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**DAY 27**

**Thursday, March 11, 2010**

**Pages 1358 – 1423**

**Iqaluit**

**Speaker: The Honourable James Arreak, M.L.A.**

## Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

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(Uqqummiut)

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(Rankin Inlet South – Whale Cove)

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Government Services; Minister of  
Energy*

**John Ningark**

(Akulliq)

**Johnny Ningeongan**

(Nanulik)

*Deputy Speaker, Chair of the  
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**Paul Okalik**

(Iqaluit West)

*Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole*

**Hon. Keith Peterson**

(Cambridge Bay)

*Minister of Finance, Chair, Financial  
Management Board; Minister of Justice*

**Allan Rumbolt**

(Hudson Bay)

**Fred Schell**

(South Baffin)

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(Arviat)

*Minister of Environment; Minister of  
Human Resources; Minister responsible  
for the Nunavut Arctic College*

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk**

(Amittuq)

*Government House Leader; Minister of  
Education; Minister of Culture,  
Language, Elders and Youth; Minister  
of Languages; Minister of Aboriginal  
Affairs*

**Hon. Peter Taptuna**

(Kugluktuk)

*Deputy Premier; Minister of Economic  
Development and Transportation*

**Hon. Hunter Tootoo**

(Iqaluit Centre)

*Minister responsible for the Nunavut  
Housing Corporation; Minister  
responsible for the Qulliq Energy  
Corporation; Minister responsible for  
Homelessness*

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**Iqaluit, Nunavut  
Thursday, March 11, 2010**

**Members Present:**

Honourable Eva Aariak, Honourable James Arreak, Mr. James Arvaluk, Mr. Moses Aupaluktuq, Honourable Tagak Curley, Mr. Ron Elliott, Mr. Adamee Komoartok, Honourable Lorne Kusugak, Mr. John Ningark, Mr. Johnny Ningeongan, Mr. Paul Okalik, Honourable Keith Peterson, Mr. Allan Rumbolt, Mr. Fred Schell, Honourable Louis Tapardjuk, Honourable Peter Taptuna, Honourable Hunter Tootoo.

**Item 1: Opening Prayer**

**Speaker** (Hon. James Arreak) (interpretation): Thank you. Before we proceed, I would like to ask Mr. Ningeongan to say the opening prayer. Mr. Ningeongan.

>>*Prayer*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. Good afternoon, Premier, Ministers, Members of the Legislative Assembly, and all of the people of Nunavut, especially the people of Qikiqtarjuaq.

Going to our Orders of the Day. Item 2. (interpretation ends) Ministers' Statements. Hon. Louis Tapardjuk.

**Item 2: Ministers' Statements**

**Minister's Statement 110 – 3(2):  
Minister Shewchuk Absent from  
House**

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to advise members that the Hon. Daniel

Shewchuk will be absent from the House until March 16. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Ministers' Statements. Minister Hunter Tootoo.

**Minister's Statement 111 – 3(2):  
Update on QEC's Nomination for  
Innovative Human Resource  
Practices**

**Hon. Hunter Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Hon. colleagues, I would like to announce today that the Qulliq Energy Corporation's director of human resources and organizational development has been nominated for the Innovative Practitioner Award...

>>*Applause*

... an annual leadership award from the Province of Manitoba's Human Resource Management Association.

This nomination follows the start of a major transformation of Qulliq Energy's corporate culture over the past 19 months. The Qulliq Energy Corporation's human resource team has undertaken a significant corporate analysis of the organization's needs and following that, change improvement designs were created to move the corporation to new levels of performance.

Mr. Speaker, this work has required that the HR department approach the "business of an electrical utilities company in the Canadian Arctic" and transform its traditional, outdated HR framework into a progressive 21st century model of managing and

developing a culture of talented and accountable staff members.

This nomination is an honour for the Qulliq Energy Corporation's Department of Human Resources and Organizational Development, but of equal importance, it recognizes the collaboration, trusted relationships, and vigorous support that the HR team has been fortunate to enjoy with the Qulliq Energy Corporation's board of directors and president/CEO. Without senior leadership believing that innovation, performance, and accountability produces excellence, HR could not have moved corporate cultural change forward.

The Performance Management Model now in place at the Qulliq Energy Corporation and its attachment to the Qulliq Energy Corporation's strategic and business plans is a testament to the hard work and excellent partnerships HR enjoys with senior managers, employees, and the Qulliq Energy Corporation Board of Directors.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate and ask all members to join me in congratulating QEC on this nomination and hope to be able to share our progressive corporate improvements with the House in the future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister. Ministers' Statements. Minister Peter Taptuna.

**Minister's Statement 112 – 3(2):  
Airbus A-330-200F Cold Weather  
Test Campaign**

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon to you, Nunavummiut, my colleagues, and especially my constituents, Kuglukturmiut.

Mr. Speaker, I am sure that most Members of this House are aware that in late January, the world's largest aircraft manufacturer, Airbus, conducted three days of cold weather test trials at Iqaluit International Airport with the new A330-200F freighter aeroplane.

Mr. Speaker, this was the first flight to North America of this unique aircraft and came only seven weeks after its maiden flight on November 5, 2009 at the Airbus runway in Toulouse, France. It was a pleasure for me to be on hand for the arrival of this huge plane and to personally welcome the test pilots and flight test engineering team to Nunavut.

The A330-200F cold weather test campaign confirms Iqaluit International Airport as the world's premiere cold weather test centre for the European aircraft manufacturing industry. This was the 10th Airbus cold weather test mission at Iqaluit Airport and it marked the 15th consecutive year that new generation aircraft have been flight tested in Iqaluit.

Cold weather flight testing, Mr. Speaker, reveals another dimension to economic development in Nunavut. My department is working with Airbus on future testing requirements for at least two other commercial and military aircraft, which, at this time, are in design.

The cold weather testing business requires minimal capital investment but



yields immediate economic benefits through local provision of services, including accommodations, catering, vehicle rentals and ground support, and sales of fuel, clothing, and of course, local arts and crafts.

In order to continue this type of activity, it is important to continue to market the Iqaluit International Airport and place the airport solely in the customer's mind and keep it there. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister. Ministers' Statements. Hon. Tagak Curley.

**Minister's Statement 113 – 3(2):  
Dental School in Rankin Inlet**

**Hon. Tagak Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to announce, Mr. Speaker, that Rankin Inlet is hosting a dental therapy field clinic. This eight-week clinic is running February 8 to April 1, 2010, Mr. Speaker, and is funded by the federal government through the National School of Dental Therapy.

Rankin Inlet was chosen for this clinic by the National School of Dental Therapy in Prince Albert, Saskatchewan. The last field clinic hosted in Nunavut was in 2002, in the communities of Coral Harbour and Baker Lake.

Mr. Speaker, this is a wonderful opportunity for Nunavutmiut to receive additional dental services right in their home community. Students from the National School of Dental Therapy, under the supervision of their instructor,

are providing free dental services to Nunavutmiut. School aged children are the primary focus of the clinic and adults will also be seen.

The national dental therapy program includes an Inuit and First Nations health issues course; and through field clinics, such as this one, students become more familiarized with Inuit culture and way of life. Completion of the field clinic is a graduation requirement for all students of the National School of Dental Therapy.

Mr. Speaker, this school also seeks to enroll students who not only want to pursue a health career but those who also wish to make long-term commitments to living in and working in Inuit and First Nations communities. Therefore, this clinic will also provide an excellent opportunity for the Department of Health and Social Services to recruit and retain more dental therapists in Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, my department is committed to providing appropriate oral dental health services, including prevention, treatment, and specialty services, to all Nunavummiut and this clinic helps us to provide this in the short and longer term. Thank you.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Ministers' Statements. (interpretation ends) Hon. Louis Tapardjuk.

**Minister's Statement 114 – 3(2):  
Language Summit and  
Implementation Plan**

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to report that the Nunavut Language Summit was a huge success. During the week of February 8 to 12, 2010 in Iqaluit, nearly 300 participants came together to share their experiences in language revitalization and promotion, and help inform the process of implementation of our language legislation.

Inuit from several Nunavut communities came to Iqaluit, as well as from other circumpolar regions, including Greenland, Alaska, Nunatsiaq, and Nunavik. People and organizations representing various interests attended the summit, including educators, interpreters, elders, youth, businesses, municipalities, community and Inuit organizations, and many others. Francophones also shared their best practices helping to educate the government on their unique issues and challenges as a minority language community in Canada's Arctic.

The participants truly felt empowered during the summit. They have gained a better understanding of their language rights and have a greater awareness about its status and vitality. More importantly, these participants know that they are no longer alone and that together, as Nunavummiut, we can ensure our language will and remain at the centre of daily life throughout our territory and for many generations to come. As Nunavummiut, this is our goal. The survival of our unique way of life, our culture and language is what the

creation Nunavut was and is still all about.

Mr. Speaker, a lot of very good information was presented and shared at the summit. It is my duty as Minister of Languages to consider all of the input received so far from Nunavummiut and all territorial institutions to develop a comprehensive implementation plan that will reflect our aspirations and linguistic goals. Input received will guide the government in refining the final version of the plan, and I can reassure you that my department and I are working very hard to have it tabled during the fall sitting. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Thank you. Ministers' Statements. (interpretation) Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Baker Lake, Mr. Aupaluktuq.

**Item 3: Members' Statements**

**Member's Statement 167 – 3(2):  
Constituents Concerns**

**Mr. Aupaluktuq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to remind my constituents and the community of Baker Lake that my constituency assistant and I have repeatedly gone on the radio to remind organizations, committees, councils, associations, agencies, and all current and past members included of each entity are welcome to share, educate, and inform all community concerns with your MLA office and all views are welcome.

With that, though I can't do my job without family support, I ask that family members in my community not be

directed with community concerns. It is a kind reminder to my community of Baker Lake and all of my constituents that any and all matters are to be directed to the MLA office where my assistant works. With respect, I sincerely thank (interpretation) all residents of Baker Lake. Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Rumbolt.

**Member's Statement 168 – 3(2):  
Condolences to the Fraser Family**

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to extend my deepest sympathies and condolences to the Fraser family in Sanikiluaq for their loss.

Mr. Speaker, Bill Fraser was a well-respected and long-time resident of the community. Bill was a businessman who made many significant contributions to not only Sanikiluaq but to several communities throughout Nunavut. He will be missed by all of us.

My thoughts and prayers are with his family. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 169 – 3(2):  
Broadcasting in the North**

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to offer some reflections on broadcasting in the North.

Mr. Speaker, it has been said that while the first major project to connect the nation was the railway, the second thing was the CBC.

Mr. Speaker, I have always believed that a strong public broadcaster is essential to the identity of our country. It is particularly important in the North, where our communities are not connected by roads or railways.

Mr. Speaker, for many years now, the first thing I do in the morning is to turn on the radio and listen to CBC North. I want to pay tribute to the hard-working journalists at CBC North. They can make our lives hard at times, but they're doing an important job.

Mr. Speaker, I do want to take this opportunity to note that one of CBC's longest serving journalists, Sean Rombough, left Nunavut last month after 11 years here in the territory. Sean has been a dedicated community volunteer and we wish him well.

Mr. Speaker, my constituents tell me that they very much appreciate CBC North's use of the Inuit language. Hearing the Inuit language being used on the radio and television every day plays a tremendously important role in preserving and promoting the language.

Mr. Speaker, I think that it's critical for CBC headquarters in Toronto to ensure that its northern operations are adequately resourced. For example, I think that CBC needs a full TV production studio here that will allow

more Inuit language programming to be made here in Nunavut.

I also think that CBC needs to ensure that young Inuit see the broadcaster as a good career choice. I know that many young journalists gain experience at CBC and then leave after a couple of years for jobs in government.

Mr. Speaker, using modern communication tools to tell our people's stories in their own language does not stop with the daily news. We all know of the excellent work done by the Inuit Broadcasting Corporation and Igloolik Isuma Productions.

Mr. Speaker, the government's Budget Address indicates that the GN will contribute \$175,000 in the coming year to the Nunavut Film, Television and New Media Program. I hope that this money will be used for productions and not consultants.

Mr. Speaker, at this time, I would like to request unanimous consent to continue with my Member's Statement today. Thank you.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I know that our Premier has a background in broadcasting and I believe that she is committed to these issues. I hope that she will use her position to advocate strongly for a strengthened public broadcaster in the

North and I look forward to asking her questions later in our session on the government's support for our cultural industry. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Members' Statements. Member for Akulliq, Mr. Ningark.

**Member's Statement 170 – 3(2):  
Thanks to Minister of Health**

**Mr. Ningark** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the Minister of Health for giving me the information yesterday about a complaint from my constituency.

After our sitting, past six o'clock in the evening, I was able to send that fax. I wish that every minister would be as expeditious about remedying those types of problems.

I thank the Hon. Tagak Curley very much, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Members' Statements. (interpretation ends) Member for Iqaluit East, Eva Aariak.

**Member's Statement 171 – 3(2):  
Proud to Serve Nunavummiut**

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to say "good afternoon" to my constituents in Iqaluit East. I am very proud of the people of Nunavut for having elected me.

Mr. Speaker, the people of Nunavut are guided by Inuit values and live in Inuit communities. Ours is a public government and it is working hard to represent all of the people of Nunavut. We also believe, as elected representatives, that we have to make accomplishments and achievements and to become more self-sufficient.

I am also proud of the people who are working together, men and women, assisting others, women's and men's associations which are being created in more communities with the purpose of assisting their fellow Inuit. These types of volunteers are people whom we ought to be proud of. When they are fulfilling their mandate, they are assisting their communities as well. By utilizing their traditional knowledge to younger generations, it assists them in attaining pride in themselves as well as self-confidence.

Additionally, I am extremely proud of hunters' role in our society and I do not judge them or state that they are less capable than other Inuit, or that they possess any lesser skills or abilities simply because they may not be bilingual, or speak English or French. That in no way diminishes their immense set of skills, knowledge, and abilities that they employ to harvest food or manage businesses.

Even I know of an individual who owns their own business in their community and that business is amongst the most successful. This individual is a hunter and is functionally unilingual and does not speak English, but yet, he operates his business successfully. Mr. Speaker, we cannot allow ourselves to be

wallowing in self-pity simply due to our inability to speak English.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask for unanimous consent to conclude my statement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. The member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude her statement. Are there any nays? There is a nay.

**An Hon. Member:** Shame, shame!

**Speaker** (interpretation): At this time, we will go back to our Orders of the Day. Members' Statements. (interpretation ends) Member for Rankin Inlet North, Mr. Curley.

**Hon. Tagak Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish my constituents in Rankin Inlet a very good day, along with my colleagues' constituents.

**Speaker:** A Point of Order has been called. Mr. Okalik.

### **Point of Order**

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am trying to ensure that we are following proper parliamentary procedure by using my rights and responsibilities as a Member of the Legislative Assembly.

When someone is just making fun of another member, it lessens the seriousness of our session and it does not make for good optics. That is why I would like a Point of Order raised. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Okalik. We will look into your Point of Order and make a ruling. You didn't specify what you want ruled as a Point of Order. Can you please elaborate on your reason, Mr. Okalik.

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was using my rights and my privilege to state a nay. I happened to look across the table shortly thereafter and I happened to see my colleague, Mr. Tootoo, gesturing by sucking his thumb and pointing at me. That is a very unparliamentary action in the House.

We have to ensure that we are following proper parliamentary procedure in the Legislative Assembly and someone mocking another member is not very proper. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Okalik. Thank you. (interpretation ends) To the Point of Order. Mr. Tootoo.

