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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Speaker

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(Iqaluit Centre)

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(Iqaluit East)

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

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(Uqqummiut)

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

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(Baker Lake)

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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
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Allan Rumbolt

(Hudson Bay)

Fred Schell

(South Baffin)

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk

(Arviat)

*Minister of Justice; Minister
responsible for Nunavut Arctic
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Iqaluit, Nunavut
Tuesday, March 19, 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.

>>*House commenced at 13:30*

Item 1: Opening Prayer

Speaker (Hon. Hunter Tootoo): *Qujannamiik*, Sergeant-at-Arms. Before we proceed with today's sitting, I would like to ask Mr. Oshutapik to start us off with a prayer, please.

>>*Prayer*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Oshutapik. (interpretation ends) Good afternoon, everybody. Moving on in our orders of the day. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Environment, Minister Arreak.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

Minister's Statement 270 – 3(3):
Update on Nunavut Coastal
Resource Inventory

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Good afternoon, people of my constituency and Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I am pleased to announce that the department has completed 11 coastal resource

inventories to date and is currently undertaking its 12th in Pangnirtung.

Since 2007, the department has completed inventories in Igloodik, Kugluktuk, Chesterfield Inlet, (interpretation) Arctic Bay Kimmirut, Qikiqtarjuaq, Sanikiluaq, Gjoa Haven, Iqaluit, and Repulse Bay. (interpretation ends) Most recently, in November 2012, an inventory was conducted in Grise Fiord with another underway this month in the community of Pangnirtung, both of which were the result of a partnership with the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans and the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board.

The department has recognized the growing urgency throughout the territory to identify, record, and conserve Nunavut's biological, cultural, and ecological knowledge. Communities are asking for support to build these databases of information that have their origins in the living memories, experience, history, and skills of the people who live in this territory. By undertaking a coastal inventory, communities have an opportunity to share and record their knowledge on the local environment and take a lead role in the ownership and use of this information.

Mr. Speaker, these inventories are an effective way to document *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* of coastal resources and activities within Nunavut, and transform local knowledge into effective action for sustainable use of resources and conservation. The final reports have been used broadly by communities in land use planning, conservation, and economic development and will continue to be used for the foreseeable future.

Our intention is to continue to create coastal resource inventories until they have been completed in all of Nunavut's communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Arreak. (interpretation ends) Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Moving on in our orders of the day. Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Baker Lake, Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 448 – 3(3): Appreciation for ASIST Program

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to express my appreciation for the Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training, which is known as the ASIST program.

Mr. Speaker, I was delighted to listen to a radio interview that took place last month with a student at Nunavut Sivuniksavut, a program I am proud to be a graduate of.

The student expressed strong appreciation for the opportunity to take the Nunavut version of the ASIST Program. He said that the ASIST curriculum was excellent, the filmed-in-Nunavut video clips were powerful, and the training delivery was very professional. He felt that he and his classmates had learned and role-played some very practical suicide intervention skills. He thought everyone in Nunavut should consider taking this important training.

An Hon. Member: Hear, hear!

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Mr. Speaker, I want to commend the Department of Health and Social Services, NTI, and Living Works Education, the creators of ASIST, for the work they have done in adapting this program to Nunavut. I further wish to acknowledge Health Canada for their role in funding the adaptation project.

I also want to commend both Nunavut Sivuniksavut and the Nunavut Teacher Education Program for including ASIST in their core curricula. They are doing what they can to better equip Nunavummiut to be ready, willing, and able to take action to help people in distress to choose life over death.

Mr. Speaker, in 2010, the Nunavut Coalition of District Education Authorities passed a motion urging the Department of Education "as a matter of the highest priority to make suicide alertness and intervention training available to ALL staff in Nunavut schools who wish to take it, as soon as possible and on an on-going basis."

Mr. Speaker, I was disappointed to note that the Minister of Education's Return to Written Question 14 – 3(3) on "Suicide Prevention Activities" did not commit to developing a business case for the delivery of the ASIST program to educators across Nunavut.

Responsibility for delivering ASIST in Nunavut has been left to the Department of Health and Social Services and I note that its website does not advertise any ASIST workshops beyond the end of the current fiscal year.

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

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 449 – 3(3):
Application of Client Escort Policy
to Breastfeeding Mothers**

Mr. Oshutapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, fellow community members. I will be seeing you very soon.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address an issue that has been raised with me by a number of my constituents in Pangnirtung.

Mr. Speaker, the importance of breastfeeding for the health of newborn babies is well known.

A recent report titled "Early Inuit Child Health in Canada" indicates that "Breastfeeding is important for both infants and mothers. Breast milk is widely recognized as the best source of nourishment for the baby."

Mr. Speaker, the Department of Health and Social Services has been making efforts to encourage breastfeeding in Nunavut. I support these efforts and applaud the department for recognizing the importance of breastfeeding.

However, Mr. Speaker, a number of my constituents have indicated that there is a problem with the way that the department's client escort policy is being applied to breastfeeding mothers with young infants.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, in some cases, breastfeeding mothers who are escorting an older child to a medical appointment in Iqaluit or Ottawa are being told that they cannot bring their infant with them on the trip. Mr. Speaker, I believe that the department needs to be more flexible in this area.

In some cases, breastfeeding mothers are raising their children alone, and there may not be anyone else available to perform escort duties and take care of the infant.

Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement. Thank you.

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

Mr. Oshutapik: Mr. Speaker, when it comes to routine medical appointments outside of the community, a breastfeeding mother who is prepared to perform escort duties and take care of her infant should be allowed to do so. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 450 – 3(3):
Nunavut Cadet Skills Competition**

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to congratulate Nunavut Army Cadets on their successful participation in the Eastern Arctic Area Skills Competition which was held in Iqaluit

during the weekend of March 8 to 11, 2013.

Mr. Speaker, three teams from the communities of Arctic Bay, Repulse Bay, and Rankin Inlet took the opportunity to demonstrate some of the skills they have learned over the current training year. Mr. Speaker, the cadets competed in basketball, soccer, outdoor leadership “taskings,” and a drill routine.

Mr. Speaker, the cadet unit from Repulse Bay won three out of the four events and was the top unit.

Mr. Speaker, Nunavut’s Regional Cadet Support Unit based out of Winnipeg organized the event but local staff from Nunavut ran the competition with help from the Iqaluit Detachment of Joint Task Force (North). The representative from Winnipeg noted how well turned out all the cadets were. We should be proud of them.

Mr. Speaker, events such as this are sponsored by the Department of National Defence through the Canadian Cadet Movement, which encourages all young Canadians aged 12 to 18 to become active, responsible members of their communities.

Mr. Speaker, the cadets had a fine time in your community. They were able to compete, showcase their skills, take in some shopping, go to the movies, and visit with family while here in Iqaluit. I ask all members to join me in congratulating these fine youth from across the territory. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Item 3. Members’ Statements. Member for Amittuq, Mr. Tapardjuk.

**Member’s Statement 451 – 3(3):
Appreciation for Inuit
Qaujimajatuqangit Katimajit**

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For once, I want to extend my gratitude to the Nunavut government, particularly the Department of Culture and Heritage. During our session, on an earlier announcement, the minister for this department stated the appointment of members to the *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Katimajit*. I am also quite pleased that the riding of Amittuq that I represent is part of the continuation of this very important body.

We are aware of our ancestors’ lifestyles and traditions. Those of earlier generations, especially our grandfathers and grandmothers admonished us to always listen to older people and this is part of being an Inuk, leading a healthy life and respecting others, especially those of the older generations, our grandparents. Since they are quite knowledgeable of their own experiences, they can speak to the matter from the heart. Even though they have never attended school, they know about life.

Mr. Speaker, I continually reiterate that Inuit cultural values have to be incorporated into this government and the *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Katimajit* members create our expectations that they can provide assistance in this area. For the most part, the electorate and the elected MLAs constituting a majority of representatives who are also Inuit means that our government has to become closer to Inuit. What I can say about this is that although that is the case, most

government operations, legislation, and policies require further revisions that we have to complete in partnership with one another.

Due to these reasons, I want to express my complete appreciation and faith in our elders who will represent Inuit expertise within the *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit Katimajjit*, who will work towards a future where Inuit values are embedded in the government. It is only through their dedication and commitment that government policies and legislation will truly reflect Inuit, especially within government operations, service provisions, especially family services, as well as life skills. We want to see them implement a “Nunavutized” government as opposed to the parliamentary and western governance system, which has been our sole means of governance up to this time. We want to see these developments occur here.

Mr. Speaker, I want to share with my colleagues my gratitude towards our visitors in the Gallery. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tapardjuk. (interpretation ends) Item 3. Members’ Statements. We will move on in our orders of the day. Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Minister responsible for Economic Development and Transportation, Minister Taptuna.

Item 4: Returns to Oral Questions

Return to Oral Question 555 – 3(3): Status of Kimmirut Airport

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is a return to an oral question asked by Mr. Fred Schell, MLA for South Baffin, No. 555 – 3(3), March 11, 2013, on the status of Kimmirut’s airport.

