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**Wednesday, February 20, 2008**

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**Iqaluit**

**Speaker: The Honourable Peter Kilabuk, M.L.A.**

## Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

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**Iqaluit, Nunavut**  
**Wednesday, February 20, 2008**

**Members Present:**

Honourable Leona Aglukkaq, Honourable Olayuk Akesuk, Mr. David Alagalak, Mr. James Arreak, Mr. James Arvaluk, Mr. Levi Barnabas, Honourable Levinia Brown, Mr. Tagak Curley, Mr. Joe Allen Evyagotailak, Mr. Peter Kattuk, Honourable Peter Kilabuk, Mr. Steve Mapsalak, Honourable Patterk Netser, Honourable Paul Okalik, Mr. Keith Peterson, Honourable Edward Picco, Mr. David Simailak, Honourable Louis Tapardjuk, Mr. Hunter Tootoo.

**Item 1: Opening Prayer**

**Speaker** (Hon. Peter Kilabuk)(interpretation): I would like to ask Mr. Alagalak to say the opening prayer.

>>*Prayer*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Good afternoon, Mr. Premier, Ministers, Members, our visitors and viewers. Going to the Orders of the Day. Item 2. Budget Address. Minister Tapardjuk.

**Item 2: Ministers' Statements**

**Minister's Statement 126 – 2(4): Budget Address 2008-2009**

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am very pleased that I am able to present the Budget Address. As is tradition, I finally found out that, as a Minister of Finance, we get new *Kamiik* and I'm wearing a new pair of *Kamiik* made in Igloolik by a 31-year-old. They are the first ones she has made. It is good to know that there are young people out there who are still making traditional clothing, such as these *Kamiik* that I'm wearing. Ms. Josepha Taqqaugaq is a young individual from Igloolik and I would like to thank her very much.

>>*Applause*

**Introduction**

Mr. Speaker, I was very honoured and humbled when the Premier appointed me as the Minister of Finance. In doing so, he has entrusted me with one of the most important portfolios of this government.

Though educated in a residential school, I have maintained my Inuit roots, language, heritage and teachings. I know the importance of staying true to the Inuit societal values that have been passed on to me by our elders.

The budget I am tabling today embodies much of what being an Inuk is – pride in one's accomplishments, resourcefulness in finding solutions, and being positive in difficult situations.

### **This Year's Budget**

Mr. Speaker, this year's Budget Address reflects on our collective accomplishments in advancing *Pinasuaqtavut* – the overarching goal of this government.

But Budget 2008 is also driven by the need to move much further and much faster along the path of *Piliriqatigiinniq/Ikajuqatigiinniq* and to live up to *Qanuqtuurniq*. It reinforces that we must pull together.

The budget details our strategies to address the social challenges that prevent too many people from achieving their full potential. It also outlines our fiscal capacity as a public government to act in delivering these important services.

It highlights the steps we need to take to encourage and prosper from Nunavut's emerging economic opportunities. It is the path we are taking to achieve our shared goal of economic development and the strengthening of culture. This is a document that considers the needs of Nunavummiut. We are proposing specific actions while we remain open to suggestions. This budget recognizes the hard work of all members in advocating for the needs of their constituents. I trust and request that this be a budget that is supported by this legislature.

### **Record of Success**

#### **Economic Progress**

Mr. Speaker, let us review the economic initiatives of our second mandate and the positive results they have yielded.

We have streamlined and simplified our programs and policies that provide financial support to communities for local economic development.

It is not a coincidence that business interests are increasingly attracted to our territory. Last year, the mining industry alone invested a record \$230 million in exploration to discover and develop our resources. This has been a major achievement, and we are confident that this will continue.

Our government is committed to supporting mineral exploration and mining that is environmentally responsible, is profitable, and provides substantive and sustainable benefits to Nunavummiut and communities. Our Mineral Exploration and Mining Strategy is designed to prepare Nunavummiut to benefit from mineral development, create an infrastructure to enable it, and develop policies to promote and sustain this important economic driver.

To this end, we have completed the geological mapping of the Boothia and Foxe Peninsulas that are near Cape Dorset. We have also carried out a review of the permitting and regulatory structure of the mining industry and developed a statement of principles on uranium mining.

To optimize the potential socio-economic benefits from major mining projects, we have introduced Development Partnership Agreements and Regional Monitoring Committees. These initiatives will help to ensure that Nunavummiut fully benefit from the hundreds of jobs that will be created at the Doris North, Meadowbank and Mary River mines.

Cooperation with Indian and Northern Affairs Canada on economic development program delivery is another way we are advancing these goals. We are now able to tailor the federal government's Strategic Investments in Northern Economic Development program with our own Strategic Investments Program to broaden the number and type of initiatives that can be supported to meet our territory's unique needs.

In addition to mineral exploration and mining, we have launched numerous sector initiatives, including strategic plans for fisheries, arts and crafts, and carving stone acquisition. Implementation of these strategies is underway, while initiatives aimed at sealing and tourism are still under development.

As Members of this Assembly are aware, this government has been aggressively supporting the sustainable use of the seal through the promotion of sealskin fashion and the production of the 'Nunavut Collection.' Among other things, we have created a new website: [www.sustainablesealing.ca](http://www.sustainablesealing.ca), and there is no way we can say that in Inuktitut, I apologize.

>>*Laughter*

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Another key event was the signing of the France-Nunavut Tourism Cooperation Memorandum of Understanding which will support increased marketing of Nunavut in Europe.

A further area of our economy with global reach is the Nunavut fishery. The growth of the fishing industry has seen the development of the Nunavut Fisheries Training Consortium, a multi-year stakeholder funding program that is implementing several training initiatives.

### **Strengthening Inuit Societal Values**

Mr. Speaker, preserving and enhancing Inuit societal values, along with language and land skills, are equal priorities of this government.

We want to ensure that these values remain at the centre of work, education and daily life in Nunavut, while protecting the language rights of those who use English and French.



The *Official Languages Act* and the *Inuit Language Protection Act*, introduced in June 2007, are key to this process.

I can assure Nunavummiut that we are equally committed to sustaining a vibrant Inuit culture within our communities. Members will recall the selection of Clyde River as a home for *Piqqusilirivvik*, our cultural school.

This marks the beginning of a unique and important journey. It will have a great impact on our Inuit societal values and culture for many years to come.

Work is now underway on the design of the facility in Clyde River and pilot program projects are now underway in two satellite communities, Baker Lake and Igloolik.

### **Social Progress**

Mr. Speaker, strong communities also depend on strong investments in social programs. This is another area where we are making progress.

#### *Education*

The Nunavut Community Skills Information System (NCSIS) matches workers to jobs, analyzes individual training needs and creates targeted training programs. NCSIS was recently awarded the 2007 Silver Medal for Innovation by the Institute of Public Administration of Canada – a formal recognition of what is possible when Nunavummiut work together to develop solutions to the challenges we are facing.

We are currently working on a system that is fully operational in Inuinnaqtun, Inuktitut, English and French, and has audio components for low literacy clients.

As we implement the Nunavut Community Skills Information System, we will be working in close partnership with industry, mining companies, communities and regional Inuit organizations to develop, coordinate and deliver programs and services that meet the needs of residents and industry alike. Agreement for the establishment of new regional training models, such as that recently signed with the Kitikmeot Inuit Association, will assist us in this process.

The Financial Assistance for Nunavut Students, or FANS program, provides funding support for our students who go on to post-secondary education. We are developing a series of improvements to this program that will be announced in the coming months.

Among the most exciting developments on the education front is the *Education Act*. The landmark Bill 21 transforms the existing Act, creating a framework for education based on the principles of *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit* and on teamwork between schools, parents, District Education Authorities and communities. Bill 21 has a bold new commitment to maintain a student-educator ratio below the national average.

There is also a commitment to provide Nunavut-wide and culturally appropriate assessments, as well as to certify elders, who are unilingual, to recognize their skills and experience, and an investment of over \$14 million with passage of the bill.

The *Qalattuq* Ten-Year Educator Training Strategy is a further demonstration of our commitment to create opportunities for our citizens. The development of Inuit educators is fundamental to the successful future we envision for Nunavut.

### *Healthy Communities*

An important component of our plan to build healthier communities is Nunavut's new *Family Abuse Intervention Act*, which will come into force on March 1, 2008. This Act is designed to be community driven and will allow our communities to holistically intervene at the earliest stages to prevent abuse at its roots. All communities will be provided with the funding necessary to hire a full-time Community Justice Outreach Worker, who will help to coordinate their community's efforts respecting family abuse intervention, criminal diversion, and victim services.

Nunavummiut will be provided with efficient and effective tools, including a Community Intervention Order, which will allow service providers in each of our communities to offer culturally relevant counselling. To return to community harmony, both the victim and the respondent will have access to this counselling. Most promising, this legislation will improve family dynamics, have a positive impact on children, and heal our communities.

Mr. Speaker, we laid the foundation for future progress in health care with the release, last November, of Nunavut's first Public Health Strategy - Building Healthy Communities. This strategy recognizes that the health of individuals and communities depends on healthy social and physical environments and healthy lifestyle choices. Working closely with communities, we will implement the strategy to create supportive environments for individuals, families, and communities as they make decisions that affect their health and well-being.

That is why we have recently approved the Nunavut Nursing Recruitment and Retention Strategy. Through training, this strategy will help us achieve our long-term goal of delivering health care services to Nunavummiut, by Nunavummiut.

The strategy includes initiatives to: promote education, training, and professional development; attract new nurses; reward dedication to service; and respond to the concerns of frontline practitioners in order to make Nunavut a better environment to work for our nurses.