**Hon. Hunter Tootoo**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think one of the things that I have always said in this House is that we may not like what each other has to say all of the time, but each of us has a right to say what we want.

That is the first time in the history of Members' Statements here in Nunavut, I believe, that there has been a nay. It is just very un-courteous. One would just question why the hon. member would nay such a... I think every one of us has a right. I have never, to my recollection, seen a Member's Statement be nay'd, whether I agreed with it or not.

I'm sorry it seems like that's using his rights in what I may view as my own view as a childish manner. That's my

view on it and if he took offence to that, I'm sorry. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker**: Thank you, Mr. Curley...

>> *Laughter*

.... Mr. Okalik and Mr. Tootoo. The Point of Order was taken and I suggest, Mr. Tootoo, that you apologize to the House for an unparliamentary gesture that was conducted in the House.

I'm sorry, that was a mistake on my part. I guess I didn't hear you apologize. Thank you.

(interpretation) That is over. Mr. Curley, you can resume with your statement.

**Member's Statement 172 – 3(2):  
Rankin Inlet Residents Beginning  
to Lose Excess Weight**

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to extend a good day greeting to all Rankin Inlet residents and my colleague, and I keep in mind all Rankin Inlet residents.

Mr. Speaker, what I would like to make a statement about is with respect to an event that occurred in Rankin Inlet when winter arrived.

There was a body of local residents that were concerned about health and some members made New Year's resolutions to initiate change in their lives. The group met several times to discuss issues. A recommendation was made that perhaps an event could be planned that could make an impact and be personally beneficial to their lives and contribute to healthy lifestyles.

As members are aware, we have two constituencies in Rankin Inlet. Constituents from both constituencies met several times to discuss health matters. They reached a consensus to initiate a personal event and this was with respect to a weight loss program. The statement made was this: perhaps we can instil more pride in a healthy lifestyle if some of us voluntarily go on a diet.

When this resolution was passed, 27 individuals signed up for this program. I am very proud of their efforts to make change. Although the group has now shrunk to 15 individuals, the total weight lost among the participants has reached 110 lbs. This group has instituted a weekly prize for the individual who has lost the most amount of weight and there is a prize handed out on the designated day. The group has stated that this voluntary program will end on May 25.

If more initiatives were undertaken in all of our communities, such as the one that occurred in Rankin Inlet, it would allow more of our residents to benefit from them. Benefits such as better fitness levels and health benefits, including fewer visits to the health centre, are just some examples I can cite.

I am very proud of these individuals and I have been in discussions with my colleague on how best to acknowledge them. We will announce who these participants were in this challenge on May 25. I am very proud of these participants today, Mr. Speaker, and I would also like Rankin Inlet to be proud of these individuals because of their commitment to leading healthier lifestyles. Thank you.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Members' Statements. If there are no more, Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. (interpretation ends) Hon. Louis Tapardjuk.

#### **Item 4: Returns to Oral Questions**

#### **Return to Oral Question 204 – 3(2): Teaching Positions Created by New Education Act**

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Member for Akulliq, Mr. Ningark, asked Question 204 – 3(2) on March 4, 2010. His question was with regard to teaching positions created by the new *Education Act*.

All new positions created under section 123 of the *Education Act* will be assigned to schools in Nunavut. Based on the current enrolment statistics, 49 new educators will need to be hired to meet the requirements of section 123 of the *Education Act*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister. Returns to Oral Questions. Hon. Louis Tapardjuk.

#### **Return to Oral Question 212 – 3(2): Problems with Sanikiluaq District Education Authority**

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Elliott, MLA for Quttiktuq, asked Question 212 – 3(2) on March 4, 2010 and it was with respect to DEAs, if DEAs other than the Sanikiluaq DEA are experiencing these types of problems or if any of them are experiencing financial deficits.

**Response:**

Currently, there is no other district education authority that I am aware of that is having cash flow difficulties due to overspending.

I agree that centralized financial management can help with DEA finances. I strongly recommend DEAs use centralized accounting services and most DEAs in Nunavut do.

DEAs are responsible for managing their finances and for producing financial statements. This includes the appointing of a financial officer and an accounting agency. It is important for the Department of Education to support DEAs and so new regional positions are being created to increase financial support to DEAs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister. Returns to Oral Questions. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Elliott.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is day 4 of having our 795 Air Cadet Squadron with us doing the paging. Today, we have: Flight Corporal Johnny Anautak, Flight Corporal Cassandra Coman, Leading Air Cadet Christopher Watsko, and Warrant Officer Second Class Thomasie Murray. I think I missed one, Warrant Officer Second Class Colin Gunn. Thank you.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Thank you. Welcome to the Gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Baker Lake, Mr. Aupaluktuq.

**Item 6: Oral Questions**

**Question 259 – 3(2): Status of Devolution**

**Mr. Aupaluktuq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Premier, the Hon. Eva Aariak.

The recent federal Speech from the Throne indicated that the Government of Canada will and I quote, “continue to give northerners a greater say over their own future and take further steps toward territorial devolution.”

However, this week’s Budget Address that was delivered by our Minister of Finance stated that and I quote, “From our conversations with the federal government, we understand that they have not seen clearly that we are prepared to handle additional responsibility.”

Can the Premier explain exactly how she will convince Ottawa that we are ready for devolution and get the federal government to come to the negotiating table? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. Premier of Nunavut, Hon. Eva Aariak.

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the member for raising that question as this matter of devolution is a very important aspect of my perspective on that issue. It is also a priority of this government to work towards that goal. This government



believes fully in the principle of devolution and that it has to be concluded in a structured and proper manner. This is a goal that this government keeps trying to attain.

Ever since my selection as the Premier, I have brought up this matter at every meeting with the federal government. I have also raised it with the Prime Minister when we have held a meeting as well as when I meet with our federal representative, the Hon. Leona Aglukkaq. I continue to raise this matter at every opportunity whenever we have held a meeting with the Minister of DIAND and every time I meet with a Senator. We talk about how devolution is very important to us. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Premier. Your final supplementary, Mr. Aupaluktuq.

**Mr. Aupaluktuq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank Madam Premier for that response. I'm glad to see that there are some enhanced partnerships and discussions going on for the betterment of all of Nunavut on what the core issues are and I hope the federal government will be able to identify that with lobbying on our behalf. I look forward to more of that as well.

Mr. Speaker, three years ago, a report commissioned by the federal government raised concerns about Nunavut's capacity to handle the increased responsibilities that come with devolution. This week's budget indicated that the GN still has over 900 vacant positions.

We all know that there are many unresolved issues related to Nunavut's financial management practices. How is the government going to resolve these issues in a way that will make it clear to Ottawa that we're ready for devolution negotiations to begin? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. Madam Premier.

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With regard to the government's vacant positions, though they may be many, we continually prepare to hire and fill vacant positions. We have to be ready for devolution negotiations in that regard. We usually talk about the importance of education and on-the-job training in our planning to fill vacant positions.

I am also pleased that the new *Education Act* has been passed and we would like to complete the work that we need to do from the bottom up. It is evident that the provisions in the *Education Act* are now being implemented and it's going to be very beneficial. Our government is now working on the main estimates. We have increased the training-on-the-job positions.

Further, the federal government is responsible for the vacant federal positions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you. Your second supplementary, Mr. Aupaluktuq.

**Mr. Aupaluktuq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Premier for that response. The other question I would like to ask Madam Premier is that the

Premier is aware that the Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated will be the third party in any devolution talks that may occur. However, we all know that NTI is presently in court suing the federal government for \$1 billion.

In the Premier's discussions with federal officials and NTI's leadership, have they indicated that they are willing to begin formal devolution negotiations while this lawsuit is still ongoing? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. Madam Premier.

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Government of Nunavut is ready to start devolution discussions. The Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated stated that they are available and ready to begin devolution negotiations. We are just waiting for the federal government to start the negotiations. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Premier. Your final supplementary, Mr. Aupaluktuq.

**Mr. Aupaluktuq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Madam Premier for that response. I'm sure that all of Nunavut is going forward to it as well and I'm sure that this government will have its role to play as well to make sure that the best interests of all of Nunavut is at play here.

My third and final supplementary, Mr. Speaker, is that on December 28, 2005, the Government of Nunavut announced the appointment of former Yukon Premier Mr. Tony Penikett as Nunavut's chief negotiator for devolution talks with

the federal government. As of today, is he still our chief negotiator and if not, who is? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. Madam Premier.

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, as of today, he is still our chief negotiator. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit West, Mr. Okalik.

### **Question 260 – 3(2): Government of Nunavut Lobbyist for Devolution**

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I want to follow up on my colleague's questions on the issue of devolution.

In this week's edition of the *Hill Times*, they're reporting that the Government of Nunavut is now using the company Samdan Consulting, which has been hired to act as a lobbyist in Ottawa to represent us with the federal government. The founder of this company is a former Liberal Cabinet Minister, Robert Nault.

Given that we have a Conservative government which is in power today, what was our Premier thinking? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Okalik. You didn't tell me who you're directing the question to. Mr. Okalik.

**Mr. Okalik:** My question is directed to the Premier. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Premier of Nunavut, Hon. Eva Aariak.

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I didn't quite understand. (interpretation ends) He said what was I thinking, he didn't ask me what I was thinking about. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker**: Thank you, Premier. (interpretation) She would like you to rephrase your question, please. Mr. Okalik.

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I think the question is quite obvious. Given that we have a Conservative government, hiring a Liberal lobbyist doesn't appear to be very effective and productive in the interests of Nunavut. Why did the government hire a Liberal consultant to lobby on our behalf with a Conservative government in power? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker**: Thank you, Mr. Okalik. Madam Premier.

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are not lobbying yet. Tony Penikett is our chief negotiator. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker**: Thank you. Your first supplementary, Mr. Okalik.

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker (interpretation ends) I've got a copy of the lobby registry which I will be tabling at the appropriate time. My question is: how did we hire a Liberal lobbyist to represent our interest

on this matter? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker**: Thank you, Mr. Okalik. Madam Premier.

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Devolution is very important to us. My officials in the government are now rebooting this. I'm not talking about who they represent, but I'm talking about the increasing importance of devolution, especially today. We have not started our lobby yet; we are at the initial stage. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker**: Thank you, Premier. Your second supplementary, Mr. Okalik.

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I would like an explanation as to why we are using a Liberal lobbyist to lobby on our behalf. I don't think it will be very effective with this current government on our devolution matters. Could we please get an explanation from the Premier why this lobby firm was selected? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker**: Thank you, Mr. Okalik. Madam Premier.

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are not allowed to say, "Because you work for a political party, we are not able to see you." Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker**: Thank you. Your final supplementary, Mr. Okalik.

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) I'm asking for some

accountability, as elected officials, as to why a lobby firm affiliated with a certain party was hired to handle a very important matter. We want the best for our territory and have the best representation in dealing with the federal government on these matters. Why did this government hire a Liberal consulting firm when there is a Conservative government in power? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Okalik. Madam Premier.

**Hon. Eva Aariak:** The topic of devolution is indeed very important to us and that is why we are trying to move the discussions and feedback back to the federal government. It is important that everyone understands what devolution is and the fact that this government is very much interested in moving forward with it. Thank you very much, *Uqaqtittijii*.

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

### **Question 261 – 3(2): SPOT Locator Devices**

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister responsible for Community and Government Services.

Before I start my question, Mr. Speaker, yesterday, when the minister responded to my final question, Mr. Kusugak referred to me as the minister. So I was thinking that maybe I was entitled to a pay raise, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Laughter*

Mr. Speaker, yesterday, I posed questions to the minister on the SPOT locator devices that his department has purchased. Some time ago, similar devices were made available in communities. Hunters wishing to use them could sign them out in the morning. However, the devices were not always available when hunters actually go out on the land, which is very early in the morning.

In his statement on March 9, the minister indicated that the SPOT devices would be available from hamlet offices. Will the minister's department work with municipalities to make these devices readily available to hunters, for example, by allowing them to be signed out the day before they plan to go out on the land or keep the units for a longer period of time? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Minister of Community and Government Services, Hon. Lorne Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I apologize to my hon. colleague for calling him a minister. I hope I answered the question correctly nonetheless, whether I addressed him as a minister or not. Again I apologize.

The SPOT devices that he is referring to will be available, as I said, at the hamlet offices. I didn't mean to mislead you, but I believe they will be available through the local search and rescue committees. They will make arrangement as to where they will be available, if it is at the hamlet office or through their offices.

What we would like to see is that they could be signed out. Upon completion of

their hunt, at an appropriate time, they would be able to return them at an appropriate time so that somebody else will be able to access them should they need to sign them out. So that is the plan.

We're hoping that people will sign them out and that upon completing their hunt, they will bring them back and somebody else will have access to them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. These devices are designed to send messages to predetermined email addresses when activated. Can the minister indicate to where these messages will be sent when the device is activated by its users throughout Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Hon. Member for Hudson Bay for that question. Yes, they are programmed so that when you press a button, you say that you're okay or you press one of the other buttons, it says, "I need help," the help button, or they all could be sent to three Blackberry email addresses and those people are in this fine city of Iqaluit.

They are emergency measures people and they will be "texted" or the messages will go directly to their Blackberries, to the three individuals in the City of Iqaluit at the emergency measures department. The plan behind this, Mr. Speaker, is they will then

contact the appropriate search and rescue party and let them know exactly where the distress call or "I'm okay" call is coming from and forward it that way, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. These devices are going to send messages to three predetermined Blackberry devices. Will the people who own these Blackberries be required to monitor their Blackberries 24 hours day, seven days a week? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my hon. colleague for the question. Yes, there will be somebody always assigned to at least one, or two, or all of the Blackberries at any given time. There will always be a Blackberry on to answer the distress call. Hopefully there will be none, but should they happen, yes, there will be somebody there at the other end of the Blackberry. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister. Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Oral Questions. Member for Akulliq, Mr. Ningark.

#### **Question 262 – 3(2): NTEP Graduates**

**Mr. Ningark** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the Minister of Education and I will pose my question to him.

He gave me correspondence stating that there will be 49 new teachers required

under the new *Education Act* and he replied to my oral question under section 123 of the new *Education Act*.

During the session, we usually ask how many employees our government has and they do report on vacant positions. The main reasons why these vacant positions cannot be filled is because of a lack of housing.

With these new 49 teachers, can you reassure me that there are accommodations set aside for these new teachers? Perhaps the Minister of Education can work closely with the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Minister of Education, (interpretation ends) Hon. Louis Tapardjuk.

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When the new positions come up, accommodations and staff housing are also considered in the budget. We have taken into account all of these aspects.

However, I can tell my colleague, Mr. Speaker, that the Department of Education is now working much harder to train local teachers so that they won't have to bring in outside teachers. There are 10 NTEP students in training. The lack of staff housing is usually a problem, but we are convinced that this problem will be alleviated once we start hiring locally.

Be that as it may, the perception is that these are new positions. In implementing the new legislation, we would have

many positions that would need to be filled. When these challenges are being resolved, including the funding required for these positions, they include any infrastructure requirements during the planning phases for the capital estimates, Mr. Speaker. That is all I can say at this time.

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

**Mr. Ningark** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. These types of responses are well received and I thank the minister for his substantive response.

Since the creation of the territory and territorial government in 1999, a lot of the changes espoused by the people have taken many years to be implemented. It has now been a decade since the creation of Canada's newest territory and we still have many challenges yet to resolve.

