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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Speaker

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(Uqqummiut)

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Iqaluit, Nunavut**Tuesday, March 23, 2010****Members Present:**

Honourable Eva Aariak, Honourable James Arreak, Mr. James Arvaluk, Mr. Moses Aupaluktuq, Honourable Tagak Curley, Mr. Ron Elliott, Mr. Adamee Komoartok, Honourable Lorne Kusugak, Mr. Johnny Ningeongan, 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): Thank you. I would like to ask Mr. Elliott to say the opening prayer. Mr. Elliott.

>>*Prayer*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Elliott. A very good morning, elders, visitors in the Gallery, Premier, Ministers, Members of the Legislative Assembly, and all Nunavummiut.

Going to Item 2. Ministers' Statements. (interpretation ends) Hon. Keith Peterson.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements**Minister's Statement 141 – 3(2):
Sivuliqtiksat Program Graduate**

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to congratulate Dwayne Twerdin for recently graduating from the Sivuliqtiksat Internship Program.

Dwayne is the Manager of the Maintenance Enforcement program

within our Department of Justice. Mr. Speaker, Dwayne has demonstrated leadership skills and a genuine desire to ensure that Nunavummiut receive access to high quality programs and services. He has successfully met the challenge of managing today's public service and is a role model for our youth.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to express my appreciation to the Department of Human Resources for sponsoring the Sivuliqtiksat Internship Program. This program promotes Inuit employment in management and strengthening of public service.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in congratulating Dwayne Twerdin on his most recent accomplishment. Mr. Speaker, I believe Mr. Twerdin is in the House today. Here he is right here, so congratulate him. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Congratulations. Ministers' Statements. Hon. Eva Aariak.

**Minister's Statement 142 – 3(2):
Improving Communications**

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Good morning, Mr. Speaker. Thank you. In our mandate *Tamapta/CL^{CC}: Building Our Future Together*, my colleagues and I have outlined improving communications as one of our key priorities. Today, I am very pleased to inform Members of the House and Nunavummiut across the territory that we are tackling our commitment to improve communications head-on.

Mr. Speaker, today, my office has launched the Premier's website at www.premier.gov.nu.ca. Here you will find the latest news from the Government of Nunavut, speeches I have made when invited to certain occasions, statements I have made in the House as a minister, as well as photos, audio, and video.

I am also pleased to launch the inaugural edition of the Premier's e-newsletter, a monthly electronic publication which anyone can sign up for and receive by email.

Finally, I have been told by many Nunavummiut that community radio is one of the most powerful vehicles of communication. I am proud to say that since September 2009, long-time radio broadcaster Jonah Kelly has been busy interviewing Cabinet Ministers on the latest issues affecting Nunavummiut. Each of these interviews is broadcast on community radio stations throughout the territory and then archived on my new website.

Mr. Speaker, these improvements to communication are only the beginning. In the coming year, we will be outlining many other improvements to the way our government transmits and receives information with Nunavummiut.

Two-way communications is very important for this government. We encourage people to share their ideas, thoughts, and recommendations. Not only do we want to report our government's progress and how it will affect Nunavummiut, we would also appreciate receiving feedback from Nunavummiut.

Mr. Speaker, our government is here to represent Nunavummiut and improving our communications will continue to be a priority for us. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Minister's Statement 143 – 3(2): 2009
Natural Sciences and Engineering
Research Council Award**

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to announce that the Kivalliq Science Educators' Community... or I can say, "*Qallunaat Qaujimajatuqangit.*"

>> *Laughter*

The Kivalliq Science Educators' Community has been awarded the prestigious 2009 Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada's Award for Science Promotion in the group category.

The NSERC awards were established in 1994 to honour individuals and groups who make outstanding contributions to the promotion of science in Canada through activities that encourage popular interest in science. The Kivalliq Science Educators' Community won in this category through their exciting work in capturing students' scientific imaginations through science fairs, science culture camps, annual science awards, their Science-Engineering Challenge, various contests, and the

many creative teacher resources they have developed.

Mr. Speaker, this award also comes with a \$25,000 grant. I'm sure these funds will help the Kivalliq Science Educators' Community to continue their outstanding work in the region.

On behalf of the Department of Education, Mr. Speaker, I offer congratulations to the Kivalliq science educators, their many volunteers, partners, and council members. Please join me in applauding their well-deserved recognition, continued good work, and wishing them all the best as they move forward in inspiring Kivallirmiut in their scientific endeavours.

I congratulate the educators, volunteers, partners, and council members. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you. Ministers' Statements. Hon. Daniel Shewchuk.

**Minister's Statement 144 – 3(2):
Nunavut Sivuniksavut Support**

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to inform you that the students of the Nunavut Sivuniksavut Training Program were once again strong advocates on behalf of Nunavut's seal harvesters. The Department of Environment proudly supported these students, who wore sealskin garments from our Nunavut Inuit Collection during their 10-day trip to Europe from March 8 to 18.

Six second year students received invitations from the Canadian Embassy and the *Université Libre* in Brussels to partake in events to promote Arctic issues. They also participated in a conference held at the Royal Museum of Art, visited an Inuktitut class at the National Language School in Paris and met with the Inuksuk Association. The students were given the opportunity to address change in the Arctic, co-management, governance, consensus decision-making, and Inuit cultural traditions.

We are pleased to have these young ambassadors in Europe. Their youth, enthusiasm, and passion are a benefit when promoting Inuit culture and when demonstrating issues, such as our sealing, which are truly contemporary concerns of Inuit youth.

I would like to recognize the following students: Kevin Iksiktaaryuk of Baker Lake, Keenan Lindell of Arviat, Karen Tutanuak from Rankin Inlet, Charlotte Carleton from Ottawa, Matthew Hall from Ottawa, and Kathleen Merritt of Rankin Inlet. Mr. Morley Hanson and David Serkoak were the NS instructors accompanying the students on their trip.

It makes me proud to know that these students wore our sealskin garments with pride as they educated the global community about Nunavut and addressed the false perceptions surrounding activities such as the seal hunt. I would personally like to extend my sincere thanks to these students for their promotional and educational activities while they were ambassadors for Nunavut during their very successful trip. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Minister.
Minister's Statements. Hon. Hunter
Tootoo.

**Minister's Statement 145 – 3(2):
Update on Progress of Capacity
Upgrades from CanNor Funding**

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you and good morning, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to update the House on the progress that the Qulliq Energy Corporation has made in completing capacity upgrades in eight Nunavut communities, funded through a joint investment with the Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency, announced earlier this month by the Hon. Minister Leona Aglukkaq at the power plant here in Iqaluit.

First, Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank my colleague, Minister Peterson, for attending and speaking on my behalf. I would also like to thank Ministers Taptuna and Shewchuk for supporting the minister by attending the announcement.

Early last month, CanNor announced that funding of \$5.8 million would be invested in Qulliq Energy for the completion of capacity upgrades in eight communities across the territory. The total investment cost for these capacity upgrades is over \$13 million, with Qulliq Energy funding the difference.

The corporation has wasted no time in beginning these upgrades. This past November, two generators were replaced in Resolute Bay. Already this year, they have completed work in both Pond Inlet and Gjoa Haven in January, replacing two generators in each community to

improve reliability as well as energy efficiency.

Mr. Speaker, in Cambridge Bay, the first phase of a two-phase process was completed last month, with the replacement of one generator. The second phase is expected to be completed in October of this year.

Whale Cove will be the next community to see capacity upgrades, with the installation of a fourth generator for its plant scheduled for this August. In September, Chesterfield Inlet will benefit from the replacement of two generators, followed by one-generator replacements in Arviat this November and Rankin Inlet in December of this year.

Mr. Speaker, the replacement of these generators will not only improve the reliability of power in each community but it will also reduce the corporation's fuel usage by 1,620,000 litres annually and consequently reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The new generators are also equipped to connect either to existing district heating systems or any systems planned in the future, allowing for the expansion of Qulliq Energy Corporation's Residual Heat program.

Mr. Speaker, this is just one example of how Qulliq Energy continues to develop and identify ways to improve service and reliability to the public, to reduce their carbon footprint, and to look at effective sources of alternative energy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Ministers' Statements. (interpretation ends) Hon. Tagak Curley.

**Minister's Statement 146 – 3(2):
World Tuberculosis (TB) Day**

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. March 24, tomorrow, is World Tuberculosis Day. This day is meant to bring awareness to the fact that tuberculosis is still prevalent in many parts of the world and can lead to death.

Tuberculosis continues to be an important public health issue here in Nunavut, and the Department of Health and Social Services is committed to preventing the spread of tuberculosis and providing treatment and support for those infected with the disease.