Mr. Speaker, if we are to contain health care costs we must promote wellness, prevent disease and injury, and address the expanding health care needs of our growing population. We also need to improve infrastructure and health information systems to

provide better and more efficient service across the territory. That is precisely what this government is doing through the Health Facilities Implementation Plan.

This multi-year plan will provide better health care for Nunavummiut by expanding the scope and duration of services provided by the health care facilities in Rankin Inlet and Cambridge Bay, and at the Qikiqtani General Hospital in Iqaluit. This expansion will help reduce the need for some out-of-territory travel for medical treatment. As well, the new Continuing Care Facilities to be completed this year in Gjoa Haven and Igloolik will help keep patients in Nunavut communities.

### *Environment*

Nunavummiut are already feeling the effects of the changing climate. Planning ahead to minimize the adverse impacts is important to the government. The recent announcement of federal funds towards our project with the Canadian Forces to construct a multi-purpose bridge over the Sylvia Grinnell Rive is an example of infrastructure required to adapt to climate change.

### **Fiscal status**

Mr. Speaker, all Nunavummiut can take pride in the fact that we are continuing to demonstrate fiscal responsibility.

Based upon third quarter results, we are now projecting a year-end deficit of \$1.8 million, which is \$4.8 million less than the \$6.6 million deficit forecasted when we tabled the 2007-08 main estimates. These results clearly demonstrate that the government continues to manage its fiscal resources in a prudent manner.

I am pleased to announce that for 2008-09, the government expects a surplus of \$4.5 million. While this is good news, I caution members that as we pass important legislation in this upcoming fiscal year, we will need to set aside monies for implementation.

In 2008-09, our government will receive revenues of \$1.16 billion from all sources. This includes the federal government's confirmation that Nunavut's TFF grant for 2008-09 will be \$944.1 million, an increase of \$51.2 million from 2007-08.

In addition, we will receive \$26.1 million annually for the next seven years in much needed capital infrastructure funding through the Building Canada Fund. This funding of \$182.7 million, over the life of the agreement, will be allocated to projects that meet Canada's eligibility criteria by falling into one of three broad categories: growing the economy, including transportation infrastructure; clean environment, including wastewater treatment and solid waste management; and strong communities, including clean drinking water, disaster mitigation, cultural relevance, sport and tourism.

Mr. Speaker, the government is committed to consulting with all Members of this House, at the appropriate time, to determine priority projects that will provide the greatest benefit to Nunavummiut.

We are examining our existing capital plan to determine how to best reconfigure current approved capital projects to maximize the Building Canada Fund monies. This reconfiguration could allow us flexibility to move up timelines of capital projects that are priorities to the Legislative Assembly.

We know the concern of members on the need to move ahead quickly with capital projects such as new health care centres in Repulse Bay and Arctic Bay. Mr. Speaker, we are listening to the members of this legislature and we are acting. With the support of members, we are pleased to announce that these projects will commence this year.

Similarly, in the community of Sanikiluaq, there is a pressing need for a new school. We are announcing today that we are advancing funding for new school construction in Sanikiluaq so that we can move immediately from design to construction.

Qikiqtarjuaq is another community that has been patient in waiting for a new school. I am pleased to announce today that with this budget the wait of my *Annuraaqati* is over.

>> *Applause*

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): I want it on record that James Arreak is my *Annuraaqati*.

>> *Laughter*

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): New funding will be made available this year to advance this project. I look forward to joining my legislative colleagues for groundbreaking ceremonies in both of these communities in the coming months.

Mr. Speaker, responsive governments respond to community needs. Cambridge Bay is an example of a community that is poised for rapid private sector economic development. Our role as government is to ensure that the necessary infrastructure is in place to maximize growth potential. Therefore, in the community of Cambridge Bay, we are pleased to announce that the much needed new and expanded airport will commence this year.

Also, in the community of Arviat, where there are many positive indications of future economic growth, we will move ahead, to this year, funding for the design and installation of a new airport runway lighting system.

Mr. Speaker, we will also see transportation improvements in Iqaluit. Working with the city, we are prepared to commit to a road paving project which will improve the quality of life in our capital.

Our other large community is Rankin Inlet which is already the site of construction of a new jail, trade school and student residence, and will see an upgrade and replacement of their sewage treatment plant.

Mr. Speaker, this government has heard the concerns from the community of Kugluktuk regarding their drinking water and the need for a new hamlet office. Thanks to the support of the members of this legislature, these projects are moving ahead and will be completed this year.

Our High Arctic communities also deserve special recognition. Along with the Arctic Bay Health Centre I mentioned earlier, we are pleased to announce that the government office in Grise Fiord will be replaced and we will invest money this year in the planning stages of a municipal services delivery system for Resolute Bay.

Mr. Speaker, these and other projects have come to our attention because of the diligent efforts of members who make sure that this Cabinet continues to respond to community needs.

We will continue to work with this Assembly to support moving ahead these and other community specific projects. Mr. Speaker, along with counting on the support of members, we need their input to ensure that our proposed projects meet their needs.

With respect to expenditures, the government expects to spend \$1.16 billion. Of this amount, members approved \$98.3 million in capital projects in November 2007. The main estimates that we are tabling today total \$970.3 million. We have also set aside a contingency of \$89.1 million.

Spending on government programs and services in this year's budget are \$73 million more than the budget that we tabled last year. As members will recall, departmental base budgets increased by \$37 million as a result of the increase in TFF in 2007-08 to deal with forced growth.

Mr. Speaker, we will ensure that we can provide Nunavummiut with the programs and services they expect while we continue to address social and environmental challenges. At the same time, we will fully capitalize on the unprecedented economic opportunities being created in our territory.

### **Moving Forward**

Mr. Speaker, let me highlight the main parts of our plan for a more prosperous economy and healthier communities.

### **The Public Service and Nunavummiut**

Mr. Speaker, this government has always recognized that our most important resources

are our people. We understand that in order to achieve our vision for Nunavut, we must have a dedicated public service.

In recognition of the contribution from those who dedicate themselves to improving the services of the Government of Nunavut, I am pleased to announce that on April 1, 2008, our government will roll back staff housing rents to January 1, 2007 levels. Mr. Speaker, at a time when the cost of so many other necessities is increasing, this is a 20 percent rent reduction in the emerging markets of Iqaluit, Rankin Inlet, and Cambridge Bay. For all other communities, it is a 10 percent decrease.

Mr. Speaker, we also want to recognize the contribution being made by those who are growing our private housing market.

For those members of the public service not in staff housing and who either own their own homes or rent accommodation on the private market, our government will provide a housing allowance of \$400 a month per household effective April 1, 2008.

There are a number of ways this budget will support Nunavummiut and their families. For instance, we will be introducing several new tax credits that will put more money into their pockets.

Among them is a pension income credit of up to \$2,000 which will provide tax relief to senior citizens. This is an increase of \$1,000 from what was previously available. We will be amending the *Income Tax Act* in the fall 2008 legislative session. Once introduced, the credit will be retroactive to January 1, 2008.

We have also assisted our senior citizens by increasing the Senior Citizens Supplementary Benefit from \$135 per month to \$175 per month, also effective January 1, 2008.

Volunteer firefighters in Nunavut work really hard and will be able to take advantage of a tax credit of \$500 starting January 1 of this year. This tax credit recognizes the personal sacrifices and contributions of these committed members of our communities who play a pivotal role in keeping us safe.

Despite rising international fuel costs, this government, in fall 2007, recognized that Nunavummiut deserved a break from the high cost of energy, so we did not pass on an increase in the cost of heating fuel. Instead, the government, through the Petroleum Products Stabilization Fund, will provide a subsidy of \$7.4 million in a Supplementary Appropriation Bill during this sitting of the Legislative Assembly.

### **Economy**

Moving forward, Nunavut businesses and Nunavummiut will also benefit from a new Business Training Tax Credit that will encourage and reward businesses that develop the

Nunavut workforce. A credit equal up to 30 percent of eligible expenditures will be available to businesses that are based in the territory and provide qualified training.

Nunavummiut, members of the public service, and this Assembly need to work together to realize the goals in *Pinasuaqtavut*. As such, in order for this government to create a Business Training Tax Credit that fits the needs of our business sector, we will be seeking their input.

This new funding is in addition to monies currently available to offset wages of employees who are in a training program.

Another tax credit is available to all Nunavut students who may now claim a textbook tax credit to encourage and support their educational goals. This is in addition to what is currently available under our FANS program. The credit will be \$65 per month for full-time students and \$20 monthly for those studying part-time. The new credit will be effective retroactively to January 1 of this year.

Our government sees the textbook tax credit as an investment in the future of our youth and in our economy.

Mr. Speaker, we realize that the cost of doing business in Nunavut can, at times, be prohibitive. That is why this government will be introducing an Outfitters Assistance Program to support that element of the tourism sector. Mr. Speaker, we have heard of tour boat operators who, as a result of exorbitant insurance costs, cannot afford to take out paying customers to see our breathtaking coastlines.

Just as we did for our hamlets when they needed funding support to set up a self insurance program, we will do the same with tour operators.

By providing the necessary financial underpinnings to an industry specific assistance program, we will enable private businesses to focus on the delivery of their services.

To ensure that visitors to Nunavut have the best possible experience, we will continue to upgrade facilities at all of our existing parks and campgrounds. In 2008, we plan to carry on with our development plans for potential parks in the vicinity of Kugaaruk, Clyde River, and Coral Harbour.

