

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Speaker

Hon. Hunter Tootoo

(Iqaluit Centre)

Hon. Eva Aariak

(Iqaluit East)

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

Joe Enook

(Tununiq)

Hon. Lorne Kusugak

(Rankin Inlet South – Whale Cove)
*Government House Leader; Minister of
Community and Government Services;
Minister responsible for the Qulliq
Energy Corporation*

Allan Rumbolt

(Hudson Bay)

Hon. Fred Schell

(South Baffin)

*Minister of Human Resources;
Minister responsible for the
Nunavut Housing Corporation;
Minister responsible for
Homelessness; Minister responsible
for the Workers' Safety and
Compensation Commission*

Hon. James Arreak

(Uqqummiut)

*Minister of Culture, Language, Elders
and Youth; Minister of Environment;
Minister of Languages; Minister
responsible for the Utility Rates Review
Council*

John Ningark

(Akulliq)

Johnny Ningeongan

(Nanulik)

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

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk

(Arviat)

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

Moses Aupaluktuq

(Baker Lake)

Hezakiah Oshutapik

(Pangnirtung)

Louis Tapardjuk

(Amittuq)

*Deputy Chair, Committee of the
Whole*

Tagak Curley

(Rankin Inlet North)

Hon. Keith Peterson

(Cambridge Bay)

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna

(Kugluktuk)

*Deputy Premier; Minister of
Economic Development and
Transportation; Minister of Energy*

Monica Ell

(Iqaluit West)

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Iqaluit, Nunavut
Tuesday, February 21, 2012

Members Present:

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

Item 1: Opening Prayer

Speaker (Hon. Hunter Tootoo): *Qujannamiik*, Sergeant-at-Arms. Before we get started, I would like to ask Mr. Ningeongan if he could lead us off with a prayer, please.

>>*Prayer*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. (interpretation ends) Before we proceed with the orders of the day, I am very pleased to take this opportunity to announce that nominations for the Order of Nunavut have opened for the year 2012.

Information concerning the nomination process, including nomination forms, is available on the Legislative Assembly's website and will be provided to all members' constituency offices.

My colleagues and I on the Order of Nunavut Advisory Council look forward to reviewing this year's nominees.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the residents of Iqaluit, Arviat, and Rankin Inlet for making the recent Order of Nunavut investiture ceremonies a tremendous success.

As members are aware, the first recipients of the Order of Nunavut were the Reverend Michael Gardener, the late Mark Kalluak, and the late Jose Kusugak. Commissioner Elias and I were very proud to have presided over the investiture ceremonies honouring these distinguished and deserving individuals.

We very much look forward to this year's ceremonies, which will be held later this year.

I would now like to read the following communication from the Commissioner of Nunavut:

Money Message

Mr. Speaker, I wish to advise that I recommend to the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut the passage of the following bills during the Third Session of the Third Legislative Assembly:

- Bill 24, *Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, 2012-2013*;
- Bill 25, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 6, 2010-2011*;
- Bill 26, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 3, 2011-2012*; and
- Bill 27, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 1, 2012-2013*.

Signed by the Commissioner of Nunavut.

Welcome back, everybody. It's good to see everyone here. We will move on in the orders of the day. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Finance, Minister Peterson.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

Minister's Statement 106 – 3(3): Notice of Budget Address

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's good to be back. Mr. Speaker, I would like to inform the House that on Wednesday, February 22, 2012, that I will be delivering the Budget Address. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Minister's Statement 107 – 3(3): Qulliq Energy's GRA Phase 2 Update

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day. It's good to be meeting again.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I would like to update Nunavummiut on the status of phase 2 of Qulliq Energy Corporation's latest General Rate Application (GRA). QEC has been authorized to move towards implementing territorial power rates effective April 1 of 2014. Territorial rates will be phased in over a number of years beginning in 2014 with limits placed on the maximum increase or decrease that domestic and commercial customers will face during the transition period.

Mr. Speaker, the GRA phase 2 application is solely a rate rebalancing exercise between communities and rate classes to collect the revenue approved in the phase 1 of the GRA. Phase 2 does not seek to increase overall revenue for the corporation. The Utility Rates Review Council (URRC) agreed with the corporation's proposal to phase in territorial rates over a number of years.

Mr. Speaker, the URRC accepted QEC's request to limit the maximum territorial rate adjustment to a 5 percent increase or a 4 percent decrease for the domestic and commercial rate classes in any community at any given time.

Mr. Speaker, delaying the move towards territorial rates allows customers time to adjust to the rate increase implemented in April 2011. It also provides the Government of Nunavut an opportunity to review its electrical subsidy programs to ensure they provide maximum benefit to Nunavummiut.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the efforts of the URRC in organizing the community consultations for the General Rate Application. The URRC ensured that Nunavummiut were provided an opportunity to discuss the corporation's application and that their concerns were heard. *Qujannamiik*, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Ministers' Statements. Minister responsible for Environment, Minister Arreak.

Minister's Statement 108 – 3(3): Nunavut Coastal Resource Inventory 2012 Status

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I send my greetings to the people of Clyde River and Qikiqtarjuaq, as well as Jimmy.

Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to inform members on the progress of this very important project: Nunavut Coastal Resource Inventory.

The Nunavut Coastal Resource Inventory Project was started by the Fisheries and Sealing Division of the Department of Environment in 2007. Our first project was conducted in Igloolik and since then, we have carried out projects in Kugluktuk, Chesterfield Inlet, Arctic Bay, Kimmirut, Qikiqtarjuaq, Sanikiluaq, Gjoa Haven, Iqaluit, and Repulse Bay.

Community-based coastal inventories are a way to collect record and map *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* into a central database. This information can then be linked with other scientific research and knowledge. Coastal inventories are an integration of *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* and science information on Nunavut marine species.

Information is gathered from community interviews, reports, research, and maps. Gathering this type of information in one central location will be the future foundation of fisheries and fur management and other species relevant to Nunavut's renewable resources. It will assist in determining where fish resources are located, areas to conduct test fisheries, where to develop new fisheries, and where there is a need to gather more data.

Information collected may also lead to the identification and development of coastal parks, related tourism opportunities and economic development in coastal areas.

Information collected will be useful in identifying sensitive terrestrial and marine coastal areas, breeding grounds, species location and populations, habitats, and significant landscape features.

Community residents are employed during the project to help conduct the interviews and gather data. Community involvement is encouraged throughout the process and final reports are provided to the community.

