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DAY 1

Thursday, March 20, 2014

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Iqaluit

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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Speaker

Hon. George Qulaut
(Amittuq)

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(Gjoa Haven)
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(Aivilik)

Allan Rumbolt
(Hudson Bay)

Hon. Johnny Mike
(Pangnirtung)
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Pat Angnakak
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(Baker Lake)

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(Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet)

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Minister of Community and Government Services

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(Tununiq)

Samuel Nuqingaq
(Uqqummiut)

Joe Savikataaq
(Arviat South)

Deputy Speaker and Chair of the Committee of the Whole

Hon. Paul Okalik
(Iqaluit-Sinaa)

Isaac Shooyook
(Quttiktuq)

George Hickes
(Iqaluit-Tasiluk)

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Hon. Peter Taptuna
(Kugluktuk)
Premier; Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs; Minister responsible for Aboriginal Affairs; Minister responsible for the Utility Rates Review Council

David Joanasié
(South Baffin)

Hon. Keith Peterson
(Cambridge Bay)

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk
(Netsilik)

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

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

Government House Leader; Minister of Family Services; Minister responsible for Homelessness; Minister responsible for the Status of Women

Hon. Paul Quassa
(Aggu)

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Iqaluit, Nunavut**Thursday, March 20, 2014****Members Present:**

Mr. Tony Akoak, Ms. Pat Angnakak, Hon. Monica Ell, Mr. Joe Enook, Mr. George Hickes, Mr. David Joanase, Hon. George Kuksuk, Hon. Johnny Mike, Mr. Simeon Mikkungwak, Hon. Paul Okalik, Hon. Keith Peterson, Hon. Paul Quassa, Hon. George Qulaut, Mr. Allan Rumbolt, Mr. Alex Sammurtook, Hon. Tom Sammurtook, Mr. Joe Savikataaq, Mr. Isaac Shooyook, Hon. Peter Taptuna, Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk.

>>*House commenced at 13:29*

Item 1: Opening Prayer**Speaker** (Hon. George Qulaut)

(interpretation): Mr. Shooyook, can you lead the opening prayer, please.

>>*Prayer*

Speaker: Thank you. I ask the Aqsarniit Middle School Choir to enter the Chambers and sing our national anthem.

>>*Singing of National Anthem*

>>*Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): I wish to thank the choir on behalf of the House, as that was a beautiful rendition of our anthem.

(interpretation ends) Item 2. Opening Address. Mr. Clerk, would you please determine if Her Honour the Commissioner of Nunavut is prepared to enter the Chambers and deliver the Opening Address.

**Opening Address of the
Commissioner of Nunavut
Commissioner Edna Elias**

(interpretation): Please be seated.

Elders, Mr. Speaker, members of the legislature, honoured guests, and the young performers, I am pleased to welcome you and now declare open the Second Session of the Fourth Legislative Assembly of Nunavut.

(interpretation ends) I ask you to pardon me each time I cough, as little frogs keep coming out of my throat.

It is an honour to serve Nunavummiut and it is with great pleasure that I am here before you to deliver the first Commissioner's address of this Assembly and our new government.

As we celebrate the 15th anniversary of the creation of Nunavut, we take pride in our young, dynamic territory that is rich in culture and history. With confidence, we are moving forward with the knowledge that Nunavut is on the edge of change. However, we are acutely aware that pressing challenges still remain.

While we respect the achievements of previous Assemblies and continue to build on their accomplishments, we are mindful that our needs must be addressed in the immediate and long term.

We are in a unique position; one that allows us to use what we have learned and face a new reality that instils positive change and reflects our

transforming social and economic landscape.

We continue to be guided by Inuit societal values as we progress together towards a brighter future. Together, the Assembly comes to this task with optimism: a willingness to face Nunavut's challenges directly; a commitment to take bold, decisive action that leads to real and visible progress; and one that speaks to all the communities we represent through a healthy and realistic debate.

There is a significant milestone on our land. The restriction on the *Alienation of Municipal Lands* is set to expire next year. It means Nunavummiut are in a position to determine, by referendum, its outcome for the future.

Our government is committed to priorities that are focused and enable us to step forwards together. Sivumut Abluqta, our mandate, endeavours to make Nunavut a better place for our children, grandchildren, and all Nunavummiut.

>> *Applause*

During the Second Session of the Fourth Assembly, the government is tabling the *Northern Employee Benefits Services Pension Plan Act*. This Act seeks to provide the public sector and non-profit employees with increased financial security in their retirement.

The government is also focused on creating community-based crime prevention initiatives that better reflect the challenges and needs in each of our communities. We are considering legislation that strengthens a law

enforcement officer's ability to seize property and proceeds believed to be a result of unlawful activities.

We are making progress in effectively implementing the *Official Languages Act* and the *Inuit Language Protection Act*. We continue to centrally administer language funds and coordinate the implementation and monitoring of language obligations, policies, programs, and services by departments and public agencies in accordance with the *Uqausivut Plan* in 2014-15.

Moving forward, we reassure our commitment in this mandate to deliver programs and services in a sensible and effective manner that is effective, efficient, and economical. We seek to strengthen our governance structures and review government programs to determine what works well, what needs improvement, and what should be discontinued in order to focus our limited resources and enable success. We must ensure funds provided to organizations, communities, and individuals adhere to better accountability practices that achieve the outcomes this government expects from its investment.

Good governance also means we must continue to improve the fair and transparent practices used for public service staffing and career advancement. Our government has made significant progress in developing a public service workforce strategy which aims to build and support a public service that is representative of Nunavut's population and is inclusive of our commitments to Article 23 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement.

Providing opportunities for Nunavummiut to enter and advance in government roles supports a stronger and sustainable public service.

Advancement includes continued investment in the education and development of our current and potential public servants, with an emphasis on increasing Inuit employment in professional and leadership roles throughout the public service.

It is inspiring to see that education is pivotal to this Assembly and a key to our government's mandate. I look forward to this Assembly's review of the *Education Act*.

Throughout Canada and the globe, there is a strong relationship between education and its effects on increasing economic prosperity. It is fundamental to equipping individuals with better access to opportunities in Nunavut's emerging economy. With one of the fastest growing and youngest populations in Canada, our government believes in making them our priority.

It is critical that we provide the best supports in order to improve and sustain success. This includes supporting and encouraging studies through to post-secondary, technical, and vocational studies. We support the implementation of effective education measures that make a difference by taking the necessary steps to address educational achievement at all levels.

