not selected any of the communities yet, but

if you would like further information, we are available. We will not be able to include all the communities under this project. The Department of Fisheries and Oceans has to do assessments on inland fish. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Akeegok. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If the communities want to participate, they can contact you. Has this project been started yet and how many communities have asked to be a part of this project? How does it work? Do the communities have to make that request? Have there been any requests? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Enook. You may respond again, Mr. Akeegok, as it is on the same subject. Mr. Akeegok.

Mr. Akeegok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Some communities have started this project. There is more demand for turbot. If the communities are interested, we would like to hear from them. We're looking at the communities.

From what I can remember, there is one study being done near Cape Dorset. NTI and DFO are participating there. There are Igloolik and Hall Beach fish being sent to the Rankin Inlet fish plant. This project is growing. There is more and more demand for our fish, and we are very pleased that it is going very well.

If the communities have not heard about this project, they can take the initiative and contact us. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Akeegok. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think I understand that all communities have been informed about this project. This is very interesting and it is going to affect all the communities of Nunavut. Even if we don't take the initiative or ask questions, is it possible to ask the minister to keep us updated on this project? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we can provide that information to the members. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will be expecting that information from the minister.

I would like to go back to my first question, Mr. Chairman, if you allow me. I stated that there was an amount of \$80,000 for compensation of hunting equipment, but they're trying to decrease it to \$40,000. Can we get some information as to why that amount has been reduced? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, it used to be in the amount of \$80,000 for loss of equipment by hunters and for

replacement of equipment. This was for equipment destroyed by wildlife. It has been reduced because we use the amount of money for equipment destroyed by wildlife. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Why is it being reduced by \$40,000? Does it have anything to do with that \$80,000 that was allotted not being used completely or does it have something to do with more polar bears destroying equipment? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The member is right. They didn't request that amount from that funding, so some of them have been allotted for the animals destroying the equipment. I can have Mr. Pinksen elaborate on that response. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Arreak. Mr. Pinksen.

Mr. Pinksen: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's correct that the \$80,000 budget for disaster compensation was not being used completely; it was being used about a little less than half. A lot of the claims were denied because they were wildlife damage claims or bear damage. We identified a need to create a program to deal with damage by wildlife, in particular, bears.

We created two new programs. One is the Wildlife Damage Compensation

Program, which compensates individuals for wildlife damage. There is another similar program that is the Wildlife Damage Prevention Program, which provides individuals with financial support to prevent wildlife damage. So the \$40,000 was removed from the Disaster Compensation Program and used to partially fund these two new programs, with some additional new money we put in there. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Pinksen. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We hear many times that the government has compensation programs, but you can't access them. That's what the public is saying. When a person wants to get some compensation, they have so many forms to fill out. They just give up because all of the paperwork that they have to go complete. There is funding available, but people just give up on them. It seems like they don't want the hunters to have that money. What compensation can I get if my machinery is no longer working? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have that money available. We're not trying to stop people from getting that funding, but we have rules with respect to getting funding from that money. There are forms to fill out, but if they don't get approved, they can keep on applying for some funding for equipment loss. Perhaps I can get Mr. Pinksen to

elaborate further. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Arreak. Mr. Pinksen.

Mr. Pinksen: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are two compensation programs. One is called the Disaster Compensation Program and it compensates individuals for equipment losses due to natural disasters, so major storms and incidents of that nature. To qualify for that program, an individual has to earn a portion of their income from harvesting and there is a process to go through to figure that out. It is 25 percent; it is quite low. That's a statutory number that comes from the Workers' Safety and Compensation Act.

The second program compensates individuals for damage to equipment and cabins. That is for damage caused by polar bears and there are no income requirements for that one.

Those are the two types of compensation available from the Department of Environment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Pinksen. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So that we don't go all over the place, I just want to let everybody know that I'm only talking about disaster compensation, the weather-related compensation of equipment. I will ask questions on the other one later on. I just want to get some clarification to my question. What does environmental compensation consist of? What would have to happen

before I can get compensation? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will have Mr. Pinksen respond to that question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Arreak. Mr. Pinksen.

Mr. Pinksen: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The process is that when somebody suffers a loss, they would fill out an application form. It is short; it is about two pages, not many lines on it. They would sign an affidavit to swear that the information is correct. The application goes to the conservation officer for review, and then to the local HTO for their comments. So there are two local steps for review, and then it goes to the regional manager. That's the process.

I'm not sure if I got the entire question. I guess I didn't get the question.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Pinksen. I think Mr. Enook was actually looking for what programs or what item could fall under disaster compensation. Mr. Pinksen, maybe you can, then, answer the question.

Mr. Pinksen: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for that clarification. A natural disaster would be one that's nature-caused and not related to human error and judgment and not related to a breakdown. Somebody having an accident with a piece of equipment is not considered a natural disaster. Somebody

undertaking an activity that was acknowledged or could be seen to be very high-risk and high risk of loss would not be considered a natural disaster. Whereas something by an unavoidable weather event of that nature would be considered a natural disaster, but each application would still be assessed individually.

I hope that's better. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Pinksen. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you. If I properly understood that response, I can state unequivocally that if I were to apply for this program, I would never be approved for compensation, at least based on that criterion he spoke of. That is, if I understand the regulations as listed.

Let me provide this example. Men and real Inuit hunters tend to go to the floe edge all the time. If they were on ice that was sheared off and the pan became dislodged, where the hunters could return to fast ice, but they couldn't save their equipment and they were to lose the equipment, can they get compensated? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When the criterion was being listed, it included the specific wording, (interpretation ends) "high risk." (interpretation) That was the English word used as the basis. If the hunter continues to persist in continuing

even though the situation in all probability will occur, then that situation would be considered high risk and used as the reason for being ineligible for this program and would result in the decision to not approve their application. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you. Just so the ardent hunters of Nunavut will completely understand the matter, in my opinion, many real Inuit hunters don't go out for their own pleasure, but to provide sustenance for their family, their elders, and their communities at the floe edge, as this area always has the most wildlife, especially in the springtime. Here we are being told that if an incident were to occur in their search for this sustenance, they won't be eligible for any assistance whatsoever. Is this how I understand the program requirements? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Each case is reviewed individually when an application is submitted. They can continue to send applications through either way. I believe Mr. Pinksen can provide more details to supplement my response at your discretion. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Arreak. Mr. Pinksen.

Mr. Pinksen: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's not that they can't be

compensated for a loss at the floe edge. It would depend on the cause of the loss. We've had files where equipment was lost at the floe edge and it has been covered because of the nature of the incident.

For example, we've had losses at the floe edge where a major storm came up and equipment was lost because of what would be seen as a natural storm, whereas somebody at the floe edge who drives onto thin ice because of not being careful or whatever the case may be would probably not be compensated.

It depends on the incident, but it's not an across-the-board rule that something is covered or not covered. Each file is assessed on its specific circumstances. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Pinksen. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's kind of confusing when I try and ask questions. How can an individual get compensation from that fund? Hunting anywhere in Nunavut is high risk already because we don't know what's going to happen with the weather and the environment. They said that they couldn't get any funding, but because of the high risk, some of them can be considered. Is that what they said? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are some who can't be compensated while others can be compensated. We always say that if there is an accident and they

lose their equipment, they can fill out an application to try and get some compensation.

For those who have been refused, they can apply again and elaborate on exactly what happened for the department to reconsider the request for compensation. I encourage everyone to go ahead and try to get compensation from my department through the application process. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Arreak. (interpretation ends) I know that I will probably not get compensated for a real need to go to the washroom, so bear with me for a bit, Mr. Enook. I will not get compensated for wetting my pants. Mr. Enook, please.

>>*Laughter*

Mr. Enook: Alright.

Chairman (Mr. Enook): The chair is not wet at least. *Mamianaq*, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation) Maybe I'll have to put my name in again when he comes back. Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am glad the Chairman who just left also had environmental concerns.

Mr. Chairman, with the Department of Environment here and their Priorities (2012-13) on page 132, third bullet, it is talking about the Thelon and Kazan rivers keeping their Canadian Heritage management plans. With the status it notes that "further developments have been delayed due to Heritage Rivers IIBA on-going negotiations." I want to

ask: what are the causes of delays?
Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Pinksen can respond to that question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Pinksen: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The negotiations are still ongoing and the work is still ongoing. They're not completely stalled. They have been somewhat slowed by the NTI lawsuit against Canada for land claims implementation. Canada's enthusiasm for some things was slightly reduced by the lawsuit. There are some ongoing discussions with regional Inuit associations as well. There are a number of factors. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Pinksen. Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On page 133 of the business plan, the priorities for 2013-14, the third bullet indicates, "Complete negotiations for an Umbrella Inuit Impact and Benefits Agreement (IIBA) for Canadian Heritage Rivers in Nunavut." It's followed by the fourth bullet, "With the support of residents of Kugaaruk and Baker Lake," which would include Gjoa Haven, "develop formal Nomination Document for Utkuhiksalik (Back) River and present to the Canadian Heritage Rivers Board for consideration." Can the minister update the committee of the current status of the nomination of Back

River as a Canadian Heritage River?
Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Pinksen can respond to his question. Thank you.

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

Mr. Pinksen: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The discussions are ongoing, but fairly recently, the Kivalliq Inuit Association raised a number of concerns with the nomination of the Back River. We have met with them just last month to discuss those concerns and those discussions are ongoing. The concerns are related to possible impacts of a Heritage River nomination on development. Like I said, we met with them just last month and those discussions are ongoing. We are still pursuing the designation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Pinksen. Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the fact that the department does acknowledge that there was a letter submitted from the Kivalliq Inuit Association stating that it does not support the nomination of the Back River, "that it has significant economic potential."

There is some confusion from constituents as well as from myself that the process, priorities, as well as in the opening comments prior that the environmental assessments and

environmental concerns are for the benefit and the protection of Inuit in Nunavut under their land claims agreement. It appears to be that the regional Inuit organization opposes this based on the benefits of significant economic potential.

In noting that the letter was received and the department has indicated that they are still ongoing with the nomination of Back River, I am glad that that was documented for the record. I want to ask: has the department received any other such letter from any other Inuit representatives on the nomination? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To date, we have not received any further correspondence aside from the Kivalliq Inuit Association. They are the only ones we have received correspondence from on this matter. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Aupaluktuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I definitely will be consulting with my Baker Lake constituents in the hopes of resolving this issue and help them gain a full understanding. We will need to learn all the facts involved to come up with a solution and to determine whether there will be sufficient support for the nominations.

I know that the minister will be consulting with the residents of Baker

Lake. Mr. Chairman, it is rather obvious that my constituents in Baker Lake will speak about this matter. I know we will debate it in our community and I will continue to advocate on their behalf. For their understanding of this issue, I want to ask about real information to help us understand how this will be developed. I have no idea whether it will be supported. I know there will be opposing voices from some of the people of Baker Lake and they will make their opinions known.

In representing the people's wishes in Baker Lake, I wanted to raise this issue in the House. Although it is not a question, I am raising this issue to inform the residents of Baker Lake and to allow them an opportunity to be heard. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. It just seems like we're going to continue on with the Department of Environment. We can take a 15-minute break and have our coffee and tea. We will come back in 15 minutes. Thank you.