Mr. Speaker, we all recognize that social and economic change is forever upon us. Therefore, it is incumbent upon us to ensure we record, protect, and conserve Nunavut's traditional coastal, biological, cultural, and ecological knowledge before it disappears. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Arreak. Ministers' Statements. Minister responsible for Economic Development and Transportation, Minister Taptuna.

Minister's Statement 109 – 3(3): Qikiqtarjuaq Air Terminal Building Opening

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, colleagues, Kuglukturmiut, and Nunavummiut.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce that the grand opening of the Qikiqtarjuaq Airport Terminal Building on January 10, 2012 was a huge success. The entire community turned out to celebrate this important milestone in the hamlet's history.

Mr. Speaker, by leveraging our own capital with federal funding under the Building Canada Plan, we were able to secure the \$4.3 million that was required to complete this project.

This spacious, new energy-efficient building will serve the community for many years to come. In addition to providing the travelling public with a comfortable place to gather for departures and arrivals, the new structure provides for improved baggage handling and more office space for the air carriers and airport staff.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the individuals, departments, and companies that were involved in the completion of this project. Most of all, Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the people of Qikiqtarjuaq for their patience throughout this whole process and for their warm and generous hospitality, which was displayed in abundance during the festivities on January 10.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the people of Qikiqtarjuaq on the opening of their new Airport Terminal Building. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Ministers' Statements. Minister responsible for Culture, Language, Elders and Youth, Minister Arreak.

Minister's Statement 110 – 3(3): 2012 Arctic Winter Games

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Arctic Winter Games are the highest profile multi-sport games competition for Nunavut athletes. The 22nd Arctic Winter Games will take place in Whitehorse, Yukon March 4 to 10, 2012.

The games will provide an opportunity for 289 Nunavummiut to compete in sport and take part in cultural exchange with participants from around the circumpolar world. Team Nunavut will consist of 230 athletes and cultural performers, 48 coaches, and 14 mission staff selected from across Nunavut to compete and interact with other participants from around the arctic world.

Colleagues, I ask that you join me in wishing all the participants best luck in their sporting and cultural activities as they head to the Arctic Winter Games next week and to thank the volunteers that make these events possible across Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Arreak. I'm sure all members wish all 230 delegates from Team Nunavut the best of success in Whitehorse.

Moving on in the Ministers' Statements. Minister of Education, Madam Minister Aariak.

Minister's Statement 111 – 3(3): Canada's Outstanding Principals 2012

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also would like to welcome all the members to our first day of session.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate someone who has made a significant contribution to our society. I am proud to announce that Gina Pizzo, Principal of Netsilik School in Taloyoak, has been named one of Canada's outstanding principals for 2012.

The Canada's Outstanding Principals program was developed by The Learning Partnership and is now in its 8th year. This program recognizes individuals who show exceptional leadership by sharing their vision, engaging their communities, and supporting and encouraging their staff and students.

Mr. Speaker, Gina Pizzo began her career in Nunavut in 1985 and she has always worked closely with her students, their families, and the community. She has built partnerships with staff, parents, elders, and community members so that she can provide her students with learning opportunities that are based on their language and culture. Her understanding of the need to incorporate language and culture in the public education

system has helped her students gain a strong sense of self and pride in where they came from.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, Gina Pizzo has the ability to be innovative and creative in finding solutions that best meet the needs of her staff and students.

Netsilik School offers many intramural sports, instrumental music, a breakfast program, a fall caribou hunt, and a spring seal hunt. Preschool and primary grades are taught entirely in Inuktitut.

Mr. Speaker, Gina's work with the community and her belief in her students has allowed her to build a welcoming, inclusive school that supports successful learning.
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Please join me in congratulating Gina Pizzo.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Madam Aariak. Congratulations, Gina. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Amittuq, Mr. Tapardjuk.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 149 – 3(3): Televised Proceedings in Hall Beach

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Welcome to the winter session. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of Hall Beach. They have no access to the visual part and they have no access to the Legislative Assembly channel.

Today I have been told that they will be able to listen to the proceedings in that community like all Nunavummiut who are able to watch the proceedings through television. I welcome the Hall Beach community to watch the proceedings and they are finally able to watch the proceedings now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Tapardjuk. Members' Statements. Member for Qamani'tuaq, Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Member's Statement 150 – 3(3): Banking Services in Smaller Communities

Mr. Aupaluktuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also send my greetings to Baker Lake elders and youth, as well as to the people we know in Kivalliq and private businesses.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the need for expanded banking services in our smaller communities.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, as you know, these are exciting times in the Kivalliq for development.

Earlier today, Agnico-Eagle Mines announced that it has received permission from the Nunavut Impact Review Board to proceed to the next step of permitting for the construction of an all-weather access road to the Meliadine advanced exploration gold project.

In my community of Baker Lake, Mr. Speaker, the Meadowbank Gold Mine continues to be a major driver of economic development. The mine has created much needed employment for my constituents and I am proud to continue to be a strong advocate for environmentally responsible mining development.

Mr. Speaker, there continues to be a need for expanded banking services in Nunavut communities outside of the regional centres.

In recent years, the Atuqtuarvik Corporation has been working with its strategic partner, the First Nations Bank of Canada, to explore opportunities for expanded community banking in the Kivalliq. I'm sure the same applies for the Kitikmeot as well as other communities in the Baffin.

The need for expanded banking services has also been identified by the government as an important factor in economic development.

Mr. Speaker, Baker Lake and other communities are open for business. I invite our banks and other financial institutions to join us in partnership in order to provide the basic service needs of consumers as well as contributors to the development of Nunavut, these basic essential needs for access to services and transfer of dollars in order to bank their good earnings and planning for the future of their children.

It was just a statement that needed to be verified in terms of wanting to ensure that all communities have access to resources and being able to transfer resources as well. So on behalf of Baker Lake, it was a statement that I would like to share with the House. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. Members' Statements. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. Elliott.

Member's Statement 151 – 3(3): Federal Support for Healthy Lifestyles

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to address an inconsistency in the way our federal government supports measures intended to promote healthier lifestyles amongst Canadians and particularly northerners.

Mr. Speaker, I am confident you will be aware of a number of national initiatives focusing on dietary choices which pose a threat to the health of Canadians.

Mr. Speaker, in 2011, the national Sodium Working Group recommended that the federal government introduce regulatory measures to reduce dietary sodium and impose restrictions on the commercial marketing of high-sodium foods to children, amongst other suggestions. However, the federal government chose not to endorse the Sodium Implementation Report and has not introduced the recommended regulatory mechanisms. Instead it is left to the food producing industry to make any such reductions voluntarily.