Can the minister elaborate? I concur with the approaches taken, such as the teacher education program. I am quite thankful that we have the opportunity in Kugaaruk to get local teachers. As a matter of fact, this June, we will realize our first graduates under that program and many of them already have their own housing. Some are in rental units, while others own their homes. I would like some advance notice in relation to upcoming graduates of the teacher training program.

Will the newly hired teachers be housed in staff housing? Some of the teachers are hired from outside of our region and territory. As with so many other communities in Nunavut, we are suffering from a housing shortage. When

housing is not available for these positions, it becomes almost impossible to hire staff for these positions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Minister Tapardjuk.

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With respect to my colleague's prior question pertaining to the shortage of housing units for teachers in his community of Kugaaruk, this is a problem we recognize.

Additionally, my ministerial colleague, who is responsible for Nunavut Housing Corporation, and myself have started collaborating on this challenge facing us with respect to staff housing shortage. We have made it a priority to try and ensure that we have adequate housing available.

However, with respect to the NTEP students who are partaking in this program, the underlying purpose for training local residents is to have them work as teachers in their home communities so that we can ease the demands on staff housing when we have to import teachers. Our ultimate goal is to limit the number of imported teachers and to try and meet our teaching positions from the locally trained teachers.

This continues to be an ongoing project and this program will continue as part of our implementation of the *Education Act*. The requirements are that we need to have fully bilingual graduates from our schools and we will also need to have fully bilingual teachers in order to meet this challenge. This is part of our planning process, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Ningark** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for his response. My second supplementary question is: can the minister inform me if he is aware of how many NTEP students are taking the program? That's my question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Minister Tapardjuk.

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): I would ask that the member elaborate further on the specifics of his question. Did he mean how many communities have this program or whether he is asking about the overall number of NTEP students? If the member could clarify that as I would like to understand his question, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Mr. Ningark, the minister would like you to clarify your question. Mr. Ningark.

**Mr. Ningark** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Perhaps to add more details to this question, sometimes students are billeted or are housed among their relatives while they are taking the program. This is obviously a symptom of our housing shortage.

I was referring to upcoming graduates of the teacher education program. Once these students have graduated and have received their teaching certificates, I wanted to know how many graduates are expected out of this program.

Perhaps as a personal reminder, if I had submitted a written question, it would have been easier to get an answer. My question to the minister is: how many of the students in this program are expected to graduate and get their teaching certification? Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Minister Tapardjuk.

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know for a fact that we have 10 communities that are offering the NTEP program, but for the life of me, I cannot remember exactly how many students. This information is not in front of me, so I will have to take his question as notice and respond once I have the pertinent information with respect to the number of students taking the NTEP program in these 10 communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Your question has been taken as notice. (interpretation ends) Oral Questions. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. Elliott.

### **Question 263 – 3(2): Opening of New Arctic Bay Airport**

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, the Hon. Peter Taptuna.

Many of my constituents in Arctic Bay are deeply concerned about how long it's taking for the Arctic Bay Airport to actually open up. I was wondering if the minister could tell us today when it will open up and why it's taking so long to open up. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Hon. Peter Taptuna.

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the hon. member for his question. As I have said half a dozen times, the airport is due to open in September of 2010 and I think I made that pretty clear on several occasions.

On why it's taking that long, I'll answer his second question, it's because of unforeseen engineering problems and other various unidentified things that happened throughout the construction of the project. It is permafrost problems and other various things that weren't foreseen. In any major project, there are always unforeseen things that man can't control naturally. There are things in nature that we can't control. And the permafrost one was the most time-delaying factor for the project.

So September is the scheduled date of opening the airport. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister. Your first supplementary, Mr. Elliott.

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank you for that answer. I guess I find that I have to keep asking because originally, the airport was supposed to be opened over a year ago. I guess that, like my colleague from Pangnirtung, the building is sitting there and someone is paying for the fuel, someone is paying for the hydro, and those are costs that are incurred by our government, which I'm assuming, because I know that the hamlet is not incurring them.



Over a year ago, our airport was supposed to open. We were told that it was going to be spring of 2010, we were told that it was supposed to be the summer of 2010, and now we're being told that it's September of 2010. So I'm sorry if I keep asking the question over and over again, but people in my community of Arctic Bay are getting confused as to when the government is actually going to open this facility up. So I need to keep asking so my community knows, so we can get an answer, and so it can actually be opened.

My next question, Mr. Speaker, is the original cost for the Arctic Bay Airport was \$17 million. How much or what dollar value is it costing the government for the construction of this airport? Thank you.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister Taptuna.

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll tell the hon. member again, as I have told him in the past, the cost of the project. The total cost is \$25.5 million. Again, it's due to some unforeseen issues that came up during the construction period.

Some of these uncontrolled costs and the delay in opening are not the fault of the government; there are other factors that are involved. Nav Canada has got to put their equipment in there and they do things at their own pace. It's not like we're just sitting there doing nothing. We have to wait for these other organizations, other entities, other regulators to come in there and install their equipment, and that's part of the delay.

If the hon. member is going to be asking about the costs of maintaining it while it's still officially closed, I can get that information for him. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister. Your second supplementary, Mr. Elliott.

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would love to have that information, but it wasn't another one of my questions. My next question, Mr. Speaker, is: is the dollar value of \$25.5 million specifically for the airstrip or does that include the terminal building as well? Thank you.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister Taptuna.

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe that includes the air terminal building and that's one of the cost overruns. It was the air terminal building that went over budget by \$600,000. Doing business up north here, you have very little choice in contractors. You get who is available to get the project done and that's one of the problems we have up north here.

Again, if he wants an accurate estimate on the total cost of the airport terminal building, I can get that for the hon. minister too... hon. member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Laughter*

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister. Your final supplementary, Mr. Elliott.

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Maybe some day but not today. Sure, any information that you could give that I could pass on to my constituents would

be greatly appreciated and I'm thankful for that commitment from the minister.

If I could make a request for one more commitment from the minister, that would be again... unfortunately, we only have one airline in Arctic Bay that services the community, it's actually in Nanisivik, and that's First Air. Would he be willing to contact First Air?

I know I've had concerns and the carrier is wondering when exactly, and again why I keep asking the question, the terminal will open up so that they could arrange for storage facilities in the community. I imagine that they would have to order it in March and have it brought up on the barge.

If he could commit to speaking with First Air about the exact date that the terminal will open so that they could be ready for servicing the community. Thank you.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister Taptuna.

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can't say I could commit to that. The business runs on its own and they have their own agenda. Once the facilities are functional and operational with all of the safety equipment in there, including the safety manual that the hamlet is going to handle, the airline can actually contact anybody that they want to and determine how they're going to schedule their own part of that business. I can't commit to the member at this time on that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Question 264 – 3(2): Challenges Facing Municipalities**

**Mr. Ningeongan** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just prior to directing my question, I wish to note that today is my daughter's birthday. My daughter, Faith Ipiksaut Ningeongan, is celebrating her birthday, so best wishes on your birthday.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the Minister of Community and Government Services, the Hon. Lorne Kusugak.

Both the minister and I are former mayors and I believe that both of us recognize the importance of municipalities having strong and stable workforces.

Last year, the business plan for the Department of CGS stated and I quote, "Turnover in Hamlet senior management was very high during the fiscal year, which typically has an impact on financial results. Improving the capacity of long term staff retention and increasing the stability of senior staff will be key to reversing adverse trends."

As the minister is likely aware, the communities of Coral Harbour and Chesterfield Inlet currently do not have SAOs. It's my understanding that we are not alone in suffering high turnover. Has the minister's department been able to identify the factors that contribute to high turnover in municipalities and if so, how is it addressing them?

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. Minister of Community and Government Services, Hon. Lorne Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): I would like to thank the Member for Nanulik for asking the question. I also wish his daughter a happy birthday and a very good day.

The SAOs at the hamlet offices are the foundation for the smooth operation of community governments. I think we're all aware that when there are no SAOs, everything suddenly becomes difficult. We all know that when we don't have local people working and when a new SAO position is opened up, it is preferable to hire locally since there would be no moving expenses involved.

What we are currently doing is having municipal training organized with the assistance of the Municipal Training Organization for potential SAOs in our communities so that hamlet councils operate more efficiently, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Ningeongan** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) We always talk about preparing our own people to take on responsibilities and such. Strong financial management skills are absolutely essential for senior municipal employees to be successful. Can the minister indicate if providing training in this area will be a focus of the MTO in the coming year? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you for that question. The

training program that we make available through the Municipal Training Organization is an ongoing one. I can't say that there's going to be financial management training available this year because I don't have the information as to when and what training programs are available through the MTO, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Ningeongan**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister of Finance told us this week that the GN has over 900 vacant jobs. It can be very hard for smaller municipalities to compete with the GN for skilled employees. Does the department provide adequate funding to municipalities so that they can attract qualified applicants? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker**: Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the member for asking that very good question. When municipalities are looking for SAOs and other skilled employees, we work very closely with them right from the beginning of the process, from screening to the interviewing of potential employees. We cooperatively determine the qualified candidates and we assist them in looking for a qualified senior administrative officer.

As he just referenced, the community of Chesterfield Inlet is advertising for an SAO and the process is almost complete. During the search for an SAO in Coral

Harbour, our officials worked with the hamlet council and generally the executive committee to prepare an advertisement for the position as well as when they would screen candidates. So we do our utmost to assist these communities in attracting the best candidates possible, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Your final supplementary... that's it? Thank you. (interpretation ends) Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit West, Mr. Okalik.

**Question 265 – 3(2): Nomination for Innovative Human Resource Practices**

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I would like to turn to the Minister of the Qulliq Energy Corporation.

In his Minister's Statement today, he was applauding the nomination of an individual in the Power Corporation. In looking at the award and the criteria, I noticed that the eligibility criterion to be awarded for this prize is that the person has to be physically located in Manitoba. I don't know how this will be awarded to the nominee, so that's my question to the minister. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Okalik. Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation, Hon. Hunter Tootoo.

**Hon. Hunter Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As my learned colleague pointed out earlier today the rules, privileges, and rights that we have here

in the House, Mr. Speaker, it's my understanding that, according to the rules and privileges that I have as a minister, I can choose to either answer the question, not answer the question, or take the question as notice. Given those rights and privileges that I have, I'll take that question as notice. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister. Mr. Okalik, your question has been taken as notice.

I would like to remind members that this is not a playground. This is a serious place of business to conduct our business for the good people of Nunavut.

Oral Questions. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. Elliott.

**Question 266 – 3(2): Implementation of New Language Law**

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question was for the Minister of Languages, but he can't talk very well when he's not in the House. Is there anyone else who has a question? I do have more.

>> *Laughter*

I guess I'll change directions here.

**An Hon. Member:** He's coming in.

**Mr. Elliott:** Is he coming? Oh, great. Thank you.

**Speaker:** Thank you...

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Languages, the Hon. Louis Tapardjuk.

In his Minister's Statement today on the language summit and implementation plan, I just have some serious concerns again with the speed at which the government moving on different things. The Language Act and the Inuit Protection Act are very important for the preservation of the Inuktitut language in our territory, so it would be nice to have quick and swift action.

On Friday, June 12, I had asked questions to the minister about when the implementation process would begin and he had mentioned that in March of 2010, he would be tabling that. As well, on November 30, I asked questions because he had mentioned that there was going to be the language summit happening in February.

Each time he said that, I raised concerns saying, "Is it too close to the end of February?" And, "Would he be able to meet the March deadline?" He assured us that he would meet the March deadline. Now we're being told from his member's statement that it will be the fall sitting, which is seven months past that. Will that be ready when we sit in the fall? Thank you.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister of Languages, Hon. Louis Tapardjuk.

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It will be available for tabling in the House at our fall session. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister. Your first supplementary, Mr. Elliott.

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Could the minister explain what

unforeseen events have happened to make it be delayed for seven months? Thank you.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister Tapardjuk.

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe we started our consultation tours of the regions and entities in April and May of last year. We were committed to holding a language summit with all Nunavummiut and others after the regional meetings in February of 2010 and everything went according to plan.

However, we had a slight problem because it is a major undertaking. We will have to identify what plans we will have under the *Inuit Language Protection Act* and how the official languages of Inuktitut, English, and French are to be implemented by the courts, the government, and others. Those are difficult tasks to carry out, but we are committed to complete them. One of the challenges is identifying in the plans how their enforcement will be monitored.

Departments within the government were asked for feedback on what types of problems or challenges they might encounter once the language law is implemented. Once this Act comes into force, implementation plans will have to be completed. This is a major task and it has caused delays because we have to wait for the implementation plans of the various government departments.

We have now targeted the fall as our deadline for announcing the final results of our planning. We have an obligation to present detailed plans and it will take

some time to complete plans for each department. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for that answer. That's actually the answer I was hoping to get.

We are reviewing the O&M budget right now. In every business plan, we are seeing reviews, studies, strategies, and things that are supposed to be implemented. If I was working in a government department and my business plan says they are going to work towards implementing and following what it says in the Language Act and it is not ready for implementation, you would have to change your plans.

What direction is the minister giving to all other departments in terms of handling this? Are you saying everything is on hold until the next sitting? Thank you.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister Tapardjuk.

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Things are going to go ahead as planned. In the House, Members of the Legislative Assembly will also have to tell us how they want to do the implementation process with the Language Act. The government itself will have to identify what plans they have. Nothing has been put on hold, planning is proceeding, and we will continue to have our staff carry out their work.

I would like to clarify this aspect. The terminology committee called the *Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit* has been established and it will soon have to become operational in order to ensure that we use this committee fully. Our expectations are that this process will have been finalized and completed before our fall session of this year. We expect it to be operational at that time, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for those answers. Like Mr. Okalik said the other day, I'm in lifelong learning, so I'm continuing to learn every day. I think as soon as I started in this job, I have been learning ever since. My next question is: in terms of the regulations, when will those be finalized? Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Tapardjuk.

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): At this time, we have employees who will be doing the preparatory work for the two pieces of legislation related to language. The regulations will be part of the planning process. I cannot state to the member when the exact date of the completion of the regulations will be, but it has been included in our planning documentation.

We have started working on the implementation plan for the two pieces of language legislation. Our expectation is that they will be ready for submission at our fall session and the information will be included in the plan with respect

to the regulations. We will then start ongoing consultations with NTI and other stakeholders until the regulations have been completed. I expect, Mr. Speaker, that the documents will be ready for distribution at the fall session, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Oral Questions. Member for Pangnirtung, Mr. Komoartok.

**Question 267 – 3(2): Funding for Upinnginiq in Pangnirtung**

**Mr. Komoartok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Education, (interpretation ends) Hon. Louis Tapardjuk.

(interpretation) In Committee of the Whole, I alluded to this matter, but I would like to formally ask the question in the House. Funding is provided for students from kindergarten to grade 12 in my community to go out on the land for three weeks and go home for the weekends. This program has been running for 19 years and has been very successful. We're very proud of the fact that students are able to go out on the land. The smaller ones just go for a day trip, but the older ones overnight there.

We appreciate the many years of support from the Kakivak Association. The DEAs and the teachers do fundraising to pay and support the land skills program. When I was in Pangnirtung, it would cost \$75,000 to \$90,000 to purchase groceries, fuel, and to pay for cooks, guides, and elders for the three-week trip.

To date, the Department of Education has not provided any funding, except by way of application. I would like to ask the minister if he could commit to setting aside some funds to be used by the DEAs and/or set aside some funding to be used for such programs to be done all across Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Komoartok. Minister of Education, (interpretation ends) Hon. Louis Tapardjuk.

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, it's true that they are doing very good work in Pangnirtung, which is very beneficial, and it is true that the funding for this line item will probably not go ahead.