>> *Applause*

In the coming days, enhancements to our education system are being announced. These changes include adjustments to graduation requirements and introducing

consistency in school curriculum that is relevant to our students' learning experiences.

Our government is introducing an assessment framework to gather measurable data. This framework identifies how students are progressing and acquiring knowledge and skills and the extent of their understanding of the school curriculum.

There is significant commitment to increasing parent, family, and district education authority engagement. This more active role can only encourage students to excel in school.

We support continued development of Inuktitut curriculum materials for basic adult education and the participation of elders in community learning centre programs.

Given the forthcoming growth in Nunavut's construction and resource sectors, we are committed to the advancement of the trades training.

There is no one single individual or entity responsible to ensure a student's graduation from elementary to high school through to post secondary. It is a culmination of many involved, from educators, parents, families, communities, partners, and multiple levels of government.

We know that education is the single most effective way to improve lives. This foundation is essential to developing a population that is self-reliant, better educated, and fosters the development of more prosperous communities. It is an investment in our future.

>>Applause

Our government believes in strong communities, communities that are made up of healthy families and individuals who are equipped with the skills and resources to actively contribute to this territory.

In an effort to explore factors that contribute to increased self-reliance, our government has committed to assess barriers to becoming less dependent on income assistance. Our government recognizes that individuals and families often face multiple barriers in moving forward toward independence. These challenges may include the struggle with mental illness, addictions, domestic violence, and chronic disease.

There is growing momentum for community-focused solutions that employ holistic, traditional, and contemporary approaches to achieving wellness. The government is working to ensure clinical expertise and facilities are accessible to Nunavummiut.

There has been a tremendous amount of commitment and work to support the Nunavut Suicide Prevention Strategy Action Plan. This effort could not have been accomplished without our partners, Nunavut Tunngavik, Embrace Life Council, the RCMP, and the multiple government departments involved in seeing the action plan through. Greater effort is needed to combat the rate of suicide that stands before us. The current suicide prevention action plan was due to expire this year. Through our valued partnerships, we have all committed to extend the plan.

>>Applause

It is through partnerships like this that we come together to establish alliances. The Nunavut Food Security Coalition is another good example. This coalition involves representatives from across multiple government departments, Nunavut Tunngavik and regional Inuit organizations, various non-government and non-profit entities, and the private sector.

The coalition is introducing the Nunavut Food Security Strategy and 2013-16 Action Plan, which our government intends to support. Food security includes the promotion of community-focused solutions to enhance access to nutritious foods. It is essential for our government to continue advocating for adequate policy and legislative measures that support this access at affordable prices.

We are confronted with meeting the demands of growing communities. With that onerous task, we persist in our efforts to advocate for long-term financing that meets the critical needs in developing housing and other vital infrastructure. This is a task that goes beyond this government and it is only through essential partnership that we are able to mobilize our domestic resources and capitalize on the much needed and continued investments.

In the 2014 federal budget, Canada dedicated \$419 million over 10 years to Nunavut through the Building Canada Fund. This investment is significant. We look forward to working with our federal partners and support investments that are applied to our areas of need.

Sivumut Abluqta will guide the renewal of the economic development initiatives. We continue a cooperative relationship with our sister territories in the advancement of a northern minerals workforce development strategy. This government also believes in strong foundations in business and resource development that require reliable regulatory structures.

Employers in all sectors continue to rely on skilled labour from outside the territory. Our education and training programs need to work with the private sector and other partners to build a resident workforce that benefits and meets the needs of our growing economy.

This government is working towards renewing the Labour Market Agreement with the Government of Canada. It is an agreement that must ensure more Nunavummiut are able to receive funding and other supports for education and training to enter the workforce. It would see the introduction of the Canada-Nunavut Job Grant to assist Nunavut employers seeking to further train and develop their employees.

We recognize the critical role that harvesting plays in relation to our economy and creating more self-reliance. We require a dependable wildlife management system that supports this sector. It is an essential revenue source to our communities and we need to ensure the traditional harvest continues.

>>Applause

We are committed to reviewing and realigning our harvester support and fur

programs. Our communities are diverse and geographically isolated. Each and every community has distinct needs and possesses unique qualities. Nunavut's success is proven in our ability to adapt and develop solutions that build on our strengths.

More importantly, government cannot achieve its vision alone. We need partners that understand the unique challenges of our majestic landscape. We want to see our culture flourish and see our communities grow in a healthy and sustainable way.

Let's step forward together for a better Nunavut.

Before I close the Opening Address, I would also like to take this opportunity to display and voice my support for Team Nunavut at the 2014 Arctic Winter Games in Fairbanks.

>>Applause

This is an opportune time, I think, for me to show that support as we think of our youth and their future.

I am confident that each athlete deserves a gold ulu for effort, sportsperson-ship, and ambassadorship. They are there representing Nunavut.

I would like to say "good luck" to Team Nunavut and to enjoy the experience. (interpretation) Thank you.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Let us move on. (interpretation ends) Item 3. Ministers' Statements. I have no names. Item 4. (interpretation) Members'

Statements. (interpretation ends) Hon. Premier, Mr. Taptuna.

Item 4: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 001 – 4(2): Cabinet Strategy Meeting in Kugaaruk

Hon. Peter Taptuna (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Firstly, my ministerial colleagues visited Kugluktuk for the cabinet retreat to identify our future priorities, so I wish to thank every member during this opportunity. I also wish to extend a special thank you to the Kugluktuk residents as well as the people who assisted us during our visit in the community.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I want to thank everybody who participated behind the scenes to prepare our mandate, including the community of Kugaaruk, where we did our cabinet strategy there to start us off. I want to thank the people of Kugaaruk who assisted us, the GLO, I can't remember his name, but the GLO who did a lot of work to assist us throughout the whole process, and again I thank everybody and the folks behind the scenes who did a lot of work to prepare our mandate. Thank you very much, *Uqaqtittijii*.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Netsilik, Ms. Ugyuk.

Member's Statement 002 – 4(2): Recognition of James Eetoolook

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to

speak to this issue regarding a Netsilik resident.