Mr. Speaker, a Health Canada expert panel recommended that energy drinks, such as Red Bull and Monster, be labelled as “stimulant drug containing drinks” in part to limit the marketing of such stimulant loaded drinks to teens and children. The federal government chose instead to introduce new labelling of these products and they remain on the food shelves.

Mr. Speaker, in recent years, the dangers of trans-fats in foods have become well known, as they increase the risk of clogged arteries and heart disease. And yet, the federal government chose not to adopt the Trans Fat Task Force’s recommendations to establish regulatory trans-fat limits. It is still left to industry to reduce those levels voluntarily.

And yet, Mr. Speaker, with a program such as Nutrition North Canada, we find that the list of foods eligible for federal subsidy when being shipped to northern communities is determined according to guidelines, such as sodium levels and other health-related criteria.

Mr. Speaker, I find this inconsistency in the federal approach to be a glaring one. The federal government will not take a stand on regulating corporate industry for the greater good and the greater health of all Canadians. And yet, for a small population of northerners, the federal government imposes restrictions which totally limit the ability of northerners to make their own health and lifestyle choices.

Mr. Speaker, at this time, I would ask for unanimous consent to continue with my Member’s Statement today. Thank you.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, I find this situation intolerable. If southern Canadians are free to make dietary decisions, then northern Canadians should have the same freedom of choice. I call upon the federal government to reconsider the list of eligible items subsidized under the Nutrition North Canada Program. Northerners are just as intelligent and able to make responsible and healthy decisions as other Canadians. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Members' Statements. Member for Tununiq, Mr. Enook.

Member's Statement 152 – 3(3): Power Outages in Pond Inlet

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to raise concerns regarding recent power outages in my community of Pond Inlet.

Mr. Speaker, in recent months, the community has suffered from power blackouts that have sometimes lasted for over 12 hours. One recent outage occurred over Christmas. This has caused quite a difficulty to the residents of Pond Inlet.

As you know, Mr. Speaker, the worst time of year for such incidents to occur is in the middle of winter, when our temperatures plunge below -30 degrees and the community is in 24 hours of darkness.

Mr. Speaker, I want to pay tribute to the local employees of the Qulliq Energy Corporation, Kain Killiktee and Kelly Manik, who work long hours to restore power, heat, and light to our community's homes. So I would like to thank them very much for working long hours.

Mr. Speaker, I am aware that the Qulliq Energy Corporation has published information for residents concerning safety during power outages.

As the MLA for Tununiq, I am concerned that the frequency and duration of recent power outages in Pond Inlet indicates that the plant may need significant upgrades. Later in our sitting, I will have questions for the minister concerning the QEC's review of this situation. I will be asking those questions at the appropriate time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Enook. Members' Statements. Member for Iqaluit West, Ms. Eil.

Member's Statement 153 – 3(3): Tribute to Matty McNair

Ms. Eil (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I send my greetings to the residents of Iqaluit West. I would like to welcome my colleagues for coming back for the winter session.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to begin our sitting by taking this opportunity to pay tribute to one of my constituents, Matty McNair.

As you know, Mr. Speaker, Matty is a long-time resident of Iqaluit who was recently honoured by the Queen for her contributions to polar exploration.

Mr. Speaker, in December of last year, Matty travelled to Buckingham Palace to attend an event in her honour.

Mr. Speaker, Matty's commitment to this community and the north is well known. She is a respected female entrepreneur who has done much to promote and defend our sealing industry and the use of traditional clothing.

Mr. Speaker, this year is also the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. I look forward to the celebrations to honour deserving Canadians and Nunavummiut.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in paying tribute to Matty McNair. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, Ms. Ell. Congratulations, Matty. Members' Statements. Member for Rankin Inlet North, Mr. Curley.

Member's Statement 154 – 3(3): Miqquq Literacy Program at Rankin Inlet

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, people of Rankin Inlet.

Mr. Speaker, when I was in Rankin Inlet recently, I visited two projects which are helping our young people. The first one is the Miqquq Program delivered by the Rankin Inlet Nunavut Literacy Council office. This program is designed to offer essential skills to young women, where they learn to do traditional sewing and contemporary modern sewing machines and also learn basic literacy skills, read, write, and work on problem solving skills.

There are 15 young women. The youngest one is 20 years old and the eldest one is in their late 30s. Their instructors are:

Marianne Inuaraq Tattuinee
Aline Kumak Kabvitok
Adile Kumaruaq Angidlik
Helen Iguptaq
Epiksout Dion, who is from Coral Harbour

The coordinators for this program are my cousin Quluuq Pilakapsi, Gloria Uluqsi, and Adriana Kusugak. Adrianna and Gloria also teach the literacy component.

Funding for the Miqquq Program is from the following organizations that I would like to thank:

Nunavut Literacy Council

Department of Economic Development and Transportation, Government of Nunavut (the Nunavut Sealing Strategy)

Department of Education (income for older workers program to help pay salary)

HRSDC, federal government (possibly for the literacy component)

Sakku First Air Aviation gave a donation of \$7,500

They also received discounts for materials from the local co-op, Kissavik Co-op, and local business, Katigvik Enterprises. First Air also gave them a generous freight rate discount for materials received outside of Rankin Inlet.

Also, the Fur Production and Design Program is delivered in Rankin Inlet for the first time by Nunavut Arctic College. There are seven young women in this certificate program. The lead instructor is Rosemary Sandy. It is funded by NAC and GN (sealskin strategy). I would like to thank the young people for taking this course and I would like to see their future and they would be able to work on their instructions that they had learned.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Curley. Item 3. Members' Statements. Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Mr. Clerk.

Item 4: Returns to Oral Questions*

Return to Oral Question 213 – 3(3): “Solution Box” on Government Website

Return to Oral Question 219 – 3(3): Number of Active Cases of TB in Nunavut

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the returns to oral questions that were taken as notice during the October 2011 sitting. They are No. 213 and No. 219. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Cambridge Bay, Mr. Peterson.

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thought you might have forgotten where I was from, being here so much over the years.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to welcome some very special guests to the Gallery today. I would like to welcome, and I apologize if I mispronounce your name, my colleague from Greenland, the Minister of Health, Agathe Fontain. Please rise.

>>Applause

*See Appendix for full text of Returns to Oral Questions 213 – 3(3) and 219 – 3(3) filed with the Clerk.

With her is her staff, Ann Birkekaer Kjeldsen.

>>Applause

Julie Praest Wilche.

>>Applause

Hanne Vibjerg.

