



Nunavut Canada

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NUNAVUT

1st Session

4th Assembly

HANSARD

Official Report

DAY 3

Friday, March 7, 2014

Pages 82 – 109

Iqaluit

Speaker: The Honourable George Qulaut, M.L.A.

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Speaker

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(Amittuq)

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(Gjoa Haven)
Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole

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(Aivilik)

Allan Rumbolt
(Hudson Bay)

Hon. Johnny Mike
(Pangnirtung)
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(Rankin Inlet South)

Pat Angnakak
(Iqaluit-Niaqunnguu)

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Simeon Mikkungwak
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(Uqqummiut)

Joe Savikataaq
(Arviat South)

Joe Enook
(Tununiq)
Deputy Speaker and Chair of the Committee of the Whole

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(Iqaluit-Sinaa)
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Isaac Shooyook
(Quttiktuq)

George Hickes
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Hon. Peter Taptuna
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(South Baffin)

Hon. George Kuksuk
(Arviat North-Whale Cove)
Minister of Economic Development and Transportation; Minister of Energy; Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation

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(Cambridge Bay)
Minister of Finance, Chair of the Financial Management Board; Minister responsible for the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk
(Netsilik)
Government House Leader; Minister of Family Services; Minister responsible for Homelessness; Minister responsible for the Status of Women

Hon. Paul Quassa
(Aggu)
Minister of Education; Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College

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**Iqaluit, Nunavut
Friday, March 7, 2014**

Members Present:

Ms. Pat Angnakak, Hon. Monica Ell, Mr. Joe Enook, Mr. George Hickes, Mr. David Joanasie, Hon. George Kuksuk, Mr. Steve Mapsalak, Hon. Johnny Mike, Mr. Simeon Mikkungwak, Hon. Paul Okalik, Hon. Keith Peterson, Hon. Paul Quassa, Hon. George Qulaut, Mr. Allan Rumbolt, Mr. Alexander Sammurtok, Hon. Tom Sammurtok, Mr. Joe Savikataaq, Mr. Isaac Shooyook, Hon. Peter Taptuna, Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk.

>>House commenced at 9:01

Item 1: Opening Prayer

Speaker (Hon. George Qulaut) (interpretation): Mr. Enook, can you lead us in prayer, please.

>>Prayer

Speaker (interpretation): Good morning. Ministers' Statements. (interpretation ends) Hon. Member, Mr. Okalik.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

**Minister's Statement 005 – 4(1):
Celebrating French Language and
Culture in Nunavut: Les Rendez-
vous de la Francophonie 2014**

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. From March 7 to 23, 9.5 million francophones and francophiles from across Canada will celebrate French language and culture as part of the 16th edition of Les Rendez-vous de la Francophonie under the theme "La joie de vivre d'hier à demain!" (The joy of living from yesterday to tomorrow).

In Iqaluit, l'Association des francophones du Nunavut will be hosting a series of cultural and community events over the next 17 days. The Department of Culture and Heritage is a proud partner of this year's programming as part of our overall mandate to support the vitality of the French language community of Nunavut.

Oui, oui, monsieur le Président, je vis aussi ma francophonie au Nunavut!
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. (interpretation ends) Hon. Member, Mr. Sammurtok.

**Minister's Statement 006 – 4(1):
Elwood Johnston Bursary**

Hon. Tom Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) It is my pleasure today to advise the Members of the House that at the Nunavut Association of Municipal Administrators' (NAMA) Annual General Meeting held in October of 2013, members of the Municipal Training Organization (MTO) voted unanimously to establish the Elwood Johnston Memorial Bursary Fund.

(interpretation) Elwood was a long-serving municipal employee, working in various communities in Nunavut as a senior administrative officer. He passed away last fall after a battle with cancer.

(interpretation ends) Elwood firmly believed in ensuring that municipal employees have opportunities for training and to upgrade their skills. In his term as president of NAMA, he pushed

strongly for a centralized training program in Nunavut, which led to the establishment of the Municipal Training Organization in 2003.

(interpretation) The bursary fund established in Elwood's name will be given to an individual or volunteer with a municipal government in recognition of their successful completion of programs offered by the MTO.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, training municipal employees and volunteers is important for our communities. I am excited and pleased to know that the MTO is recognizing the efforts of those who are trying to improve their skills through participation and successful completion of training programs offered by the MTO.

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. (interpretation ends) Hon. Member, Ms. Ugyuk.

**Minister's Statement 007 – 4(1):
International Women's Day –
March 8, 2014**

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Saturday, March 8 is International Women's Day, and on behalf of the Government of Nunavut, I rise today to recognize and honour all women.

On International Women's Day, we celebrate women and their lives, their contributions to society, and their achievements in every field of activity.

Nunavut has many notable women in the traditional arts, in the health professions, in law, in politics, and in sport. Many of our most respected elders are women.

Mr. Speaker, on this day and throughout the year, the government is actively promoting the message that women have the right to be respected as persons, the right to be treated with equality in the workplace, and that their contributions to the economic, cultural, and political development of society should be acknowledged.

Nunavut recognizes that achieving equality among women and men is everyone's responsibility.

Mr. Speaker, my department continues to work with the Qullit Nunavut Status of Women Council, which organizes important campaigns for women's rights, including Nunavut's "Take Back the Night" and the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence against Women and Girls. We value the important role they play in promoting respect for the rights of women.

Lastly, Mr. Speaker, I invite Nunavummiut to mark this important day in their community with a personal reflection on the importance of enhancing the quality of women's lives. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. (interpretation ends) Hon. Member, Mr. Mike.

Minister's Statement 008 – 4(1): 1,500 Tonne Increase in NAFO Area 0A Turbot Quota

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am very pleased to provide my colleagues with an update on turbot quota levels in Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO) fishing area 0A in Baffin Bay.

In November, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) announced that the 0A turbot quota would be increased by 1,500 tonnes starting in the 2014 fishing season and awarded 100 percent of the quota increase to Nunavut. The quota increase brings the total quota in 0A to 8,000 tonnes and raises the territory's share in adjacent turbot fisheries to 73 percent overall.