However, if the main estimates for the Department of Education are approved, there is a program for elders' training and teaching culture. The DEAs have the discretion as to how they will be using it. We are doing community tours to meet with the DEAs and school staff to talk about the new *Education Act* and what their authority is, what their rights are, and what they're allowed to do. I think that there will be a better understanding after that process is complete.

Mr. Speaker, in addition, the Department of Education, like the Department of CLEY, has an out-on-the-land program. They can also access funding from that. Hamlet councils and other entities have been made aware of this information. That's how I can respond to the member, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Komoartok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for his response. We would be very pleased to get additional funding for that program because our young people are our future leaders and we need to be well prepared for them. We need to provide the land skills program because it's part of education. It might be taught outside of the actual school, but it's very beneficial to the training and teaching of students.

I would like to thank the minister for his response and I will inform the teachers and the DEAs about this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Komoartok. Oral Questions. (interpretation ends) Member for Iqaluit West, Mr. Okalik.

### **Question 268 – 3(2): Fire Damage to Housing Units**

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation.

In the good city of Iqaluit, housing units have been burning down. Quite a few houses have burned down within the last few years. I was wondering if you are reviewing or evaluating how fires started in those units. I would like to ask the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation what they're doing about the units that have burned down. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker**: Thank you. Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Hon. Hunter Tootoo.

**Hon. Hunter Tootoo**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a good thing I wore my red shirt today; he asked me a fire question.

Mr. Speaker, when there is a fire, whether it is a public housing unit here in Iqaluit or any other community, the LHO provides a fire report to the district office. In all cases, it's the fire department, or the fire chief, or whoever does the report that does investigation to find out what the cause of the fire was.

So we have to wait until we get that information from the appropriate organization, whether it is the City of Iqaluit, or the Fire Marshall, or CGS, or whoever, before we can make a final determination as to what the cause of any fire was. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker**: Thank you, Minister. Your first supplementary, Mr. Okalik.

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In order to prevent future fires, you first have to determine the cause of the fire. That is why I wish to ask this additional question. I imagine that as per his prior response, all fires are investigated to determine the cause of the blaze. Have they determined the causes of the fires to date?

There are now quite a few housing units that have been destroyed by fire and these incidents exacerbate our housing shortage and add to the housing waiting list. Therefore, I wish to ask the minister: have they concluded their investigations as to what the causes of



the fires were in Iqaluit? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you. Minister Tootoo.

**Hon. Hunter Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The member makes a very good observation. I will say that, depending on what fire it is, there are different reasons. I know with each case, in some instances, we have a report back that does indicate the source of the fire. In some cases, we don't have that information, but if he can be specific, I would be more than happy to enlighten him with that information. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister. Your second supplementary, Mr. Okalik.

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In Iqaluit, every time you tour around the city, you see units that have been damaged by fire. So therefore, I'm urging the department to do an investigation to see what was the source of the fire or what are the costs of the fire. Once we find out or determine what causes the fires, we can try and alleviate them.

I would like to ask the minister if training or education can be provided to tenants on fire safety issues so that the public will have safer lives in their homes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Okalik. Minister Tootoo.

**Hon. Hunter Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know every year now since 1999, there's a fire prevention week. I have proudly put an ad in the paper every year supporting the firefighters.

They do a very good job during that week going around to all the schools, educating and explaining to the young children on what to do when there is a fire and how to prevent it.

I think, as far as fire prevention, those types of programs fall under the mandate of a different department, Community Governments Services in this case. They have programs in place through emergency services, I believe, to look after that.

Educating in those circumstances is to be done by professionals, the firefighters. Housing association staff aren't firefighting professionals. Some of them are volunteer firefighters, but I believe that they have their hands full trying to do the work that they have to do rather than going around fulfilling a mandate that's already being done by somebody else. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister. Your final supplementary, Mr. Okalik.

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Every time there's a unit damaged by fire, it increases the rent and the people on the waiting list gets longer. So I urge the minister that he meets with the other offices or departments to review what causes the fires and do more fire prevention in the future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Okalik. Minister Tootoo.

**Hon. Hunter Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just heard a recommendation; I didn't hear a question. Thank you.

**Speaker:** Thank you. Going back to our agenda. Item 7. Written Questions. Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Item 10. Replies to Budget Address. Item 11. Petitions. Item 12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees. Item 13. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills. Item 14. Tabling of Documents. Hon. Keith Peterson.

### **Item 13: Tabling of Documents**

#### **Tabled Document 125 – 3(2): FPT Ministers Responsible for Justice in October 2009**

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table my report on my attendance at the Federal/Provincial/Territorial Ministers of Justice Meeting held October 30, 2009, in Fredericton, New Brunswick.

Mr. Speaker, this was a very good conference. It's the first time I have been at a justice ministers' meeting. The three areas that we raised on behalf of Nunavut, the Northwest Territories, and the Yukon were: victimization and abuse in our small communities, the First Nations Policing Program, and access to justice for individuals suffering from fetal alcohol spectrum disorder. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister. Tabling of Documents. Mr. Okalik.

#### **Tabled Document 126 – 3(2): Documents from the Public Registry of the Office of the Commissioner of Lobbying of Canada**

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I wish to table a document from the public registry of the Officer of the Commissioner of Lobbying of Canada. This document reveals that the Government of Nunavut has engaged a former Liberal Cabinet Minister to lobby on our behalf with the federal government on the devolution file.

Mr. Speaker, I think that the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs will need to answer many more questions on this matter when it presents its budget next week. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you. Tabling of Documents. Mr. Elliott.

#### **Tabled Document 127 – 3(2): Ridding the Arctic of Nuclear Weapons: A Task Long Overdue**

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table a copy of a recent study published by the Rideau Institute and the Canadian Pugwash Group titled *Ridding the Arctic of Nuclear Weapons: A Task Long Overdue*. Mr. Speaker, I am a strong proponent of a nuclear-free Arctic, which is a position that I hope the government shares.

I will have detailed questions on this issue when the Minister of the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs appears before the Committee of the Whole. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Can we have that document brought forward to the table, please.

Tabling of Documents. Item 15. Notices of Motions. Item 16. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 17. Motions. Mr. Schell.

### **Item 17: Motions**

#### **Motion 016 – 3(2): Moratorium on Purchase of Products from the European Union by the Nunavut Liquor Commission**

**Mr. Schell:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

WHEREAS the European Parliament has voted in favour of a ban on the import of seal products that is unjustified, unreasonable, and unacceptable to Inuit, Nunavummiut, and Canadians from coast to coast to coast;

AND WHEREAS the Members of the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut have unanimously expressed their opposition to the European Union ban on seal products;

AND WHEREAS it is incumbent on the Government of Nunavut to take action that clearly demonstrates our outrage at the European Union's actions;

AND WHEREAS the Government of Nunavut's Liquor Commission operates warehouse facilities in Iqaluit and Rankin Inlet from which alcohol is sold to residents of our territory;

AND WHEREAS it is unacceptable under the present circumstances for the Government of Nunavut to facilitate the sale of alcohol from the European Union to residents of our territory;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the Member for Iqaluit West, that the Legislative Assembly calls on the Government of Nunavut to impose a moratorium on purchases by the Nunavut Liquor Commission of products originating from the European Union from this day forward until such time as the issue of the seal product ban is resolved to Nunavut's satisfaction.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Schell. Before we begin with comments to the motion, I have a comment to make. The motion is in order. Every member has the right to speak once to the motion for a total of 20 minutes. The mover of the motion speaks first. The mover of the motion has the right to the last reply, which closes the debate. To the motion. Mr. Schell.

**Mr. Schell:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am very honoured to have the opportunity today to speak to my motion and I would like to thank my colleague from Iqaluit West for having seconded it. I would also like to acknowledge the many supportive comments that I have received from my colleagues and constituents on this issue. I also want to thank the Minister of Finance for having invited me to make a motion on this subject. Good suggestion.

As I will explain in my comments today, my motion is very clear that it focuses on the sale of alcohol by the government and not banning a product in its entirety.

Mr. Speaker, as you will recall, the Minister of Environment introduced an important motion in this House on

March 25 of last year. That motion, which was passed unanimously by the Legislative Assembly, expressed our strong opposition to the European Union's ban on the import of seal products.

Mr. Speaker, when we considered the motion on March 25 of last year, I asked a very simple question: "If the European Union won't allow our seal products to be imported into and sold in Europe, why should the Government of Nunavut sell liquor products made in the European Union to Nunavummiut?"

Mr. Speaker, it has been almost one year since the passage of that motion. Since that time, the European Union's ban has regrettably moved forward.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to pay tribute to the Government of Canada and our federal parliamentarians. They have taken strong action to fight the ban and Nunavut appreciates their firm support.

I would also like to note for the record the fact that on January 13 of this year, our national Inuit organization, ITK, announced that it has launched a legal challenge in the European General Court to overturn the ban.

I would also like to acknowledge the people and the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador, who have also suffered as a result of the European Union's actions. They have spoken strongly in such forums as the Council of the Federation on the importance of ensuring that the seal ban issue is resolved before entering into new economic agreements with the European Union. In the event that this motion is

carried, Mr. Speaker, I would be very grateful if you would ensure that its passage is brought to the attention of our friends and allies in St. John's.

Mr. Speaker, the motion that is before the House today is very clear.

As Members of the Legislative Assembly are aware, the Government of Nunavut's Liquor Commission operates warehouses in Iqaluit and Rankin Inlet from which individuals and licensed establishments may order alcohol. These warehouses stock a variety of products from many different countries, including those of the European Union.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly believe that our government should not be in the business of selling alcohol from the European Union to its own residents until such time as the seal ban issue is resolved to our satisfaction.

Mr. Speaker, I recognize that this matter has generated a significant amount of coverage in the news. For the benefit of the listening public, I believe that it is important to be very clear today on a number of points.

Mr. Speaker, the passage of this motion will not result in products from the European Union being declared illegal. If residents wish to continue ordering wine from France or beer from Spain, they are certainly free to do so by importing the products from retailers located outside of the territory. However, Mr. Speaker, the Government of Nunavut is no longer going to sell alcohol from the European Union to them.

Mr. Speaker, we recognize that the Government of Nunavut has no business banning products from the European Union that are legally sold in our stores, such as European foods. The critical difference is in the case of alcohol, it is the government itself that is doing the selling and I absolutely believe that the government has the right to decide what products it will or will not sell from its own premises. I do not believe that we can or should be forced to sell products from the European Union to our own residents.

Mr. Speaker, it is also important to note that this motion is perfectly responsible. The motion does not call on the Liquor Commission to remove or destroy its existing inventory of liquor products from the European Union, thereby incurring costs. Once its current stocks are sold, the Liquor Commission will simply no longer order new supplies of alcohol that originate from the European Union.

Mr. Speaker, I also wish to note that the wording of this motion is sufficiently flexible to allow the Liquor Commission reasonable discretion to determine whether or not a given product should or should not be ordered. I recognize that in today's global economy, corporate ownership structures can be very complex. However, bottles and cans are clearly labelled as to their country of origin. For example, if the label on a bottle of wine states that it is the product of France, it should not be ordered. If a can of beer indicates that it's the product of Australia, it should be ordered.

Mr. Speaker, I would again note for the record that I initially raised this issue almost a year ago. I sincerely hope that

the Liquor Commission did not order a significant amount of European alcohol during last year's resupply. I would also note that our own country makes many fine wines, beers, and spirits and I am certain that Canadian producers will be more than happy to do business with us.

Mr. Speaker, I think that we all recognize that the actions proposed by this motion have a significant degree of symbolism attached to them. We recognize that French winemakers aren't going to go out of business because the Government of Nunavut won't sell their products for them. However, Mr. Speaker, this is one of those issues where symbols are both important and powerful. For example, I recently noted with pride that the Parliamentary Restaurant in Ottawa now has seal meat on its menu.

Mr. Speaker, we need to show that we are equally determined to express our outrage at the decision of the European Union. As I noted last week, the visiting European politicians who were here for the G-7 Summit could not even show enough respect for Nunavut's culture to attend a community feast that was held in their honour.

**An Hon. Member:** Shame, shame!

**Mr. Schell:** Mr. Speaker, if this motion does not pass, I can only imagine what the reaction will be. The European Union will laugh at us. They will think that they can take whatever actions they want that damage our culture and communities and we will do nothing except continue to buy their booze. That's not acceptable to me and it should not be acceptable to our government or any Member of this House.

Mr. Speaker, we need to show the European Union that its actions have real consequences. We need to show that this territory has decided that it isn't going to lie down without a fight.

Mr. Speaker, I want to conclude by reading a message that I received this weekend from a gentleman in British Columbia. Although I have never met the man, he took the time to send me an email.

He writes and I quote, "The European Union has no business getting involved in this affair and they certainly don't understand or care to learn the facts. I've had the great pleasure to visit Nunavut while I was living in the Northwest Territories and I don't believe that there is a group of people who have greater respect for the earth and the animals on it than the people who live North of 60. Good luck with your proposal and I hope your fellow MLAs support your motion. If your proposal goes through, I, too, will support you in solidarity by ceasing purchase of European Union wines and spirits for as long as Nunavut does."

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

**Mr. Schell:** Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in paying tribute to this courageous Canadian who has chosen to stand up with us. Mr. Speaker, in the same spirit of solidarity, I urge each and every Member of this House to support this motion.

I just got another email in here this afternoon and I would like to read it to you. "Dear Mr. Schell, I live in a small community in Nova Scotia where the seal hunt debate is also prominent in the news. It has been a topic of great interest

to me as I have been a fur harvester since my very young years. I now sit on the board of directors for the Nova Scotia Trappers Association.

I am sending you these words of encouragement from Nova Scotia in your courageous step forward to support not only your constituents but the legal and traditional rights of all Canadians.

When I heard your interview a few minutes ago on CBC, I was having a glass of Baileys Irish Cream. It will be my last."

>> *Laughter*

"I'll make it my mission to spread the word to this part of our great country. Your proposal echoes what many of us in the fur industry have said and felt for the past few years. If the EU doesn't support Canadian products, why should we support European products? Thank you, Mr. Schell, for standing up for Canada.

Sincerely, Francis Gibbs"

Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased, pursuant to Rule 59, to give all of the members the opportunity to demonstrate their support by calling for a recorded vote on this motion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Schell. Does the seconder have comments? Mr. Okalik.

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker (interpretation ends) I applaud my colleague for moving forward on this motion on the

recommendation of the Minister of Finance. I look forward to the Minister of Finance following through with his support on this motion, along with the rest of the Cabinet.

I have been very impressed with the amount of coverage that this motion has attracted from the rest of the country and elsewhere. I must say that the intent of this motion is to show our disappointment in the actions of the European community and the press has been showing our displeasure. I am very pleased to see that because we haven't unfortunately seen this kind of coverage for the seal issue and the territory. So I am very pleased and I applaud the member for moving ahead with this very important topic.

Although this motion will not have much weight in light of the amount of trade that we have with Europe, I believe that the principle that we stand for will be loudly heard by the European community. I must say that there are other issues that we face. If we are going to have a fresh start in the trade of sealskins, there is the issue of the image in the European community.

I encourage my fellow sealers in southern Canada to start using modern tools to harvest seals as the issue of the hakapik has created a real difficult challenge for all of us here in our country. I pressed our federal government to ban the use of the hakapik so that we can at least show the European community that we hunt like them, that we're not Neanderthals, that we're modern, and that we just want to trade our products. I continue to press our government to lobby the federal

government to ban the use of the hakapik.

