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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Speaker

Hon. Hunter Tootoo

(Iqaluit Centre)

Hon. Eva Aariak

(Iqaluit East)

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

Hon. James Arreak

(Uqqummiut)

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

Moses Aupaluktuq

(Baker Lake)

Tagak Curley

(Rankin Inlet North)

Hon. Monica Ell

(Iqaluit West)

*Minister of Family Services; Minister
responsible for Homelessness; Minister
responsible for the Qulliq Energy
Corporation; Minister responsible for
the Status of Women*

Ron Elliott

(Quttiktuq)

Joe Enook

(Tununiq)

Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole

Hon. Lorne Kusugak

(Rankin Inlet South – Whale Cove)

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

John Ningark

(Akullik)

Johnny Ningeongan

(Nanulik)

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

Hezakiah Oshutapik

(Pangnirtung)

Hon. Keith Peterson

(Cambridge Bay)

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

Allan Rumbolt

(Hudson Bay)

Hon. Fred Schell

(South Baffin)

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk

(Arviat)

*Minister of Justice; Minister
responsible for Nunavut Arctic
College*

Louis Tapardjuk

(Amittuq)

*Deputy Chair, Committee of the
Whole*

Hon. Peter Taptuna

(Kugluktuk)

*Deputy Premier; Minister of
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Energy; Minister responsible for the
Nunavut Housing Corporation*

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Hansard Production

Innirvik Support Services

Box 1200

Iqaluit, Nunavut, X0A 0H0

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

Website: www.assembly.nu.ca

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**Iqaluit, Nunavut
Friday, May 10, 2013**

Members Present:

Honourable Eva Aariak, Honourable James Arreak, Mr. Moses Aupaluktuq, Mr. Tagak Curley, Honourable Monica Ell, Mr. Ron Elliott, Mr. Joe Enook, Honourable Lorne Kusugak, Mr. John Ningark, Mr. Johnny Ningeongan, Mr. Hezakiah Oshutapik, Honourable Keith Peterson, Mr. Allan Rumbolt, Mr. Fred Schell, Honourable Daniel Shewchuk, Mr. Louis Tapardjuk, Honourable Peter Taptuna, Honourable Hunter Tootoo, Ms. Jeannie Ugyuk.

>>*House commenced at 8:59*

Item 1: Opening Prayer

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

>>*Prayer*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Elliott. (interpretation ends) We will move on in our orders of the day. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Minister Taptuna.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

**Minister's Statement 284 – 3(3):
Canadian Council of Motor
Transport Administrators**

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. *Ullaakut*, colleagues, Kuglukturmiut, and Nunavummiut. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce today the conclusion of the annual meeting of the Canadian Council of Motor

Transport Administrators which was held in Iqaluit from May 5 to 8.

The CCMTA exists to facilitate communication and cooperation between jurisdictions in recognition of the fact that vehicles and drivers move between them.

The theme of this year's event was "Northern reality meets modern transportation," a theme which is fitting for Nunavut.

I would also like to recognize the outgoing President and Chair of CCMTA, Methuselah Kunuk, for his leadership. As my colleagues will know, Mr. Kunuk is also the Assistant Deputy Minister of Transportation with Economic Development and Transportation.

The Canadian Council of Motor Transport Administrators is comprised of members from Canada, the United States, and Mexico, and over 150 people from all three nations were in Iqaluit. Events like this have an economic impact in the short term, but more importantly, it helps raise Nunavut's profile within Canada and internationally.

Mr. Speaker, the modern transportation is increasingly part of our northern reality. By engaging with other jurisdictions through CCMTA, we ensure that our regulatory framework for road transport is modern and our administrators are attuned to the practices and policies of their counterparts across Canada. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Minister responsible for Family Services, Minister Ell.

**Minister's Statement 285 – 3(3):
Niqittiavak Committee**

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): Good morning and thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say "Happy Mother's Day" to my mother.

I rise today to update the Members of this House on the activities of the Niqittiavak Committee, which is now convened by staff from the Department of Family Services. The committee has been expanded and now includes the participation of six government departments and representation from the Inuit organizations. The terms of reference for the Niqittiavak Committee will be tabled in this House.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, the Nunavut Bureau of Statistics, with other members of the Niqittiavak Committee, is hard at work this month analyzing the results of the food price survey. The survey has collected information on food prices in 11 Nunavut communities. This information will be the foundation for the committee's recommendations for action on food prices. A report on the outcomes of the pilot will also be tabled in the House.