The construction industry and new trades workers will be among the biggest beneficiaries of economic development this year as a result of our Capital Construction Program, coupled with the ongoing delivery of the Nunavut Housing Trust Project and its associated training and community capacity building components.

With the rapid development of the mining, construction and trades sectors across the territory, the need for a skilled workforce has never been greater.

The Department of Education, in conjunction with Nunavut Arctic College, will be constructing a Nunavut Trades Training Centre in Rankin Inlet which will open up a range of exciting career opportunities, such as those in the mining sector, for Nunavummiut. Construction of this much needed facility is slated for the fall of 2008.

In addition, the campus will acquire a new 12-unit student accommodation complex to meet the growing need for student family residential living to support our post-secondary students.

The government, in this budget, is providing funding of \$2.5 million to implement a number of key economic development strategies in the areas of arts and crafts, fisheries, sealing, and mining. These economic development strategies confirm this government's commitment to building a strong and vibrant economy.

### **Inuit Societal Values**

Of all of the important work we have lined up for the coming year, none is more important than our government's commitment to build a stronger cultural foundation based on Inuit societal values.

We will continue to invest in the Inuit societal values' pilot projects, strengthening the role of elders in the community wellness process and addressing social wellness issues. Our ultimate goal is to improve community wellness by establishing cooperation, sensitivity, and understanding between community services agencies and groups using an *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* approach in dealing with social problems.

### **Conclusion**

Mr. Speaker, with the support of this legislature, we can achieve the social and economic goals outlined in this budget.

If we stick to the goals and priorities outlined in this budget, we will continue to make measurable progress on our journey to self-sufficiency and self-determination.

I realize that there will still be obstacles on the path ahead. There is no question that we have a lot of work to do. It will require both patience and perseverance to see our vision realized. But patience and perseverance define Inuit; it is how we have survived throughout time. No one should doubt that we are well on our way to securing the future we all want. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Tapardjuk, for your Budget Address. Members, before we take a break, I would also like to welcome some people in the Gallery.



(interpretation ends) Members, it is my great pleasure to recognize in the Gallery today the Members of the Senate Standing Committee on Rules, Procedures and the Rights of Parliament. Joining us today are the Honourable Senators David Smith, Fern Robichaud, Bert Brown and Willie Adams.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** They are accompanied by their committee staff, Blair Armitage and Jack Stilborn, and also their interpreters, who are in our booths today providing French interpretation.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Members, the Senators met with a number of our own members earlier today to discuss the issue of the use of aboriginal languages in legislative proceedings, and I am very glad to report to the House that the discussions were very productive.

(interpretation) Thank you. I apologize; I forgot to welcome Mary, who is the wife of Senator Adams, to the Gallery.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Members, we'll take a short 10-minute break and then we'll return within ten minutes. Thank you.

>>House recessed at 14:32 and resumed at 14:48

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Members, for coming back. Going back to the Orders of the Day. Item 3. Ministers' Statements. Item 4. Members' Statements. Member for Arviat, Mr. Alagalak.

#### **Item 4: Members' Statements**

##### **Member's Statement 285 – 2(4): Arviat Elders' Centre**

**Mr. Alagalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to bring to your attention a situation that is causing quite a lot of concern and discomfort in the community of Arviat, especially in regards to our elders and the situations they face as elders.

Mr. Speaker, the place for the elders, as it is called in our community, is the Arviat Elders' Centre has always been a nice, peaceful place where elders can go to live in a safe and comfortable environment, and receive the level of care that they need. Those were the objectives in building this centre, according to the government, but there have been some unhappy circumstances that have occurred in the centre, mainly due to the fact that there are no other facilities for our elders in our community.

Especially whenever something occurs at the centre, such as long term disabled elders or those with terminal illness or other age related illnesses and most of these elders who require care are then placed in the centre. Usually government agencies refer the elders to the facility as there are no other available and this is where they are placed and generally this factors in the fact that they only have a short time left.

Although the other elders could be trying to cope with the situation as best as they can, by visiting their friends and relatives, there are not very many places for the elders to visit and it seems that the elders are just being offloaded with problem after problem. It seems now that the centre is no longer one for elders, but one for terminally ill elders. Quite a few have passed away in the centre since its inception.

Mr. Speaker, this situation has been very distressing for many of our elders who reside in the facility and it seems to cast a dark spell on the centre. When you are that old, any further mental anguish can cause illness, such as when you have arthritic knees and cannot get around much and you are kind of stuck at the centre. All of these factors contribute towards the early deaths, so it has to be resolved.

The elders' centres should be separate from centres for terminally ill...

**Speaker** (interpretation): Sorry, Mr. Alagalak. Your time is up. If you haven't finished, you could ask your colleagues for unanimous consent to conclude your statement. If you wanted to ask, Mr. Alagalak.

**Mr. Alagalak** (interpretation): I would like to ask my colleagues for unanimous consent to conclude my statement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Alagalak. The member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Please proceed, Mr. Alagalak.

**Mr. Alagalak**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) Nunavut needs to be able to provide the appropriate level and type of care to its residents and separate facilities for cancer ridden people.

As an example, with our Arviat Elders Centre being the only facility and our health centre with no available long term care beds, it really affects all the families and people who require assistance or nurses day and night and I believe that we should have a facility where those who are terminally ill can receive the care they need to reach the end of their days in comfort and dignity.

In our community, Arviat, we have many elders today, and this elders facility is to assist our elders who require assistance and our elders deserve to live happily and comfortably without unnecessary suffering and sadness. It is a matter of great concern to our elders. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Alagalak. Members' Statements. Member for Iqaluit Centre, Mr. Tootoo.

**Member's Statement 286 – 2(4): Fairness for Nunavut Fishers**

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to draw the attention of this House to an issue of fairness for Nunavut fisheries.

Mr. Speaker, as you know extremely well from your service as the MLA for Pangnirtung, the development of Nunavut's fishing industry is a vital component of our strategy to build our territorial economy.

Mr. Speaker, the Nunavut Economic Development Strategy indicates that the fishing industry "provides more than 300 seasonal jobs and contributes almost \$9 million annually to the economy in wages and royalties. Much of this income is generated by the shrimp and turbot fisheries. The potential exists for these benefits to be much higher. Fisheries directly adjacent to our Territory have a landed value in excess of \$100 million. If we were to acquire ownership of 85 per cent of this resource – a target we are pursuing with the federal government – major economic gains can be achieved."

Mr. Speaker, I was shocked and outraged to learn this week that the federal Minister of Fisheries and Oceans has made a decision to transfer 1,900 metric tonnes of offshore turbot quota to a non-Nunavut fishing interest.

**Some Hon. Members:** Shame, shame.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Mr. Speaker, I am confident that you will agree that this unilateral decision is utterly unacceptable.

Mr. Speaker, the Baffin Fisheries Coalition and NTI have joined together in calling on the federal minister to reverse his decision and comply with the provisions of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement, which requires that such decisions be taken in consultation with the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that it is vital that our government state loudly and clearly for the public record its position on the issue.

Mr. Speaker, the Standing Senate Committee on Fisheries and Oceans, of which our Honourable Mr. Adams here is a member of, has recently launched an important Arctic study. I am pleased to note that the Chairman of the Senate Committee has publicly stated that the committee "wants to see if northern fisheries can build on local research and provide more employment."

Mr. Speaker, at this time, I would like to ask for unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. The member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Please proceed, Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker and colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, I urge our government to take all necessary steps to advance Nunavut's interests in this area. I encourage our Minister of Economic Development and Transportation to make a submission to the Senate Committee and to directly lobby his federal counterpart on this matter.

Mr. Speaker, it often appears that every time we try to take a step forward towards greater economic self-sufficiency, Ottawa pushes us two steps back.

Mr. Speaker, this practice must end, and I will continue to work with those who are fighting for equality for Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Members' Statements. Member for Iqaluit West, Mr. Premier.

#### **Member's Statement 287 – 2(4): NEU Holding Meeting Outside of Nunavut**

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Imagine just the thought of an uproar that would follow an announcement that the Cabinet was meeting in Yellowknife, or that our legislature was sitting in Winnipeg. Imagine what would happen if we tried to justify such a lamebrain idea by saying that we just couldn't find accommodations in Nunavut.

**Some Hon. Members:** Shame, shame.

**Hon. Paul Okalik:** Well, Mr. Speaker, it's exactly what the leader of the Nunavut Employees Union is doing with the membership dues of Nunavut. Perhaps, he enjoys the southern comforts but I want to say for the record that when I have held meetings in communities with limited accommodations, I would have the privilege and joy of staying with family. Feeble excuses should not be used as justification to leave our territory and deprive our communities of an opportunity to host Nunavut-wide events.

**An Hon. Member:** Hear, hear.

**Hon. Paul Okalik:** Rather than running off to Winnipeg, the leadership of the NEU should show some level of responsibility and put the interest of the membership of Nunavut first.

Mr. Speaker, do we really need to teach the leader of the NEU that spending of Nunavut's membership fees in Nunavut directly benefits Nunavummiut and their members? Mr. Speaker, I couldn't believe the comments of the NEU President when he was desperately trying to justify withholding money from the community of Baker Lake in favour of Winnipeg.

**Some Hon. Members:** Shame, shame.

**Hon. Paul Okalik:** As you will recall, Mr. Speaker, the community of Baker Lake provided a wonderful reception and was a superb host to the Legislative Assembly when we convened in spring of 2003.

Mr. Speaker, I hope, for the sake of the rampant fall of the NEU, that their so-called leadership regains its sanity and put the interest of their members and communities ahead of their own.

