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**Thursday, March 18, 2010**

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**Iqaluit**

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

## Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

### *Speaker*

**Hon. James Arreak**

(Uqqummiut)

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak**

(Rankin Inlet South – Whale Cove)

*Minister of Community and  
Government Services; Minister of  
Energy*

**John Ningark**

(Akulliq)

**Johnny Ningeongan**

(Nanulik)

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

**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)

*Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole*

**Hon. Daniel Shewchuk**

(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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Hansard Production

Innirvik Support Services

**Box 1200**

**Iqaluit, Nunavut, X0A 0H0**

**Tel (867) 975-5000 Fax (867) 975-5190 Toll-Free (877) 334-7266**

**Website: [www.assembly.nu.ca](http://www.assembly.nu.ca)**

## Table of Contents

Opening Prayer.....	1665
Ministers' Statements .....	1665
Members' Statements .....	1668
Returns to Oral Questions .....	1671
Oral Questions .....	1672
Tabling of Documents .....	1690
Notices of Motions .....	1691
Motions.....	1691
First Reading of Bills .....	1703
Second Reading of Bills .....	1704
Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters .....	1706
Report of the Committee of the Whole .....	1730
Orders of the Day .....	1731

**A.**

**Daily References**

Thursday, March 18, 2010..... 1665

**B.**

**Ministers' Statements**

127 – 3(2): US CITES Proposal Defeated (Shewchuk) ..... 1665

128 – 3(2): Grants and Contribution Deadline (Tapardjuk)..... 1666

129 – 3(2): Partnership with Department of Education for Curriculum Development (Shewchuk)  
..... 1666

130 – 3(2): Caribou Strategy Consultation (Shewchuk) ..... 1667

**C.**

**Members' Statements**

190 – 3(2): Air Freight Equipment Subsidy for Hunters (Ningark) ..... 1668

191 – 3(2): Daycare Infrastructure Funding (Ningeongan)..... 1668

192 – 3(2): Innovative Thinking (Elliott)..... 1669

193 – 3(2): Support for Hunters (Okalik)..... 1670

**D.**

**Returns to Oral Questions**

Return to Oral Question 262 – 3(2): NTEP Graduates (Shewchuk) ..... 1671

Return to Oral Question 265 – 3(2): Nomination for Innovative Human Resource Practices  
(Tootoo) ..... 1672

**E.**

**Oral Questions**

305 – 3(2): RFP for Panellized Housing Units (Schell) ..... 1672

306 – 3(2): Ministerial Liquor Task Force (Ningark) .....	1674
307 – 3(2): Polar Bear Issue in McClintock Channel (Okalik) .....	1674
308 – 3(2): Activities of the Public Agencies Council (Elliott) .....	1675
309 – 3(2): Pop Vending Machines in Government Buildings (Okalik).....	1677
310 – 3(2): Activities of the Public Agencies Council (Elliott) .....	1678
311 – 3(2): Hiring Procedures for Inuit Social Workers (Komoartok) .....	1679
312 – 3(2): Respite for Medical Escorts (Ningark).....	1681
313 – 3(2): Collective Bargaining Process – Housing Allowance (Schell).....	1681
314 – 3(2): Child and Youth Representative (Elliott) .....	1683
315 – 3(2): \$2 Million Farming Equipment (Okalik).....	1685
316 – 3(2): Contract for Panellized Housing Units (Schell) .....	1688

**F.**

**Tabling of Documents**

139 – 3(2): Letter from Constituent – Mould in Workplace (Okalik).....	1690
140 – 3(2): Copy of Correspondence from the Hamlet of Kugaaruk (Ningark) .....	1690
141 – 3(2): Photos of the Pujualussait Demonstration and Information Concerning Aboriginal Healing Foundation Funding (Komoartok).....	1690
142 – 3(2): Report of the Auditor General of Canada to the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut on Human Resource Capacity in the Government of Nunavut (Speaker) .....	1691
143 – 3(2): 2008-2009 Annual Report of the Languages Commissioner (Speaker) .....	1691

**G.**

**Motions**

018 – 3(2): Reinstatement of Federal Funding for the Aboriginal Healing Foundation – Notice (Ningeongan) .....	1691
---	------

018 – 3(2): Reinstatement of Federal Funding for the Aboriginal Healing Foundation (Ningeongan) .....	1691
--	------

**H.**

**Bills**

Bill 23 – Supplementary Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, No. 2, 2009-2010 – First Reading .....	1704
Bill 15 – Legal Treatment of Apologies Act – Second Reading .....	1704
Bill 16 – An Act to Amend the Judicature Act – Second Reading.....	1704
Bill 17 – Justice Statutes Amendment Act – Second Reading .....	1704
Bill 20 – An Act to Amend Certain Acts Related to Education – Second Reading .....	1705
Bill 23 – Supplementary Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, No. 2, 2009-2010 – Second Reading.....	1705
Bill 25 – Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act, 2010 – Second Reading.....	1705
Bill 26 – Securities Transfer Act – Second Reading .....	1705
Bill 27 – An Act to Amend the Workers’ Compensation Act – Second Reading.....	1706
Bill 22 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2010-2011 – Economic Development and Transportation – Consideration in Committee .....	1706
Bill 22 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2010-2011 – Nunavut Arctic College – Consideration in Committee.....	1718
Bill 22 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2010-2011 – Culture, Language, Elders and Youth – Consideration in Committee .....	1729

**Iqaluit, Nunavut  
Thursday, March 18, 2010**

**Members Present:**

Honourable Eva Aariak, Honourable James Arreak, 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 Daniel Shewchuk, 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. Curley to say the opening prayer.

>>Prayer

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. A very good afternoon, Premier, Ministers, Members of the Legislative Assembly, and all Nunavummiut.

(interpretation ends) Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Environment, Hon. Daniel Shewchuk.

**Item 2: Ministers' Statements****Minister's Statement 127 – 3(2): US CITES Proposal Defeated**

**Hon. Daniel Shewchuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today is a very good day in Nunavut as is every day in Nunavut, but it's a little special today.

Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to inform members of the positive outcome of my department's efforts in opposing the United States' proposal to up-list the polar bear under the Convention of International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES).

The outcome reached early this morning in Doha, Qatar confirms that Nunavut will not cave to international pressure and misguided attempts to intervene in our conservation initiatives.

>>Applause

I am pleased to report this example of our success in telling the world that we always have and will continue to manage our polar bear populations sustainably. This is truly an achievement that our government should be proud of.

>>Applause

Had this proposal been accepted, it would have had serious negative consequences for Nunavummiut and in particular, harvesters. Over the past few months, we have worked extensively and tirelessly in collaboration with the federal government, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, and regional wildlife organizations to lobby CITES parties and inform international audiences of the futility of this US proposal.

When this proposal was announced, our department did not sit back. Positioned front and centre alongside our federal counterparts, we effectively and with determination stood against the proposal on the firm grounds that trade is not a significant conservation threat to polar bears.

>> *Applause*

A key aspect of this work has been effectively communicating the importance of the polar bear harvest to Inuit cultural identity and economic well-being. We have also stressed the proven track record of Nunavut's wildlife management system, which ensures public engagement, support, and involvement in critical wildlife decisions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister. Ministers' Statements. Hon. Louis Tapardjuk.

**Minister's Statement 128 – 3(2):  
Grants and Contribution Deadline**

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to inform Nunavummiut about the grants and contributions from the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth. This funding will be reviewed soon by the Committee of the Whole and Mr. Speaker, if and once approved, these funds will be available.

Grants and contribution funding is provided for projects in the official languages, arts, culture and heritage, communications, and toponymy, and includes funding for community heritage facilities, community libraries, and for student training opportunities in archaeology and in palaeontology. After COW reviews and approves the program, the closing date for applications is March 31 and applications are reviewed in April.

Sport and Recreation program applications close on a variety of specific dates and have open applications depending on the program. Applications for funding in any of the program areas received after the closing date will be considered if there are funds available.

The Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth offers assistance with preparing proposals through its toll-free line, community visits, and grants and contributions administrators based in Iqaluit and Baker Lake.

I wish to remind everyone that the deadline of March 31 is nearing, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Ministers' Statements. (interpretation ends) Hon. Daniel Shewchuk.

**Minister's Statement 129 – 3(2):  
Partnership with Department of  
Education for Curriculum  
Development**

**Hon. Daniel Shewchuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to report that my department has been working with the Department of Education's curriculum writers on a number of very exciting new culturally relevant curriculum modules.

Department of Environment staff has been providing input and resources toward the development of science curriculum that integrates Inuit knowledge and values with current scientific information about terrestrial



wildlife ecology, ocean systems, and weather systems in Nunavut. When these new curriculum modules are rolled out to all schools in Nunavut, they will provide a foundation for ongoing involvement and participation of our staff with Nunavut students.

We look forward to supporting the involvement of conservation officers, biologists, and other department staff in classrooms and in camp programs to enhance and support the delivery of this excellent curriculum. This new initiative will build capacity and skills in Nunavut students to positively contribute to the environmental management field in our territory in the future.

By partnering with the Department of Education in this project, we work towards building a skilled and local workforce equipped to manage the diverse and dynamic environmental challenges we face. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister. Ministers' Statements. Hon. Daniel Shewchuk.

**Minister's Statement 130 – 3(2):  
Caribou Strategy Consultation**

**Hon. Daniel Shewchuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Caribou have great nutritional, economic, and cultural value in Nunavut and are an important part of our ecosystems. There is a pressing need for the GN to adopt a comprehensive, long-range approach to caribou management. I am pleased to inform members that the Department of Environment will be proceeding this

spring with community and stakeholder consultations for the Nunavut Caribou Strategy.

Representatives from the Department of Environment recently presented a preliminary draft strategy to members of the department's Elders Advisory Committee. The committee, comprised of representatives from each Nunavut region, considered a number of key questions concerning caribou management in our territory. Valuable insight on moving forward with further strategy development and advice on community and stakeholder consultations came out of this meeting.

Early next month, we will begin a phased and collaborative approach to consultation on the strategy. Department of Environment staff will work alongside representatives from the Nunavut Inuit Wildlife Secretariat, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, and our Elders Advisory Committee to engage HTOs and community members in dialogue concerning caribou. Regional symposia will take place in the coming months and input will be sought from other affected stakeholders, all working toward the finalization of a strategy that will ensure sustainable caribou co-management now and in the future.

Mr. Speaker, my department and I look forward to building on our past successes in wildlife co-management to develop a valuable and effective caribou strategy for Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister. Ministers' Statements. Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Akulliq, Mr. Ningark.

### **Item 3: Members' Statements**

#### **Member's Statement 190 – 3(2): Air Freight Equipment Subsidy for Hunters**

**Mr. Ningark** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Minister of Environment, (interpretation ends) Hon. Shewchuk, (interpretation) I would like to thank him on behalf of my constituents of Repulse Bay and Kugaaruk for mentioning caribou and polar bear management plans.

Mr. Speaker, snow machines, four-wheelers, and outboard motors are very useful for harvesting. They're not just used for sports and recreation in Nunavut; they are used for harvesting caribou, polar bear, fish, and narwhal during the summer, fall, and winter. However, Mr. Speaker, it is very expensive to bring this equipment to Nunavut by air and when you order them, it takes a long time for it to arrive. Perhaps, in the meantime, they just sit around at the cargo warehouse collecting dust.

This House met with the cargo carriers to discuss this issue. We, as elected officials and as a government, have to try and keep transportation and freight costs as low as possible because our constituents rely on this equipment for hunting. We don't like to see people having to wait a long time for their orders to come in when, in fact, the order may be just sitting around the

warehouses waiting for the cheapest route.

For the majority of our constituents, say 90 percent, this equipment is not regarded as recreational but essential for livelihoods. As Members of the Legislative Assembly, we have to try and find solutions to reduce transportation and freight costs for snowmobiles, outboard motors, and four-wheelers. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

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

#### **Member's Statement 191 – 3(2): Daycare Infrastructure Funding**

**Mr. Ningeongan:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to continue to urge the government to reconsider its position on funding for daycare infrastructure.

Mr. Speaker, at present, the Government of Nunavut will only provide capital funding towards daycare infrastructure if it is included in the construction of a new school. While I fully support this approach, it still provides nothing at all for those communities who cannot expect to see a new school built for many years to come.

Mr. Speaker, it is well recognized that in order to support the healthy and ongoing development of children, we must invest in their development as early as possible. Our new *Education Act* even recognizes this fact within the legislation by giving district education authorities a new mandate to deliver early childhood education programs within the community they serve.

Mr. Speaker, at this very moment, a group of early childhood educators are meeting in Goose Bay, Labrador for the first ever national Inuit early childhood education gathering called “Nutaqavut Sivuniksavut.”

Last week, my colleague from Tununig suggested that daycare facilities could be used as temporary shelters for young children who had been removed from their home for safety reasons so that they could stay within their community and not be shipped down south, far away from their family and culture.

Mr. Speaker, during this sitting, we have voted to approve the Department of Education’s 2010-11 main estimates which include an additional \$500,000 for increased funding for licensed daycare facilities.

However, Mr. Speaker, despite all of these worthy ideas and initiatives, our government has nothing in place to ensure that every community can actually have a safe, comfortable, and viable daycare facility to deliver these programs in.

Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to conclude my Member’s Statement.

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

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

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, while there is still some time before the

government brings forward its next capital plan, I would strongly encourage the government to consider providing capital funding for daycare infrastructure projects.

Early childhood education may be the foundation of lifelong health and well-being, but first, we must lay the foundations for the place where they can receive that education. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. Members’ Statements. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. Elliott.

**Member’s Statement 192 – 3(2):  
Innovative Thinking**

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to offer another suggestion to our government. Although this may or may not be the first time that my colleagues have heard it, what I care about is giving ideas the chance to be heard and discussed.

During yesterday’s proceedings of the Committee of the Whole, the Minister of ED&T took the time to outline in detail for us his department’s plans for the coming fiscal year. I want to sincerely thank him for making this effort. It shows respect for this House and all of its members. Two of the initiatives that his department is looking at are a new Iqaluit air terminal building and some type of marine docking facility in the community.

Mr. Speaker, I recall that when the minister first spoke about the development of a new airport in Iqaluit, I

suggested that a \$50 airport redevelopment fee would be worth considering to help offset the costs. It was interesting to hear the laughter and different comments that I received from people. I sensed that they were shocked that an MLA would suggest something like that.

Perhaps that shows the skewed perspective that we have in the High Arctic because of the tremendously high cost of living where my home is. Suggesting a \$50 fee does not seem like a lot when an average ticket from your home to Iqaluit is around \$3,000. Perhaps that is my point, as I ask my colleagues to see the world from our perspective.

On December 9, 2009, in a CBC interview regarding the *Tamapta* Action Plan, the Premier was quoted as saying, "We will have to be very creative and innovative in meeting some of our plans." She continued by saying, "Of course, we are always looking for extra funding from outside sources."

Mr. Speaker, I agree wholeheartedly with the Premier. We need to be creative and innovative. That's why the idea of using the Nanisivik Naval Facility as a major port, fuelling station, and docking facility for the Northwest Passage is worth serious consideration. It is already used for offloading supplies for Ausuittuq (Grise Fiord) and Kugaaruk. With global warming, it is anticipated that shipping traffic will increase dramatically.

In regard to the Premier's comments about outside funding sources, the federal government is kicking in around \$100 million for this facility. I remain

concerned that the Government of Nunavut is not working closely enough with the federal government to capitalize on the tremendous potential of this situation. I remain concerned that they are looking at closing the airstrip in Nanisivik...