Mr. Speaker, Nunavut's tuberculosis program was established in 2000 and provides direct patient care; supervised tuberculosis treatment; active screening for children in schools and high-risk populations; and tuberculosis information sessions.

A total of 54 cases of tuberculosis were diagnosed in 2009 and 13 have been diagnosed as of February 16, in 2010.

Mr. Speaker, Nunavut has an enhanced and successful drug delivery program, having 98 percent of individuals with TB complete treatment, compared to 92 percent nationally. The territory also exceeds the National Tuberculosis Performance Standards, with drug resistance and relapse rates that are both lower than 2 percent.

While it is important to reflect on the progress that has been made, challenges still remain. Nunavut has the highest rate of tuberculosis in Canada and has had tuberculosis rates 25 times the national average.

The best way to lower rates of tuberculosis is to ensure that people know what the symptoms are and to get tested as soon as those symptoms appear – it's the only way to prevent its spread, with prescribed antibiotics.

Mr. Speaker, inadequate housing, poor nutrition, and lack of clean water can lead to the spread of tuberculosis. To fully combat the continued existence of tuberculosis in Nunavut, we must work together to improve living conditions for Nunavutmiut. March 24 is marked as World Tuberculosis Day. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you. Ministers' Statements. Hon. Hunter Tootoo.

**Minister's Statement 147 – 3(2): NHC
Updated LHO Board Manual**

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today as the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation to inform the House that the Nunavut Housing Corporation takes seriously its responsibility to work with Nunavut's local housing organizations.

As such, Mr. Speaker, the Nunavut Housing Corporation, with recommendations from local housing organization staff and board representatives from each region, has updated and reformatted the board

manual used to guide the activities of the local housing organizations. The Nunavut Housing Corporation is committed to improving capacity at the local housing organizations. Nunavut Housing Corporation staff provide regular workshops with LHO board members to review and discuss board procedures. The goal of these discussions is to improve administration, management, and accountability of the LHOs.

Mr. Speaker, the Nunavut Housing Corporation realizes staff at each of the territorial local housing organizations are at the front lines of fulfilling the corporation's public housing mandate. Their efforts are valued by the corporation. Updating the board manual will strengthen the relationships between the Nunavut Housing Corporation and local housing organizations and will result in improved service delivery. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. Item 3. Members' Statements. (interpretation ends) Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. Elliott.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 204 – 3(2): Update to Constituents

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With this being the final day of the session, I want to take this opportunity to wish my constituents a very safe and happy Easter. With the increased daylight and beautiful spring weather we have been having in the High Arctic, I

know most of them will be out on the land enjoying the beautiful weather.

I wanted to let everyone know that Irene Willie, my Constituency Assistant in Arctic Bay, is back at work after her leave for maternity. So welcome back, Irene. As well Laisa Watsko is back from her medical travel. She is my constituency assistant in Resolute Bay. I wanted to assure my constituents, if they try phoning me over the Easter weekend, I'm not ignoring them, I'm just out on the land enjoying the beautiful weather. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Laughter

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Rankin South and Whale Cove, Mr. Kusugak.

Member's Statement 205 – 3(2): Johnny Kuuk Memorial in Whale Cove

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Sometimes it is difficult to remember place names. I want to say "good morning" to Rankin Inlet and Whale Cove.

As we are winding down this current session, I want to take this opportunity to thank my constituents, especially my constituency assistants, John Ajaruaq and David Kritirlilik.

I want to remind the people of Rankin Inlet and Whale Cove that I will be in Rankin Inlet on Friday and then in Whale Cove on Sunday to attend the Johnny Kuuk Memorial Hockey

Tournament. I will be attending, but not as a player, Mr. Speaker. I am not a hockey player, but if there was a hockey tournament for people who cannot skate on the ice, I would definitely participate.

I will travel to Whale Cove next week and then I'll return to Rankin Inlet shortly afterwards. I wish them a good morning. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for giving me this opportunity to make my statement.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Kusugak. Members' Statements. Member for Tununiq, Mr. Arvaluk.

**Member's Statement 206 – 3(2):
Appreciation for Elders**

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Welcome to all of the elders here. I understand that this is our last day in session here. I have been away from my community for over a month now. Someone there is now reminding me constantly of this and telling me that it is perhaps time to come home. Today, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the elders and people who work on behalf of the people of Nunavut.

I am sometimes told by people that I have wisdom and that they appreciate that I clearly speak from the heart. Mr. Speaker, alas, I am not wise and my mind shifts constantly. I grew up around Inuit elders like those sitting right there, especially my grandfather who I was always with. He would talk about life, our future, and things he had done and gone through growing up. He would

sometimes talk about his father, Ava, and what life was like back then.

For us, when we speak, there is always a bit of uncertainty. We try and remember the wise words that our elders told us. Their words remind us that even though life is not perfect and at times troublesome, never give it up.

My father sometimes told us that when troubles overwhelm you, say, if the ice you are on broke off, or if your snowmobile or *Qamutik* broke down, or even if the blizzard is so bad that all of your equipment is lost and you're left with nothing, try and persevere. We would ask him what he would do specifically in those types of situations and he was not afraid to admit that he did not know. Though times may be uncertain, we must never give up.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the elders and to encourage them to keep talking and providing advice to the young people. Everything they have to say to us helps us in some way. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 207 – 3(2):
Appreciation for Interpreter
Support**

Mr. Ningeongan (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to express my appreciation of the interpreter staff who provide invaluable support to the work that we do here at the Legislative Assembly.

It means a lot to us to be able to express ourselves freely and confidently in Inuktitut, knowing that the interpreters will convey our words accurately and professionally in another language. Mr. Speaker, the ability to speak in our mother tongue allows us to speak truly from the heart.

Mr. Speaker, while reading the Blues the other day on a rather lengthy exchange in Inuktitut with the Minister of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth, I was very impressed with the quality of the written transcription. They were the exact contents of what I was speaking in Inuktitut. I was truly appreciative in seeing that.

Mr. Speaker, the job of an interpreter is a challenging one. Interpreters play a critical role in ensuring that our discussions, debates, and general communications in this House can be shared and understood by everyone across Nunavut. The demand for interpreters will greatly increase as our society evolves into a truly bilingual and even a trilingual society.

I encourage Nunavummiut who are looking for a challenging and rewarding career to consider training for this work. Their decision to do so will make a real difference here. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. Members' Statements. Member for Pangnirtung, Mr. Komoartok.

Member's Statement 208 – 3(2): Child Mauled to Death by Dogs in Pangnirtung

Mr. Komoartok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise this morning to convey a sad message. It was told to us that yesterday morning a tragedy took place involving a small child.

A child was mauled to death by dogs. We extend our deepest sympathies to the parents of the child who was only four years old and adopted by the grandparents. The parents deeply loved the child and took great care, but tragedy struck anyway. No one ever wishes to hear this kind of news, but unfortunately, these things do happen sometimes.

Our hearts go out to the grieving parents and the other members of the community affected by this sad event. Though we are not there to share their grief in person, they are in our prayers and thoughts. We send our deepest condolences. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Member's Statement 209 – 3(2): Update on Constituency Affairs

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to assure the residents of Rankin Inlet, especially the elders, that they are always in my thoughts. I would also like to announce my new Constituency Assistant, Bernadette Dean, who was just hired. She will be at my constituency office to take your calls.

Please feel free to call her if you have any concerns. She briefs me every day.

I also want to acknowledge, Mr. Speaker, that a certain sporting event in Rankin Inlet is scheduled of which I'm sure my colleague from Rankin Inlet is aware. He is, more than I by far, an avid sports fan.

The Kivalliq Chamber of Commerce held a major conference recently and here we were kept very well informed of the proceedings on issues affecting businesses. I would like to show my pride as a father. My son, Sebastian Curley, received a business award at the conference. He started and runs a successful construction business. My wife, Sally, and I, along with the rest of the family, are truly grateful for him to have received this award.

I also want to show my gratitude to First Air. We were told recently that they added three more scheduled flights to the Kivalliq region, increasing their flights to six days a week starting on March 29. This is great news for Kivallirmiut. It could even mean making it easier for patients coming to our community.

I also have a great deal of appreciation to express for the elders of Rankin Inlet who listen in to our proceedings. They show the importance of the need for recognizing and involving Inuit, particularly as government. Inuit sometimes worry whether we are dealing appropriately with wildlife issues and not just fighting with government over their policies.

We heard from Inuit elders about the need for the commercial caribou harvest in the Kivalliq so that it will produce

surplus for the poor. These elders also expressed their concerns that harvesting of pregnant females should be avoided as much as possible as they are already late into the pregnancy by this time of the year. This is an excellent observation on conservation, which is a worthy idea, because the elders know that it's very beneficial not to harvest caribou when they're calving. We should respect that.