Mr. Speaker, the Nunavut Employees Union needs to hold its convention in Nunavut or consider changing its name. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Premier. Members' Statements. Member for Baker Lake, Mr. Simailak.

**Member's Statement 288 – 2(4): Passing of Vera Pudnak, Luke Tunguak and Elizabeth Tunnuq**

**Mr. Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to inform the House that a lot of people have died in the past week in Baker Lake. On Thursday, Vera Pudnak died, who was a cousin of my wife's. She was very supportive of my wife either by telephone or in person. I send my condolences.

On Sunday morning, Luke Tunguak passed away in Baker Lake. He is originally from there and knew the land very well. He taught a lot of people in Baker Lake and he was also one of the people who made the *Qajaq* in the traditional Inuit way.

Monday morning, Elizabeth Tunnuq also passed away. She was an elderly woman and I really enjoyed her friendship and her support. For many years, this lady taught the youth of Baker Lake through the Keewatin Inuit Association and through the Youth Department on Inuit Culture and Values.

Again, Luke Tunguak, whom I miss very much and enjoyed extremely spending time with while I was a child; I used to go fishing with him when I recently got married up to the time that I got married, and I really enjoyed him because he helped me a lot.

With all of the loss of the people in a very short interval, we send them our condolences. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Simailak. Members' Statements. Member for Rankin Inlet North, Mr. Curley.

### **Member's Statement 289 – 2(4): Misleading Information on Polar Bears**

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to mention an issue, Mr. Speaker. First of all, I would like to congratulate the Minister of Finance for delivering his first Budget Address, especially for delivering it in Inuktitut.

During the 21st century, we are now facing difficulties worldwide with the issue of global warming which is growing at an alarming rate. With the Inuit societal values, we hear exactly the opposite of the teachings that we were taught on *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit*. These people that we hear from are instant experts on wildlife, about the habitat, and about the environment. They are instant experts in everything surrounding the northern communities. There are many instant experts at the time when we are experiencing global warming in the arctic.

What we're hearing is the complete reversal of Inuit societal values. The emphasis now is that Inuit should not be consulted as long as they have a computer and are backed by organizations like Greenpeace and millions of dollars.

Just a few days ago, I heard that there's so much expertise on polar bears that I saw a picture of a polar bear on an iceberg and the title was, 'This bear has nowhere to go,' and that created a lot of sympathy from the global world out there.

I saw Al Gore on television making a statement to the world that they see a polar bear 100 miles from the coast just swimming in the middle of the ocean like it was something new, even though it's something that the Inuit have known for thousands of years.

>>*Laughter*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Your time is up. If you would like to ask for unanimous consent to conclude your statement, you may do so, Mr. Curley.

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. The member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Please proceed, Mr. Curley.

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

What I'm trying to say here is that the animals, Mr. Speaker... this is one issue that we don't talk about anymore. They just see the polar bear on top of an iceberg and he has no place to go, but what the global world is not hearing is that the polar bear will be fine as long as there's food to eat, as long as there are seals, and as long as there are seal pups being born.

I don't want the Senators to believe that the polar bear population is becoming extinct. It's time that the Inuit stand up in Nunavut, in Nunavik, and in the other territories about the realities of our environment and the polar bears. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Member for Rankin Inlet South and Whale Cove, Ms. Brown.

#### **Member's Statement 290 – 2(4): Jordin Tootoo Signs New Contract**

**Hon. Levinia Brown** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, I would like to send my condolences to the residents of Baker Lake. Secondly, I would like to congratulate the Minister of Finance for his Budget Address.

The main reason why I rose in this House is to inform the members about something that we were very proud of. This individual is from Nunavut, Jordin Tootoo, and he is very well-known. Because of his great skill in hockey, he has signed a \$1.95 million contract for two years and we are very proud of that fact. If you had seen the hockey game last night, he scored. 'He shoots, he scores.' He did score last night.

He is a very young Nunavummiut. My colleague from Rankin Inlet and I watched him growing up in Rankin Inlet and he has many friends. He is number 22 because his last name is Tootoo. He used to wear number 22, and again, I am sure that he is a role model for the youth of Nunavut. I urge the youth to pursue their dreams, whether to become hockey players, or seamstresses, anything. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Brown. Members' Statements. Member for Kugluktuk, Mr. Evyagotailak.

**Member's Statement 291 – 2(4): Conditions at the Kugluktuk High School**

**Mr. Evyagotailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to once again express my concern at the slow progress being made to improve the conditions at the Kugluktuk high school.

Mr. Speaker, I am sure that you and the Minister of Education will recall that on October 30, 2007, I tabled a number of photographs showing the poor conditions at the Kugluktuk high school.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, the list of problems is long and even though temporary steps have been taken to address some of them, nothing has been done to bring the school's overall condition back to what it should be.

Mr. Speaker, the Kugluktuk high school will continue to deteriorate if complete and proper maintenance is not done. I understand that a number of painting and repair projects are planned for the summer break. I would like to encourage the minister and his staff to ensure that the entire building gets a full overhaul during that time.

Mr. Speaker, I am very glad that our students continue to attend school, even though some of the broken windows still have not been replaced.

It says a lot about our staff and students that they continue to work and study hard despite the less-than-perfect conditions. They deserve better. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Evyagotailak. Members' Statements. Member for Cambridge Bay, Mr. Peterson.

**Member's Statement 292 – 2(4): Northern Residents Deduction**

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to again address the issue of the federal Northern Residents Deduction.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to begin by thanking you for tabling a copy of your correspondence to the federal Minister of Finance in which you drew his attention to the formal motion that was adopted without opposition by the Legislative Assembly last November.

I would also like to take this opportunity to again express my appreciation to the Honourable Member for Rankin Inlet South-Whale Cove for having seconded my motion last fall.

Mr. Speaker, the upcoming federal budget will be introduced next week. Although I am not optimistic that we will hear any announcements of major changes to the Northern



Residents Deduction, I believe that it is important for Nunavut to continue its lobbying efforts on this issue in partnership with our sister territories and non-governmental organizations such as the Nunavut Economic Forum and Nunavut Tunngavik.

I would also like to acknowledge the work undertaken by the Member of Parliament for the Western Arctic on this issue. He has presented petitions on this issue and posed important questions in the House of Commons.

Mr. Speaker, yesterday in this House, my colleague from the High Arctic rose in his place to pose important questions concerning the impact that \$100-a-barrel-oil will have on our communities and constituents.

I was disappointed to note that in a recent federal response to a question posed in the House of Commons, the federal Department of Finance stated, and I quote, “since the introduction of the new system of Northern Benefits ...the gap in the cost of living between northern communities such as Whitehorse and Yellowknife and Canada as a whole has narrowed.”

Mr. Speaker, it is essential that Ottawa recognizes that the cost of living in Nunavut and the smaller communities of the north is not getting any cheaper.

Measuring our cost of living by just looking at the two largest urban centres in the north, both of which enjoy road access to southern Canada, is the wrong approach.

It is also wrong for the federal government to continue to view the Northern Residents Deduction as a tool simply to attract skilled labour to move north. I believe that it should be looked at as a component of a broader strategy to assist our constituents whose lifelong residency in the north helps the nation as a whole to exert and maintain its sovereignty.

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

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. The member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Please proceed, Mr. Peterson.

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, a different federal department, Indian and Northern Affairs, recently undertook a survey of food prices in 28 isolated northern communities.

This study concluded, and I quote, “In most isolated communities, the Revised Northern Food Basket, which would provide a nutritious diet for a family of four for one week, costs between \$350 and \$450. The same basket costs between \$195 and \$225 in southern Canada, Yellowknife, Whitehorse (in 2005) and Happy Valley-Goose Bay.”

Mr. Speaker, I find it outrageous that on one hand, the federal government argues that it doesn't need to increase the Northern Residents Deduction because the cost of living is not so bad in our only two urban centres North of 60. On the other hand, it acknowledges that the cost of feeding a family in our smaller communities can be twice as expensive than it is down south.

Mr. Speaker, the motion that this House considered and passed last year proposed a practical and reasonable approach to the issue of how to help our constituents make ends meet.

Mr. Speaker, now, we need Ottawa to listen. I thank all members for their support, and I look forward to continuing to work with my colleagues on this issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Members' Statements. Member for Tunnunig, Mr. Arvaluk.

#### **Member's Statement 293 – 2(4): Need for Pond Inlet Dock**

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Welcome, Willie and the Senators. I was really happy to hear the Minister of Finance giving us a fantastic report.

The Premier had written a letter to the Hamlet Council of Pond Inlet concerning the port, HTA and the Government of Nunavut had stated that Iqaluit will be getting a bridge possibly this summer, and the Premier had also stated that in his letter. I will be asking questions a little bit later on to the Minister of Finance.

The dock in Pond Inlet has to be done very quickly. There will be a mine starting up near Pond Inlet and the fisheries that come by ships dock in the ocean nearby. I can't remember the name of the ship but once they're done, they either go to Nuuk, Greenland, or to Newfoundland to empty their ships once they are done fishing in the arctic waters.

Once there is a dock and a port in Pond Inlet, then they will be able to go to Pond Inlet because they do fish in the waters near the Pond Inlet area. I want to know if there has been any planning done; if the funding has already been set aside from the federal government. I will be asking this question later on. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Members' Statements. Member for High Arctic, Mr. Barnabas.

**Member's Statement 294 – 2(4): Damages in Grise Fiord Due to High Winds**

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to state that the government officials and staff have prepared their business plans, and they know that there are high winds that do happen in our communities in the High Arctic.