The committee is examining the effects of government subsidies on food prices in our communities, including those subsidies provided by the federal Nutrition North Canada Program. The committee has reached out to the Nutrition North Canada Advisory Board to request information about food prices

currently collected by Nutrition North Canada Program staff.

As Members of this House have made it clear, we need better information on subsidies and how they are reflected by the price of food on store shelves. I am confident this information will be forthcoming through the work of the Niqittiavak Committee. The committee will report to me on a regular basis and I will ensure members continue to be informed of its activities and their outcomes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Ell. Ministers' Statements. Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College, Minister Shewchuk.

**Minister's Statement 286 – 3(3):
Remembering Nowyah Williams**

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Good morning and thank you, Mr. Speaker. As we celebrate Nursing Week in Nunavut, I rise in the House today to honour Ms. Nowyah Williams, a registered nursing assistant and traditional Inuk midwife who made tremendous contributions to the Arctic College Maternity Care Worker Certificate and midwifery programs.

Mr. Speaker, Nowyah recently passed away and her memorial service was held in Rankin Inlet on Sunday, April 28, 2013.

An excerpt from the *Inuktitut* magazine, 1972, written by Nowyah herself, tells of her pride at completing the registered nursing assistant course at the Civic Hospital in Ottawa. Mr. Speaker, she

spoke of working very hard at all the science courses and the clinical aspects on the hospital wards. Her dream after graduation was to return to Coral Harbour and help her people.

Mr. Speaker, at the first convocation of midwifery students in November of 2008, Nowyah was presented with an honorary diploma in midwifery for her contributions to the college's maternity care and midwifery programs in recognition of her strong commitment to the advancement of the profession in Nunavut. She was a leading contributor to the development of the Arctic College maternity care and midwifery programs.

She was one of the elders who contributed her stories to the book, *Birth on the Land – Memories of Inuit Elders and Traditional Midwives*, by Bev O'Brien and published last November.

Mr. Speaker, Nowyah Williams was a lifelong learner in the health professions in Nunavut and today, I am honoured to acknowledge her services to the people of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Moving on in our orders of the day. Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Akulliq, Mr. Ningark.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 479 – 3(3): Disease Prevention

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Disease prevention has to be promoted more by the

government, not just through written material. We always read that if you wash your hands with soap and warm water and if you have a cold, you are to stay at home. Those are the types of things that we read in disease prevention. We see it around in public places every day and this is very good.

As a government, if we believe that disease prevention... . Some people go to the hospital and they're told that there's no way that they can get an appointment because they can't have... . If there's a doctor who comes in and you want to see a doctor and you don't have an appointment, then you can't see the doctor. The doctors will be leaving the next day and you can't see a doctor because you don't have an appointment.

If you want to see the dentist or the optometrist, the answer is, "We're sorry to say, although the specialist is in town, unfortunately you don't have an appointment and no space." Is this true? If our health system is genuine, then the person who feels they need to see the specialist ought to be accommodated. They have to be provided these health services.

Why, when our people place faith in our health system, can't these people be seen by these specialists? Are the reasons related to the lack of space in our local health centres, or alternatively, is it due to the lack of staff at our health centres or is this due to the lack of diagnostic means? Don't we have these services available in Nunavut?

At the appropriate time, I will be asking questions on this matter during question period. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Member's Statement 480 – 3(3):
Building Small Business Capacity
in Baker Lake**

Mr. Aupaluktuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I send my regards to the people of Baker Lake. Good morning.

There is currently a search underway by search parties from Baker Lake and Rankin Inlet. I would like my fellow Baker Lake residents to be aware that our fellow Nunavummiut are keeping them in their thoughts and prayers.

Also, as Mother's Day is over this weekend, I wish my mother and every mother in Nunavut a happy Mother's Day. That includes all of our staff and colleagues who are mothers here in the Assembly.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about the importance of building small business capacity in Baker Lake.

Mr. Speaker, although a significant amount of public attention is being focused on major mining developments and other megaprojects, I believe that we must not lose sight of the important role that small businesses and individual entrepreneurs play in our economy.

Mr. Speaker, the GN's departments of Economic Development and Community and Government Services have published a very useful document titled "Doing Business with the Government of Nunavut." I encourage both

departments to ensure that this publication is kept up to date.