Mr. Speaker, I would like to request unanimous consent to conclude my Member's Statement today. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I remain concerned that the Government of Nunavut is not working closely enough with the federal government to capitalize on the tremendous potential of this situation. I remain concerned that they are looking at closing the airstrip in Nanisivik that has jet service capabilities and cutting off the only access from Arctic Bay to the facility by closing the all-year road.

Mr. Speaker, I want to return to what I first said in my statement and strongly urge the government to seize this moment and look at this project as being a unique opportunity for action. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Members' Statements. Member for Iqaluit West, Mr. Okalik.

### **Member's Statement 193 – 3(2): Support for Hunters**

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was quite ecstatic to

listen to the announcement regarding the decision overturning the American CITES proposal to list the polar bear as an endangered species.

I would like to see the ban removed from the Baffin Bay population, especially in the communities on the East Baffin coast, including your constituency communities, Mr. Speaker. The federal government banned the exportation of polar bear hides stemming from the commercial sport hunts. It is still in effect today. Now that the proposal to list the polar bears as endangered species has been overturned, I urge both governments to reopen the discussions on this.

I especially urge the Nunavut government to discuss this development with the federal government and to lobby them to repeal the ban of hides from the management zone and further, to negotiate on behalf of the impacted sport hunting guides with respect to compensation for lost income directly as a result of this ban. The federal government should reimburse these individuals for the reason that they declared that they had concerns about this population.

Furthermore, the federal government had stated that a quota has been established in Nunavut. This is no longer an obstacle. I would like the federal government lobbied to reopen discussions on this particular zone and provide more assistance to the impacted residents of Nunavut who lost their livelihood as a result. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Okalik. Members' Statements. I

have no more names on my list. (interpretation ends) Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Hon. Daniel Shewchuk.

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

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

**Hon. Daniel Shewchuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am returning the answer to a question asked by Mr. Ningark a little while ago, 262 – 3(2), in regard to the number of Nunavut Teacher Education Program graduates.

NTEP has a total 117 students in 10 communities. Fourteen of them are in their final year and expected to graduate. Ten of these are in Kugaaruk and the other four are in Iqaluit. Sixty-six are starting their professional education in the foundation year.

The numbers, Mr. Speaker, that I'll quickly outline, are here below. There are a total of 117 students.

In Iqaluit, there are four in year 1, eight in year 2, eight in year 3, four in year 4, and two in transition. In Kugaaruk, there are ten in year 4 who are going to graduate. That is a very good accomplishment. There are seven in year 2 in Rankin Inlet, eight in year 2 in Cambridge Bay. There are 13 in Pangnirtung in the foundation year; 6 in Pond Inlet, 11 in Cape Dorset, 12 in Kugluktuk, 12 in Baker Lake, and 12 in Qikiqtarjuaq and they're all in their foundation year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister. Returns to Oral Questions. Hunter Tootoo.

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

**Hon. Hunter Tootoo:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. My Return to Oral Question 265 – 3(2), asked to me by the Member for Iqaluit West in regard to the nomination for innovative human resource practices:

The question and I'll quote, "In the Minister's Statement today, he was applauding the nomination of an individual in the Power Corporation and in looking at the award and the criteria, I noticed that the eligibility criteria to be awarded for this prize is that the person has to be physically located in Manitoba, so I don't know how this will be awarded to the nominee. So that's my question to the minister."

Mr. Speaker, in response, the nomination for the award was accepted by the Human Resource Management Association of Manitoba where it had to have been in order according to their criteria. Otherwise, they would not have accepted it.

Mr. Speaker, if the member wishes to contact this organization for clarification, the contact information is HRMAM, that is Human Resource Management Association of Manitoba, and their address is: 1700-275 Portage Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba, R3B 2B3. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister. Returns to Oral Questions. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for South Baffin, Mr. Schell.

**Item 6: Oral Questions**

**Question 305 – 3(2): RFP for  
Panellized Housing Units**

**Mr. Schell:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My first question is for the Hon. Minister of Housing.

About a year ago, there was an RFP that went out looking for proposals on interested parties that were going to build these panels for these new panelled housing for Nunavut Housing. I'm assuming there was more than one proposal put forward.

My question is: who is on the board or whatever you want to call it that made a decision which was the best proposal? Were there any engineers or architects involved? I'm just hoping it wasn't the same people who made a decision to get the New Holland telehandlers. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Hunter Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to inform the member that it was exactly the same people... Mr. Speaker, no, I'm not exactly sure who was on that. I know that our technical division did it.

Once all of the proposals were received, I believe there were about 12 or 13 of them. After reviewing the proposals that were received, it was short listed down to about two or three. Prior to anything being done, a team went in and had an actual physical inspection and looked at the proposals that were short listed

before making a decision to move forward on there.

But if the member wishes, I can find out exactly who participated in that process. I don't have that level of detail with me, but I would be more than happy to provide it to the member if he so wishes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Schell:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Could the minister let the House know where this company is located that is doing these panels? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Hunter Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I could give you the address, I don't have the address with me, but southwest outside of Ottawa is where the location of that company is. I could tell from where I usually stay when I go down there at a friend's. It's probably about eight minutes drive from there. Hopefully that helps the member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Schell:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm wonder if the hon. member could let me know if they have signed a contract and what the amount is for these new panel units with this firm. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Hunter Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I certainly hope we have a contract signed in place because they're halfway through manufacturing or a good way through manufacturing these panels as we speak right now. As far as exactly how much that is, I don't have that information. I would be more than happy to let the member know as soon as I get that information. I should be able to provide that information to him later today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Schell:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The main reason I was asking you that is because we're going right back to what we had with the telehandler issue.

They have ordered this and signed a contract. My understanding is that these units aren't stamped by an architectural engineer as of yet. I think they're putting the cart in front of the horse again. What if these are not acceptable?

My understanding is that they have not been stamped yet. So I want to ask the minister how he can sign a contract when they're not even stamped by an engineer at the present time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Hunter Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm sorry if the member is misunderstanding. He had asked me this earlier and I checked into it.

The drawings, the specifications, and the actual panels, the entire unit has been reviewed by the contractor's head of

their technical division, who is a certified technical engineer, prior to them moving forward with any of that construction. That was done prior to that.

So I just want to correct the member that they were reviewed by a structural engineer and approved prior to them starting manufacturing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Question 306 – 3(2): Ministerial  
Liquor Task Force**

**Mr. Ningark:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Hon. Minister of Finance.

Earlier this morning, I received a phone call from the Mayor of the Hamlet of Kugaaruk wondering when the new liquor task force will be coming to the community. He has apparently attended one in the fall with the minister. He is wondering when the review panel will be visiting the community to review the new *Liquor Act*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Minister of Finance, Hon. Keith Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Ningark for that question. Mr. Speaker, I had the honour and privilege of speaking to the chairs of some of the alcohol education committees when they were here last fall. I did speak to them about the minister's task force on the review of the

*Liquor Act* and I outlined some of the steps.

Very soon, I will be announcing the names of the ten individuals who have agreed to be members of the task force. We will be inviting them to Iqaluit for a sit-down meeting in early April. From there, they will develop their schedule. I am not sure when they will get to Kugaaruk, but they will be getting to all communities in Nunavut within, I would say, a total of 14 months, but hopefully a lot sooner than that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Question 307 – 3(2): Polar Bear Issue  
in McClintock Channel**

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

I was asking about the communities of Gjoa Haven and Taloyoak, to which I made some phone calls. They said that in previous years, they hunted polar bears around the McClintock Channel this time of year and they would go seal hunting where there are also bearded seals in the spring. Apparently, they don't hunt around that area anymore. It's no longer safe as there are now too many polar bears due to a moratorium that was imposed for the area.

I want to ask the minister if he is willing look into the moratorium around the McClintock Channel area and the concerns about polar bears from the residents. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.



**Speaker:** Thank you. Minister of Environment, Hon. Daniel Shewchuk.

**Hon. Daniel Shewchuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the member for that question and concern. I would like to advise the member that the residents of Taloyoak right now have a quota for the Gulf of Boothia population. There is no quota or TAH for the McClintock Channel for that community.

However, I would encourage the people of Taloyoak to continue their annual hunt. If there is a reason in lieu of life and property and defence that they need to harvest the polar bear, they can absolutely do that. I'm sure that the residents there will try and deter polar bears before they harvest them, but I would state to the community that that not be the reason that they do not go and practice their traditional hunt.

I would just also like to say that it is up to the regional wildlife organization if they're interested in acquiring a harvest from that area that they work through their regional wildlife organization. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister. (interpretation) Your first supplementary... is that all? Thank you. (interpretation ends) Oral Questions. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. Elliott.

### **Question 308 – 3(2): Activities of the Public Agencies Council**

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister responsible for "Prudence," or Finance, the Hon. Keith Peterson.

Mr. Speaker, in June of last year, Members of the Legislative Assembly were provided with copies of the terms of reference for the government's Public Agencies Council which used to be known as the Crown Agency Council.

The Minister of Finance chairs the Public Agencies Council and its other members are the Premier and the Minister of Human Resources. According to its terms of reference, the Public Agencies Council is supposed to hold quarterly meetings. According to my calculations, the council should have held at least two meetings by now.

My question for the minister is this: how many meetings has the council held to date and what decisions have been made? Thank you.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister of Finance, Hon. Keith Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Elliott for that question. I wish he would have asked me that question yesterday in Committee of the Whole when I had my deputy minister with me.

I want to assure the member, Mr. Speaker, that the Public Agencies Council has met. He is quite correct who the membership is. It is very informal. We don't have to have big, scheduled meetings. We can meet informally and I believe we've had at least two meetings. We have talked about the letters of expectation for the Crown agencies and discussed the Memorandums of Understanding. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. One of the key responsibilities of the Public Agencies Council is to develop letters of expectation for public agencies which represent the Government of Nunavut's perspective as a key stakeholder and which reflect government's priorities and key issues.

Mr. Speaker, we have recently had changes in key areas of our major public agencies. For example, we have a new President of the Qulliq Energy Corporation, a new President of the Nunavut Housing Corporation, and I believe now we have a new President of the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation.

Can the minister confirm that these letters of expectation were developed and presented to the public agencies? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Elliott for asking that question. The Public Agencies Council; we don't direct the day-to-day affairs of the Crown agencies. We make recommendations to the minister responsible and then they, in their letters to the board of directors or the presidents of those organizations, provide the day-to-day-direction. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Throughout the sitting of the House, Members of the Legislative Assembly have been calling on the government to ensure that business plans and annual reports on the contracting, procurement and leasing activities of Crown corporations and agencies are tabled in a timely manner.

If these business plans and annual reports were tabled in a timely manner, perhaps we would have fewer questions on these issues. Will the minister ensure that this matter is placed on the agenda of the next meeting of the Public Agencies Council? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for asking that question. Yes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. One of the responsibilities of the Public Agencies Council is to develop guidelines for public agencies concerning corporate governance.

As I understand it, the senior management of Crown corporations and agencies are responsible for the day-to-day operations and activities of these entities. The government's new Public Agencies Council is responsible for setting strategic directions, goals, and priorities for the Crown corporations and agencies.

Can the minister explain: exactly what is the role of the board of directors and the board of governors of our Crown corporations and agencies? Thank you.

**Speaker:** Thank you. Minister Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If I had the time, I would probably take the entire Question Period up to explain the role of the board of directors and the senior management of the Crown agencies.

I have sat as a secretary treasurer and treasurer in the board of directors of many companies in my career, and I can assure the member that the role of the board of directors is to set the vision and direction for Crown agencies.

Again, as I explained earlier, the Public Agencies Council provides recommendations to the appropriate minister and then the minister will communicate with the board of directors of the Crown agency or the president. The board of directors and the president are accountable to the appropriate minister and back to the Government of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Question 309 – 3(2): Pop Vending Machines in Government Buildings**

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday, I directed some of my questions to the Minister of Finance regarding the issue of over-consumption of soft drinks in Nunavut and about the government's initiatives in

trying to lower the consumption of soft drinks. The response I got was that the Department of Health and Social Services is managing this issue properly by continuing to conduct their public awareness campaigns to try and lower the consumption of soft drinks.

I would now like to ask the Minister of Health and Social Services that if his department is indeed serious about reducing soft drink consumption, then they have to walk the talk in no uncertain terms. I would like to know if the minister is willing to personally lead this drive to reduce over-consumption of soft drinks in Nunavut.

It is a fact that in every public building, one can readily buy soft drinks from vending machines. Can the department offer healthier alternatives instead in the future? I would like to ask for a reply from the Minister of Health and Social Services on what action will be taken on this issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Okalik. Minister of Health and Social Services, (interpretation ends) Hon. Tagak Curley.

**Hon. Tagak Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I very much appreciate the suggestion the member included in his question. Whenever practical recommendations are provided, it is always pleasing to get them and apply them for the people of Nunavut.

I would like to inform the House that in 2004, the last government created an initiative specifically geared towards students in the schools. The campaign was named 'Drop the Pop' and was started with funding from the federal

government. The program is part of the diabetes awareness funding and practically every school in Nunavut participated in this campaign.

Just this past winter, the northern territories were allocated \$75,000 each by the federal government so that the three northern governments (the Yukon, the NWT, and Nunavut) could continue this campaign. Further, we know of other situations where we can assist in lessening the sweets available to the public, such as our 'Drop the Pop' campaign. We will endeavour to implement other public drives of this nature.

I want to thank the member again for asking this question.

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

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) From what I understand, we have a pop vending machine at our local hospital here.

We have to be sending a healthy message to all of our citizens that we should not be aiding such poor health choices in our own health facilities. So I'm encouraging the minister that perhaps we can provide healthier drinks in those facilities and throughout our government buildings here in Nunavut.

That's something I hope that the minister will do something about in the very near future. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Okalik. It's at your discretion to respond, Minister Curley.

**Hon. Tagak Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I will ensure that we look into this.

Further, we will look for partnerships perhaps with my other colleagues. It could be that some government office buildings do have vending machines that we haven't noticed. We will try to investigate that. I'm sure that health officials are listening to these proceedings and we will keep the House updated.

We strongly believe in offering healthier choices. Perhaps we can also think about replacing the regular soft drinks with diet versions. We will take this into consideration. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker**: Thank you, Minister. Oral Questions. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. Elliott.

### **Question 310 – 3(2): Activities of the Public Agencies Council**

**Mr. Elliott**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to continue with my line of questioning. I have questions for the Minister of Finance, the Hon. Keith Peterson.

In regard to the Public Agencies Council, could he explain why there is this extra layer of bureaucracy? Thank you.

**Speaker**: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister of Finance, Hon. Keith Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm not sure if I understand the member's question. The Public Agencies Council is not civil servants. Mr. Speaker, the Public Agencies Council is made up of ministers. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Then maybe the question would be: why do we have the Public Agencies Council as an extra layer of control? If he could explain why it's there. Thank you.

**Speaker:** Thank you. Minister Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for the question. Mr. Speaker, the Qulliq Energy Corporation, the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation, the Nunavut Development Corporation, they operate at arm's-length from the government, providing services and programs to Nunavummiut. They deal directly with the appropriate minister, but the link comes from Cabinet through the Public Agencies Council and they provide recommendations to the minister. It's purely a recommendation that they do need to be accountable ultimately back to the Legislative Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for that explanation. That provides some more clarity; I was getting a little confused. If you've got two levels of people telling you how to do things, it gets a little confusing.

In terms of decisions being made, you said that the Public Agencies Council provides recommendations and some direction. In terms of clarity, who has the final say if the Public Agencies Council says, "This is the direction we want you to go," but the board of governors says, "Well, no, this isn't how we're going because in previous years, we have gone this way"? Who makes that final decision? Thank you.