Question:

Has the work on the runway surface and on the airport electrical system been successfully completed?

Response:

In 2010, the department initiated a 4,000 cubic metre crushing program (800k), followed by a \$1 million overlay program, which was successfully completed in 2011.

Unfortunately, there were not sufficient funds available to complete the airport electrical system portion of the project. Currently, the department has an Airport Capital Assistance Program application submitted to Transport Canada for a lighting improvement project at \$1.2 million.

Question:

Has Economic Development and Transportation initiated a preliminary study on the feasibility of relocating the Kimmirut Airport?

Response:

No, the department has no immediate plans to replace the Kimmirut Airport and, therefore, we are not considering a feasibility study on its relocation. We will continue to upgrade all of Nunavut’s airports as funding becomes available.

Question:

What would be the approximate cost for a new airport in Kimmirut?

Response:

The cost to build a new airport would depend on many factors, including length, width, and in Kimmirut's case, the location. Until a detailed study and design are completed, it is not possible to determine with any degree of certainty the cost of a new airport in Kimmirut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Minister of Education, Minister Aariak.

**Return to Oral Question 553 – 3(3):
Communications with DEAs****Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say “good day” to all Nunavummiut and Iqalummiut. This is a return to an oral question asked by Johnny Ningeongan, MLA for Nanulik, to the Minister of Education on March 11, 2013, and the subject is “Communications with DEAs.”

Question:

On November 7, 2012, correspondence from the DEA coalition was sent to the Minister of Education requesting clarification in a number of areas. I am confident that DEA representatives from across Nunavut are interested in her reply. For the benefit of the listening public, I would like to ask the minister if she can confirm whether or not she received this letter from the DEA coalition regarding a number of DEA issues and, if so, when does she expect to provide a response?

Response:

Please be advised that officials from the department have met with the executive director of the DEA coalition several times over the last few months to discuss this letter and the discussion paper that the coalition commissioned.

The Department of Education can confirm that this letter was received from the DEA coalition. A formal response to the DEA coalition's letter has been drafted and will be provided to the coalition chairperson in the near future.

The department has provided the executive director of the coalition with a draft version of the department's response to the discussion paper. The final version of this response is currently being translated and will be provided to the DEA coalition in the near future as well.

Additionally, please be advised that the department has recently undertaken a number of projects in collaboration with the DEA coalition. The department will be working with the coalition to provide finance training to DEA office managers and a DEA operations manual for all DEAs. The finance training for office managers will take place later this month and the draft working version of the DEA Operations Manual is planned for the fall of 2013.

The department remains committed to working with the DEA coalition to determine the best approach for ensuring that training resources will be sustainable for and accessible to all DEAs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Madam Minister. Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Item 5 in our *Orders of the Day*. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Minister of Culture and Heritage, Minister Arreak.

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to recognize and would like to thank Mr. Tapardjuk for his kind comments under Members' Statements. When I say your names, please stand up or put your hand up.

Saul Aqslaluk Qirnirq – Gjoa Haven

Annie Napayok – Whale Cove

Gamailee Kilukishak - Pond Inlet

Josephine Kublu – Igloolik

Daniel Qattalik – Igloolik

Okpik Pitseolak – Iqaluit

Martha Tikivik – Iqaluit

There are people who are not here today, but they will be arriving later. They are:

Ovide Alakannuark – Kugaaruk

Adamie Veevee – Pangnirtung

Levi Evic – Pangnirtung

Those are the members. Their staff is also here, Shuvinai Mike.

I don't want to just bypass anybody, especially an individual who recently passed on who was to have become a

member of this committee, as this person also held a lot of traditional knowledge and she just recently passed away, Martha Michael, who I am remembering at this time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Arreak. (interpretation ends) Welcome. It is a pleasure to see you here in the Gallery. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Pangnirtung, Mr. Oshutapik.

Mr. Oshutapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to recognize a couple of visitors to the Gallery originally from our community although they haven't lived in our community for some time, but I still consider them fellow community residents. I would like to share with my colleagues a warm welcome to an employee of QEC, David Veevee originally from Pangnirtung. Also, another person who was just recognized who I recognize is Shuvinai Mike. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Oshutapik. Welcome to the Gallery. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Rankin Inlet South and Whale Cove, Mr. Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A good day's wishes to Rankin Inlet South and Whale Cove residents. We rarely receive any visitors from the community of Whale Cove, and I want to also recognize this person from Whale Cove, Annie Napayok. I wish her a warm welcome, and further if my maternal uncle is

listening, I wish him a very good afternoon, and his name is Jackie Napayok. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Kusugak. (interpretation ends) Welcome to the Gallery, Ms. Napayok. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Tununiq, Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon wishes to the residents of Pond Inlet including in all Nunavummiut. I also want to welcome the visitors who have been recognized in the Gallery. Furthermore, this elder whom I take great pride in and acknowledge, one of our community elders who is part of this committee, my fellow community resident, Mr. Gamailee Kilukishak. Please welcome him. Thank you.

>>*Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Enook. Welcome to the Gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Amittuq, Mr. Tapardjuk.

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, also wish to recognize individuals already recognized earlier, but I shall break one of our rules.

I wish to recognize these two individuals from Igloodik that were picked due to expression of interests for membership in this committee. My *Qiturngaqatik* Josephine Kublu, and my in-law, Daniel Qattalik, were appointed to the committee, and I wish to welcome them to the Gallery. They don't usually travel

to Iqaluit, but they have come here due to their recent appointment. I would like them warmly welcomed by my colleagues to this House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Tapardjuk. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Rankin Inlet North, Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): I wish a good afternoon to residents of Rankin Inlet, along with Nunavutmiut, as well as the viewing audience in Nunavik.

I, too, wish to acknowledge these people who were already recognized. Due to our rules of a member recognizing an individual only once, I will also be breaking our rules along with my colleague.

>>*Laughter*

We don't get too many visitors, especially our esteemed elders, so I want to welcome all our visiting elders. When our Chambers are graced by elders' presences, it really helps the members as well as Nunavutmiut by showcasing the elders' place in our territory.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to welcome all of the elders, but sometimes members have their siblings visit on the rare occasion during our sessions here. Whenever members of our immediate families enter, even just a glance makes one glow with pride. I want my colleagues to share in welcoming my sister who is in the Gallery, Annie Napayok, and her fellow elders. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Curley. Welcome to the Gallery. On an occasion like this, I do not have a problem exercising my discretion to welcome these individuals to the Gallery.

Moving on in our orders of the day. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Baker Lake, Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 586 – 3(3): ASIST Training for Educators

Mr. Aupaluktuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say “good afternoon” to the people of Baker Lake. It is nice to see the elders visiting us too. My questions are for the Minister of Education.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, earlier today, I expressed my appreciation for Nunavut’s Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training.

As the minister is aware, the Coalition of Nunavut DEAs passed a resolution that “as a matter of the highest priority, suicide alertness and intervention training be made available to ALL staff in Nunavut schools who wish to take it, as soon as possible and on an ongoing basis.” The minister strongly supported the delivery of ASIST training when the program was first launched.

Can she explain why her department has not implemented this resolution? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the member for asking a very important question in regard to ASIST. Prevention is very important to the people of Nunavut. There are quite a lot of options we can take on. (interpretation ends) Suicide intervention and prevention is a very serious social concern in Nunavut that is often difficult to deal with. The goal of Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training is to help people feel more comfortable, confident, and competent in helping to prevent those who are at immediate risk of suicide.

The Department of Education is committed to providing training to all school staff who are comfortable learning the skills that will help them respond to emergencies and take place in the community, including sudden loss of life. (interpretation) We are going to be training the educators on suicide prevention, and all employees who are willing to take the training program will have the option to go.

At times, there are employees who cannot take the training program because of... (interpretation ends) Sometimes it is difficult for individuals to take the training, especially if one has experienced a recent loss due to suicide, and they would rather wait until they are personally ready to take the course. Of course, the commitment to train all staff is important.

(interpretation) This year, we are going to be working with the Department of

Health and Social Services and Nunavut Arctic College regarding the training program on suicide prevention. (interpretation ends) In the new fiscal year, we will be working closely with the Department of Health and Nunavut Arctic College to establish a comprehensive ASIST training schedule. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With no doubt, implementation of resolutions is quite complicated, but on a topic such as this, it is quite sensitive. I am glad the minister is able to raise awareness with the departmental staff, and as well as other agencies.

Mr. Speaker, for the record, I want to ask: can the minister update this House on how many staff have received the ASIST training during the current school year, and how does this number compare with previous school years? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't have that information in front of me at this time, but I will be very pleased to give you the information at a later date. There have been some individual training programs in previous years, but they weren't able to go ahead with the training program. It's very important to make sure that they're trained in these fields. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Aupaluktuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is obvious that the majority of Nunavummiut have been impacted by suicide, and it is clear that many of our residents in Nunavut have all felt that impact and this issue is important to our fellow residents.