The allocation is currently going through the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board's (NWMB) allocation process to be divided among Nunavut's four offshore industry participants. Nunavut offshore turbot quotas are fished by four Nunavut owned companies that, in 2013, fished their entire quota. The 1,500 tonne increase represents a significant boost for our developing industry, adding approximately \$11 million to the overall value of Nunavut's commercial fisheries.

(interpretation ends) The Department of Environment believes that the relatively low exploitation rate combined with the high level of management in the 0A turbot fishery warranted this increased quota. (interpretation) The increase was also supported by industry catch data and the results of ongoing turbot stock

surveys in Baffin Bay that are conducted by DFO with support and investment from Nunavut stakeholders, including the Government of Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, we will continue to work closely with our co-management partners and industry to further develop Nunavut's commercial fisheries, which provide employment and income for Nunavut residents and communities in a sustainable manner. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Mike. We don't have a copy of your statement. Can the members be given a copy of your statement? Thank you.

Ministers' Statements. (interpretation ends) Hon. Member, Mr. Quassa.

Minister's Statement 009 – 4(1): Canada's Outstanding Principals

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Good morning. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As Minister of Education and Nunavut Arctic College, I am honoured to recognize Sarah Ayaruak, a Nunavut Teacher Education Program graduate and a leader in our school system, who was recently named as one of Canada's outstanding principals. Sarah Ayaruak also holds a Bachelor of Education Degree. As principal of Leo Ussak Elementary School in Rankin Inlet, she is one of 40 principals from across Canada to receive the 2014 Canada's Outstanding Principals Award.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, Sarah is a strong leader who has shared her vision and commitment to create a learning environment at Leo Ussak School that is built on maintaining

strong relationships within the community in order to support student engagement and continued learning. Working with her partners, she has developed Inuktitut programming that has helped her students succeed.

The Canada's Outstanding Principals program was developed by the Learning Partnership and is now in its 10th year. The program recognizes the importance of strong leadership in education. Principals are nominated by their peers, school staff, and community members.

The award recipients participated in an executive leadership training program at the University of Toronto's Rotman School of Management last month.

Mr. Speaker, Sarah's achievements are a reflection of the academic excellence and professional accomplishments of our Nunavut Teacher Education Program graduates. The NTEP program, delivered in partnership with the Department of Education and the University of Regina, provides an excellent learning environment.

(interpretation) Please join me in congratulating Sarah Ayaruak, a strong principal who has provided the leadership needed to make Leo Ussak School a safe, nurturing, and inspiring place of learning for all its students. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Quassa. Please provide a copy of your Minister's Statement to the Members of the Legislative Assembly and the staff. Can you provide a copy to them, please. Thank you.

Ministers' Statements. I have no more names on my list for Ministers' Statements. We will go to Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Baker Lake, Mr. Mikkungwak.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 034 – 4(1): Wishing Baker Lake Residents a Good Weekend

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Good morning to the people of Baker Lake and since today is the last day of the week, I wish the residents of Baker Lake a good day. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunngu, Ms. Angnakak.

Member's Statement 035 – 4(1): Recognizing Constituent Candace Sudlovenick

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of my constituent, Candace Sudlovenick. She is a second year student in Nunavut Arctic College's Environmental Technology Program, and she recently completed an exciting expedition to the Antarctic.

Mr. Speaker, Candace had the amazing opportunity to explore the other side of our planet through the popular Students on Ice program, which organized a ship-based expedition for 70 university and high school students from across the world. An international team of educators, leaders, and innovators

provided hands-on and inspiring educational activities on a daily basis.

Mr. Speaker, initiatives such as Students on Ice offer excellent opportunities for all youth. I hope that other young high school, college, and university students from Nunavut will be able to apply for this program to expand their knowledge and gain new global perspectives of our world, its wonders and its present and future challenges, especially as they relate to changes observed in our very own Nunavut environment.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage Nunavut youth to inform themselves of the Students on Ice program. The StudentsonIce.com website describes the program's numerous expeditions, including blogs and videos, and provides information on how to apply to participate in an expedition.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Candace for completing her recent expedition with Students on Ice in the Antarctic, and I heartily encourage her to continue the journey that she has begun with further studies in the Earth sciences. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. Shooyook.

**Member's Statement 036 – 4(1):
Status of Resolute Bay Utilidor**

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My statement today will focus on the issue of Resolute Bay's utilidor system.

Mr. Speaker, as the House is aware, Resolute Bay is one of only a few communities in Nunavut that has a utilidor system.

Mr. Speaker, Resolute Bay's integrated community infrastructure sustainability plan was completed in 2011. The plan indicates that the community's utilidor system "has never been subject to preventative maintenance" and is considered to be "at the point of catastrophic failure." Mr. Speaker, the plan also indicates that the replacement of the utilidor "was identified by stakeholders as the highest infrastructure priority during community consultations."

Mr. Speaker, I was pleased to note that information on the Government of Nunavut's website indicates that a \$22 million contract was awarded last month by the Department of CGS to Tower Arctic Ltd. for a new water and sewage system for the community.

Mr. Speaker, providing safe and modern water and sewage systems is a fundamental government responsibility, and I will have questions for the Minister of Community and Government Services at the appropriate time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for South Baffin, Mr. Joanasie.

**Member's Statement 037 – 4(1):
Celebrating Inuit Culture in India**

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Good morning, my colleagues, Nunavummiut, and the people listening to our proceedings. Mr. Speaker, thank you. I

rise today to express my admiration for our unique culture of Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, you may have heard that an inuksuk made from stone was recently built and unveiled overseas in India. That inuksuk was put together by two Canadian artists, Bill Nasogaluak originally from Tuktoyaktuk, Northwest Territories, and “Kuzy” Koomuatuk Curley originally from Cape Dorset.

Mr. Speaker, the artist from Cape Dorset, Kuzy, is a friend of mine. It gives me pride that he is making a name for himself in the art world and is an excellent example for other emerging young artists. I know he loves what he does and that he is taking advantage of opportunities that are presented to him.