>>Committee recessed at 18:15 and resumed at 18:35

Chairman (Mr. Ningeongan) (interpretation): Thank you very much for coming back. We will go back to the department we were dealing with. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to start on page 129 of the Department of Environment's business plan for 2013-16. On it, there's the Nunavut Fisheries Training Consortium Program, \$150,000. I was just curious in terms of the funding that we provide if

that's specifically for training. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is specific to employees in that sector, including the training required for this purpose. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's also my understanding that part of the training that the participants do require some in-water exercises before they actually go out on the ships. They usually use the Iqaluit swimming pool, but I think the pool is not in service anymore. Is that going to incur higher costs or will they be asking the government for more money? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For a better response, I'll have Mr. Pinksen respond to your question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Arreak. Mr. Pinksen.

Mr. Pinksen: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The \$150,000 we contribute goes to the consortium and that's the core funding for their organization. They then access external funding for their projects, programs, and the training that they deliver. There may be an increase in

their costs because of lack of access to a local pool, but we will have to sort that out through the funding organizations, not through our funding.

I hope that's helpful. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Pinksen. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So we shouldn't expect a supplementary appropriation cost for extra costs incurred under this particular item. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have been informed that we won't require any further supplementary funds for this item. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Also, next I want to move on to the photographs that I tabled the other day which showed forty-four 45-gallon drums that showed up on the shore in Grise Fiord. I wonder if the minister could clearly explain what that fuel will be used for. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Akeegok can respond to that question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Arreak. Mr. Akeegok.

Mr. Akeegok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is for the polar bear population study that is to occur between Grise Fiord and Greenland. That is the purpose for these funds. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Akeegok. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So is this a Government of Nunavut project in terms of research? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It will be used for the work directly and we will work with Greenland during the polar bear survey. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the questions I asked earlier, the minister had stated that his department follows the same procedures as other organizations when doing research and whatnot. He said that they also consult the community. I'm just curious to find out. When the fuel actually arrived in Grise Fiord, the community did not know what it was for and why it had come to the community. Could the minister explain, if the process was followed, why the community did not know? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm sorry that they didn't know what that was going to be used for. Mr. Pinksen can further supplement my response. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Arreak. Mr. Pinksen.

Mr. Pinksen: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We did, of course, consult on the research project and the conduct of the research. Unfortunately, we did not consult on the storage of the fuel within the community. So while the research itself was not a surprise to the community, the arrival of the fuel was.

I am pleased to advise, however, that just yesterday, we identified an alternate fuel storage location within the community and the fuel is being moved in the next couple of days. So hopefully we have dealt with the issue. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Pinksen. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, with all of the different activities that are going on in the High Arctic, whether it's the North Bathurst Island, federal park that's going on or the marine sanctuary, you tend to see a lot of different NIRB applications and also decisions made by NIRB. Once the process is done, there is a huge document that comes out to the proponent who is applying. It talks about things like where food and fuel can be stored. It's quite a lengthy document.

My next question would be in terms of what the minister said earlier. Following the guidelines and NIRB, did NIRB actually specify that the Government of Nunavut Department of Environment was allowed to store 44 barrels of 45-gallon jet A1 fuel right in front of the conservation officer's office? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Pinksen can also respond to the question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Arreak. Mr. Pinksen.

Mr. Pinksen: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The storage of fuel within the municipality is outside of NIRB, so it wasn't a part of the NIRB process.

I can say that we have been storing drum fuel both within municipal boundaries and outside of municipal boundaries for literally decades. We've never had an incident with fuel. This is the first time that it was really raised as a concern by a community.

It came as a bit of a surprise in Grise Fiord, where the community raised concerns about the storage of drums of fuel in the community. We have been looking for an alternative and we very recently found one to having it stored on our own lot in the community. We found an alternate site. We will be looking at our fuel storage practices across Nunavut and making sure that we avoid similar situations. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Pinksen. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, I think it concerns me, especially with having three communities. One of the things that were explained to me, and this might sound really crazy, but when it was first presented to me, what happened in Grise Fiord is someone said, "What would happen if, by chance, 11 pallets with forty-four 45-gallon drums showed up on the shores of Toronto Harbour?" They were sitting there for six months, which I thank the minister for saying that it is being taken care of and will be moved to a safe and secure location, but what would happen in any other jurisdiction? Would it be acceptable to have 44 barrels of jet A1 fuel sitting on a shoreline for six months? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can't respond to a hypothetical question. We have been using this method of storing drums in the communities for years. This is the first time that there have been concerns, so we're going to be a little bit more cautious about where we place the oil drums in Nunavut, not in Toronto. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, I find it surprising that this is the Department of Environment that is supposed to be working towards protecting our environment that doesn't see this as a problem.

At the same time, there is a concern in Arctic Bay with about 20 barrels of 45-gallon drums of fuel that are sitting out by the tank farm. I think those were used for caribou counting. Again, of three communities, two communities do have concerns. There must be other communities out there that probably have the concern as well. It is nice that the department is looking into it, but what changes will the department make? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We're currently drafting up some changes. I will have Mr. Akeeagok supplement my response. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Arreak. Mr. Akeeagok.

Mr. Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) In the Arctic Bay case, the member is correct that it is for a caribou survey. Each situation is different. In cases, for example, in Arctic Bay, the plan is for conservation officers to transport them to the location where the helicopter will be going.

It has been past practice where once we see the drums, they go to locations where it would be most convenient for our staff to relocate. In some cases, it's one that we may go incident by incident. In some communities, we've got good arrangements of moving them to other parts of town. It all varies, but it's very difficult to manage that.

In terms of the drums and the concerns on the environment, for those, we do have mitigation plans if any spill happens, but in the history of research that we used, we utilized the drums as the most safe and economical way of transporting it. So when we do research, those are used for helicopters to fill them up on their way to their research site.

(interpretation) I think that's it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Akeeagok. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm just a little concerned. I know I used a hypothetical example, but even as a homeowner, before a homeowner could get insurance for their home, I think we're incurring the costs through the Nunavut Housing Corporation where double-walled tanks have to be now installed on houses to make sure there are no environmental spills or fuel spills. So homeowners actually have to do that before they can get their annual insurance, yet it seems like with the Department of Environment, because it's difficult, there are different rules.

What recourse of action could a hamlet have? I sometimes think, as a department of the environment, we would set the bar a little bit higher in terms of environmental protection and the way we handle things. If this is the way the Department of Environment does it, well, what's stopping a contractor coming up, bringing 44 barrels, leaving them on the shore, and saying, "Well, we will just leave them there."? I would think that would be your department that would jump in and

say "Wait a minute. That shouldn't be there on the shore."

Is that what would happen if a contractor actually brought up a whole bunch of barrels and said, "We're just going to leave them here and we will move them in six months."? I don't quite understand why there are different rules between government and business. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Elliott. (interpretation ends) You're almost neighbouring in a hypothetical situation. Minister Arreak.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As per an earlier response to the member, the department has contingency plans for a variety of accidents and our course of action to meet those event challenges. I believe that Mr. Akeeagok can provide more details in responding to that question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Arreak. Mr. Akeeagok.

Mr. Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) There are no different rules for our department or the others. There are regulations in terms of how much barrels you can store and there's a threshold before you start making a berm from these. In terms of regulations, it's 50 barrels. If you're going to store 50 barrels in one spot, then you will have to build a berm and make sure it's secure. There's leeway for the storage of drums and we can provide the regulations.

In terms of which actual regulation it is, it's regulated quite well and it's one that

we do keep an eye on. Our department is no different when it comes to the storage of barrels and we comply within those regulations. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Akeegok. (interpretation ends) Mr. Elliott, did you signal that you're done? Okay. Ms. Ugyuk.

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On page 125 of the business plan, one of the priorities for 2015-16 is that they will undertake polar bear population surveys of the McClintock Channel.

I know that the estimated polar bear population is too low. We are starting to adopt foreign policies, but usually our big issues are dealt with by the HTOs. What they usually do is pull out a name of a person who is going to go out hunting. If you want to have a young man catch a polar bear for the first time, we would do that in Inuit customs.

Regarding the McClintock Channel, there has been a moratorium set up on the harvesting of polar bears. Can the minister indicate if there has been polar bear surveys conducted by his department since 2001 and, if so, what were the results? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Regarding the pulling of names, that is at the discretion of the communities and it's not set up by our department or the Government of Nunavut. It is at the

discretion of the communities on how they select names for polar bear hunts.

We had meetings in Gjoa Haven, Taloyoak, and Cambridge Bay, and we have negotiated, I think, in January of this year that we are looking at doing another polar bear survey in 2014-15. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. From what I understand, Cambridge Bay and Gjoa Haven take turns. One year, it was Cambridge Bay and then Gjoa Haven the following year. I understand that completely. You didn't respond to the imposed ten-year moratorium on the harvesting of polar bears in the McClintock Channel. How many more years remain before that moratorium is lifted? Thank you.

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

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can't tell you when that it's going to be lifted, but there has to be a polar bear survey in 2014. Once that is done, NWMB will decide how they're going to deal with it, whether there is going to be an increase on the quota or whether the ten-year moratorium will be lifted. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you. The moratorium will stay on, if I understood correctly. In the agreement, it states that after seven years, they will

do a polar bear survey around the McClintock Channel. Is that correct?
Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We can't say at this point, but after the polar bear survey, the HTOs are the ones who say how many polar bears they can catch in that area. Mr. Pinksen can supplement my response. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Arreak. Mr. Pinksen.

Mr. Pinksen: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There is an agreement with the community. It is called an MOU, a memorandum of understanding. Those MOUs have been in place now for 12 years and we're just starting negotiations this year with all communities to replace those MOUs. That's one thing that's happening this year. The second, as the minister informed the Assembly momentarily ago, is we have just started discussions with the community two months ago, in January, proposing that we do a research project starting in the year 2014-15. Those are the two initiatives we have in the McClintock Channel area at the present time.

I hope that covers some of your questions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For the moratorium that was set in place, under section 2.9, they were (interpretation ends) to hold

management meetings with representatives of all the parties of this MOU at least once every seven years to review the update information and set direction for continuing management of polar bears. This is in regard to the McClintock Channel. (interpretation) Have they had meetings regarding the moratorium in Taloyoak? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will have Mr. Pinksen respond to that question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Arreak. Mr. Pinksen.

Mr. Pinksen: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wish I had a copy of the MOU with me like the member has. We have had ongoing discussions with the HTOs in the region, at the regional level mostly, but also with our headquarters staff. The communities have asked a number of times about getting a survey completed so that we can update the information we have available. This year, we're finally able to plan for that for next year.

I hope that covers the answer. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm sorry that you don't have a copy of the agreement, but when we sign an agreement, we believe that they're going to be followed through by

all parties, including the government. Do they not want to do it or is it because they're concerned about the polar bear population that they have delayed this process? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's not that they don't want to. It's because they want to do a thorough job. Right now, we're currently working on the Baffin Bay population. Once that's completed, we will then turn our attention to that region. Another population study is ongoing in the Kane Basin zone. Once both of these studies have concluded, we're planning the next area and we have started discussions with the communities in that management zone.

The process will start in 2014-15 to initiate the population study. It will only be after the conclusion of this study that the quota issue will be considered and that will be the responsibility of the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board. There would also be room to negotiate if the study concludes that the population is healthy enough to be part of the management zone agreements for harvesting polar bears. It's not because we're reticent to conduct the population study, as it is currently being planned out for the future. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Another matter is (interpretation ends) the Government of Nunavut's proposed action plan (interpretation) for the McClintock

Channel. With respect to the press release from the government, a particularly noticeable wording inclusion states, (interpretation ends) "Meat Sharing: Under its Community Organized Hunt program, the Department of Sustainable Development will make available funding during the moratorium period to transport polar bear meat to Gjoa Haven from other communities." (interpretation) Was this instituted? If so, how many times did the government transport polar bear meat to the community of Gjoa Haven? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This particular press release the member is referring dates back to May 30, 2002. At this time, I don't have any updated information on any shipments. We don't have that information handy, but we will do some research to find that information and it will have to be answered after that is done. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for committing to providing that information. I was referring to a GN 2001 press release. It states that Gjoa Haven residents would receive shipments of polar bear for their consumption. That was the plan back in 2001.