Mr. Speaker, many of my constituents, a number of whom are aspiring entrepreneurs, have told me that they would be interested in attending workshops or training sessions to help them better prepare to submit proposals or bids to the government in response to tender calls or requests for proposals. I strongly encourage both departments to hold such training workshops in Baker Lake and other communities.

Mr. Speaker, an issue that I have raised on many occasions in this House is the need for expanded access to banking and financial services in our smaller communities. I have encouraged financial institutions to give careful consideration to the opportunities that exist for them in Baker Lake, and I look forward to the day when residents of our community can walk down the street and enter a bank or credit union.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in paying tribute to Nunavut's small businesses and entrepreneurs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 481 – 3(3):
Veterinarian Visit to Pangnirtung**

Mr. Oshutapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning to my fellow residents. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my thanks to the Pangnirtung Humane Society and the

Hamlet of Pangnirtung for their successful efforts in bringing veterinarians to the community.

Mr. Speaker, the community of Pangnirtung had not had a veterinarian visit in over ten years. Services such as vaccinations and spay and neuter programs are important for the well-being of our pets. They also promote the well-being of the community with less strays and less disease.

The veterinarians also visited the school to talk about how to avoid dog bites.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, the Pangnirtung Humane Society raised over \$4,000 for the visit with local fundraising. The hamlet donated the use of the community garage to host the weeklong clinic and helped with its organization. First Air supported the event and several community members pitched in as well. Pet owners were asked to donate what they could for the service that was provided.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce that 67 dogs were seen over a period of five days with the visit of the veterinarians to our community. The veterinarians who came from Nova Scotia are interested in coming back to our community. I believe this would be very much welcomed by Pangnirtung's pet owners. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 482 – 3(3): Appreciation of Nursing Staff

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to recognize National Nursing Week and to express my appreciation for the hard-working and dedicated nurses of the High Arctic.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to congratulate Joanne Dignard, nurse-in-charge in Grise Fiord, on her award for excellence in nursing practice which the Minister of Health announced earlier this week. Joanne worked for a time in Arctic Bay and we are very fortunate to have her back in the High Arctic.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to express my thanks to the nurses and health care staff who show their dedication to the residents in their communities on a daily and often nightly basis. In my constituency of Quttiktuq, we are very fortunate that many nursing staff have been in their positions for a long time, on average over ten years. This not only helps them to know their clients better, but truly makes them integral part of their community.

Mr. Speaker, nurses across Nunavut should all be recognized for their commitment to health care and to the well-being of our residents. I commend them for their dedication and thank them for all they do. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 483 – 3(3):
Attending a Meeting in Sweden**

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are a number of search parties from Baker Lake, Rankin Inlet, and Chesterfield Inlet, and we support them fully in their efforts.

Mr. Speaker, the reason why I rise today and which I feel I need to voice is although I have to be in Iqaluit for next week's session, I won't be able to attend and I would like Rankin Inlet residents to know this fact. The government will continue regardless.

There are some global issues that can either be a source of pride or very problematic. Here in Nunavut, we have been visited by pressing problems sometimes unexpectedly, for example, the CITES polar bear vote that occurred this winter, although it had been in the works for quite a while.

Just recently, here in the Inuit homelands, the Arctic nations have the Arctic Council, where our MP, Leona Aglukkaq, will be the chair, and we are quite proud of the Arctic nations that gather to discuss these issues. However, they will be meeting in a faraway place over in Sweden, Kiruna. It is apparently a regional centre and I have actually visited that city in 1984-85, when we had business groups in the NWT legislature. John Todd, John Hickey, and other people were part of this group.

Additionally, the city which is a regional centre also houses the Sami people's Parliament. They also wanted to meet with the elected representatives. We will be going to express our appreciation to the Sami people. I was asked to help out

by the Premier and I was quite thankful for this opportunity.

Although it's difficult to just leave the session and it is also hard, we're dealing with our future in the Arctic, especially Nunavut, as the oceans are becoming less ice-congested and perhaps shipping through arctic waters may become an issue. I believe we, as elected officials, have to listen to these discussions.

Due to these reasons, when the Premier requested my assistance on this file, I agreed to attend. I'm just voicing this upcoming trip for the benefit of our listening public in Nunavut, particularly in Rankin Inlet. It isn't of my own choice, but I will be travelling for about one week to attend that meeting. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Curley. Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Uqqummiut, Mr. Arreak.