>>Applause

Mr. Speaker, the folks from Greenland had a long trip to get here. They had to travel from Nuuk and they had to go to Europe, to Copenhagen, and then fly across the Atlantic Ocean to Toronto, Ottawa, and then up to Iqaluit.

We are very pleased that they came here. We had good meetings on the weekend and I learned quite a bit. We learned that we had some similar issues with the Department of Health.

I hope to visit the Greenland folks this summer, when there is, I believe, a direct flight going from Iqaluit to Nuuk. That will be a two-hour flight rather than a three-day trip.

I welcome our guests to the Gallery. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Welcome to the Gallery and to Nunavut. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Arviat, Mr. Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am honoured to rise today to recognize two of my young constituents from Arviat. Although they travelled all night and arrived here at two o'clock in the morning, they made it here.

I would like to welcome them to the Chambers, Mr. Speaker, two of the pages who will be taking care of us and our needs during our sitting of this Assembly this week, two grade 11 students from John Arnalukjuak High School in Arviat. Ms. Stephanie Aulajut, please stand up.

>>Applause

And Ms. Vayda Kaviok.

Welcome to these two young people and enjoy your time in Iqaluit and the experience you gain from contributing to the sitting of the House this week. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Shewchuk. Welcome to Iqaluit. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Pangnirtung, Mr. Oshutapik.

Mr. Oshutapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to recognize one of our visitors from my community, a person who had worked at the Department of Social Services and he was also a president of the housing association. He is also working here in Iqaluit. I would like to recognize a fellow community member, Steve Qarpik. Please stand up.

>>Applause

Mr. Speaker, also beside him is an individual I know and have seen. He is a friend whom I haven't recognized before. He is also an electrician in our area and has also worked in different communities. I would like to recognize Lenrick. Welcome.

>>Applause

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

I would like to take this opportunity to recognize everyone else who's here in the Gallery that wasn't recognized and welcome them to our proceedings.

Moving on in the *Orders of the Day*, Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Baker Lake, Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 223 – 3(3): Fuel Tax Rebate Program

Mr. Aupaluktuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize the delegation from Greenland. I am sorry that I didn't recognize them earlier.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, my questions are directed to the Hon. Minister of Finance.

Mr. Speaker, the Department of Finance is responsible for administering the government's Fuel Tax Rebate Program. Under this program, companies that enter into development partnership agreements with the government are eligible for a fuel tax rebate. The government's most recent annual report on the administration of this program was tabled in the Legislative Assembly by the Minister of Finance on October 27, 2010.

Can the minister tell the House today when he will be able to table the 2010-11 annual report on the administration of the Fuel Tax Rebate Program? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. Minister of Finance, Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Aupaluktuq for the question. Mr. Speaker, as everybody well knows, it's important to table required documents as soon as possible. I assure the member that I will follow up with the status of that particular report and let him know when it will be tabled. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have here a note by Agnico-Eagle on January 23, 2012 addressed to the minister and as well, I received a copy of this in regard to the letter by Agnico-Eagle Mines Ltd. on the fuel tax rebate. With this, I think I would like to ask with respect to the department and the process of ensuring our companies are also being acknowledged as well and participating in the development of Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, it's my understanding that the Meadowbank division of Agnico-Eagle Mines has applied for a fuel tax rebate on the fuel taxes that were paid in 2010 but that its application was partially rejected by the Department of Finance. Can the minister explain why the company's application was partially rejected and can he indicate if this issue has been resolved? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. Minister of Finance, Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Aupaluktuq for that question. Mr. Speaker, as everyone knows in this House, there are contribution agreements and other types of agreements that are signed and there are conditions in the agreements. I understand from that particular... I think he is referring to a development partnership agreement. There were conditions. The report that they were supposed to file that was not received on time. I can report that the issue hasn't been resolved. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On March 12, 2008, a copy of the development partnership agreement that the hon. minister mentioned was between the Government of Nunavut and Meadowbank Mining Corporation. Mr. Speaker, it was tabled in the Legislative Assembly at that time. Under the agreement, the company is required to produce annual reports.

As the hon. minister indicated that it's prudent that departments provide annual reports on its activities, my question, Mr. Speaker, is: will the minister commit to working with his

colleague, the Minister of ED&T, to ensure that these annual reports are tabled in the Legislative Assembly? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. Minister of Finance, Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Aupaluktuq again for the question. Mr. Speaker, I will work with my colleague to endeavour and make sure the reports are tabled on time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to ask the minister as well if there are any indicators if any other companies operating in Nunavut have expressed interest in entering a development partnership agreement with the government and also applying for fuel tax rebates. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. Minister of Finance, Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Aupaluktuq for the question. Mr. Speaker, I don't have the information at this time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 224 – 3(3): Contracting Policy for Air Ambulance Services

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Community and Government Services, whose department has primary responsibility for the government's procurement and contracting activities.

Each year, the Government of Nunavut spends tens of millions of dollars on medical travel for Nunavutmiut on scheduled airlines and air ambulance services.

Last year, the government awarded its contract for the provision of air ambulance services in the Kitikmeot to Aqsaqniq Airways Ltd.

My question for the minister is very simple and perfectly clear. Does Aqsaqniq Airways Ltd. actually hold a valid air operator certificate issued by Transport Canada, yes or no?

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will look into your question in regard to the air ambulance charter licence, what kind of licence they have, and the air operator certificate. All air companies have air operator certificates in

Nunavut. I'll find out exactly and be able to answer to you yes or no. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. You may be surprised to learn that Aqsaqniq Airways is simply a registered company that has a business relationship with Air Tindi, which is itself a subsidiary of Discovery Air. It is my understanding that Aqsaqniq Airways does not even own a single aircraft. How can the government justify awarding such an important contract to a company that exists only on paper? Can the minister answer this question?

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my understanding that when the Department of Community and Government Services award contracts to companies, they assist the people of Nunavut.

For this air ambulance contract, the Department of Health and Social Services had to make public all their contractual agreements for this air ambulance service. The Minister of Health and Social Services had to supply their explanation for the contract of air ambulance. This was included in the contract. That's what they publicized for their application for the contract.

CGS provided its assistance when the Department of Health was doing their contract agreement. They worked on the contract agreement and they approached the... . They put all that together and wrote down the actual contract agreement, what's in the content of the contract, and who would be able to be awarded this contract agreement. That's how this contract was set up.

The Department of Health and Social Services only assisted on the application. It's obvious that they worked on this contract. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Mr. Speaker, air ambulance services are matters of life and death for our constituents. It is my position that the only criteria that the government should be considering when awarding these contracts is performance. What is the government's position on this matter? How can a company that exists only on paper be awarded a contract?