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

**Hon Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I again thank Mr. Elliott for the question. Mr. Speaker, I said the Public Agencies Council makes the recommendations to the appropriate minister and the appropriate minister works with the Crown agency, the president, and the board of directors, if there is a board of directors. Normally, the board of directors are appointed by the Cabinet. So the ultimate responsibility for the Crown agency is the appropriate minister and then through the minister to the Legislative Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister. Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Oral Questions. Member for Pangnirtung, Mr. Komoartok.

### **Question 311 – 3(2): Hiring Procedures for Inuit Social Workers**

**Mr. Komoartok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday, the Minister of Health and Social Services stated that there are currently 46 social workers' positions filled. Of these, I believe 12 were said to be Inuit.

I would like to ask the minister why two people from my community, who attended Arctic College to take the social service program and successfully completed the program, have not been able to get jobs yet.

This question is for the (interpretation ends) Hon. Daniel Shewchuk, Minister of Human Resources. (interpretation) I would like to know if his staff have received orientation in light of the fact that they don't seem to want to hire Inuit. There are always aboriginal people applying for jobs, particularly these two from my community.

What exactly is the government's hiring policy for social workers? It seems no one prefers to hire Inuit beneficiaries but would rather fly in outsiders, some of whom don't know us. Is this how it is? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Komoartok. Minister of Human Resources, Hon. Daniel Shewchuk.

**Hon. Daniel Shewchuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question and the concern he has. I can assure the member that we do have processes in place in Human Resources in our hiring procedure that would absolutely look at what he states.

I think if these two people who he's talking about have the qualifications and have applied for the positions, I think they should be considered and I will look into that. I don't know the facts of what the member is stating to me, but I would very much like to know the facts and I would look into it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Komoartok** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. I'll look forward to hearing back from you.

Looking at some numbers here, since the creation of Nunavut, there have been only 12 social workers who are Inuit beneficiaries. Social work includes healing programs, which we depend on a great deal in Nunavut. The social workers, in fact, sometimes work with the entire families. It seems that at times, there should be more cultural components in some of the programs.

It's quite obvious that we need to increase the number of Inuit social workers as there are only 12 in Nunavut. I would like to know if there are any plans to set up social worker programs such as the one currently being offered in Cambridge Bay. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you. Minister Shewchuk.

**Hon. Daniel Shewchuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would just like to say to the member that we will offer programs that are initiated by communities, what the community interests are and the needs are in specific communities. So yes, we will look at that opportunity and we will listen to what communities would like to see. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Question 312 – 3(2): Respite for Medical Escorts**

**Mr. Ningark** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will direct my question to the Minister of Health and Social Services. Since my question does not violate any confidential issues, I will ask it directly.

Some patients from my Kitikmeot riding have to go to Edmonton for medical treatment and require a medical escort. Mr. Speaker, some patients require all-day care. I have been told on more than one occasion that it's very hard on escorts to stay with patients in the hospital without relief for an entire day.

One question that I was asked is if there was a possibility of having two medical escorts under certain circumstances. Is there anything in the escort policy that makes this possible? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Minister of Health and Social Services, (interpretation ends) Hon. Tagak Curley.

**Hon. Tagak Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the member for his question. I want him to know that elders especially or patients who require long-term care really do need medical escorts, especially if they are going to be down south for a long time.

The coordinator responsible for this is currently working out of Cambridge Bay. We could probably get more details from this individual, but I do want you to know that when an escort needs to be relieved after being away for far too

long, that can be done. On the question of whether two escorts is possible, that is something I will have to check into. I do want you to know that this issue is taken seriously. Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Oral Questions. (interpretation ends) Member for South Baffin, Mr. Schell.

**Question 313 – 3(2): Collective Bargaining Process – Housing Allowance**

**Mr. Schell:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Finance. It's a question that I asked him a couple of days ago in regard to the \$400 subsidy for individuals who own their own homes. At the time, he had mentioned that the collective agreement negotiations are in progress and that probably something would be done with that.

That's fine, but my understanding is that housing has nothing to do with the collective agreement and if it does, I'm sure that the NEU would be very happy to hear that. So my question to the minister is: is this \$400 subsidy part of the collective agreement negotiations? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Schell. Minister of Finance, Hon. Keith Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I applaud Mr. Schell for continuing his efforts to get a break for the folks who rent houses. It is expensive to rent housing in Nunavut.

As I indicated the other day, if folks are interested in increasing the household allowance, it can be part of the collective bargaining process. But as the Minister of Finance, it's not our plan to increase the amount to a level that, after taxation, nets \$400 for people. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Schell:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Also, in his comments, he had mentioned that it's a CRA rule that this \$400 has to be subsidized. The part that I don't understand is that the \$1,500 free subsidy that employees are living in units is not taxed.

I'm sure if you're taxing one, the other one should be taxed whether it is actually in a subsidy, actually paid, or it's in cash, or it's in-kind. So that's my question: why is this taxed? That's the rules. You have the \$1,500 subsidy that people get that are actually living in staff housing and don't have to pay tax on that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you. Minister Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The last time I checked, I was the Minister of Finance for Nunavut, not the Minister of Taxation for Canada.

Mr. Speaker, the Canada Revenue Agency considers \$400 a taxable benefit because it's not a universal benefit to all people in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Schell:** I do agree that it's not for everybody, but at the same time, anybody who lives in staff housing... like the government pays probably \$3,300 or \$3,500 a month for that unit and yet, the people who rent it only pay like \$1,500. So there is a subsidy there, a difference, and that's why I'm questioning it. If the CRA makes a point of taxing that \$400, how come that subsidy, from what the renter is paying and what the government is actually paying, is not taxable? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If the Government of Canada taxed people who live in social housing, there's a \$22,000 benefit there and most people in social housing are paying \$65 a month, so you can imagine the taxes that they would have to pay if they had to pay full rent on the benefit they received from the Government of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Schell:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Of course, I understand why they don't do it. My argument is: why are you taxing the \$400? As far as I'm concerned, that should be exempt also. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you. Minister Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I again thank Mr. Schell for that comment and I appreciate what his concern is. But Mr. Speaker, we don't tax the homeowners, it's the Canada



Revenue Agency that taxes. They decided that it's a taxable benefit. Obviously, as a Government of Nunavut, we would like to see them get the full \$400 benefit, but we don't make the national taxation rules. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister. Oral Questions. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. Elliott.

**Question 314 – 3(2): Child and Youth Representative**

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Health and Social Services, the Hon. Tagak Curley.

On Monday, March 8, I asked questions to the Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, the Hon. Eva Aariak, in regard to the child and youth representative. And in her response, she had said that the Minister of Health and Social Services is working very hard on this issue.

I was wondering if the minister could outline how his department is working hard on this issue. Thank you.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister of Health and Social Services, Hon. Tagak Curley.

**Hon. Tagak Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe our Premier stated that our mandate comes from the action plan stemming from *Tamapta*. The priority is to assist those residents who are most vulnerable, or at risk, or facing difficulty in their lives.

As per the practices of the government, April 1 is the crucial date as that is the start of the new fiscal year and many of the contents of the main estimates that are currently under review will be appropriated towards some of the action items.

As the Minister of Finance affirmed, the mandate of the department revolves around the *Family Abuse Intervention Act*; this forms the mandate for the social services branches. We will be undertaking a comprehensive review of the legislation and our mandate as outlined therein.

With respect to the some of the items that have to be dealt with, such as child advocacy, these are under the mandates of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs as well as the Department of Justice. Our department is not the lead on this responsibility, but whenever they require information, we have discussed this on an interdepartmental basis that we will send it as it is required. However, my main responsibility is health and social services.

I held a conference last fall in December and the report outlining our meeting is now completed. The report is still being evaluated and this may take all winter. When April 1 arrives, we will be continuing our consultations with the communities as per the action plan. With respect to the details of that, I now have them in our office and they speak to regional initiatives and funds once the new fiscal year has commenced on April 1. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The questions were specifically on the independent child and youth representative, and the Premier did say that the Minister of Health and Social Services is working very hard on this issue and they have already met.

In terms of the meeting that you were talking about and the report that is coming out that you just spoke about, is that an action plan in creating this independent child and youth representative? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Tagak Curley** (interpretation): Thank you. It is usually quite clear when I respond to questions in Inuktitut in detail. We have two main languages.

With respect to the public advocacy group in the NWT, it is for all of the NWT and they also deal with child issues. The advocacy group is an independent office from government but has links to the Premier's office and EIA. If anyone wants to get support, they can get it from that department. As I said before, our department is going to be providing assistance.

The Department of Social Services is mandated by the *Child and Family Services Act*, which directs our actions and policies. We met this year to deal with the action plan for the first time. Starting in the new fiscal year, we will start again for the whole year. Before that, I can provide an update on the progress of each region. The final report on the legislation will be done some time in the future. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for that answer. It was leading up to one of my other questions because I want clarification. It's sort of in line with the same questions I was asking about in terms of the Nunavut Housing Corporation and the apprentices who are being trained and being bounced around between department and department.

I know, in some of the answers that the Premier gave, she mentioned Health and Social Services, she mentioned CLEY, she also mentioned Education, and she also mentioned Justice, so I'll ask that question next.

Just for clarification, your department's role in assisting with the youth and child representative is to handle and work with the legislation of the *Child and Family Services Act*. Is that correct? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Tagak Curley:** Thank you. Mr. Speaker, I'm not sure whether I want to answer that with "correct" or this kind of terminology. I think the member should know that the mandate of Health and Social Services, one, that it's responsible for broad medical and health issues in Nunavut. Specifically for social services, our mandate is to continually implement the *Child and Family Services Act*. We're going through a review process and my department is the lead department in that area.

In terms of the advocacy role, it's not only for youth but for others. That is the

responsibility of my colleague, the Premier. The justice minister, no doubt, gets a critical role in providing legal advice, and so on, to all of the legislation that we're carrying on. I am not the lead minister on the work of the youth advocacy stuff.

I told the member that we will provide all of the information necessary that my colleagues require, that we're committed to and will continue to do so. Thank you. I hope that's clear.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That clears up all of the questions I had and thank you. I want to get the terminology right because we're not going with child and youth advocate anymore, we're going with child and youth representative.

My final question, Mr. Speaker: in regard to issues concerning the child and youth representative, you would like me to ask the Premier, the Minister responsible for EIA. Correct, yes or no? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Tagak Curley:** No, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

>>*Laughter*

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

### **Question 315 – 3(2): \$2 Million Farming Equipment**

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I would like to follow up on the question from my colleague from Baffin South to the Minister responsible for Housing.

Yesterday, we learned that the Housing Corporation had purchased farming equipment that will be inoperable in our territory and that \$2 million worth of potential money for housing is now being used to try and find ways to get equipment that will actually work in our territory.

How can the minister assure us that these new units that my colleague for South Baffin is asking about will actually be certified and possible to be accommodated in our territory? It seems like we're going from one bad thing to another bad thing. How can he assure the House that these will actually work in our territory? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Hunter Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just want to clarify for the record. The member keeps saying that this equipment is inoperable in Nunavut, that's actually not true, Mr. Speaker. As I had indicated yesterday, you know the five that we have right now will perform just fine.

Given the geography of some of the lots, as I had indicated, when we found out that it wouldn't have access, the only

instance where it wouldn't work is if it wouldn't have the boom length required to get over the peak of the roof. There is a big difference between that and a piece of equipment being inoperable. So I just want to set the record straight on that, that it's an operable piece of equipment in Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, as I had indicated to my colleague from South Baffin when he asked these questions of me last week that I would look into it, I did. I have been assured that the manufacturer has had the design and the panels, everything about the units reviewed and approved by a structural engineer. So Mr. Speaker, in the event that they don't work, then the liability would fall on that structural engineer and that firm, not the Housing Corporation.

So hopefully that gives him the assurances that he is looking for, that it has been reviewed and approved by a certified, bona fide structural engineer. I don't know what else we can look for from that to assure the member. I think, to me, these individuals' certification and their professionalism is on the line, so they're going to make sure, before they agree and say that everything is fine, that they're pretty comfortable that it is fine. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I recall last year that the minister was assuring us that these telehandlers would work and be fine in Nunavut just to realize \$2 million later that we can't really use them. So how can we be assured when the minister is making

comments such as, "They will be okay. They will be fine once again," that they will actually do the job?

That's why I'm asking the minister: how can he reassure us after this \$2 million boondoggle that it will not happen again? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Hunter Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to also note that the member is the only one who calls this a boondoggle, it's not a \$2 million boondoggle.

Mr. Speaker, if you go to a lawyer, for example, to sign as a notary for a public thing that they witnessed you signing something, do you question that stamp of approval on there? The structural engineer has approved the design and they're certified. What else can you ask for from that? Do you question a lawyer when they sign something saying that it's certified by someone that's a lawyer? No.

These are professionals, Mr. Speaker, they have the certification, same as accountants. They're not going to sign off on something that they don't believe is accurate because part of their associations with those individuals would be liable if they did, in fact, make a mistake. So at some point, Mr. Speaker, we have to trust these professionals that they know what they're doing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I would not be questioning this matter if we hadn't learned that we're stuck with farming equipment that we can't really do much about.

We hope to get the best deal and we hope that the Housing Corporation can resell these things. As you know, Mr. Speaker, when someone buys a car, as soon as it leaves the lot, 10 percent of it is gone; it's depreciated. So I hope that with this \$2 million worth of farming equipment, we will do better than that and that we can get our money back.

We had been assured by this minister that these were fine, they would work, and they would be okay. We asked the minister, "Can you hold off on making a major commitment to make sure that this equipment will actually work in our territory?" And we realize today that we're stuck with \$2 million worth of equipment that we hope we can get the best deal and get our money back. That is my issue. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Hunter Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Much like cars, I think that in some cases, words lose their value when they leave someone's mouth as well.

Mr. Speaker, as I indicated yesterday, and the member keeps saying, "We're stuck with these," we aren't stuck with these. As I indicated, the corporation has taken steps to mitigate the loss and a request for proposals has been issued. We're looking for a credit for these units. I want to make it clear that we're

not stuck with \$2 million worth of equipment.

The other thing, Mr. Speaker, I assured and I pointed out yesterday is that the equipment, in all cases, except for where we found out in December, when we found out what our lots were, would work.

Mr. Speaker, as I pointed out to my colleague from South Baffin yesterday, both of the pieces of equipment that we were looking at and received quotes on last year, given all of the information that we knew at the time, taking into account everything that we could think of at that time, neither of those pieces of equipment would have had the sufficient boom length required to overcome this obstacle that we just found out about in late December. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) It's unfortunate that I have to repeat myself.

I'm not trying to demean the situation in any way. We're short of housing throughout the territory. To see the precious dollars that could go towards housing be used for projects that are questionable and then to realize that it was a mistake, the minister should at least admit that they made a mistake and be upfront with the Assembly, that when the Assembly asks, "Is this going to work?" And the minister assures you that, "It will work."

Perhaps it would be easier if the minister at least admits to the House that they made a mistake and that we will not

repeat this in the future. It would be a bit more assuring for the Members of this House, but the minister is just pretending, "We will fix it somehow."

Hopefully, we will get the best deal, but we fail to see that to this point.  
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Hunter Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe that if the member reviews the *Hansard* from yesterday, he will find that answer there. We did say that we tried, at the time, to think of everything. A circumstance arose after the fact that, unfortunately, without a crystal ball, I think is the term I used yesterday, we couldn't foresee.

To me, that is saying, "At the time, based on the information that we had and everything that we could think of, it would have been fine." But like I pointed out yesterday, and you can review the *Hansard* from yesterday and you will see it, you cannot always think of everything. I said that here in the House, unlike other governments that never want to admit they made a mistake.