**Member's Statement 484 – 3(3):
Jonathan Palluq – Diamond
Jubilee Medal Recipient**

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say "good morning" to Nunavummiut. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, I congratulated the recipients of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal.

I am sorry to say that I missed out one other name, Jonathan Palluq. He received the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal from the Governor General in Ottawa. He was the only one attending from Nunavut. He was recognized for teaching Inuit culture in our community.

I would like to say that I'm sorry for omitting his name. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Arreak. Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Natilik, Ms. Ugyuk.

**Member's Statement 485 – 3(3):
Happy Birthday to Mother**

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say "good morning" to the people in the Kitikmeot. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to say that May 10 is my mother's 74th birthday. I wish her a very happy birthday.

I am thankful that I have a mother who helps me out all the time and I love her. I would like to also wish her a happy Mother's Day. She is a very good mother. I am thankful that I am able to make this announcement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. Item 3. Members' Statements. We will move on in our orders of the day. Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery.

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome to the Gallery an individual who was recognized in the Committee of the Whole yesterday and that is Ms. Sheila MacPherson. She will be filling in as our Law Clerk for the remainder of our sitting. She is also the Law Clerk

from the Northwest Territories. I would like to welcome her to the Gallery.

>>Applause

Mr. Ningark.

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I also would like to recognize the Law Clerk from the NWT, whom I had the pleasure of working with many years ago. Welcome, Ms. MacPherson. Thank you.

>>Applause

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

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 624 – 3(3): Disease Control

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to thank the nurses in the north. They work very hard in our communities.

Mr. Speaker, the question that I have is directed to the Minister of Health.

We are advised that if you have a cold, you have to wash your hands with hot water and soap and that if you are sick or suffering from a cold, you should remain at home. Be that as it may, our health system is supposed to provide services to residents, to MLAs, to government employees, and our communities. It is supposed to provide services to our residents who require assistance or medication.

If you go to the health centre or call, the usual answer is that the appointments are full and there's no room to accommodate more people. This isn't proper health care, especially when the specialists arrive into our communities. If a person calls to make an appointment, the usual answer is that their name isn't in the appointment list and they cannot be seen by the specialist and that the specialist would be leaving in a matter of days. This isn't true health care.

Why, when people go to the health centres and we have a lot of examples now, are they continually advised that there is no room or that the person is in good health, but their sickness is finally diagnosed when it is too late or too advanced? Why? Why aren't we providing proper health care to our people? Is it due to the lack of nursing positions in our communities or is this due to the lack of space in our health centres or is it due to the lack of diagnostic tools that we can't accommodate them, Mr. Speaker? Thank you.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Ningark for the question. I would like to take the opportunity to thank all of our nurses and health professionals across Nunavut. I had the opportunity in the last six weeks to visit the nurses in Igloolik, Sanikiluaq, Arctic Bay, and also in Kugaaruk. They're very hard-working nurses and health professionals, so I am very proud of the work they do for us.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Ningark asked a very good question, but now we have established the community profiles. The nurses in the communities are very busy. Depending on the size of the community, there could be a minimum of 6,000 visits to health centres every year and I know there are as many as 12,000 or 13,000 on the range of things. There has to be a way to control that.

Appointment is normally the way so that people get their chance. I don't believe that if there's a real emergency, the health centres will tell people not to come in. If you go there, they will find a way. I encourage the communities to work with the community health centres. They are community health centres after all.

The health committees that most communities have can also play a vital role in coordinating between the community and the health centre on how to best serve the community in terms of people getting in to see the nurses or other health professionals and specialists who visit the communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Ningark: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The answer I was seeking here, the hon. minister managed to answer it, indicating that nurses in the community are very busy. That brings my question to the next stage.

About a few months ago, after I had written to the minister's office, I received a reply that Repulse Bay was getting two health professionals. I would like to know where those health

professionals are. Are we getting the nurses, two extra health professionals, today or is it still in the works? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Ningark for the question. Mr. Ningark knows and most people know because of the media that Repulse Bay has a new health centre that we will be officially opening at some point, but they're already in the facility.