I also applaud the federal Parliament for serving seal in their restaurant and I look forward to eating there in the near future if I get the chance to go there again and visit with fellow parliamentarians. I would like to also see that on our menus here in Nunavut throughout restaurants or in our own diets when we are served food in our Assembly and elsewhere. So I applaud the parliamentarians and I look forward to seeing the same.

I hope that all members will support this motion so that we can show the world that we stand together in our fight to support our hunters. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Okalik. To the motion. Mr. Arvaluk.

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a brief comment to make to the motion. When sealskin prices went way down, we anticipated that they weren't going to be bought by the government. We didn't quite know where the market was, but because the Inuit are going to keep harvesting the seal, we also know that they have to buy grub, gasoline, and so on in order to go seal hunting.

Yes, I believe that it's not going to make a lot of change and it's not really going to affect the European economy, but we, as MLAs, have to make sure that we utilize all sources of revenue that we can get because of the high cost of living up here. A lot of the hunters are going to have a hard time getting their supplies, gasoline, and so on because of this loss of revenue

With that, I will firmly support the motion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you. To the motion. Does the mover of the motion have a last reply or last comments? Sorry. (interpretation) Premier of Nunavut, (interpretation ends) Hon. Eva Aariak.

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I rise today to speak to the motion put forward by my hon. colleague for South Baffin.

I would first like to publicly recognize and thank Mr. Schell for drawing national and international attention to the sealing industry and to the unfair way the European Union has approached an activity which is fundamentally important to Inuit culture. Mr. Schell should be applauded for his efforts.

>>Applause

Mr. Speaker, as outlined in our mandate, *Tamapta: Building Our Future Together*, our government is approaching many of the challenges we face in a manner which will find long-term solutions. That is why we have chosen to work with Canada and support their legal challenge through appropriate mechanisms of the EU ban. We are not looking for a short-term reaction.

Mr. Speaker, our government is also guided by Inuit societal values, *Akiniaqtailiniq*, in which we respect those who disagree with us and do not approach solutions through retaliation. Although it is clear that the European Union has little respect or understanding of our culture or ways, this is no reason

why we have to lower ourselves to that level of debate.

I note that the motion before us today is not limited to imposing a moratorium simply on the purchase of liquor but would apply to all purchases by the Liquor Commission of all products originating from European Union countries. Thus potentially, the Liquor Commission could not purchase office equipment or mobile equipment originating from a European Union country.

My Cabinet and I have considered the impacts of the proposed moratorium. On checking with the Canadian Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, we have been advised that it would be a clear violation of the World Trade Organization's general agreement on tariffs and trade of which Canada is a signatory as it discriminates against EU products based on their origins. It would also violate an agreement between the European Economic Community and Canada concerning trade and commerce in alcoholic beverages.

Not only would such a moratorium open the door for complaints by Members of the European Union against Canada, it may also be unhelpful to Canada's World Trade Organization complaint with respect to the European ban on seal products.

Mr. Speaker, one of the principles of good government is that a government should not, through its decisions, expose itself to areas of potential liability or make decisions which break existing laws. To clarify, if the Cabinet votes to approve this motion, we will be putting Nunavut in such a position.



Mr. Speaker, Nunavummiut are intelligent and capable of making their own decisions. Each individual has an opportunity, when making a purchase, to decide what they wish to buy. We would strongly encourage Nunavummiut to make that assessment when they purchase items such as liquor.

As indicated by my hon. colleague, the Minister of Environment, we are establishing programs to educate and inform Europeans and others in our traditional hunting and harvesting practices. Solid, accurate information is critical to ensuring that a clear understanding of who we are and what we desire is available to all and that we are delivering our own messages.

*Uqaqtittijii*, we are jointly proud of our sealing tradition and the fact that Inuit use all of the seal. We are also proud of our hunters and the contributions they make to our communities and the connections they have to our heritage. Although Inuit are now very much part of the 21st century, our hunting traditions provide an important part of our cultural foundation. For thousands of years, seals have been a vital resource for Inuit survival in a very demanding environment.

Mr. Speaker, in conclusion, I would once again like to clearly support the intent of Mr. Schell's motion in raising awareness of the impact of the EU's actions in the seal industry to national and international levels. However, for the reasons indicated above, we will be abstaining during this vote. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Madam Premier. To the motion. Mr. Elliott.

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I strongly support this motion and stand in solidarity beside my colleague. I know in my constituency, the residents are often tired of being bullied by other groups and agencies, almost like a David and Goliath kind of effect.

I am a little confused in terms of how the World Trade Organization is able to tell the Government of Nunavut when, in its own tabled documents, when you flip through, you see that we're purchasing our liquor from Labatt's brewery, Molson Canada, Liquor Control Board of Ontario. So I guess the World Trade Organization is saying that we can purchase or we can't purchase stuff from Ontario, which is kind of funny.

I agree that culturally, maybe it's not alright to attack, but I don't know if this is an attack. It's more of a symbol. It's a symbol that we need to stand and say, "What's going on here? How long are we going to allow other countries, in some instances, to take away people's livelihoods?"

We have the recent banning of the sale of polar bear products in Baffin Bay and we're told that the reason this is happening is because of global warming. And again, what control do we have as a territory over global warming? We see in Ontario buyouts to big companies like Ford to secure jobs and help them out. Billions of dollars go into that and to what, put cars back on the streets that, in turn, emit these fumes that go into the atmosphere that continue to perpetuate global warming?

So to me, what we're saying is, as the Premier said, Nunavummiut have a choice to purchase liquor. They can

purchase it wherever they want to. At the same time, I would disagree with her in terms of people's choice to purchase liquor because most communities are restricted to getting a licence to be able to actually purchase liquor in the first place.

We're not telling them they can't buy it. What we're doing is we're telling them, "Let's think about this. Let's send a message to the global world that we're not going to do this." Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Elliott. To the motion. Mr. Aupaluktuq.

**Mr. Aupaluktuq:** I, too, applaud the federal government for having seal on their menu in the parliamentary restaurant. I think that's good to state to the rest of the country and the world that these products are healthy and they're used in a humane way. Though I'm familiar with the issues of Newfoundland and Labrador sealing, I can only speak for and in favour of Nunavut.

It's crucial to address that simply, Nunavut seals have been harvested in accordance with respect to Nunavut's practices and customs. Like Mr. Elliott, many Nunavummiut have expressed that they too are tired of being bullied and more importantly, Inuit in their own country are tired of having their rights infringed, violated, and tarnished. The intent and spirit of what we want to do as a government is to be able to listen and hear what people have to say. I think, with this symbolism, the principle of it all is that the intent of it is to raise awareness.

With this, I wasn't going to decide as to how I was going to vote, but after listening to some colleagues, I can honestly say that with the intent and principle of this motion, I will be in favour of it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. To the motion. Mr. Ningark.

**Mr. Ningark (interpretation):** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My constituents in the communities of Kugaaruk and Repulse Bay are largely dependent on the income derived from the sale of sealskins, especially in the summer months. This is true of not just my constituents but in practically every community in Nunavut where people derive extra income from the sale of the sealskins, which is used to purchase fuel, food, and large items, such as snowmobiles and ATVs.

Many of our people make their livelihood from harvesting seals, not for primarily commercial reasons but to ensure that they have nutritious and healthy food as part of their diet. The meat is used for many reasons, including feeding the huskies that make up the dog teams of many Inuit in the communities. The skin is largely a by-product and is sold to supplement their meagre incomes to assist their relatives, spouses, children, grandchildren, and so on. These people largely live off the land and perceive themselves as part of the land, exactly as it should be.

Inuit are like other humans. Our hearts beat and our bodies depend on our bloodstream. They are trying to make their livelihood based on the available resources in their environment. We do not have lands amenable for farming purposes nor can we depend on

livestock, such as chickens, pigs, cows, and other husbandry species.

Inuit are simply trying to make a livelihood based on their local resources, which has added benefits, such as proper nutritious foods that our bodies need for a healthy life, as well as the cultural and social benefits of the traditional lifestyle of being on the land, and with very few alternatives, which is why the impact on Inuit is writ so large. Their sole source of income will be stolen simply due to the fashion whims of a larger, ignorant society that doesn't condone hunting. That is obviously why Inuit are struggling.

Although we form part of the global peoples, our cause is largely ignored due to our remoteness. I believe that even a token gesture to retaliate, even if it is not substantial, will assist Inuit as our whole culture is under attack and many Inuit are hurt by this senseless activism by outsiders. That is why I will be supporting the motion in its entirety. Thank you, Mr. Chairman... Mr. Speaker. Sorry.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningark. To the motion. (interpretation ends) Does the mover of the motion have a last reply? Mr. Schell.

**Mr. Schell:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to go back to the Premier's comment that Inuit don't retaliate. If I remember right, she refused to put somebody on the seat for the EU ban on the sealskin as retaliation. I just want to correct that for the record.

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

**Mr. Schell:** I also want to make another point clear. The Nunavut Liquor Commission operates under the direction of the government and the government is accountable to the Legislative Assembly. The government has the right to determine what products it will sell to its own residents from its own facilities.

I find it very hard to accept arguments that say that we are somehow required to purchase a certain amount of products from specific countries. For instance, if the NorthMart, or Arctic Ventures, or the co-ops decide that they are no longer going to sell French cheese, can they be forced to stock it on their shelves and sell it to our customers because of international trade agreements? Of course not. I believe that's the same thing when it comes to selling alcohol. It is our Liquor Commission. We can decide what's going to be going on the shelves or what's not to be going on the shelves.

I want also to make it perfectly clear that nothing is being made illegal. Once again, I make it clear that individual residents will still be able to buy import permits and order their French wine from Ottawa, Montreal, or Yellowknife. The only thing that will be different is that the Government of Nunavut will not be doing the selling.

Mr. Speaker, I promise you that the government will not be able to ignore this motion quietly. I will use every tool in my disposal to monitor whether or not the government defies the will of the House and allows the Liquor Commission to continue ordering European alcohol to sell to our constituents. In the fall session, all of the Members of this House will know

whether the government is accountable or not.

Pursuant to Rule 59, I request a recorded vote on this motion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Schell. The debate is now closed and we will vote on the motion. A recorded vote has been requested. All those in favour, please stand and sit down when I call your name.

Mr. Schell.

Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Ningark.

Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Okalik.

Mr. Ningeongan.

Mr. Komoartok.

Mr. Elliott.

Thank you. All those opposed, please stand and sit down when I call your name.

All those abstaining, please stand and sit down when I call your name.

Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Curley.

Mr. Taptuna.

Ms. Aariak.

Mr. Tapardjuk.

Mr. Kusugak.

Mr. Peterson.

The record shows that the vote for the motion is 9; against, 0; abstentions, 7. The motion is carried.

>>*Applause*

Thank you. Motions. Item 18. First Reading of Bills. Item 19. Second Reading of Bills. Item 20. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bill 22 with Mr. Okalik in the Chair.

Before we proceed to the Committee of the Whole, we will take a 20-minute break.

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House recessed at 15:53 and Committee resumed at 16:24*

### **Item 20: Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters**

**Chairman** (Mr. Okalik)(interpretation): Good afternoon. I would like to call the committee meeting to order. We have Bill 22 to deal with. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Aupaluktuq.

**Mr. Aupaluktuq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We would like to continue with the review of Bill 22 and the main estimates for the fiscal year 2010-11. This afternoon, we will continue with the review of the Department of

Education and if time permits, commence the review of the Department of Community and Government Services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. Are we in agreement to have the Department of Education appear before the committee again?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Bill 22 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2010-2011 – Education – Consideration in Committee**

**Chairman** (interpretation): We weren't finished with our review of the department and we were on page G-7 with Minister Tapardjuk at the witness table. You can go to the witness table along with your officials, Minister Tapardjuk. Do my colleagues agree with that?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Sergeant-at-Arms, thank you. For the record, Minister Tapardjuk, please introduce your officials.

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my left is Sandy Teiman, Director of Income Support in the Department of Education. To my right is David Pealow from Corporate Services. Mr. Chairman, Ms. Teiman will be seated to my immediate left while there are questions pertaining to income support and then I would like my deputy minister to return to the witness table after that, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. I would like to welcome your officials. We left off with page G-7 and we will continue. In the list of names, Mr. Rumbolt, you were next.

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just have one more question on income support. I know that there are not a lot of people in their own homes who are on income support on a regular basis, but I think there are some. In these cases, does your department help out with home insurance in any way for those who are on long-term income support? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Who is going to respond? Ms. Teiman, if you can try and answer the question.

**Ms. Teiman:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When a homeowner comes to the Income Support Program, we have various things that we look at when they come in for their assessment. They bring in their mortgage papers and the majority of times, their mortgage insurance is included in the mortgage document. So we do provide assistance for mortgage insurance. We provide things like fuel and electricity.

The assessments are based on the previous 30 days and that may clear up the question from yesterday regarding the receipts that are brought in because our program is based on the previous 30 days. If someone comes in with their electricity bill, fuel bill, bank statements for their mortgage, and things like that, we do include those in the assessment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Teiman. Mr. Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know people who have mortgages usually do have insurance on their mortgage to protect their mortgage if something happens, but the insurance I'm talking about is insurance on their home itself. If there's a long-term person or family who is on income support who have their own home, can they get assistance from your department for providing home insurance in case something happens to their house? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Ms. Teiman.

**Ms. Teiman:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We do look at... you're talking about private homeowners insurance for personal effects? We would include that in the assessment, but again, it's based on the income that the individual comes to us with. So we may pay some, all, or none depending on the income from the previous 30 days after the assessment has taken place. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wasn't talking so much on personal effects. I'm trying to get the point across that there are people on income support who can't afford to have insurance on their home if they have a fire and the house burns down. That's the point I'm trying to get across here. Do you provide assistance for people for home insurance? Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Ms. Teiman.

**Ms. Teiman:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In most of my experience with homeowners, they have it included as a portion of their mortgage, so it's included in their mortgage amount, so it would be included. If they had it included in their mortgage, yes, we would include it on the assessment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Ms. Teiman. Mr. Rumbolt, that was last question number what? I don't know. Mr. Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Some questions lead to confusion.

>>*Laughter*

Mr. Chairman, I personally have a mortgage and I have home insurance. My home insurance is not part of my mortgage. I get a separate invoice forwarded with my homeowner's insurance from an insurance broker annually. My question is: when a person comes up with their annual homeowner's insurance for their house, does income support help them in any way? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Ms. Teiman.

**Ms. Teiman:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If somebody did not have the insurance included in their mortgage, then we would assist as long it was within certain limits. If it was excessive, we would probably compare it with what the bank would offer under mortgage insurance. Yes, Mr. Chairman, the answer is yes.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Ms. Teiman.  
Mr. Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Have that being said, if they do qualify for some assistance towards their insurance, does this affect the amount of food allowance that they get in any way? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt.  
Ms. Teiman.

**Ms. Teiman:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's difficult to answer that question unless I go into how the assessment is calculated. It depends on every situation.

So when you come through the door for an assessment, it depends on how much income that you bring to the table from the previous 30 days, then it will depend on how much your mortgage, electricity, and insurance would be, and then if you have a budget deficit, which means you don't have enough money to cover all of those needs, then we would cover some, all, or none depending on what the circumstance was.

So we could pay \$50, \$100, \$3,000; it just depends on the income that you come into the department with. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Ms. Teiman.  
The next one I have is Mr. Aupaluktuq.

**Mr. Aupaluktuq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate Ms. Teiman as well as Mr. Pealow, and the hon. minister being here to answer some questions. It is our job to ask a lot of questions on behalf of our constituents to make sure that things are operating smoothly. This is a form of checks and

balances for our government as well as your department to work together to ensure that we best represent our people.