I'm saying that based on the information that we had and everything that we could think of, it was determined that piece of equipment would have worked. When new information came along that was discovered that it wouldn't work in certain circumstances, we acted on that.

So I don't know what more the member is looking for. I've got no problem... he can review the *Hansard* and I'm sure he will find the answer he's looking for in

there from yesterday. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister. Oral Questions. Member for South Baffin, Mr. Schell.

**Question 316 – 3(2): Contract for  
Panellized Housing Units**

**Mr. Schell:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the hon. member of the Housing Corporation.

In regard to these SIP panels, he had mentioned that they had been reviewed and stamped by a structural engineer. My question is: was this done before the contract was signed with this company or was it done after? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Hunter Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't know exactly when, but I said that we were assured by the company that had the contract that the design was reviewed and approved by their structural engineer. That's the information that the member was asking for last week and that's the information that I got. If he would like me to find out exactly when that structural engineer reviewed the design and approved it, I would be more than happy to do that if that's what he wants. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Schell:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I would like to have that information just to make sure that this was stamped and approved before the Housing Corporation got into a contract with the company.

Just to make sure that they were prudent, as the finance minister always says, in regard to this contract... if they signed a contract prior to it being stamped, I don't think that's a very wise decision. That's the reason I'm asking that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Hunter Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As a businessman himself, the member knows that you have to be prudent and you have to be careful and take steps to mitigate and make sure that you're making good investments. I can assure you that our design team and technical division were prudent and looked at the lot and everything in there.

As I had indicated to the member, I have faith in my staff and our technical team, the design team that put together this proposal, and I will provide the member with the information of exactly when the design was approved by the structural engineer. Given also, Mr. Speaker, the fact that part of the proposal, prior to the contract being awarded, there was a requirement, as I had indicated yesterday, for proof of demonstration and that happened this fall.

As I said, there were contractors and technical people from the North to go down there and ensure that... you know, we always hear these southern ideas are great but they never work up north. We

wanted to make sure and ensure that those ideas, if there were any possible challenges faced by knowledgeable northern contractors, who know the environment that they have to work in, were addressed before the final design being approved. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Schell:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My next question for the minister is: are all of these housing units going to be manufactured this year and shipped out to the communities; all of the units this year or some are going to be for next year? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Hunter Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the member knows, part of the funding, the \$100 million that we received for this was two-year funding that expires. We have to have our commitments in place for these units this year. Like I said, some of the work that was done on that funding last year was site development, piles, pads, and things like that.

This year, all of the units will be shipped in and constructed. Because of our shipping season, Mr. Speaker, all of the units will be shipped this year and we have the next construction season to complete those projects as well. All of the material and all of those units will be landed in the communities this shipping season. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Schell:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Are these panelled units going to be shipped directly from the supplier or are they going to be going through the marshalling company? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Hunter Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't have the answer to that question right now, but I would be more than happy to follow up with my staff and see exactly what the process is for those particular panels and advise the member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister. Item 7. Written Questions. Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Item 10. Petitions. Item 11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees. Item 12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Mr. Okalik.

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

#### **Tabled Document 139 – 3(2): Letter from Constituent – Mould in Workplace**

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Today, I wish to table a letter from a courageous Iqalummiuq who has been employed with the GN for a very long time and who has become quite ill because of exposure to mould in a GN building and has no longer been able to work.

There are other employees who have been very badly harmed, but due to no whistle-blower legislation, they have

been scared to table any letters, so I applaud this individual. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Tabled Document 140 – 3(2): Copy of Correspondence from the Hamlet of Kugaaruk**

**Mr. Ningark:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table today a copy of a letter I received from the Hamlet of Kugaaruk regarding an airport land lease issue involving the Nunavut Housing Corporation's construction of a five-plex unit in the community.

As a courtesy, Mr. Speaker, I would like to inform the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation that I will be sending him correspondence on this issue shortly. I look forward to his reply. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Tabling of Documents. Mr. Komoartok.

#### **Tabled Document 141 – 3(2): Photos of the Pujualussait Demonstration and Information Concerning Aboriginal Healing Foundation Funding**

**Mr. Komoartok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table today photos of the demonstration that was held near the Pujualussait office in Pangnirtung on March 15, 2010, and information on how the Aboriginal Healing Foundation's funding has been used in our community.

In my Members' Statement a couple of days ago, I indicated how this funding



contributes to community wellness and I would like to encourage all Nunavummiut to continue calling on the federal government to renew the Aboriginal Healing Foundation's funding. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Komoartok. Tabling of Documents. I have a couple of documents to table.

**Tabled Document 142 – 3(2): Report of the Auditor General of Canada to the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut on Human Resource Capacity in the Government of Nunavut**

**Tabled Document 143 – 3(2): 2008-2009 Annual Report of the Languages Commissioner**

Members, I wish to table today the Report of the Auditor General of Canada to the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut on the Human Resource Capacity in the Government of Nunavut. Thank you.

I have another document. Thank you, Members. I wish to table today the 2008-09 Annual Report of the Languages Commissioner of Nunavut. Thank you.

Tabling of Documents. Item 14. Notices of Motions. Mr. Ningeongan.

**Item 14: Notices of Motions**

**Motion 018 – 3(2): Reinstatement of Federal Funding for the Aboriginal Healing Foundation – Notice**

**Mr. Ningeongan:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Monday, March 22, 2010, I will move the following:

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the Member for Quttiktuq, that the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut calls on the Government of Canada to fully reinstate the funding to the programs and services provided under the Aboriginal Healing Foundation which support Nunavummiut.

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

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

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

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Ningeongan is seeking unanimous consent to deal with his motion today. Are there any nays? There are no nays. You may proceed with your motion, Mr. Ningeongan.

**Item 16: Motions**

**Motion 018 – 3(2): Reinstatement of Federal Funding for the Aboriginal Healing Foundation**

**Mr. Ningeongan:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker and my hon. colleagues.

WHEREAS the Government of Canada has indicated that it will be eliminating

funding to the Aboriginal Healing Foundation as of March 31, 2010;

AND WHEREAS this federal funding supports critically needed, community-driven healing and wellness programs that support communities, families, and individuals who have begun their healing journeys;

AND WHEREAS these programs assist a wide range of individuals, including survivors of residential schools;

AND WHEREAS these programs have proven to be sufficiently flexible to meet individual community needs by allowing for the delivery of services by those who best understand their impact on local individuals;

AND WHEREAS Nunavummiut have identified that healthy communities are a priority as identified in *Tamapta* and these programs have contributed greatly to the elimination of the pain and trauma that have afflicted Inuit as a result of generations of profound social upheaval and have had a positive impact on our communities;

AND WHEREAS the loss of these programs would represent a significant setback for community-driven wellness and healing and would threaten the viability of community support programs that have been developed over the past decade;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the Member for Quttiktuq, that the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut calls on the Government of Canada to fully reinstate the funding to the programs and services provided under the Aboriginal

Healing Foundation which support Nunavummiut.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. The motion is in order.

Before we proceed with the debate on the motion, I have a few comments to make as to the procedure. Every member has a right to speak once to the motion for a total of 20 minutes. The mover of the motion speaks first and the seconder speaks second. The mover of the motion has the right the last reply, which closes the debate. To the motion. Mr. Ningeongan.

**Mr. Ningeongan:** 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 Quttiktuq for having seconded it.

Mr. Speaker, the Aboriginal Healing Foundation was established on March 31, 1998 with a mandate to provide support and funding to help communities and individuals work towards healing the traumas experienced as a result of the residential school system.

Mr. Speaker, as you may be aware, it took some time for communities to begin to bring themselves to face the effects of this unresolved trauma; effects such as violence, depression, the lack of parenting skills, and the lack of capacity to build and sustain healthy families. It took some time for concerned and dedicated individuals and organizations to reach out to the Aboriginal Healing Foundation and say, "Yes, we want to address these issues and we need your support."

And Mr. Speaker, it took our federal government some time to accept true responsibility for its role in the residential school system and the damaging impact these schools had on aboriginal culture, heritage, and language. Mr. Speaker, it was not until June 11, 2008 that the Prime Minister of Canada offered a formal apology to former students of residential schools and sought forgiveness for their suffering.

Mr. Speaker, as the Prime Minister himself stated at the time, "... the absence of an apology has been an impediment to healing and reconciliation." He said that less than two years ago and yet here we are, already facing the end of a critically important federal program specifically aimed at providing funding for the very same healing and reconciliation that the Prime Minister spoke of.

Mr. Speaker, Nunavummiut have not had much time to seriously start the difficult process of healing. The damage inflicted by the residential school system has affected not one, not two, but three generations of Inuit and possibly more. To expect individuals and families and communities to recover from that kind of damage in such a short time is too soon.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to pay tribute to some of the very praiseworthy programs that have been supported by funding from the Aboriginal Healing Foundation. Last November, I rose in this House to recognize the strength and courage of a group of men from Coral Harbour who had come together to address their roles and responsibilities as husbands, fathers, and grandfathers. Their mission is to

become better stewards of their families. They have started on an important journey.

Mr. Speaker, healing programs across Nunavut have finally started to get on a roll. To cease funding now would seriously interrupt the progress that is being made towards health and well-being. The termination of the Aboriginal Healing Foundation funding would leave many Nunavut programs in limbo. I strongly urge the federal government to reinstate this important source of funding and support.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to acknowledge the strong voices that have come together to call for the continuation of the Aboriginal Healing Foundation. The Qikiqtani Regional Inuit Association held a peaceful gathering here in the capital city of Iqaluit. As my colleagues have noted in this House, the communities of Pangnirtung and Clyde River have also come out in strength to support the continuation of this program. I am very proud that our regional Inuit organizations are speaking out on this important issue.

Mr. Speaker, to terminate the Aboriginal Healing Funding now would defeat the whole purpose of the apology that our Prime Minister made on behalf of the Government of Canada. The federal government must recognize that healing takes time. Recovery does not happen overnight. In the case of systemic and long-term trauma such as that brought about by the residential school system, it may not take two years or even ten years to recover. Some of our healing programs are only just beginning to have

a profound positive impact. Now is not the time to pull away the support.

Mr. Speaker, I urge each and every Member of this House to support this motion. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased, pursuant to Rule 59, to call for a recorded vote on this motion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am honoured to have been asked to second the motion on the reinstatement of federal funding for the Aboriginal Healing Foundation.

Over the past decade, funding through the Aboriginal Healing Foundation has helped community-based groups across Nunavut develop effective programs that are designed by and for the community. These grassroots programs have started many Inuit on their journey towards healing. It is clear that many of our people continue to suffer the consequences of the residential school system. Many of our social and health problems, such as addictions and suicide, can be linked to the legacy of residential schools.

Mr. Speaker, the foundation's programs provide counselling and treatment in the areas of mental health, addictions, and violence. Mr. Speaker, these programs are delivered in a traditional and culturally appropriate manner for their clients and community. Furthermore, the programs provide employment opportunities in the communities for full-time counsellors and program

coordinators. They also provide seasonal employment for elders, hunters, sewing teachers, and guides.

With the Aboriginal Healing Foundation funding coming to an end on March 31 of this year, about a dozen programs in Nunavut will have to stop the important work they are doing. Mr. Speaker, the momentum towards healing in our communities has begun. With the loss of these funds, the momentum and everything that these organizations have worked towards will be interrupted and in some cases, terminated.

Mr. Speaker, it is for these reasons that I ask my colleagues to support this important motion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I congratulate my colleagues for moving and seconding this important motion.

Mr. Speaker, I have known MLA Ningeongan for many years. He has been a tireless supporter of people in Nunavut in his capacity as mayor, president of NAM, and now as an MLA. I'm getting to know MLA Ron Elliott. He has been a tireless advocate for his constituents up in the High Arctic. So it's no surprise to me that they stand up today and call on this Assembly and call on the Government of Canada to reinstate and continue the funding to the Aboriginal Healing Foundation.

Mr. Speaker, as a mayor of my community over the years, I have seen the tremendous benefit of that program

to my constituents. Cutting this program now, while it will save Canada money and help them fight their deficit, it will cause undue hardship, I believe, to Nunavummiut who desperately need this help now. My community, as I said, has benefited and will continue to benefit if the funding remains intact.

Mr. Speaker, I don't want to repeat the benefits of the program, but the Aboriginal Healing Foundation does support numerous programs and services to Nunavummiut who otherwise would not be receiving help.

As the Minister of Finance for the Government of Nunavut, I know that our funding resources are extremely limited to help those people. But in my other capacity as the Minister of Justice, I also know that working at the community level, the work and the programs that the Aboriginal Healing Foundation assists with helps our department and helps people in the communities with counselling.

So I'll be wholeheartedly supporting this motion today, and I urge the Government of Canada to reconsider their intentions to cut this program and reinstate it for all Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. To the motion. Mr. Tapardjuk.

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also wish to thank the mover and the seconder of the motion.

This is indeed a very important issue and it was eloquently expressed as to why

healing programs need continued funding. This also applies to anger management courses since many of our survivors have suppressed or festering rage due to the many abuses suffered at the hands of the colonialists. The social ills we now face are a resulting factor.

We have social workers who are under the employment of the government. It also is a fact in the south that social workers deal with social problems and provide assistance to those in need.

However, the Aboriginal Healing Foundation provided funds to aboriginal people that would be administered by Inuit organizations. With these funds at their discretion, they looked at the best practices and most effective means of providing programs to deal with these issues. These organizations know best what kinds of solutions are needed and how best to resolve conflicts.

The programs in Pangnirtung as well as in other communities are well run. Based on their knowledge of what was required and how best to implement this assistance, this program and others like it have to continue, especially when our government does not have a working foundation or track record as well as the social workers.

With the various birthright and aboriginal organizations that are familiar with Inuit customs and culture running these programs, their contribution has been tremendous to bring greater peace in the future. The suppressed anger of residential school victims has been passed on to the next generation in virtually all communities. It seems such healing is taking place.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the mover and the seconder. I would like everyone to know that I will be giving this motion my full support. I urge the federal government to reconsider reinstating the federal funding. Even if this does not materialize, I would like them to consider alternative sources of funding. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tapardjuk. To the motion. Ms. Aariak.

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to support the motion. I also thank the mover and seconder. The funding from the Aboriginal Healing Foundation has helped many communities in Canada to work towards healthier lives and providing counselling for individuals.

We have also found that there were 12 programs funded in Nunavut through the Aboriginal Healing Foundation. I have also found that there was \$10 million to \$12 million that has been accessed by Nunavut communities for counselling and healing purposes. It is very obvious that in Nunavut, these monies have helped people in the communities tremendously.

I clearly remember when I was in Pangnirtung, my colleague and I got together and I was given a briefing on what they have been doing in Pangnirtung. This was wonderful to see and they had initiated a lot of programs. It has helped people who are parents and also their children because they are often affected. They fully included *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit* in their programs.

If the federal funding is stopped, these excellent programs will grind to a halt and undo what they have achieved. The success of these programs is clear and supported by Inuit everywhere in Nunavut.

Under *Tamapta*, as a government, healthy living is a part of it and working together for the betterment of the people of Nunavut. With that, I will give my full support to the motion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Premier. To the motion. Mr. Ningark.

**Mr. Ningark** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the Member for Nanulik for moving the motion. I would like to also thank the seconder, the Member for Quttiktuq.

Again, I would like to acknowledge our Cabinet recognizing the need for healthy living. It is clear that it is a part of the *Tamapta* document.