I believe Repulse Bay is supposed to get a next additional nurse. I can't tell Mr. Ningark today exactly what stage that's at, but the plan is the additional nurse in the community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Ningark: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Final supplementary, in his initial response to my question, the hon. minister stated that health professionals in our community are too busy. Is the minister indicating that we need more health professionals in communities across Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Ningark again for the question. I don't know if I said they were too busy, but I certainly implied that they were very busy. Health is very

important in all the communities. Certainly the health department would like to see more health professionals. With the function of available housing and funding that the health department has, we make do with what we have.

Mr. Enook was asking about overtime. We have to pay out a lot of overtime to nurses and other health professionals to provide the coverage in the communities. Health services are provided seven days a week and sometimes there are emergencies. We do have coverage with the public agency nurses, casual nurses, and indeterminate nurses.

Certainly, again, people have become more conscious of their health. We're getting more sophisticated in our analyses and diagnoses of patients. We could require more health professionals in the future, but it's all subject to availability of funding, our budgets. We know that the government is very constricted by available funding for all departments, including health. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Peterson.

>>*Sirens*

>>*Laughter*

An Hon. Member: Very busy.

>>*Laughter*

Speaker: Oral Questions. Member for Pangnirtung, Mr. Oshutapik.

Question 625 – 3(3): Veterinarian Services across Nunavut

Mr. Oshutapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Community and Government Services.

Some communities have not had veterinary services for over a decade. It is often the hamlet officials who have to deal with strays, disease outbreaks, and other aspects of dog control.

Regular spay and neuter clinics, as well as vaccinations would help to improve the health of community pets as well as making life easier on hamlet officials.

Can the minister indicate whether his department has considered programs to support access to veterinary services across Nunavut's communities as a way of supporting hamlets in addressing issues relating to dog control? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning, Nunavummiut. The hamlets control their staff and they determine what course of action the staff would be undertaking based on what they want to perform. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Oshutapik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In most Nunavut communities,

municipal enforcement officers or by-law officers have dealt with dog-related issues. Can the minister inform this House whether municipal enforcement officers receive any formal training in dealing with dog control issues as well as programs to help prevent dog bites, especially for children? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know that municipal enforcement officers do get training in areas they want to get training. The municipalities are responsible for training their enforcement officers. As whether they get specific training to prevent dog bites and those things, I really do not know, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Mr. Oshutapik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Earlier this week, the minister spoke with pride and affection of dog team owners in the Kivalliq who have supported the activity of dog sledding. I know he is a dog lover at heart. Would the minister consider introducing a program to support Nunavut hamlets and their staff in addressing dog control, dog safety, and dog health issues? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am a dog lover, so to speak, I guess. I'll see if our department is responsible for that and if it has to go through other departments, but I could assure my colleague that I do love dogs and I wish I had one. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Laughter*

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

Question 626 – 3(3): Status of Pond Inlet Resource Centre

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Before I ask the question, I want to wish a happy birthday to Amber.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Education.

The minister may recall that almost one year ago, I raised concerns that the teaching and learning centre based in Pond Inlet had been unstaffed for a very long time and it was going to remain that way. On June 5, 2012, the minister responded to my questions saying that the centre had been renamed the "Media and Inuktitut Resource Centre" and that the positions would be filled by the fall.

Mr. Speaker, almost a year has gone by. The name may have changed, but the situation remains the same: no staff and no support. Can the minister provide a clear update on the status of the Media and Inuktitut Resource Centre in Pond Inlet? 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. Good morning to Nunavummiut and I wish them a happy weekend.

I thank the member for his question. In regard to the question in Pond Inlet, I will look into the status. According to my documents, I don't have anything pertaining to the staffing issue, so I will get back his question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the hon. minister for her response. Mr. Speaker, there is some concern in Pond Inlet that leaving the resource centre unstaffed for such a long time signifies the government's intent to close this office down. Will the minister confirm that the Media and Inuktitut Resource Centre in Pond Inlet will not be closed down? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To date, I have no information whether the resource centre will be closed or whether any learning centre will be closed under the Department of Education. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to get more information from the minister and I thank her for indicating that she is unaware of any learning centres that will be closing down. For that reason, when can we expect to see these jobs that have been unstaffed for a very long time filled? Thank you.

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

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will have to ascertain at which stage the employees are at and what stage the empty positions are at, as I promised I will look into this and I am happy to look into this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 627 – 3(3): Department of Education’s Contracting Practices

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Education.