Although the minister partially responded to my earlier question, I wanted the answer stated while all Nunavummiut are listening into the televised sessions. I wanted to ask this further question, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Can the minister update this House on how many staff will receive training during the current school year? If she does not know the answer now, will she be able to provide it? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I do not have the information in front of me, but we have given all school staff the opportunity to take the training program if they would like to do so. I do not have the numbers in front of me, but I will keep the House updated on this training program. I will read them in English.

(interpretation ends) Our first focus will be on providing ASIST training to any high school staff who wishes to take the training. Nunavut Arctic College has added ASIST training to Nunavut Teacher Education Program and nursing curriculum. This means that all new

teachers and nurses will have ASIST training when they begin their careers.

We will create an ASIST training registry so that we have current information on which communities have education staff/residents who have taken ASIST training and if the number of trained individuals has changed. This registry will help us determine when communities need to have the ASIST training workshop delivered. (interpretation) I know that it is going to be very helpful in the future if we know who has been trained on the ASIST program. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also encourage the minister to advise the various levels of training to also include support staff at various levels in the schools, and as well as the delivery programs.

Mr. Speaker, the GN suicide prevention efforts are coordinated in partnership with NTI, Embrace Life Council, and the RCMP. Is the minister aware of any concerns brought forward by these entities with respect to the level of ASIST training being provided to school staff and other Nunavummiut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Eva Aariak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Not that I am aware of. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 587 – 3(3): Status of New Structure at the Baffin Correctional Centre

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Justice. I want to follow up today with the minister on the issue of the new facility at the Baffin Correctional Centre. The Legislative Assembly has now approved just over \$14 million for this project.

Although the budget requests that have gone before the Legislative Assembly for approval described this as a “temporary” structure, the Minister of Finance indicated yesterday that, and I quote, “It will be more of a permanent-type facility as opposed to a temporary facility.”

Can the Minister of Justice clarify whether this structure is intended to be a permanent facility or a temporary facility? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Rumbolt for that question. Mr. Speaker, first of all, I would like to thank my colleagues and the Members of the House for their support in moving forward with such a great endeavour and a critical facility that was much needed in the territory of Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, I think, when this initiative began, there was a title change that was improperly put on this facility and that was the temporary relief structure. That was later changed with discussion with Justice that it should have never been named that way. It is now called the overcrowding relief structure.

I assure the member that this is more than a temporary facility. It is a permanent facility. We're going to be using it for the long term until such time that we move forward further with endeavours to have a more entailed facility and we have a bigger facility to house all of our inmates. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for the information. Mr. Speaker, this facility has been described in government documents as a "rapid deployment structure" and a "tensioned membrane structure." Can the minister describe in general terms the design approach for this facility? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Rumbolt for the question again. Mr. Speaker, when this initiative began, it began with a great emergency and a need to deal with the situation we have at BCC. There were several options looked at. I do recall at one point when we were talking about a sprung structure and a design

that would be put up quick, more looking like a tent. This design was looked at and also, CGS Technical Services was greatly involved in this. This was explored. We did not have enough information on that type of facility and the risk was too high to proceed with that, so we went with more of a traditional structure facility. It's going to be a steel structure facility and that is the way we're moving forward. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday, the Minister of Justice indicated that the planning and design for the new structure is complete. Will the minister commit to providing copies of the facility's design to the Members of the Legislative Assembly? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will commit to do that during the spring sitting of the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In October of last year, the Legislative Assembly approved \$8,575,000 in the department's capital estimates for this new facility. At that time, the minister stated that "The overcrowding relief structure will be utilized in years to

come to provide programming to offenders following construction of a new larger facility replacing the present Baffin Correctional Centre.” Can the minister clarify if the government still plans to construct a full replacement for the BCC and, if so, what is the approximate cost of such a project? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Rumbolt for the very important question. Mr. Speaker, I think my vision and the government’s vision is to work toward a facility that will house all of our inmates in Nunavut, the ones that we have in different locations that are territorial inmates that are outside of the territory, also the federal inmates that we have in southern Canada.

This is a long-term vision. There’s ongoing discussion. I’ve had discussion with the public safety minister of Canada. I’ve had discussion with our MP for Nunavut. I’ve also had discussion with a couple of Senators who are interested in setting up a committee and exploring such an avenue. So we will continue to work towards this.

As for when that would happen in the future, I don’t have any dates on that and what would happen. I think the cost of such a facility, Mr. Speaker, would be in the hundreds of millions of dollars. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 588 – 3(3): Inuit Language Standardization

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Languages, whom I call my *Annuraaqatik*, (interpretation ends) Hon. James Arreak.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, earlier in this sitting, I addressed the need for official Inuit language terms to be established for the names of our government departments. I fully recognize and appreciate the richness of the various Inuktitut dialects across Nunavut and I respect that those dialects are fully entrenched in family identities and community relations.

However, Mr. Speaker, government services are delivered to all members of the public, regardless of what family or community they are from, and to ensure efficient delivery of those services, there is a need for standardization. Can the minister clearly explain the plans and timelines for the standardization of the Inuit language across Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Tapardjuk. Minister of Languages, Minister Arreak.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Tapardjuk for asking that question regarding the Inuit language that we consider an important matter. We aren’t focusing on standardizing the Inuktitut language; however the Inuit Language

Authority identifies words that aren't familiar to Inuit or on new words, to come up with a standardized term understood by all regions. This is what they are doing at this time.

Our goal isn't to standardize the Inuktitut language with one common language used by Nunavummiut, but to ensure that Inuit in all regions understand what the new terms and their definitions are for and that is part of the mandate of this committee. This committee does a lot of work in this area. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On October 30, 2012, the minister tabled *Uqausivut*, the government's comprehensive plan pursuant to the Nunavut's language legislation. I do note that page 22 of the plan lists a number of 2012 to 2016 priorities with respect to language development and standardization.

However, the plan is very vague with respect to what specific areas of standardization will be addressed and when each of those areas is proposed to be finalized. Can the minister provide more detail on what specific areas of the Inuit language will be focused on for standardization and what specific time objectives will be set? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Tapardjuk. Minister of Languages, Minister Arreak.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. During

question period last year, I indicated our priorities for this year.

Our first goal is to set up terms regarding health; we have been working on that for a number of years now. We are compiling terms for body parts and health-related terms. That is our first priority for this year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I understand that. We have been working on the health-related topics; medication, for example, has been on the table for quite some time now. I understand that one priority area for standardization is in the health field, with medical and pharmacological terminology being a prime focus.

As many of my colleagues will be aware, this has been an ongoing area of language development, even prior to our new language legislation coming into force. Health is indeed one place where clarity in communication is essential.

Can the minister indicate what other aspects of language standardization are seen as priorities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Tapardjuk. Minister of Languages, Minister Arreak.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I talked about this issue yesterday, and I cannot remember exactly what our priorities are. It is going to be an ongoing program. I would like to thank my

colleague who started these projects before my time.

We are standardizing the language and have come to a consensus, but, again, there are different dialects or different writing systems that we have to factor in. Once the health-related terms are completed then we will turn our focus onto another area. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the minister for his response. Part two of the Nunavut *Inuit Language Protection Act* establishes the *Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit* and gives it the authority to consider and make decisions about Inuit language use development and standardization.

Can the minister describe his working relationship with the Inuit Language Authority and how he provides direction with respect to prioritizing the Inuit Language Authority's efforts in this area? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Tapardjuk. Minister of Languages, Minister Arreak.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As ministers responsible for various portfolios, when we are dealing with directives, much like my ministerial portfolio of the Environment, where I have some authority, the other portfolio I hold is as the Minister of Languages.

I also have some authority on some issues, but the Inuit Language Authority is the main language definition working group, but I do have some flexibility when it comes to Languages. This includes working with the Inuit Language Authority on linguistic issues. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 589 – 3(3): Status of Peary Caribou Management Plan

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

As the minister will recall from questions to him earlier in the sitting concerning development in High Arctic, the issue of protecting the Peary caribou is a concern for the communities that I represent.

The Department of Environment's business plan indicates that one of its priorities for the coming fiscal year is to continue working to develop a Peary caribou management plan. Can the minister update the House today on the status of this work? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Mr. Speaker. I wish to apologize, as at this time I haven't been briefed in any details with respect to the matter the member brought up, at least to date. I will have to take the question as notice at

this time, and once I have that information, I will be able to provide a response. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Your question has been taken as notice. Minister Arreak, are you taking the question as notice? Okay. Oral Questions. Member for Pangnirtung, Mr. Oshutapik.

Question 590 – 3(3): Application of Client Escort Policy to Breastfeeding Mothers

Mr. Oshutapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Health and Social Services, (interpretation ends) Hon. Keith Peterson.

Mr. Speaker, in my Member's Statement today, I raised concerns about the way that the department's client escort policy is being applied to breastfeeding mothers.