Grise Fiord is the furthest community in Nunavut as you are all aware. We are live on television and all of the communities can see us. The community of Grise Fiord will be seeing this a little bit later on because they're a little bit late in setting up the television, their communications system is down and their internet is down, so they will have to fix the systems.

Some of the boats have been broken because of the high winds in the community of Grise Fiord. Recently, Resolute Bay had an earthquake of 4 on the Richter scale, as you are all aware, and if the earthquake was a little bit stronger, then things would have been quite disastrous in that community.

For those reasons, the community of Grise Fiord is also quite far from anywhere else so things are going to be very expensive to bring in some of the equipment and the television systems so that the people can watch us live in their communities. These are going to be very expensive to set up.

For one person using their own money to go south, it would be over \$3,000. For this reason, Mr. Speaker, I will be directing my questions to the Minister of Community and Government Services. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. Members' Statements. Member for Uqqummiut, Mr. Arreak.

**Member's Statement 295 – 2(4): Lost Opportunity for Jobs at Clyde River**

**Mr. Arreak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We were shown an example by the Premier of communities that are non-decentralized and I would also like to give you an example of how we are situated in our community.

There are many people in our communities, even in double-digits, don't have any job opportunities. There's also 100 percent Inuit owned businesses in our community and the young people were going to be informed about job opportunities towards higher management positions.

I also want you to see an example that millions of dollars that would have been used to create job opportunities for Nunavummiut has not happened. These are true facts that I'm telling you about.

In Clyde River, there was supposed to be a search and rescue project in the community but it was cancelled. They have been sent down to the south and we have seen this in the media. There were about 60 to 90 jobs that were taken away from us.

The community of Clyde River is being blamed for being unorganized for these things but that's not the case. There's also a contractor that exists in our community. So I would like you to see that picture and I will be asking that question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arreak. Members' Statements. Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Kattuk.

### **Member's Statement 296 – 2(4): Migration of Polar Bears**

**Mr. Kattuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When Mr. Curley was talking about polar bears, he wanted the support of members pertaining to the polar bear issues in the arctic. I'm also aware of the same situation.

These days, I think I know much more than Al Gore about our environment and the climate change. I also know that the polar bears are not in one spot; they travel all over the land and the waters.

What I know and what I have seen in the Nunavik area in Northern Quebec, Mr. Speaker, in Kuujjuaraapik, which has never been visited by a polar bear, now, are getting into those communities. They're not in one spot all the time; they move around and migrate everywhere. They also came into Sanikiluaq by water when there was no ice very far from inland.

The polar bears, at times, look like they're in one spot but they're not. I was seeing polar bears all over the place when I was flow edge hunting in my community. What I'm saying is that we know our environment. What I would like to say to the people out there that don't know anything about our environment, "Stop working on our polar bears." Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Kattuk. Item 4. Members' Statements. If there are no more, Item 5. Returns to Oral Questions. Item 6. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Rankin Inlet South and Whale Cove, Ms. Brown.

### **Item 6: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery**

**Hon. Levinia Brown** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize a couple, Willie Adams and his wife Mary. Willie has known me since I was a child when I was attending school in Churchill, Manitoba. He has lived in Rankin Inlet, so he

is representing Rankin Inlet as a Senator in Ottawa. I know his family very well and he is also a friend of my husband's, so I'm grateful that they're friends.

I forgot some of the names of the Senators. I would also like to recognize them as our visitors to this House. I would also like to recognize my friend, Janet. I welcome everyone to the Gallery. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Brown. Welcome to the Gallery. Item 7. Oral Questions. Member for Tunnunig... I'm sorry.

I was going to also make a Speaker's Caution. Before we proceed with Oral Questions, I wish to remind all members of the importance of correct parliamentary form during our proceedings.

As members are aware, questions and answers must go through the Chair. Members should refrain from the use of the word, "You." Members should, instead, refer to "The Minister" or "The Member."

This will assist your chair in maintaining order, and contribute to the decorum of the House.

Thank you. Item 7. Oral Questions. Member for Tunnunig, Mr. Arvaluk.

### **Item 7: Oral Questions**

#### **Question 367 – 2(4): Portion of \$242 Million for Community Docks**

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll try and be very aware of your caution.

I would like to ask the Minister of Finance as per my Member's Statement that I made earlier. He probably recalls and knows that the Liberal Government introduced \$40 million to be used for marine infrastructure in Nunavut. However, they were defeated before that came about.

Following my Member's Statement, I would like to ask a question. The \$242 million that is being transferred from the federal government to the Government of Nunavut, is it going to be used for docks? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. The question is directed to the Minister of Finance, Minister Tapardjuk.

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. From my understanding, are they going to use the \$242 million for ports in Nunavut? No. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Your first supplementary, Mr. Arvaluk.

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It was stated in *Nunatsiaq News* that the bridge at the Sylvia Grinnell River will be built this summer among other projects such as runway upgrades. Were those written in the media without consulting with the government first? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Minister of Finance, Minister Tapardjuk.

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The member asked if the \$242 million was going to be used for docks and I replied that it will not. However, it will be divided amongst different things and this will be handled by the Department Community and Government Services.

If he wants to ask questions with regards to docks, the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation is responsible for that and would be in a better position to respond.

The \$242 million that he mentioned will be managed by CGS. I understand what his question is: will the \$242 million be used for docks? No. That was my response because that \$242 million will not be used just for docks; it will be used for different things. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Your second supplementary, Mr. Arvaluk.

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Maybe if I ask another question to the Minister of Finance. I didn't ask if the entire \$242 million would be used for docks; I asked if part of that funding would be used. I think I have the opportunity to ask now: has the \$242 million already been planned for what it will be used for? Is it for the planning of the bridge at the Sylvia Grinnell River? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Minister of Finance, Minister Tapardjuk.

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In my Budget Address, I stated that we want to work with all of the members when we are making plans because it will be handled by the Department of Community and Government Services. With regards to the funding, we clearly identified that we will have to revisit the Five-Year Capital Plan to determine how we can better plan it.

With regards to the docks, the Minister responsible for DFO would be in a better position to respond, but as I stated earlier, we haven't made any plans on how we will spend that funding as we will need some feedback from Members of this House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Your final supplementary, Mr. Arvaluk.

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Legislative Assembly will most likely sit in the springtime. If we have a sitting then, will there be any planning done before springtime, with our participation, on how they will divide that funding for capital projects? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Minister of Finance, Minister Tapardjuk.

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have been dealing with the funding for docking facilities for some time now and the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation is responsible for that.

As we are in the planning stage, we will have to refer to the Five-Year Capital Plan. We will have to consult with the departments and with our colleagues, and we will follow the usual procedure for capital projects.

We will be given an opportunity, but as it is right now, I cannot say exactly what that funding will be used for because we are still in the planning stages. We will have to revisit the capital budget that will be approved and I know it's going to be quite a task but we will definitely start doing that, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Oral Questions. Member for Rankin Inlet North, Mr. Curley.

### **Question 368 – 2(4): Residential Schools**

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Education.

Mr. Speaker, a number of Nunavummiut who attended residential schools, whether they went to Iqaluit, Yellowknife, or Fort Churchill, are now facing difficulties in claiming their common experience payments because of lost or missing school records, or they can't find their information. That's what the federal government is saying.

While I recognize that the Government of Nunavut does not have the jurisdictional responsibility for administering the residential school settlement process, I believe that we have a moral responsibility to do what we can to assist former students wherever possible.

Can the minister tell the House today, in detail, what steps the Department of Education is taking to work with its counterparts in the NWT, Manitoba and other provinces to help former residential school students to locate their records so that they can obtain the compensation to which they are entitled? Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister of Education, Minister Picco.

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The member is correct. It's the federal government's responsibility on the residential school settlement program. However, we do believe we have a role to play in Nunavut. We have been contacted through the minister's office to provide assistance, in particular, for example, at the Churchill Vocational School, to help provide records and so on. We have done that.

We have helped facilitate information flow between students that have contacted our office through the Department of Education and through the minister's office, and helped them receive the information that was needed so they can actually qualify or quantify their case. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Your first supplementary, Mr. Curley.

**Mr. Curley:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just wanted to ask so that the information is clear that even though some information has been found, according to the federal government, the first year of their attendance is found but the second and third years are missing, but that's a little hard to believe, Mr. Speaker. They're probably not willing to pay the students and so on.

My first supplementary is that it has come to my attention that a number of students who attended the Churchill Vocational Centre are facing difficulties in obtaining sufficient evidence of their attendance to claim their common experience payment. Can the minister commit to me and to this House that he will communicate this concern to his counterpart in Winnipeg and work towards addressing this issue? Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister of Education, Minister Picco.

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The common experience payment for residential school survivors has been facilitated through the federal government.

What we have done and what the federal government has done, because of the issues raised by the member and by other people over the last several months, is that they have actually, not watered down, but they have actually made it easier to prove that you were actually a student in a school. So for example, Mr. Speaker, if you can provide a copy of a yearbook where your picture was there, you have anecdotal information from other people that you were a student with who will attest that you were actually in the school and so on. So they have tried to move in that way.



From our office, what we have done is when requests have been made to the department and to the minister's office, we have also contacted the other jurisdictions, in this case, the jurisdiction of Manitoba, to make sure and to ensure, where possible, we're able to help the student provide the information that they were actually a student at the school.

Mr. Speaker, I can say with some confidence that we have not been in a position yet where we haven't been able to provide that information and help provide that information so that a student could not get the payment that was due to them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Your second supplementary, Mr. Curley.