James Eetoolook has served Inuit for 27 years of his life and he resides in Taloyoak. He has provided a lot of assistance in a highly visible position and he serves as an excellent role model, as he has assisted many Inuit in his position. Mr. Eetoolook was involved in the land claim process under TFN and, after the land claim was completed, he served as the President of the (interpretation ends) Kitikmeot Inuit Association.

(interpretation) He is now the Vice-president of Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated. He has worked very hard to preserve the Inuit culture and also to protect Inuit rights. His main responsibility is the wildlife department of Nunavut Tunngavik. He is also the chair of the (interpretation ends) wildlife and environmental council.

(interpretation) Tomorrow evening, we will be able to watch him when he receives his (interpretation ends) inspire award. (interpretation) The people of Netsilik are very proud of Mr. James Eetoolook. I would like to urge all the members to watch APTN tomorrow evening when he receives the award. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Item 4. Members' Statements. Member for Pangnirtung, Mr. Mike.

**Member's Statement 003 – 4(2):
Appreciation of Pangnirtung
Fisheries**

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you to my fellow MLAs. While I have been sitting for my first time, it has been great up to today.

I would like thank all of my relatives in Pangnirtung, including my wife, children, and grandchildren, as well as all the people of Pangnirtung. I thank the boards in Pangnirtung and their leaders as well and hope they have a good future.

I would like to notify you all, as it seems I'm the only one who updates you on fisheries, that today in Pangnirtung, the turbot fishermen have caught 335,000 lbs. of turbot since they started the winter season. That's how much turbot they have sold so far.

>> *Applause*

That has brought in revenue to the fishermen up to today, with that poundage, of over \$400,000 into the community. Also employment out of the fisheries has brought in over \$100,000 in extra revenue. I am proud of this accomplishment and that is why I am standing at this time, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Item 4. Members' Statements. Member for Tununiq, Mr. Enook.

**Member's Statement 004 – 4(2): Mary
River Project**

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon to the people of Pond Inlet.

I rise today to note another step forward for the Mary River project.

Mr. Speaker, it has been reported this week that the Nunavut Impact Review Board has now submitted its recommendations to the federal Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development regarding Baffinland's revised early revenue phase proposal. These recommendations follow public hearings that were held earlier this year in Pond Inlet, and I look forward to a positive and speedy response from the federal government.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, as you know, the Mary River project is of significant importance to the residents of Pond Inlet and neighbouring communities in the North Baffin and High Arctic. As the MLA for Tununiq, I will continue to be a forceful advocate for initiatives and actions to support my constituents and community in relation to this project.

Mr. Speaker, in addition to calling on the Government of Nunavut to designate Pond Inlet's airport as the official hub airport for the region, I will continue to push for progress in areas such as a development partnership agreement and obtaining proper marine infrastructure for the community.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, much has already been accomplished and I again pay tribute to the work of the Qikiqtani

Inuit Association and Baffinland in reaching an Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreement.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in expressing support for another step forward in Pond Inlet. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Item 4. Members' Statements. Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunngu, Ms. Angnakak.

**Member's Statement 005 – 4(2):
Looking Forward**

Ms. Angnakak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I welcome everyone who is watching as well as all my constituents, especially my husband.

(interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to say how much I have appreciated working with all of my fellow MLAs over the last few weeks and throughout our first sitting.

Mr. Speaker, I recognize that we all will not be on the same page in facing and challenging the issues that affect all of Nunavut. There are a lot of areas that we, in this Legislative Assembly, will need to work on together to be good and effective leaders. Mr. Speaker, we are the representatives of Nunavummiut and it is our job, collectively, to make Nunavut a better place for our families and for all Nunavummiut to live in.

Mr. Speaker, as an MLA, I look forward to serving my constituency and Nunavut as a whole. I look forward to working together with my fellow MLAs to achieve our goals and to collectively work towards solving problems that

some of our constituents face on a daily basis.

Mr. Speaker, I wish everyone a safe trip home after today's sitting and I look forward to seeing you all again soon. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Item 4. (interpretation) Members' Statements. Member for Arviat South, Mr. Savikataaq.

**Member's Statement 006 – 4(2):
Successful Search and Rescue**

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to share a good news story with the House.

Mr. Speaker, the Arctic Haven Wilderness Lodge is a world-renowned resort that is located on the shore of a beautiful lake called Ennadai Lake, approximately 250 miles west of Arviat.

On Sunday of this past weekend, two people departed the lodge by snowmobile. Unfortunately, a storm blew up and the travellers found themselves lost out on the land with little in the way of survival gear or communications equipment to get them through their ordeal. Another factor that made the situation even worse was that the travellers had not informed anyone of their plans.

Mr. Speaker, thanks to the grace of God, Arviat's conservation officer trainee Joe Savikataaq Jr. ...

>> *Laughter*

...and his travelling companion Joseph Kablutsiak happened to be on patrol in the area on Tuesday of this week.

When they arrived at the camp, the only sign of a life was a lone dog. The caretakers' cabin was cold and abandoned. After making some quick calls, they confirmed that two people should have been at the camp. Mr. Speaker, consequently, they immediately launched a search for the missing people.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to report that the lost travellers were found alive and well late Tuesday. Although they were cold and hungry, they are expected to make a full recovery.

Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to use this incident as another reminder of the importance of proper planning for anyone who is going out on the land. In this case, the incident ended happily, but there have been too many tragedies that could have been avoided.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the hard-working conservation officers and local search and rescue volunteers across Nunavut who risk their lives in order to save the lives of others. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Item 4. Members' Statements. Member for Iqaluit-Tasiluk, Mr. Hickes.

**Member's Statement 007 – 4(2):
Appreciation to Constituents and
Fellow MLAs**

Mr. Hickes: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. As we conclude the first sitting of this Fourth Assembly, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the residents of Tasiluk who have voiced their appreciation to me directly of my voicing their concerns that are relevant to them.

Mr. Speaker, I have watched many hours of proceedings of this House and I can say with certainty that it is very humbling to have my voice being used to represent my constituents.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank all members on both sides of the floor, especially yourself, Mr. Speaker, for maintaining the integrity of this Assembly, and I look forward to working for the next almost four years with each and every one of you, representing my constituents, and I really appreciate the respect that has gone around this Assembly and I think we're going to have a very successful mandate. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Item 4. Members' Statements. Member for Gjoa Haven, Mr. Akoak.

**Member's Statement 008 – 4(2):
Appreciation to Fellow MLAs**

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to also say "thank you" to all my fellow MLAs who helped me

throughout my first sitting and I learned a lot as well.