Can the minister clarify if breastfeeding mothers are allowed to bring their babies with them when they are escorting other children to medical appointments outside of their community? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Oshutapik for the question. Mr. Speaker, I believe there may be an issue with the airlines. I believe it is one adult, one child. It would be difficult for a mother or father to look after two children while they're

travelling in the event of an emergency. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Oshutapik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the minister is aware, this issue has been raised before by Members of the Legislative Assembly. Can the minister indicate if this issue has been reviewed by his department? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am not sure if I understand Mr. Oshutapik's question. We are always reviewing the policy to ensure that we are providing good service to our clients. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Oshutapik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The department's current client escort approval process does not clearly address this issue. Will the minister commit to producing a more clear set of guidelines in this area? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Oshutapik for the question. If there is some uncertainty

with our clients or with our staff interpreting the Client Travel Policy, I will ensure that my officials clarify it for them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Oshutapik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, minister, for your response. Will the minister commit to reporting back to the Legislative Assembly at its spring sitting on what his department has done to address this issue? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Oshutapik again for the question. I cannot commit to reporting back. If the members wish to continue asking questions about the Client Travel Policy, as he has done or any other MLA has, it is entirely up to them. I am prepared to answer questions on that policy at any time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 591 – 3(3): Collaboration against Cancer

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Health. Since the issue is really quite profound and serious I would like to read my question in English.

The issue of fighting cancer has been raised by many members of the Legislative Assembly during this sitting. It is well known that hundreds of millions of dollars, and actually billions in North America and Canada on an annual basis to conduct cancer research.

Can the minister indicate how his department collaborates with such organizations as the Canadian Cancer Research Alliance and the Canadian Institutes of Health Research in the fight against cancer? 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. There's no doubt that cancer is one of the most deadly killers, many forms of cancer that can make a person ill or take their lives.

We have many people in Nunavut who raise funds for cancer research. In my riding alone, we have a number of individuals who have raised money for breast cancer research. There was "Women in Action" last year that raised over \$100,000 for cancer research. There is the Movember for prostate cancer research.

Mr. Speaker, we send individuals down south to many facilities, universities, hospitals, and cancer institutes. I cannot tell Mr. Curley specifically which organizations we have partnerships with. As Minister of Health, I have been encouraging our department to forge partnerships with many institutions down south and avail ourselves in their

research work; that can be a benefit to Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There have also been a number of very extensive reports, as of two days ago National Post had a very extensive coverage on research, and it that the expert was quoted saying that the same tools that were applied to treat cancer over 40 years ago are still used today.

According to Institute of Cancer Research, which is part of federal Canadian Institutes of Health Research, the incidence of this disease in Canada, and I quote, “Has not significantly declined in the last 20 years.” However, the institute also indicates that “by early detection and new research leading to tailored service many cancers are managed effectively.”

Can the minister indicate what input his department has into national cancer research initiatives so that Nunavutmiut who generously donate to cancer charities can rest assured that money is spent where it can do the most good? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Curley for the question. I do a lot of reading and I can read pretty fast, but I have not had a chance to read that particular report yet, even though the other stuff I have been reading in the last three weeks, late in the day... .

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Curley has to trust that the money that Nunavummiut are raising for cancer research is being put to good use. I know many of my constituents in my riding of Cambridge Bay go to facilities down south and they get very good care. I have talked to them and they are very positive and pleased with the care that they receive down south to the extent that they participated in fundraising activities to raise funds for research to help future Nunavummiut to benefit from the facilities that they attend down south. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I share the minister’s concern with cancer research. Cancer is not unique to a nation; research conducted by any nation is shared by all nations, all citizens, and therefore, what we are looking for is most cost-effective where our attention should be. It is not me that is just asking the minister.

A 2009 publication issued by Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami on the subject of Inuit and cancer indicates that “lung cancer rates for Inuit men and women in Canada are the highest in the world and these rates are rising.”

Can the minister indicate if his department supports a focus on research into this form of cancer? 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. As I mentioned to Mr. Aupaluktuq yesterday, lung cancer is the No. 1 preventative cancer in Nunavut and Canada, and nationally, if people were educated about the dangers of smoking.

In Nunavut, 60 percent of our population above the age of 15 smoke. As Mr. Curley is aware, the Department of Health has undertaken the Tobacco Reduction and Cessation Strategy where we are promoting the dangers of smoking and being addicted to cigarettes. It's not always a teenager; the big tobacco companies engineer their cigarettes to addict people to a lifetime of smoking. If we could get them to not smoke or prevent them from being addicted, that is the No. 1 preventative method of avoiding cancer.

As I indicated in another answer yesterday to Mr. Aupaluktuq and again to Mr. Curley, early diagnoses are possible if the individuals will go to the health centres or the hospital and tell the doctors and nurses their conditions. We have ways to send people down south. Of course, we know that. The specialized equipment and diagnostic equipment is down south that we don't have in Nunavut. I encourage all Nunavummiut, if they smoke for any length of time, to ensure that their health practitioners take a good look at them during their Well Men or Well Women clinics. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I think many Nunavutmiut surely support

the minister to prevent any further incidence of cancer, particularly by dealing with tobacco issues and so on. I am convinced too, like many Nunavutmiut, that that is one area where cutting tobacco will surely benefit Nunavutmiut.

It's also a fact, Mr. Speaker, that in North America, particularly the United States, research that has been conducted for the last 40 years in excess of \$100 billion worth of research on cancer is still standing as it was 40 years ago, and in Canada, Canada has spent over \$500 million worth up to 2009.

So what we're looking for is whether or not the minister would support charities and should be focused on areas where Nunavutmiut are most benefiting from. Would the minister be prepared to indicate that he supports focused research to prevent cancer-related incidence in Nunavut? Thank you.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Curley for the question. Mr. Speaker, I will support any type of research anywhere that would help us address the issue of cancer in Nunavut or elsewhere in Canada. It's very important that we do research. Cancer doesn't distinguish people in the north or the south. It's important that you do that kind of research or else any kind of research that is done by anybody or any organization. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 592 – 3(3): Support for District Education Authorities

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon to my fellow Nunavummiut. Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Education, (interpretation ends) Hon. Eva Aariak.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, as the minister is well aware, an important component of our education program focuses on language and culture. Mr. Speaker, most schools across Nunavut have programs to take students out on the land during the spring to teach various aspects of culture and the environment.

Can the minister clarify what kinds of funding supports are provided to district education authorities to fund on-the-land programs for the school children in our communities and how that funding is delivered? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Enook. Minister responsible for the Department of Education, Minister Aariak.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleague for asking the question. We know that most of the schools, if not all schools, will be thinking about going out on the land soon. These district education authorities are funded differently, but for going out on the land program I do not have a breakdown of those programs but once I get that

information I will take that question as notice. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Pond Inlet DEA has found out that every time they submit an application for funding for the regional school division, it takes at least two months before they receive a reply.

Can the minister explain why her department officials take so long to respond to a relatively straightforward request? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Enook. Minister responsible for Department of Education, Minister Aariak.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank you for the question. As a government we try to put different programs which are run by the government, I have not heard any complaints for someone waiting for a long period of time and it probably has come up and I will check into it and see what happened. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We will be expecting an answer. With many funding agreements the Pond Inlet DEA have found that they are required to apply for funding before the end of the fiscal year and the money has to be spent by March 31 of the same fiscal year.

However, up in Pond Inlet it is still much too cold in March to take groups of young children out on the land. If the DEA waits until April 1 to submit their funding application, the answer takes two months to arrive by which time it is too late to conduct on the land trips.

Can the minister explain why her department cannot provide better assistance and ensuring that DEA receive funding in a timely manner in order to be able to deliver this important component of the educational program? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Enook. Minister responsible for Department of Education, Minister Aariak.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If there are any problems, if the DEA has to be consulted along with the Department of Education, they can help out to see how they can better operate this program or the timing. We also know that the funds end March 31. For that reason, we will have to work together to find a common ground to see what we can do to fix this difference in timing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Clearly, the government's fiscal year does not mesh very well with the school calendar year. Will the minister commit to making changes to the funding application process in order that DEAs can apply for funding to conduct cultural activities such as on-the-land programs during the school year and conduct those activities without

unnecessary bureaucratic delays and barriers?

Can the minister commit to change the dates of the application and the funds that have to be used? Can they do a review as soon as possible about these barriers? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Enook. Minister responsible for Department of Education, Minister Aariak.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I can get my staff to see how we can better serve this situation in the schools. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 593 – 3(3): Driver's Licences for Sanikiluaq

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation.

Mr. Speaker, in the past four years, I have raised the issue of driver's licences a number of times with the minister and I am sure that by now he would like me to take a long drive down a short road in Nunavut.

>>*Laughter*

However, this issue remains unresolved for many of my constituents.

Mr. Speaker, the residents of Sanikiluaq were given to understand that with the GLO taking over the responsibility for

issuing driver's licences, there would be an improvement in the efficiency of the system. Applicants for driver's licences are supposed to receive their new licence within 90 days. This is not happening.

Can the minister clearly explain why driver's licence application forms from the community of Sanikiluaq have to wait much longer than 90 days, sometimes almost a year, before receiving their driver's licences? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Drive safely.