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are a lot of former students who need assistance and they don't have access to libraries and such. I believe the federal government or governments have them in archives and some of those former students cannot obtain lawyers; I think they can be helped by the minister. Maybe if they can provide an affidavit or if my name was changed; those are the obstacles that they are facing.

Can the minister tell me what assistance is available for those, maybe along with the assistance of NTI, because they have a timeline before the expiration date? (interpretation ends) Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister of Education, Minister Picco.

**Hon. Ed. Picco**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, we don't administer the program. What we're suggesting is that if there are Nunavut residents who have had problems having facilitation put in place so that they can actually apply for the program and have been refused because they haven't had the backup documentation proving that they were actually in the given school, then we will help and assist them to get that information where we can.

The system is not so onerous that you would have to hire a lawyer. What the program calls for on the common experience payment is proof that you actually attended that school and they have, as I said earlier, tried to make it not as onerous so that it's easier to facilitate and to apply.

Again, we would like to thank the member for raising the question and we can get it out in this forum that if there are individuals in Nunavut who have attended a residential school, who have had problems getting the information that they need, they can contact the Department of Education and contact the minister's office. We provide services in Inuktitut and English and we can help them try to secure that information so that they can actually get the payment they deserve and they're due from our federal partner. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Your final supplementary, Mr. Curley.

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): I thank the minister. We understand that this is the responsibility of the federal government but they're our constituents. It's true that many former residential school students have proof that they went to that residential school, whether it's in Iqaluit or Yellowknife. (interpretation ends) There's proof that they went there.

But the onus is on the federal government to provide that record. The federal minister has to be told that his officials are either dictating or saying that they're amending the record to saying, "We only found partial records that you attended one year."

So I believe, Mr. Speaker, it's the responsibility of the minister to communicate these problems to the federal minister and he's in the best position to do that. Will he do so? Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister of Education, Minister Picco.

**Hon. Ed. Picco**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, I thank the member for raising the issue. As the member knows and the members know, we do have a federal MP and this is a federal matter. So through the good auspices of Ms. Karetak-Lindell, I'm sure that that type of logistical as well as financial and administrative help that the students may need we may be able to facilitate.

On this side, from the Government of Nunavut's side, when we have been contacted, we have been able to facilitate and help. And again, our door is open to be able to help any Nunavut resident who has a common experience payment due to them to help them get that information.

But as the member has indicated, that's a federal responsibility. I will take it up with my federal colleague to ensure that where there are cases that there are discrepancies, that we will try to help our residents and we have been able to do that over the last several months. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit Centre, Mr. Tootoo.

### **Question 369 – 2(4): Fair Fishing Quotas for Nunavut**

**Mr. Tootoo**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I would like to direct my question to the Minister responsible for Economic Development and Transportation.

Mr. Speaker, in my Member's Statement today, I raised an issue of the latest federal outrage with respect to fairness of Nunavut's fishing industry.

Mr. Speaker, I understand that the stakeholders in Nunavut met with the DFO officials on February 13 of this year. I had been informed earlier that prior to that meeting, no

transfers, etcetera, or anything would be made until discussions occurred with Nunavut stakeholders. They were told that that was the purpose of what that meeting was going to be on the 13th. Instead, DFO officials came up here and told them that they had already transferred that quota to southern interests.

I also understand, Mr. Speaker, that a memo that was sent from DFO to the affected parties was copied to the Regional Directors for DFO in Newfoundland and Labrador, and also to the Maritime region but it wasn't even copied to the Central and Atlantic regions, which would have allowed us to be aware of this at the time it happened.

Mr. Speaker, I think down south, they've almost called that... I understand the Minister responsible for Fisheries and Oceans is from Newfoundland and that's where I understand these quotas were allocated to. Down south, I think they would call that 'port barrelling,' or 'fish netting,' but there's definitely something fishy going on here.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister tell the House if he has picked up the phone and contacted his federal counterpart on this matter, and if not, why not? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Minister Netser.

**Hon. Patterk Netser:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wrote a letter to the minister from the federal government on January 29 and expressed to him our concerns over what he wanted to do. I had asked that we, from Nunavut, be given the first right of refusal but he did not do that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Your first supplementary, Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understand that part of the concerns that were raised is that the Department of Fisheries and Oceans had told the stakeholders in Nunavut, in the fishing industry, that they would be consulted prior to any transfers taking place.

Can the minister confirm if he checked with the officials at the Department of Fisheries and Oceans to see if they had in fact had those consultations prior to that decision being made, or did they just consider contacting his office or his department as sufficient? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Minister Netser.

**Hon. Patterk Netser:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My officials, on February 13, were in contact with the department's officials in Ottawa and they were stressing the fact that we were very concerned over the proposed allocations.

Mr. Speaker, we were just as shocked as the industry was when we heard that they had been allocated to a different entity. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Your second supplementary, Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The minister and I can understand his concern on this; I guess we should be getting used to being treated like that from Ottawa.

He had indicated, I believe earlier, that he wrote to the federal minister on January 29 and a decision was made on January 30. When did he first become aware that this transfer was going to be made? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Minister Netser.

**Hon. Patterk Netser:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe it was on February 15 that we had heard that the minister had transferred the allocation to a different company. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Your final supplementary, Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm just wondering if the minister and the department will join in with the other stakeholders in asking the federal minister to reverse his decision and consult and look at, at least, having the opportunity for the fishing industry in Nunavut to have a chance. Hopefully, we can get our fair share of quotas without having to go through this mess.

Will he join with NTI, the Baffin Fisheries Coalition, and the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board, who are all upset about this, in voicing their concern and pushing his federal counterpart to reverse their erroneous decision? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Minister Netser.

**Hon. Patterk Netser:** Mr. Speaker, I was looking at the time, my apologies. Mr. Speaker, I indicated that I had written a letter to the Minister of DFO on the proposed allocations and by doing that, we believe we are on the side with the affected parties.

Mr. Speaker, I expect to be meeting with the federal minister very shortly and we are working quietly behind the scenes into making our voices heard over the affected allocations. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Oral Questions. Member for Cambridge Bay, Mr. Peterson.

**Question 370 – 2(4): Multi-Year Funding for Cambridge Bay Wellness Centre**

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Health and Social Services.

Mr. Speaker, I have risen in the House before to raise awareness of the issues affecting the Cambridge Bay Wellness Centre as well as highlight their many excellent programs and services.

Mr. Speaker, one of the greatest issues affecting the wellness centre is the lack of a secure source of multi-year funding from the Government of Nunavut. My question for the minister: can the minister tell the House if her department has made any progress towards developing a multi-year funding instrument that can fund the wellness centre? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Minister of Health, Minister Aglukkaq.

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That's a very good question and I am very happy he asked me the question because it gives me an opportunity to update the members where we are at with that particular file.

I have had discussions with the federal minister, Minister Clement, in regard to the federal funding that we distribute on their behalf and I am pleased to advise the Members of this House that there's progress in that. We are looking at using the federal funding to develop two pilot projects in Nunavut to address the multi-year funding issues of not just Cambridge Bay but also Clyde River and working to iron out some of those challenges faced by small organizations in accessing federal funding that we administer on their behalf.

So within this month, I hope to have an announcement released with the Minister of Health Canada, Minister Clement, on those initiatives. At the same time, Mr. Speaker, I had a conversation with the manager of the wellness centre this morning in regard to that issue and they are still on side to be involved in assisting us to streamline some of that process, and the Hamlet of Cambridge Bay is on board in working with us to address those issues. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Your first supplementary, Mr. Peterson.

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that answer; that's very good news on the federal funding front.

I know the regional Inuit associations have had multi-year agreements in place with Human Resources Development Canada for their employment training programs for Nunavut for many years. They have also multi-year agreements with Indian and Northern

Affairs Canada funding community economic development organizations. So they have some experience in that area.

My question for the minister; you were talking about the federal sources of funding: can the minister tell the House what Government of Nunavut policies or regulations exist that prevent the use of multi-year funding agreements with Nunavut organizations which provide essential services that the Government of Nunavut cannot provide? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Minister of Health, Minister Aglukkaq.

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Department of Health and Social Services provides essential services as per its mandate and those are described through the business plan and main estimates process of this government.

In terms of other initiatives that are community based, those programs are currently funded through what we call Vote 4 Funding. The \$14 million that we administer on behalf of Health Canada goes to various communities based on proposals. This is an area where the pilots come in.

What we're trying to do is there are about 15 programs that total about \$14 million that we administer on behalf of the federal government that we're trying to channel to various communities to address their program needs based on community issues. The pilot projects that we're working on will be to try and assist those communities in the pilots that will be used to assist other communities in the development of their own wellness plans as per our Public Health Strategy.

Yes, various organizations receive base multi-year funding. What we're talking about is that the territorial government receives those but how can we better distribute that funding to community based organizations that do not have the capacity to, on an annual basis, write proposals? So this is a pilot that we're working on to address, and hopefully, through the work and in partnership with the Municipality of Cambridge Bay, we'll be able to address and assist other hamlets. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Your second supplementary, Mr. Peterson.

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that information. Mr. Speaker, I have met with the wellness centre directors over the years, and formerly, when I was a mayor, I was quite familiar with all of the problems of keeping a wellness centre operational. We know that they contribute to vital services to our communities.

When you have your staff writing 15 to 18 proposals a year and doing all of the accounting for all of the various organizations, it becomes quite a stressful situation. Of course, they probably don't know from one year to the next if they're going to remain

employed if proposals aren't written, and if they aren't approved, and if they aren't accounted for. So I certainly hope the minister is successful with the pilot projects.

Mr. Speaker, the wellness centres, where they exist and I think there are only four or five in Nunavut, play a vital role in helping people with their problems.