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): In regard to the contract process, the tendering process is such that, to my knowledge, there's a person who awards the contract in the Department of Health and Social Services. There are five individuals from the Department of Health and Social Services who are knowledgeable about contract procedures.

Every time there's a contract required, there's a tendering process. After that, they collect all the people who applied for the contract and use a procedure to choose which of the companies that are going to be on the list to be considered.

I think there were about five people from the Department of Health and Social Services there and one from CGS. They decided on whether to... . There is not only one person who makes a decision on contract agreements. There is more than one person and there are quite a few people who consider a contract application. So this one contract was submitted and agreed to only one company. That's not the way we operate inside the government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you. I would also like to thank the minister. The people who are awarded contracts should have a proper licence and they should have been experienced in doing the work that they are contracted for.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask this question. I believe that the only reason why Aqsaqniq Airways was awarded this contract worth millions of dollars was because of the bid adjustments it received under the NNI Policy. As I have clearly indicated, the actual work of flying patients will be performed by subcontractors, not Aqsaqniq Airways but Air Tindi or Discovery Air. Will the government commit to rethinking its entire approach to awarding medical travel and air ambulance services contracts, yes or no, and if not, why not?

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When we are looking for contracts from the Department of Health and Social Services, who are trying to procure a contract from Department of Health and Social Services, the entity will look for someone who can do the actual work for the ambulance service in Nunavut.

We were looking for this particular type of company. We described exactly what kind of work they were to do and they would need to have their own company and owned by private people. This is how the procurement process was done and it was done through the tendering procedure. It was in the newspaper.

If they're going to have something that the government needs, they let the ministers know that and we will follow that contract procedure. We always look for people who can do

the work. If there's a need to make an amendment to the contract to be able to get these people to work for us, then we would do so. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 225 – 3(3): Coastal Resource Inventory

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Environment.

I would like to get further clarification on the statement he made earlier regarding the study that is going to be done in 2012. In your statement, it's stated here that they started in 2007 in Igloolik. They were mostly concentrating on the coastal resource inventory and they conducted studies in Kugluktuk, Repulse Bay, Iqaluit, Gjoa Haven, Sanikiluaq, Qikiqtarjuaq, and Kimmirut.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister of Environment this question. Since they started their study in 2007, what result did they find during that Nunavut Coastal Resource Inventory? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank my *Annuraaqatik* for asking that question. I'm sure we're not going to be as friendly at a later stage.

>>*Laughter*

However, going back to the question, Mr. Speaker, as I stated earlier, we did the Nunavut Coastal Resource Inventory and the results are going to be sent back to the community that was involved and from our office. Once we get the information to our office, we will be putting out the results by computer or by correspondence and we will also identify what we will need to do as a department.

I can't answer your question at this time, but once the results are given back to the community, they will have to be reviewed at the community level and the communities will know what is available or what can be harvested around their communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to thank my *Annuraaqatik*, the Minister of Environment. In your Minister's Statement, it indicates that for the coastal inventory, they are gathering data and where to develop new fisheries.

The information collected may also lead to the identification and development of coastal parks.

Mr. Speaker, where is the headquarters? Is it in Iqaluit or Igloolik? Where is it located? If I wanted to get the information in regard to the coastal resource inventory, where or who do I contact to get that information, Mr. Speaker?

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

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It says here that we have the central database and that's all it says. It doesn't identify where the headquarters is located, so I can't answer your question at this time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm sure that the people out there are curious to find out where that location is, especially the people of Igloolik and Hall Beach. My constituents are concerned about the ice conditions. We have mine development happening in Mary River and the Nunavut Impact Review Board is now looking at what kind of impact the shipping route would have on the environment.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister of Environment again if he could inform us what the population size is in the Foxe Basin area and to do the studies all year round and if there's going to be shipping routes in the winter, summer, fall, and spring. What about the walrus population in the Foxe Basin area? Could he give us that information through that inventory? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The result of that inventory has been returned to the community of Igloolik and also to Kugluktuk. The other communities that I have mentioned are not completed yet. In Igloolik, I'm sure you can get the information from the hunters and trappers organization and the renewable resource office. If those are not available, my department can look to see where that information is and where it's available.

In regard to the proposed fishing route or shipping routes, I don't know whether there have been any studies done, but I'm sure to keep my colleague informed if there's information. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I'm looking forward to receiving that information, as the minister indicated. Regarding the resource inventory, it states here that we will be responsible.

We have to know the information, we have to have the information, and we have to protect our environment and the marine mammals, especially the coastal mammals because it affects us and *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit*. Mr. Speaker, could the minister make the information available and indicate to us that he is going to work with other organizations and look at the walrus population in the Foxe Basin area? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If we have that information, we will make sure that it's made available to everyone. There's information available at the research centre here in Iqaluit. The inventory is supposed to be done by next month in March. I will make sure to do a follow-up on the questions you just posed earlier. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Arreak. Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit West, Ms. Ell.

Question 226 – 3(3): Review of Iqaluit Infrastructure

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

Earlier this year, the city of Iqaluit faced a major disruption of water services following a breakdown in our community's aging water infrastructure. I want to begin by thanking the frontline staff who worked extremely long hours to restore water services as quickly as possible to our community's homes and businesses.

Mr. Speaker, on January 19 of this year, the GN and the city jointly announced that both levels of government would be undertaking a joint review of this incident. Can the minister update the House today on the status of this review? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Ms. Ell. Minister responsible for Community and Government Services, Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the member for asking that question. I would first of all like to thank the people or the frontline staff who work very long hours in extreme cold because that is the only time that the infrastructure tends to break down. So I would like to extend my gratitude to the frontline workers.

This incident affected the whole of Iqaluit. We now have restored the water services. From what I understand, they are still making a plan or backup plan and working closely with our department on being prepared for such an incident. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Your first supplementary, Ms. Ell.

Ms. Ell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you to the minister. The joint news release that was issued by the GN and the City of Iqaluit identified the need to review the condition of Iqaluit's infrastructure, including its utilidor system. Can the minister indicate today what investments may need to be made in the near future to ensure that our capital city's infrastructure is capable of serving Nunavut's largest community? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Ms. Ell. Minister of Community and Government Services, Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): On this key issue and after that breakdown, it's not only in Iqaluit but also in other communities where we have aging infrastructure. When there's aging, there tends to be a breakdown.