>>*Laughter*

Minister responsible for Economic Development and Transportation, Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. Mr. Speaker, the motor vehicles division has been working actively to try and eliminate some of these difficulties that have been encountered. Mr. Speaker, in 2010, I did a ministerial statement proclaiming that we had won the best award design and quality for the driver's licence and general ID cards from the Bank of Canada and I am not throwing my best that we will be given an award for delivery of the service.

>>*Laughter*

Mr. Speaker, there have been a lot of difficulties being encountered with the applicants themselves when they request the documents, of course, the birth certificate, which most applicants did not possess. So it is a difficult situation to

deal with, but the GLOs in Sanikiluaq, Repulse Bay, Grise Fiord, and Pangnirtung have improved the quality of the delivery of this service.

Just last month, some of our non-automated offices got the capability of transferring data electronically to our headquarters here in Iqaluit, which drastically improved the delivery of the service. In the past, the data was gathered on a memory stick and sent through Canada Post to our headquarters here and analyzed. In most cases, there was missing information, which again the path of sending the memory stick out back to the applicant takes a lot of time. So with this improved electronic data gathering, this should eliminate some of the need for the wait time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When residents of the community of Sanikiluaq pass their driver's test and get a driver's licence it restricts them to driving only in Nunavut. Some residents would like a driver's licence that enables them to drive outside of Nunavut. Say if they go on holiday, they would like to be able to rent a car. Can the minister explain what services his department offers to ensure that residents of all communities across Nunavut are able to obtain an unrestricted driver's licence? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. The onus is on the person that wants to drive out to another jurisdiction, good get information they can simply call up the office, the motor vehicles office and request some assistance on how to get access other driver's licences within other jurisdictions. Mr. Speaker, I do not have that information in front of me but any applicant that wishes to do so can just pick up the phone or email the motor vehicles division and get assistance from there. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It does not seem right that in order to obtain an unrestricted driver's licence, an individual would have to pay their own way to a major centre like Iqaluit to take the appropriate driver's test.

Would the minister be prepared to have the appropriate driving examiner travel to communities on a regular basis to schedule driver's tests so that interested individuals could obtain their unrestricted driver's licence? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. 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 there are several different types of classes of driver's licence and to be more specific the applicant or the person is interested in

getting an out-of-jurisdiction licence will have to get assistance from the motor vehicles office. Of course, in the past, the current practice is that for a class 3 driver's licence, airbrakes licence, there is a person who evaluates and licence offers out there for airbrakes, class 3 licences. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 594 – 3(3): Empty Fuel Drums in Nunavut

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

Yesterday, during Committee of the Whole, when the minister and his officials were before us defending the operations and maintenance budget for his department, we were told that the Department of Environment has been storing 45-gallon drums of fuel in our communities and in remote locations across the territory for decades. His department stated that during those decades of fuel storage, not one incident was recorded. For the public record, would the minister confirm this is, in fact, true? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, that is true. We have not heard any incidents in regard to the storage drums here in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. How many used and empty 45-gallon drums under the responsibility of the Government of Nunavut's Department of Environment are scattered across our 25 communities and in remote locations across the territory? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister responsible for Department of Environment, Minister Arreak.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do not have the accounted information, but I could get the information if we can to see how many empty barrels are in the communities. I do not have any information at this point, but I will let you know once I get that information. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What is the Department of Environment's plan for removal of these used 45-gallon drums, will they be shipped out of the community to be reused or will they be left in the community and disposed of in our landfill sites? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister responsible for Department of Environment, Minister Arreak.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Since they do affect our environment, we will try to find cost-effective ways to deal with

these empty 45-gallon drums. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Why does the Department of Environment not support local businesses contracted by the Petroleum Products Division and use the GN bulk fuel storage facilities infrastructure in every community provided through Community and Government Services to purchase and store fuel? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister responsible for Department of Environment, Minister Arreak.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With respect to the member's comments we have not had any accidents related to oil spills or destroying the environment. I can look into how we can make best use of the empty barrels and to make sure that these are not dangerous to our environment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Arreak. The members will note that the allotted time for question period according to our clock has expired. Before we move on in our orders of the day, I just hope that all members enjoyed their last time of asking their third and final supplementary. With our new rules commencing this spring, there will only be two supplementary questions and I am sure the ministers look forward to that as well.

>> *Laughter*

>> *Applause*

Moving on in our orders of the day. Item 7. Written Questions. Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Item 10. Petitions. Item 11. Responses to Petitions. Item 12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bill and Other Matters. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Minister responsible for Department of Environment, Minister Arreak.

Item 13: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 342 – 3(3): Natural Resources Conservation Trust Fund Annual Report, April 1, 2010 to March 31, 2011

Tabled Document 343 – 3(3): Natural Resources Conservation Trust Fund Annual Report, April 1, 2011 to March 31, 2012

Hon. James Arreak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have two documents to table today.

I am pleased to table the Natural Resource Conservation Trust Fund Annual Report, April 1, 2010 to March 31, 2011.

Secondly, Mr. Speaker I am pleased to table the National Resource Conservation Trust Fund Annual Report April 1, 2011 to March 31, 2012. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Arreak. Please bring those documents up to the front.

Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Mr. Ningark.

Tabled Document 344 – 3(3): News Release: Government of Canada Helps Prevent Homelessness in Nunavut

Mr. Ningark: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table a copy of the Government of Canada's news release concerning funding that is being provided to the Hamlet of Kugaaruk for an emergency shelter. I very much welcome this investment and would like to express my appreciation to our Member of Parliament for her support. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Tabled Document 345 – 3(3): Nunavut Human Rights Tribunal Annual Report 2011-2012

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table the 2011-12 Annual Report of the Nunavut Human Rights Tribunal. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. Tabling of Documents. Minister of Finance, Minister Peterson.

Tabled Document 346 – 3(3): Government of Nunavut's Response to the Recommendations of the Minister's Task Force to Review the Nunavut Liquor Act

Tabled Document 347 – 3(3): Nunavut Sexual Health Framework for Action 2012-2017

**Tabled Document 348 – 3(3): Draft
Ilagiitsiarniq – GN Family
Violence Prevention Framework
for Action**

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have three items I would like to table; two of them will be health items as well.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to table the Government of Nunavut's Response to the Recommendations of the Minister's Task Force to Review the Nunavut *Liquor Act*.

Second item, Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to table the Nunavut Sexual Health Framework for Action 2012-17.

I am pleased to table the Government of Nunavut Family Violence Prevention Framework for Action. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you very much, Minister Peterson. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Moving on in our orders of the day. Item 14. Notices of Motion. Item 15. Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills. Item 16. Motions. Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Minister of Education, Minister Aariak.

**Item 18: Second Reading of Bills
Bill 52 – An Act to Amend the
Nunavut Teachers Association Act
– Second 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 second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill amends the *Nunavut Teachers Association Act*. Among other things, the amendment changed the name of the association in the English version of the Act, simplified the definition of "teacher," added by-lawmaking powers, required the association to make its by-laws available to the public, remove the eligibility of executive directors in the Department of Education to be associate members of the association, and make revisions to the association's disciplinary process. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Madam Minister. The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill. Question has been called. All those in favour. Any opposed? The motion is carried and Bill 52 has been read for the second time and is referred to the Standing Committee on Legislation

Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Minister of Justice, Minister Shewchuk.

**Bill 57 – Miscellaneous Statutes
Amendment Act, 2013 – Second
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 second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill corrects inconsistencies and errors in certain enactments of Nunavut, corrects references to the Northwest Territories statutes, and repeals provisions that

ceased to have effect. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill. Question has been called. All those in favour. Any opposed? The motion is carried. Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Pursuant to Rule 67(2), I request unanimous consent to order Bill 57 into the Committee of the Whole for consideration. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. The minister is seeking unanimous consent to have Bill 57 ordered directly into the Committee of the Whole. Are there any nays? There is a nay. So it will be referred to the Standing Committee on Legislation.

Item 18. Second Reading of Bills.
Minister responsible for the Department of Human Resources, Minister Ell.

Bill 58 – Public Service Act – Second Reading

Hon. Monica Ell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Iqaluit East, that Bill 58, *Public Service Act*, be read for the second time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

This bill repeals and replaces the *Public Service Act*. It modernizes the language of the Act, adds new provisions concerning the reporting and investigation of wrongdoing and protection of the rights of those reporting, and updates the provisions concerning political activity by public servants. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Ell. The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill. Question has been called. All those in favour. Any opposed? The motion is carried and Bill 58 has been read for the second time and is referred to the Standing Committee on Legislation.

Item 18. Second Reading of Bills.
Minister responsible for Economic Development and Transportation,
Minister Taptuna.

Bill 59 – Collaboration for Poverty Reduction Act – Second 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 second time.

Mr. Speaker, this Act affirms in law the commitment that the Government of Nunavut to participate as a partner with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, Inuit organizations, other governments, non-governmental organizations and businesses of the Nunavut Round Table for Poverty Reduction to implement The Makimaniq Plan and the Five-year Poverty Reduction Action Plan in the matter consistent with Article 32 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement. The Act also creates a poverty reduction fund. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

to the Standing Committee on Legislation.

Item 18. Second Reading of Bills.
Minister of Justice, Minister Shewchuk.