>> *Applause*

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

Member's Statement 210 – 3(2): Update to Constituents

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to thank my constituents in Cambridge Bay, Bathurst Inlet, and Umingmaktok, who have been supporting me for the last several weeks. It seems like forever when it's only been a couple of weeks, with letters, emails, and phone calls of encouragement as we do our work here in the House.

I would like to thank the city of Iqaluit for having us and for all they have done to support us as well. It's our home away from home for some of us, especially us guys from the Kitikmeot, my colleague, Minister Taptuna and I spend a lot of time here

I would like to thank my two constituency assistants, Eva Tokiak and Irene Niptanatiak. Eva has been with me for quite a long time. She is retiring at the end of May. She does a lot of work for me in working with the elders in Cambridge Bay. She is retiring because

she wants to become an elder now and do elderly things, whatever elders do in their retirement years. She has done a great job for me.

I would like to thank, of course, my Executive Assistant upstairs, Nick Pashkoski, who is probably watching right now. I hope I don't embarrass him.

We have our days but at the end of the day, we're doing great work for our fellow Nunavummiut. As minister, I would like to thank my staff in the Department of Finance and the Department of Justice, and all of the organizations that support both departments.

I hope everybody has a great spring and we look forward to seeing you in June. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Members' Statements. Member for Arviat, Mr. Shewchuk.

**Member's Statement 211 – 3(2):
Message to Arviat Residents**

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to say "good morning" to all of my constituents in Arviat. I wish everyone there the best and I wish to say that I'm trying to represent them and their concerns as best as I can in the government and in the Legislative Assembly.

I would also like to thank my Constituency Assistant, Mary Pameolik, for her hard work in representing me in the community. I say to all Arviarmiut that I will be home soon after this sitting.

I would like to also recognize the hard work, Mr. Speaker, of our district education authority, our local housing organization, and our health committee that are working very hard in the community of Arviat to bring the much needed concerns to the forefront of the Government of Nunavut. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Shewchuk. Members' Statements. Member for Iqaluit East, Ms. Aariak.

**Member's Statement 212 – 3(2):
Appreciation for Staff and
Constituents**

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also say "good morning" to my constituents and to welcome those who are here. We are heading into the mild days of spring and good weather will soon be with us.

I would like to thank those who called my constituency office and I especially want to thank Ms. Elizabeth Roberts. She handles all calls and is always extremely busy. While I'm here at the House, she is busy in our office, responding to the many calls that come in. I want her to know that I truly appreciate all of her hard work.

I want to extend our gratitude to the staff of the Government of Nunavut, especially the executive assistants to the ministers. I can imagine their sleepless nights during the sessions here. They deal with such a hectic workload to make things happen, so our biggest thanks go to them.

Our Legislative Assembly staff are always courteous and approachable. Even with our endless requests for information, they continue to fulfill their duties willingly and they always try and accommodate all of our requests. I profusely thank your staff, Mr. Speaker.

In my opinion, this session was quite productive. Even after every sitting each day, the regular members and the ministers still got together in the foyer or outside to discuss issues further. This is a very good practice and can only help this government. I give my thanks to the members and their sincere commitment in doing their work. We meet here on behalf of all Nunavummiut to plan and envision our future.

I would like to also express my undying gratitude for the elders who assist us in our work as this government. We have an Elders' Committee that we can turn to, especially as we struggle with these issues. When members are uncertain about an issue, they turn to the elders who are there to advise us. I am extremely grateful for the elders' support.

I look forward to seeing all of you in our June session. I wish everyone here a very good spring break. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you. Members' Statement. Member for Iqaluit Centre, Mr. Tootoo.

**Member's Statement 213 – 3(2):
Appreciation to everyone in the
House**

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, as this is our last sitting day until June 1, would like to take this opportunity to wish everybody a good break and hope everyone enjoys the spring weather. It's an opportunity to go out on the land and do that.

I'm hoping to be able to get out to my camp before the snow goes this year. Last year, I got out there once for three hours one day, so I'm hoping to be able to spend more than three hours out there this spring.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to take this opportunity to thank everybody here in the House today for what I believe is a very good testament to consensus government by seeing how it was operated during this sitting and I'm always glad to see that. Over many years of asking pointed questions and now answering pointed questions, that's democracy at work. Contrary to what some members might feel, I look forward and appreciate those questions as much as I'm sure members enjoy asking those questions.

Also, Mr. Speaker, as my colleague pointed out, I would like to take this opportunity to thank our support staff in our offices and also here in the Assembly, our interpreters and our technical guru sitting up in the second floor there, and also the Clerk's staff.

I also want to point out that after so many years, I think they finally got it down pat so that we're not wasting any paper as today is our last sitting day and my notepad for signing notes, I just used my last one. So if members aren't getting notes from me today, now you know why. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Members' Statements. Member for Kugluktuk, Mr. Taptuna.

**Member's Statement 214 – 3(2):
Appreciation to Staff and
Constituents**

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will take this opportunity to wish my constituents in Kugluktuk well. We know the Easter break is coming up soon. I do have a new CA in Kugluktuk, Annie Bolt. It's going to be a great season.

We know that this may be our last day until June 1, so I want to take this opportunity to thank my staff, the members, and everybody who has put in a lot of time for this sitting.

Most of all, although there has been some technical difficulties in getting the TV program going of the House sitting in Kugluktuk, I'm aware that Kuglukturmiut are paying attention to what's happening here and I really appreciate that and the help and the emails that I get from over there.

In any case, I would like to reiterate thanking my staff, the members here, and my colleagues. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. (interpretation ends) Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. (interpretation) Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Tapardjuk.

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

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to take this opportunity to acknowledge the members of the *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit* Committee who are sitting here with us at the Gallery today.

The much esteemed elder members come from all parts of Nunavut. They have been working with the government in their capacity as Inuit cultural advisors. As per this government's stated intent to have Inuit societal values guide its mandate, we can now request advice from our knowledgeable elders as to what else needs to be done to implement best practices of incorporating Inuit social and cultural values within our system.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to acknowledge the government advisory committee members who are all present here today. They provide us with their wisdom when we present them with our issues. We hope to continue using their advice with respect to issues pertaining to government. They were not chosen randomly but carefully, based on their knowledge, skills, and life experiences.

Mr. Speaker, today, I present here the members of the *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit* Committee. They will be holding their meetings for about a week. I extend our warmest welcome to the House during their visit to Iqaluit to conduct their meeting. Their invaluable assistance makes a huge impact on our work.

The committee members here with us today are: Qabaroak Qatsiya of Cape Dorset; Anaoyok Alookey of Taloyoak,

who is a member not currently present; Alice Ayalik of Kugluktuk; Andre Tautu of Chesterfield Inlet – with this one, when we were attending the residential school in Chesterfield Inlet, the sisters would always reprimand him by saying, “Andre, leave the girls alone!” He was quite precocious back then.

>> *Laughter*

Gamailie Kilukishak of Pond Inlet; Jacopie Iqalukjuaq of Clyde River; Koonoo Oyukuluk of Arctic Bay; Leonie Qrunnut of Igloolik; Marie Anguti of Kugaaruk; Peterloosie Qappik from Pangnirtung; Ragilee Arnaquq of Qikiqtarjuaq; Sammie Peter from Iqaluit; Simeonie Aqpiq of Kimmirut; Iqsuktuq Eetuk of Coral Harbour; Laisa Ningiuk from Grise Fiord, who is not with us today.

Mr. Speaker, we depend on the expertise of these members, but we also have staff who assist them and they are Shuvinaï Mike, Oleena Nowyook, Kataisee Attagutsiak, and members of Tuttarviit are Anne Mullin, Rhoda Cunningham, and Toomasie Panipak. Part of their duties includes working with elders. Elijah Erkloo is especially an integral part of this work to include our elders and he is here with us today.

I want my colleagues to join me in warmly welcoming them here. I expect that we will be seeing them later on this evening at the dinner. I hope that all of you will be able to attend the dinner as this will give you a chance to talk with the Members of the House. Mr. Speaker, I ask that these elders be welcomed to the Gallery.

I also want to express my deep gratitude to my staff members, Eileen Kilabuk and Nina Kanayuk, who have provided me invaluable assistance throughout this session. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tapardjuk. Welcome to the Gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This morning, I am pleased to acknowledge someone from my constituency. This individual is tireless and always busy. She is heavily involved in the committees, such as the community justice committees, and with programs through Brighter Futures and with the St. Andrews Church. She's a tireless hard worker, Alice from Kugluktuk. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize two people in the Gallery as well. Kataisee Attagutsiak, who I have known for a long time, is originally from Arctic Bay and we consider her Ikpiarjummiuq.