Mr. Speaker, as Nunavummiut, we are honoured that Canada’s Governor General David Johnston is using the inuksuk sign to symbolize the friendly and cooperative relationship that Canada has with India.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Mr. Nasogaluak and Mr. Curley for making their remarkable contributions to Canada’s identity on the world stage. Thank you.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Joanasie. Members’ Statements. Member for Iqaluit-Manirajak, Ms. Ell.

Member’s Statement 038 – 4(1): The Opening of Saimavik Studio

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning to my constituency of Iqaluit-Manirajak. At

this time, I am very pleased to rise to announce that there is going to be a dance hall and a gymnasium for yoga programs for healthy living. It is a studio that will be opening soon in Iqaluit-Manirajak and the name of the building will be Saimavik Studio.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, this exciting enterprise is being started by a couple of young entrepreneurs named Christine Lamothe and Gary Quinangnaq with enormous support from their family. They also happen to be constituents of the MLA for Iqaluit-Sinaa, my hon. colleague, Mr. Paul Okalik.

Founder Christine Lamothe, who is a physical activity specialist, as well as a yoga teacher, indicates that they would be able to accommodate 15 to 20 people at a time for their program. The focus of the Saimavik Studio is on helping to improve health and wellness for people of all ages.

Mr. Speaker, Christine has been an Iqaluit resident since 2006 and has been an active participant in activities relating to healthy living and youth.

Saimavik Studio will be holding an open house on Saturday, March 8 at building 754 on Ben Ell Drive, the road that is named after my late father, Ben Ell. I encourage the residents of Iqaluit to pay a visit to see what exciting activities are planned for the future.

Mr. Speaker and members, please join me in wishing Christine and Gary success in this exciting new venture. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Tununig, Mr. Enook.

**Member's Statement 039 – 4(1):
Tribute to Hockey Prodigies**

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning, people of Pond Inlet and my fellow Nunavummiut. Mr. Speaker, in the aftermath of Canada's Olympic success and as a forerunner to Nunavut's participation in the upcoming Arctic Winter Games, I rise today to pay tribute to two young Pond Inlet hockey players who are lighting up the goal lights in the nation's capital.

Mr. Speaker, Mittimatalingmiut Atiqtaalaaq and Kalai Ootoowak are living with their mother, Anita, in the Ottawa region as she studies full time for a degree in psychology at the University of Ottawa.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, Atiqtaalaaq is only eight years old, but his skills on the ice have already impressed coaches and managers from a number of AAA teams. "Q," as he is also known, has even been selected to play for the Ottawa region's Selects Sports Development team, a program that has produced several NHL players.

Mr. Speaker, Atiqtaalaaq has been invited to travel to Europe with his team this summer, but unless he and his mother can raise adequate funds, he won't be able to go.

Mr. Speaker, I recognize that there are many competing demands for limited government resources.

Adequate support to assist individual athletes and teams in reaching their full potential is hard to come by.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage our government, our sports organizations, our clubs, coaches, volunteers, and supporters to help Nunavut's athletes reach their dreams in any way possible.

Mr. Speaker, I ask for unanimous consent to conclude my remarks.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker and my colleagues.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, Atiqtaalaaq and Kalai have both been invited to play in competitive hockey programs in the Ottawa region this spring and summer. Even though the cost of registration, equipment, and training is high, the Ootoowak family has made hockey a priority in their lives. Hockey is their drive and passion.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, along with their mother, these boys have been fundraising, including through the "go fund me" website that anyone can donate to, to raise enough money to enable them to take advantage of opportunities which will allow them to continue to develop as elite hockey players.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, as Atiqtaalaaq's hockey coach put it, this young hockey player has travelled far "from floe edge to face-off," and is an excellent ambassador for the community of Pond Inlet and for Nunavut as a

whole. We should all be proud of him.
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you.
Members' Statements. Member for
Iqaluit-Sinaa, Mr. Okalik.

**Member's Statement 040 – 4(1):
Recognizing People with Different
Lifestyles**

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation):
Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I hope that
player eventually plays for the Montreal
Canadiens once he grows up.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak to an
issue related to parts of our population
with opinions expressed opposing them.
I recall that in our own country of
Canada, as an Inuk from a minority
compared to our overall population in
Canada, while I was in the south, I
would often feel very alone and isolated.
Some people would discriminate solely
on the fact that I was an Inuk.

I was quite rejuvenated during my
studies in a southern university when I
felt discriminated that another group also
discriminated against, the LBGT
community, took compassion on my
situation and would support me, as they
were quite aware of prejudice against
minorities and that prejudice has no
place in our society. We have to be
compassionate to other residents in our
communities.

We are starting to hear of opposition to
this community and that is why today, I
wear a pinkish-hued tie and if a tie with
rainbow colours had been available, I

would have worn it today to express my
support in their fight.

As a people with a very small population
base, we have to work together
irrespective of our differences. We are
all different here in Nunavut, and I am
proud of the fact they are working to
fight for their rights and to be strong. I
am proud of their efforts as they are also
part of our Nunavut community. We
represent all the people of Nunavut in
this House and we have to stand with
them. I am happy and proud of this
community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you.
Members' Statements. Member for
Pangnirtung, Mr. Mike.

**Member's Statement 041 – 4(1): A
Healthy Recovery of Constituent**

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation):
Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my
fellow residents of Pangnirtung,
particularly the hunters in our
community.

I am happy to stand here today as I saw a
person, actually my uncle Seemee
Angmarlik, along with Tony Nowyook.
My uncle spent an inordinate amount of
time at the hospital, even though he is a
hunter, and I was glad to see his return to
our community. This is an event that
brings me great pleasure and that is the
reason why I stand up today in the
House.

Seemee spent many months in the
hospital without ever returning home
and he has just recently returned home.
With his health restored, he returned as

he is a real hunter. I want to share my gratitude with every other hunter as well as our relatives, especially his wife and children.

I am very pleased to be able to stand here to speak about Seemee, who has survived the ordeal that placed him in the hospital. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Member, Ms. Ugyuk.