I look forward to representing the community of Gjoa Haven to my full ability. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Item 4. Members' Statements. Member for Baker Lake, Mr. Mikkungwak.

**Member's Statement 009 – 4(2):
Opening of Community Banking
Centre in Baker Lake**

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I say "good day" to the people of Baker Lake. I rise today to share a good news story with my colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, weather permitting, the official grand opening of the (interpretation ends) First Nations Bank of Canada's (interpretation) new community banking centre in Baker Lake is scheduled to take place this afternoon at the Sanavik Co-op. This day has been a long time coming.

Mr. Speaker, as you know, Baker Lake has been enjoying unprecedented economic growth in recent years. However, residents and small businesses in the community have lacked access to the kinds of banking and financial services that most Canadians take for granted.

Mr. Speaker, the opening of the new community banking centre in Baker Lake means that my constituents now have more choices when it comes to

managing their personal finances. (interpretation ends) I am also hopeful that small businesses in the community will have more options when it comes to accessing capital for the purpose of starting or expanding a business.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to take this opportunity to acknowledge the work of the Atuqtuarvik Corporation to support expanded access to banking and financial services in our smaller communities.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in celebrating another step forward in Baker Lake. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Item 4. Members' Statements. Member for South Baffin, Mr. Joanasie.

**Member's Statement 010 – 4(2):
Congratulations to Constituents
Peter Ottokie and Joseph
Pinguartuk**

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, my colleagues. Welcome to all the people who are in the Gallery and the people of Cape Dorset and Nunavut who are listening to the proceedings.

I rise today to congratulate a couple of individuals in Cape Dorset, Peter Ottokie and Joseph Pinguartuk, who took part in the Montreal Cup Judo Tournament. Even though it was Peter Ottokie's first time at the tournament, he won the first prize.

I would like to congratulate these two individuals for participating in the

tournament, for being good role models in the communities, and for being considerate to the residents of their community. I would like to congratulate and acknowledge them in the House for their achievements. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. No. 4. Members' Statements. I have no more names on my list. Member for High Arctic, Mr. Shooyook.

**Member's Statement 011 – 4(2):
Appreciation of Fellow MLAs**

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, I would like to thank and congratulate the people for coming in to watch the proceedings at the Gallery.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my appreciation as a unilingual Inuktitut-speaking person. I cannot read and write in English. I would like to extend my appreciation to my colleagues. After I was elected, they have been providing support and assisted me, even though they're non-Inuit. I am very appreciative and I thank you.

Whenever I can, I will be bringing up Inuit traditional knowledge because I do want to see it incorporated. I will be requesting for support. Don't hesitate to ask me questions. I am very thankful to my colleagues. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Item 4. Members' Statements. I have no more names on my list. Item 5.

Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery.
Member Savikataaq.

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

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize Madison Ali Savikataaq and Kevin Ali Savikataaq, my two grandkids. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Member Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The person I would like to recognize is no stranger to this Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Peter Kattuk was elected to the First Nunavut Assembly in 1999 and went on to serve two terms representing the people of Sanikiluaq.

Mr. Speaker, it was 12 years ago, I think, he rose and recognized me in the House. It gives me great pleasure today to rise and recognize Mr. Peter Kattuk to the Gallery. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Item 5. (interpretation ends) Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I hope I didn't miss anyone that are residents of Tasiluk, but Mr. Roy Green, the Deputy Minister of Community and Government Services, it's a pleasure to see him in the Gallery and not stuck in the witness table.

As well, I would like to welcome Mr. James Arreak, who I may not know personally as well as I would like to, but I have heard many good things about him from my brother. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Item 5. Member for Aggu, Mr. Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, am very pleased to acknowledge firstly Elisapee Quassa, my wife, although her other name is Malaya.

I would also like to recognize an individual from NTI, Joe Attagutaaluk, who is a representative of our community at the NTI board in the area of Aggu, where he resides. Also James Arreak is one of the officials from NTI.

I would like to acknowledge these individuals and also an individual I haven't seen for a long time, Celestino Ujarak, originally from Igloolik. He's also the deputy mayor of the hamlet council.

I would like to acknowledge everyone here and Brian Fleming, who is the SAO of the Hamlet of Igloolik. Welcome to the Gallery. He is well known by residents of Igloolik and not just the people of Igloolik, but even people from Sanikiluaq know this individual. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome to the Gallery. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunnguu, Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize my nephews behind me, Russell Akeeagok and Pauloosie Akeeagok, for being in the Gallery, and also my constituents, Kathy Okpik, Joe Kunuk, and Elisapee, who is also one of my constituents. I would like to acknowledge them all. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome to the Gallery. (interpretation ends) Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Rankin Inlet South, Mr. Sammurtok.

Mr. Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize an individual who used to reside in Rankin Inlet but no longer, Shawn Maley, and Roy Green. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome to the Gallery. Recognition of Visitors to the Gallery. Member for Netsilik, Ms. Ugyuk.

Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize this individual who is from Netsilik and is in the House, my husband, Nauyaq Ugyuk. He is a very handsome man. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you.
(interpretation ends) Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery.
(interpretation) Member for
(interpretation ends) Rankin Inlet North and Chesterfield Inlet, Mr. Sammurtok.

Hon. Tom Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize some visitors.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Brian Fleming, SAO for the Hamlet of Igloodik, who is also the President and Chair for the Board of Northern Employees Benefits Services, and also Shawn Maley. He is the CEO for the Northern Employees Benefits Services. Many of you know Mr. Maley. He worked for many years in the government.

I would also like to recognize Roy Green, Deputy Minister of CGS, and also Leanne Babstock from CGS to the Legislative Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, these folks have been heavily involved in the development of the NEBS pension legislation that I will be introducing today, and I am pleased to have them present here in the Assembly to witness the introduction of this very important legislation.

Also, I would like to recognize Joe Attagutaluk. Joe and I spent many years going to high school in Le Pas, Manitoba. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Welcome, each and every one of you to the Gallery. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Cambridge Bay, Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This week, it gives me great pleasure to welcome to the Gallery today my wife, Sandra, who's sitting in the Gallery over here. She's very shy and she doesn't like me to recognize her, so I am going to be in trouble tonight, I guess.