I would like to state for the record and in the public forum that I do respect all income support workers and I do support what they do because they deal with the most sensitive issues that affect people's livelihoods every day. I can appreciate the stress levels as well as the difficulty that they must administer in terms of their work duties.

With a lot of relatives throughout Nunavut, not just our own communities but all Nunavut alone, there are people who are on income support for various reasons. We can spend a whole day on that, but what it comes down to is there are people on income support for various reasons.

A lot of them are made to feel like they receive their cheques made out Northern or co-op alone. I understand that there are few recipients who may not have some budgeting skills or have had any budgeting skills at all to help them stretch the dollar or where to best spend the money to meet the needs of their family.

With this common practice in some communities, the income support cheques may be made out to the stores. Most or all people are treated in the same practice. People are made to feel like they are guilty for accepting income support. They have nowhere else to go and yet, they feel like they're being micromanaged as to how they spend their money.

My question, Mr. Chairman, for the department is: will or does income

support use a proactive approach on introducing budgeting or even perhaps providing some budgeting skills to recipients or new recipients? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. Ms. Teiman.

**Ms. Teiman:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's a great question. The practice of issuing what we call in the department or the income support world supply or driven cheques have a long history in Nunavut and back to the NWT government.

We, in the early days, in 1996 and I'll date myself, went through a whole issue of community empowerment in the territorial government of the day. In a lot of cases, we try to approach the hamlet councils to determine how income support cheques will be given out. We ask for a motion in council so that it will be very clear, community by community, how the program will be administered in the community.

We did try to issue cash to individuals in several communities over the years. Unfortunately, due to lack of financial information in the communities for recipients, the project failed miserably. We had situations where individuals had their power cut off because they didn't pay their electricity bill. They had rent arrears because the cheque didn't go to the housing association. So we have competing interests because the minute that I would go to make that change to have cash issued, then other agencies have a problem when those bills aren't paid.

Our program, through the government, does not pay arrears when clients don't. If it's included in the assessment, we don't go back and then make another payment when those things aren't done. So that's where the term supply or driven cheques has come from.

I would love to see a system where cash was issued and we have a lot of work to do government-wide to introduce financial literacy within the territory for all of our residents. I think that it would probably be a wonderful idea if we could somehow offer courses through the college to introduce that to income support recipients especially so that they could stretch their dollar.

This year, we have introduced with Nunavut Arctic College in partnership pre-employment courses that are a little different than what we had done in the past, where we're teaching people who are on income support use of computers and things like that which, I think, will go a long way in helping people learn how to manage their money.

I look forward to the day, Mr. Chairman and the hon. member, that we can go to a cash system. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Ms. Teiman. Mr. Aupaluktuq.

**Mr. Aupaluktuq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank Ms. Teiman for that response. I just do have one more question in regard to this subject.

I know there are some income recipients and people who are new to income support and who do require emergency funding. I have been approached by four different people with families and one



gentleman by himself who required some emergency funding. They were hesitant to access emergency funding because they were made to feel as if they were asking for something they weren't entitled to when technicalities, all of the policies and procedures are there to ensure that the client has access and the right to those emergency funds.

The most common response that I have been told when I have asked, "What kind of responses do you get?" It's always been, "Well, I'll have to call a certain regional office. We will get back to you in two days." Nothing comes back about it. A person comes back and says, "We will get back to you." By then, people are used to not having anything and they just simply walk away. I have told people on a couple of occasions, "Why don't you go back and try to access some emergency funding where you have your family involved there?"

Forgive me, Mr. Chairman, this may not be an O&M question, which it isn't, but it's intended in light of this process under income support. Would you be able to have the department clarify with your employees in Income Support to ensure that emergency funding is made available for the intended use? I think it's something that should be stressed throughout the territory. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. Which one of you would like to respond? Ms. Teiman.

**Ms. Teiman:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The topic of emergency assistance is a difficult one to address. Emergency assistance in the social assistance world is for things like fires, if somebody's

house burns down, or if there is some sort of catastrophic event. That was the intent of emergency assistance.

In many cases, what happens is that the requests for emergency assistance do normally go up through the different levels and we do have quite a bureaucracy. I don't administer the Income Support Program in the communities. We have directors of regional offices that are supposed to oversee the program, but many of those do come to my attention because of the levels that people are asking for.

We have had many situations where people have, for lack of a better word, made poor judgments in some of the major amounts of funding that they have received and have used massive amounts of money that they have gotten from sale of certain things to perhaps not look after their families. Perhaps that is a judgment call in mind. They have done things with money that perhaps they should have had a second thought about the children being hungry.

So in some of those cases, emergency assistance funds are turned down. In many cases, emergency assistance will come to my office and in many cases, they are approved. Again, it's a case-by-case basis. We have an approval system and we also an appeal system within the department. The member is right in bringing this up.

We do have a lot of work to do to get the word out that people don't always know that they can appeal or that they can pick up the phone and call a higher level authority. We are working on communication materials in my office to try to get that back out into the

communities. We had a major campaign back in the early 2000s where we had brochures and things put out in all languages. Many of those materials are out of date and have to be updated.

So that is the process. Emergency assistance, and I'll choose my words carefully here, has to be dealt with on a case-by-case basis and so we try to err on the side of caution in the majority of cases. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Teiman. Mr. Aupaluktuq.

**Mr. Aupaluktuq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Ms. Teiman for that. Just a final comment in closing, some of the comments I made earlier were in regard to constituents, clients, and even relatives, and even personal experience. I'm a past recipient of income support. With such a large number of our people, I believe it's 48 percent of our population or higher, dependent on income support, people are doing what they can as best they can with what they have or what they're given.

We should be able to give our people the dignity of being able to access dollars or support that they should be entitled to rather than being made to feel the sense of judgment, or stereotype, or one-umbrella-fits-all attitude for all recipients. I think we should destroy the stigma that recipients don't know how to take care of themselves. I was glad to hear you addressing the fact that it's a judgment call in the sense of how we express ourselves.

I'm watching how I word my words carefully, but the fact of the matter that I would like to comment, Mr. Chairman,

is that I would encourage all departments under income support, all offices be made aware of what the rules, procedures, and appeals are and that we should encourage or remind people that they have a right to an appeal.

I think that is very crucial, very important, and would give a little bit of effort for people to understand that the system is there to help them and that it's not Income Support's personal gain as to who they allow to have dollars or who they will allow to have emergency dollars.

I just want to make sure that these devices are there that are supposed to help our people. I just want to make sure that all income support workers are educated enough to be able to provide that service to the income support recipients. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. I didn't hear a question, just a comment. I must say and I would like to add that there was one time I went on welfare and that was the last time, thank goodness. I felt ashamed, but I deserved it. I put myself in that position, so I'm glad that the cheques were there so that I would never do it again. It served its purpose on me and it is there for a reason, as a place of last resort and not the place of first resort.

I have more names. Mr. Elliott.

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was glad Ms. Teiman was going to be here for the questions I wanted to ask... I guess if she could give us an update of the Income Support Case Management System since this is her area of expertise.

One of the concerns or one of the problems we have is, and with what Mr. Aupaluktuq was saying, the income support workers seem to have a thankless job where they seem to be cheque-writing people. I think the intent of the income support is what Mr. Okalik was saying where it is just temporary.

My idea of the case management system is to actually help the income support workers get the cheques into the hands of the people, but then that frees up their time so that they can actually do some of proactive search or help people find jobs. I was just wondering if, while you are here, you could explain a little bit more about how you see this rolling out and how long this is going to take. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Ms. Teiman.

**Ms. Teiman:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Income Support Case Management System has a long history. It started in May of 1998, if you can believe it, pre-division. It was started off by the Office of the Interim Commissioner back in the day because all jurisdictions across the country have systems that drive the rules and regulations and the accountability for the Income Support Program. Nunavut had to have a system for those checks and balances. The program is full of rules.

We have a huge financial responsibility not only to the Government of Nunavut for reporting but people have to keep in mind that we also have a responsibility to report to the Canada Revenue Agency. The benefits that are given out through the Income Support Program are

all, for the most part, reportable benefits to the Canada Revenue Agency.

While we do the bank reconciliations for the Department of Finance and we try to do the statistical analysis to provide good information for Cabinet and for the members on exactly who is on income support, how many people, the ages, and all of the statistics that you see in other jurisdictions, we also have the responsibility to report to the Canada Revenue Agency and it's quite a lengthy process.

The case management system has five modules in it. As the deputy minister and the minister alluded to yesterday, the first module is what we call a PDR module, the Personal Data Collection System and that is because we have to report to the Canada Revenue Agency. We need to know that the money that is being given out is actually being quoted to the correct person because it affects your taxes at the end of the day.

All of the personal data that is collected through the program, your name, your birth date, your social insurance number, and the names of your children, we worked very closely with previous ATIPP coordinators to make sure that we were within our legal rights to collect that information as we were designing the system. So that's the first module.

The second module is for the delivery of the Senior Citizen Supplementary Benefit program, which the minister alluded to yesterday. We deliver benefits to approximately 700 seniors across Nunavut who receive the Old Age Pension program and the Guaranteed Income Supplement. The Nunavut government provides \$175 a month to

recipients of those programs from the federal government.

We have a merged payment process that we use the case management system for. The Department of Finance gave approval for us to put that module into production because we do have a Memorandum of Understanding with the federal government for this merged payment process. It is done once a month.

All of the cheques or the benefits are tracked through the system. There is one cheque that's cut to the federal government for the services that they provide to Nunavut. So they actually provide the money on that cheque and then we pay the federal government back, but the tax reporting at the end of the year comes from my department through the information that's in the case management system.

The next module that we are working very hard to get out and which has been in pilot since June at the Iqaluit office is for the assessment piece. That is when an income support recipient comes to us and an assessment would be done rather than the labour-intensive paper process and the manual cheques, which we frequently have problems because of the manual cheque process.

The system will generate an electronic cheque after the assessment is completed. The system is also being designed to have access to be able to direct deposit and make combined payments so that we can eventually pay the Nunavut Housing Corporation and the Power Corporation in one cheque instead of the thousands of cheques for

small amounts of money. It's a cost-saving measure.

It also collects the statistics and will provide the reporting and the production of the T-5007, which is the tax information slip that goes to the Canada Revenue Agency, plus it will also provide the accountability to the Nunavut government for the bank reconciliation for the number of cheques we write. Currently, we write 80,000 manual cheques a year and they go to several different sources. Some families could get up to five cheques depending on where they shop and the number of places that we write the cheques to, like the Power Corporation, and so on.

We also have a case management module that's being worked on. That is, for lack of a better term, the career development side of income support. The information that we collect on that will be to try to steer or counsel people who are accessing income support programs to the career development side of the department and into training under labour market programs. It will be a good point of reference to hopefully get people into the labour market.

The last piece of the system is a reporting piece and again, that will be used to provide the statistics and wrap up things for the tax system and other various types of reports that the government may ask for. So that is the premise of the case management system.

We also have a database that is being rolled out across the territory right now because the case management system is a huge system full of complex rules. The Department of Finance must give their blessing before the system is rolled out

because of the financial nature of the program. We're trying very hard to make sure that we meet all of those qualifications and rules that are in place as a government.

The small database that we are rolling out across the territory, I have staff coming in from the Kivalliq this week coming to take their training. It's a small personal database that, instead of handwriting all of the forms that we ask for, they will be able to actually do it on the computer. Our Department of CGS has worked very hard to help us get the networked communities to have this system. The training starts on that on Monday and then it will go to our staff in the Kitikmeot and then the Baffin until the larger system is ready to roll out.

Thank you for that long-winded story. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Ms. Teiman, you lost me a while ago, so I got lost. The rule of thumb is maybe a little shorter so that people can understand and comprehend the answers and questions, by the way. Mr. Elliott, do you still have questions? Mr. Elliott.

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank you for that answer. I got everything, I was making notes, and it answers everything that I have been asking because it seems like we need something in place so that the income support workers can actually help people gain the skills.

The government talks about self-reliance and if they're just writing cheques and people are just coming there with their hand and saying, "Get me my cheque. I

don't care." Other members have mentioned that working at the college, people would come around every month with this little piece of paper saying, "Do you have jobs?" And you sign it saying "No" and it just becomes a habit. It's routine and they're not getting help in getting a position, or getting a job, or getting into education.

You also mentioned yesterday in one of the answers the poverty working group. I know Mr. Ningark was asking questions in the House about the definition of poverty. To me, I don't feel we have gotten a definition in terms of what the government feels poverty is. The obvious answer is, "Look it up in the dictionary," and there you go, that is what poverty is.

Again, I think poverty in Nunavut is a lot different, it's almost like homelessness. For example, Arctic Bay doesn't have a food bank and Arctic Bay doesn't have a soup kitchen, but what ends up happening is that the wage earners and people who have employment are the ones who are the soup kitchens and the food banks. They're providing food for family, relatives, friends, and that's how we work. That's how the community works.

It's kind of hard to define poverty because you just never know when you're not going to have your job or when you don't get elected back, so you're in a position where you're going to need help as well.

What departments consist of the poverty working group? Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Mr. Elliott wants to

know where to go next time, so that's the question... no, I'm kidding. Ms. Teiman.

**Ms. Teiman:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The poverty working group is not really formalized as of yet. We've had informal meetings as a group of concerned employees. It's being led by our colleagues in the Department of Economic Development. So far, at our working group meetings, we've had representation from ED&T, Income Support; we've had people from Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, Department of Health and Social Services, Housing. It's been several informal meetings and the process, I think, will be formalized after April 1 and the budget hopefully will be passed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Ms. Teiman. Mr. Elliott, do you have any further questions? The next one I have is Mr. Ningeongan.

**Mr. Ningeongan** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think it would be better if I asked this question to the minister.

(interpretation ends) Your business plan indicates that the *Social Assistance Act* and its associated regulations will be reviewed in partnership with the Department of Justice. What aspects of the program will be the focus of this review? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. Minister Tapardjuk.

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): We are going to keep reviewing this to

see where we can make amendments to the *Social Assistance Act*. This review would include an examination of its operations and as you indicated, we're going to be setting up a committee. Ministers will also be part of this committee during the review.

The policies are also going to be reviewed because they were grandfathered from the Northwest Territories government and we want to tailor them for Nunavut. We will review the policies and regulations and make them relevant to Nunavut. We're looking at how we can make improvements so that it's more geared towards Nunavut, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Tapardjuk. Mr. Ningeongan.

**Mr. Ningeongan** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think we all know that we have to make changes to income support, especially when there are few jobs for the able-bodied. They would be more than willing to work, but they have no alternative other than to receive social assistance. Approximately how many years do you think that we will be able to get the able-bodied people out in the labour force?

**Chairman** (interpretation): I'm sorry, Mr. Ningeongan, but we can't hear the interpreters, so we will have that checked. Is it okay now? Sorry for the inconvenience, but if you can repeat your question, Mr. Ningeongan.

**Mr. Ningeongan** (interpretation): As I already stated, I think this issue is quite clear and I want to ask in regard to income support recipients. It seems like they're sworn to oath when signing

documents and thus, liable to prosecution. I suspect that many could be liable. I'm sure a great many income support recipients will have to keep on signing sworn statements. A lot of the younger recipients are able bodied but are faced with few jobs.

I wonder if you have observed what these changes will mean when they come into effect and how long those changes will be in effect. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. Minister Tapardjuk.