She's also one of the interpreter/translators that Mr. Ningeongan was talking about in terms of her hours of dedicated service not just to our community and she's actually mentoring one of our youth from Arctic Bay to help her become an interpreter/translator. I welcome and thank you for all of your hard work.

As well, Koonoo Oyukuluk, who is a member of the *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit* Committee and also within the community, does a lot of hard work on the drug and alcohol education committee as well as the housing association and other boards. Welcome.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you. Recognition of the Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Schell.

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, I would like to welcome my father-in-law, Qabaroak Qatsiya from Cape Dorset and Simeonie Aqpik from Kimmirut.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome to the Gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I recognize each and every one of these good elders as I have already met all of them. Firstly, I wish to recognize my uncle-in-law, Iqsuktuq, of Coral Harbour. He is my paternal aunt's husband.

I also wish to recognize Gamaillie Kilukishak from Pond Inlet. Although I recognize some of the elders by face only, I would like to extend them my warmest welcome to the Gallery and I look forward to seeing them this evening. Thank you.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Recognitions of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Komoartok.

Mr. Komoartok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm sorry I didn't hear the names of two people of my community who are also here in Iqaluit to work with the committee. Their names are David Veevee and Shuvinai Mike.

I also want to recognize and welcome an elder from our community of Pangnirtung, Peterloosie Qappik. I know this person. He is originally from Pangnirtung but has since moved to Qikiqtarjuaq, Ragilee Arnaquq. Welcome to the Gallery.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Komoartok. Welcome to the Gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Ningeongan.

Mr. Ningeongan (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also want to recognize visitors in the Gallery. Someone from my home community of Coral Harbour is here visiting. Iqsuquittuq has served as a member of the hamlet council in Coral Harbour and also on various boards and agencies, including the regional wildlife organization. He has been tremendously helpful to our community.

I also want to recognize Andre Tautu from Chesterfield Inlet. He has always served some organization or board since I have known him these many years. He has sat on numerous boards and agencies and has also acted in the leadership capacity in several Inuit organizations. He has the kind of experience and knowledge we value so.

I would like to welcome all of these people to the Gallery. Thank you, Mr. Chairman

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have only spoken about this individual, but I would like to make it official and recognize Dwayne Twerdin to the Gallery. He is one of our hard-working Department of Justice officials that I always speak about in the House and deliver all of the services that we discuss and approve during the budgeting process. So I would like to welcome Dwayne to the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you. Welcome to the Gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Ms. Aariak.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to welcome each and every one of the people in the Gallery, especially the people from my constituency. I wish to welcome Dwayne Twerdin, along with Rhoda Cunningham and Elijah Erkloo. These people also reside in my constituency riding. I would like to welcome each and every one of the visitors to the Gallery. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery.

I also wish to acknowledge several visitors here, some of whom were already recognized. Two of them are from my two constituency communities, Ragilee Arnaquq from Qikiqtarjuaq and Jacopie Iqalukjuaq.

Jacopie Iqalukjuaq is a tremendous asset in our community. He serves on quite a number of local boards and committees, including this particular committee which he is attending to this week. He is also our layperson/deacon in Clyde River. He provides a lot of guidance and support to our residents in Clyde River. I ask my colleagues to join me in welcoming Jacopie Iqalukjuaq.

Another visitor with whom I grew up with is sitting right there. I would like to recognize my *Maliktik*, Toomasie Panipak. He now lives in Iqaluit. Thank you and welcome to the Gallery.

>>Applause

(interpretation ends) Item 6.

(interpretation) Oral Questions.

(interpretation ends) Member for South Baffin, Mr. Schell.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 341 – 3(2): Heating Oil Tank Replacement Program

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

When the minister and his officials were developing the corporation's new Heating Oil Tank Replacement Program for Nunavut homeowners, what number did they use to determine the number of

homeowners in Nunavut? 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'm not sure if there was an actual number. I can confirm with my staff if that was something that was looked at as far as the number of homeowners out there, but I know that when they looked at it, the plan was for it to be a multi-year program with funding to be able to change approximately 100 tanks per year based on the maximum amount of grant that's available.

Having said though, Mr. Speaker, I know in some cases, an individual may not be eligible or it may not cost the maximum amount, so there is potential for more than 100 tanks to be changed per year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister inform me what number was used for my home communities of Cape Dorset and Kimmirut?

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Tootoo.

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I indicated just a moment ago, I don't know actual numbers of houses that were looked at by community, but I will confirm with my staff if that was the case.

I know that this has been an issue that the member and other members have raised, and an issue that I raised as a regular member as something that needs to be addressed because of some of the huge costs homeowners were facing as a result of failed oil tanks throughout the territory.

It not only happened with the homeownership programs but I know the corporation also introduced a program in the past to change public housing oil tanks because we were running into the same situation there and we didn't want to end up having that huge burden of the environmental clean-up for individuals to be stuck with. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm just wondering if homeowners who replaced their fuel tanks since February 2008... I actually received this article here about the possibility of leakage and there was a pamphlet that was an illustrated homeowner's guide to heating oil tank inspections. I'm just wondering if the corporation is going to look at people who have already replaced these tanks. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm guessing or assuming that the member is talking about the pamphlet that was put out by the Department of Environment to assist homeowners in what to look for in assessing their fuel tanks.

I know over the past number of years, I have indicated that this has been a growing issue out there. As our program sits right now, it's commencing April 1 of this year. So it will be, right now, targeted towards individuals who are looking at replacing their oil tanks as of April 1 of this year.

Having said that though, Mr. Speaker, I will commit to the member that this is something that the program, its roll out and its uptake is something that the corporation will monitor and evaluate. If, as a result of how it's going, there are any program changes that may be required to improve it, the corporation would open to looking at that if necessary. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I imagine that there was a significant number of homeowners who have replaced their tanks since February of 2008, when this illustrated homeowners guide came out in order to avoid having an environmental disaster.

I would strongly urge the minister to look at this program and try to include these people who went and did the prudent thing, as our finance guy would say, and replace their tank. I think the minister should maybe look at patenting that word and he could maybe make some money on it. If he would seriously look at these people who did do that and make sure that they also qualify for this program. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the member's concern and I think he's got a valid point there. Having said that, Mr. Speaker, as I indicated, as the program rolls out, we will be monitoring the uptake on it. Part of the way the program is designed right now is, as I indicated yesterday, there is no income limit.

However, there is a mechanism in place within the evaluation to target those homeowners with the lower income level. There are three different levels in the criteria where they can get points for and it goes anywhere from five points to 30 points and that's for homeowners with income levels below the \$75,000, between \$75,000 and \$125,000, and then homeowners with income of over \$125,000.

Those points along with the points that are given based on the inspection for things like visible leaks, age, and condition of the tank, whether there is a flex joint in it or not, whether it has a CSA label on it, or whether it's on a now outdated wooden tank stand, which no longer comply to code, based on all of those points on how that's allocated, we will determine the level of grants that the client is eligible for.

If something was looked at, as far as going back and assisting those individuals that the member mentioned, there would be no way of determining the state of any that stuff. The way the program is designed right now and evaluated, it doesn't take those kinds of factors into account.

Before we decide right now on the level of assistance that an individual gets, there is a clear picture of one, their

affordability and what the need is financially, as well as the need as far as technically and as far as replacement. That would just throw another challenge in there as far as the program design goes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Oral Questions. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. Elliott.

Question 342 – 3(2): Needs of People with Disabilities

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, the Hon. Eva Aariak.

Mr. Speaker, in researching how other jurisdictions handle the needs of people with disabilities, I found that some provinces and territories have a Minister responsible for Persons with Disabilities.

My question to the minister is: what consideration has the Premier given to establishing a separate and distinct portfolio to address the needs of Nunavummiut with disabilities? Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, Hon. Eva Aariak.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the member for asking the question. There is an office here in Iqaluit that deals with people with disabilities. I must inform the member that we are not prepared at this time to say that we will set up a file to be made

a responsibility of a single minister. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That was actually my next question. I was going to ask if the minister could commit to considering that, but she has made it clear that the government will not do that.

So my next question would be: other than the \$90,000 that goes to the Nunavut Disabilities Society, what support and resources does the Government of Nunavut direct towards addressing the needs of individuals with disabilities? Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you. Madam Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The issue of disabilities is very important to us in Nunavut. Under our office in the Department of EIA, the Social Advocacy Office will also be designed to work with people with disabilities, with special emphasis on policy development. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for the answer. With that answer, I'm just a little bit confused because at first, the minister said that there was a council set up to deal with it. Now she's saying that the Social Advocacy Office will be creating policy and dealing with it. Could the minister

just clarify: is that one of the Social Advocacy Office's mandates of what they're planning on doing, addressing some of the issues that people with disabilities have? Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Madam Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just stated that dealing with disability issues will be part of the responsibility of the Social Advocacy Office. I also want to make it clear that the Social Advocacy Office will be involved less with the delivery of programs and more with policy development. As an example, the office would be responsible for both women's and men's issues, particularly people of special needs, such as those with disabilities. If I say it in English, the clientele would be the "disadvantaged people." Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My next question would be then: when will we find out what policies are being developed to help people with disabilities? Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you. Madam Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We haven't set specific dates. We will have the Social Advocacy Office set up and running. As a government, we must ensure some basic level of support for people with disabilities, but we would have to conduct a full review. I can't give you a specific date. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: *Qujannamiik*, Premier. (interpretation) Oral Questions. I have no more names on my list. (interpretation ends) Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. Elliott.