I was also sent to a residential school. As was elaborated upon by other members, some of us suffered physical abuse and other abuses. The children and grandchildren of these victims have also suffered.

When we decided in favour of work for the creation of the Nunavut territory, the issue of a closer, more open government was voiced by many people in Nunavut. We wanted our government to be closer to the people it serves, to be more responsive to the desires and aspirations of Nunavummiut, and to provide more assistance, primarily in the fields of healthy living and decision-making, and get away from anger and frustration.

We have recognized that here in Nunavut, it's quite obvious that the residential school experience has impacted many of our residents.

An individual arrived in our community from another community who taught healthy living practices, although we have a counsellor now in our community. There are increasing numbers of residents taking advantage of this program. As people have become aware of the services being provided, they are increasingly looking to utilize the program. It seems that the majority of our community is benefiting from this program, Mr. Speaker.

I can speak on this subject endlessly, and a lot of the issues have been eloquently voiced and more will be expressed by other members. I will just go with the flow, but I wanted it known that I will obviously be supporting this motion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningark. To the motion. Mr. Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am very pleased that this motion was introduced in the House. It's also sad that we have to table such a motion as there was absolutely no need to cut the funding of the Aboriginal Healing Foundation.

Quite a while back, during the time that we were going through the trauma, it was like a little cut at that time, but over the years, it has not healed and has festered instead. The need for healing will continue for several generations to come.

I can say that I'm proud of the people who are going through the healing process, who have benefited from the funding by the Aboriginal Healing Foundation. There are those who are just getting prepared to go through the healing process or are thinking about it. Now that the Aboriginal Healing Foundation funding is being snuffed, the federal government will once again force us to seek funding ourselves because they are seeking to cut spending.

As my colleagues say with a great deal of truth, there are a lot of victims of the residential school syndrome. It is spread among a lot of Nunavut communities and the ripple effect of that trauma will last a long time within Canada. The healing is very much in great need and just as it has started, these cuts will hurt a lot. Just thinking about the victims that still have to go through the process, there are some people who wouldn't be able to walk on the path to healing.

With that, I support the motion. I support all aboriginal people who are voicing their concerns about this federal funding for the Aboriginal Healing Foundation. Only one voice will not be heard by the Government of Canada. Even as a nation and even if we whisper, the federal government will be able to hear it.

I am proud to say that I support this motion. I hope the federal government will once again hear the voices of the aboriginal nation of Canada and reinstate the federal funding for the Aboriginal Healing Foundation for many years to come with no strings attached. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank my colleagues on arriving at a consensus on this very important issue.

I would also like to recognize Okalik Egeesiak, President of the Qikiqtani Inuit Association, and thank her for stating her support for the Aboriginal Healing Foundation funding. As a government, we had made these monies available to be used at the discretion of the entities which are providing the healing programs.

The healing process is not easy because each of us is unique and we have different needs for healing, but we also need support for the victims to provide them with adequate services. We must also remember that they didn't choose to live as victims, to be taken away from their parents. It wasn't their will to go through the residential school system that was operated by the federal government. It's not their fault that they are going through what they are today, when children are left with such a terrible legacy.

As a father, it hurts. We have to remember those individuals who have not overcome the trauma they had experienced. Hearing about these healing programs, we have to look at what is hurting them because those programs are free. Our life is very short and we all want to have a healthy lifestyle. We do get hurt at times, but we have to go through the healing process in order to get back on our feet.

So I would like to give further support to the residential school victims. I would also urge the federal government that initiated the whole syndrome to provide the support because it's part of one of their programs. Yes, they have to listen to the people who they represent and to reinstate the federal funding for the Aboriginal Healing Foundation.

With that, I will be giving my full support to this motion and to work together with the people of Nunavut to go through the healing process. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Tagak Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise also to acknowledge the many people who have contributed, firstly our Premier, who wrote a letter to the Prime Minister immediately upon hearing this issue.

However, in Rankin Inlet, which forms my constituency, we have the Pulaarvik Kablu Friendship Centre and it has assisted many residents of Rankin Inlet through healing programs, including the survivors of the Chesterfield Inlet residential school, and staff have made visits to that community as well. Furthermore, I want to speak to the many staff members who, through training and experience, are now some of the most capable counsellors we have seen when we have observed their healing programs.

These counsellors are mainly Inuit and by virtue of using their language, they are able to draw out the pain and experiences of the people being counselled. This is a complex matter and



some of them are quite open in telling their stories that many of us would not want to hear about. These counsellors are quite capable and although they are from another community, they work out of Rankin Inlet. I wish to acknowledge their contributions and support they provide to our residents.

There is also a healing program situated in Iqaluit, where they go on the land to a remote location so as not to be disturbed. Many communities also do that in Nunavut, including here in the Baffin region. I would like to extend my immense gratitude to these individuals. I also wish to thank the associations while they are here and listening to the session. This includes our partners, such as NTI and other organizations, which go to Ottawa to try and get funding for these programs. We are literally at the bottom of the barrel in this day and age.

I also wish to thank the residents of Kivalliq who are part of the KCC, the Kivalliq Chamber of Commerce, which is holding its meetings this week. I was informed by one of my assistants that a resolution was passed at this meeting to reinstate the federal funding for the Aboriginal Healing Foundation and to Inuit especially. I do want to thank the KCC for making that resolution at their meeting this week.

I also want to thank the Members of the Legislative Assembly for making comments to the motion. I hope the federal government understands how beneficial the Aboriginal Healing Foundation is because the healing has just begun. I will be in support of this motion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. To the motion. Mr. Komoartok.

**Mr. Komoartok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, my colleagues. It is now evident where the support is going with this motion. It is evident in Nunavut that this funding has been very beneficial to the communities. It is not just a group in my community. They know the individuals who need support and help.

There are many issues that I wanted to comment on which have already been stated. One issue that I want to bring up was that when residential school students went back home, they seemed to be alienated from their parents, especially those who were in residential schools for many years. It was not the case with the short-term residential school students.

When the students finally got home, they lost their culture and ties with their friends and families. I see many members here who have gone through residential schools and some of them had experiences that were worse than others. I had difficulties when I finally got home from residential school. We had to live in a tent and I understood that I lost ties with my parents. I had to move out of my parents' house even though I was going through difficult times after going to residential school.

The funding has been very well spent in my community. They involve everyone from children to mature adults. This program doesn't provide benefits to just residential school students; it also benefits the people of Pangnirtung in general. When we were living in outpost

camps, we were being moved to the settlements. These individuals have been displaced too. So we involve those individuals and we involve anyone who wants to participate. Everyone was invited and the committee in Pangnirtung did this voluntarily for six years without ever getting paid a penny. Even so, they were able to operate this program smoothly.

I believe that we definitely need this healing foundation funding. The funding was used not just in the communities. They would go out camping and they would go to a cabin outside of the community to conduct their healing programs. It's easier to go through your issues when you're outside of the community. They provided daycare or babysitters and had cooks available. This program was running very smoothly and it wasn't just for employment opportunities.

Elders were included in that program. They had dialogue with the individuals and they would counsel these individuals on how to deal with their pain and anguish. The only way to start healing is to start talking about our own issues and that was recognized by our elders. This was very important and useful.

We are the aboriginals of this land and we want to see the reinstatement of funding from the Aboriginal Healing Foundation. It seems that this program was just created and it took a number of years to progress. It took a while for communities to become familiar with the funding application process and the required format for applications. Only after the program had been running for a number of years were some

organizations finally able to obtain funding for their projects.

I want to restate that it seems that this program just started for some organizations and now the federal government seems intent on discontinuing the funding. It is sad and unfortunate to hear about this funding cut. It is not only us, the former residential school survivors, who were hurt by the colonial process as it has impacted many generations down the line ever since Inuit were moved into the communities. The healing programs have really assisted many of these people to overcome the pain caused by the colonial process.

This matter, which is rarely voiced by other people, continues to inflict pain on me personally even to this day and that's the campaign of cultural genocide. As an Inuk, a foreign culture and tradition was thrust upon us that we now have to try and maintain in this day and age while our traditions and culture were displaced and marginalized. As Inuit, our laws, our practices and customs were unacceptable to our colonialists. Every attempt to suppress them only cut the wound deeper on our Inuit identity. This has hamstrung many Inuit because all of our traditions, our laws and taboos were never written but preserved orally.

Due to the particular bias against unwritten laws by our colonial society, none of these traditional laws are in use and only the western societal laws apply today. This formed part of the healing cycle. The fact that we suffered cultural prejudice and assimilation policies has to be recognized. This impacted more Inuit since we had our very own customs and

culture and we had laws for every aspect of our lives.

All of the accumulated knowledge of the Inuit was belittled and set aside. That is why our attempts to repatriate our Inuit customs and laws are such a priority today. It hurts being forced to live a different culture and lifestyle that is so different from our own. That is why we sometimes voice our wishes to return to some of our Inuit traditional ways that are complementary and practical in the way we do things now. Inuit had their own societal laws and practices, and we have retained much of that knowledge.

Today, I urge all Nunavut residents to write, call, and lobby our MP and the federal government to ensure that our concerns and interests are conveyed. Please send your concerns to our MP in Ottawa and work together with her to try and reinstate the funding for this program. If we look into the future, this program can make the lives of Nunavummiut less difficult, especially our children and grandchildren.

I ask that all Members of the Legislative Assembly support this motion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Komoartok. (interpretation ends) To the motion. Mr. Tootoo.

**Hon. Hunter Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, rise in full support of the motion. I would like to thank the mover and seconder for bringing it forward. I also thank every member for their comments.

One thing that is quite clear, as the mover pointed out, is the devastating

effects that we're dealing with are multigenerational. It doesn't take a rocket scientist to figure out that it takes more than two years to address some of those wounds and help people heal. It's not like everyone's better after two years.

I think I know some of the wonderful programs that have been offered. There are programs here in Iqaluit and Pangnirtung. I was recently in Cambridge Bay visiting the wellness centre there that relies on funding through this program. I got great explanations of some of the great work and great progress that has been made through this funding to help individuals move forward down the road of healing and recovery, through what they have gone through as a result of that.

Mr. Speaker, I know also that the journey down this road to healing is something that takes a lot of time. Not only does it take a lot of time to go through that healing, in some cases, Mr. Speaker, it takes a lot of time and a lot of courage for individuals to even start to take the first step on that road. I think, the last couple of years, the way some of the successes have come out of these programs, these individuals, programs, and volunteers and the results of those programs are great role models in helping other individuals see, "Okay. They can do it, I can do it." There is light at the end of the tunnel and there is a road. This is a long journey.

The way I look at it, the two-year funding commitment from the federal government to help individuals along this road and then they paved the road, the road only goes for two kilometres, a kilometre per year of funding, for

example, and then it runs into a cliff and then everyone's standing there. They have been abandoned. To me, I think and I know it's something that I have always seen this government, over the last ten years, and our Department of Health, they have always looked at things as they want to try and address the problems at their roots.

As a former health minister said, he wants to go up the river and find out why these things are floating down river. If we can solve those problems that people have, then in the long run, it will be beneficial and cheaper not only on our government but on the federal government. Funding like this is an investment into the future. An investment now will have its yields in the future.

I hope and urge our MP, who was our former health minister, as I believed and pushed in that as a Member of this Legislative Assembly, to remind herself of that or mention that and push that with her colleagues in Ottawa as our federal health minister now that it's well worth it. It sure may look like they look at the dollars and cents, but I think continued support and investment at this stage of the game will, if they really look at it, save them tenfold in the future.

I encourage our MP and the health minister to bring that argument to her Cabinet colleagues and urge them to change their minds or come up with some funding to be able to continue these valuable programs that are being offered in our communities that I see are just in their infancy. The number of people who are going through and benefiting from these programs is only going to grow and grow and grow, and

it's going to benefit more and more people.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I again thank the mover and the seconder. I again encourage all members to support this motion and let people know that we will do what we can as representatives of this Assembly to push and urge the federal government to come through and help these individuals to be able to continue on that road to healing and not be left abandoned as a result of a cut in funding. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. To the motion. Mr. Shewchuk.

**Hon. Daniel Shewchuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today too and I would like to thank the mover and the seconder of this motion. My colleagues have explained in great detail how important this aboriginal healing funding is to Nunavut, all of our communities, and all of Canada. On behalf of all Arviatmiut who need and use these funds to deal with the hardships of life and the need for healing from the past, I, too, rise today and I would like to state that I will support this motion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Shewchuk. I wish to remind the House that I have no more names on my list. Does the mover, Mr. Ningeongan, have a last reply? Mr. Ningeongan.

**Mr. Ningeongan** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are not playing around as the Nunavut government on this issue by voicing our views.

We already know the need for healing because the traditions of our ancestors

were put in a state of stasis. We cannot be blamed for that. I still find myself amazed at how the healing efforts today are bringing back those traditions. Our sense of cultural pride is slowly returning and is allowing us to acquire the skill for governance and working together among the Inuit organizations that exist here.

Our government is working hard and we are not just giving lip service to this issue this afternoon. We are saying to our MP that we are very serious about this issue. We are also telling our Prime Minister that we are not beating around the bush. We have seen the benefits of bridging the gaps in our social fabric. We want to urge and encourage the federal government to reinstate this very important program. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. The debate is now closed. We will now vote on the motion. A recorded vote has been called.

(interpretation ends) All those in favour, please stand and sit down when I call your name. Please stand.

Mr. Ningeongan.

Mr. Komoartok.

Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Schell.

Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Shewchuk.

Mr. Curley.

Mr. Taptuna.

Ms. Aariak.

Mr. Tapardjuk.

Mr. Kusugak.

Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Ningark.

Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Okalik.

The vote for the motion is 16 and we have no one opposing the motion. Let the record show that this motion has been unanimously passed by this House.

>>*Applause*

Furthermore, I will issue a press release on the passage of this motion. We will take a 20-minute break. (interpretation) Thank you.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House recessed at 15:48 and resumed at 16:15*

**Speaker:** Going back to the Orders of the Day. Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Hon. Keith Peterson.

### **Item 17: First Reading of Bills**

**Bill 23 – Supplementary  
Appropriation (Operations &  
Maintenance) Act, No. 2, 2009-  
2010 – First Reading**

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Arviat, that Bill 23, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 2, 2009-2010*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister. The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour, raise your hand. Opposed. The motion is carried. Bill 23 has received first reading.

First Reading of Bills. Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Hon. Keith Peterson.

**Item 18: Second Reading of Bills**

**Bill 15 – Legal Treatment of Apologies  
Act – Second Reading**

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Arviat, that Bill 15, *Legal Treatment of Apologies Act*, be read for the second time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister. To the principle of the bill. Question has been called. All those in favour, raise your hand. Opposed. The motion is carried. Bill 15 has received second reading and is referred to the Standing Committee on Legislation.

Second Reading of Bills. Minister Peterson.

**Bill 16 – An Act to Amend the  
Judicature Act – Second Reading**

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Arviat, that Bill 16, *An Act to Amend the Judicature Act*, be read for the second time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister. The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill. Question has been called. All those in favour, raise your hand. Opposed. The motion is carried. Bill 16 has received second reading and is referred to the Standing Committee on Legislation.

Second Reading of Bills. Minister Peterson.

**Bill 17 – Justice Statutes Amendment  
Act – Second Reading**

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Arviat, that Bill 17, *Justice Statutes Amendment Act*, be read for the second time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister. The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill. Question has been called. All those in favour, raise your hand. Opposed. The motion is carried. Bill 17 has received second reading and is referred to the Standing Committee on Legislation.

Second Reading of Bills. Minister Tapardjuk.