**Member's Statement 042 – 4(1):
International Women's Day**

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Tomorrow will be International Women's Day. I wish them a very good day.

I know that women are very creative with handicrafts and in creating clothing for their husbands and children. Women, I hear, are the ones who keep the men clothed properly. That happens when the men take proper care of their wives.

I wish all women of Nunavut a good International Women's Day. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Aivilik, Mr. Mapsalak.

**Member's Statement 043 – 4(1):
Repulse Bay Hockey Players**

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I send good morning greetings to my constituents in Repulse

Bay and Coral Harbour. I also wish to express my congratulations and pride in our Repulse Bay hockey team for their play during the recent Polar Bear Plate tournament.

Hockey is an extremely popular sport amongst our youth and other age groups in Repulse Bay, although it isn't a large community. However, the team managed to come in first place in the tournament, so I want to express how proud I am of their accomplishment.

>> *Laughter*

I am very happy and quite proud of this group, despite the fact that they rarely get any type of formal coaching. Due to their dedication and focus, they have been able to reach the top tiers in hockey tournaments without any help. They generally have to fundraise to be able to undertake these trips. I am extremely proud of their dedication and commitment.

Just recently at the Avataq Hockey Tournament, the Repulse Bay hockey team came in second and Iqaluit came in first. I also am proud of their accomplishments.

I wanted to express my pride in the Repulse Bay hockey players as they are amongst the best in our region. This is something our community can take pride in as I am also from that community. I wanted my colleagues to join me in congratulating our hockey players. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for

Aggu, Mr. Quassa.

**Member's Statement 044 – 4(1):
Recognizing Igloolik Film
Producers**

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the representative for the Aggu Riding, I wish to share my pride in the media company now called Kingullit that produces television and radio shows locally in Igloolik.

I believe all members are familiar with Igloolik's history as one of the premier communities involved in filmmaking and of Zacharias Kunuk, who produced the film "Atarnarjuat" that people may remember. Another film was produced about Knud Rasmussen called Journals of Knud Rasmussen and other films have been produced by people from Igloolik.

Further, the films and shows are quite compelling and popular, as they are done entirely in Inuktitut, not just in Igloolik, but in other communities like Cambridge Bay, Cape Dorset, and other communities that air these shows. They are now available 24/7. They provide a foundation for strengthening our Inuktitut language as they are all in Inuktitut.

The media company, Kinguliit, produces these shows and it is run by Zacharias Kunuk. One of their objectives is to eventually broadcast in all communities in Nunavut and to re-air old films produced in the past.

It strengthens our language and pride in our culture when we watch television shows entirely in Inuktitut. I wanted to acknowledge the people who provide

this service, as it helps strengthen the retention of our Inuit language. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. There are none. (interpretation ends) Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. There are none. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Hon. Member, Mr. Okalik.

**Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the
Gallery**

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Welcome, President of the Francophone Association of Nunavut, Mr. Eric Courneau, and Vice-President, Madame Mylène Chartrand. Welcome. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister, Mr. Sammurtok.

Hon. Tom Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, (interpretation) I would like to recognize the President of Nunavut Arctic College, Mr. Mike Shouldice.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister, Mr. Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the same individual who is the President of

Nunavut Arctic College, Michael Shouldice. I would like to recognize him again and our dean, Eric Courneau. I apologize if I mispronounced your name, but I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the individuals who work very hard for Nunavut Arctic College. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. (interpretation ends) Hon. Member, Mr. Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to take the opportunity to recognize our visitors from Pangnirtung, my uncle Seemee Angmarlik, and Tony Nowyook, who are both from Pangnirtung. Thank you.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Sammurtok.

Mr. Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The individual whom I wish to recognize has already been recognized. (interpretation ends) I would like to recognize the President of Nunavut Arctic College, Mr. Mike Shouldice.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. There are no more. (interpretation ends) Item 6. Oral Questions. (interpretation) Member for Tununig, Mr. Enook.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 013 – 4(1): Status of the Pond Inlet Arena

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Community and Government Services.

About two years ago, Pond Inlet's new arena was officially opened at a ceremony held in the community. At that time, it was anticipated that the arena's heat exchange technology and other design features would allow for an extended ice season. Unfortunately, there have been a significant number of technical problems with the arena ever since it opened and the facility is currently unusable.

I have raised concerns in this House on this issue since March of last year. Can the new minister update me today on how his department is working with the municipality to fix the arena's problems so that Pond Inlet's kids can get back on the ice as soon as possible? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Sammurtok.

Hon. Tom Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To answer the question by the hon. member from Pond Inlet, it is being reviewed. The main problem is with electrical deficiencies. At this time, electricians are at that arena and reviewing to see what kind of problems are plaguing that arena. As soon as we find out, I will inform the member. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Your first supplementary, Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When I first raised this issue in the House in March of last year, I was assured that the deficiencies and safety issues were corrected before the arena was handed over to the community. Can the minister assure me today that the municipality will not be liable for the cost of repairing the arena? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The Hon. Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Sammurtok.

Hon. Tom Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With respect to the repairs in the arena, the costs will be borne by my department and not the municipality. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Your final supplementary, Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) One of the community's biggest frustrations with the situation is lack of clarity of exactly what the problem is with the arena. Community residents have heard a number of different explanations for the arena's ongoing problem. One week, it's blamed on the wiring, and then another week, the problem lies with the electrical components, and then another week, it has to do with the ice surface. We then hear there have been significant difficulties in obtaining specialized replacement electrical components and they must be imported from the United States.

Will the minister commit to working with the municipality to ensure that Pond Inlet residents receive clear and current information about the arena's problems and the timeline for its reopening? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Community and Government Service, Mr. Sammurtok.

Hon. Tom Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At this time, there is an electrical specialist working on Pond Inlet's arena. He is trying to find out exactly what the recurring problem is with respect to the circuit breaker. It was thought that it may be too close to the wiring, so they're trying to determine if that is where the problem is. As soon as we identify that, we will apply the appropriate solution. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunngu, Ms. Angnakak.