Question 343 – 3(2): Human Rights Tribunal

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are directed to the Minister of Justice, the Hon. Keith Peterson.

Mr. Speaker, I noted in the recent tabled annual report of the Human Rights Tribunal, Tabled Document 123 – 3(2), on March 10, 2010, it lists two complaints relating to disabilities. Will the government be taking steps to address this from a policy level? Thank you.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Elliott for asking the question. Mr. Elliott obviously and truly does stay up 24/7 reading stuff.

I can't say with any certainty right now, Mr. Speaker, whether we would be discussing that for the fall session, but I assure the member that the government does take seriously the recommendations of the Human Rights Tribunal. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Is the minister able to expand on the nature of the complaints that were lodged? Are they complaints due to employment or

mobility of people with disabilities?
Thank you.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I again thank Mr. Elliott for that question. Mr. Speaker, at this time, I'm not able to expand on the details of those complaints. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 344 – 3(2): Cape Dorset School Project Cost

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Education, the Hon. Louis Tapardjuk.

In regard to the Cape Dorset Peter Pitseolak School addition, there was originally \$15,675,000 allotted for the project and there was an additional \$1 million in capital estimates for 2010-11. My question is: is the minister aware of any additional costs for that project?
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With respect to the school being constructed in Cape Dorset, we have set aside \$9 million for the construction costs for the fiscal year 2009-2010. In addition, we have set aside another \$1 million to be made

available for the completion of the building set for the upcoming fiscal year.

At this time, the building is still under construction and prior to its completion, we will need these proposed funds to purchase finishing materials and for the insurance costs and such. That is what we have with respect to the capital costs items, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. (interpretation ends) Your first supplementary, Mr. Schell.

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My understanding is that the tender was, I can't remember exactly, \$13 million or \$14 million, and my understanding is that there are quiet a few extras on that project. The first thing is apparently, there was nothing allotted for any furnishings for the addition. So I would like to ask the minister how he's going to come up with the money for the furnishings for the school. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): I don't have the particular details in front of me right now nor do I have the substantiation sheets with respect to furnishing. I will have to take that question as notice. Once I have the matter looked into, I can then inform the member in detail what he wants, including the costs of the project and how we have planned for unforeseen expenses, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Your question has been taken as notice, so I'll

move on to the next member. Member for Pangnirtung, Mr. Komoartok.

Question 345 – 3(2): Recentralization of Decentralized GN Positions

Mr. Komoartok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct another question to the Premier of Nunavut, (interpretation ends) Hon. Eva Aariak.

(interpretation) I asked the Premier last week regarding this matter for which I did not get a response. I do not want to go home without having gotten further clarification on the matter. The question regards the number of decentralized positions that were originally slated for transfer to Pangnirtung back when decentralization was initiated. There were 71 positions in total allocated to our community.

There are three positions that were transferred back to Iqaluit, namely, the Medical Travel Office positions that will be moved starting April 1. My question to the Premier is this: with the transfer of these three positions to Iqaluit, what is the total number of decentralized positions currently in Pangnirtung? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the member for reminding us of that matter regarding decentralized positions. It just shows how important this subject is to the community.

I asked for some information about the 71 decentralized positions in the community and about the three incumbents who will be given an option to stay in the community if they wish. Once I have this information on the 71 positions, I will make sure that I pass it on to the member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Komoartok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Premier. I appreciate her response. I'm sure to expect further information later.

Just to remind the government with respect to the 71 decentralized positions the community of Pangnirtung was expecting, we do not want these numbers reduced unilaterally without us. In fact, one important reason for decentralization was to create jobs in our communities. If the government is planning to claw back on decentralized positions, we would like to propose to the government a comparable trade of the numerous positions that will be recalled by government.

Anyhow, many of these positions are currently vacant, as we are so constantly reminded. If you would just open up these positions for competition in the smaller communities, I think that many more Inuit would apply. One advantage of this practice is that turnover and attrition rates among local hires are much lower than outside hires.

I must stress how important the 71 positions are to us and that we do not want to see decisions made without us

regarding further recalls, at least without word of some trade for loss. If, for some reason, the government feels further need for recall of decentralized positions, I urge it to give due thought to what it will offer us in return. This is rightly the way it was supposed to be. Promises were made to us that we expect and count on for our community.

What I just said really was not a question, Mr. Speaker, but I wanted to make these comments. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Komoartok. I didn't hear a question, but you can respond if you wish, (interpretation ends) Hon. Eva Aariak.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The reshuffling of decentralized positions from one community to another is something that this government is going to be reviewing. In the beginning, when decentralization was first attempted, we did not know what would happen. Now that we are in our 10th year for Nunavut, we have a much better idea of the realities.

One result of chronic vacancy of positions is valuable staff housing units sitting empty in our communities. I'm not singling out Pangnirtung as I'm making a general point. When a position remains vacant for a long time, it results in a staff housing unit remaining empty in a decentralized community. This is further reason why this issue will be examined closely.

I want to be understood clearly because we want our government to function properly. There are certain responsibilities that still need to be

fulfilled so that we do not spend money wastefully. It is urgent that we take action now and try out new ideas. This approach also applies to decentralized positions. We will certainly endeavour to pursue this issue as diligently as we can. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Premier. Thank you, Mr. Komoartok. Oral Questions. Member for Nanulik, Mr. Ningeongan.

Question 346 – 3(2): Dialysis Machine for Kivalliq Hospital

Mr. Ningeongan (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Health, Mr. Tagak Curley.

In my riding of Nanulik, the communities of Coral Harbour and Chesterfield Inlet, we have residents who are required to go down to Winnipeg for medical reasons, some for very long periods, because of the lack of facilities and services in Nunavut.

I have sent emails to the Minister and the Deputy Minister of Health and Social Services regarding this. The last response I got indicated that they were not sure if and when we would be getting a dialysis machine, whether this was located in Rankin Inlet, Cambridge Bay, or Iqaluit. This is one of the questions I asked earlier.

Can the minister tell me if we will be getting a dialysis machine here in Nunavut in one of the regional health centres? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. Minister of Health and

Social Services, (interpretation ends)
Hon. Tagak Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to express my appreciation to my colleague from Nanulik for that particular question. I'm aware of the situation as per the member's comments and his reference to the emails that I've had the chance to read.

There are quite a number of Kivalliq residents in similar cases with a fair number of patients from Chesterfield Inlet currently in Winnipeg. We are fully aware of their circumstances. With respect to the response that was provided to you, it states thusly: it is currently under review and we have included in this review the study of possibly placing these machines in the gateway communities, such as Iqaluit or Rankin Inlet, if there were dialysis machines made available. I reiterate that this is still under consideration.

With respect to the dialysis machine, those issues are not the only factors to consider. We would also need funding for qualified technicians and such. Before we would even advertise for these positions, we would have to estimate all annual costs associated with an ongoing provision of this service. However, the purchase seems to be a possibility based on our initial assessment.

We hope to have more developments that we hope to announce in our upcoming June session. We are currently extremely busy with the details around the acquisition of these machines. We want to offer this service, especially in order to lessen costs associated with

long-term medical treatment away from home and to decrease the number of days for out of territory medical travel. This would be some of our expected outcome.

But I must remind you that this file is still in its preliminary stages. Once we have completed our review, we will make an announcement. I also want to assure you that we will raise this issue with the Executive Council. This issue has not been brought forward for discussion yet and we need the council's approval for things to start rolling. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Ningeongan (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to direct another question to the same minister.

I know of this particular person who has been away for an extended period of time now, perhaps for a month or so now. The assigned escort has also been attending to this patient for the entire time. No one yet knows when the patient will be able to return home, so my question is: will this patient be able to continue with their medical treatment? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With respect to this particular health issue, it is a right to treatment. We are responsible to provide health care to our residents. So the short answer is that yes, the treatment will continue. Additionally, we want to

ensure that we provide the best service possible to patients undergoing this type of treatment.

While we are deliberating on the dialysis machine issue, we will also be looking at the separate issue of how we can ensure lessening the amount of time away from home for treatment. I will ensure that the member is kept informed on the developments of this and what kinds of improvements we make. We will continue this review to ensure proper compliance to all necessary medical standards and regulations involved.