>>Laughter

Thirty years ago this year, she encouraged me to get into municipal politics, so she has been with me every step of the way. Welcome to the Gallery.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Welcome.
(interpretation ends) Item 5.
(interpretation) Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Kugluktuk, Mr. Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's not too often that I get to stand and recognize anybody in the House here, but I want to recognize my key staff, Mr. Alain Barriault and Mr. David Akeeagok. If I don't do that, I know I'll get a really rough time in the next couple of weeks. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Item 5. I have no more names on my list. I'm sorry. Member for (interpretation

ends) Arviat North-Whale Cove, Mr. Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I say “good day” to the people of Nunavut. I also would like to acknowledge all the people who have been acknowledged.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to acknowledge and recognize an individual here who works at the Nunavut Housing Corporation. I would like to welcome Lori Kimball, who is the President of the Nunavut Housing Corporation. Thank you.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Welcome. (interpretation ends) Item 5. (interpretation) Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Iqaluit-Sinaa, Mr. Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am very pleased to rise today to acknowledge the individuals for coming here to watch the proceedings.

I have a constituent who is also my deputy minister and I would like to acknowledge the individual who has been working for 10 years in the Nunavut government. I would like to warmly welcome Simon Mala Awa. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Welcome. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Iqaluit-Manirajak, Ms. Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Although they are not my constituents, I would like to thank Navarana Beveridge and also from the High Arctic, Larry Audlaluk. I would like to acknowledge all of the people who have been recognized and I would like to welcome them to the Gallery. Thank you.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Item 5. (interpretation) Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. I have no more names on my list. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for (interpretation ends) Arviat South, Mr. Savikataaq.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 001 – 4(2): Northern Residents Deduction

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Finance.

This is the time of year when Canadians file their annual tax returns with the federal government.

In 2008, the federal budget increased the residency portion of the Northern Residents Deduction. However, the Northern Residents Deduction has not been enhanced since that time.

During the Second Legislative Assembly, the minister moved a motion calling on the federal government to “ensure that the residency portion be adjusted on an annual basis to an inflation index that reflects the cost of living in Canada’s Arctic.”

Can the minister indicate if this issue is on his agenda to raise with the new federal Minister of Finance? 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. Savikataaq for the question. One of the hazards of being a former MLA and being on this side is that new MLAs can research what we did back when we were MLAs.

That was a very challenging time for us. I remember all three territories were pushing for that. We had a unanimous motion in the House and it was a great effort by everybody. We did succeed in getting a slight adjustment, which I'm sure many people benefited from. With respect to whether it's on my radar to raise with the new Minister of Finance for Canada, it's not on my radar. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In 2012, the three territorial Premiers jointly called on the federal government to enhance the Northern Residents Deduction. Can the minister describe how the three territories are currently working together to present a unified position to the federal government on this issue? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We undertook that request of the three finance ministers through our officials who did a considerable amount of research. We determined that the amount of effort that it would take to get the federal government to make the changes that people would like to see made wasn't worth the effort.

We focused our efforts more on lobbying for such important issues as the gas tax, the Building Canada Fund and funding for health and housing. We recommended to the Premiers that we not pursue any further lobbying for the foreseeable future on the Northern Residents Deduction. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Item 6. (interpretation) Oral Questions. (interpretation ends) Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Rumbolt.

Question 002 – 4(2): Qulliq Energy Corporation's General Rate Application

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my questions towards the Minister of the Qulliq Energy Corporation.

Yesterday, the minister announced that the QEC has been instructed to retract its application to move towards a territorial power rate structure. Can the minister clarify what the new timeline is for the Utility Rates Review Council to consider

QEC's revised general rate application?
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) The application process did not change. It's legislated and it will continue. I believe there was a proposal for 5 percent in December and it was revised recently to 8.6 percent. That will continue. Those proposals will continue to go through the process and be reviewed by the URRC. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. QEC's original explanation for moving towards a territorial power rate structure was that it would involve, and I quote, "rebalancing between communities to gradually levelize rates across the territory."

In his statement yesterday, the minister indicated that concerns about the impact that this change would have had on businesses in some of our larger communities formed part of the reason for retracting the proposal to move towards a territorial power rate structure. Can the minister clarify how this decision will impact private homeowners and businesses in smaller communities in Nunavut? 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) The current system that we are operating under today will continue. However, even with the change to territorial rates, the homeowners will have been impacted by the increase in rates for homeowners throughout the territory, regardless of location throughout our wonderful territory. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. QEC's general rate application that was originally submitted last year included a number of proposed changes to the corporation's terms and conditions of service. These terms and conditions cover everything from billing practices to disconnection policies. Can the minister clarify whether QEC's revised general rate application still contains the same proposed changes to its terms and conditions of service? 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) The only change that I insisted on was the change to the rebalancing of the territorial rate. No other changes are requested at this time. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Item 6. (interpretation) Oral Questions. Member for Baker Lake, Mr. Mikkungwak.

Question 003 – 4(2): Public Housing Rent Scale

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

On January 24, the Nunavut Housing Corporation announced that changes to the public housing rent scale would come into effect in the fall of 2013.

In September of 2013, my colleague from Hudson Bay asked questions in this House concerning the status of the new rent scale. At that time, the Legislative Assembly was informed that the Nunavut Housing Corporation was looking at fully implementing the changes in November.

Can the minister update the House today on whether the new public housing rent scale has been fully implemented across Nunavut? 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 very much, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the member for his question. The subject of his question was implemented on February 1, 2014, so the rent scale was put into effect. Thank you.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. The Nunavut Housing Corporation's announcement of last year indicated that, and I quote, "...if a public housing tenant secures employment or receives a pay raise, their rent will not increase until September 1 of the following year." Can the minister confirm that this practice is being followed in all of our communities? 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 very much, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the member for his question. As I said, on February 1, 2014, just a month ago, the new rent scale was put into effect. Thank you.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for his response. The Nunavut Housing Corporation's announcement of last year also indicated, and I quote, "maximum rents are to be reviewed to support the objective of encouraging tenants over Core Need Income Thresholds to transition out of public housing." Can the minister indicate what the results of this review were? 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 thank the member. If the member didn't understand what I said, I could tell the member that what was to be in effect on February 1, 2014 with respect to rental scales contained a lot of things. If I understood him on whether or not there was a survey, I don't have any information in front of me from my department at this time. I will provide the member with that response later on when that information becomes available. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. Shooyook.

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): I didn't put my hand up.