My second question relates to the Gulf of Boothia, immediately offshore of

Taloyoak, where Gjoa Haven has been allocated five tags, but they have to first bypass Taloyoak in order to access the polar bear population where the tags are available. What type of assistance does the government provide Gjoa Haven prospective polar bear hunters to access those tags in the Gulf of Boothia? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll have Mr. Pinksen respond to that question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Arreak. Mr. Pinksen.

Mr. Pinksen: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We don't have any direct funding program that funds that community specifically, but there are various ways that they can access funding. We do have a community hunt program that they can apply to, which I don't think they already have. Regionally, there's an allocation of the community harvesters assistance program. They can use that. So there are a number of sources of funding that the HTO can use, but in terms of specifically using those five bear tags, we don't have any program that relates to those tags. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is there any possibility of a program to assist Gjoa Haven residents who may wish to travel to the Gulf of Boothia since gasoline is quite expensive

these days? The hunters who are pursuing the polar bears for these tags must first pass through Taloyoak in order to continue onto the hunting grounds. Let me ask this question first: how many of these tags are successfully harvested? Let's use last year as an example for the tags used by the residents of Gjoa Haven for the Gulf of Boothia harvesting zone. Thank you.

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

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The community can get some assistance if they want to go to the Gulf Boothia and it is called the (interpretation ends) community organized hunt. (interpretation) It is about \$45,000 annually. We don't have the information on how many polar bear tags that they can get to go to the Gulf of Boothia. We can provide the member with that answer as soon as it is available. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Starting in 2015-16, how many years will they be doing a polar bear survey? That was about an estimate of four years. Looking at the MOU, they have been delayed. Can you make it a little bit sooner than that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. They're trying to finish both the Kane Basin and

Baffin Bay polar bear population surveys currently and this is the final year to conclude these studies. This study has been moved up a year, as it was originally set for 2015-16, but it has been moved to 2014-15. It will take upwards of two years to conclude the polar bear population study in that area. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The questions I have relate to two matters, with my first question relating to an issue brought up earlier when you were reading about the Nuliajuk research ship and the associated research program. Within the budget line items, I imagine that it will be covered later on. However, I wanted to find out about issue of our arctic sharks, Greenland sharks to be exact. Why do we need a survey for the sharks? They aren't particularly useful and don't constitute a food item for Nunavutmiut. My question is: why a Greenland shark survey? Thank you.

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

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Indeed, the ship, Nuliajuk, has continued to conduct research in Nunavut waters. They are focusing on the three communities that were mentioned earlier. Once the surveys are completed in those offshore zones, then they will move onto other survey zones.

With respect to the Greenland sharks, they are, indeed, one of the listed species for surveying purposes. Perhaps Mr.

Akeeagok can provide further details. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Arreak. Mr. Akeeagok.

Mr. Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. They are doing research on sharks because it has to do with turbot. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you. It seems like a meaningless undertaking as far as I am concerned when the federal government has already conducted similar surveys. It seems to be a waste of taxpayer funds because it will not make any difference to do such research. (interpretation ends) It's a waste of a lot of money as far I'm concerned.

(interpretation) I just want to learn how different the summer gear is from the winter gear for fishing. That research is done on the ocean bottom if they will be fishing in summer. Does it really have to be conducted that way in order to fish for turbot during summer or do they just want to fish in summer close to the same area they do winter fishing and will that suffice? I would appreciate being informed on that question. Thank you.

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

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The shark survey that is being conducted is considered valuable and to determine how to reduce their being taken as by-catch as the turbot fishermen don't like

catching sharks. I believe Mr. Pinksen can address the rest of the member's question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Arreak. Mr. Pinksen.

Mr. Pinksen: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't know if I got the entire question, but I'll do my best.

A lot of the shark research is for two reasons. One is that sharks are a major predator on turbot and a part of it is to get a better understanding of the relationship between the sharks and the turbot and how that works. Another reason is that sharks are a major impact on fishermen because they destroy a lot of fishing equipment and the sharks are getting caught on the turbot lines and destroying a lot of gear. So there are two particular reasons that are important to gain a lot more information about the sharks. That's a lot of the reasoning behind that.

There was a question, and I think I got it, on winter versus summer fisheries. As the members may be aware, almost the entire inshore turbot fishery in Nunavut, in Cumberland Sound, has been a winter fishery and they developed the skills and technology for that. But they have not developed the summer fishery, an open water fishery, by boat and the Greenlanders have done so. They have begun a very successful open water fishery by boat. The summer versus winter work was to start the transfer of that knowledge and equipment technology from Greenland to Nunavut to help develop more of a year-round operation for us instead of only in the winter.

I hope that answers some of the questions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you. *Iksivautaaq*, I was primarily looking for answers to how to prevent the predator from picking on captive prey. As far as the summer versus winter techniques, most of all the fish in the world is harvested in summer. What more techniques do you need to ensure there is an economic potential for our resource when, in fact, the techniques are applied throughout the world? Thank you.

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

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The member is correct in his observation, but summer fishing has never been done in the Pangnirtung area for turbot. We will be able to use the technique from Greenland. The people of Pangnirtung will be using that technique and they had some kind of a workshop in the summer. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you. I appreciate that. Mr. Chairman, what I'm trying to get at is Canada has a turbot industry, I believe, south of 60, and so on. What is wrong with the techniques that they use? Are they completely foreign to Nunavut, the possibility of using a summer fishery? Thank you.

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

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Because the people of Greenland live in a northern climate, we share some of the water. I will get Mr. Pinksen to elaborate on that response. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Arreak. Mr. Pinksen.

Mr. Pinksen: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. A major part of the reason is that much of the east coast turbot fishery in southern Canada is pursued by large vessels using otter trawls, bottom gear, and gillnets. Many times over the years, the community of Pangnirtung has expressed concerns about those methods being used near shore. In fact, sometimes they have passed community resolutions against those sorts of things in near-shore areas.

The technology that the Greenland fishermen are using and that we have been trying to do research on for use in Nunavut is small boat fishing using hook and line. It is very similar to the winter fishing techniques, but using small vessels and not big offshore vessels. That's a large part of the reason. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Yes, these are very important, useful comments from the minister. (interpretation) I would also like to thank his officials. Mr. Chairman, we had a meeting in regard to CITES, along with NTI. NTI has been working on it for quite some time.

It seems like there is going to be another meeting with the European Union. They said that scientific studies have to be done. I understood it to be that the scientific studies that are done by Canada are not adequate. What they wanted to do is to give that job to the committee for them to do a survey on the polar bears.

Is the minister going to have a strategy in place as to how they can do better surveys? They don't seem to believe the government management of polar bears. Does the minister have plans in place to do better work? Thank you.

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

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for his question. This is a concern of ours as well. During the time of the vote at Bangkok, 38 voted for this initiative, but they required a two-thirds majority vote out of the eligible countries in order to win. They had 38 votes, but they required 84 votes for this initiative to be implemented.

We will continue with our strategic planning on this issue. We know the next upcoming CITES meeting is in three years. Our previous plans were adequate, particularly the plans completed by our employees that really assisted our efforts, as Mr. Curley knows due to his attendance. As well, what we found out at that meeting will be used to plan out our next strategy which will be the focus over three years leading up to the next CITES meeting. We will not stop our strategic planning.

Our management of all our wildlife, including polar bears, will continue. We will continue the quota system, which has been in place for many years. That ensures the sustainable use of our wildlife species. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the minister. We don't want to underestimate the challenge that is there right in front of us right now because the opposition is a well-funded group and they're, no doubt, right now probably, engaging strategies and plans to win in the event that this issue is brought up again.

What I'm worried about is that we're going to have to find a way best to ensure that so-called scientific studies, whether they be surveys of polar bear populations, are credible. I can say in honesty that I think the one that was conducted in 2010 around South Kivalliq was not scientific, was not credible, but it was done on one recommendation that the polar bears in the Kivalliq are in such a state of compelling kind of case that they're going to disappear. That was completely false. I don't think that was a scientific statement at all.

So I would like to ask the minister: what is considered scientific if it's going to be accepted by the international community? Thank you.

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

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, indeed, we are well aware of the strengths and power of the opponents we faced. We won't underestimate them in the slightest. I would ask that Mr. Pinksen be allowed to respond to the question on the scientific validity issue, that is if you concur, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Arreak. Mr. Pinksen.

Mr. Pinksen: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's easy to define what science and what the scientific method is. It's much more difficult defend it and create it so that it's not attackable. So we can go out and do our research and whether or not it's open to attack is a question we can't answer now. You do your best and you design your survey, but all surveys can be attacked.

Certainly, with our research program, we're very proud of it. We think it has been very successful in Nunavut and we continuously work to improve it. We believe that in recent years, we have made improvements both in the quality of our work and in its acceptability to communities, including using at least two new methods that are reducing the handling of bears. It is gaining credibility in some respects.

We know we have an uphill battle to defend ourselves against external targets and influences who would like to see all hunting stopped. There is that group of people. There are people who want to see polar bear hunting stopped because of climate change. We've got an uphill battle, but we have also learned a lot these last two uplifting attempts by the

US. Hopefully, we can continue to all win. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you. Mr. Chairman, I think it's important that any scientific study with respect to polar bears should have credibility. They should be accredited, that they are actually credible, if we have to improve our licensing or permitting process, to ensure that scientists are actually proving something, not just hyping the pride of polar bears, which is normally considered science when they are assumptions. Assumptions, to me, are not science.

We need to define a protocol that can stand any challenge. If we're going to do that, what is it going to take? Is it going to take legislation, regulations, or techniques? The European Union believes, at one instance, with their proposal that appears to say to me that we should tag all existing polar bears and to prevent, for instance, illegal trade. I don't know what new methods we can take, but I think one is definitely to prevent fraudulent kinds of assessment of polar bears, even by accredited, so-called scientists from other provinces. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister Arreak, if you want to make a comment on that.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think we're going to have to work again in regard to polar bear surveys because we're going to keep on hunting polar bears.

In regard to trading of polar bear products, they must have a tag in place to trade them. They also must have a tag to find out where they are trading them to. We need to have a tracking system for them. We have to find out what other kinds of methods we can use to conduct polar bear surveys for people to believe that they are credible. We would like to have a better system in place to do polar bear surveys. The Nunavut government has been asked as to how they use the survey system.

I will have Mr. Akeeagok elaborate on my response. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Arreak. Mr. Akeeagok.

Mr. Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, it's good to hear what the member is saying. We will work to make the survey better. We will continue to work with the five countries conducting surveys that aren't currently working in conjunction with one another. We will explore ways to come to an agreement about this type of surveying method.

Some countries are close to agreement on these issues, as we continue to convey our message, and they have the exact same survey results, but they come up with other types of messages that they grasp from the numbers. We ought to first come to an agreement on which species or populations are possibly in threatened states. If there is data stating that polar bears are declining in a certain population, people quickly classify the whole species as being threatened. However, based on our knowledge, certain populations are growing and

others are in decline. The populations are all different.

We have to work with these different organizations on a common message and in partnership and try to be on the same page with everything. The survey results can be manipulated for a whole variety of messages. We have to ensure that we try to correct this aspect of our approach. I am also thankful to the member for outlining this particular issue. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you. I also thank him because we were over there, whatever the name of the place was, during the initiative by the United States to up-list the polar bears to the top level of threatened status, to the third level. If that had passed, all international trade in polar bear skins would be banned. They would only be sold in Canada. This would have resulted in the fall in polar bear prices.