Question 014 – 4(1): Nunavut Tourism

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation.

The Government of Nunavut's most recent publicly available annual report on grants and contributions indicate that the department provided Nunavut Tourism with over \$1.8 million in funding during the 2011-12 fiscal year.

Recent news reports have claimed that Nunavut Tourism has spent over \$100,000 in recent years for such things

as dinners at the Vancouver Olympics and fees for US television appearances. My question for the minister is simple: are these reports accurate, yes or no?

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Mr. Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am sorry, but I didn't really hear the member's question. Can you repeat your question, please. Thank you.

Speaker: Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The government's most recent publicly available annual report on grants and contributions from your department said that they provided Nunavut Tourism with over \$1.8 million in funding.

Recent news reports that we read in the newspaper have claimed that Nunavut Tourism has spent over \$100,000 in recent years for such things as dinners at the Vancouver Olympics and fees for US television appearances. My question to you is: are these reports in the newspaper accurate, yes or no? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The Hon. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Mr. Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. Your question is whether or not those reports are accurate. I cannot answer at this time

because I don't see any information on whether this is true or not. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Your first supplementary, Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Although I fully agree that marketing Nunavut as a destination of choice is an extremely important role for Nunavut Tourism, I also believe that entities that receive government funds need to be accountable and responsible for their spending.

Can the minister describe what controls are in place to ensure that senior employees of Nunavut Tourism comply with all appropriate rules and guidelines concerning spending on travel and hospitality? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The Hon. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Mr. Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. Tourism often involves promoting and marketing not just in Canada, but internationally as well.

Promotional funds are properly approved and there is also a committee on economic development and tourism that reviews the expenditure of money and what they're used for. Once expenditures have been approved, they're spent only on their approved purpose.

I agree that some things are expensive, but I too am accountable and responsible as minister for that spending. As a government in general, we are accountable for any public funds. As

such, we try to be as responsible as possible to make expenditures that are approved, whether that be for tourism or some other departmental purpose and only after careful scrutiny.

Yes, I understand what the member is concerned about and I hope I have answered her question. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Your final supplementary question, Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) I respect the response of the minister. I would like to ask my last question. (interpretation ends) I also believe that it's time that we take a hard look at the value for money or bang for the buck that we are getting as a government for the grants and contributions that we provide to such entities as Nunavut Tourism.

Can the minister describe how his department evaluates whether the millions of public dollars that are being provided to Nunavut Tourism are spent effectively? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Mr. Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for your very good question. I will get back to the member with detailed information at a later date. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. Shooyook.

Question 015 – 4(1): Status of the Resolute Bay Utilidor

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

Resolute Bay's integrated community infrastructure sustainability plan indicates that the community's utilidor system is "considered to be at the point of catastrophic failure."

Information on the Government of Nunavut's website indicates that a \$22 million contract was awarded last month by the Department of CGS to Tower Arctic Ltd. for a new water and sewage system for the community. Can the minister indicate when work will begin on this important project?

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Sammurtok.

Hon. Tom Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The question asked by the Member for Quttiktuq is not a new issue; it has been ongoing for quite some time now. Our officials have gone to Resolute Bay more than once to meet with the hamlet. We will continue to pursue the issue. We understand that the utilidor system in Resolute Bay is important to the lives of the residents. That is why we will continue to work on the utilidor system until it's completely fixed. (interpretation ends) *Qujannamiik*, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Your first supplementary, Mr. Shooyook.

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Can the minister indicate when the work will begin on this important project?

Speaker: The Hon. Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Sammurtok.

Hon. Tom Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The work will begin in the summer of 2014. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Your second supplementary, Mr. Shooyook.

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): The department's 2013-14 capital estimates, which were approved by the Legislative Assembly in 2012, indicated that the federal government had funding available for the Resolute Bay utilidor project. Can the minister confirm if the federal government will, indeed, proceed with a contribution agreement for this important project?

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Sammurtok.

Hon. Tom Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We will be signing the Building Canada Fund contribution agreement with the federal government with respect to water, sewage, and solid waste management. We will be signing that agreement in the upcoming month. Once that agreement is signed, the additional funding will then be available. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit-Tasiluk, Mr. Hickes.

Question 016 – 4(1): Inuit Employment in the Government of Nunavut

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the interpreters yesterday for interpreting my fast-paced speech.

Mr. Speaker, my questions today are again for the Minister of Finance.

On September 17, 2013, the minister tabled the Government of Nunavut's quarterly report on Inuit employment. This report provided information that was current to December of 2012.

Mr. Speaker, it is now March of 2014. When will the minister be tabling the government's reports for all of 2013 and the first quarter of this year? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Finance, Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Hickes for asking that question. Mr. Speaker, I have been asking that question myself with my officials. I assure the member and my colleagues that all the reports for 2013 are now available and I'll likely be tabling them next week. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Your first supplementary, Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The government's most recent public report indicates that as of December of 2012, a number of 1,593 beneficiaries were employed on a full-time basis, which is a rate of approximately 50

percent. The report also indicated that approximately 72 percent of the government's 1,600 causal jobs were filled by beneficiaries. Can the minister indicate what today's figures are? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The Hon. Minister of Finance, Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Hickes for the question. Mr. Speaker, there are two categories, I believe, now. There were casual employees and now there are relief workers. I don't have the exact figures for the combined casual employees and relief workers, but it's over 2,000. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Your final supplementary, Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A number of my constituents have expressed concerns about the administration of causal hiring in the government, including the inappropriate extension and re-extension of casual employment, rather than holding competitions to fill positions. I believe that when used properly, the use of casual hiring can help to identify promising beneficiary employees who can be mentored into full-time jobs, Mr. Speaker.

Now that the functions of the former Department of Human Resources have been integrated into the Department of Finance and now that a new *Public Service Act* is in place, can the minister indicate what initiatives his department is planning to improve the system of casual hiring and foster Inuit employment? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Finance, Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Hickes for that very important question. I have been asking that question at length for the last nine or ten months. There are some issues, as Mr. Hickes indicated.