With regard to the patient's right to this type of treatment, it will continue. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. (interpretation ends) Oral Questions. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. Elliott.

Question 347 – 3(2): Definition of Poverty

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm not exactly sure who to direct my question to, whether it's the Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs or ED&T. My questions are regarding poverty.

In the House last week, John Ningark was talking about the definition of poverty and was asking the Premier. I know that Minister Taptuna's office is responsible for developing the Anti-Poverty Strategy. My questions are directed towards the actual definition of poverty in terms of carrying on with what Mr. Ningark was saying.

To me, poverty in Nunavut is like the definition of homelessness and the Minister responsible for Homelessness has said many times that homelessness in Nunavut is different than in the south and I believe that poverty is different in Nunavut than in the south.

For example, in my three communities of Grise Fiord, Resolute Bay, and Arctic Bay, we don't have soup kitchens and we don't have food banks. And really, the people who are the food banks and the soup kitchens are people who are employed with full-time jobs. The way our community works and the community sharing that goes on, you support one another. I don't know, in terms of a definition of poverty, how that would be captured.

So my question is to whatever minister is willing to answer it: in terms of developing the Anti-Poverty Strategy and talking about poverty within the Social Advocacy Office, what is the specific definition that your department is calling poverty? Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Are there any volunteers?

>> *Laughter*

Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Hon. Peter Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate that question from the member. Within the department, we are looking at various jurisdictions on how they deal with poverty and how they have come up with strategies and action plans.

The definition varies from jurisdiction to jurisdiction, but of course, in the North, like the members say, it's quite different in some cases, depending on various circumstances. There are so many variables and some issues are unique to each community.

At this time, our department is looking at some processes within other jurisdictions to come up with the best available information on how to deal with the situation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for that answer. I have said many times when I'm trying to present my case about the child and youth representative that other jurisdictions have similar child and youth representatives. I get the answer that we don't need to look at other jurisdictions, we need to look within the territory because it needs to be Nunavut-made and Nunavut-driven, and represent our people. So I hope that the Anti-Poverty Strategy is looking at it that way as well.

With the government talking to the communities and wanting to know information from the communities, is this something that the minister could commit to? When they go around the communities and talk about this strategy to the communities, could they ask the communities what their definition of poverty is? Maybe it's different from what we're thinking. So if you could commit to that. Thank you.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the question from the Member of Quttiktuq. Mr. Speaker, I probably didn't make myself too clear. We're looking at other jurisdictions and that doesn't mean we're going to be automatically using these strategies that other jurisdictions have.

The strategy we want is for Nunavut, made in Nunavut, and for Nunavummiut. We have already committed in the *Tamapta* Action Plan that we're going to be looking at that. How long it takes is yet to be determined, but as we go along, we will be updating the House and the member on the status of how far along this strategy is going.

To get the exact definition of poverty, although you can get that from a dictionary, you can translate it and interpret it in any other way that an educated person may feel, like interpreting the definition of poverty.

As we go along and coming up with a strategy and ideas, the member is going to be informed. Of course, everybody is going to be participating and have an input in our overall strategy of poverty reduction in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that answer. To me, to make this strategy work, we need to start at the beginning and start at the right place. The starting place is actually the definition of what poverty is and not the definition, as Mr. Tapardjuk always says, in the dictionary, which is QQ. We

want the IQ definition of poverty, not the QQ definition of poverty. So that's why I'm asking that question, to find out if we could start at the beginning.

The foundation that the government keeps talking about, building that foundation and having it start at the beginning, you start with the proper definition, you have a proper strategy, and that strategy goes to proper implementation. I looked at the business plans of the government and there are tons and tons of strategies, secretariats, and policies being created. I want to see some definite action. I know that the government wants to see definite action too. To me, starting with a good definition is a good place to start.

If the minister could commit to asking our communities what the definition of poverty is to them. Is it a baseline salary? Is that what people feel it is? Is it a full stomach after a day? Is it having a skidoo and a *Qamutik* to go out on the land? Is it being able to care for elders? What is that definition? That's all I'm asking for. I want to know and I'm sure the people out there want to be able to voice their opinion as to what it is.

A Point of Order, Mr. Speaker, I'm not understanding what Mr. Curley is telling me. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Mr. Elliott, did you want to raise a Point of Order?

Point of Order

Mr. Elliott: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I do. I'm tired of looking across trying to talk to the government and have Mr. Curley make signs like this or go like this,

which I'm assuming he is telling me to shut my mouth. If he could explain to me what he's telling me non-verbally because I don't understand what he's telling me. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Mr. Curley, to the Point of Order.

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When we're dealing with poverty, we assume that we're dealing with the vast majority of Nunavutmiut. It has to involve Inuit societal values and poverty is one thing that they don't accept.

For that reason, I suggested to him in my gesture that we should have communication, we should chat more because there are fundamentally much broader issues than just the definition. For that reason, I apologize, Mr. Speaker, for trying to help him out.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Curley. Thank you for your apology. Are you apologizing for the gestures that you were making to the member across? Mr. Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley: Mr. Speaker, I did not get exactly what I am required to do. Thank you.

Speaker: Mr. Curley, I asked you if you're apologizing for your gestures. Mr. Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley: Mr. Speaker, I thought it was clear that I apologized or whatever you want, the member, to be included in it. An apology means just that, for all of the statements or the non-verbal statements I made. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you. I would ask that you please refrain from making such unparliamentary gestures as you are interfering with the proceedings of the House. All members have the right to ask questions without such distractions. Thank you.

You were asking your second supplementary, Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I had recognized that Mr. Curley was trying to help me out, so I accept his apology. It seemed like every time I was saying something that would be construed as going against with the government, he started making those gestures. I do accept his apology. I heard it the first time and I didn't need it the second time.

Is the Minister of Health and Social Services volunteering since it's such a good matter and he wants to help me out? Can he give his definition of poverty right now? That would be great. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Yes, Mr. Elliott, you were asking your question to Minister Taptuna, but a Point of Order has been raised. Mr. Curley.

Point of Order

Hon. Tagak Curley: My Point of Order, Mr. Speaker, is that he is asking a point of view of me as an individual, whether as the Minister of Health or not, but my point is that I should be asked a policy related question, not just a point of view. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Curley. Mr. Elliott, I'll take your question as out of

order. You were asking your question to Mr. Taptuna and I'll ask Mr. Taptuna to answer the question. Mr. Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll try and respond to the hon. member's question there. For the definition of poverty, it could be any number of things depending on who you speak to, but with this government and within this department, we want to use common sense.

There are going to be other organizations involved, NTI, Inuit organizations, the RIAs, INAC, and various community organizations when we're planning for the strategy. I've got to say that we're going to be using common sense and we're going to be looking for assistance from community organizations, the communities, and whoever is going to be involved. I did identify a number of people and organizations that are going to be involved in coming up with a strategy.

In most cases, the definition for poverty is a really complicated one. That's why we said that we're going to look into other jurisdictions and find out exactly what suits Nunavut the best for coming up with a strategy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. (interpretation) Are you finished? (interpretation ends) Oral Questions. I don't have any more names on my list. We will move on. Item 7. Written Questions. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. Elliott.

Item 7: Written Questions

Written Question 015 – 3(2): Foster Care

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I recognize that the Department of Health and Social Services will soon be undertaking an extensive review of the *Child and Family Services Act*.

I have a written question for the Minister of Health and Social Services on the issue of foster care. I'm sure that the answers were very informative to all of my colleagues and will be especially important in the context of the review of the legislation.

The question is lengthy, so I will ask that the he enter it into the record as read.

During the Committee of the Whole's consideration of the 2010-11 Main Estimates of the Department of Health and Social Services, testimony to the committee indicated that 60 Nunavut children and youth are fostered outside of Nunavut at a projected annual cost of \$6.1 million. (March 9, 2010, Unedited Hansard, page 41).

- 1) As of March 23, 2010, broken down by province or territory of temporary residence, how many Nunavut children and youth are in foster care out of territory in the following categories:
 - a. In specialized care;
 - b. In a recognized institution;
 - c. In a private foster home?
- 2) As of March 23, 2010, broken down by type of specialized care, how many Nunavut children and youth are receiving specialized care out of territory?
- 3) As of March 23, 2010, what is the average annual cost of foster care for a single Nunavut child or youth outside of Nunavut?
- 4) Which specific organizations, institutions, and other entities have been contracted to provide foster care outside of the Nunavut territory to Nunavut children and youth?
- 5) What mechanisms are in place to identify suitable out-of-territory foster parents?
- 6) How are child protection departments, agencies, or organizations in other jurisdictions involved in the designation and monitoring of out-of-territory foster parents for Nunavut children and youth?
- 7) What procedures are undertaken by the Department of Health and Social Services to screen foster parent applicants before they receive a foster child or youth into their care?
- 8) What mechanisms are in place to screen out-of-territory foster parent applicants with respect to the following criteria:
 - a. Criminal record;
 - b. Experience with children;
 - c. Cultural sensitivity; and
 - d. Living arrangements?
- 9) How often do officials of the Government of Nunavut's Department of Health and Social Services conduct on-site visits of out-of-territory private foster homes?