**Bill 20 – An Act to Amend Certain Acts Related to Education – Second Reading**

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Kugluktuk, that Bill 20, *An Act to Amend Certain Acts Related to Education*, be read for the second time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill. Question has been called. All those in favour, raise your hand. Opposed. The motion is carried. Bill 20 has received second reading and is referred to the Standing Committee of Legislation.

(interpretation ends) Second Reading of Bills. Minister Peterson.

**Bill 23 – Supplementary Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, No. 2, 2009-2010 – Second Reading**

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Arviat, that Bill 23, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 2, 2009-2010*, be read for the second time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister. The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill. Question has been called. All those in favour, raise your hand. Opposed. The motion is carried. Bill 23 has received second reading and is referred to the Committee of the Whole.

Second Reading of Bills. Minister Peterson.

**Bill 25 – Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act, 2010 – Second Reading**

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Arviat, that Bill 25, *Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act, 2010*, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill corrects references related to the Northwest Territories and other errors in certain Acts of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister. The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill. Question has been called. All those in favour, raise your hand. Thank you. Opposed. The motion is carried. Minister Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent of the House to waive Rule 67(2) and have Bill 25 moved into Committee of the Whole. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister. The minister is seeking unanimous consent for Bill 25 to proceed directly into Committee of the Whole. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Bill 25 is referred to the Committee of the Whole.

Second Reading of Bills. Minister Peterson.

**Bill 26 – Securities Transfer Act – Second Reading**

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for

Arviat, that Bill 26, *Securities Transfer Act*, be read for the second time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister. The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill. Question has been called. All those in favour, raise your hand. Opposed. The motion is carried. Bill 26 has received second reading and is referred to the Standing Committee on Legislation.

Second Reading of Bills. Minister Curley.

**Bill 27 – An Act to Amend the Workers’ Compensation Act – Second Reading**

**Hon. Tagak Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Amittuq, that Bill 27, *An Act to Amend the Workers’ Compensation Act*, be read for the second time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill. Question has been called. All those in favour, raise your hand. Opposed. The motion is carried. Bill 27 has received second reading and is referred to the Standing Committee on Legislation.

Second Reading of Bills. (interpretation ends) Item 19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bills 14, 21, 22, 23, and 25 with Mr. Okalik in the Chair.

I ask that members remain at their seats so that we can proceed directly into Committee of the Whole.

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.

**Item 19: Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters**

**Chairman** (Mr. Okalik)(interpretation): I would like to call the committee meeting to order. Prior to starting the committee, I wish to acknowledge Mr. Rumbolt. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt:** 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 Economic Development and Transportation, followed by the Nunavut Arctic College. If time permits, we will proceed with the review of the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Does the committee agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed

**Bill 22 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2010-2011 – Economic Development and Transportation – Consideration in Committee**

**Chairman** (interpretation): We will resume from yesterday where Minister Taptuna with his officials presented his departmental estimates.

Sergeant-at-Arms, if you can escort the previous witnesses that were before us



yesterday so that they may resume their presentation and our review. Minister Taptuna, if you could get your officials ready.

Thank you. Minister Taptuna, since your officials are not the same as yesterday, can you please introduce your officials who are present today? Minister Taptuna, this is with respect to your officials here now.

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On my left is Sherri Rowe, Director of Finance within the department. On my right, Deputy Minister Bob Long. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. We left off with general comments. Mr. Ningark was on my list under general comments. Do you want to make general comments? Mr. Ningark.

**Mr. Ningark:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't have a whole lot to say in this department. A community access road that we have in Kugaaruk has been there for a number of years now. It is good for tourism, it is good to access the hunting areas in the community, and it is good to access the recreational areas in the community.

The problem that I have seen in our community access road, Mr. Chairman, is that we never seem to have enough for operations and maintenance every year during the spring run-off. We see potholes and we see a creek just flowing through the surface of the access road. Although we have culverts in a number of places, sometimes the culvert is clogged with ice from the previous

winter. During the winter, it takes time to make sure that the culvert is melted, the ice is melted, and that's when the stream starts flowing on the surface of the community access road in Kugaaruk.

The Hamlet of Kugaaruk probably doesn't have the money to maintain that because we do not utilize that access road throughout the winter. The only time we use it is during the summertime. I guess to me, the beginning of the summer in the community is the month of June.

So I'm wondering... correct me, Mr. Chairman, if I'm in the wrong department. I'll be asking for operations and maintenance for access roads. My question through you, Mr. Chairman: Mr. Minister, do you have program funding for access roads such as the one that I'm talking about? We use that road for hunting, recreation, and tourism. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningark. That was in the minister's opening comments. Minister Taptuna, can you respond to the question?

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that question. Yes, we all know the importance of access roads. It makes access to fishing and hunting areas and even to aggregate for construction, gravel, and other sources like that from further out of town. For the maintenance of the road, that is exactly why it is called access. It is not a fully certified road. It is more like a trail, but we just call it an access road.

Through the program there and applications, you can apply for extra

money within the \$500,000 for maintenance, especially in the spring. Like the member said, for the most part, spring is the time when they have to do some maintenance work. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Are there any questions or comments on the opening comments? Mr. Ningeongan.

**Mr. Ningeongan** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I notice that on page 2, under the Small Communities Initiatives Program, it states, "This funding also sunsets on March 31 this year."

The program has been very helpful to our communities and the \$500,000 that was just mentioned is very helpful. The access road program has been delivered in Coral Harbour and Chesterfield Inlet for a number of years. Are you going to be setting up another program similar to the Small Communities Initiatives Program, which is scheduled to sunset on March 31 of this year? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. It seems our previous administration was a good government for having put together such a great program. Minister Taptuna, can you try and respond?

**Hon. Peter Taptuna**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that question. The program was supposed to end or sunset last year. We extended it and we carried over the amounts that were unused to March 31, 2010 of this year. We're hoping that if any communities want to access similar

types of funds, they can apply to other contributions and funds that we do have within the department. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Ningeongan** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Could the minister identify exactly what the other funds are that you access to keep the Small Communities Initiatives Program going? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman**: A very good question, Mr. Ningeongan. The member is asking the minister where the other dollars will be for the program in the future. Minister Taptuna.

**Hon. Peter Taptuna**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One of the programs that they can apply to is the strategic initiatives program. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Taptuna and Mr. Ningeongan. Are there any other questions? No one has their hand up. We will now go to the page-by-page review starting with page K-4. Economic Development and Transportation. Corporate Management. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$10,118,000. Do you agree?

**Some Members**: Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Economic Development. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$22,613,000. Do you agree? Someone has their hand up. Mr. Elliott.

**Mr. Elliott**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I'm reading this correctly from K-5, if

you flip over in the main estimates to K-7, it talks about the grants and contributions of \$15.9 million. Of that, there is \$4.6 million, if you go down second from the bottom for the Community Capacity Building program. Is that the funding that goes to the hamlets for their economic development officers and economic development committees? Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Do you want to try and answer the question, Minister Taptuna?

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, it is. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Last year, it was \$190,000 that was given to each hamlet. Is that still the same amount that will be going this year? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Minister Taptuna.

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, it's the same amount. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. (interpretation ends) No inflation? Okay. Mr. Elliott.

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That was my next question. Did your department look at reviewing that and providing more funding for the communities to be able to take on more projects? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Minister Taptuna.

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We still haven't quite reviewed it yet. We're getting into the process, but it is going to be the same amount for this year. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): To the main estimates. Mr. Elliott.

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's good to hear. Like you said, with inflation, it would be nice to have it go up at the same time. If we want small communities to start more businesses, it would be nice to have more opportunities for the economic development committees to start or jumpstart, or allow programs in the communities.

Does your department actually track the progress of the communities to see if they're actually growing in terms of their economic development committees and the work that they're doing and following up to see where that money is being spent? Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Who will respond to the question? Minister Taptuna.

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Our regional offices do that part of the initiative and work and they do track it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Are there any questions? Mr. Elliott.

**Mr. Elliott:** So the regional office for my three communities would be Pond Inlet. Is that correct? Thank you.

**Chairman:** I see a nod down there. Yes, I believe. Minister Taptuna.

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes.

**Chairman:** My intuitions are correct. Mr. Elliott.

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess my next question is just some guidance as to the best way to communicate with Pond Inlet.

I don't know, but maybe as an MLA, if I contacted Pond Inlet to see how my communities were doing and ask for an update, they might be upset or scared that I'm checking up on them or I guess forcing them to do something. Should I go through your office if I was interested to find out how my three communities were doing in terms of the spending of their money and how well they're doing in their progress? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Minister Taptuna.

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that question. There is no need to be scared of anybody. If you want to get information, just pick up the phone and they will help you out any way you want. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again on K-7, which is under the economic development grants going across, it's referring to the \$1 million that's going to the business development centres. I know I asked a question yesterday, but the Kitikmeot Communities Futures Organization... I'm again still learning the different regions and whatnot. What's that

compared to here in the Qikiqtani region? Is that the Baffin Business Development Centre? Thanks.

**Chairman:** Minister Taptuna.

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Kitikmeot is a little bit different from the Kivalliq in the spelling but other than that, yes, it's the same. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Any further questions? Mr. Ningark.

**Mr. Ningark:** K-6, the wrong page.

**Chairman:** Any further questions on K-5? (interpretation) Operations and Maintenance. Economic Development. \$22,613,000. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Transportation. Operations and Maintenance. \$20,553,000. Mr. Ningark.

**Mr. Ningark:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think the Minister responsible for Transportation will understand my questions.

In many of the Nunavut communities, especially two of my communities, namely Kugaaruk and Repulse Bay, especially Kugaaruk, Mr. Chairman, through you, we are running out of suitable pieces of land to construct homes. I think the minister is aware of that. Many, as I put it, suitable pieces of land are adjacent to the airport and that's under the operation of Transportation.

I have been approached by the council through the administration of the Hamlet

of Kugaaruk from the SAO that the Hamlet of Kugaaruk is looking for a piece of land adjacent to the runway. It's coming to a point where the hamlet is suggesting that perhaps the Housing Corporation could lease a piece of land from the airport operations director. They are in communication with the people in Cambridge Bay.

Mr. Chairman, my question to the minister is: although it's new, I kind of approached him earlier today, it's new, but is there any possibility at all that the Housing Corporation, through the wishes of the community and the Hamlet of Kugaaruk, lease a piece of land adjacent to the runway? What is the minister's position on that? Is there a possibility at all, assuming that the piece of land that the community wants is not too close to the runway and it's within a safe distance from the runway? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Minister Taptuna.

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member from Kugaaruk for that question. I'm not aware; there are a lot of regulations that govern the land around the airport and airstrip. There's land reserved for the airport that has to be rectified and looked at.

For a residential home right by the airstrip, I will have to look into the regulations. Most of the regulations that we do have are from Ottawa, Transport Canada and various other regulators that we have to abide by within the airports of Nunavut.

If it's an issue, we will look at that. His concern will be looked at by my officials and there's a possibility that we will have to involve the Housing Corporation and people who administer the land, which is going to be the hamlet and CGS. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Are there any questions on this page? Mr. Ningeongan.

**Mr. Ningeongan** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Your department's draft 2010-13 business plan indicates that one of its priorities is to "Continue efforts to have the recommendations of the Nunavut Small Craft Harbours Report implemented."

What is the current position of the federal government with respect to funding new small craft harbours in Nunavut? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We're still continuing efforts to make sure Nunavut is not forgotten. We do lack that infrastructure within our territory. We're continuing our efforts. We're putting a lot of time and energy into that. We're talking to DFO and we're continuing.

Although I practically said that last spring, it is a file that's hard to deal with. We're making efforts and we're continuing our efforts to deal with that. We won't stop until we get somewhere. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Ningeongan:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask the minister what the federal government's definition of a small craft harbour is. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that question. There are a handful of different definitions for those kinds of marine facilities - docks, wharves, small craft harbours, and ports. A small craft harbour is the same type as the one that was built in Pangnirtung and that is usually for commercial activities, such as fishing. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Ningeongan:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As the minister is aware, there were seven communities that were identified as potentials for getting their harbours upgraded and Chesterfield Inlet was one of them. That's why I was asking what the definition would be. It could well be below what Pangnirtung is getting and yet, the need is just as great. So that's why I was asking the question. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that question. With so many definitions,

depending on who you speak to, it's a little different again. There is something about offloading onto a dock, which is a different definition for a dock that is loading onto a marine vessel. So there is a little bit of difference there.

For smaller communities, it's considered a small craft harbour for mostly community use. For the community that you're speaking about, it is still on the books and at this time, being reviewed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Ningeongan.

**Mr. Ningeongan** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) That leads me to this question then: what definition does Chesterfield Inlet fall into? A definition of a small craft harbour shouldn't have to be the obstruction here.

To get away from definitions, I would rather see some work getting underway in Chesterfield Inlet without having to worry what the definition would be. The community itself could very well identify what they need. Could that be done by consulting with the minister's department then? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Taptuna.

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I understand his frustration; we don't have any docks in Nunavut. There is one being constructed in Pangnirtung. Within the department here, we have been battling hard to get the projects on the go. There are five or seven communities that were identified.

During our last standing committee meeting, we indicated that there is going to be one community that's going to be looked at for the design plan and there is one well underway at Qikiqtarjuaq. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Ningeongan.

**Mr. Ningeongan**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to assure the minister that I'm not frustrated here yet.

>> *Laughter*

I'm just simply trying to pursue an issue that was brought up about 11 to 12 years ago, so that was the main reason for asking the question.

So if the community wishes pursue this, would your department be able to respectfully get together with Hamlet of Chesterfield Inlet then and hopefully come out with a strategy that will be more convincing for the federal government to start getting underway? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Taptuna.

**Hon. Peter Taptuna**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As a department, we would like to see docks in every community. It's a major need for this territory. When we speak about infrastructure about like that, marine infrastructure, it's one of the economic engines for the territory, it brings more economic activity. Lack of marine infrastructure like that in every community is a major concern and we're going to be lobbying and put a lot of effort and energy into that.

Yes, if a community does come to the department for assistance, we will look at it and try and help out as much as we can. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Are there any questions on this page? Mr. Ningark.

**Mr. Ningark**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Like my colleague from Nanulik... the small harbours in the community, I think the hon. minister indicated that it's mainly for commercial fisheries and so on.

I think that we are in understanding among the Inuit people that there is some type of bartering. You know, you get a seal and you can sell it to the next Inuk for *Maktaa*, or fish, or *Tuktu*, so there is a commercial indication in that.

So why do they have that name, small harbours, only for commercial fisheries? Is it because it is a federal initiative, Mr. Chairman? Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningark. (interpretation ends) We're on O&M, but the minister opened the door for us to talk about capital with his opening comments. Minister Taptuna, you have no choice but to answer at this point. Minister Taptuna.

**Hon. Peter Taptuna**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you to the member there from Kugaaruk. Yes, there are criteria just like in any program that the federal government puts out. There are criteria, and we try and abide by it and we try and find ways around it. I know small craft harbours/docks have been a major issue.

The territory is ten years old, but then again, when we broke off from the NWT to become Nunavut, the whole territory was 130-something years old, so it's been an uphill battle. The more communities that ask for help in getting these small craft harbours/docks, we would be pleased to hear more from the communities because the more we hear about that, the more pressure we can put on Ottawa and these other funding organizations.

Those criteria that the member is speaking about with fisheries were one of the criteria that DFO has for small craft harbours. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Ningark:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for his explanation. The minister had suggested that we have to look for ways around those things to make sure that our federal counterparts are happy with what we're doing up here. One thing that came to mind is that in a small community, hunters are always dealing with each other. It's like an outdoor market for seals, fish, *Maktaaq*, caribou, you name it. It's one way of looking at the alternatives.