Speaker (interpretation): I'm sorry. Someone wrote your name. Item 6. Oral Questions. (interpretation ends) Member for Rankin Inlet South, Mr. Sammurtok.

Question 004 – 4(2): Dust Control in Rankin Inlet

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

As the minister is aware, summer will soon be here. Although we are happy that the weather will be warmer, summer also means that the dust season has returned.

Many concerns have been raised with me regarding the impact of dust in the community of Rankin Inlet, including the impact on our community's drinking water supply at Nippisar Lake.

Can the minister indicate if his department will be providing any new assistance to communities this summer, including Rankin Inlet, to help them control dust levels? (interpretation) 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. Last week, the Baffin mayors had a meeting and we told them that if they have a memory stick that could be provided to the communities to help them with respect to dust in the communities and as to how they can keep the dust away from the communities, they have been given that memory stick so that the hamlets themselves can be provided with information with respect to dust control. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Let me ask this supplementary question. (interpretation ends) Rankin Inlet is very pleased about the economic growth that is occurring as a result of activity in the mining sector. However, one of the impacts of this growth is an increase in the number of trucks and other pieces of heavy equipment on the roads, which

contributes to the dust situation. Will the minister commit to meeting with representatives of the mining companies to find ways of sharing the cost of controlling dust? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Tom Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As a department, we're always looking for any solutions that will be helpful in our communities. Certainly, we would be willing to talk with the mining company in regard to the dust control between the community and their mine site. Thank you.

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

Mr. Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) As I noted in the preamble to my question, concerns have been raised about the impact of dust and other pollutants on the quality of Rankin Inlet's drinking water supply. It is my understanding that the government is required by law to conduct regular testing of drinking water supplies in our communities. Will the minister commit to tabling in the Legislative Assembly the results of Rankin Inlet's most recent water quality tests? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Tom Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As soon as I get that report and it's completed, I would be happy share that with the member. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit-Tasiluk, Mr. Hickes.

Question 005 – 4(2): Delivery of GN Programs

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I've got some questions for the Premier today.

During the leadership forum, the Premier is quoted as saying, "it's about taking responsibility, delivering results that are built on integrity, while facing challenges head-on." Mr. Speaker, what are some of the strategies the Premier's government is planning to use to achieve the commitment to deliver programs and services in a sensible and effective manner that is effective, efficient, and economical? 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. Mr. Speaker, again I thank all the members across there who participated and helped with initiating our government's mandate. Mr. Speaker, I'll be tabling the action plans for the mandate that he specifically talked about.

Of course, one of the priorities of this government is to review the programs, take a look at what's happening there, and either improve them or eliminate

some of these programs that are not beneficial to both the government and the people of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Within the mandate, this government has committed to ensuring the funds provided to organizations, communities, and individuals adhere to better accountability practices that achieve the outcomes this government expects from its investment of the limited funds available. What is the Premier's plan to achieve these goals? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We do have a number of things that we're going to be doing in reviewing contribution agreements and any kind of funding program that we put out there for the communities, individuals, and organizations.

Mr. Speaker, at the end of the day, we are using public funds and any investments we do make out there have to have beneficial results for the communities and the individuals out there that are accessing public funds. One of the strategies we're going to be doing is to actually review some of these programs that we think that need revision and we will do that according to our action plans in our mandate. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Another quote from the leadership forum, "It's about actions and outcomes, not visions and wish lists. Most of all, it's about us. It's about Nunavummiut, not individuals."

Mr. Speaker, we all recognize that we need to accomplish a lot with the limited funds and I think we have also put a lot of faith in devolution to assist us with access to increasing revenue streams from our natural resources.

Mr. Speaker, what is the opinion of the Premier of the status and timeline of negotiations? 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, in the federal government's Throne Speech, there's a quote in there that the federal government does want to negotiate and complete an agreement-in-principle this year with this new government, and we look forward to doing that and moving our file forward in negotiating benefits for Nunavummiut.

Mr. Speaker, there is possibility of collecting royalties with our natural resources, but at this time, when we look at what's happening right now in Nunavut, all of the mining activities, both production in the Kivalliq region and advanced stages of some of the properties that are out there, are on Inuit owned lands. This government does not

collect royalties from Inuit owned lands. It's the Inuit organizations that do that.

Down the line here, we intend to negotiate with the federal government the most beneficial agreement that we can get on devolution. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunngu, Ms. Angnakak.

Question 006 – 4(2): Government of Nunavut Procurement Activities

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Community and Government Services. Third time lucky, I hope, Mr. Speaker.

Two years ago, the government made a major announcement that it would be conducting a comprehensive internal review of its public procurement practices.

I will ask the minister the same question that I have been asking for several days now: what were the results of this major initiative? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Tom Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was so hoping that wasn't going to come up again today. However, the draft internal review of public procurement practices has been completed. However, the final draft is not complete as yet and once the final

draft is completed, I will table the report in the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for his answer. That's good to hear and we look forward to seeing that.

My next question again addresses the issue of the government's process for hearing appeals of tender and contract awards. I will again emphasize that although an NNI Contracting Appeals Board exists, its jurisdiction is limited, and it has been suggested that a new approach to this issue is required and that this responsibility falls under the Department of CGS. Same question as yesterday, Mr. Speaker: what is the minister's position 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: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm assuming that the hon. member is talking about an independent appeals board. With regard to an independent appeals board, there is an independent NNI appeals committee that administers the Department of Economic Development under the NNI Secretariat. We also hired an outside consultant to complete an NNI review. One of the suggestions that were made to the consultant was to look at an independent appeals board. However, that recommendation was not included in the report. The report by the consultant has

been made public and under review by the NNI committee. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Once again thank you for that answer. During yesterday's sitting of the House, my colleague from Baker Lake asked the Minister of Finance to table the government's most recent annual report on grants and contributions spending. Within an hour, we had this report in our hands.

My question for the Minister of CGS is this: when will his department's most recent annual reports on contracting, procurement, and leasing be ready for tabling? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Tom Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The report for 2012-13 has been completed. My department is just seeking approval to table this document in the House. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Baker Lake, Mr. Mikkungwak.

Question 007 – 4(2): Services for Nunavummiut with Autism

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Health.

Mr. Speaker, autism is a serious medical condition that can be very difficult to address without the proper supports. It appears that Nunavut is the only jurisdiction across Canada which does not have any specific program or services to help individuals and families suffering from autism.