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that question. There are quite a lot of young people in particular who are on the welfare system. At times, we hear about parents whose child turns 18 and urge that child to go apply for social assistance. The Department of Education has an agreement where they set up training programs. For example, there's heavy equipment operator training available in Baker Lake. We also will be seeing more in the Mary River project with a drilling training program.

The Department of Education, in collaboration with the Arctic College, will be setting up a trade school in Rankin Inlet for training carpenters, plumbers, and electricians. Once we have the trade school open, there are going to be people applying who are currently on income support. We are doing all we can. We are going to help social income recipients when they are just getting into the initial stages of their career while they are trying to get into the labour market, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Tapardjuk. Mr. Ningeongan.

**Mr. Ningeongan** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is not a question; it's more for the minister's information.

With respect to the caribou issue in Coral Harbour, when I was the mayor, we had people on social assistance, including youth. When they were employed at the caribou meat plant, their lives were changed a great deal and boosted their self-confidence. This is a worthwhile benefit and I want to see all of us work together to bring about this kind of future.

When a young person is no longer facing uncertainty in seeking income assistance and is given a job instead, it improves their lives greatly. I believe that's the vision we have. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. That is an excellent point and it has been noted. Next on my list is Mr. Ningark. You may proceed.

**Mr. Ningark**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My question later on is to do with the process for appeals. In the meantime, what I want to say for my community is that in the area of productive choice or choices, if you will, my understanding also tells me that if a student is going to school, as long as the student is not making any money and is over 18 years or whatever and they're receiving income support, that's one aspect of productive choice.

The other one I gathered from the minister is that if you're settling into a

new job, you're not able to collect any type of money moving into a community, but your prospect is that you will eventually get a job, then income support is there to support you for the time being.

I think that in Nunavut, especially in the small communities, such as Repulse Bay and Kugaaruk, the productive choices are few, in between, and far between, so it's really hard to find. We don't have the luxury of students going to school and then finding an evening job either in your local enterprise, or local hamlet, or whatever there is in the community. In the south, you would have a better chance of that.

I have noticed that when I travel to Yellowknife... I travel through Yellowknife every time I come here. I know there are young people working in the evenings or on the weekend. They're still young enough to be students. I know they're going to school. We don't have that luxury in a small community.

I have respect for the frontline workers. It's a thankless job. We all know that. Mr. Chairman, my question is: how many clients have appealed because they're not given income support from the income support office?

It can be overwhelming for the first time going to the income support office trying to get money and not being sure what is going to happen. It can really be overwhelming. I even find it today overwhelming when I go to Minister Louis Tapardjuk's office. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Who is responding?

Minister Tapardjuk, do you want to respond to the question?

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Yes. With respect to this appeal process, we appointed new members to the board just this past winter. The chairperson for this appeal board is Jack Anawak and the board is responsible for all of Nunavut.

From what I'm aware of, there have been very few cases of people going through the appeals process. I will have Ms. Teiman identify the numbers that went through the appeals process last year if that's okay with you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Tapardjuk. (interpretation ends) Ms. Teiman, the question is: how many have appealed? Ms. Teiman.

**Ms. Teiman**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm not able to answer with the exact numbers because we have several levels of appeals. Clients are supposed to be advised of their appeal rights if they are denied assistance. I would hope that our income support workers are doing that and that their supervisors are providing some level of oversight to ensure that is happening.

The first level of appeal would go to the regional director in the region that the client lives, so appeals don't necessarily come to the highest level of the appeal board. This past year, we've had two major appeals that have come into the actual board. We have a very strong board. We have been lucky in the past of having very strong people on the appeal boards.



But in the communities, I would have to solicit some numbers from the three regional offices to get back to the member on the exact numbers. They don't necessarily come to my office. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Teiman. Mr. Ningark.

**Mr. Ningark**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I again want to find out the definition of productive choice. We know that it is attending training, actively looking for a job, settling into a new job. What are the other productive choices that the department can share with the committee? Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Ms. Teiman.

**Ms. Teiman**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. "Productive choices" was a term that we brought over with our program from the Northwest Territories government and we have kept that program until we change it here in Nunavut.

You're right; most of the productive choices are focused on the wage economy, so if someone goes out and gets a job, if someone is an active participant in training. We also consider productive choices in various wellness activities. So if someone has addictions or mental health issues, if they're seeking counselling, working through their nursing station, those things are considered productive choices. Parenting of very young children is considered a productive choice. We ask if a hunter is going to be called a hunter. We work with the local HTO and allow them to determine whether somebody is called a hunter.

So those are some of the productive choices that we have in the program. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Teiman. (interpretation ends) The next one I have is Mr. Komoartok. (interpretation) You can now ask questions, Mr. Komoartok.

**Mr. Komoartok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask a question regarding a phone conversation I had in Pangnirtung. There was a couple with two small children and the couple was having a problem in their home where one of them called the RCMP. After being arrested, this individual was given a restraining order and wasn't allowed to see his wife or his children. He wasn't even able to give them any money because he wasn't allowed to have contact with them.

At that time, the spouse went to the income support office and was denied social assistance. This individual couldn't get money from the spouse because there was no contact allowed. We didn't quite know how to deal with that situation. Can you tell us what happens in such instances, Mr. Chairman? Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Komoartok. Which of you would like to try and answer the question? Minister Tapardjuk.

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank my colleague. I believe I saw a letter about this incident.

People who have to go through the court system are not really under our

jurisdiction and I'm not exactly sure how the process works. Maybe Sandy Teiman could explain what would happen in these cases and whether they would be eligible to receive income support. I don't understand the question nor do I want to hazard a guess, so I think it would be better if she responds.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Tapardjuk. Ms. Teiman.

**Ms. Teiman:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm not exactly sure how to respond to the member's question at this time. I would need more of the case specifics in order to make a comment that would be correct. I would hate to make a comment that would be incorrect, but I would look into the situation if I could get more case specifics.

There are a lot of factors playing into this between the RCMP and Justice, and whatever, and I would hate to misspeak on this case. So I would certainly entertain if the member would like to discuss the case specifics further. I can't respond without further detail. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** This sounds like it's a matter that has to be resolved through Justice, where there are family support workers who enforce orders for child support. So there are other departments involved by the sounds of it. Mr. Komoartok.

**Mr. Komoartok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's obvious that there are quite a few factors in there.

There are some rules and regulations that have to be applied, but I think that those types of incidences are going to be occurring more frequently, not only in

the community but with the forced growth in the communities. One hopes that we don't get to that situation with families and the support workers. We would like to see those types of situations resolved, but unfortunately, there are cases where there are no resolutions and they can't stay together. I think we're going to be seeing those types of instances more frequently in the future.

It is not fitting to see a spouse with children who has no money to spend and their partner isn't willing to help. Sometimes they have no alternative but to go to the income support office. I think it would be best if we have some type of policy set up. I don't really want to get into personal details like names and so on, but I can share that information with him one on one. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Komoartok. For your information, we are currently reviewing a bill for child and family services. It is something we're working on, along with other things. The witnesses are in no position to fully answer the question at this time. Do you have any further questions, Mr. Komoartok? On my list, I have Mr. Arvaluk.

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under G-7... I apologize. Maybe I could ask a question under Income Support. I think we're focusing on money matters. When we're under Income Support, it's on another line item. If I were to ask, income support not only applies to money but you can be given traditional foods like caribou and fish, and so on. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Would someone like to respond to that? Which of you would like to respond? Minister Tapardjuk.

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are only talking about financial assistance. Are you talking about other types of support, such as food banks or support for food? I would like him to clarify his question, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Tapardjuk. Minister Tapardjuk, he was asking if they can provide food like seal and caribou meat. Mr. Arvaluk, perhaps you can clarify your question.

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I always talk about generating revenue inside the community or about inter-settlement trading. For example, Igloolik has walrus that we would like and we have beluga in Pond Inlet that Igloolik would like to have, and there is caribou in Coral Harbour that we would like to have. Inter-settlement trade in country food is increasing and we hope to see that continue.

Single parents or widows who don't have hunters otherwise would become destitute and impoverished if not for social assistance. Is it possible to include traditional foods as part of their social assistance under your department? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. That's a very excellent question. Traditional foods aren't only more delicious but they're also more nutritious than store-bought food. Would

someone like to respond to that question? Minister Tapardjuk.

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, Income Support does not deal with traditional foods, but if clients want to purchase traditional foods, they could use the monies that they receive from social services. Those monies are used to buy foods and that can include the purchase of traditional foods, but we do not provide traditional foods *per se*. Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Tapardjuk. Mr. Arvaluk.

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under G-7, Contract Services, \$654,000, I tried to look for it on page 13 under the Summary of Grants and Contributions. I tried to look for it in there under Contract Services. What line item would the \$654,000 be? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Mr. Arvaluk, are you asking a question in regard to the business plan? Are you asking where that is in the business plan? Here is the readjustment that has been provided. Minister Tapardjuk, if you can respond.

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): The person on my left talked in length about the Income Support Case Management System process in response to the questions asked by the member from Arctic Bay. This line item is geared towards the Income Support Case Management System that will make it easier for our income support workers, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (Mr. Schell): Thank you, Minister. Mr. Arvaluk.

**Mr. Arvaluk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Still on page 13 of the Summary of Grants and Contributions, the Senior Supplementary Benefit, \$1,382,000, is that for people, old-age pensioners, who are not on the retirement insurance? Like for example, the senior citizens who never worked in their lives are getting basically from the federal government an old-age pension and those who are retired who have worked have a supplementary retirement fund or whatever. Is that for seniors who don't have a supplementary or their own private insurance? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Minister.

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk:** Yes, Ms. Teiman will respond to that, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Teiman.

**Ms. Teiman:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Senior Citizens Supplementary Benefit is a program that the Nunavut government supplements to Nunavut seniors who qualify for the old-age pension programs, the Old Age Security and the Guaranteed Income Supplement. So if someone applies for those federal programs and they meet the eligibility criteria under the federal programs, the Nunavut government supplements the \$175 a month. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Arvaluk.

**Mr. Arvaluk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My last question is on summary 16, I think... no, 13. My last question, Mr. Chairman, is I guess it is financial accounting, but if we go to G-8 after, we are going to notice the Adult Learning and Post Secondary Services and you've got Social Services grants and contributions... excuse me, Mr. Chairman, I'm totally wrong... Career and Early Childhood Services and you've got Social Services in there. Why is not under the Income Support page? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Minister.

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Ms. Teiman will respond to that question, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (Mr. Okalik)(interpretation): Ms. Teiman, if you can try and respond.

**Ms. Teiman:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Income Support Program on G-7 is the headquarters operations of the office so that's the policy, the program, the compliance, oversight, and training piece of the department, plus I deliver the Senior Citizens Supplementary Benefit in my office.

The delivery of the actual programs for the Department of Education under Income Support and all the other programs that are on the adult side of the department, with the exception of FANS, are delivered by the three regional offices which are called Career and Early Childhood Services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Those are on different pages that we will get to. Are there any questions on this page? I have no more names on my list for Income Support. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$3,733,000. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): That amount has been approved, so can now move on to Adult Learning and Post Secondary Services. I'm sorry.

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would ask that my deputy minister replace the person on my left if you are in agreement, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Are my colleagues agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Teiman, for appearing before the committee. Ms. Okpik will have to go to the witness table.

Going back to our agenda. Adult Learning and Post Secondary Services. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$8,674,000. Are there any questions? Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): G-9 is an information item. Career and Early Childhood Services. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$43,180,000. Are there any questions? Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Curriculum and School Services. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$19,437,000. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): School Operations. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$125,467,000. Are there any questions? Mr. Arvaluk.

**Mr. Arvaluk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On School Operations in the business plan, G-8 and G-9, I think, I'm concerned about how well the counsellors are trained. I know one janitor became - what do you call those students who work on a *Qamutik* - a cultural instructor at one time.

Does a school counsellor require more qualification than the cultural instructor with some sort of a certificate or diploma to deal with students, especially encouraging them to do well in school and try their best, etcetera, or if they have any problems with family at home, etcetera? What's the qualification of a school counsellor? (interpretation) Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Ms. Okpik, can you try and answer the question?

**Ms. Okpik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. These two positions are different from each other. I don't have any documents in front of me that elaborate on the certifications of school community counsellors. As we stated yesterday, they are very important to the communities and they have to know the community and speak Inuktitut.

What we talked about yesterday is that we're trying to hire counsellors. We are starting to establish training programs for counsellors. They will be trained after the training modules have been completed. They have to know how to counsel and possess other qualifications. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Okpik. Mr. Arvaluk.

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I should thank you first of all for the correspondence that I received and I think that all of us need to be aware that when we started having Inuit teachers, it allowed parents to communicate with the teachers, especially the principals, about their children's behavioural problems. However, the principal at the high school still cannot speak Inuktitut.

The majority of the students have parents who are Inuit. The teachers who are bilingual, especially if there was an Inuktitut-speaking vice-principal, become the interpreters to the principals. If it's stated in the collective agreement that they're not paid for their interpreting services, then why does it have to go through the collective agreement, not through the government policy? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Ms. Okpik.

**Ms. Okpik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are compelled to follow the collective agreement on employment. If it states in the job description that this individual has to be bilingual in their work, then they would be provided a bilingual bonus. We

continually review that policy. Not all staff receive the bilingual bonus. When parents request for the use of those individuals, we put in the bilingual bonus. Sometimes I submit a request to Human Resources when the individuals have been given the positions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Okpik. Mr. Arvaluk.

**Mr. Arvaluk**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can an employee who has become a necessity for him or her to speak both languages in order to deal with parents be recognized in the middle of their employment and deemed required as a bilingual educator accordingly? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Who is going to respond? Minister Tapardjuk.

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, that is not a problem. For example, when it becomes evident that this individual needs to be paid the bilingual bonus and we realize that it's necessary, it's deemed required. Often, we are not informed and we would be more than pleased to hear those kinds of requests. Once we realize that it's required, they're given bilingual bonuses. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Tapardjuk. Mr. Arvaluk.

**Mr. Arvaluk**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is not always possible to have a bilingual principal, especially in high school. Is there a requirement for

all schools to have a bilingual vice-principal? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Who is going to respond? Minister Tapardjuk.

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): No, we don't have a policy that says the vice-principal has to be an Inuk. There is nothing stated like that in our department, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Tapardjuk. Are there any questions? Mr. Arvaluk.

**Mr. Arvaluk**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Would you consider creating or at least make a proposal to Cabinet, if there are experienced bilingual teachers in the school, that there should be a bilingual principal in the school? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman**: Minister Tapardjuk.

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On July 1, we celebrated the graduation of students for Master of Education from the University from PEI. There were 21 who passed the training and are planning to make sure that they can become principals in the schools. There's going to be another program starting this year in 2010 and we will start the Master of Education training again to increase the number of graduates who have a master's degree so that there will be more Inuit teachers who can become principals.

Within the new *Education Act*, the DEAs have an opportunity to select school principals. I believe that this will alleviate some of the problems experience in the hiring of principals. So we have an educational leadership program in the schools and this program will continue, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Tapardjuk. Are there any questions? Mr. Ningark.

**Mr. Ningark** (interpretation): Yes, Mr. Chairman, the scenario that Mr. Arvaluk was speaking about would be quite advantageous if the vice-principal was from the local community and fully functional in both languages. This can provide many side benefits, especially when the principal is not an Inuktitut-speaking individual. The vice-principal should automatically have to be bilingual.