Mr. Speaker, when it comes to government staffing, there are rules in place to ensure that public servants are not sitting on selection panels and hiring their own relatives for government jobs. However, the rules concerning government contracting are not as clear.

Can the Minister of Education indicate what rules are in place within the Department of Education to ensure that departmental employees are not making recommendations or decisions

concerning the awarding of contracts to their own relatives? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Schell. Minister of Education, Minister Aariak.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank him for his question. The Department of Education have rules and policies and the staff also follow rules and policies when hiring employees and when awarding contracts, they award the contracts also following rules and regulations that are in place. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister indicate when the Department of Education’s contracting practices were recently audited by the Internal Audit Branch of the Department of Finance? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Schell. Minister of Education, Minister Aariak.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Maybe I didn’t hear it properly or I didn’t understand. So if he can clarify your statement about it being audited, please. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Madam Minister. Mr. Schell, could you please repeat your question for the minister.

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My understanding is that the Department of Finance does auditing on the different departments in regard to contracting

practices. So my question is: when was the most recent audit done by the Internal Audit Branch of the Department of Finance? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Schell.
Minister of Education, Minister Aariak.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation):
Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't know when they were last audited by the Department of Finance. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In reviewing the government's recent annual departmental procurement reports, it has come to my attention that over a quarter of a million dollars' worth of sole source contracting for materials and work related to the implementation of the *Education Act* have been awarded to one individual, and that there may be a perceived or real conflict of interest with respect to the contractor's family relationship with a departmental employee. Will the minister commit to reviewing the process by which these sole source contracts were awarded? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Schell.
Minister of Education, Minister Aariak.

Hon. Eva Aariak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Education is committed to working with individuals. If I may go to a bit of a historical explanation as to the reasons why sole sourcing needed to be used for work that needs to be done in order to implement our recently-enacted *Education Act*, there are relatively large recurring sole source contracts unique to

education. Training delivery programs, such as heavy equipment operator training, often these are the third party funds and were generated by request for proposals processes.

There are many time pressures that create some time-sensitive situations requiring sole source contracts. This includes pressures to develop curriculum and to implement the *Education Act*. This has led to a situation where we needed outside expertise in an urgent fashion, requiring sole sourcing.

Housing availability and other particular delays in staffing many curriculum positions at that time were contributing factors. Education is historically the department with the most staff. This makes more evident the labour market forces and housing issues that make it difficult for all departments to recruit and retain staff. Contracting is sometimes needed to complete projects on a timely basis when staff are not available.

I have instructed the Department of Education to look at ways of decreasing sole sourcing so that future years will not repeat the same contracting situations. There are two RFPs currently underway to create standing offer agreements. This will cut down on the use of sole source contracts in the future. This will cover curriculum development and itinerant services for schools.

We have instituted a standardized approval process to ensure that all contracts entered into by the department are approved by several specific levels and these are the program manager requesting the contract, corporate services that ensure that the budget

exists to cover the expenses, the assistant deputy minister, and the deputy minister. This ensures that contracts entered into are a necessity to achieve the goals and mandate of the department.

I don't have the dates of when the individual was hired on contract, whose relative is working within the department, in no way, was reporting to that relative, but instead was reporting to the deputy minister. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 628 – 3(3): Southampton Island Caribou Survey

Mr. Ningeongan (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say “good morning” to the people of Coral Harbour and Chesterfield Inlet, as well as Nunavummiut. My questions are for the Minister of Environment.

Before I go to my question, first of all, I think I should thank the residents in Coral Harbour. I am very grateful that the wildlife office has now been filled on behalf of Coral Harbour.

As the minister is very much aware, the health of the Southampton Island caribou population is a major issue for my constituents in Coral Harbour. On June 5, 2012, I asked the minister questions concerning his announcement of management actions regarding the caribou harvest.

The community of Coral Harbour is aware that the government is currently undertaking a new aerial population

survey of the caribou herd. Can the minister indicate if this year's population survey is also including a ground component? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for asking that question in regard to the community concern. I say good morning to the residents of Coral Harbour. Ever since we started working on the caribou survey at Southampton Island, we have been working closely with the hunters and trappers organization in Coral Harbour. We have been kept informed on a timely basis. We gave them a protocol to determine whether the caribou has a disease or not.