Can the minister explain why Nunavut does not have programs and services to support individuals and families dealing with autism? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Monica Ell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. Health supports families dealing with developmental issues through services such as the Rehabilitation Program and the Home and Community Care Program. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you. I would like to thank the minister for the response. Mr. Speaker, I have noted that our neighbouring territories, the Northwest Territories and Yukon, both have autism societies that provide resources and support while the government itself provides funding for therapy for children with autism.

Can the minister describe what initiatives, if any, have been considered by her department to support programs or provide services to Nunavut's

individuals and families suffering with autism? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Monica Ell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Autism is a very complex situation. It's a neurological developmental condition that impacts on several body systems, including normal brain development. Autism is growing. It's not very prevalent right now in Nunavut, although it is increasing across Canada, we do know that.

I can just say to the member that at this point, there is no funding specifically for autism, but there are other ways that a family can get support, like the Rehabilitation Program that I mentioned and the Community Care Program to give families some respite care support.

At this time, there are not many in Nunavut. I believe a society would be set up outside of government. At this time, there is nothing like that, but we are keeping an eye on these and other diseases across Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In my community of Baker Lake, when I look at autism, there is a family with autism disease and the family is suffering. At the same time, they approached me, as their MLA.

With no autism programs or services available in Nunavut, what suggestions

can the minister provide to individuals and families who desperately need to find help and support? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Monica Ell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would urge the families to contact home and community care in your communities and the rehabilitation services. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit-Tasiluk, Mr. Hickes.

Question 008 – 4(2): Contracting and Procurement Practices

Mr. Hickes: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I have a couple of questions for the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

Mr. Speaker, the minister stated during Committee of the Whole that the Nunavut Housing Corporation has made progress in the process of tendering and contracting construction. What specific progress has been made and how was it accomplished? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleague for his question. I can respond by saying that we are progressing in regard to our budget. We have signed an agreement with CMHC

and we have been making very good progress to date. Thank you.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I look forward to hearing further updates on the tenders for the remaining units that are closing today.

Mr. Speaker, in January of this year, the Nunavut Housing Corporation announced \$100 million, \$30 million this year and \$70 million the next year, to provide housing. How has this multi-year commitment of money assisted the Nunavut Housing Corporation with their construction planning? 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 very much, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to thank the member. With the agreement and regarding the \$100 million, it's in two parts. There is an agreement first of all and then the in the latter, we had another agreement signed.

Using those two agreements, we are making plans and have awarded some of the contracts using part of the \$100 million. We are going to be making plans for further construction. The funds are being well utilized for the purpose in the agreement. The first and second agreements are being implemented and we are making progress. Thank you.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that response. Mr. Speaker, how does the minister feel or how would longer stable funding assist the Nunavut Housing Corporation in planning to make headway into our dire housing shortage? How many houses could realistically be built per year? 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 very much, Mr. Speaker. We want to make long-term plans. However, we have to have clear plans with approved funding and, if that were the case where we got that funding from our partner, CMHC, we would be able to make long-term plans. However, we have only made plans on the number of units we can make use of at the current time.

Hopefully my response came across. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Before we proceed, I would like to welcome the former MLA, former Speaker, Mr. Peter Kilabuk.

>> *Applause*

And former MLA David Iqaqrialu.

>> *Applause*

(interpretation) Thank you. Item 6. Oral Questions. I have no more names on my list. Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunngu, Ms. Angnakak.

Question 009 – 4(2): Curriculum in Inuktitut

Ms Angnakak: Must be the light. I can't see.

>>*Laughter*

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Education and Arctic College, my first question to you, minister.

In the Opening Address that our Commissioner read, it states that the government will continue to support Inuktitut curriculum and elders for basic adult education.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister of Arctic College and Education if his department has any staff employed solely for developing Inuktitut curriculum. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for the question. Tomorrow or the next day at Aqsarniit Middle School, I'm going to be making a statement about the different programs that we're going to be setting up, including the curriculum. So I'm extending my invitation to everyone to come to Aqsarniit Middle School at 10:30 in the morning. We will be making an

announcement at that time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister provide us with information on what is currently available right now that can be readily accessed by teachers across Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to thank the member for that question. At the Department of Education, what is currently available to the teachers, parents, and the Members of the Legislative Assembly is also available to the public. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Angnakak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will try to speak a little slower.

We always mention integrating the elders into the education system and in the schools. Could the minister elaborate on how they are utilizing the elders in the schools? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With the elders, I think it has been two or three years that the elders have been utilized in the schools and have been certified in the schools. The certified elders are available in all schools. It is currently what we're doing in the education department. We have their names and where they come from. Since they're certified, they are available and we have their names and which communities they come from. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Item 6. Oral Questions. I have no more names on my list. Item 7. Written Questions. Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunngu, Ms. Angnakak.

Item 7: Written Questions

Written Question 001– 4(2): Extended Health Benefits Program

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My written question today is for the Minister of Health and it concerns the Extended Health Benefits Program.

Mr. Speaker, my written question is very detailed, so I ask that it be entered into the record as read.

1. Broken down by fiscal year, since 2008-09, how much of the budget allocated for the Extended Health Benefits Program has been expended?
2. Broken down by type of need (e.g. Nunavut residents diagnosed with a chronic illness, non-aboriginal seniors over 65 years, Nunavut residents who have exhausted other

insurance benefits or have no insurance benefits) how many medical clients have applied for and accessed support under the Extended Health Benefits Program for each fiscal year since 2008-09?

3. Broken down by type of need (e.g. Nunavut residents diagnosed with a chronic illness, non-aboriginal seniors over 65 years, Nunavut residents who have exhausted other insurance benefits or have no insurance benefits) how much has been expended under the Extended Health Benefits Program for each fiscal year since 2008-09?
4. Broken down by type of need (e.g. Nunavut residents diagnosed with a chronic illness, non-aboriginal seniors over 65 years, Nunavut residents who have exhausted other insurance benefits or have no insurance benefits) how many medical clients have applied for and been denied support under the Extended Health Benefits Program for each fiscal year since 2008-09?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The member has asked the question to be entered into the record as read. Do members agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Speaker: There is an agreement.

(interpretation) Item 8. (interpretation ends) Petitions. Item 9. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters. Item 10. Tabling of Documents. Mr. Enook.