- 10) What mechanisms are in place and who is responsible for monitoring and evaluating the ongoing status of children and youth in foster care with respect to such activities as diet, social activities, schooling, and physical activity?
- 11) Do child protection departments, agencies, or organizations in other jurisdictions provide and pay for any component of services for Nunavut children and youth in out-of-territory foster care?
- 12) What counselling services or supports are offered to Nunavut parents who have had their children apprehended within the meaning of the *Child and Family Services Act* and placed in foster care?
- 13) How does the Department of Health and Social Services determine the conditions under which a Nunavut child or youth in foster care can be returned to the home from which they were apprehended?
- 14) Under what circumstances are Nunavut parents entitled to contact and communication with their children who are in foster care outside of the territory?

Thank you.

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

Written Questions. Mr. Elliott.

Written Question 016 – 3(2): Status of Integrated Community Sustainability Plans and Infrastructure in Arctic Bay, Grise Fiord, and Resolute Bay

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a written question for the Minister of Community and Government Services concerning the status of integrated community sustainability plans and infrastructure in Arctic Bay, Grise Fiord, and Resolute Bay.

The question is lengthy, so I would ask that it be entered into the record as read.

- 1) As of March 23, 2010, what is the status of the development of integrated community sustainability plans for the communities of Arctic Bay, Grise Fiord, and Resolute Bay?
- 2) Broken down by community, size, and age, what buildings are maintained by the Department of Community and Government Services in the communities of Arctic Bay, Grise Fiord, and Resolute Bay?
- 3) Broken down by community, size, and age, what buildings are maintained by the municipalities of Arctic Bay, Grise Fiord, and Resolute Bay?
- 4) Broken down by community and building, what were the results of the most recent energy efficiency evaluation and/or audit that was conducted on each building maintained by the Department of Community and Government Services and/or the municipalities of

- Arctic Bay, Grise Fiord, and Resolute Bay?
- 5) Broken down by community and building, what is the type, model, and age of each building's heating system?
 - 6) Broken down by community and building, on what date did each building's heating system most recently receive an annual preventative maintenance inspection?
 - 7) Broken down by community and building and expressing the data in litres, what is each building's average annual fuel consumption?
 - 8) Broken down by community and building, what is the average annual cost to heat each building?
 - 9) Broken down by community and building, what is the average annual electricity consumption of each building?
 - 10) What accessibility features for the disabled exist with respect to each building maintained by the Department of Community and Government Services and/or the municipalities of Arctic Bay, Grise Fiord, and Resolute Bay?
 - 11) Broken down by community, type, model, and age, what mobile equipment is owned and/or leased by the Department of Community and Government Services in the communities of Arctic Bay, Grise Fiord, and Resolute Bay?

- 12) Broken down by community, type, model, and age, what mobile equipment is owned and/or leased by the municipalities of Arctic Bay, Grise Fiord, and Resolute Bay?

Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Written Questions. Member for Nanulik, Mr. Ningeongan.

**Written Question 017 – 3(2):
Patient/Client Complaints
Procedure of the Department of
Health and Social Services**

Mr. Ningeongan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a written question for the Minister of Health and Social Services concerning his department's patient/client complaints procedure.

The question is lengthy, so I would ask that it be entered into the record as read.

*In the summer of 2009, the Minister of Health and Social Services distributed a pamphlet titled **Patient/Client Complaints Procedure for the Department of Health and Social Services**. The pamphlet has four versions, one for each of the three regions (Qikiqtani, Kivalliq and Kitikmeot) and one for Iqaluit.*

- 1) As of March 23, 2010, how many formal complaints about health services or the conduct of health professionals have been received in each of the three regions and Iqaluit pursuant to the department's patient/client complaints procedure?
- 2) The department's patient/client complaints procedure provides a

- four-step description of what actions should be taken by a complainant. The pamphlet does not describe what form of response a complainant is entitled to receive at each step of the process. Within the meaning of the process described in the pamphlet section under “What to do if you have a complaint ...,” what type of response is a complainant entitled to at each step of the process?
- 3) As of March 23, 2010, and within the meaning of the process described in the pamphlet section under “What to do if you have a complaint ...,” how many complaints have been resolved at:
- Step 1;
 - Step 2;
 - Step 3; and
 - Step 4?
- 4) With respect to the process for the resolution of complaints as described in Question #3, how many complainants received a written response to their concern at:
- Step 1;
 - Step 2;
 - Step 3; and
 - Step 4?
- 5) With respect to the process for the resolution of complaints as described in Question #3, how many complaints were made regarding service provided by:
- An agency nurse;
 - A full-time indeterminate nurse;
 - A physician; and
 - An employee of the Department of Health and Social Services other than a nurse or physician?
- 6) In circumstances where a resident believes that he or she has not received appropriate or adequate service delivery at a territorial health facility or in circumstances where a resident believes that he or she has been incorrectly diagnosed, what procedure does the Department of Health and Social Services provide for the resident to request a second opinion?
- 7) What specific standards of care are established by the Department of Health and Social Services for health care delivered at:
- Community health centres;
 - Regional health facilities; and
 - The Qikiqtani General Hospital?
- 8) How does the Department of Health and Social Services monitor the standards of care that are established for health care delivered at:
- Community health centres;
 - Regional health facilities; and
 - The Qikiqtani General Hospital?
- 9) Between April 1, 1999 and March 23, 2010, how many lawsuits have been filed against the Department of Health and Social Services and/or its employees and/or its contractors

concerning matters related to the delivery of health and social services for Nunavut residents?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. 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. Member for South Baffin, Mr. Schell.

Item 13: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 153 – 3(2): Article on Air Canada from the National Post: “Canada’s Flying Moose in the headlights”

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table a copy of an article from this weekend’s edition of the *National Post* about Air Canada. The article is titled, “Canada’s Flying Moose in the headlights.”

>>*Laughter*

The article does a good job in describing Air Canada’s protectionist strategies and I encourage all members to review it with care.

I’ll just read you a few of the highlights. It says, “Flagship carrier’s protectionist response to UAE’s expansion plans does more harm than good.” It says that unlike Canada, Australia has not bailed out an airline. And it says that the protectionist attitude of Air Canada is out of place in the 21st century. And it also says that Ottawa steadfastly

underwrites everything that they think is good for Air Canada. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker: Thank you. Tabling of Documents. Hon. Daniel Shewchuk.

Tabled Document 154 – 3(2): Towards a Representative Public Service – Statistics as of December 31, 2009

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table the following document: Towards a Representative Public Service – Statistics as of December 31, 2009. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Tabling of Documents. Item 14. Notices of Motions. Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 16. Motions. Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Item 19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bills 14, 21, 22, 23, and 25, and Tabled Documents 13 – 3(2), 66 – 3(2), 99 – 3(2), and 100 – 3(2) with Mr. Schell in the Chair.

In accordance to the authority provided to me by Motion 6 – 3(2), the Committee of the Whole will stay in session until it reports itself out.

Before we proceed to the Committee of the Whole, we will take a lunch break and report back at 1:30.

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.

>> *House recessed at 11:44 and
Committee resumed at 13:30*

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

Chairman (Mr. Schell): I would like to call the committee meeting to order. In Committee of the Whole, we have the following items to deal with: Bills 14, 21, 22, 23, and 25, and TDs 13 – 3(2), 66 – 3(2), 99 – 3(2), and 100 – 3(2). What is the wish of the committee? Go ahead, Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We would like to continue with Bill 22 and the main estimates for the fiscal year 2010-11. We will commence with the Department of Environment, followed by the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. We will then conclude with the review of the main estimates of the Legislative Assembly and a clause-by-clause review of Bill 22. Mr. Chairman, we will then proceed with the review of Bill 23, Bill 14, Bill 25, and Bill 21. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. Does the committee agree that we deal with Environment?

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Chairman: Mr. Shewchuk, do you have witnesses that you would like to bring to the table?

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

Chairman: Does the committee agree to bring in the witnesses?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Sergeant-at-Arms, could you escort the witnesses in.

Minister, for the record, please introduce your witnesses.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my right I have the Deputy Minister of Environment, Simon Awa, and to my left I have the Director of Corporate Services for the Department of Environment, Camilius Egeni. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Shewchuk. Does the Chair of the Standing Committee on Community and Economic Development have opening comments? Please proceed, Mr. Rumbolt.