As a government, we're stressing rigour and consistency in the public service, particularly in the hiring and recruitment of staff. We're working with all departments to ensure that they do hire people based on established policies and practices of the government. Of course, we amended the *Public Service Act* last fall. Again, we have said that people will be hired and promoted based on merit. Nepotism is something that we don't condone.

We are continuing as a department on our HR side to work with all departments. We're getting some pushback. I think people are getting the message that it's important that the Government of Nunavut be seen as an employer of first choice if people are seeking employment and that they will be treated fairly and respectfully when they're seeking employment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for South Baffin, Mr. Joanasié.

Question 017 – 4(1): Kimmirut Airport

Mr. Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for

the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation.

As the minister is aware, Kimmirut's airport is one of the most challenging airports in the entire country at which to land due to its location and the length of its airstrip.

Mr. Speaker, in 2011, the department indicated in response to a question asked in the Legislative Assembly that it would "consider allocating funds to a preliminary study on the feasibility of relocating the airport."

Will the minister commit to initiating a study within the next 12 months on the relocation of the Kimmirut Airport, yes or no?

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Mr. Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to thank my colleague for asking the question. This morning, I am unable to say yes or no, but I will look into it with my department to see where they are right now with this issue. I will look into it and get the information for the member. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Your first supplementary, Mr. Joanasie.

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the minister is aware, the community of Pangnirtung's airport is also in need of relocation and funding has been previously approved by the department and the Legislative Assembly to move forward on this issue.

Given that Kimmirut's circumstances are very similar to those of Pangnirtung, can the minister explain why funding to relocate Kimmirut's airport has not yet been proposed by his department? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The Hon. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Mr. Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am aware of the other matter that my colleague is referring to, the Pangnirtung Airport. I am also aware of the problems of the location of the airstrip that have been explained and your question in regard to Kimmirut.

Mr. Speaker, airstrips in Nunavut have different locations. Some of them are adequate and some are kind of dangerous. The areas where there are mountains have problems. Some airstrips are too low and communities are encroaching upon those areas. For that reason, there are many different problems that have to do with airstrips.

The concerns about the Kimmirut airstrip are going to be looked at by our department. We will look into the matter. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Your final supplementary, Mr. Joanasie.

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Government of Nunavut is prepared to spend tens of millions of dollars on a new airport for Iqaluit. Can the minister tell me why the government appears unable or unwilling to assist Kimmirut in relocating its airport? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Mr. Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. As I stated before, every Nunavut airstrip has its own problems and we have to keep an eye on all of them and we have to carefully allocate limited funds to them as well. The Kimmirut Airport is included for consideration and that is all I can say for now. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Baker Lake, Mr. Mikkungwak.

**Question 018 – 4(1): Utilidor
Development in Baker Lake**

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

I would like to begin by expressing my appreciation to the minister for having recently taken the time to visit Baker Lake and see with his own eyes the exciting growth that is taking place in the community.

As the minister is aware, the municipal council of Baker Lake recently passed a formal resolution that called on the government to work with the community to undertake a feasibility study for a new utilidor. Can the minister indicate when the municipality can expect to receive a formal response from his department on this issue? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Sammurtok.

Hon. Tom Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank (interpretation ends) the Hon. Member for Baker Lake (interpretation) for asking that question. As well, just recently, I went to Baker Lake along with my officials to have a meeting with the Baker Lake hamlet council. This was brought up during that meeting and this issue was raised. At this time, I can state that our departmental officials will be returning to Baker Lake to hold further meetings with the hamlet council on this issue and to look at the potential for building the utilidor in Baker Lake. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Your first supplementary, Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my understanding that the federal government has provided assistance to the Government of Nunavut through the Building Canada Fund to help pay for the cost of replacing Resolute Bay's utilidor system. Can the minister indicate if his department is considering making a request for federal funding to support the cost of constructing a new utilidor for Baker Lake? Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. of Community and Government Services, Mr. Sammurtok.

Hon. Tom Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation

ends) I can advise the member that we are in the process of finalizing an agreement with the federal government regarding the Gas Tax Fund and also the Building Canada Fund. Once the agreement is signed, we will be able to determine how much we can provide in assistance for this project.
(interpretation) Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Your final supplementary, Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) As the minister is aware, his department has been working with Nunavut communities in recent years to develop integrated community infrastructure sustainability plans. Baker Lake's plan, which was undertaken in 2010, includes discussion of a new utilidor. Can the minister indicate how his department is taking this plan into consideration when developing its annual capital expenditures? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Sammurtok.

Hon. Tom Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) The program that the hon. member mentioned does identify needs that are presented by each municipality. We take that information and we prioritize information provided to us based on needs, health and safety. As our department reviews these submissions, we will then be able to determine the prioritization of the item that the hon. member has brought up.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for (interpretation ends) Arviat South, Mr. Savikataaq.

Question 019 – 4(1): Status of Manitoba-Nunavut Transboundary Negotiations

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Premier, whose department is responsible for intergovernmental affairs.

Mr. Speaker, an ongoing issue of concern for residents of Arviat is the status of transboundary negotiations with First Nations in northern Manitoba and Saskatchewan. The annual business plans of the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs have previously indicated that the Government of Nunavut "participates on the federal negotiating team in both overlapping claims" and that it also "participates as an observer in the Inuit claim to the Kivahiktuq Settlement Area in Northern Manitoba."

Mr. Speaker, although people in Arviat understand that negotiations of this nature involve a degree of confidentiality, the government needs to clearly explain its role. Can the Premier outline what the government's objectives are in this process? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Premier of Nunavut, Mr. Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that

question. The member is absolutely correct. At times, his community has been very concerned with the progress and the process of negotiations. There is an agreement between the parties that are negotiating where there is a confidentiality clause. There are no real negotiation tactics or strategies that I can give out at this time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Your first supplementary, Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. These negotiations have been ongoing for many years and they involve potentially significant amounts of land. Can the Premier indicate how close the parties are to reaching an agreement? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Premier of Nunavut, Mr. Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The member is absolutely right. The process goes all the way back to 1871, so it is taking a long time. Mr. Speaker, I can't say at this time exactly when the negotiations are going to be complete due to confidentiality agreements between the parties. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Your final supplementary, Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In June of last year, the federal cabinet approved an Order in Council to "withdraw from disposal the surface and subsurface rights to certain lands, for a

period of three years, in order to facilitate the conclusion of Aboriginal land agreements." It is my understanding that this land was taken out through a further process. Mr. Speaker, it is my understanding that this applies to approximately 21,000 square kilometres of Crown land in the southern Kivalliq and will temporarily restrict development on the land.