Item 10: Tabling of Documents

>>Applause

**Tabled Document 001 – 4(2):
Excellence in Water Stewardship
Award for Pond Inlet**

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am very proud to table today a copy of this week's official announcement from the Council of the Federation that the community of Pond Inlet has been recognized with an award for Excellence in Water Stewardship.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all members to review this document with care. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Item 10. Tabling of Documents. Mr. Taptuna.

**Tabled Document 002 – 4(2): Sivumut
Abluqta**

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to thank the Commissioner of Nunavut for addressing this Assembly and guiding the course for this government.

Also, Mr. Speaker, again I want to thank my cabinet colleagues for working together and all Members of this Assembly for contributing to establishing Sivumut Abluqta.

I would also to acknowledge Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated Board of Directors for their input into this mandate.

Mr. Speaker, I hereby table Sivumut Abluqta. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Item 10. Tabling of Documents. Mr. Quassa.

**Tabled Document 003 – 4(2): Utilizing
Trades Training Centre**

Hon. Paul Quassa: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table my return to Oral Question No. 75 – 4(1), Utilizing Trades Training Centre, asked by Mr. Hickes on Friday, March 14, 2014. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Item 10. Tabling of Documents. Mr. Kuksuk.

**Tabled Document 004 – 4(2):
Contracting and Procurement
Activity Report for the Year
Ended March 31, 2013**

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I am pleased to table the Nunavut Housing Corporation's Contracting and Procurement Activity Report for the year ending March 31, 2013. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Item 10. Tabling of Documents. Mr. Taptuna.

**Tabled Document 005 – 4(2):
Government of Nunavut's
Response to the 2012-2013 Annual
Report of the Information and
Privacy Commissioner**

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table the

Government of Nunavut's Response to the 2012-13 Annual Report of the Information and Privacy Commissioner. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Item 10. Tabling of Documents. Mr. Peterson.

**Tabled Document 006 – 4(2):
Workers' Safety and
Compensation Commission's
Annual Report for 2012**

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission's Annual Report for 2012. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Item 10. Tabling of Documents. Mr. Kuksuk.

**Tabled Document 007 – 4(2): 2012-
2013 Annual Report for the
Nunavut Housing Corporation:
Facing Nunavut's Housing
Challenges**

Hon. George Kuksuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table the 2012-13 Annual Report for the Nunavut Housing Corporation: Facing Nunavut's Housing Challenges. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Item 10. Tabling of Documents. I have one.

**Tabled Document 008 – 4(2):
Members' Code of Conduct**

Thank you, members. I am pleased to table today a copy of the Code of Conduct for the Members of the Fourth Assembly. The tabling of this code fulfills another one of the commitments that we made to Nunavummiut at our recent Caucus Retreat in Kugluktuk. (interpretation) Thank you.

(interpretation ends) Item 11. Notices of Motions. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Item 11: Notices of Motions

**Motion 001 – 4(2): Extended
Adjournment – Notice**

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Monday, March 24, 2014, I will move the following motion:

I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Netsilik, that pursuant to the provisions of Rule 3, that when the House concludes its present sitting, it shall be adjourned until May 22, 2014.

At the appropriate time, I will seek unanimous consent to deal with my motion today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Item 12. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Mr. Sammurtok.

**Item 12: Notices of Motions for First
Reading of Bills**

**Bill 01 – Northern Employee Benefits
Services Pension Plan Act – Notice**

Hon. Tom Sammurток: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Monday, March 24, 2014, that Bill 1, *Northern Employee Benefits Services Pension Plan Act*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Item 13. Motions. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Item 13: Motions

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek unanimous consent to deal with my motion today.

Speaker: The member is seeking consent to deal with his motion today. Are there any nays? There are no nays. You may proceed, Mr. Mikkungwak.

**Motion 001 – 4(2): Extended
Adjournment**

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Netsilik, that pursuant to the provisions of Rule 3, that when the House concludes its present sitting, it shall be adjourned until May 22, 2014.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The motion is in order. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried.

Item 14. First Reading of Bills. Minister Sammurток.

Item 14: First Reading of Bills

Hon. Tom Sammurток: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I request consent of this Assembly to waive the two-day notice requirement to allow for the first reading of Bill 1, *Northern Employee Benefits Services Pension Plan Act*. Thank you.

Speaker: The minister is seeking consent to waive the notice period so that Bill 1 can be read for the first time. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Please proceed, Mr. Sammurток.

**Bill 01 – Northern Employee Benefits
Services Pension Plan Act – First
Reading**

Hon. Tom Sammurток: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Iqaluit-Sinaa, that Bill 1, *Northern Employee Benefits Services Pension Plan Act*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The motion is in order. All those in favour. (interpretation) Opposed. (interpretation ends) The motion is carried.

>>Applause

Item 15. Second Reading of Bills. Minister Sammurток.

Item 15: Second Reading of Bills

Hon. Tom Sammurток: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I request consent of this Assembly to waive the one-day notice requirement to allow for the second

reading of Bill 1, *Northern Employee Benefits Services Pension Plan Act*. Thank you.

Speaker: The minister is seeking consent to waive the notice period so that Bill 1 can be read for the second time. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Please proceed, Mr. Summortuk.

Bill 01 – Northern Employee Benefits Services Pension Plan Act – Second Reading

Hon. Tom Summortuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by Hon. Member for Iqaluit-Sinaa, that Bill 1, *Northern Employees Benefits Services Pension Plan Act*, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill sets out the legislative framework for the continuation of the next plan as a multi-employer, multi-jurisdictional pension plan for the employees of approved public sector employers in northern Canada. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 1 is referred to the Standing Committee on Legislation.

>> *Applause*

Item 16. *Orders of the Day*. Mr. Clerk

Item 16: Orders of the Day

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just a reminder that there is a meeting of the Management and Services Board in Tuktu Boardroom at 4:30.

Orders of the Day for May 22:

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

19. Consideration in Committee of
the Whole of Bills and Other
Matters
20. Report of the Committee of the
Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills
22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

Speaker: Members, I would like to recognize and thank our pages who have been assisting us this past week

>>*Applause*

(interpretation) I apologize if I don't pronounce their names correctly.

Jessica Matthews, Steven Helwig, and Rhoda Ishuqangittuq, thank you very much.

>>*Applause*

(interpretation ends) This House stands adjourned until Thursday, May 22, at 1:30 p.m.

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 15:28*