My question for the minister: can the minister commit to using this information for the pilot projects and other information they have gathered; can she commit to developing a Wellness Centre Strategy that would guide the development and funding of wellness centres in all Nunavut communities that require one? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Minister of Health, Minister Aglukkaq.

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That's exactly why we have initiated this whole pilot project piece. As well, the Health Integration Initiative recommendations are just that, and one of the pieces in the health integration recommendations is to streamline how we deliver programs at the community level that are funded through NTI, the territorial government, or community based organizations.

One of the challenges we are tasked with trying to address, as per those recommendations, is the funding issue. That's one small piece, but in addition to that, I tabled in this House the first ever Nunavut Public Health Strategy that would be used to develop community based 'Keeping People Well' initiatives and the funding is part of that but the two initiatives are parallel. Once we have that information, we will be able to help other communities put forth their funding piece.

So the two communities that have been discussed in regard to the site of the pilot projects have been Cambridge Bay, and that one functions under the Hamlet of Cambridge Bay, and the Clyde River project functions through a society. So using those two models, we hope to iron out some of the funding application process and guidelines that are a challenge to them in the hopes that we can use that for other communities in the development of their wellness plan. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Your final supplementary, Mr. Peterson.

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that answer. I certainly wish the minister a lot of success with that pilot project; I think it could have tremendous benefits for Nunavut if it succeeds.

Mr. Speaker, last September, the Cabinet announced that they directed staff to plan for an alcohol abuse treatment facility. The Hamlet of Cambridge Bay expressed their interest last October about expanding their wellness centre to become a centre of excellence, including an alcohol treatment centre for Nunavut offering their treatment programs and services to all Nunavummiut.

My question for the minister: the Department of Health and Social Services, I understand, is the lead department on that proposal or initiative; can she tell me if the department is reviewing the hamlet's offers, and if so, when might they receive a Government of Nunavut decision? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Minister of Health, Ms. Aglukkaq.

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I received a copy of that letter from the Mayor of Cambridge Bay and we are reviewing that. I think the member will also be pleased to see that one of the priorities of the Department of Health's Business Plan is to develop a made-in-Nunavut addictions treatment centre or program.

One of the things that we have to do in Nunavut to get that process rolling is to examine the types of programs and facilities that can be used to deliver the program, and that's being initiated as we speak. Yes, we have received the interest from the Municipality of Cambridge Bay to deliver such programs for consideration. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Minister. Oral Questions. Member for Kugluktuk, Mr. Evyagotailak.

#### **Question 371 – 2(4): Kugluktuk High School Repairs**

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

Mr. Speaker, I am sure that the minister has had time to have a good look at the photographs that I tabled on October 30, 2007 showing the poor conditions at the school in Kugluktuk and to review the situation.

Mr. Speaker, my question for the minister: can the minister provide an update on what has been done to date to address the problems at the Kugluktuk high school? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Evyagotailak. Minister of Education, Minister Picco.

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, I want to thank the member for providing the information on the situation in the school in Kugluktuk, and as the member knows, I have had an opportunity to be in the school several times.

Mr. Speaker, a very quick update is that the information provided by the member resulted in a team with the Department of Education and Community and Government Services, CGS, which takes care of the maintenance of all of our buildings within the government itself and having the site visits in Kugluktuk. Also, I want to point out that the Regional Office for Education is in Kugluktuk, so our director there was also able to look at some of the concerns that were raised here in the House.



The area around paving and some of the carpet removal and so on, a lot of that work needs to be done when there are no students in the school because of fumes and so on, and that's why that work would be carried out in the summertime when there's a down time where students aren't actually physically in the school. Some of the other minor repairs, it is my understanding, have been carried out where possible.

CGS has been working diligently on working on that file to ensure that the school is a safe environment for children to attend. I have been assured that that is indeed the case.

Again, Mr. Speaker, that's the process and the progress that we have had or are able to do at this time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Your first supplementary, Mr. Evyagotailak.

**Mr. Evyagotailak**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thanks, Minister. Can the minister clarify why the broken windows at the school have not been replaced to date? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Evyagotailak. Minister of Education, Minister Picco.

**Hon. Ed. Picco**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my understanding, from information that has been provided to me in this particular instance, is that the glass had to be ordered into the community, and to do that, of course, there's some timeframe; you can't just go up to a supplier and say, "Give me the material that's required." So that's my understanding of why there has been a delay in receiving some of the glass for some of the windows.

I'm also led to believe, Mr. Speaker, that some of the windows have been fixed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Your second supplementary, Mr. Evyagotailak.

**Mr. Evyagotailak**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I still would like to see those windows replaced because it sure helps out the students when they look out the window, and it's good for their minds and also their bodies, because when you're stuck in a four-wall building, it gets kind of boring.

My second supplementary: can the minister confirm that there is a plan in place to complete all necessary repairs at the school in Kugluktuk? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Evyagotailak. Minister of Education, Minister Picco.

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I said earlier, the Department of CGS is in charge of repairing all government buildings on behalf and for the Government of Nunavut.

In this case, there has been considerable work done as I have indicated. Some of that work has to be carried out when the students aren't in the school. On the windows themselves and the plan, there is a plan in place with CGS and the hamlet, which the hamlet does a lot of the maintenance work for us for that school. It is my understanding, Mr. Speaker, most of that work would be completed, where possible, by the end of this month of February.

It is also my understanding that the complete interior painting, the flooring repairs, electrical circuit changes, and some of the mechanical adjustments will go out to tender and that will be before the end of this fiscal year, meaning before April 1, and that work will be completed for the students when they return to the school in the fall. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Your final supplementary, Mr. Evyagotailak.

**Mr. Evyagotailak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Minister. My last supplementary: will the minister commit to ensuring that the Kugluktuk high school gets a complete and thorough examination at the earliest opportunity to implement a plan for ongoing maintenance and care? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Evyagotailak. Minister of Education, Minister Picco.

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I can confirm and commit to the member that there is ongoing work right now with the Department of Education and the Department of CGS to ensure that when there are issues in our schools, in this case, and other government infrastructure, that we are able to respond to them expediently.

This does not seem to have been happening in the past. The Kugluktuk school is a good example, as well as Arctic Bay. So we have made a plan in place, we are putting tenders forward, as I said earlier, and I can commit to the member that that will take place and be carried on. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Item 7. Oral Questions. Member for High Arctic, Mr. Barnabas.

#### **Question 372 – 2(4): Number of Caribou for Collaring**

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

Mr. Speaker, the previous Minister of Environment stated that there was going to be a study on caribou in Nunavut. My question for the minister: how many caribou are going to be tagged under this study? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. Minister of Environment, Minister Akesuk.

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk** (interpretation): Thank you. To date, our staff is working on this issue. This will be a three-year caribou study. They are going to be tagged to find out their migratory route but I don't have the numbers that are slated to be tagged. We will consult with the affected communities. I do not have an answer but I will commit to providing this information at a later date to the member. Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Your first supplementary, Mr. Barnabas.

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the communities that I represent, we have the Peary caribou. There's usually an agreement about how many Peary caribou can be harvested as they are on the endangered species list.

In that light, when there's a caribou study, will the people in the communities be able to harvest the caribou that are being studied? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. Minister of Environment, Minister Akesuk.

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As we're close to the land and we do harvest the wildlife out there, we hope that the caribou can be harvested during the caribou study. Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Your second supplementary, Mr. Barnabas.

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. How long are these caribou going to be tagged for? Is it going to be for a month, or for a year, or how many years? I hear that these tags are slated to fall off all at the same time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. Minister of Environment, Minister Akesuk.

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) We're looking at a three-year caribou study to find their migratory routes. At this time, I'm not exactly sure how long those tagged or collars are going to stay on the caribou. Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Your final supplementary, Mr. Barnabas.

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When is the tagging or collaring going to start; is it going to be in the spring or the fall? For example, if it's going to be started in the spring and if they use aircraft, they're going to be shedding and calving is going to start. Could the minister tell me exactly when the study is going to start? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. Minister of Environment, Minister Akesuk.

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk** (interpretation): Thank you. As I stated earlier, we are currently consulting with the communities. We will come to an agreement between the communities as to when the caribou study is going to start. Of course, we will inform the affected communities and the parties. Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Akesuk. (interpretation ends) Item 7. Oral Questions. Member for Akulliq, Mr. Mapsalak.

#### **Question 373 – 2(4): Kugaaruk Hamlet Office**

**Mr. Mapsalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Community and Government Services.

I believe it was last month when I visited Kugaaruk and I heard some of their concerns. It was also mentioned by the mayor during the Kitikmeot Inuit Association meeting that the hamlet office is extremely small and very old. There are no lots available or there is no room to expand the building. How or where can the people of Kugaaruk access those monies? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Mapsalak. Minister of Community and Government Services, Minister Brown.

**Hon. Levinia Brown** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleague for the question. This is the first time I have heard of it. You could probably go through the Hamlet Council of Repulse Bay and they can address the situation. If it's an emergency, then my staff and officials will be informed and work with them.

I'm not sure when we would find the funds when it's not identified. So we have prepared the priorities for our business plan and it's not in the estimates for projects. I want to assure you that we will work with you and the Hamlet Council of Repulse Bay. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Mapsalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The concern is coming from the hamlet council. I met with them and they told me that it was previously placed in the Five-Year Capital Plan but it was taken out and it's currently not there.

In springtime, the ice and snow will be melting and because the building is very old, it will have to be addressed immediately. Can the minister direct her officials or her staff to come to Repulse Bay and see the old building? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Mapsalak. Minister of Community and Government Services, Minister Brown.