Also, Canada is often accused, especially by Russia, of over-harvesting the polar bears, that it is causing the prices to rise, and that this system is being abused due to these high prices. At least here in Canada, most Inuit don't commit criminal acts, especially as it relates to polar bears, as it is culturally important.

Now, with the assistance of the minister, perhaps we can work with the federal government to inform the Russians that their polar bear population probably constitutes the second largest population in the world besides Canada and that they ought to first fix their own

management system, as many polar bears are poached in Russia and then sold.

I doubt any poached skins are from Canada. Perhaps the minister can convey this message, maybe through the Arctic Council, as an urgent matter. Canada was being accused while Russia was being ignored about poaching polar bears. Thank you.

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

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Although this was the accusation from the Russians, we can check further to see if there is any substantiation to this accusation. We want to also find out if Canada's polar bears are being poached for criminal activities. We can definitely do some investigation along with our federal counterparts, especially when dealing with foreign issues, as we can only work through them. We can try to do that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was so grateful that you had to step out for a bit and I now have another 10 minutes.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to return to whether there can be any type of assistance provided to hunters. I just want an explanation of some details and how our people can be given assistance in cases of equipment loss due to factors beyond their control. I want to return to the foundation laid out earlier. On a personal note, I totally disagree with the

bureaucratic approach because everyone on a hunting trip is always on the verge of potential danger. Any hunting activity is dangerous to begin with.

First of all, the Nunavut government has talked about poverty reduction and putting food on the table. It is something I am very pleased to see because it helps the people of Nunavut out there. We keep talking about poverty reduction and the Department of Environment philosophy, and the two seem to clash. Our government is talking about poverty reduction and not providing subsidies for hunters who provide for their families, their relatives, and the community as a whole.

Hunters are the hardest-working people, carrying out the toughest tasks, and earning the least income. We all know that they don't make much money, yet hunting gear is very expensive, what with boats, motors, snowmobiles, four-wheelers, and so on. In the case of accidents, they seem to experience the hardest time being approved for financial help.

The two government departments seem to be at odds with one another. One is focused on food security in Nunavut. The other department, meanwhile, seems to make support for food providers virtually impossible. Its regulations put meaningful efforts out of reach in the context of what has been pointed out earlier. What can be done for these food producers? It seems government is in conflict within itself.

The question I wish to ask is the way things are established. Someone said that if a hunter loses equipment by accident, he has to fill out forms and submit them

to conservation officers in the communities. My first question is: how much influence does the conservation officer in the community have on this issue? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Pinksen can respond to that question with your permission, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Arreak. Mr. Pinksen.

Mr. Pinksen: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have at least one conservation officer in each community. There is occasionally a vacancy, but when there is a vacancy in any community, the regional manager has the responsibility to make sure that the community is provided with service. That can mean hiring a casual or flying in staff from another community or whatever other means they can find to make it work in that situation. With very rare exceptions, our communities have someone to contact and our staff are available to those communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Pinksen. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't know how I ask my question sometimes. I apologize if I didn't make myself clear.

The conservation officer is the one who takes in the application. If there had been an accident, the individual would have to apply and give the filled application

form to the conservation officer. Once the conservation officer takes that form, would he have the authority to decline or accept it? What can the conservation officer at the community do or what kind of authority does he have? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member very much for his question. I will have Mr. Pinksen answer the question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Arreak. Mr. Pinksen.

Mr. Pinksen: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I got the question this time. The role of the officer is to review the application to make sure it's complete. They do not make a decision. They don't have a decision-making authority, but they would make a recommendation on whether it should be approved or denied. They don't have approval or denial authority. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Pinksen. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Do I understand that in my community and in other communities of Nunavut, once the conservation officer takes in the application, he can't accept or reject it, but he can make recommendations? My question is: has your department ever thought to give the conservation officer the authority to accept or reject the applications? They are the ones who

know the people best in the communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, you understood it correctly. They don't have the authority to accept or reject, but they can make recommendations on the application. Mr. Pinksen can go into further details on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Arreak. Mr. Enook was shaking his head. I think Mr. Enook would like to clarify his question. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you. The reason why I signalled my head to you, Mr. Chairman, is I completely comprehended his answer and I don't even require any further answer on that subject, as he clarified it.

Chairman: Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Sometimes, it gets confusing. Our government says that they have to hand out more responsibility to the communities and to be decision-makers of their own communities. Here we have staff at the community level who are given no authority at all, even though they know the community personally, they know the people, the environment, and the activities going on around their community. They are not given any authority to do anything from there.

Where does the application go once it has gone through the conservation

officer's office? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. You probably heard the response, but if you would have Mr. Pinksen respond, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Arreak. Mr. Pinksen.

Mr. Pinksen: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The application goes from the applicant to the conservation officer to the regional manager. That's the three steps. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Pinksen. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you. The reason for this question may be due to this very long day or whether my hearing or comprehension abilities are diminished because earlier, I seemed to understand that the process goes from the conservation officer to the HTO. Did I misunderstand? I thought that was the exact statement. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is, indeed, how it is laid out, from the conservation officer to the HTO board, which make their recommendation on whether this application should be approved or rejected. Although they may recommend approval, the final decision

lies with the regional manager. It goes from the regional manager onto the headquarters level. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My time is fast approaching its zenith.

Prior to asking another question, I want our hunters to completely understand this process. I'm not just trying to delay this process, but perhaps the minister and his employee first agree on an answer prior to my asking another question. Which answer is correct? The first response indicated the application going from the conservation officer to the HTO and then to the regional manager or from the conservation officer directly to the regional manager. Can the witnesses first agree on the answer before providing it to me? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Enook. I will give some time for them to come to an agreement. Minister Arreak.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As per the last response I provided, the hunter submits his application to the conservation officer along with his comments and then it goes from the conservation officer to the HTO board, which makes their recommendation on whether this application should be approved or rejected. When it reaches the regional manager, then it goes to the headquarters. If that's not clear, I can put it in writing so that you will know

exactly how the process goes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for giving them time to reach agreement on an answer. Now it's understandable and clear. I appreciate that.

How much influence or ability are HTO boards given over the application? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. They submit their recommendation on the application. They can also recommend whether they are in support of or against any particular application in writing appended to the application. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you. So I understand that, let's say, in Pond Inlet, actually in every community in Nunavut, our HTO boards that manage all wildlife and harvesting issues within our communities aren't able to dictate the direction, especially since they are the foremost authority on all wildlife issues in our communities. Is that how I understand it? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, the member is correct in his comprehension of the matter. When the application goes through the process, any written concerns or recommendations from the community would also be reviewed. We are responsible for these funds, which is why it has to go to the headquarters for the final step. The decision is made to accept or deny the application, but any comments from the communities have some weight.

I urge all hunters to submit their applications when they have to fill out applications for this program under the Department of Environment, even if the application is going to be approved or not. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Now, when the HTO board submits their recommendation to either approve or deny an application, how many applications follow these recommendations? Which way does it trend? Are half or a majority or less than half of recommendations followed? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't have that particular information, but if Mr. Pinksen were to have that information in his mental notes, maybe he can answer the question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Arreak. (interpretation ends)

Mr. Pinksen, do you have it in your head?

>> *Laughter*

Mr. Pinksen: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. They're not all approved, they're not all rejected, but I'm afraid I do not have the exact figures in my head today. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Pinksen. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I can ask the minister this question, I would like to see if we can be provided with five years of statistics on the actual figures related to the approval or rejection, especially how communities' recommendations were either followed or not. It would be very interesting to see those numbers and I will now expect that information.

This is my last question. Once the regional manager sees the application, I believe the regional manager is the one who accepts or declines the approval for continuing to the highest level. If he declines the application, is that the end of the process and I have no recourse? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, even if the application is denied, they can resubmit their application. When it reaches the deputy ministerial level and if it is rejected at that stage, then the person has no other recourse in the matter. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): So the minister never even has a chance to review the rejected applications? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For the rejected applications, if they have resubmitted their applications and it reaches the deputy ministerial level, this is the final decision regarding that application, but I can be provided with reports on what happened with those applications. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Arreak. (interpretation) Mr. Enook, you have one second.

>> *Laughter*

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That was my final question. Thank you very much, minister, for clarifying a lot of these issues. I tend to ask a lot of questions so that the listening public can obtain valuable information. What I have gained when it comes to enlightenment is in determining who is eligible for what.

If I'm wrong in drawing to that conclusion, I would be pleased if the minister could carefully go through the report. The contents of the report seem to raise a great deal of expectations among hunters when it comes to accidents. Let me repeat that even though I can't tell the minister on what

he should do, the report's conclusions deserve another look because they may deserve a response. As it stands, the public now has expectations and it is only right that there should be expectations. I think those findings need further study and, if I have to, I am willing to be the lone voice on this.

I have always believed that even the highest levels of authority should be accessible right up to the ministerial level. This issue is very important to hunters and many Nunavummiut, yet the minister doesn't have the time to bother for it. Once he says no, that's the end of it. I am gravely concerned about that. If the occasion rises again to ask questions about it, I will not hesitate to do so. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman, for giving me another opportunity.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Enook. I don't believe there was a question in that. We will continue. I have no more names on my list for I-5. (interpretation ends) Branch Summary. Environment. Program Management. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$19,669,000. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): All of you couldn't wait to agree.

>> *Laughter*

Thank you. Moving on to I-3. (interpretation ends) Department Summary. Environment. Detail of Expenditures. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$23,994,000. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Are we agreed that we are concluded with the Department of Environment?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Arreak, you now have the floor for final comments.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you very much for approving our budget requests for our O&M for the year as well as for the questions and comments which we can now follow up further.

With respect to the final comment that was made about reaching the ministerial level for a decision, I want to make it clear that in any political forum, disagreements can arise. As minister, there are rules and regulations to guide the way I make decisions.

Your concerns and questions are not ignored or forgotten. We can now work with them and any outstanding matter will be dealt with by correspondence whenever possible. Thank you.

I thank my officials, my deputy minister, and assistant deputy minister, Joanne Parker, Niki Nweze, our Corporate Director, and other valuable staff from the office for being available. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Arreak. I also thank your officials. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses out as we will now be dealing with another item.

Thank you. (interpretation ends) I would like to ask the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly to go to the witness table to make his opening remarks. Mr. Speaker.

Bill 49 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2013-2014 – Legislative Assembly – Consideration in Committee

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to appear before you this evening to present the 2013-14 main estimates and 2013-16 business plan of the Office of the Legislative Assembly.

The proposed 2013-14 operations and maintenance budget for the Office of the Legislative Assembly is \$21,025,000.

As members will recall, Bill 22 was passed by the Legislative Assembly in October of 2011. This legislation implemented the recommendations of the independent Electoral Boundaries Commission. As a consequence, the number of seats in the Legislative Assembly will increase from 19 to 22 after the next general election, which will be held on October 28 of this year.

The Legislative Assembly's budget for the upcoming 2013-14 fiscal year reflects the new resources that will be required to support the expanded Assembly. The budget also takes into account the transfer of responsibility for the administration of ministerial indemnities from the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs to the Legislative Assembly itself. I would also note that the funding to reflect the addition of three new members is prorated for the 2013-14 fiscal year in recognition of the timing of the next general election, which takes

place midway through the fiscal year. The 2014-15 budget will reflect a full year's worth of funding.