Perhaps we ought to even pass a motion as that would alleviate a lot of problems and to provide funds to that effect. I believe it would be valuable if the vice-principal was required to be bilingual. This is a good suggestion and I am swayed towards that type of scenario. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. I believe that we are largely done with that part. There is a wish to make a motion with respect to this matter. What is the wish of the committee? Would anyone like to make a motion to support this? We do not have a written motion, so I am unsure as to the protocol. Are there any further questions or comments? Do you agree?

**Some Members**: Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Total Operations and Maintenance. \$125,467,000. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. On to the next page, you have to agree to the total appropriations being requested. This is the summary appropriations request. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$206,758,000. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, my colleagues. Are you in agreement that the Department of Education is concluded?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, my colleagues. Minister Tapardjuk, if you have any closing remarks, I will provide you with an opportunity. Minister Tapardjuk.

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just wish to express my gratitude to the committee and my colleagues as well. Yesterday as well as today, references have been made to this term, "lifelong learning." When one is queried by a multitude of people with varied questions respecting the legislation, it is also a valuable learning experience. So I wish to thank my colleagues for asking those tough questions.

I fully expect that when the new *Education Act* is finally being implemented with all of its associated regulations, some of these imposing

challenges that seem insurmountable will eventually be resolved and that is my expectation.

I also share in your expectations that the new legislation will assist the district education authorities in fulfilling their increased roles and mandates as envisioned in the legislation and that this will provide them with the tools to properly administer their local schools and educational system. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Tapardjuk. I also thank your officials.

We have completed the department and we can now go to the next department. We have Minister Kusugak, the Minister of Community and Government Services. Are you prepared to make your opening comments? Minister Kusugak.

**Bill 22 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2010-2011 – Community and Government Services – Consideration in Committee**

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I am ready.

**Chairman** (interpretation): You may proceed, Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman and my colleagues, for the opportunity to appear before the Committee of the Whole to review the 2010-11 Main Estimates and Business Plan for the Department of Community and Government Services.



(interpretation ends) Mr. Chairman, the Department of Community and Government Services (interpretation) plays many roles in the delivery of programs and services for local government, government services, petroleum products, procurement, protection services, informatics, and project and asset management. Including the PPD revolving fund, CGS has a budget exceeding three hundred and seventy million dollars with 340 positions in 14 communities.

Over the past fiscal year, my department has focused on the priorities of this government as well as our core business services. One of the priorities addressed was the tabling of Bill 12 to protect municipal employees' pensions from creditors. CGS will continue to work with the Northern Employee Benefit Services and the GNWT over the next business cycle to introduce pension plan legislation as well.

(interpretation ends) My department continues, Mr. Chairman, to support communities in developing integrated community sustainability plans to assist with prioritizing infrastructure development over the short, medium, and longer terms through the Nunavut Community Infrastructure Advisory Committee.

We continue to assist municipalities with acquiring insurance coverage at affordable rates by providing ongoing funding of \$850,000 for the municipal insurance program, also referred to as NAMIX.

Over the past year, CGS worked with hamlets to implement new Canadian accounting standards for tangible capital

assets. These set amortization and life cycle accounting timeframes to better reflect the capital assets of communities in their financial statements.

Mr. Chairman, CGS continues to invest significant resources in training to ensure that we improve services and programs to our client groups. We offer over 6,500 training days a year to municipal employees through our collaboration with the Municipal Training Organization (MTO).

Mr. Chairman, our budget for the upcoming year has a modest net increase over last year's main estimates. We have increased building maintenance budgets to be able to better focus our efforts in maintaining government assets and client service. This will not only make our buildings healthier places to work but will also extend the life of these assets and reduce the high cost of operations and energy usage.

To strengthen the maintenance program, CGS has begun condition assessments of all GN assets and will manage this data in the real estate capital asset priority planning. That RECAPP system will be used to track service life and provide recommendations on life cycle renewal investments.

The Petroleum Products Division continues to manage the fuel provision mandate for the GN. The global oil market and currency trends continue to be very unpredictable, and we have seen both record high and record low fuel prices lately. In addition, the Canadian dollar continues to fluctuate against the US dollar, which also affects pricing.

PPD has no direct control over these commodities, but the department is working hard to improve their procurement practices and moderate the cost impact to Nunavummiut by capitalizing on lower prices whenever they become available through the early purchase of fuel.

Mr. Chairman, the Petroleum Products Division has proceeded with an early purchase of 50 million litres of diesel in the past couple of months and with recent increases in fuel prices, this has already saved approximately two million dollars. We hope that this will contribute to price stability when we begin receiving shipments of fuel this summer. This month, PPD will purchase 16.5 million litres of gasoline before refineries switch production to summer grade gasoline. Again, we hope to take advantage of lower prices and to ensure that only the best product is supplied to our communities.

PPD also monitors the oil and currency market daily and we note that forecasts indicate worldwide, fuel prices will rise into the spring and summer months. While it is important to achieve the best price for fuel, it is equally important to take steps to reduce fuel consumption used for producing energy. This department will continue substantial energy management initiatives which include improving the energy efficiency of building designs, lighting, heating systems, and the maintenance and operations of these assets.

CGS has initiated an energy performance contract for GN building retrofits. This will help to improve lighting and HVAC system energy performance and is funded from future

energy savings. CGS will also assist other departments and agencies in implementing various parts of the GN Energy Strategy. All of these efforts, Mr. Chairman, are aimed at reducing our consumption and reducing costs associated with utilities.

Mr. Chairman, with respect to Protection Services and Nunavut Emergency Management, we have been working hard to improve the response programs available to the public for search and rescue. We continue to work with community search and rescue organizations, hamlets, and individuals in assisting with coordinating the RCMP, military, and community groups in response to searches. These efforts will continue.

The Territorial Fire Prevention Strategy review has been completed and implementation will continue over future years. CGS continues to provide a substantial amount of training and equipment to local fire departments throughout Nunavut. Protection Services is also working with communities to develop emergency response plans to prepare them for responding to emergency events.

Service delivery to Nunavummiut by the GN will be enhanced through the upgrade of the wide area, local area, and municipal area networks. CGS is working with the Department of Finance and the Qulliq Energy Corporation to guide the implementation of new infrastructure over the next 18 months.

Mr. Chairman, the recently tabled *Tamapta* Action Plan will be supported through these and other technology improvements. Improved

communications with government will be a priority for my department, working with EIA and communities through a variety of resources and call centre technologies.

Mr. Chairman, I hope my comments give an appreciation of the types of services that Community and Government Services provides both internally and to the public at large. There continues to be great values in partnerships and collaborations when we work together to meet the needs of government departments, communities, and Nunavummiut in general.

I would be pleased to address any questions that you may have. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Kusugak. (interpretation ends) We will go right to the chair of the committee to do the opening comments at this time. Mr. Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for his opening comments. Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to provide opening comments on behalf of the Standing Committee on Community and Economic Development on its review of the 2010-11 main estimates and 2010-13 business plan for the Department of Community and Government Services.

The standing committee notes that the department's proposed 2010-11 operations and maintenance budget of \$172,064,000 has increased by approximately 1 percent since the introduction of the department's 2009-2010 main estimates. The number of positions in the department is 340. This

is an increase of 10 PYs from its 2004-05 business plan.

During the minister's recent appearance before the standing committee, members took the opportunity to raise a number of issues and concerns.

The department's 2010-13 business plan indicates that the department is continuing work on the *Consumer Protection Act* and the Lotteries Regulations. The standing committee looks forward to ongoing updates on these legislative initiatives.

Mr. Chairman, as you will recall, the *Northern Employee Benefits Service Pension Plan Protection Act* was passed during the 2009 fall sitting. Members are very pleased to see that the Government of Nunavut listened and acted on the concerns that we raised on the need to protect municipal employees and their pension plans. The standing committee looks forward to further progress on the department's plans to "Work towards an updated pension plan legislation to regulate the [Northern Employee Benefits Service] pension plan for municipal employees in Nunavut and NWT."

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

**Mr. Rumbolt:** The Department of Community and Government Services is responsible for preparing the Government of Nunavut's annual reports on departmental contracting, procurement and leasing activities. The most recent reports, which were for the 2008-09 fiscal year, were tabled in the Legislative Assembly on December 7, 2009. Members look forward to the

tabling of the 2009-2010 reports at the earliest opportunity.

To date, these annual reports have not included information on the procurement, contracting and leasing activities of the government's major Crown corporations and agencies, including the Nunavut Housing Corporation, the Nunavut Development Corporation, and the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation. The standing committee recommends that information concerning these Crown corporations' activities also be tabled in the Legislative Assembly on an annual basis.

Mr. Chairman, the department's proposed budget for municipal transfer payments is decreasing from \$51,979,000 in 2009-2010 to \$48,686,000 in 2010-11. During the minister's appearance before the standing committee, members questioned what accounted for this decrease. Members were informed that the decrease was directly related to savings on utility costs. However, the standing committee urges the minister to continuously monitor the adequacy of the funding allocated under the Municipal Funding Policy, which is used to assist municipalities to deliver programs and services.

During the minister's appearance before the standing committee, members questioned how the department's budget deficit reduction activities were progressing with municipalities. Members were informed that the department's efforts to assist municipalities in deficit reduction exercises are showing improvements and there is only one community in a deficit

position. The standing committee was pleased to hear this and encourages the minister to provide ongoing support and updates on this initiative.

The department's proposed 2010-11 main estimates include \$1.5 million in funding for the Mobile Equipment Block Funding Program. This program, which was introduced last year, "Provide annual core funding to assist communities in mobile equipment lifecycle planning, procurement and maintenance." During the minister's appearance before the standing committee, members questioned the adequacy of funding for this program. The minister informed the committee that he would be looking at the possibility of increasing the Mobile Equipment Fund if additional funding were secured.

Members have heard concerns from numerous municipalities regarding the inadequacy of the funding, which is \$62,500 for each community. The standing committee strongly encourages the minister to increase the funding allocated for this program and looks forward to ongoing updates on this important issue.

Mr. Chairman, the department's proposed 2010-11 main estimates include \$850,000 in funding for the Municipal Insurance Exchange to "offset incremental costs associated with municipal insurance coverage and to implement loss control program initiatives..."

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

**Mr. Rumbolt:** "... with focus on such critical areas as fire training and fire

prevention.” The standing committee supports the government’s ongoing support for NAMIX until such time as the system can become self-funded.

The department’s 2010-13 business plan indicates that a “Draft report has been developed” concerning the “... open-market feasibility study which develops sealift re-supply policy options...” The standing committee looks forward to reviewing the results of this study and its being tabled by the minister in the Legislative Assembly at the earliest opportunity.

The department’s proposed 2010-11 main estimates include \$500,000 in annual funding to provide training to search and rescue organizations and to assist with the purchase of equipment. The department’s proposed 2010-11 main estimates includes \$50,000 in additional funding for a program “To assist communities and qualified organizations through providing emergency search and rescue contribution funding.” The standing committee encourages the department to provide clear information to communities on the process by which they can access these funds.

Mr. Chairman, the department’s 2010-13 business plan provides an update on the status of one of its priorities for the Office of the Fire Marshal. It indicates that the review of the Fire Prevention Strategy has been completed and “Recommendations will be developed for the future direction of the Strategy.” The standing committee looks forward to the tabling of this new strategy in the Legislative Assembly at the earliest opportunity.

The standing committee also looks forward to reviewing the 2009 annual report of the Office of the Fire Marshal, which is required by law to be tabled in the Legislative Assembly under the territorial *Fire Prevention Act*.

The standing committee also notes that the proposed budget for the department’s Capital Planning and Technical Services Branch is increasing from \$27,006,000 in 2009-2010 to \$32,370,000 in 2010-11. Most of this increase is due to a \$5,087,000 increase in the budget for building maintenance.

Mr. Chairman, the department’s 2010-13 business plan indicates that one of its priorities has been to “Deliver community based training for potable water, wastewater and solid waste management...” in Rankin Inlet and Iqaluit in the 2009-2010 fiscal year “... with the Municipal Training Organization (MTO). Upon completing these courses, Hamlet employees will be in a better position to meet guidelines established by the regulatory authorities for: source water protection... water disinfection, chemical handling safety procedures, system filters, pump and valve operations and maintenance, chemical and biological water testing, record keeping and administrative procedures.”

The issue of drinking water quality and safety has been raised on a number of occasions in the Legislative Assembly by MLAs. The standing committee applauds the department for taking action in response to these concerns. The standing committee continues to recommend that the department prepare and table in the Legislative Assembly a

comprehensive report on water quality in all Nunavut communities.

In recent years, the department initiated water and sewage pilot projects in three communities. The department's 2009-2010 business plan indicated that "The three original pilot communities were not satisfied with the block funding terms and conditions implemented by the designated project sponsor; the participating communities decided that they no longer wanted to be involved. As a result of having no participating communities, the pilot project was cancelled." During the minister's recent appearance before the standing committee, members questioned if the department intends to initiate a similar pilot project in the future and requested information concerning why the communities decided to not participate in the past projects.

Although the minister informed the committee that this project was an important initiative, it remains unclear why his department and the Nunavut Housing Corporation have been unsuccessful in working together to deliver these pilot projects. The standing committee recommends that Community and Government Services and the Nunavut Housing Corporation work together on this issue and looks forward to the minister reporting to the Legislative Assembly on this initiative.

Mr. Chairman, during the minister's appearance before the standing committee, members questioned how Community and Government Services and the Department of Environment are working together on the issue of Nunavut's aging waste management infrastructure. The minister indicated

that his department is looking into waste options. However, the minister was not able to give detailed information on this issue to the members. The standing committee recommends the minister provide this information to the House at the earliest opportunity.

The department's 2010-11 main estimates project that the department's Petroleum Products Revolving Fund will have a surplus of \$6,407,000 in 2010-11. The standing committee encourages the department to closely monitor these funds.

The department's 2010-13 business plan indicates that one of the Petroleum Products Division's priorities has been to "Implement an advance early procurement and acquisition program for the... bulk fuel re-supply." It also indicates that the department had completed a purchase of approximately sixteen "... million litres of gasoline and 36 million litres of Ultra Low Sulphur Diesel for the Eastern Arctic for 2009 resupply season." The standing committee looks forward to the minister reporting to the Legislative Assembly on the success of this ongoing initiative.

The department's 2010-13 business plan also indicates that one of its priorities is to "Revise the tank farm specifications to comply with the most recent environmental regulations." During the minister's appearance before the standing committee, members requested an update on the status of the department's efforts to ensure compliance with applicable regulations, including the cost to the government to become compliant with the regulations. Members were informed that this issue is being addressed through the

department's capital plan. The standing committee looks forward to revisiting this issue during its review of the department's 2011-12 capital estimates.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening comments on the 2010-11 main estimates and 2010-13 business plan of the Department of Community and Government Services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Pursuant to Rule 6(1), I would like to recognize the clock and report progress to our Speaker. Thank you.

**Speaker**: Thank you. Item 21. Report of the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Okalik.

### **Item 21: Report of the Committee of the Whole**

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Bill 22 and the main estimates, and would like to report progress. Also, Mr. Speaker, I move that the Report of the Committee of the Whole be concurred with. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Okalik. There is a motion on the floor and it's seconded by Mr. Kusugak. The motion is in order. All those in favour, raise your hand, please. Opposed. The motion is carried.

Third Reading of Bills. Item 23. (interpretation ends) Orders of the Day. Mr. Clerk.

### **Item 23: Orders of the Day**

**Clerk** (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Orders of the Day for March 12:

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 22

21. Report of the Committee of the  
Whole
22. Third Reading of Bills
23. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you.  
This House stands adjourned until  
March 12, Friday, at ten o'clock in the  
morning.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 18:12*