**Bill 60 – An Act Respecting the
Nunavut Law Foundation –
Second Reading**

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

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill. Question has been called. All those in favour. Any opposed? The motion is carried and Bill 60 has been read for the second time and is referred to the Standing Committee on Legislation.

Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Item 19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bills 53, 54, 55, and 56 with Mr. Tapardjuk in the Chair.

In accordance with the authority granted to me by Motion 44 – 3(3), the committee will stay in session until it reports itself out, and it's our last day today.

Before we proceed to the Committee of the Whole, we will take a 22-minute break.

>>*Laughter*

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House recessed at 15:15 and
Committee resumed at 15:42*

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

Chairman (Mr. Tapardjuk) (interpretation): Thank you for returning. I would now like to call the committee meeting to order. We now have quorum and so we can begin our deliberations. In Committee of the Whole, we have the following items to deal with: Bills 53, 54, 55, and 56. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We wish to commence and complete today the clause-by-clause review of the following bills in this order: Bill 54, Bill 56, Bill 53, and Bill 55. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Those are the four items we will be dealing with. Are we in agreement to deal with those bills?

Some Members: Agreed.

**Bill 54 – An Act to Amend the Income
Tax Act – Consideration in
Committee**

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. We will now deal with Bill 54. (interpretation ends) Bill 54. (interpretation) Minister of Finance, please go to the witness table.

Thank you. Minister Peterson, if you have any opening remarks, you may proceed. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to present Bill 54, *An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act*. Bill 54 will amend Nunavut's *Income Tax Act* to bring it more in line with the federal *Income Tax Act* and with current territorial and federal taxation practices.

The Government of Nunavut enjoys a productive tax relationship with Canada, formalized by the Canada-Nunavut Tax Collection Agreement. Under this agreement, the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) takes on all of the risks associated with collecting Nunavut's personal and corporate income taxes on our behalf. We expect these taxes will bring in almost \$35 million in 2013-14 alone. In return, Nunavut agrees to keep our tax rules consistent with federal rules. This means we need to update our legislation from time to time to reflect changes to federal legislation.

Bill 54 will amend Nunavut's *Income Tax Act* in two ways.

First, it will amend the Act to allow the Canada Revenue Agency to withhold an individual's tax refund if that person is not complying with obligations to file various documents with the Canada Revenue Agency. Withholding refunds is a reasonable way to encourage individuals to comply with tax laws. This amendment reflects the changes that the federal government made to section 164 of its own *Income Tax Act* and current federal practice.

Second, Bill 54 will confirm that common-law partners and married couples are equal under Nunavut's tax laws, as they are elsewhere in Canada. This amendment simply formalizes what the GN already does, which is to treat

common-law and married couples equally.

Mr. Chairman, these amendments will not change current practice nor will they impact Government of Nunavut revenues or compromise the spirit or intent of the Act.

I am pleased to answer questions from members. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson. Does the Chair of the Standing Committee on Legislation have any opening comments? Mr. Ningeongan.

Mr. Ningeongan: *Qujannamiik*, Mr. Chairman. As Chair of the Standing Committee on Legislation, I am pleased to make some brief opening comments as we begin consideration of Bill 54, *An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act*.

The standing committee recognizes that the intent of the bill is to harmonize certain provisions in the territorial *Income Tax Act* with recent changes to the federal statute. The standing Committee has no objections to the proposed amendments.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening comments. The standing committee recommends the passage of Bill 54 to all members. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. Minister Peterson, do you have any witnesses that you would like to bring to the table? Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I have two witnesses. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Thank you, Minister Peterson. I also thank the Sergeant-at-Arms. For the record, please introduce your witnesses. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my right is Geoff Chown, Acting Deputy Minister of the Department of Finance, and to my left is Camilius Egeni, Director of Expenditure Management. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson. Just before we review the bill, are there any general comments? Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are short amendments to this bill and we can understand the opening comments of the minister, but I just wanted to get some clarification.

In the minister's opening comments, it states that "First, it will amend the Act to allow the Canada Revenue Agency to withhold an individual's tax refund if that person is not complying with obligations to file various documents with the Canada Revenue Agency." The reason why I said that is it looks like the

CRA has all the information. He could find out about the refund, but if the information is not all there, he's not going to know. The Canada Revenue Agency will not know. You can read it in English; I just rephrased it in Inuktitut.

If the CRA lacks documents, they will be withholding the refund. (interpretation ends) The first opening paragraph of the minister indicates that the CRA has determined that individuals submitting a tax to CRA, assuming that he complies with all the documents required, and then in the end, the tax refund or not is determined, but then it says that if that person is not complying with obligations to file various documents, then they will withhold that tax refund. I find it kind of difficult to rationalize exactly what the first paragraph means here if you read it carefully.

How can the CRA determine that if a person is not complying properly, the refund is going to be withheld? If they're missing a tax receipt and all the other receipts or charity refunds, they cannot determine the refund unless they get all the documents. Is that what it says?

I will ask questions at appropriate sections, *Iksivautaaq*. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Are there any other general comments? There being none. We will go to (interpretation ends) Bill 54 (interpretation) in your legislation binder. I believe all of you have a copy of (interpretation ends) Bill 54, (interpretation) *An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act*. (interpretation ends) Clause 1. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Clause 2. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 3. (interpretation) Do you agree? Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you. Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask our Law Clerk of our Assembly exactly what 3(1), “Subsection 24(1) is amended by striking out ‘(2),’ and substituting ‘(2),(2.01),’.” What does that mean?

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Mr. Law Clerk.

Law Clerk (Mr. Chandler): Thank you, Mr. Curley. That actual clause means that they have taken the (2) and they putting in (2.01) because they want to add another subsection. Thank you.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Law Clerk. Then it also means that the CRA will amend the Act to allow the CRA to withheld an individual’s tax refund if that person is not complying with the obligation to file various documents with the CRA. Thank you.

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

Mr. Chandler: That’s not exactly my understanding. It’s not just documents and it’s not the documents associated with the income tax return. I believe that there are other programs that taxpayers

may have to either supply documents or have not been doing what’s required of them, and this ability to withhold the tax refund is a way of making them become compliant with other programs. It doesn’t refer specifically to the documents that you file with your income tax return.

If I understand Mr. Curley’s comments, he’s asking the question: why or how, if someone is deficient in filing the documents associated with their income tax return, doesn’t CRA just ask for those documents and pay out? I don’t believe that’s the purpose of this section. The section is to force taxpayers to be compliant with other programs where they either owe money or owe documentation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you. I wasn’t sure whether it was in Part 1. I mean it’s under section 3, Part 1 or 2, where it says, “The reference to subsection 164(2.01) of the federal Act in subsection 24(1) of the *Income Tax Act*, as enacted by subsection (1), applies in respect of the 2013 and subsequent taxation years.” Is the reference that I quoted in the minister’s opening comments... ? Would it be correct if I say that it could be in that last certain part, 3(2), where they can withhold the tax? I’m not sure exactly which subsection it would be because it’s referred to in the minister’s statement, but he didn’t say which particular clause it actually is.

I have a second question after that one. Thank you.

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

Mr. Chandler: I would be loathe to speak for the minister in terms of what he means in his opening comments, but my reading of that section is that it's merely a timeframe. It's establishing a timeframe as to when a particular section will start to be enforced. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you. I'll ask maybe if the minister can help us out in that regard. The last paragraph of your opening comments, I believe, is tied in with the last clause of the bill, section 3(2). If that is the case, the first part of the last paragraph in your opening comments refers to withholding refunds. If the individual is qualified for a refund from the CRA, it gives the authority by this Act, Nunavut's Taxation Act, to withhold the refund. Does that only apply to the federal government? Thank you.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Curley for his line of questioning. Mr. Chairman, the federal government collects our taxes on our behalf. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you. I understand that. In terms of withholding tax, would it be for the federal invoice or bill the individual from Nunavut may owe

referenced only to the federal amount owing by the citizen of Nunavut or is the CRA now agreeing to be part of a collection agency for the Nunavut government if a citizen referred to is owing some monies either to the federal government or the Government of Nunavut? Is it for both? Thank you.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's for federal only where the tax filer has not submitted to the federal government. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson. I have no other names on my list. (interpretation ends) Clause 3. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Do we agree to Bill 54 as a whole?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Do we agree, pursuant to Rule 62(2), that Bill 54 is now immediately ready for third reading?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson, do you have any closing comments?

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank yourself and the standing committee for your questions on Bill 54. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson. We will now deal with Bill 56. Do you have opening comments, Mr. Peterson?

Bill 56 – Write-off of Assets Act, No. 1, 2011-2012 – Consideration in Committee

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to present Bill 56, *Write-off of Assets Act, No.1, 2011-2012*.

Bill 56 addresses the write-off of the following government assets:

- \$813,165 for the evaporation and shrinkage of petroleum products within the Petroleum Products Division of the Department of Community and Government Services;
- \$25,180.03 for the proposed markdown and write-off of inventory that no longer has any economic value by the Nunavut Development Corporation; and
- \$102,176.17 for the write-off of four housing units that no longer have any economic value. Three of the units are beyond economic repair and one unit was destroyed by fire.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my opening comments. I would be pleased to take questions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson. Does the Chair of the Standing Committee on Legislation have any opening comments? Mr. Ningeongan.