As members are aware, *The Order of Nunavut Act* is now in force. The legislation establishes the Order of Nunavut Advisory Council, which I chair in my capacity as the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly. The council's other members are the senior judge of the Nunavut Court of Justice and the president of Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated. Support to the council is being provided by the Office of the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly.

The investiture ceremonies honouring the 2012 recipients of the Order of Nunavut have been successfully held in Iqaluit and Cape Dorset. I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the recipients and their families.

This year's nominations to the Order of Nunavut have recently opened and I look forward to inviting all members to attend the investiture ceremony for the next recipients later this year.

The most recent investiture ceremony in Cape Dorset again allowed local students to have the experience of seeing our Legislative Assembly's Mace and to learn about our system of democratic government. I look forward to bringing the Mace to a number of communities during the upcoming months, including Arctic Bay, Hall Beach, Igloolik, Taloyoak, and Gjoa Haven.

The fourth Speaker's Youth Parliament was held in November of last year. This event, which is held every two years, brings together high school students from across the territory for a week of

learning and fun. I believe that these initiatives will help to improve awareness of our Legislative Assembly's procedures and activities and contribute to a greater understanding of our distinctive style of consensus government. Information concerning our Youth Parliaments is available on the Legislative Assembly's website.

I am pleased to report that the Office of the Legislative Assembly continues to successfully meet our statutory deadlines for the tabling of annual reports and other documents that are produced under the authority of the Speaker and the Management and Services Board.

As members are aware, the budgets for the operations of our independent officers are funded through the appropriation of the Legislative Assembly itself. The largest increase this year is for Elections Nunavut to allow for the administration of the general election.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening comments. I would like to thank my colleagues for their support and I welcome their comments, suggestions, and questions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Speaker Tootoo. Do you have any of your witnesses that you would like to bring to the table?

Speaker: Yes, I do, Mr. Chairman, with the committee's indulgence.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Does the committee agree to bring in the witnesses?

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Thank you. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, for the record, please introduce your witnesses.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my right is no stranger to this House, he usually looks at it from your point of view as our Clerk, Mr. John Quirke, and to my left is our Director of Corporate Services, Mr. Mike Rafter. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask members if they have any general comments pertaining to the opening comments from Mr. Speaker. I don't see any. We will move on to A-4 in the main estimates. A-4. Office of the Legislative Assembly. Branch Summary. Assembly Operations. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$7,680,000. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Go to A-5. (interpretation ends) Branch Summary. Office of the Legislative Assembly. Expenditures on Behalf of Members. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$9,465,000. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Go to A-6. (interpretation ends) Office of the Legislative Assembly. Branch Summary. Independent Officers of the Legislative Assembly. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$3,880,000. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Go to page A-3. (interpretation ends) Department Summary. Office of the Legislative Assembly. Detail of Expenditures. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$21,025,000. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Is the committee agreed that we have concluded with the main estimates for the Legislative Assembly?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, do you have closing remarks?

Speaker: With an invitation like that, Mr. Chairman, how could I resist?

>>*Laughter*

Mr. Chairman, I would just like to say “thanks” to all the staff at the Legislative Assembly. We always strive to improve and continue to provide a high level of service to all members and to ensure that the smooth operations go on here. That goes right from our table officers to our interpreters and our technical people, and everyone else working behind the scenes upstairs on the third floor. I would like to thank them very much. Thank you, members. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you to your officials. (interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses out.

At this time, (interpretation ends) committee members, (interpretation) we will proceed with the next item on our agenda. I will have Mr. Enook take the Chair. We will be proceeding with (interpretation ends) Bill 49 in your legislation binder.

Chairman (Mr. Enook)(interpretation): Good evening, my colleagues. At this time, I will first ask if we can now proceed with the clause-by-clause review of Bill 49. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Bill 49 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2013-2014 – Consideration in Committee

Chairman (interpretation): I believe all of you have a copy of the bill. Bill 49, *Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, 2013-2014*. Clause 1. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 2. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 3. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): We will go to page 2. Schedule. Operations and Maintenance. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$1,325,079,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. We will go back to clause 4. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 5. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Do you agree to Bill 49 as a whole?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Pursuant to Rule 62(2), does the committee agree that Bill 49 can now immediately be placed on the orders of the day for third reading?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Before we proceed, we will take a short five-minute break. Thank you.

>>Committee recessed at 20:19 and resumed at 20:28

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. We can now proceed with our agenda. I would now like to ask the Minister of Finance, Minister Peterson, to go to the witness table to make his opening remarks.

Thank you. Minister Peterson, I would like to ask if you would like to make your opening remarks on both Bill 47 and Bill 48. Minister Peterson.

Bill 47 – Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 3, 2012-2013 – Consideration in Committee

Bill 48 – Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 1, 2013-2014 – Consideration in Committee

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to present two supplementary appropriation bills today:

- Bill 47, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 3, 2012-2013*; and
- Bill 48, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 1, 2013-2014*.

Bill 47 will provide a total supplementary appropriation of \$34,798,000 for operations and maintenance in 2012-13. It consists of the following items:

- \$290,000 for the Office of the Legislative Assembly for the expenses related to the integrity review;
- \$2,214,000 for the Department of Finance to recognize expenses relating to the Nunavut Child Tax Benefit of \$2,055,000 and tobacco tax commissions of \$159,000 due to changes in the public sector accounting standards;
- \$645,000 for the Department of Education for increased compensation and benefits costs for

school support staff as a result of the new four-year collective agreement with the Nunavut Employees Union;

- \$24,900,000 for the Department of Health and Social Services to fund anticipated cost pressures in various health and social services programs;
- \$3 million for the Department of Community and Government Services to address communications and data transfer costs in the Informatics Division;
- \$3,749,000 for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, including:
 - \$3,045,000 to address higher public housing utility costs due to increases in water and electricity rates in various communities; and
 - \$704,000 for increased funding to local housing organizations for wage increases consistent with the Government of Nunavut's new four-year collective agreement with the Nunavut Employees Union.

Bill 48 will provide a total supplementary appropriation of \$5,295,000 for capital projects in 2013-14. It consists of the following items:

- \$5,045,000 to the Department of Justice to fund a budget shortfall for the emergency overcrowding relief structure; and
- \$250,000 to the Department of Health and Social Services for the mould remediation project in Resolute Bay.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my opening comments. I would be pleased to take questions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I have two witnesses. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson. Does the committee agree to bring in the witnesses?

Some Members: Agreed.

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

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my right is Geoff Chown. He is controller-general, but he is the acting deputy minister of the Department of Finance this week. To my left is Peter Tumilty, Assistant Deputy Minister, Policy and Planning. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson. Welcome. At this time, do members have any general comments on the opening comments? There being none. We will first deal with Bill 47. Page 4. We can now continue. Office of the Legislative Assembly. (interpretation ends) Not Previously Authorized. Assembly Operations. Total

Assembly Operations. \$290,000.
(interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Turn to page 5. Committee members, I don't have an Inuktitut copy, so I'll be following the English copy.
(interpretation ends) Page 5.
(interpretation) And now I have a copy. Finance. Operations and Maintenance. Not Previously Authorized. Comptrollership. Total Comptrollership. \$2,214,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Turn to page 6. Education. Operations and Maintenance. Not Previously Authorized. K-12 School Operations. Total K-12 School Operations. \$645,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Turn to page 7. (interpretation ends) Health and Social Services. Operations and Maintenance. Not Previously Authorized. Directorate. Total Directorate. \$511,000.
(interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Health and Social Services. Operations and Maintenance. Not Previously Authorized. Social Services. Total Social Services. \$3,212,000. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Health Insurance Programs. Not Previously Authorized. Total Health Insurance Programs. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you. (interpretation) Mr. Chairman, I have a question under item 3, Compensation and Benefits. It's \$8,000. There is an increase for out-of-territorial hospital services of almost \$4 million from Nunavut. Can the minister give us some information on why there's a huge cost increase? Is it because there was a billing delay? Perhaps you can give us information, Mr. Minister.
(interpretation ends) Thank you.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Curley for the question. Mr. Chairman, this is related mostly to the out-of-territorial hospital services. In the first nine months of the fiscal year to the end of December, there has been an increase in medical travel south of 2,752 one-way trips. With that increase in medical travel to the south, we anticipate that we will be getting increased bills from out-of-territory hospitals.

We have a reciprocal billing process in place in all provinces and territories and they can bill us up to a year after the costs are incurred. We would like them to be monthly, but we find that by the end of December, for example, we may only be billed for 18 to 35 percent of the bills. We're just budgeting for the increase in advance. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson. We will go back. (interpretation ends) Health Insurance Programs. Not Previously Authorized. Total Health Insurance Programs. \$3,908,000. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Continuing on. (interpretation ends) Public Health. Not Previously Authorized. Total Public Health. \$1,521,000. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Turn the page. Page 8. (interpretation ends) Health and Social Services. Operations and Maintenance. Not Previously Authorized. Treatment. Total Treatment. \$15,748,000. (interpretation ends) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Total Department. Not Previously Authorized. \$24,900,000. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Continuing on to page 9. (interpretation ends) Community and Government Services. Operations and Maintenance. Not Previously Authorized. Government Services. Total Government Services. \$3 million. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Turn the page. Page 10. (interpretation ends) Nunavut Housing Corporation. Operations and Maintenance. Not Previously Authorized. Nunavut Housing Corporation. Total Nunavut Housing Corporation. \$3,749,000. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. We will go back to page 2. Page 2. (interpretation ends) Schedule 1. Operations and Maintenance. Operations and Maintenance Appropriation. \$34,798,000. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. We will now go to Bill 47. It should be in your binders. We can then proceed if you all have it. I think we are all on the same page. I will proceed. Bill 47, (interpretation ends) *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 3, 2012-2013*. (interpretation) Clause 1. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 2. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 3. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Go to page 2. (interpretation ends) Schedule. Supplementary Amounts Appropriated

for the Fiscal Year Ending March 31, 2013. Vote 1: Operations and Maintenance. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$34,798,000. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Total Supplementary Appropriation. \$34,798,000. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Go back to page 1. Clause 4. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 5. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 6. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 7. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Does the committee agree to Bill 47 as a whole?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Pursuant to Rule 62(2), does the committee agree that Bill 47 can now immediately be placed on the orders of the day for third reading?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Bill 48. Page 4. I believe everyone has a copy of the document. I will now proceed. (interpretation ends) Justice. Capital. Not Previously Authorized. Corrections. Total Corrections. \$5,045,000. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know that it has been a long day for everybody, so I'll try and keep my preambles as short as I can in questions and I hope the minister could do the same so that we can proceed here today.

Mr. Chairman, previously there was \$700,000 approved for the planning and design for the new correctional facility in Iqaluit. I'm just wondering where it stands right now in this project, whether the planning and design is complete or not. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Rumbolt for the question and the hint. The planning is at a class "B" design level. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If it's at a class "B," that means there could be more expenses related to the planning and design. Will we be seeing additional funds needed for the planning and design? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm not sure if that's a hypothetical question, but I think the class "A" estimates would give us a fairly firm estimate of what the cost would be, but if you go to a tender, it could come in less or it could come in more. So I can't really answer that question of what the final price would be. It depends on the RFP. Thank you.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. According to the department's business plan on page 48, it says that a request for an RFP for the design has been completed and it has been awarded. That's why I'm asking that question of whether it's a class "B" or a class "A." If the minister could clarify, please. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. (interpretation ends) Minister Peterson, will you please clarify it.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Well, there hasn't been a design completed. It is a class "B" from the information I have and there has been no contract awarded that I'm aware of. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson, (interpretation ends) for that clarification. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, according to the business plan on page 48, it states that

"A Request for Proposal (RFP) for the design of an emergency overcrowding facility has been awarded to Stantec in Iqaluit. Design of this facility is currently in process." So is this wrong or can we get clarification on what the issue is here? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It has been a long day. I have been at it since about seven o'clock this morning. Perhaps I misunderstood the question the first time.