Mr. Speaker, as I noted earlier, the GN has indicated that it "participates on the federal negotiating team in both overlapping claims." Can the Premier indicate how the decision of restricting development is expected to help settle the land claims in the area? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Premier of Nunavut, Mr. Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again I thank the member for that question. Mr. Speaker, the process is ongoing. Negotiations are continuing. I agree that this has taken a long time with the parties involved, but at the end of the day, there has been some progress made within the claims and we look forward to continuing on to a conclusion of the negotiation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Aivilik, Mr. Mapsalak.

Question 020 – 4(1): Repulse Bay Airport Terminal Building

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Transportation.

Mr. Speaker, in Repulse Bay, we have an airport terminal that is really old and the airstrip is within the municipality, and Repulse Bay has a population of just a little over 1,000. Mr. Speaker, residents live in real danger there, especially residents who are trying to leave town by aircraft, especially in the wintertime when it's really cold. The airport terminal is even smaller than this room and we have over 1,000 people living in the community.

Some of them even have to wait outside for their flight because there is no room in the terminal and passengers deplaning have no room in the terminal. People are aware of it and because we are in this critical situation, I would like to ask: when can we expect a new, more adequate airport terminal for Repulse Bay? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Mr. Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you to my colleague for asking that good question. The issues you spoke about are absolutely truthful.

Many airport terminals in Nunavut are in the same situation in terms of age and have been continually used ever since they were constructed. We are aware that some terminals are too small to accommodate passengers, especially in communities that have more than one airline or different types of aircraft arriving in their communities.

With respect to Repulse Bay, I concur with your statement that the airport terminal falls into the category of old terminals requiring replacement. However, our department is reviewing the issue of replacing air terminals based on the needs and priorities of communities. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Your first supplementary, Mr. Mapsalak.

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The minister stated that this is very urgent, so I would like to know how the minister defines urgency. I just said incoming and outgoing passengers are waiting outdoors. When would it be considered "urgent"? I would appreciate clarity on that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Mr. Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you to my colleague. As I stated earlier, there are many airport terminals in Nunavut that have problems. Some of them are too small and some have electrical problems. The number of aircrafts coming into the communities has greatly increased as well. Many of them are in critical situations and some of them are just too small to accommodate the number of people in the community. We have to carefully look at all of these matters and we have to realistically follow the procedure where we determine priorities. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Your final supplementary, Mr. Mapsalak.

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is a critical matter because we are in physical danger. If something happens in the terminal, people will not be able to rush outside if a problem occurs inside the terminal. Can the minister agree that we would like this to be the absolute priority in the airport terminals? Can you see if you can get us an airport and for Repulse Bay to be the priority? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Mr. Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for the question. As I said earlier, each terminal has their own problems and they each have needs. Some of them are inadequate and some of them, like you said, are too small. Repulse Bay has one of the oldest airport terminals, and we are going to be looking at all of the airport terminals, especially the ones that are considered too small now. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. (interpretation ends) MLA for Hudson Bay, Mr. Rumbolt.

Question 021 – 4(1): Qulliq Energy Corporation’s General Rate Application

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation.

The Qulliq Energy Corporation’s 2014-15 Phase 1 and Phase 2 General Rate Application was submitted to the minister in December of last year. Can the minister indicate what the timeline is for the general rate application to be considered by the Utility Rates Review Council before it makes its recommendations to the government? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation, Mr. Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I understand that this process requires the review of the Utility Rates Review Council. I’m not the minister responsible, but I signed off on a request from the Qulliq Energy Corporation, I believe, in December of [last] year. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary question, Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In February of 2012, it was announced in the Legislative Assembly that the Qulliq Energy Corporation would be moving towards implementing a territorial power rate structure as of April 1, 2014. This approach involves, and I quote, “rebalancing between communities to gradually levelize rates across the territory.” Could the minister confirm if the new rate structure will actually be in place as of April 1? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister

responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation, Mr. Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) No, not at this time. We need to review all the other programs in place and I commit to doing that over the next few years. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your final supplementary question, Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In reviewing QEC's general rate application, it appears that the proposed new rate structure will involve increases in power rates for some customers in some communities and decreases in power rates for customers in other communities. For the benefit of the thousands of Nunavut residents who pay power bills each month, could the minister outline QEC's rationale for this new approach? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation, Mr. Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) We need to review all the programs in place for subsidies and rate variances in each of the communities. I'm meeting with the Qulliq Energy board next week and I look forward to working on this further with all the entities involved. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Tununiq, Mr. Enook.

Question 022 – 4(1): Medical Travel Policy on Escorts

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my line of questions to the Minister of Health.

Yesterday, we discussed the issue of medical travel, particularly the situations faced by unilingual Inuit who sometimes have to travel alone for medical treatment.

Mr. Speaker, whenever our government carries out programs, it is generally prefaced by a study or the hiring of consultants to review the issue.

I want to refer back to an issue voiced by my colleague, Mr. Rumbolt, during his questions that this issue had been reviewed and the policy was revised and changed. I imagine that the prerequisite consultants were hired to conduct this review or perhaps the department undertook that work in-house.