Last week, the caribou survey started on Southampton Island. Right now, they're only conducting an aerial survey. We're working with the member of the Coral Harbour Hunters and Trappers Organization. They were conducting an aerial survey last year. Based on the information we have, they're just going to be conducting aerial surveys this year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Ningeongan.

Mr. Ningeongan (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for his response. When I asked the minister questions on this issue last year, he indicated that an aerial survey of the population herd would be conducted in June of 2012. Can the minister confirm what the results of this survey were? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The survey results from last year are available. We have some figures. There were about 6,200 caribou that were counted last year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Ningeongan (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for his appropriate response. I want to commend the hunters and trappers organization, even though this seems to be a very difficult task. We have heard that the caribou population was declining. There are a lot of people who would like to harvest caribou. At this time, there is a survey underway this spring. When will the residents of Coral Harbour be expecting the survey results? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am very grateful to the residents of Coral Harbour for working with us, especially the hunters. The protocol was followed very closely and I want to thank the residents of Coral Harbour as a result.

As the survey will be winding down maybe around May 20, we will be able to make the survey report available in June. As to what the next course of action needs to be undertaken, we will

be working on those issues this month based on the agreement we have. The agreement will expire in June. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 629 – 3(3): Food Price Survey

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Before I ask my question, there doesn't seem to be much excitement from the Montreal Canadiens fans today and I'm not sure why. Golf is not such a bad sport.

>> *Laughter*

Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the Hon. Minister Monica Ell, Minister responsible for Family Services. The questions are regarding her Minister's Statement earlier today.

In her Minister's Statement today, she stated that a food survey was done to collect information on food prices in 11 Nunavut communities. Can the minister explain how this data was collected? Was it collected by sending someone out to the communities or did individuals from the communities collect the data? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Minister responsible for the Department of Family Services, Minister Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): Thank you. I also thank my fellow MLA for asking that question. There are many communities where a survey was undertaken, as I mentioned earlier. At

this time, our staff is still working on the food prices. After they conducted various interviews, a lot of them were assisted by other staff members from the Department of Family Services and some were community liaison officers. That's how they collected the information. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for her response. Mr. Speaker, if the data was collected by community members, such as community liaison officers, why wasn't the survey done in all Nunavut communities to have more accurate data of the cost of food throughout Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Minister responsible for the Department of Family Services, Minister Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is just the beginning phase. It is currently just a pilot project to conduct an initial food price survey. This pilot project is just the starting point. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wonder if the minister can update the House today on which communities participated in the food price survey. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Minister responsible for the Department of Family Services, Minister Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): I thank the member for raising that question. I want to respond factually as to which communities were part of this survey, but I don't have that information available at this time.

I will commit to providing that information to the member once I have it, either via email or correspondence, as I have his email address. I will provide that information. If any other members would like this information, you may request it from our office. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 630 – 3(3): Medical Escort Policy

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to express my appreciation for which I am rising today, which I will also forward as a question to the Minister of Health about health care in Nunavut.

I want to express my appreciation to the nurses throughout Nunavut, in our health centres, and in particular, our home care nurses. We are very appreciative of their services as they are quite diligent in their work.

I want to ask the minister a question. Perhaps it would be better to ask the question in English to the Minister of Health. (interpretation ends) My question has to do with the Medical Escort Policy. I don't know whether it's final now. I would like to ask the Minister responsible for Health exactly how the Medical Escort Policy works.

Could the minister outline who qualifies for the medical escorts? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Curley. There are two questions there. Minister of Health, Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I heard two questions, but I'm not sure which one I should answer.

Mr. Speaker, the Medical Escort Policy works exactly the way it has worked for the last several years. It's under review, as we have indicated. It would be the medical practitioner who recommends a medical escort for the patient. If you're a unilingual elder over the age of 60, then you would also be given an escort unless you decline the escort. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you. I appreciate the minister. I know that has been under review. For that reason, we really never know when it's going to be final. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the response.

I understand the medical practitioners take the lead in enabling a medical escort for any patient in Nunavut. My question is this: what if the request comes from the individual that they do know that they would require a medical escort due to the nature of the treatment? It could be surgery, which is really quite painful in some respects. Could the minister explain exactly, if the request is made by the patient/client, where does that go to? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my understanding, based on the practice of being a medical practitioner, that the attending physician who treats the patient would actually make a recommendation whether the patient requires a medical escort. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The request is made for a medical escort by a client. In a hypothetical situation, obviously, it could be denied. If it is denied, what is the next process? The reason I ask that question is that we do also get a copy of the appeal directly urging an MLA to ask the department to reconsider their request. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The process, as I understand it, is if a patient requests an escort or is denied an escort, there are appeal provisions. They can appeal to the regional directors of the Department of Health in their regions and they will process the appeals. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Peterson. Oral Questions. Member for Nanulik, Mr. Ningeongan.