Because this happened in Iqaluit, my department and the City of Iqaluit worked together. We will keep working together in the next coming months and look at what needs to be restored, what needs to be replaced, and what is serviceable. So we are going to be doing all those things in phases in the next few months.

Again, in the winter, we have to wait for the thaw-out to access the infrastructure and we will do that, get that work started as soon as possible and look at where we stand, what needs fixing and what doesn't. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Your second supplementary, Ms. Ell.

Ms. Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the minister. Will the minister commit to tabling a copy of the final report from this joint review in the Legislative Assembly as soon as it has been completed? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Ms. Ell. Minister responsible for Community and Government Services, Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In regard to the city's responsibilities, our department is working with the City of Iqaluit. We have made an agreement and we are helping them while they are doing this work. If there's direction given from our department, we will be able to table a copy of the final report. If it comes from the city, then it will not be in our hands, but I'll make sure that we have a close working relationship with the City of Iqaluit. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Your final supplementary, Ms. Ell.

Ms. Ell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you to the minister. As the minister is aware as well, the Inuksuk High School experienced a number of closures due to issues with its water supply. Can the minister indicate how his department has been working with the district education authority and the Department of Education to address this issue? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Ms. Ell. Minister of Community and Government Services, Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. All I could say is that the city staff, our staff, and the contractors worked very hard to repair the utilidor that broke on the date in question. That has since been repaired and it is a temporary repair; it is above ground. I understand that if the weather permits and the ground permits, they will be able to put it back underground and replace the problem area. As of now, there are no issues with it, but hopefully the temporary fix will hold until a permanent fix is resolved, when the weather and season allows us to do so. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 227 – 3(3): Security at Nunavut Airports

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation.

Mr. Speaker, at the present time, both Canadian North and First Air offer flights from Pond Inlet to Iqaluit that depart early in the morning. This allows my constituents to arrive in Iqaluit in time to make connections to Ottawa and other destinations. The reason why this service is possible is because both airlines overnight their aircraft in Pond Inlet.

Mr. Speaker, concerns have recently been brought to my attention that serious acts of vandalism have been committed against aircraft that are parked overnight at the Pond Inlet Airport. If this situation continues, Mr. Speaker, there is a risk that airlines will no longer be able to overnight their aircraft in Pond Inlet, which will cause significant disruptions to flight schedules and severely inconvenience my constituents.

I would first like to ask the minister if he has been made aware of this situation and, if so, what actions his department is taking to address it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. At this time, Mr. Speaker, I'm not aware of any vandalism happening with parked aircraft within this community, but once I get briefed on it and get full information, I will surely let the member know of the next steps and what the department can do to assist. More than likely, Mr. Speaker, it will be an RCMP issue when vandalism does happen. So once I get information, I will let the member know. Thank you.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister. A few years ago, concerns about fires and other acts of vandalism at Nunavut's schools prompted the government to introduce new security measures, such as the installation of cameras.

Here in Iqaluit, Mr. Speaker, our capital city's international airport appears to be a very secure facility, including biometric technology to control access to the ramp. I would like to ask the minister if he can clarify whether his department has a standard set of criteria for security measures and equipment at Nunavut's airports in smaller communities, including cameras and fencing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again I thank the hon. member for that question. Mr. Speaker, I'm not aware of what's happening up there in Pond Inlet, in his constituency, but once I understand the full facts... At this time, I will not be assuming of what's been happening there, so I'll take his question as notice and get back to the hon. member on that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Taptuna. The question has been taken as notice. Oral Questions. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. Elliott.

Question 228 – 3(3): Interdepartmental Monitoring Committee on Nutrition North

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister for Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs.

With the introduction of the Nutrition North Canada Program, the minister's department formed an interdepartmental Nutrition North Canada subsidy monitoring committee. I was curious to find out what the minister's committee has done to this date. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Nunavut government is in support of Nutrition North that is being made available by the federal government and the Nunavut government is pleased that there are improvements made, such as increased accountability or entry points. They also indicated that this advisory committee has a chair from Nunavut, which is helpful to us, but I'm sure and we're well aware and I'm sure the member is concerned about making improvements to having healthy foods available in the north. There is room for improvement.

I believe he's asking questions about the committee that was struck within the Nunavut government. They have been involved on a continual basis and they work like a monitoring committee on the Nutrition North Canada Program. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for the response. I think that when the committee was originally struck and when I had asked questions previously in the House, the committee was going to track statistical data on pricing and other different statistics. I was wondering if the Premier could elaborate on what type of statistics have been collected to date. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The committee has the information at hand now and once I get the information, I'll make sure to update you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't have the data available at this time.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, I'm just wondering: does the Premier have a timeline of when she will have that information ready? I think, at one point, it was a discussion of possibly collecting data from different communities and maybe monitoring prices to see if the prices are actually going down. I think it goes towards my issues of what is affordable, providing affordable nutritious food to communities, and how you come up with that dollar value.

I was hoping to rely on the department and the Government of Nunavut to provide some statistical data for, hopefully, use to take to Nutrition North to make sure and ensure that the prices are going down and more nutritious food is going to the communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) The Government of Nunavut committee consisting of members from Health and Social Services, the Department of EIA, and the Department of Finance has been established to monitor the progress of Nutrition North Canada implementation, identify issues of importance to Nunavummiut and identify ways to address them. That's the basic outline of the mandate of that committee. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Over the past couple of months, I have been working with MLAs in both the NWT and the Yukon on the issue of Nutrition North Canada. I'm wondering if the minister, during the next tri-territorial Premiers' meeting, would be able to commit to raising the issue of Nutrition North with her new counterparts and come up with a pan-territorial position on this program. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In regard to the Nutrition North program, it is being worked on by different agencies. I would like to thank the member, who has been very involved in the program and making sure that his constituents are well informed about the program. They haven't indicated as such, but we're well aware that there are concerns out there. Once we get further information and the government has written a letter, and once I have the responses to the concerns, we will look at it again and see what we can do to make improvements. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Madam Premier. Oral Questions. Member for Pangnirtung, Mr. Oshutapik.

Question 229 – 3(3): Affordable Housing

Mr. Oshutapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation. It's very brief and if he would like to respond, he could do so. I'll ask it in English because he is a Qallunaaq.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I've got a very short question for the Minister responsible for Housing and I would like to get an answer. What is affordable housing, to start with? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Oshutapik. Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Minister Schell.