**Hon. Levinia Brown** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I could order the staff in the Kitikmeot who work for Community and Government Services to go to the community to see the hamlet office building. You and the hamlet council will be informed; I know I have to go through you. I'm sorry; I'm not directly answering your question.

We will be able to look into that and we will have a look at the Five-Year Capital Plan again. I have heard that there will be community visits this coming year and I know that we will have to go to those communities again and look at their infrastructure. So we will be able to have a look at the old building that you're talking about and see if we can extend or renovate it.

If it's not in the Five-Year Capital Plan, then maybe I will be able to put it back in there. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Your second supplementary, Mr. Mapsalak.

**Mr. Mapsalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for her answer. Will they be able to directly ask CGS if they want to get a new office building in the community? I have seen the office; it's in terrible shape and it has to be retrofitted. Will they be able to request for a new office building from CGS? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Mapsalak. Minister of Community and Government Services, Minister Brown.

**Hon. Levinia Brown**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There is a process for identifying those capital projects. Once projects have been identified, then it's up to the hamlet councils in each community to state their priorities for their five-year capital, and in doing so, then we would be interested in seeing those priority lists for capital projects. And, there's another process through the new committee that's directly involved with the hamlet mayors of the communities in Nunavut.

(interpretation) I'm trying to say that preparations take time and they make a Five-Year Capital Plan. If the priorities are followed and don't change, then we would see what is wanted. So the priorities must be consistent. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Oral Questions. Item 8. I'm sorry. Member for Arviat, Mr. Alagalak.

**Question 374 – 2(4): Subsidy for Special Baby Formula**

**Mr. Alagalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think we are being forgotten by the government from Iqaluit. My question is directed to (interpretation ends) the Minister responsible for Income Support, my friend, Picco.

(interpretation) I have a brief question to the minister because there's a concern raised by the people in the community regarding the young people. There are more and more young girls having babies each year. When they return to their communities after their children are born, they have to have a certain kind of milk to drink or whatever.

It's hard in the community of Arviat because we don't have a program in place delivered in Inuktitut to assist the communities. Some of the programs don't even come from the federal government to our community, so they don't even exist – how to properly use the powdered milk for the children. That's supposed to exist.

(interpretation ends) One kilogram of Enfalac costs \$28.99 and 730 grams of Nestle: All Soy is \$36.99. (interpretation) Other brands of powdered milk are also very expensive and these are recommended to the young mother to use this certain kind of milk and there are not many in the community.

The minister was talking about the budget speech and there will be \$89 million set aside for this year, so I would like to ask the minister: can subsidies be allocated to communities to assist them in implementing better services this coming year? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Alagalak. Minister responsible for Income Support and Minister of Education, Minister Picco.

**Hon. Ed. Picco**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The member has touched base on several very important issues. There are very important issues here in Nunavut, including teenage pregnancy and the numbers we see, and that's not sustainable. We need to do a better job on Planned Parenthood and talking to our young people.

On the subsidy itself, Mr. Speaker, the department is open to looking at suggestions on how we can better bring the Income Support Program forward and where we can help out young mothers. In cases where a specialized formula that is needed and is very expensive, we do have the opportunity within our program to help support the parent receiving that.

In most cases, Mr. Speaker, in Nunavut, that would be free, or it would be provided to the parent. When the parent travels outside of Nunavut and is in the south, for example, then they wouldn't have that same coverage and would have to purchase it but they can be receipted or reimbursed back after that.

So, again, the department is open, and hopefully, that helps answer the member's question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Your first supplementary, Mr. Alagalak.

**Mr. Alagalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I agree if that is going to be the case. It's obvious that the young mothers will know which way to get help from but how would they get help in the community for these programs?

I would like to state again that the government now has support for the hunters in the community and a lot of them had to buy their own and then get reimbursed. Some of them just didn't apply because it takes too long to prepare it.

Can the minister state again: how and where can they get subsidized through the program for the milk that they are supposed to use to sustain themselves? If he could answer my question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Alagalak. Minister of Education and Minister responsible for Income Support, Minister Picco.

**Hon. Ed. Picco**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The opportunity here for not only the member's community but for people listening across Nunavut who are in the same predicament is to work or to visit with our income support workers where we have them in all of our communities across Nunavut. The programs can be spelled out and then that person can go to the income support worker and get the help that they need.

If there is an issue with the income support worker at the local level, we have appeals processes in place, for example, if someone was turned down, but we also have support through our sister department, Health and Social Services, through social work help to be able to facilitate that.

If the member has constituents who have been turned down or have not received help with this type of infant formula, for example, in this case, then I think we will be able to facilitate and help those constituents because at the end of the day, when a child needs something that has been prescribed to them, we need to be able to facilitate that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Your second supplementary, Mr. Alagalak.

**Mr. Alagalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I like to hear a good report and you're understandable. Would you be able to provide a letter written in both languages that could be given to the community level indicating who they could go to for support where possible?

Some of them are going through a hard time, the young mothers in particular. For example, when young mothers, with babies who are supposed to be prescribed a special kind of milk, come to the nursing stations, they are told again, "You weren't using the particular milk," so they are being told that but they're going through hard times when these things aren't available. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Alagalak. Minister of Education and Minister responsible for Income Support, Minister Picco.

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, I think it's the case in most communities; when a child is on formula, let's say the brand name could be Enfalac or Similac, then the parent has to purchase that. However, if a child is prescribed a certain type of formula that is not available in their community, as an example, and the parent had fly it in or make special arrangements and that's very exorbitant, then under our program, we would have an opportunity to look at that to try to help out the constituent. I think that's something that we're in place to be able to do.

It's not for standard formulas that any person can buy at the Bay, like an Enfalac or a Similac, but in cases where there is a medical need for a certain type, then that's an opportunity there that we would be able to help out. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Members, please be aware that Question Period is now over. Mr. Curley.

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): I would like to ask consent to extend Question Period because I have an emergency question. Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. The member is seeking unanimous consent to extend Question Period. Are there any nays? There is a nay.

Going back to Orders of the Day. Item 8. Written Questions. Mr. Curley.

**Mr. Curley:** Thank you. I would like to make a Statement of Privilege, please, if I may be permitted.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Go ahead, Mr. Curley.

### **Point of Privilege**

**Mr. Curley:** Mr. Speaker, we have an emergency situation with respect to my community of Rankin Inlet. The power of electricity supply generations have been out of



commission for the last two days and the community is in a desperate situation to put all of these into order.

I think it is my right as a member, Mr. Speaker, to ask for the help of the Rankin Inlet community to ensure that the power supply is provided. It's urgently important that this information be provided by the minister responsible as quickly as possible at an appropriate time somewhere.

Mr. Speaker, it is important that the minister would volunteer to provide that information to the Members of this House. Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Curley. There was a nay when you asked for an extension under Oral Questions and you indicated what you wanted to say, so we'll proceed with our Orders of the Day.

Item 8. Written Questions. Item 9. Returns to Written Questions. Item 10. Replies to Opening Address. Item 11. Replies to Budget Address. Item 12. Petitions. Item 13. Reports of Standing and Special Committees. Item 14. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills. Item 15. Tabling of Documents. Item 16. Notices of Motions. Item 17. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Minister of Finance, Mr. Tapardjuk.

#### **Item 17: Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills**

##### **Bill 23 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2008-2009 – Notice**

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Friday, February 22, 2008, that Bill 23, *Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, 2008-2009*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Item 17. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 18. Motions. Item 19. First Reading of Bills. Minister of Finance and Culture, Language, Elders, and Youth, Minister Tapardjuk.

#### **Item 19: First Reading of Bills**

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you. I request consent of this Assembly to waive the two-day notice requirement to allow for first reading of Bill 23. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): The member is seeking unanimous consent to waive the two-day notice requirement to allow for first reading of Bill 23. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Please proceed, Minister Tapardjuk.

##### **Bill 23 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2008-2009 – First Reading**

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Honourable Member of Iqaluit East, that Bill 23, *Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, 2008-2009*, be read for the first time. Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. The motion is in order. All those in favour. All those opposed. The motion is carried. Bill 23 has had its first reading.

Item 19. First Reading of Bills. Item 20. Second Reading of Bills. Minister of Finance, Minister Tapardjuk.

### **Item 20: Second Reading of Bills**

#### **Bill 23 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2008-2009 – Second Reading**

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Nattilik, that Bill 23, *Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, 2008-2009*, be read for the second time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill. Question has been called. All those in favour. All those opposed. The motion is carried. Bill 23 has had its second reading and is referred to Committee of the Whole.

Item 21. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Member for High Arctic, Mr. Barnabas.

#### **Motion 025 – 2(4): Adjournment for the Day**

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Pursuant to Rule 46, I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Kugluktuk that the House adjourns for the day. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. The motion is in order. All those in favour. All those opposed. The motion is carried. We will continue on with Item 24. Mr. Clerk.

### **Item 24: Orders of the Day**

**Clerk** (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A reminder of a meeting of the Standing Committee *Ajauqtiit* tomorrow at nine o'clock in the Tuktuk Boardroom.

Orders of the Day for February 21:

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. Replies to Budget Address
11. Petitions
12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
13. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
14. Tabling of Documents
15. Notices of Motions
16. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
17. Motions
18. First Reading of Bills
19. Second Reading of Bills
20. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
  - Bill 23
21. Report of the Committee of the Whole
22. Third Reading of Bills
23. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Members, our House stands adjourned until Thursday, February 21, and we'll reconvene at 1:30 p.m.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 16:38*