The design is in the process, it has been finalized, it is a class "B" right now, and it is moving towards a class "A." I don't have the information in front of me on who it was awarded to, but I'm assured that it is at a class "A." Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm just wondering if it would be better if we could direct the question towards the minister responsible for that department. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. (interpretation ends) Minister Shewchuk, are you willing to give us an answer?

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I hope I will clarify the confusion.

The planning and design is complete. The money is spent on the planning and

design. It's a class "B" estimate. To my understanding, a class "B" estimate means, as the Minister of Finance said, there could be a plus or minus 10 percent variance on the class "B" estimate. But the planning and design of the structure is complete. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When can we expect an RFP or tender for the construction of the new facility to be issued and when do we expect construction to start? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Rumbolt for the question. I'm just digging for the information here, the timelines. They're looking at March, this month actually, for a class "A" estimate to be presented to the Department of Justice in March 2013, tender documents finalized, and then they will be looking at a April 2013 construction contract. That's the latest information I have on the project schedule. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Not too long ago, there was a news article stating that the city was having issues with the development permits for the lot that was allocated for the new facility. I'm just wondering why we go to the point where we're trying to award tenders and stuff without having land secured for a building. Can the

minister explain why they're kind of putting the horse before the cart? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm not sure if I understood Mr. Rumbolt's question. Mr. Chairman, I understood that the land was identified. It's out near the existing facility, the Baffin Correctional Centre, on land that is under lease to the Government of Nunavut. There is no cost for land acquisition factored into the proposal or land development.

I believe the officials in the Department of Justice have been working with the city officials concurrently and planning this entire project. They submitted an official application for a development permit on December 18 of 2012. The supporting documents for the application were unavailable on December 4 and it only came to light on March 12, 2013 that some city councillors voiced concerns about the new facility.

From a commonsense point of view, Mr. Chairman, it made sense to put this facility in the area where we already have the Baffin Correctional Centre because there are going to be some minimum-security prisoners who will be removed from the Baffin Correctional Centre and put into this facility, which is more of a minimum-security, and we will still have the young offenders facility out there, plus we have the women's facility out there. So the footprint is right there; the facilities can support each other. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's my understanding that no building permit that has been issued yet by the city. According to the news article, they are requesting a meeting with GN officials to discuss the concerns they have with the location in conjunction with the new airport facility. Can the minister identify if a meeting had taken place since this news article with the city or if there's an anticipated meeting coming up? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Rumbolt for the question. I believe there's a meeting tomorrow, March 19, with the city officials. I don't know who's going to be in attendance or what will be discussed in detail, but hopefully there will be a resolution to their concerns at that meeting. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know we're not supposed to talk hypothetical, but the threat is real. If the city decides to reject the land development permit for this lot, does the department have an alternate location to use in case that happens? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't believe we have an alternate location, not one that we selected certainly. Mr. Chairman, I don't think it's any secret to the Members of this House that our immediate priority is the overcrowding at the Baffin Correctional Centre. The overcrowding situation threatens the health and safety of our employees out there and threatens the health and safety of the inmates at that facility. So our top priority as the government is to alleviate the pressures and any delays in constructing this facility is going to compound the pressures that already exist out there and have existed for as long as I can remember, even before I became an MLA or a minister of this government. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm not disputing the necessity of this building. That's not the issue here. The issue is land permits with the city. So my final question is: if the city rejects this land permit and we go back to needing a lot to build this facility, will this delay the construction of this facility? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Rumbolt for his question. I can't predict the future. I was a mayor of a community for several years and I understand how some councillors think, but when they meet tomorrow, they can explain their concerns to the officials and our officials

who will be there will explain the situation in more detail. Hopefully they will come to a resolution and we can move forward with this very important project in this community. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson. (interpretation ends) On the same page, Mr. Schell.

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to go back to the original amount that was here and now they're asking for another \$5 million. My question is: were there any other proposals for this structure or was this the only proposal that came forward that Justice picked? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm not sure I understand Mr. Schell's question. This was for planning and design. There has been no contract awarded to construct the facility. If the Minister of Justice would like to take a crack at answering if there are other proposals for the planning and design, I would redirect that question to him. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson. Minister Shewchuk, please respond.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Minister of Finance is absolutely correct. This is for planning and design. There are no tenders out for the construction of the building yet. It is my understanding that this was the only

proposal for the planning and design. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. Mr. Schell.

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Was there any other company coming forward with a proposal to do a complete build and design of this project or was this the only...? How did you pick this kind of tent structure? Was there anybody else that came forward and asked to put a proposal together to build and construct this unit? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Schell for the question. Mr. Chairman, I believe this facility is not going to be a tent structure anymore. They're calling it more an emergency overcrowding relief structure. It will be more of a permanent type facility as opposed to a temporary facility. I don't know if anyone else came forward with a proposal to construct or erect that facility, unless the Minister of Justice knows. He's indicating he's unaware of any other companies. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson. We're on page 4. (interpretation ends) Corrections. Not Previously Authorized. Total Corrections. \$5,045,000. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Turn the page. (interpretation ends)

Health. Capital. Not Previously Authorized. Directorate. Total Directorate. \$250,000. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Go back to page 2. (interpretation ends) Schedule 1. Capital. Capital Appropriation. \$5,295,000. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. You should have Bill 48 that is in your binders. We will now go to that bill. Bill 48. I believe everyone has a copy in front of them, so I'll proceed. (interpretation ends) Bill 48, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 1, 2013-2014*. (interpretation) Clause 1. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 2. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 3. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Turn the page. Page 2. (interpretation ends) Supplementary Amounts Appropriated for the Fiscal Year Ending March 31, 2014. Vote 2: Capital. Total Capital. \$5,295,000. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Total Supplementary Appropriation. \$5,295,000. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Go back to page 1. Clause 4. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 5. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 6. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 7. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Does the committee agree to Bill 48 as a whole?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Pursuant to Rule 62(2), does the committee agree that Bill 48 can immediately be placed on the orders of the day for third reading?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. We have concluded with the bill. Minister Peterson, at this time, if you have any closing remarks, you have the floor. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I would like to thank you and your committee for your scrutiny of Bills 47 and 48 over the last few weeks and your good questions tonight. I know it has been a long day.

I would like to thank my officials from the Department of Finance here at the witness table with me. I would also like to thank my two Health and Social Services witnesses who are in the Gallery, Deputy Minister Peter Ma and Bill Neish, Acting Director of Corporate Services. They were prepared to come in tonight and answer questions on health and social services. So I thank them. I thank all of the officials in all of the departments for working so diligently on our finances. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Peterson. (interpretation) Before we proceed, Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the minister's witnesses out. We will now proceed. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to make a motion to report progress at this time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>>Applause

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

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

Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Bills 47, 48, and 49 and would like to report progress and that Bills 47, 48, and 49 are immediately ready for third reading. Also, Mr. Speaker, I move that the Report of the Committee of the Whole be concurred with. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. Minister of Finance, Minister Peterson.

Item 21: Third Reading of Bills

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

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

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Peterson. The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour. Any opposed? The motion is carried and Bill 49 has had third reading and is ready for assent.

Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. Item 22.
Orders of the Day. Mr. Clerk.

Item 22: Orders of the Day

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

Orders of the Day for March 19:

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

- Bill 52
- Bill 57
- Bill 58
- Bill 59
- Bill 60

19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters

- Bill 53
- Bill 54
- Bill 55
- Bill 56

20. Report of the Committee of the Whole

21. Third Reading of Bills

- Bill 47
- Bill 48

22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you very much, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned until Tuesday, March 19, at 1:30 p.m.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 21:11*

Appendix – March 18, 2013



Return to Written Question

Asked by: Joe Enook, MLA (Tununiq)

Asked of: Hon. Monica Eil, MLA
Minister of Human Resources

Number: WQ 025-3(3)

Date: February 26, 2013

Subject: Direct Appointments under Section 18 of the
Public Service Act

1. Question: Broken down by department, Crown agency, occupational category, gender, and Nunavut Land Claims Agreement beneficiary status, how many direct appointments to the public service were approved by the Executive Council of Nunavut for each of the following fiscal years:

- | | |
|----|--------------------|
| a. | 1999-2000 |
| b. | 2000-01 |
| c. | 2001-02 |
| d. | 2002-03 |
| e. | 2003-04 |
| f. | 2004-05 |
| g. | 2005-06 |
| h. | 2006-07 |
| i. | 2007-08 |
| j. | 2008-09 |
| k. | 2009-2010 |
| l. | 2010-11 |
| m. | 2011-12 |
| n. | 2012-13 (to date)? |

Response:

Broken down by department, Crown agency, occupational category, gender, and Nunavut Land Claims Agreement beneficiary status, there were direct appointments to the public service approved by the Executive Council of Nunavut for:

a. 1999-2000 fiscal year:

During the 1999-2000 fiscal year, the Executive Council approved a total of 64 Direct Appointments. Of these, 48 were beneficiary appointments – which represents 75% of all appointments for the fiscal year. There were 25 male appointments and 39 female appointments. In addition the following departments made appointments during the fiscal year:

Department/Agency	Total Direct Appointments
Community Government & Transportation	8
Culture, Language, Elders & Youth	3
Sustainable Development	7
Education	11
Public Works & Services	12
Executive & Intergovernmental Affairs	3
Finance & Administration	9
Health & Social Services	0
Human Resources	3
Justice	6
Legislative Assembly	0
Nunavut Arctic College	1
Nunavut Housing Corporation	1

The Direct Appointments are also broken down into the following 6 occupational categories:

Occupational Category	Total Direct Appointments
Executive	0
Senior Management	5
Middle Management	15
Professional	8
Paraprofessional	27
Administrative Support	9

Broken down by department, Crown agency, occupational category, gender, and Nunavut Land Claims Agreement beneficiary status, there were direct appointments to the public service approved by the Executive Council of Nunavut for:

b. 2000-2001 fiscal year:

During the 2000-2001 fiscal year, the Executive Council approved a total of 105 Direct Appointments. Of these, 51 were beneficiary appointments – which represents 49% of all appointments for the fiscal year. There were 46 male appointments and 59 female appointments. In addition the following departments made appointments during the fiscal year:

Department/Agency	Total Direct Appointments
Community Government & Transportation	12
Culture, Language, Elders & Youth	5
Sustainable Development	5
Education	3
Public Works & Services	23
Executive & Intergovernmental Affairs	7
Finance & Administration	26
Health & Social Services	5
Human Resources	4
Justice	9
Legislative Assembly	0
Nunavut Arctic College	0
Nunavut Housing Corporation	6

The Direct Appointments are also broken down into the following 6 occupational categories:

Occupational Category	Total Direct Appointments
Executive	0
Senior Management	11
Middle Management	26
Professional	2
Paraprofessional	48
Administrative Support	18

Broken down by department, Crown agency, occupational category, gender, and Nunavut Land Claims Agreement beneficiary status, there were direct appointments to the public service approved by the Executive Council of Nunavut for:

c. 2001-2002 fiscal year:

During the 2001-2002 fiscal year, the Executive Council approved a total of 67 Direct Appointments. Of these, 44 were beneficiary appointments – which represents 66% of all appointments for the fiscal year. There were 26 male appointments and 41 female appointments. In addition the following departments made appointments during the fiscal year:

Department/Agency	Total Direct Appointments
Community Government & Transportation	7
Culture, Language, Elders & Youth	5
Sustainable Development	5
Education	5
Public Works & Services	16
Executive & Intergovernmental Affairs	1
Finance & Administration	7
Health & Social Services	9
Human Resources	0
Justice	12
Legislative Assembly	0
Nunavut Arctic College	0
Nunavut Housing Corporation	0

The Direct Appointments are also broken down into the following 6 occupational categories:

Occupational Category	Total Direct Appointments
Executive	0
Senior Management	3
Middle Management	9
Professional	4
Paraprofessional	44
Administrative Support	7

Broken down by department, Crown agency, occupational category, gender, and Nunavut Land Claims Agreement beneficiary status, there were direct appointments to the public service approved by the Executive Council of Nunavut for:

d. 2002-2003 fiscal year:

During the 2002-2003 fiscal year, the Executive Council approved a total of 99 Direct Appointments. Of these, 73 were beneficiary appointments – which represents 74% of all appointments for the fiscal year. There were 36 male appointments and 63 female appointments. In addition the following departments made appointments during the fiscal year:

Department/Agency	Total Direct Appointments
Community Government & Transportation	3
Culture, Language, Elders & Youth	11
Sustainable Development	7
Education	2
Public Works & Services	9
Executive & Intergovernmental Affairs	5
Finance & Administration	17
Health & Social Services	27
Human Resources	4
Justice	10
Legislative Assembly	0
Nunavut Arctic College	1
Nunavut Housing Corporation	3

The Direct Appointments are also broken down into the following 6 occupational categories:

Occupational Category	Total Direct Appointments
Executive	0
Senior Management	11
Middle Management	23
Professional	8
Paraprofessional	42
Administrative Support	15

Broken down by department, Crown agency, occupational category, gender, and Nunavut Land Claims Agreement beneficiary status, there were direct appointments to the public service approved by the Executive Council of Nunavut for:

e. 2003-2004 fiscal year:

During the 2003-2004 fiscal year, the Executive Council approved a total of 77 Direct Appointments. Of these, 63 were beneficiary appointments – which represents 82% of all appointments for the fiscal year. There were 27 male appointments and 50 female appointments. In addition the following departments made appointments during the fiscal year:

Department/Agency	Total Direct Appointments
Community Government Services	1
Culture, Language, Elders & Youth	4
Economic Development & Transportation	7
Education	1
Environment	7
Executive & Intergovernmental Affairs	6
Finance & Administration	6
Health & Social Services	25
Human Resources	4
Justice	11
Legislative Assembly	1
Nunavut Arctic College	2
Nunavut Housing Corporation	2

The Direct Appointments are also broken down into the following 6 occupational categories:

Occupational Category	Total Direct Appointments
Executive	0
Senior Management	6
Middle Management	10
Professional	8
Paraprofessional	40
Administrative Support	13

Broken down by department, Crown agency, occupational category, gender, and Nunavut Land Claims Agreement beneficiary status, there were direct appointments to the public service approved by the Executive Council of Nunavut for:

f. 2004-2005 fiscal year:

During the 2004-2005 fiscal year, the Executive Council approved a total of 87 Direct Appointments. Of these, 81 were beneficiary appointments – which represents 93% of all appointments for the fiscal year. There were 30 male appointments and 57 female appointments. In addition the following departments made appointments during the fiscal year:

Department/Agency	Total Direct Appointments
Community Government Services	5
Culture, Language, Elders & Youth	4
Economic Development & Transportation	6
Education	5
Environment	2
Executive & Intergovernmental Affairs	5
Finance & Administration	11
Health & Social Services	28
Human Resources	3
Justice	14
Legislative Assembly	0
Nunavut Arctic College	2
Nunavut Housing Corporation	2

The Direct Appointments are also broken down into the following 6 occupational categories:

Occupational Category	Total Direct Appointments
Executive	0
Senior Management	7
Middle Management	13
Professional	3
Paraprofessional	56
Administrative Support	8

Broken down by department, Crown agency, occupational category, gender, and Nunavut Land Claims Agreement beneficiary status, there were direct appointments to the public service approved by the Executive Council of Nunavut for:

g. 2005-2006 fiscal year:

During the 2005-2006 fiscal year, the Executive Council approved a total of 69 Direct Appointments. Of these, 68 were beneficiary appointments – which represents 99% of all appointments for the fiscal year. There were 22 male appointments and 47 female appointments. In addition the following departments made appointments during the fiscal year:

Department/Agency	Total Direct Appointments
Community Government Services	3
Culture, Language, Elders & Youth	2
Economic Development & Transportation	6
Education	6
Environment	2
Executive & Intergovernmental Affairs	5
Finance & Administration	4
Health & Social Services	15
Human Resources	4
Justice	18
Legislative Assembly	0
Nunavut Arctic College	1
Nunavut Housing Corporation	3

The Direct Appointments are also broken down into the following 6 occupational categories:

Occupational Category	Total Direct Appointments
Executive	0
Senior Management	3
Middle Management	10
Professional	3
Paraprofessional	35
Administrative Support	18

Broken down by department, Crown agency, occupational category, gender, and Nunavut Land Claims Agreement beneficiary status, there were direct appointments to the public service approved by the Executive Council of Nunavut for:

h. 2006-2007 fiscal year:

During the 2006-2007 fiscal year, the Executive Council approved a total of 112 Direct Appointments. Of these, 110 were beneficiary appointments – which represents 98% of all appointments for the fiscal year. There were 31 male appointments and 81 female appointments. In addition the following departments made appointments during the fiscal year:

Department/Agency	Total Direct Appointments
Community Government Services	6
Culture, Language, Elders & Youth	1
Economic Development & Transportation	7
Education	12
Environment	5
Executive & Intergovernmental Affairs	3
Finance & Administration	8
Health & Social Services	33
Human Resources	9
Justice	20
Legislative Assembly	0
Nunavut Arctic College	5
Nunavut Housing Corporation	3

The Direct Appointments are also broken down into the following 6 occupational categories:

Occupational Category	Total Direct Appointments
Executive	0
Senior Management	8
Middle Management	6
Professional	12
Paraprofessional	59
Administrative Support	27

Broken down by department, Crown agency, occupational category, gender, and Nunavut Land Claims Agreement beneficiary status, there were direct appointments to the public service approved by the Executive Council of Nunavut for:

i. 2007-2008 fiscal year:

During the 2007-2008 fiscal year, the Executive Council approved a total of 137 Direct Appointments. Of these, 132 were beneficiary appointments – which represents 96% of all appointments for the fiscal year. There were 42 male appointments and 95 female appointments. In addition the following departments made appointments during the fiscal year:

Department/Agency	Total Direct Appointments
Community Government Services	5
Culture, Language, Elders & Youth	2
Economic Development & Transportation	4
Education	6
Environment	4
Executive & Intergovernmental Affairs	5
Finance & Administration	9
Health & Social Services	43
Human Resources	11
Justice	34
Legislative Assembly	0
Nunavut Arctic College	7
Nunavut Housing Corporation	7

The Direct Appointments are also broken down into the following 6 occupational categories:

Occupational Category	Total Direct Appointments
Executive	3
Senior Management	2
Middle Management	10
Professional	11
Paraprofessional	86
Administrative Support	25

Broken down by department, Crown agency, occupational category, gender, and Nunavut Land Claims Agreement beneficiary status, there were direct appointments to the public service approved by the Executive Council of Nunavut for:

j. 2008-2009 fiscal year:

During the 2008-2009 fiscal year, the Executive Council approved a total of 70 Direct Appointments. Of these, 60 were beneficiary appointments – which represents 86% of all appointments for the fiscal year. There were 18 male appointments and 52 female appointments. In addition the following departments made appointments during the fiscal year:

Department/Agency	Total Direct Appointments
Community Government Services	2
Culture, Language, Elders & Youth	4
Economic Development & Transportation	1
Education	6
Environment	4
Executive & Intergovernmental Affairs	4
Finance & Administration	7
Health & Social Services	19
Human Resources	6
Justice	14
Legislative Assembly	0
Nunavut Arctic College	2
Nunavut Housing Corporation	1

The Direct Appointments are also broken down into the following 6 occupational categories:

Occupational Category	Total Direct Appointments
Executive	2
Senior Management	0
Middle Management	4
Professional	3
Paraprofessional	48
Administrative Support	13

Broken down by department, Crown agency, occupational category, gender, and Nunavut Land Claims Agreement beneficiary status, there were direct appointments to the public service approved by the Executive Council of Nunavut for:

k. 2009-2010 fiscal year:

During the 2009-2010 fiscal year, the Executive Council approved a total of 52 Direct Appointments. Of these, 46 were beneficiary appointments – which represents 88% of all appointments for the fiscal year. There were 16 male appointments and 36 female appointments. In addition the following departments made appointments during the fiscal year:

Department/Agency	Total Direct Appointments
Community Government Services	6
Culture, Language, Elders & Youth	1
Economic Development & Transportation	5
Education	7
Environment	1
Executive & Intergovernmental Affairs	2
Finance & Administration	7
Health & Social Services	18
Human Resources	0
Justice	3
Legislative Assembly	0
Nunavut Arctic College	2
Nunavut Housing Corporation	0

The Direct Appointments are also broken down into the following 6 occupational categories:

Occupational Category	Total Direct Appointments
Executive	1
Senior Management	2
Middle Management	5
Professional	4
Paraprofessional	35
Administrative Support	5

Broken down by department, Crown agency, occupational category, gender, and Nunavut Land Claims Agreement beneficiary status, there were direct appointments to the public service approved by the Executive Council of Nunavut for:

I. 2010-2011 fiscal year:

During the 2010-2011 fiscal year, the Executive Council approved a total of 31 Direct Appointments. Of these, 26 were beneficiary appointments – which represent 84% of all appointments for the fiscal year. There were 11 male appointments and 20 female appointments. In addition the following departments made appointments during the fiscal year:

Department/Agency	Total Direct Appointments
Community Government Services	6
Culture, Language, Elders & Youth	1
Economic Development & Transportation	0
Education	9
Environment	2
Executive & Intergovernmental Affairs	0
Finance & Administration	1
Health & Social Services	6
Human Resources	1
Justice	5
Legislative Assembly	0
Nunavut Arctic College	0
Nunavut Housing Corporation	0

The Direct Appointments are also broken down into the following 6 occupational categories:

Occupational Category	Total Direct Appointments
Executive	0
Senior Management	3
Middle Management	3
Professional	3
Paraprofessional	15
Administrative Support	7

Broken down by department, Crown agency, occupational category, gender, and Nunavut Land Claims Agreement beneficiary status, there were direct appointments to the public service approved by the Executive Council of Nunavut for:

m. 2011-2012 fiscal year:

During the 2011-2012 fiscal year, the Executive Council approved a total of 46 Direct Appointments. Of these, 38 were beneficiary appointments – which represents 83% of all appointments for the fiscal year. There were 18 male appointments and 28 female appointments. In addition the following departments made appointments during the fiscal year:

Department/Agency	Total Direct Appointments
Community Government Services	5
Culture, Language, Elders & Youth	2
Economic Development & Transportation	3
Education	6
Environment	0
Executive & Intergovernmental Affairs	3
Finance	5
Health & Social Services	6
Human Resources	5
Justice	9
Legislative Assembly	0
Nunavut Arctic College	0
Nunavut Housing Corporation	2

The Direct Appointments are also broken down into the following 6 occupational categories:

Occupational Category	Total Direct Appointments
Executive	1
Senior Management	3
Middle Management	10
Professional	3
Paraprofessional	24
Administrative Support	5

Broken down by department, Crown agency, occupational category, gender, and Nunavut Land Claims Agreement beneficiary status, there were direct appointments to the public service approved by the Executive Council of Nunavut for:

n. 2012-2013 fiscal year:

During the 2012-2013 fiscal year, the Executive Council approved a total of 23 Direct Appointments. Of these, 15 were beneficiary appointments – which represent 65% of all appointments for the fiscal year. There were 8 male appointments and 15 female appointments. In addition the following departments made appointments during the fiscal year:

Department/Agency	Total Direct Appointments
Community Government Services	7
Culture and Heritage	0
Economic Development & Transportation	2
Education	0
Environment	2
Executive & Intergovernmental Affairs	1
Finance	2
Health	1
Human Resources	4
Justice	1
Legislative Assembly	0
Nunavut Arctic College	1
Nunavut Housing Corporation	1
Family Services	1

The Direct Appointments are also broken down into the following 6 occupational categories:

Occupational Category	Total Direct Appointments
Executive	3
Senior Management	3
Middle Management	5
Professional	2
Paraprofessional	10
Administrative Support	0

Response to Written Question 27-3(3)

Date: February 27th, 2013

Asked by: Ron Elliott, MLA (Quttiktuq)

Asked of: The Hon. Daniel Shewchuk, Minister of Justice

Title: Recidivism Rates and Rehabilitation Programs

- 1. As of February 26, 2013, how many adult and young offenders are serving sentences in territorial custody at the Baffin Correctional Centre, the Rankin Inlet Healing Facility, the Ilavut Healing Centre and the Iqaluit Young Offenders' Centre?**

As of February 26th, 2013, the number of adult and young offenders serving sentences in Territorial custody at the Baffin Correctional Centre, the Rankin Inlet Healing Facility, the Ilavut Healing Centre, the Women's Correctional Centre, and the Iqaluit Young Offenders' Centre are as follows:

Facility (Nunavut)	Inmate Count
Baffin Correctional Centre	83
Rankin Inlet Healing Facility	13
Kugluktuk Ilavut Centre	6
Nunavut Women's Correctional Centre	5
Isumaq Young Offenders Facility	8

- 2. As of February 26, 2013, how many individuals are incarcerated in territorial correctional facilities awaiting trial?**

As of February 26th, 2013, there are 73 individuals incarcerated in Territorial correctional facilities awaiting trial.

- 3. As of February 26, 2013, what is the average period of time before an individual on remand in territorial custody goes to trial?**

As of February 26th, 2013, the average period of time before an individual on remand in Territorial custody is sentenced is approximately 71 days.

- 4. As of February 26, 2013, what is the rate of recidivism for male adult offenders in territorial custody?**

As of February 26th, 2013, the rate of recidivism for male adult offenders in Territorial custody is approximately 74%.

5. As of February 26, 2013, what is the rate of recidivism for male young offenders in territorial custody?

As of February 26th, 2013, the rate of recidivism for male young offenders in Territorial custody is approximately 66%.

6. As of February 26, 2013, what is the rate of recidivism for female adult offenders in territorial custody?

As of February 26th, 2013, the rate of recidivism for female adult offenders in Territorial custody is approximately 43%.

7. As of February 26, 2013, what is the rate of recidivism for female young offenders in territorial custody?

As of February 26th, 2013, the rate of recidivism for female young offenders in Territorial custody is approximately 13%.

8. As of February 26, 2013, what rehabilitation, counseling and education programs are offered to adult offenders in territorial custody?

As of February 26th, 2013, the following programs and activities are offered to adult offenders in Territorial custody:

- (i) Individual and group counseling services facilitated by a psychologist or elders (e.g. "Surviving Abuse", "Grief and Loss", "Katak Program for mental health").
- (ii) Violence Prevention (e.g. "Healthy Relationships", "Life Skills", "Alternatives to Violence").
- (iii) Sexual Violence Prevention (e.g. "Men's group").
- (iv) Cultural learning and skill development (e.g. "Land Program", out-post camps).
- (v) Addiction services (e.g. Addictions counseling and "Alcoholics Anonymous").
- (vi) Spiritual programs (e.g. Church services).
- (vii) Work programs (e.g. "Town crew", kitchen, shop and maintenance work).
- (viii) Educational Programming (e.g. Upgrading and GED completion).
- (ix) Recreation (e.g. Gymnasium, ice skating, hiking)*.
- (x) Arts (e.g. Crafting, carving, music).
- (xi) Community service opportunities (e.g. Soup kitchen, and town clean-up).

*(limited due to current repurposing of the gymnasium)

9. As of February 26, 2013, what rehabilitation, counseling and education programs are offered to young offenders in territorial custody?

As of February 26th, 2013, the following programs and activities are offered to young offenders in Territorial custody:

- (i) Individual, family, and group counseling services facilitated by a psychologist or elders (e.g. “Embrace Life”, “Tasiuqtugit”).
- (ii) Violence Prevention (e.g. “Healthy Relationships”, “Life Skills”, “Alternatives to Violence”).
- (iii) Cultural learning and skill development (e.g. Inuktitut language learning classes, “Inuit Cultural Skills”, “Experiential Learning Camp”).
- (iv) Addiction services (e.g. Addictions counseling, “RCMP D.A.R.E program”).
- (v) Spiritual programs (e.g. “Religious Studies” and church services).
- (vi) Vocational and Work programs (e.g. “GC North and Nova Construction for youth”, kitchen, shop and maintenance).
- (vii) Educational Programming (e.g. GN Recycling program, sexual education, upgrading and GED completion).
- (viii) Recreation (e.g. Gymnasium, ice skating, hiking)*.
- (ix) Arts (e.g. Crafting, carving, music).
- (x) Community service opportunities (e.g. Soup kitchen, and town clean-up).

*(when municipal or school recreation space is available)

10. As of February 26, 2013, how does the Department of Justice measure the effectiveness of its rehabilitation, counseling and education programs for adult offenders?

As of February 26th, 2013, the Department of Justice measures the effectiveness of its programming for adult offenders through four (4) processes.

- (i) **Assessment of Delivery**
All programs are delivered by professionals trained to deliver specific programming and are evaluated on performance. Programs are also assessed through feedback at the end of each program. Every facility has meetings annually to discuss programming and activities to ensure best-practices and that programs are fine-tuned accordingly.
- (ii) **Assessment of Risk**

Risk evaluation is continuous throughout an Inmate’s incarceration period. Initial assessments are conducted when an offender is admitted to a Facility on criminogenic factors, which are incorporated into an offender’s case management plans. This information is used to appropriately place inmates within a Facility based on their apparent risk to themselves and others. Risk of recidivism is also incorporated into offender’s case management plans.
- (iii) **Assessment of Need**

Every case management plan is evaluated by a case manager and a classification officer, to ensure appropriate placement for each

Inmate within a Facility based on risk and need. A variety of assessments on each offender, when admitted to a Facility, provide assistance in understanding each offender's programming needs. Based on these needs, the Facility will attempt to offer the offender programming options.

(iv) Assessment of Response

The Department of Justice measures the effectiveness of its programming through pre and post program facilitator offender assessments. The assessments are done particularly for the "Men's Group" and "Alternatives to Violence" program. Case managers incorporate release plans into every offender's file to help prevent relapse.

11. As of February 26, 2013, how does the Department of Justice measure the effectiveness of its rehabilitation, counseling and education programs for young offenders?

As of February 26th, 2013, the Department of Justice measures the effectiveness of its programming for young offenders through four (4) processes.

(i) Assessment of delivery

All programs are delivered by trained professionals trained to deliver specific programming and are evaluated on performance. Programs are assessed through feedback at the end of programs. Quality of programming and activities are assessed annually to ensure best-practice and that programs are fine-tuned accordingly. The Young Offenders Facility has a dedicated clinician who regularly liaises with other jurisdictions in Canada to ensure best-practices and approaches based in current research.

(ii) Assessment of Risk

The Young Offenders Facility offers a relatively dynamic environment in which young offenders are immersed in programming and positive role-modeling on an on-going basis. Due to the high youth worker to youth offender ratio, youth workers are able to assess the immediate needs of offenders in the Facility and respond accordingly. Assessments are completed on each young offender when admitted to the facility and a comprehensive case management plan is developed, in order to plan for when the youth is released from custody.

(iii) Assessment of Need

Youth are assessed using a variety of tools and programming. The high youth worker to youth offender ratio allows for the clinician and youth workers to develop and complete a comprehensive needs analysis for each youth offender. The clinician delivers a wide range of

accredited programming to address behavioral issues (sexual, violence, trauma, etc) founded in different fields of research such as behavior and cognitive therapy. Youth offenders participate in assigned programs until their sentence is complete, at which point post-release data is gathered.

(iv) Assessment of Response

Post-program youth offender interviews provide insight on perceived program relevancy and effectiveness. Programs are regularly fine-tuned based on the responses and reception of the offenders, including areas related to culture. The Facility attempts to involve the young offender's family and community during programming, by incorporating them in aspects of the youth's release plans to help prevent relapse.

12. From April 1, 2012 to February 26, 2013, what percentage of adult offenders in territorial custody participated in rehabilitation, counseling and education programs?

From April 1st, 2012 to February 26th, 2013, 61% of adult offenders in Territorial custody participated in programming.

13. From April 1, 2012 to February 26, 2013, what percentage of young offenders in territorial custody participated in rehabilitation, counseling, and education programs?

From April 1st, 2012 to February 26th, 2013, 100% of young offenders in Territorial custody participated in programming.

14. As of February 26, 2013, what rehabilitation, counseling and education programs are offered to former adult offenders who have completed sentences in territorial correctional facilities?

As of February 26th, 2013, Corrections does not possess the resources required to provide additional programming for released offenders. Correctional case plans do suggest possible follow-up care and resource options for offenders as required. If the offender is on probation or a conditional sentence order, Community Corrections Officers provide assistance to clients to peruse resources within their community.

15. As of February 26, 2013, what rehabilitation, counseling and education programs are offered to former young offenders who have completed sentences in territorial correctional facilities?

As of February 26th, 2013, Corrections does not possess the resources required to provide additional programming for released young offenders. Correctional case plans do suggest possible follow-up care and resource options for offenders as required. If the young offender is on probation or a conditional sentence order, Community Corrections Officers provide assistance to clients to peruse resources within their community.

Appendix

Recommendations for Amendments to the *Rules of the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut*

Recommendation #1: Government Responses to Reports of Standing and Special Committees

- The Standing Committee recommends that Rule 91 be amended as follows (new provisions **in bold**):
 - (6) **The Executive Council may file a provisional response with the Clerk indicating:**
 - a) **that more time is required;**
 - b) **the reason for the delay; and**
 - c) **the date upon which the response will be provided.**
 - (7) **The date specified in Rule 91(6)(c) must be within 30 calendar days of the date of the filing of the provisional response.**
 - (8) **No more than two provisional responses may be filed in response to the same report.**

Recommendation #2: Oral Question Period

- The Standing Committee recommends that Rule 39(4) be amended as follows (amended provision **in bold**):
 - (4) When a Minister answers an oral question, only **two** supplementary questions per Member directly related to the same subject may be asked.

Recommendation #3: Petitions

- The Standing Committee recommends that Rule 43(5) be amended as follows (new provision **in bold**):
 - (5) When a Member presenting a petition shall be answerable for any impertinent or improper material that it contains. **A petition may not contain potentially libelous, false, defamatory, scandalous or groundless statements or allegations against any identifiable individual or official.**