I want to ask this question, Mr. Speaker. When this policy was being reviewed for possible changes to it, who was involved? Who did the department consult amongst Nunavummiut prior to changing the policy? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Health, Ms. Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): Good morning and thank you to my colleague for asking that question. The request to review the policy led to the government hiring a consultant firm called DPRA

Canada. This firm was hired for this review of the policy and they conducted a (interpretation ends) jurisdictional review (interpretation) in Nunavut. Part of their work involved surveying people on medical travel, including parents of medical patients as well as employees. This survey, once completed, resulted in a report with recommendations on the issue that was submitted to the government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Your first supplementary, Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. *Qujannamiik*, hon. minister. (interpretation) When speaking about consultants who were retained for this work, I asked the question about who was queried about this issue. The response was that some parents and employees were interviewed. Was there any attempt to survey any unilingual Inuit, those who would be impacted by these changes? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Health, Ms. Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As per my earlier response, the firm also consulted the clients, people who actually go on medical travel, whether or not they were bilingual or unilingual. They didn't survey every patient, but they did conduct surveys with people who rely on our health system. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Your final supplementary, Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Let me ask this question then. There are quite a few unilingual Inuit who are out for medical reasons. Some of them, I am told, are not eligible to bring escorts.

When I think about escorts, I think that it is not something just for fun. We are talking about an escort who is bilingual, who you can consult with, and who would help you no matter what the situation might be. I don't think it is just a matter of wanting to have an escort. It is someone who will help you during your medical travel.

For the elders or for anybody who is a unilingual Inuk and who is required to go to another location for medical reasons, at times, the plane does not arrive at their destination due to weather. When there is a unilingual Inuk onboard and they land at another location other than their destination, then who is going to help this elder out? If this unilingual individual is alone and in a strange location, who would help the individual in that type of situation? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Health, Ms. Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When people sent out for medical treatment are eligible for interpreters at their destination, just as it stands now, the purpose was to make it universal across the board. Our department wants to treat everybody equally, with a priority placed on the patients. Patient care and services is placed as a priority and there are four or five requirements. If there are no

interpreters at their ultimate destination, then they would be eligible to have an escort.

Additionally, if the medical patient feels that they have been mistreated or inadequately served, they could approach the Patient Relations Office to help resolve their complaints. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Baker Lake, Mr. Mikkungwak.

Question 023 – 4(1): Affordable Homeownership in Nunavut

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my questions to the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, in July of 2012, the Nunavut Housing Corporation announced changes to its Nunavut Down Payment Assistance Program. These changes included introducing a fixed percentage amount of 7.5 percent to a maximum of \$30,000 in down-payment assistance, eliminating the two-year Nunavut residency requirement, and providing assistance up to the first \$400,000 of the purchase value of a home.

Mr. Speaker, as we all know, the cost of purchasing a home in Nunavut is extremely high, considering that a modest three-bedroom house can cost from \$450,000 to \$1 million. Can the minister explain how the changes to the Nunavut Down Payment Assistance Program have contributed to helping

Nunavummiut purchase a home? Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Question period is now over, but we will complete this portion.

(interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Mr. Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for his question. We have homeownership assistance programs to adequately assist people financially for their own homes. I know that to some degree and for some people who negotiate mortgages from banks, they don't have the necessary financing to successfully acquire their own homes and that is what this program by the Nunavut Housing Corporation is aimed for. Those are the types of programs that we are providing at the Nunavut Housing Corporation to enable the people of Nunavut to own their own homes through assistance for homeownership. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Your first supplementary, Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) The Nunavut Down Payment Assistance Program income eligibility threshold level of \$125,000 has not been changed for many years. Considering the high cost of purchasing a home, the high cost of properly maintaining it, the high cost of utility bills, water bills, and sewage bills, can the minister explain why the corporation has chosen not to increase the income

eligibility threshold level? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Mr. Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm not really versed on what is in the details of the down-payment assistance program income eligibility threshold. I will get the information and get back to the member. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Your final supplementary, Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Many years ago, I was able to purchase my home through the Access Housing Program.

When reviewing the corporation's website, I found a reference to the Tenant-to-Owner Program. However, when I tried to print out a pamphlet, all it indicated was to "check with your Local Housing Organization or District office."

Can the minister clarify the purpose of the Tenant-to-Owner Program and can he indicate how many Nunavummiut have benefited from this program? Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Mr. Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the

Member for Baker Lake for the question. The questions that the member is asking will be responded to by my department as soon as I get the information. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The time for question period is over. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek unanimous consent to go back to Item 5 in the *Orders of the Day*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The member is seeking unanimous consent to return to Item 5. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Please proceed, Mr. Enook.

Revert to Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At this time, I am pleased and proud to recognize the Mayor from Pond Inlet and Chairman for the Baffin Mayors' Conference, Charlie Enuaraq. Welcome.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) We are now to Item 7. Written Questions. There are none. Returns to Written Questions. No. 8. There are none. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. There are none. Item 10. Petitions. There are none. Item 11. Responses to Petitions. There are none. Item 12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters. There are none. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. (interpretation) Member for Pangnirtung, Minister Mike.

Item 13: Tabling of Documents**Tabled Document 012 – 4(1):
Environmental Rights Act Annual
Report for the Period January 1,
2013 to December 31, 2013**

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I am pleased to table the *Environmental Rights Act* Annual Report for the period January 1, 2013 to December 31, 2013. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Tabling of Documents. Mr. Kuksuk.

**Tabled Document 013 – 4(1):
Transportation of Dangerous
Goods Annual Report for 2012-
2013**

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table the Transportation of Dangerous Goods Annual Report for 2012-13. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Tabling of Documents. There are no more. Item 14. Notices of Motions. There are none. Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. There are none. Item 16. Motions. There are none. Item 17. First Reading of Bills. There are none. Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. There are none. Item 19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Matters. Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Rumbolt.

**Motion 010 – 4(1): Adjournment for
the Day**

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Pursuant to Rule 46, I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Netsilik, that the House adjourn for the day. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The motion is in order and is not debatable. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried and we will proceed directly to the *Orders of the Day*. Mr. Clerk.

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just a reminder for members of the various meetings scheduled for this afternoon as articulated in the sessional work plan.

Orders of the Day for March 10:

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
 - Bill 2
20. Report of the Committee of the
Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills
22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you.
(interpretation ends) This House stands
adjourned until Monday, March 10, at
1:30 p.m.

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 11:01*