It's only a comment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) A very good comment. (interpretation) Are there any questions or comments? Mr. Elliott.

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a couple of questions from the department's business plan on K-13, Motor Vehicles.

Under your priorities for 2010-11, the first bullet is to "Conclude public engagement program and introduce new Traffic Safety legislation to replace the Motor Vehicles Act." And then in 2011-12, it talks about creating the regulations. Does that mean the minister is going to bring this forward in the summer or fall session? Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister Taptuna.

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll have my deputy minister answer that question. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Mr. Long.

**Mr. Long:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are about to begin the consultation process and work towards developing a new Act. How long it is going to take is going to be dependent on the time it takes to complete those consultations and complete the drafting work. So I would not expect it to be finished by the summer session. Optimistically, it could be done by a similar session next winter, but I would not expect it any sooner than that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Long. Mr. Elliott.

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess you will have to change your priority for 2011-12. I'm just thinking that by the time it gets through the House and the legislation is completed,



then you will have to go out with the regulations.

The other question I have is about you had mentioned the new driver's licences, the award winning design and everything. Again, with the *Inuit Language Protection Act* and having the Inuit language recognized, does it actually have all official languages on it?

I went to try and get one and I was told that I have to wait until it expires before I can get a new one, so I don't actually know what they look like. Are there English, French, and the Inuit language on the driver's licence? Thank you.

**Chairman:** I have a copy right here. No, I don't see Inuktitut, but it has to be readable for traffic cops, I guess. Minister Taptuna.

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Inuinaqtun word is Nunavut in there and I'll let my deputy minister supplement that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Long.

**Mr. Long:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As has been stated, the only word that is translated is Nunavut itself. It is the same in three languages and it also is there in syllabics. Now that the language legislation has passed, we are reconsidering and we will be entering discussions with the producer of the licence to see if there is a way that the other languages can be added without making the thing unreadable.

It's a very sophisticated document and it has significant safety features within it. At the end of the day, it does have to be

readable and understandable by, as somebody said, traffic cops and I guess as identification as well. So that will be taken into consideration within the next year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** I believe, Minister Tapardjuk, you had your hand up as well. (interpretation) I'm sorry. (interpretation ends) I didn't see him in time. Minister Tapardjuk.

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The member has been asking questions regarding the *Inuit Language Protection Act*. We will be talking about this Act, which the Department of CLEY is responsible for. At that time, we will talk about the implementation plan.

We have made requests to other departments asking how they are going to implement the *Inuit Language Protection Act*. I just wanted to point that out. All departments will be responsible in dealing with implementing the *Inuit Language Protections Act*. I just wanted to clarify that for the member, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Tapardjuk. To the page. Mr. Elliott.

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank you for that explanation. To me, as the government, we need to be the ones making sure that we have services available and everything following the rules and regulations that are going to be coming out, so that's great to hear.

On K-6 of the main estimates in terms of transportation, I have noticed there is

compensation and benefits for the workers. In looking at page K-1 in the org chart for the structure of the positions, there are 23 positions for airport workers. Are those the people who do the heavy equipment operation and whatnot for cleaning up the runways and working at the airports? Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Who would like to respond to that question? Minister Taptuna.

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll have my deputy minister respond to that. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Mr. Long.

**Mr. Long:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The compensation and benefits is mainly for our government staff who oversee the airports. The actual operation of the airports, the O&M, would be reflected under Contract Services of \$12,000,568. You mentioned specifically somebody who would operate a machine at the airport. That would be a contracted service generally to the hamlet. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Long. Are there any questions? Mr. Elliott.

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I had been asking questions in CGS and I guess I was in the wrong spot for that.

In terms of Arctic Bay, we have the airport up in Nanisivik and I believe there are six people who work up there, three are casual and three are full time. Are they under the contract service that you're talking about, the \$12 million, or

are they under the compensation of the 23 that I was talking about? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Mr. Long.

**Mr. Long:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe that there may be two or three indeterminate positions there that we would move to the Arctic Bay Airport. The others are casual positions which, when their services are no longer required, would simply terminate due to no longer being necessary. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Long. Mr. Elliott.

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As Mr. Taptuna pointed out the other day in Oral Questions, September is when the airport will open up. Has it been determined that those three indeterminate positions - I'm assuming again so that there's no confusion - would stop, those people would no longer be Government of Nunavut employees, and those three positions would then be contracted to the hamlet? Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Who would like to respond? Minister Taptuna.

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again I don't micromanage the staff, so I don't know some of these questions that the member is asking, but I will check with them and get back to him on the specific issue about Arctic Bay. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** At this time, the minister can't answer and he will get back to the member. Mr. Elliott.

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I've got constituents who are wondering about their jobs and whether they will be working after September, so it's kind of a big issue for them.

Are you saying that you will get back to me on any question I ask about the Arctic Bay/Nanisivik Airport or can I continue to ask more questions? Thank you.

**Chairman:** The question was about employees, so you can ask other questions on other stuff related to that. Mr. Elliott.

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In terms of the operations and maintenance of the building up there, the Nanisivik Airport has a building and there is heat, hydro, and fuel that are being paid for right now, I am assuming, under this portion of the budget. Will that portion of the budget be shifted over to Hamlet of Arctic Bay? Has the Hamlet of Arctic Bay been contacted yet and asked whether they want to take this on? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Mr. Long.

**Mr. Long:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are at that time of the year where we're negotiating with all of the airport contracts with the hamlets and others. That has not yet been completed with Arctic Bay. It is our intention to begin negotiations with them and all of the details will be worked out in that contract. We do intend to do that within a timely period of time. So within the next month or two, the Hamlet of Arctic Bay can expect to engage with us in that discussion and hopefully ending in a

satisfactory contract. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In terms of the heavy equipment that's up there, the graders, the dump trucks, and whatnot, will those be shifted over as well to the Hamlet of Arctic Bay? Will they have to purchase those? Will they be a transfer of assets or write them off? I don't know what the technical word is. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Mr. Long.

**Mr. Long:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are decommissioning that airport, which means that any of the assets there that we can utilize at the Arctic Bay Airport will be transferred there. Anything we have no further use for will be disposed of following normal government procedures for liquidation of unnecessary assets. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Long. Mr. Elliott.

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In terms of decommissioning, I know I had asked questions of the minister in December and he was mentioning that it was up to Transport Canada to clean up the area and whatnot. Is it the Government of Nunavut's responsibility to decommission the Nanisivik Airport or who will be doing the reclamation for that? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Mr. Long.

**Mr. Long:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was making reference to the disposal of the assets that we own, such as equipment, the generator and things like that. The actual decommissioning of the airport, that's a good question. I'm not totally clear of the answer to that, but we can certainly find out and let the member know. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** There's a commitment to look into it and get back to the member. Thank you. Mr. Ningark.

**Mr. Ningark:** That's it for now.

**Chairman:** Are there any further questions? (interpretation) To the page. Branch Summary. Economic Development and Transportation. \$20,553,000. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. We can now go back to page K-3. Total Operations and Maintenance. Department Summary. Economic Development and Transportation. \$53,284,000. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Is the committee agreed that the Department of Economic Development and Transportation is concluded?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister, would you like to make any closing remarks? Minister Taptuna.

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the questions and

comments that we received today and the hard work that my staff has done. One of the issues that we have been talking about is we want to work more closely with the regular members in benefiting Nunavummiut out there. We welcome the questions and comments that they bring forth to our department. *Qujannamiik*, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister and your officials, for being here. Sergeant-at-Arms, can you escort the minister and his officials out, please.

We have completed that department, so we will move on to Nunavut Arctic College. I will now ask Minister Shewchuk to begin his opening comments. Minister Shewchuk.

**Hon. Daniel Shewchuk:** Yes, I do. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to be here today to present and discuss the 2010-11 Main Estimates and Business Plan for the Nunavut Arctic College.

I look forward to the opportunity to work together in advancing *Tamapta*, especially as it applies to the Nunavut Arctic College. The *Tamapta* Action Plan sets out three goals for the Nunavut Arctic College.

The first goal states, "Work on the Nunavut Trade School will continue until it is completed in time to allow the delivery of trades training in 2010. Subsequent initiatives will expand

training capacity for mining occupations.”

Nunavut Arctic College currently offers all levels of carpentry and housing maintainer. Trades training will significantly increase this fall with the completion of phase 1 of the Nunavut Trades Training Centre in Rankin Inlet. The new centre will enable apprentices to complete training in all three levels of oil burner mechanic and the first two levels of electrician and plumber. When the new centre opens, the old trades facility will provide a transition until phase 2 is completed some time in the future. Phase 2 will train heavy equipment operators and the first two levels of heavy duty and auto-mechanic.

Planning is underway for the new Kitikmeot campus. The new campus will include a mine training centre. This will enable Nunavutmiut to take the first two levels of millwright and welder. It will also include appropriate space for more programs, such as teaching and nursing.

The second *Tamapta* goal for the Arctic College states, “We will take a strategic approach to reducing gaps between those who are unemployed and job opportunities, by taking stock of the current labour force in Nunavut, compared to demands of the labour market. In addition to education our youth, we will identify opportunities for adults to pursue personal development.”

According to the 2006 census, about 60 percent of adult Inuit Nunavutmiut have not completed high school. To help alleviate the situation, the GN Report Card recommended extending “Nunavut Arctic College’s Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition Program so

that adult educators can help individuals in each community develop PLAR profiles for the skills they have already acquired and have these credited towards further training that they might take.” The PLAR learning process recognizes prior accomplishments and values Inuit societal values. This business plan includes ongoing annual funding of \$400,000 for PLAR. Arctic College intends to build PLAR into its certificate and diploma career programs to provide an alternative entry into college for Nunavutmiut without high school completion.

The third *Tamapta* for Arctic College states, “Through Nunavut Arctic College and its partners, we will increase post-secondary opportunities in all occupational categories, from career training to professional education.”

Nunavut Arctic College respects and promotes Inuit language and culture. The Fur Design and Production Program has received national recognition. The program includes traditional and contemporary methods and uses seal pelts almost exclusively. For three years, the fur program has relied on third party funding. This business plan proposes ongoing annual funding of \$425,000 for the delivery of the full diploma program in Iqaluit and for the delivery of the traditional modules in two communities per year.

For the first time, this business plan includes a three-year program in the appendix. The three-year program plan lists the base and third party funded programs being offered in the current academic 2009-2010 year, what is planned to be offered in 2010-11, and what is hoped to be offered in the

following year, 2011-12. The plan is updated semi-annually depending on student demand, funding, appropriate facilities and housing, and community need. The programs with asterisks are third party funded.

Partnerships are especially important as the Arctic College continues to build university capacity in Nunavut. According to 2006 census, only 4 percent of adult Inuit Nunavutmiut have some university. Nunavut Arctic College supports the commitment of the territorial premiers “to examine options for the development of a northern university that would contribute to northern social, economic and cultural development and provide opportunities for more northerners to obtain the education and research skills fundamental in today’s knowledge-based global economy.”

The Vote 1 Main Estimates account for the base contribution from the government to the Nunavut Arctic College. The increase of \$2,305,000 includes forced growth funding of \$775,000 for the new trades training centre and normal cost adjustments of \$705,000 related to staffing. It also includes the two new initiatives already mentioned: \$400,000 for prior learning recognition and \$425,000 for the fur program.

The Vote 4/5 Main Estimates include the base contribution and third party revenues. Third party revenues are projected to decrease by \$1,364,000. As a result, the consolidated budget of Nunavut Arctic College will only increase by \$1.1 million, or 3.1 percent.

Mr. Chairman, I pleased to be here today to discuss the Nunavut Arctic College’s 2010-11 main estimates and business plan. This is a critical government investment in reducing “the gap between unemployed people and job opportunities.”

I look forward to your questions, comments, and discussion. There may be questions that we are not able to answer today, but we are committed to doing our best. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. Do you have witnesses that you would like to join with you? Mr. Shewchuk.

**Hon. Daniel Shewchuk:** Yes, I do, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman (interpretation):** Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. Does the committee agree to bring in the witness?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman (interpretation):** Thank you. Sergeant-at-Arms, can you please escort the minister’s official to the witness table.

Minister Shewchuk, please introduce your witness. Minister Shewchuk.

**Hon. Daniel Shewchuk:** Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I would like to introduce to my right Dan Vandermeulen, President of the Arctic College. Thank you.

**Chairman (interpretation):** Thank you, Minister. We are ready for the opening comments of the standing committee.

Co-Chair Mr. Schell, you can now begin.

**Mr. Schell:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As the Co-Chair of the Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts, I am pleased to make opening comments as we begin deliberations on the proposed 2010-11 budget of Nunavut Arctic College.

Mr. Chairman, Nunavut Arctic College is one of Nunavut's Crown agencies. The accountability relationship between the college and the government is somewhat different than for line departments. While the minister has legislative responsibility for the college, its board of directors has the overall responsibility for directing program delivery.

It is the standing committee's understanding that Memorandums of Understanding and letters of expectation from Crown agencies are to be approved by the government's Public Agencies Council. Although the standing committee has had the opportunity to review the college's business plan for 2010-13, which is structured in a manner similar to those for GN departments, the committee looks forward to the minister tabling a Memorandum of Understanding between the government and the college which will clearly outline the college's priorities and goals.

Committee members encourage the Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College to work closely with the Minister of Education and his other ministerial to give clear direction to the college. Ongoing communication between departments and agencies is

important to ensure that all Nunavummiut are supported in their efforts to access opportunities for education and training.

Mr. Chairman, the college's total budget is made up of a base contribution from the Government of Nunavut, third party funding, and revenue from other sources, such as tuition fees. The GN's proposed contribution of \$24,186,000 to the college for 2010-11 is approximately \$2.3 million more than the contribution funding amount approved for 2009-2010. The Government of Nunavut's base funding contribution to the college for 2009-2010 represented just over 60 percent of the college's total budget whereas for 2010-11, it will represent just over 66 percent of the college's proposed total budget.

During the minister's appearance before the standing committee, he indicated the increase in base funding is due to forced growth issues, such as the opening of the new trades training centre and staffing costs as well as the introduction of new programs. At the time of the standing committee's review, members also recognized that the college's budget has been affected by the anticipated loss of funds that were allocated from the Territorial Health System Sustainability Initiative for programs related to health career development. Since the federal government's announcement that this funding will be temporarily renewed, the committee looks forward to receiving an update on how much of this funding will again be allocated to such programs.

During the minister's appearance before the standing committee, members noted a significant discrepancy between the college's main estimates documents and

the Government of Nunavut's quarterly employment statistics with respect to the number of positions at the college. The standing committee appreciated receiving correspondence from the minister clarifying the reasons for the discrepancy and recommends that for the purposes of accounting for positions, Nunavut Arctic College ensures that its positions are identified in a manner that is consistent with the GN's overall approach in this area.

Community learning centres play a critical role in the delivery of Nunavut Arctic College programs at the community level, enabling community residents to improve their skills as well as to prepare for opportunities in education or employment. Although the majority of Nunavut's communities do have community learning centres, the committee appreciates that efforts are underway to address infrastructure needs for community learning centres in communities, such as Whale Cove, Grise Fiord, and Iqaluit. The committee recognizes that developments in this area fall mainly within the capital planning process. However, members would appreciate assurances that program delivery in communities, such as Grise Fiord, will not be adversely affected by delays in establishing a new or renovated facility.