Hon. Fred Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for his question. It's a very short question but it's probably going to be a long answer. Basically what they look at is what's affordable to the average citizen in Nunavut. I understand that we're working on the rent scale both at the staff level and at the public housing level, and we're hoping to make some changes in there to make it a little bit more affordable. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Oshutapik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As we all know, in all the communities in Nunavut, when we hear affordable housing, we think of another thing in life that may be affordable for the department to build houses in each community. You can put it that way. The way I understand it is it's been like that. Due to this, I'm saying that I'm not living in affordable housing. I'm renting a house through the housing corporation. It's not affordable to me anymore in terms of paying rent.

I would like to get a quick answer to this: when are we going to change this rent scale? You said you are working on it. When are you going to change it? When can we expect to live in affordable housing? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Oshutapik. Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Minister Schell.

Hon. Fred Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Mr. Oshutapik. Hopefully, by the end of the year, we will have a new rent scale in place. Thank you.

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

Mr. Oshutapik (interpretation): Mr. Speaker, at this time, we wish that this issue be resolved. Every time there's an employment opportunity created in the community of Nunavut, I'm sure it's like that in all the communities of Nunavut, especially in my community. When there's an employment opportunity open, it's part of the reason why people are not applying for a job so that their rent will not skyrocket. In my community, that's why they're not applying for jobs.

The money we bring home is a lot less than the money we pay for our rent. That's why I was asking this question. This term, "affordable housing," is that terminology for the department itself or is it for the public? Even if this individual lives with their grandparents, even though they don't have a name in the head of the household, they still have to pay rent. That's why I was asking when you will be dealing with this issue.

I would recommend that if there are individuals working for a month, the rent scale stay the same. Have you considered having a flat rate for the rent scale? Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Oshutapik. Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Minister Schell.

Hon. Fred Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, everything is open for discussion. They do have a flat rate rent in Nunavik. Actually, we're also meeting this week with the housing from Quebec. They're in town here as of yesterday; they also came in here today. We're looking at all options in order to make it more affordable.

The maximum rent that anybody pays, it doesn't matter what kind of a job they got or how many people are in the household, is 30 percent of their income. We have also looked at the possibility of not assessing every individual in the home and only assessing the individual who is on the lease. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Oshutapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Mr. Minister, for your response. On behalf of Nunavummiut, we will be expecting some change in the future for those of us who are renting public housing.

My last question being the designs of the house is the issue I keep bringing up. The design of the units is creating a problem because these new units tend to deteriorate a lot faster than the old units. They tend to mould faster today because the design of the house is different. Perhaps it's to keep the costs down. So that's my question. Were they built to keep the costs down and the quality went with it? That's my question to the minister. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Oshutapik. Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Minister Schell.

Hon. Fred Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, if we were trying to get the costs down in the construction, we obviously didn't do that in the last program, but I don't think the design... I think, if anything, we have over-designed these buildings and that's why our costs are up. We are looking at all options in order to get housing in Nunavut, which includes homeownership, which also includes the private sector building units, and we're hopefully going to simplify the units to keep the costs down so that it's more affordable for the individuals. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 230 – 3(3): New Licence Plate for Nunavut

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

Mr. Speaker, on October 27 of last year, I asked the minister questions concerning the Government of Nunavut's competition to choose a new design for our territorial licence plate. As the minister will recall, this competition closed on August 26 of 2011.

In his responses to my questions, the minister indicated that over 200 submissions had been received by the government and that the new design would be rolled out in the near future. Can the minister update us today on which design has been selected? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member from Sanikiluaq for that very important question. Mr. Speaker, we all know that the polar bear design was a symbol for Nunavummiut, but unfortunately, we couldn't use that design as it was trademarked and copyrighted by NWT.

Mr. Speaker, as the member indicated, yes, there were over 200 designs that were submitted. Our department received over 200 designs and through a process, we narrowed it down to four. Mr. Speaker, with the uniqueness of our territory, I look

forward to updating our colleagues here in the House and unveiling the new design hopefully at this session. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm sure all of my colleagues are anxious to see the new design in the near future. Can the minister provide the House with details on his department's timetable for distributing the new licence plates to Nunavut's 25 communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As we speak, the department is planning on production. They are talking to the production company on how to best deal with the manufacturing of the plates. As I said, Mr. Speaker, we will have information throughout this session, possibly before the end of the session, on the design and the manufacturing and distribution of the new licence plates to all 25 communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm sure that these new licence plates come at a cost to the government. Can the minister clarify whether residents will receive their new licence plates free of charge? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. Mr. Speaker, throughout the process of acquiring licensing and registering vehicles, there is a fee involved. As usual, we will be looking at that to determine the best way to charge these fees to the users. Mr. Speaker, I don't believe anything is going to be changing from the user fees. We do have to charge a fee for a service provided by the government for this type of distribution of licensing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In my questioning back in October, the minister indicated that the supply of polar bear plates was running low. Will the present supply of polar bear licence plates be adequate to last until the new plates are available? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, the old supply is adequate to last until we roll out the new licence plates. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Members will note that the allotted time for question period has expired. We will move on in our orders of the day. Item 7. Written Questions. Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Mr. Clerk.

Item 8: Returns to Written Questions*

Return to Written Question 009 – 3(3): Enforcement of the Environmental Protection Act

Clerk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the return to Written Question 9 – 3(3). Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Item 10. Petitions. Item 11. Responses to Petitions. Mr. Clerk.

Item 11: Responses to Petitions

Response to Petition 001 – 3(3): Coral Harbour Nurse-in-Charge

Clerk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the response to Petition 1 – 3(3). Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you very much, Mr. Clerk. Item 11. Responses to Petitions. Item 12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills and Other Matters. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. Elliott.

Item 13: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 140 – 3(3): Correspondence Dated December 13, 2011 to the Department of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development on the Nutrition North Canada Program

Tabled Document 141 – 3(3): Joint News Release and Correspondence Dated February 20, 2012: Legislators Across Canada's North Work Together on the Nutrition North Canada Program

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As you will recall, representatives from the Nutrition North Canada Advisory Board and the federal Department of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development met with all Members of the Legislative Assembly in this Chamber last fall.

*See Appendix for full text of Return to Written Question 9 – 3(3) filed with the Clerk.

I wish to table today a copy of my follow-up correspondence to the federal Department of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development on our meeting. I'll be pleased to table any reply that I receive from the federal department.

Mr. Speaker, the second item I wish to table is the joint news release and letter that was signed yesterday by elected representatives from across the north concerning the Nutrition North Canada Program.

I am proud to have joined with colleagues from the Yukon, the Northwest Territories, Nunavik, and the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador to convey the concerns of our constituents to the appropriate federal ministers. I will be pleased to table any reply that we receive from the federal government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Minister of Finance, Minister Peterson.