Mr. Ningeongan: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As Chair of the Standing Committee on Legislation, I am pleased to make some brief opening comments as we begin consideration of Bill 56, *Write-off of Assets Act, No.1, 2011-2012*.

The standing committee has no objections to the intent of the legislation, which is to write off petroleum products inventory lost due to evaporation and shrinkage, in addition to assets of the Nunavut Housing Corporation and the Nunavut Development Corporation.

Mr. Chairman, as members will recall, Bill 43, *Write-off of Assets Act, 2010-2011*, was considered by the Legislative Assembly in October of 2010 during the Second Session of the Third Legislative Assembly. This bill wrote off petroleum products inventory lost due to evaporation and shrinkage during the 2008-09 and 2009-2010 fiscal years. In March of 2012, similar legislation was passed concerning petroleum products inventory lost due to evaporation and shrinkage in the 2010-11 fiscal year.

The standing committee would encourage the Minister of Community and Government Services to consider reporting annually to the Legislative Assembly on the operations of the Petroleum Products Division of the department, and that such reporting include detailed information concerning evaporation and shrinkage rates in different communities for different classes of petroleum products, as well as information concerning the department's inventory management practices.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening comments. The standing committee recommends the passage of

Bill 56 to all members. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Do members have any general comments on Bill 56? There being none. The bill is in your legislation binder. (interpretation ends) Bill 56, (interpretation) *Write-off of Assets Act, No. 1, 2011-2012*. I believe you have the bill in front of you now. (interpretation ends) Clause 1. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Clause 2. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Go to page 2. (interpretation ends) Schedule. Part 1. (interpretation) Assets Written Off. (interpretation ends) Schedule. Part 1. Do you agree? Wait a moment. There are two parts. (interpretation ends) Part 1. \$838,345.03. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Part 2. (interpretation) Four housing units. \$102,176.17. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Do you agree to Bill 56 as a whole?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Are we in agreement, pursuant to Rule

62(2), that Bill 56 can now immediately be placed on the orders of the day for third reading?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Minister, do you have any closing remarks on Bill 56? Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the members of the committee for their questions and scrutiny over the last few weeks on Bill 56.

I would like to thank my two officials who were with me today for their work in preparing all of this information for the committee. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses out, as we will move on to another item.

Thank you. Minister Peterson, do you have any opening comments on Bill 53? Minister Peterson.

Bill 53 – An Act to Amend the Medical Care Act – Consideration in Committee

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On June 29, 2012, Bill C-38, *An Act to Implement Certain Provisions of the Budget Tabled in Parliament on March 29, 2012 and Other Measures*, received Royal Assent. Bill C-38 amended section 2 of the *Canada Health Act* by repealing paragraph (b) of the definition of “insured person.” This

paragraph listed members of the RCMP as excluded persons.

This means that on April 1, 2013, all provinces and territories must extend the health insurance coverage to RCMP members. Bill 53 facilitates this process.

Family members of RCMP members already receive Nunavut Health Care Plan benefits as part of the policing agreement between the Department of Justice and the RCMP.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my opening comments. I would be pleased to take questions from members. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson. Does the Chair of the Standing Committee on Legislation have any comments? Mr. Ningeongan.

Mr. Ningeongan: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As Chair of the Standing Committee on Legislation, I am pleased to make some brief opening comments as we begin consideration of Bill 53, *An Act to Amend the Medical Care Act*.

Mr. Chairman, this amendment has come about as a result of the federal government's Bill C-38. After assent in June of 2012, the federal bill amended the *Canada Health Act* by repealing the paragraph which excluded RCMP as "insured persons." As of April 1, 2013, all RCMP will need to be considered "insured persons" under provincial or territorial medical care legislation in order to receive health care coverage.

The standing committee supports the proposed legislation, which will allow RCMP members to receive Nunavut

territorial health care coverage after April 1, 2013.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening comments. The standing committee recommends the passage of Bill 53 to all members. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. Minister Peterson, do you have any witnesses that you would like to bring to the table?

Hon. Keith Peterson: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I have two officials that I would like to call to the witness table. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson. Does the committee agree to bring in the witnesses?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): 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 Peter Ma, Deputy Minister of Health and Social Services, and to my left is Monita O'Connor, Assistant Deputy Minister of Health and Social Services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson. Welcome, Deputy Ma and O'Connor. Before we go to the clause-by-clause review, are there any general comments? The floor is now open. Mr. Ningark.

Mr. Ningark: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Ever since the first day I got elected about four years ago, I spoke in this House and in the committee to ensure that everyone who goes to a local health centre, all of my constituents, get the Medicare they need. This is no different and I will support this bill. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningark. I have no more names on my list. Mr. Schell.

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't know if I should be asking the Minister of Finance or the Minister of Justice. I just want to basically know if this fee or this extra cost for this Medicare is included in the latest agreement. I would need a little bit of advice on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe it's part of the policing agreement that the Department of Justice and the RCMP recently signed, and then through intradepartmental transfers, we moved the money over to Health and Social Services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If you could let me know roughly what the cost of that is. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The range is up to \$200,000. It's around \$200,000, but we haven't got an exact figure right now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. I have no more names on my list. (interpretation ends) Bill 53, (interpretation) *An Act to Amend the Medical Care Act*, if you have it in your binders. (interpretation ends) Clause 1. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 2. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 3. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 4. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 5. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Chairman: Clause 6. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Does the committee agree to Bill 53 as a whole?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Do members agree, pursuant to Rule

62(2), that Bill 53 can now immediately be placed on the orders of the day for third reading?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson, do you have any closing comments?

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank yourself and the committee for your scrutiny of Bill 53 over the last few weeks and your questions this afternoon. I would like to thank my officials who were with me today for their work on this bill. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Thank you. We will now deal with Bill 55. The Minister of Education can go to the witness table to make her opening comments. Minister Aariak.

Thank you. Minister, welcome. We will now be dealing with Bill 55. You may proceed with your opening comments on Bill 55. Minister Aariak.

Bill 55 – An Act to Amend the Student Financial Assistance Act – Consideration in Committee

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good afternoon and welcome. I'm pleased to be here to explain a bit about Bill 55, the proposed amendment of the *Student Financial Assistance Act*.

In June of 2012, cabinet approved a number of changes to the FANS

program, one of which was to provide additional supports to students with permanent disabilities. The department has been working with the Department of Justice to implement the cabinet-approved FANS program changes by drafting amendments to the Student Financial Assistance Regulations.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Chairman, the Department of Justice has advised the department that an amendment to the Act is needed in order to proceed with the drafting of regulations on the topic of providing supports to students with disabilities. The purpose behind this proposed amendment is a technical one, to provide the department with the authorization to make regulations on the topic of providing support to students with disabilities. Approving this amendment to the Act will allow the department to proceed with the drafting of regulations to implement a cabinet-approved Financial Assistance for Nunavut Students program change.

By implementing a disability program, FANS is supporting *Inuuqatigiitsiarniq* and *Pijitsirniq* since these changes will better support these individuals in their educational and career choices.

I would be happy to answer questions, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Aariak. Does the Chair of the Standing Committee on Legislation have comments? Mr. Ningeongan.

Mr. Ningeongan: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As Chair of the Standing Committee on Legislation, I am pleased to make some brief opening comments as we begin consideration of Bill 55, *An*

Act to Amend the Student Financial Assistance Act.

The standing committee supports Bill 55, which will amend the *Student Financial Assistance Act* to allow the minister to bring in regulations to implement an affirmative action program under FANS, Financial Assistance for Nunavut Students Program, specifically for students with disabilities.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening comments. The standing committee recommends the passage of Bill 55 to all members. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. Minister Aariak, do you have witnesses that you would like to bring to the table? Minister Aariak.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Thank you. Are there any general comments? Minister Aariak, for the record, please introduce your witnesses. Minister Aariak.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my left is my Deputy Minister, Kathy Okpik, and to my right is Bradley Archambault, who is a legislative analyst. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome, Ms. Okpik and Mr. Archambault. That's a nice name. Are there any general comments? If there are no general comments, please go to Bill 55 in your binder. *An Act to Amend the Student Financial Assistance Act.* (interpretation ends) Clause 1. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 2. (interpretation) Wait a moment. Mr. Enook, you will go first and then Mr. Curley. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good afternoon, minister and your officials. Regarding the financial assistance, specifically for students with disabilities, I am very pleased to hear that, but my question is: why does that have to be a standalone bill? I'm sure that students with disabilities were given financial assistance in the past. Could you tell me why this is specifically for students with disabilities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. NAC specifically voiced for students with disabilities, but with the amendment, they will be given financial assistance. They were always able to apply through the FANS program, but this is specifically for students with disabilities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I understood correctly, they could apply through the FANS program, but this is specifically to include students with disabilities. If that's the case, I will support the bill. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, this is going to be specific for students with disabilities to meet their needs, for example, hiring a tutor or someone to write their essays, to learn signage. There are different ways that they can use this financial assistance. It's for a variety of support that the students with disabilities might need. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you. (interpretation) I have a question. Permits, Acts, and policies can be set up, for example, some specifically for women and some specifically for men, but this is a very good bill because it's affirmative action. It's sometimes very hard to access those Acts online.