The standing committee recognizes that the college delivers a wide range of courses and programs which focus on training and qualifying Nunavummiut for employment and careers within the territory, especially for such positions as teachers, social workers, mental health workers, and dental therapists. Members have noted that past commitments to such programs as the Akitsiraq Law

School and literacy programs do not seem to be priorities within the college's current plans. Members encourage the minister and the president of the college to work together to identify long-term program commitments that may have been overlooked over time.

It has been noted that some programs, such as the Human Services program which provides training for mental health workers and social workers, does not appear to sufficiently prepare graduates to meet employment requirements for positions in Nunavut's communities. Members expressed concerns that by raising students' expectations but not ensuring that individuals have what they need to meet those expectations, there is a negative and demoralizing effect on their motivation to succeed.

Standing committee members support ongoing efforts towards incorporating the Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition Program into all of the college's programs and encourage the minister to provide regular reports on the success of implementing this initiative.

The standing committee was pleased to learn from the minister that progress towards opening Nunavut's new trades training centre in Rankin Inlet is on schedule and within budget. Members were also pleased to note that the majority of instructors are beneficiaries themselves. However, it is unclear to what extent these instructors will be able to continue to practice their trades within the Nunavut labour force while focusing on instructing a group of potentially 40 new tradespersons. In the near future, committee members anticipate reviewing program plans for the next



major initiative in this area, the new mine training campus in Cambridge Bay.

Mr. Chairman, education is a critical and fundamental determinant of the well-being of Nunavummiut. While members give their full support for the growing use of technology, distance learning opportunities, and participation in such inter-jurisdictional initiatives as the University of the Arctic network, the standing committee also strongly supports investments in programs directed towards Inuit language and culture. Members give their full support for the involvement of elders with the ongoing "Elders in the Classroom" initiative for community learning centres and regional campuses. Members also support dedicated oral history projects, such as those operating out of the Igloolik Research Centre. The standing committee is of the view that these initiatives provide valuable linguistic and cultural foundation for the college.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening remarks. Individual members may also have questions and comments as we proceed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. (interpretation ends) I'm sorry. I'm confusing you with the minister, Mr. Schell. Thank you. According to our rules, (interpretation) every member will have an opportunity to speak. According to Rule 77(1), you have 10 minutes to speak, and according to Rule 77(2), subject to the discretion of the Chair, a member may speak more than once to a matter under discussion but not until every member wishing to speak has spoken.

Are there any general comments? Mr. Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister and his official for appearing. I have a question regarding your opening comments. On the first page, you talk about the new trade school in Rankin Inlet and phase 2 will train heavy equipment operators. Will this training be similar to what is being done in Morrisburg, Ontario right now that a lot of Inuit from the North are attending? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Daniel Shewchuk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the question, Mr. Rumbolt. Yes, it will be similar. We are working with Morrisburg on the development of that program, so they will be involved. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. Mr. Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With this heavy equipment training, how many pieces of different equipment are you anticipating to have at this school? For example, backhoes, loaders, dozers, and excavators. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Minister Shewchuk.

**Hon. Daniel Shewchuk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As the member has stated, we plan on acquiring all of those pieces of equipment, but at this time in the developmental stage, we're not sure

of the numbers exactly. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. Mr. Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That was going to be my next question, how many pieces of each type of equipment you will be undertaking at that school.

If you're going to be purchasing equipment, it's going to get very costly. So I'm wondering if you're working out anything with any type of companies within the community where you can maybe lease their equipment on a short-term basis. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Minister Shewchuk.

**Hon. Daniel Shewchuk:** Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Thanks for the question again. As I stated, we are looking into the numbers as the program gets developed. We are also looking at using simulators to initially start people in that type of training. Also, we will be working with communities to possibly use their equipment too. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. Mr. Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On page 2 of your opening comments, you talked about \$425,000 for the delivery of the diploma program in Iqaluit and to deliver the traditional modules in two communities per year. How do you determine which two communities per year? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Minister Shewchuk.

**Hon. Daniel Shewchuk:** Thank you very much for the question. Mr. Chairman, thank you. We are planning on delivering two more programs in Nunavut communities. Part of the initial criteria for that will be to look at the demands where the sealing is the biggest in those communities where there is very active sealing taking place. Also, part of the criteria will be where there is a lot of traditional involvement in seal clothing included. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. Mr. Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Have you determined which two communities will be up for this year? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Minister Shewchuk.

**Hon. Daniel Shewchuk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, those communities haven't been selected yet. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. Mr. Okalik.

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I'm looking at the plans for a three-year program plan for the college's Appendix II and page M-26 and I see that the Akitsiraq Law Program is still there and that you're hoping to offer this.

I think there are a lot of good potential students that are waiting in the wings and wanting to know if it's actually

going to happen so that they can plan and make a firm commitment for this program. Can the minister update us on the progress that has been made on this program? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Okalik. Minister Shewchuk.

**Hon. Daniel Shewchuk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank Mr. Okalik for the question. As Mr. Okalik is aware, we believe that this is a very important program too. However, the lead on this is the Department of Justice in regard to the funding and acquiring the financing for this program to go ahead with the whole Government of Nunavut.

The Arctic College is supportive of this program and our contribution is in the classroom space and in providing housing for the program to take place. So we are in-kind support and we will support this program in the future. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. Mr. Okalik.

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Can the minister assure the House and those potential students that you will have classroom space available for 2011-12 if the Department of Justice can get their act together on this one? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Okalik. Minister Shewchuk.

**Hon. Daniel Shewchuk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, I can't make that

commitment. It will depend on what kind of programs we are offering at the time and what the demands are on the available classroom space and the housing they have in place right now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. Mr. Okalik.

**Mr. Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) When will you be able to know when you can have that space and accommodations for students? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Okalik. Minister Shewchuk.

**Hon. Daniel Shewchuk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We would have a better idea and know more when we could supply that once there is core funding put in place for this program to deliver it. Shortly thereafter, when that is ever secured, we would provide that information. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. Member for Nanulik.

**Mr. Ningeongan:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation) My question... I'll just use an example. In Coral Harbour...

**An Hon. Member:** No quorum.

**Chairman:** I guess we've got to ring the bells before we get a quorum here.

Thank you. I guess the Member for Nanulik wasn't quite finished asking his

question, so if you want to ask your question again.

**Mr. Ningeongan** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I had a question with regard to a mine training program that was held in the fall in Coral Harbour. It seemed that for the majority of the participants who graduated, there would be positions available for them to fill. However, to date, only one individual has been successful in obtaining a position at the Meadowbank mine.

I believe it is called the pre-trades exam and prior to being accepted as an apprentice, they have to pass that exam. Apparently, this is where the difficulties arose since many of the participants were unable to pass the exam. In my estimation, they should have been able to garner an entry level position, such as a labourer.

However, out of the 12 participants, only one was successful in getting a position at Meadowbank. I imagine that the numbers have changed, but I was wondering if that could be resolved since they had taken the courses for working in a mine and their expectations were that they would be able to work at the mine.

After the exams had been written, some of these people wanted just an entry level labour position since they did not pass the exam. From my perspective, it seems that the training they undertook was for naught. This is what I would like to ask about, whether this process has any area for improvement. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Shewchuk.

**Hon. Daniel Shewchuk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the member very much for that information and the member is absolutely right. There were 12 people who took a 16-week course in Coral Harbour and as far as we understand, all 12 graduated. It's very disappointing to find out that only one is working at Meadowbank. That's not very good news at all.

However, we would absolutely be interested in looking into that and finding out why that is and what the standards are at the Meadowbank mine site that will help us either to develop a better training course or find out what the standards are for them hiring people. We will definitely look into that and get back to the member. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. Member for Nanulik.

**Mr. Ningeongan** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The question I wish to ask is whether this can be taken into consideration by your department in the coming years down the road. On page 1 of the minister's opening comments, it states that there is going to be a training centre set up in Rankin Inlet and once it is underway, they are going to be training heavy equipment operators. Have you considered setting up the training program not only in Rankin Inlet?

Using Coral Harbour as an example, there is a private enterprise there with heavy equipment, such as gravel crushers, and does contract work. Is it

possible to consider using private companies to be part of training heavy equipment operators? I think there is a lot of gravel not only in Coral Harbour but very likely Igloodik and Hall Beach.

I would like to ask the minister if he has considered having some training programs in other communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Shewchuk.

**Hon. Daniel Shewchuk:** Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the member again for that suggestion and idea. Yes, this is being considered in the development of this program. You must realize that this project is three to five years in the future and we are going to consider all avenues. We would appreciate input from all members in the development of this program and your comments will be considered. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. Member for Nanulik.

**Mr. Ningeongan** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It would benefit more of the communities in the Kivalliq and there would be more students. Even though there is going to be a trades school in Rankin Inlet, the outlying communities might have the capability or resources to be involved in the trades training centre. We would like to see the communities benefit maybe not right away, but it is something that should be considered ahead of time by your department or the government. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Shewchuk.

**Hon. Daniel Shewchuk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, I stress to the member that he brings up some very good ideas. It just makes sense to me, and I have heard this from other communities too, not only from Coral Harbour, that we use communities as a practical training ground for this type of training along with the academics in the Rankin Inlet school, so yes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. Mr. Elliott.

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's good to hear that you want to hear our input in terms of the heavy equipment operator course because I know there are a lot of ideas out there. It seems like the MLAs are red flagging the capital expense of buying that equipment, but maybe CGS could give you some block funding for it.

In the second paragraph on the first page, how does your department work with the Department of Education in terms of offering some of these trades programs, like carpentry and level 1, level 2?

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister Shewchuk.

**Hon. Daniel Shewchuk:** Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we work with the Department of Education very closely. I believe we have two partnership committees with them. One is focused on training teachers and the other one is focused on the actual

training that is taking place. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. Mr. Elliott.

**Mr. Elliott:** On page 2, the third paragraph, you were mentioning and talking about the fur design program and moving it into two specific communities.

I just wanted to point out that Arctic Bay does have a lot of sealing and we provided sealskins for the program last year and also, one of our instructors is a former Arctic Bay resident. So I think Arctic Bay might be a good community that might be one of the ones.

On page 3, you're talking about the University of the Arctic. How is Nunavut Arctic College working with that in terms of having programs offered or establishing a location? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister Shewchuk.

**Hon. Daniel Shewchuk:** Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. As you know, the University of the Arctic is being talked about and it's an important initiative that is working its way forward.

We are part of a committee and a group with the other territorial colleges. The presidents of all three colleges are working together and that's the first step, working on a plan to move forward on this file. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. Mr. Elliott.

**Mr. Elliott:** In your opening comments, you never actually mentioned anything about the MTO training that the college, I think, is contracted to do. Is it possible to get an update on that? If I can't ask that question now, if you could show me where in the O&M I could ask it. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Elliot. It is not in the opening comments, but if the minister wants to answer it, he can go right ahead. Minister Shewchuk.

**Hon. Daniel Shewchuk:** Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that question. If you look in your appendix, I believe the MTO training is outlined there and the status of it in the back of your appendix. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. Mr. Elliott.

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you. That's in the business plan. Thanks.

**Chairman:** Minister Shewchuk.

**Hon. Daniel Shewchuk:** Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Yes, in the business plan, I believe, on page M-25.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Elliott.

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll save my questions for the page-by-page for the rest. Thanks.

**Chairman:** There are no more names on my list here for opening comments, so we will go page-by-page. There is only one page in this one here. Department Summary. Nunavut Arctic College.

Total Operations and Maintenance.  
\$24,186,000. Are there any questions?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** We're done then. I guess we're done. Do members agree that we have concluded with the Department of Nunavut Arctic College?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** I would like to thank the minister and his officials. Minister Shewchuk, do you have any closing comments?

**Hon. Daniel Shewchuk:** Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I thought we were going to at least go to six o'clock. Thank you very much. I would like to thank the president for being here with me. I feel like we should be answering more questions here, but maybe the members will have questions face to face. I'm not sure, but thank you very much for your input and time and have a good evening. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. I thank the minister and his official for showing up. Will the Sergeant-at-Arms escort the minister and official out, please.

I would now like to ask Minister Tapardjuk, responsible for the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth, to make his opening remarks.

**Bill 22 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2010-2011 – Culture, Language, Elders and Youth – Consideration in Committee**

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to have this opportunity to present the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth 2010-11 Business Plan and Main Estimates.

This department holds the leadership role within the Government of Nunavut for the preservation, development, and enhancement of Nunavut's culture, heritage, languages, and healthy living opportunities for Nunavummiut.

As part of our commitment to focus government initiatives around Inuit societal values, we have changed the accounting structure of the department. The *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit* Division and the *Piqqusilirivvik* project budgets were previously listed under the Directorate. For the 2010-11 main estimates and business plan, they are now broken out into their own sections and budget lines.

The *Piqqusilirivvik* facility is currently under construction in Clyde River. The completion date for the facility is expected for spring 2011. The development of programming is a very important part of the development of *Piqqusilirivvik*. The administration main estimates for 2010-11 is \$1,880,000, which is a \$1,240,000 increase from 2009-2010. The budget increase is as a result of preparation for the cultural school opening, which includes staffing, training, and more pilot program testing.

During 2009-2010, we have conducted extensive consultations with territorial institutions, municipalities, Inuit, French, and English language communities, and other stakeholders likely to be impacted by the new

language legislation. Last month, those consultations culminated in the first Nunavut Language Summit, providing Nunavummiut a better appreciation for their language rights and allowing public participation in a groundbreaking language planning process. My staff and I will now use the valuable input we receive to develop a comprehensive implementation plan for the Language Acts.

Within our Official Languages Branch, we are continuing to implement and support terminology workshops, community contributions, and other initiatives that help to ensure the preservation, promotion, and development of the Inuit language in Nunavut. In 2010-11, we will continue to pay special emphasis to initiatives that directly support the revitalization of Inuinnaqtun.

Our Elders and Youth Division is focusing on collaborative youth and elder programming. Bringing together elders and youth to increase the record of oral history takes place with programs in communities across Nunavut. Currently, interviews based on maps and historical photos are occurring in Chesterfield Inlet, Cambridge Bay, and Arctic Bay. Plans are also underway to bring elders and youth together for the clothing and tool making sessions.

As I explained during our review of the department's capital budget, the Culture and Heritage Division is working closely with CGS to complete the project brief for the Nunavut Heritage Centre and to be ready to move to the design phase in early 2010-11.

The 2010 Arctic Winter Games were held in Grande Prairie, Alberta the past two weeks, March 6 to 13. Team Nunavut was represented by cultural performers and athletes participating in the sports of Inuit games, Dene games, badminton, basketball, curling, dog mushing, gymnastics, hockey, indoor soccer, speed skating, table tennis, wrestling, and volleyball.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would be pleased to answer any questions that you might have.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Mr. Chairman, I would like to report progress. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. We have a motion on the floor to report progress and the motion is not debatable. All those in favour. All those opposed. The motion is carried. I will now rise to report progress.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Going back to our Orders of the Day. (interpretation ends) Item 20. Report of the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Schell.

#### **Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole**

**Mr. Schell:** 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:** Thank you, Mr. Schell. There is a motion on the floor. Is there a



seconded? Mr. Okalik. (interpretation) Thank you. (interpretation ends) The motion is in order. All those in favour, raise your hand. Opposed. The motion is carried.

Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. Item 22. Orders of the Day. Mr. Clerk.

**Item 22: Orders of the Day**

**Clerk** (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Orders of the Day for March 19:

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

17. First Reading of Bills

18. Second Reading of Bills

19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters

- Bill 14
- Bill 21
- Bill 22
- Bill 23
- Bill 25

20. Report of the Committee of the Whole

21. Third Reading of Bills

22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

**Speaker:** Thank you. This House stands adjourned until Friday, March 19, at 10:00 a.m.

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 18:01*