**Question 631 – 3(3): Social Worker
Vacancy in Coral Harbour**

Mr. Ningeongan (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Family Services.

As the minister may be aware, we haven't had a social worker in Coral Harbour for a long time. We've had some who have come in for short periods of time for the past almost three years. In particular, this individual called Patricia... I forget her last name and I apologize for that. She has come to Coral Harbour now and then and has been of great assistance to my fellow Coral Harbour residents.

Even though that is the case, it was our understanding that a social services worker position was created and that this individual would work on an indeterminate basis. When is this position going to be filled? We hear that this is an indeterminate position. When will this position finally be filled? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. Minister responsible for the Department of Family Services, Minister Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I didn't hear the question properly. Could the member rephrase the question, please. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Ell. Mr. Ningeongan, could you repeat your question for the minister, please.

Mr. Ningeongan (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will rephrase my question. We don't have a permanent

social services worker. We get one who gets into our community periodically. My question is: when are we going to fill that position in Coral Harbour? Social service workers are very important to the Nunavut communities. When are we going to fill that position? Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. Minister responsible for the Department of Family Services, Minister Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the member for asking that question. I think that indeterminate position will be filled on May 13. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Ningeongan (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Minister Ell, for that response. I think she said maybe that position will be filled on May 13. Could the minister inform me, possibly before I leave, exactly when that position is going to be filled? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. Minister responsible for the Department of Family Services, Minister Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the member for asking that question. Yes, I will inform the member before he leaves. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Ell. Item 6. Oral Questions. There are no more oral questions. Did you have a question, Mr. Oshutapik? Moving on in our orders of the day. Mr. Oshutapik.

Mr. Oshutapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like unanimous consent to return to Item 5 in the *Orders of the Day*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Oshutapik. The member is seeking unanimous consent to go back to Item 5 in the *Orders of the Day*. Are there any nays? There are none. Please proceed, Mr. Oshutapik.

Revert to Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Mr. Oshutapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On behalf of all members, I would like to thank the pages from Pangnirtung, Annie Nakashook and Angela Duval. Please thank them and applaud them.

>>*Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Oshutapik. 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. Ms. Ugyuk.

Item 10: Petitions

Petition 005 – 3(3): Increase the Number of Public Housing Units in Taloyoak

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I have the honour today of presenting a petition that has been signed by 54 of my constituents in the community of Taloyoak.

Mr. Speaker, the petitioners are asking that the Government of Nunavut increase the number of public housing units in Taloyoak. I look forward to the government formally responding to my constituents' concerns. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. Item 10. Petitions. Item 11. Responses to Petitions. Item 12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters. Item 13. Tabling of Documents.

Item 13: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 359 – 3(3): 2012-2013 Annual Report of the Integrity Commissioner of Nunavut

Thank you, members. I wish to table the 2012-13 Annual Report of the Integrity Commissioner of Nunavut.

Item 14. Notices of Motions. Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 16. Motions. Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Item 19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. There are no items in Committee of the Whole for today. Item 20. Report of the Committee of the Whole. There is no report. Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. Item 22 in our *Orders of the Day*. *Orders of the Day*. Mr. Clerk.

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just a reminder that there are meetings of the Standing Committee on

Legislation commencing at 1:30 this afternoon in Tuktu Boardroom.

Orders of the Day for May 13:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions
8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to Opening Address
10. Petitions
11. Responses to Petitions
12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters
13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motions
15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions
17. First Reading of Bills
18. Second Reading of Bills
 - Bill 63
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.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. As Mr. Oshutapik pointed out, I recognize the pages, Angela Duval and Annie Nakashuk. They're leaving to go back to Pangnirtung today, and also their chaperone, Lucy Young. I wish them a safe trip back. We hope you enjoyed your time serving as a page here. We all appreciate what you guys have done. I hope you found it educational and learned. Good luck in the rest of your school year.

>>*Applause*

This House stands adjourned until Monday, May 13, at 1:30 p.m.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 10:17*