My question is: is it just for mobility? I understood what you said earlier, but could you tell us what they can use that financial assistance for and set up some more examples? Thank you.

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

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For everyday

use, it's for items like hearing aids, information technology. (interpretation ends) Costs for mental health assessments, costs for proctoring exams, (interpretation) and so on are not included. Those would be considered daily. It's specifically for things that they need, especially for their disability. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you. (interpretation) It says here in the last bracket, affirmative action program. If they're going to implement the affirmative action program for students with disabilities, would that be through a policy or through regulations? I don't believe there are such regulations or policies. When would you make those changes or amendments? Thank you.

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

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If we're talking affirmative action, it would be by way of regulations. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you. (interpretation) It takes a long time to draft regulations and you have to go through the consultation process and everything else. Can the minister indicate when the regulation is going to be amended? Thank you.

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

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We would like to have it approved today and not too long from there, probably within a month, when the cabinet meets, it would be dealt with. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Oshutapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What I would like to get some clarification on is the funding that will be available. I also would like to support this bill, along with the people who have disabilities because there are a number of them. Is it for the school programs or is it to help the individual disabled people? Is it them who have to make a proposal in order to get assistance? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The person with a disability would have to write a proposal for assistance. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Oshutapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the clarification on the question. The funding that we use usually has a fiscal year from April to March. Have you looked into how this is going to be set up? If I request this month, then maybe I wouldn't get a response until the new funding has started, even though it's kind of urgent. How have you set this up so that the people won't get left out due to the fiscal year? Is it going to be run

the way other programs are usually run? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The funding is given and if a person uses their own money to buy something, then they can get a refund as long as they have a receipt. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Aariak. I don't have any more names on my list. (interpretation ends) Bill 55. Clause 2. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Is the committee agreed to Bill 55 as a whole?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Pursuant to Rule 62(2), does the committee agree that Bill 55 can now immediately be placed on the orders of the day for third reading?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister, do you have any closing comments? Minister Aariak.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is a very important bill and it's going to assist people with disabilities so that they can have more assistance. I appreciate everyone and also my employees who have worked with the Department of

Justice when they were dealing with this.
Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Aariak. I also thank your officials. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses out.

Thank you, Minister Aariak. Mr. Ningeongan.

Mr. Ningeongan (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move to report progress. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): There is a motion on the floor to report progress to the Speaker and the motion is not debatable. All those in favour, please raise your hand. Opposed. Abstentions. Would you like your opposition noted?

>>Laughter

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

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

Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Bills 53, 54, 55, and 56 and would like to report that Bills 53, 54, 55, and 56 are all ready for third reading and we would like to report progress. Mr. Speaker, I move that the Report of the Committee of the Whole be agreed to. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Item 21 in our *Orders of the Day*. Third Reading of Bills. Minister Peterson.

Item 21: Third Reading of Bills

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet South and Whale Cove, that Bill 47, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 3, 2012-2013*, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: You guys heard that, eh? The button is not working again today.

>>Laughter

I guess I have to be careful with what I say. 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. Bill 47 has been read for the third time and is now ready for assent.

Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. Minister of Finance, Minister Peterson.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for

Rankin Inlet South and Whale Cove, that Bill 48, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 1, 2013-2014*, be read for the 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. Bill 48 has had third reading and is ready for assent.

Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. Minister of Health, Minister Peterson.

Bill 53 – Act to Amend the Medical Care Act – Third Reading

Hon. Keith Peterson: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet South and Whale Cove, that Bill 53, *An Act to Amend the Medical Care Act*, be read for the 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. Bill 53 has had third reading and is ready for assent.

Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. Minister of Finance, Minister Peterson.

Bill 54 – An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act – 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 54, *An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act*, 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. Bill 54 has had third reading and is ready for assent.

Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. Minister of Education, Minister Aariak.

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

Hon. Eva Aariak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet South and Whale Cove, that Bill 55, *An Act to Amend the Student Financial Assistance Act*, be read for the third 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. Bill 55 has had third and is ready for assent.

Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. Minister of Finance, Minister Peterson.

Bill 56 – Write-off of Assets Act, No. 1, 2011-2012 – Third Reading

Hon. Keith Peterson: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet South and Whale Cove, that Bill 56, *Write-off of Assets Act, No. 1, 2011-2012*, 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. Bill 56 has had third reading and is ready for assent.

Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. If there are no more, Mr. Clerk, can you ascertain if the Commissioner of Nunavut is prepared to enter the Chamber to give assent to bills, please.

Assent to Bills

Commissioner Edna Elias

(interpretation): Members of the Legislative Assembly, please be seated. I'm sure you're all tired by now. We watched you through the televised proceedings.

As Commissioner of Nunavut, I am honoured to give assent to the following bills:

- (interpretation ends) Bill 41, *Donation of Food Act*;
- Bill 47, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 3, 2012-2013*;
- Bill 48, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 1, 2013-2014*;
- Bill 49, *Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, 2013-2014*;
- Bill 50, *An Act to Amend the Nunavut Elections Act*;
- Bill 53, *An Act to Amend the Medical Care Act*;
- Bill 54, *An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act*;

- Bill 55, *An Act to Amend the Student Financial Assistance Act*; and

- Bill 56, *Write-off of Assets Act, No. 1, 2011-2012*.

I stand to be corrected. My apologies. Bill 46, *Donation of Food Act*.

(interpretation) As spring draws near, just the other day, I saw a snow bunting outside my house. It's very nice to see. As it gets warmer, Inuit are going out on the land and I'm sure that we will start being out on the land, hunting geese, caribou, and whatnot. As the sun draws near and as you conclude your work here and prepare to return to your families and communities, I wish you all a safe journey home. Thank you.

Speaker: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like unanimous consent to go back to Item 5 on the order paper.

Speaker: Did you say 5 or 6? I know, it was Item 5.

>>Laughter

The member is seeking unanimous consent to go back to Item 5 on the order paper. Are there any nays? There are none. Please proceed, Minister Kusugak.

Revert to Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. You made me take a double-take there; definitely not Item 6.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) I just wanted to recognize a couple of

people, Tukturjuk and Misa Akuarjuk, who are my good friends and most of the people here know them. They have worked very hard here in Nunavut. Please welcome them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In Repulse Bay, before any government, I used to be a child with Tukturjuk and my cousin Misa Akuarjuq, who lives in Repulse Bay, Nino Karvik from Kugaaruk, and also Attima Hadlari, who used to live in Kugaaruk. Please welcome them. Thank you.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Welcome to the Gallery. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, would like to recognize Attima Hadlari from my riding of Cambridge Bay. Attima and I have been friends and neighbours for decades. He lives just down the street from me. He's a world-renowned drum dancer. He has done work for our community and around Nunavut for teaching languages. He has been an interpreter here. He has done a lot of stuff in Nunavut. Welcome to the Gallery, Attima.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Peterson. He's also a good interpreter. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you. (interpretation) Mr. Chairman, I know that we're wrapping up, but I would also like to welcome these people. Mr. Speaker, I would like to mention that when we were in Bangkok, Attima was also there with us and the Kitikmeot Wildlife Organization. They worked really hard and they had a little booth, and someone had to be in the booth all the time. They had to get there very early welcoming people. I would like to thank him and the minister for helping the people of Nunavut when they were working very hard. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Curley. I'm sure Attima prefers looking at us from this side rather than that side over here. It's a little less stressful. Welcome to the Gallery. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. We will move on in our orders of the day. Item 22. *Orders of the Day*. Mr. Clerk.

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. *Orders of the Day* for May 7:

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

7. Written Questions
8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to Opening Address
10. Petitions
11. Responses to Petitions
12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters
13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motions
15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions
17. First Reading of Bills
18. Second Reading of Bills
19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
20. Report of the Committee of the Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills
22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you very much, Mr. Clerk. Before we conclude, it's our last day of our winter sitting and I have to ask members to join me in thanking the people who work very hard during our session. Our pages, for one, who are here, I thank them for their help. Also, the interpreters in the booth, I think they're all in the booth right now. I

would like to thank you guys very much for all your hard work. Also our technical people upstairs and over here, I thank you guys very much. Those individuals are helping to ensure that Nunavummiut across the territory can watch our proceedings. Thank you.

>>Applause

So with that, this House stands adjourned until Tuesday, May 7, at 1:30 p.m.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

Before I get up again, I almost forgot one thing. Some people say you age fast in politics. I think one of our colleagues, Mr. Rumbolt, is about to find out. I understand that maybe anytime or this moment now, he might be a grandfather. I wish Mr. Rumbolt well on being a grandfather.

>>Applause

>>House adjourned at 16:53