Tabled Document 142 – 3(3): 2010-2011 Public Accounts

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table the 2010-11 Public Accounts. Mr. Speaker, this is the first time in Nunavut's short history that the public accounts have been tabled on time.

>>*Applause*

I would like to thank all officials and staff in all our departments and Crown agencies for their hard work in making this historic occasion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Congratulations, Minister Peterson. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Minister Schell.

Tabled Document 143 – 3(3): 2010-2011 Annual Report for the Nunavut Housing Corporation

Tabled Document 144 – 3(3): Nunavut Housing Corporation's Contracting Report for Year Ending March 31, 2011

Hon. Fred Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have two documents to table.

First of all, I am pleased to table the annual report for 2010-11 for the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

Also, I am pleased to table the Nunavut Housing Corporation's Contracting Report for the Year Ending March 31, 2011. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Schell. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. There are none. I have a couple documents to table.

Tabled Document 145 – 3(3): 2010-2011 Pension Administration Report**Tabled Document 146 – 3(3): 2012 Sitting Calendar**

As required by the *Legislative Assembly Retirement Allowances Act* and the *Supplementary Retiring Allowances Act*, I wish to table today the pension administration report for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2011.

Also, as required by Rule 3(2), I wish to table the Legislative Assembly's 2012 Sitting Calendar.

Item 14. Notices of Motions. Mr. Elliott.

Item 14: Notices of Motions**Motion 021 – 3(3): Legislative Assembly Appointments – Notice**

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Thursday, February 23, 2012, I will move the following motion:

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the Hon. Member for Nanulik, that Mr. Tagak Curley be appointed a member of the Standing Committee on Legislation and a member of the Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts.

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

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Item 14. Notices of Motions. Mr. Ningeongan.

Motion 022 – 3(3): Extended Sitting Hours and Days – Notice

Mr. Ningeongan (interpretation): Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on February 23, 2012, I will move the following motion:

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet South and Whale Cove, that the Speaker be authorized to set such sitting days and hours as the Speaker deems fit to assist with the business before the House during the winter 2012 sitting of the Legislative Assembly.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. Item 14. Notices of Motions. Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Mr. Rumbolt.

Item 15: Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills**Bill 34 – An Act to Amend the Integrity Act – Notice**

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Thursday, February 23, I will move that Bill 34, *An Act to Amend the Integrity Act*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 16. Motions. Mr. Elliott.

Item 16: Motions

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

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. The member is seeking unanimous consent to deal with his motion today. Are there any nays? There being none. Please proceed, Mr. Elliott.

Motion 021 – 3(3): Legislative Assembly Appointments

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

WHEREAS section 17 of the *Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act* provides for the Legislative Assembly to appoint such committees to aid and advise it as it considers necessary;

AND WHEREAS the Legislative Assembly is prepared to make appointments;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the Hon. Member for Nanulik, that Mr. Tagak Curley be appointed a member of the Standing Committee on Legislation and a member of the Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour. Any opposed? None. The motion is carried.

Item 16. Motions. Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Item 19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. And as we have no items in committee, I will move to the next item on the *Orders of the Day*. Item 20. Report of the Committee of the Whole. Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. Item 22. *Orders of the Day*. Mr. Clerk.

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Clerk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A reminder that the Standing Committee on Legislation meets tomorrow starting at nine o'clock in the Nanuq Boardroom.

Orders of the Day for February 22:

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

Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you very much, Mr. Clerk. Before we adjourn for the day, I would just like to ask members, after I exit the Chambers with the Sergeant-at-Arms and the Mace and the staff, to please remain seated. The Minister of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth would like to introduce us to some special guests that we have here today.

This House stands adjourned until Wednesday, February 22, at 1:30 p.m.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 15:28*

Appendix – February 21, 2012

Return to Oral Question 213 – 3(3): “Solution Box” on Government Website

Asked by: Allan Rumbolt, MLA (Hudson Bay)

Asked of: Hon. Eva Aariak, Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs

Date: October 28, 2011

Question:

Recently I was on the Government of Nunavut’s website. I have noticed something that I haven’t seen there before. There was a new icon called the “Solution Box.” Can the minister explain when this solution box was added and its purpose?

Response:

The “Solution Box” was added to the Government of Nunavut website last week on October 27, 2011 and we will now begin to promote its use.

The Government of Nunavut continues to look for ways to provide Nunavummiut with opportunities to give us feedback and input. The solution box is an easy and convenient way for people to send us their solutions, ideas, and input.

Email to solutions@gov.nu.ca is monitored daily. All input will be taken seriously and will be delivered to the appropriate department to consider as we strive to provide better service and governance in Nunavut.

The title, “Solution Box,” communicates that the GN has both the desire and the need to improve and the knowledge that others have solutions to assist us.

All Nunavummiut are invited and encouraged to visit www.gov.nu.ca and to send us their solutions by using the blue “Solution Box” button. With your help, we will move towards excellence.

Return to Oral Question 219 – 3(3): Number of Active Cases of TB in Nunavut

Asked by: Ron Elliott, MLA (Quttiktuq)

Asked of: Hon. Tagak Curley, Minister of Health and Social Services

Date: October 31, 2011

Question:

Can the minister provide an update on how many cases of active tuberculosis we have in Nunavut?

Response:

As of October 25, 2011, there were 62 cases of tuberculosis diagnosed in Nunavut since January 1, 2011 and that 98 percent of cases diagnosed this year have been in the Baffin region.

Cases of tuberculosis are classified as active when they are diagnosed. Active cases are reported by the calendar year in which they were diagnosed, as per the protocols of the Public Health Agency of Canada. So far this year, we will report 62 cases.

Return to Written Question 009 – 3(3): Enforcement of the Environmental Protection Act

Asked by: Moses Aupaluktuq, MLA (Baker Lake)

Asked of: Hon. Daniel Shewchuk, Minister of Environment

Date: October 31, 2011

Question:

1. Within the meaning of section 12 of the *Environmental Protection Act*, how many charges were laid between April 1, 1999 and October 31, 2011 for alleged contraventions of the Act?

Response:

Zero (0).

Question:

2. What were the circumstances of each alleged contravention?

Response:

Not applicable.

Question:

3. What was the final disposition of each incident?

Response:

Not applicable.

Question:

4. Between April 1, 1999 and October 31, 2011, how many fines were imposed for contraventions of the Act and what were the amounts and circumstances in each case where a fine was imposed?

Response:

No fines were imposed within this timeframe.