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

The standing committee notes that the department's proposed 2010-11 operations and maintenance budget of \$20,139,000 has increased by approximately 0.71 percent since the introduction of the department's 2009-2010 main estimates. The number of positions in the department is 122.5.

This is an increase of 20.5 PYs from its 2004-05 business plan.

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

Nunavut's new *Wildlife Act* was passed by the First Legislative Assembly in 2003. Although *Wildlife Transitional Regulations* were published in Part II of the June 2005 edition of the *Nunavut Gazette*, a comprehensive set of new regulations has not yet been approved. The Nunavut Wildlife Management Board has held a number of hearings since 2003 on proposed new regulations under the Act.

Although the department's 2009-2010 business plan did not address this issue, members note that NTI's 2008 annual report indicated that it had "outstanding concerns and will continue to work toward resolving these with the NWMB and GN." The draft 2010-13 business plan indicates that one of the department's priorities is to "finalize the *Wildlife Act* regulations."

During the minister's appearance before the standing committee, members questioned what the areas of outstanding disagreement are between the GN and NTI. The minister indicated that his department will not let these issues delay the regulations and that it will continue working on finalizing them. The standing committee encourages the department and its partners to work on resolving these issues and looks forward to the *Wildlife Act* regulations moving forward.

Section 160 of the *Wildlife Act* requires the minister to appoint an advisory committee of elders to "review current, traditional and historical types, methods and technologies of harvesting wildlife in the context of the guiding principles and concepts of Inuit traditional knowledge and to advise the Minister on those it considers humane and safe." On March 24, 2009, the minister announced that the newly-appointed members of this advisory committee would be holding its first meeting in Iqaluit. The standing committee encourages the minister to keep the Legislative Assembly regularly informed on what recommendations this committee submits to the government.

Section 177 of the *Wildlife Act* requires the minister to table an annual report in the Legislative Assembly on the administration of the Natural Resources Conservation Trust Fund. To date, no annual reports under this section of the Act have been tabled in the Legislative Assembly. However, the department's 2010-13 business plan indicates that one of its priorities has been to "build the Natural Resources Conservation Trust Fund as a permanent source of funding for promoting awareness and wise use of wildlife and habitat through initiatives such as education, research and conservation." It indicates that the "terms of reference have been drafted." The standing committee looks forward to the tabling of the first annual report under this section of the Act.

On May 22, 2008, during the previous Legislative Assembly, the Minister of Environment of the day informed the House that "the GN will pursue all available options to ensure that the U.S. listing has a minimum effect on

communities relying on income from polar bears sport hunts. We will be working with the outfitters and we would like to get assistance from Nunavummiut as well as colleagues here in the House to ensure that this is well planned.”

In January 2009, the GN participated in a national polar bear round table hosted by the federal environment minister. The department’s 2010-13 business plan indicates that it has been working to “complete polar bear co-management agreements with Greenland for shared polar bear populations.” The standing committee noted the announcement in October 2009 regarding the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with Greenland and the federal government on the Baffin Bay polar bear population.

During the minister’s appearance before the standing committee, members questioned the minister as to whether his department has plans to compensate hunters with respect to the recent ban of Baffin Bay polar bears exports. The minister indicated that his department has no plans at this time.

The standing committee was very pleased to note the minister’s statement of March 18, 2010 in which he announced in the House that the US proposal to up-list the polar bear under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species was defeated at the meeting in Doha. The standing committee applauds the department for its hard work and collaboration with its partners in ensuring that Nunavut’s values and interests were taken into account.

The department’s 2009-2010 business plan indicates that “with Nunavut’s rapidly growing communities come the challenges of managing waste in an Arctic environment, particularly given Nunavut’s aging waste management infrastructure. Many communities are also burdened with abandoned waste sites, some of which are contaminated.” The 2009-2010 business plan also indicates that “a lack of modern community waste management infrastructure impacts compliance with the Environmental Protection Act.”

The department’s draft 2010-13 business plan does not clearly address this issue. The standing committee recommends that the minister begin the practice of tabling an annual report in the Legislative Assembly on the government’s activities under the Environmental Protection Act. This will provide all members and the public with a more clear understanding of the challenges and issues facing the government in this area.

On February 17, 2009, the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment announced that a number of jurisdictions have endorsed the new *Canada-wide Strategy for the Management of Municipal Wastewater Effluent* and are ready to begin implementation. The strategy “sets out a harmonized framework to manage discharges from more than 3,500 wastewater facilities in Canada, many of which are currently in need of repair and upgrading.” The strategy also indicates that “due to the extreme climatic conditions and remoteness of Canada’s Far North, a viable means to improve human and environmental health protection needs to be carefully considered. Therefore, a

window of up to five years is provided to undertake research into factors that affect performance of wastewater facilities in northern conditions.”

On March 27, 2009, the Minister of Environment tabled a report in the Legislative Assembly concerning this issue. The minister’s report indicated that “Nunavut, Québec and Newfoundland did not endorse the document.” The report also stated that “Nunavut agrees in principle with the strategy but is extremely concerned about costs associated with implementation and the lack of direct funding options. Nunavut will certainly support the strategy when funding is more definitive.”

During one of the minister’s previous appearances before the standing committee, members were advised that it would cost the GN approximately \$500 million to implement this new national strategy. However, members were also advised the Department of Environment is working with the Department of Community and Government Services to build up an inventory of community facilities. During the minister’s recent appearance before the standing committee, members again questioned the minister on the status of the department’s work regarding the *Canada-Wide Strategy for the Management of Municipal Wastewater Effluent*. The minister indicated that his department is working with Community and Government Services on the location of new landfills and is looking into incineration projects. The standing committee encourages the two departments to also continue working closely together with respect to the development and management of such

infrastructure as sewage lagoons and landfills.

The standing committee notes that the department’s budget for grants and contributions for harvester support programs has remained largely unchanged for a number of years. Members encourage the minister to periodically review the adequacy of these funding levels.

In March of 2009, a Nunavut Wildlife Symposium was held in Rankin Inlet. This event was organized by the Government of Nunavut, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, the Nunavut Inuit Wildlife Secretariat, and the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board. The symposium was held to address such issues as the “handling of wildlife in research and the integration of science and Inuit traditional knowledge in wildlife research and management.” The standing committee encourages the minister to table a report in the Legislative Assembly on the proceedings of this event and to regularly update the Legislative Assembly on progress achieved in these areas. The standing committee notes the Minister’s Statement of March 10, 2010 in the House titled, “Development of New Research Methods for Polar Bear Population Studies.” Members are encouraged to see that the department is incorporating concerns from elders and hunters to use less invasive methods for wildlife research in Nunavut.

The department’s 2010-13 business plan indicates that one of its priorities is “conducting sealskin marketing and public education projects as part of the Nunavut Sealing Strategy implementation.” Members look forward

to the tabling of this important strategy. Members also note that the Department of Economic Development and Transportation's 2009-2010 business plan indicated that one of its priorities has been to "identify new markets for seal skins." Both departments are encouraged to work together closely on this issue.

The Department of Environment's 2010-13 business plan indicates that its priorities include "continuing inshore fisheries development, including a summer turbot test fishery in Cumberland Sound" and "expanding the coastal resource inventory project to more communities across Nunavut." Members encourage the department to also explore the development of test fisheries in other communities where potential exists for commercial harvesting.

The standing committee encourages the minister to table an annual report in the Legislative Assembly on the department's expenditures under its Fisheries Diversification Program, Commercial Fisheries Freight Subsidy Program, and Fisheries Training Consortium Program.

The standing committee was pleased with the federal fisheries minister's announcement on November 9, 2009 of a 1,500-tonne increase in Canada's turbot quota. The announcement indicated that Nunavut would be receiving 90 percent on this increase. During the minister's appearance before the standing committee, members questioned how the minister is working to ensure Nunavut is able to take full advantage of this increase. The minister indicated that he will lobby the federal

government for more facilities, such as fish processing plants and small craft harbours, which are crucial to increasing Nunavut's ability to take advantage of this turbot increase. The standing committee looks forward to ongoing updates on this important issue.

On January 15 of this year, the Government of the Northwest Territories introduced a 25 cent fee on plastic and paper bags that will go towards funding a waste reduction recovery program. During the minister's appearance before the standing committee, members questioned if his department has looked into introducing a similar fee for Nunavut. The standing committee encourages the government to carefully consider introducing a similar initiative in Nunavut and looks forward to ongoing updates on waste reduction initiatives.

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

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Before we proceed, I would like to remind members of the following: 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 the matter under discussion but not until every member wishing to speak has spoken.

I suggest to members that wherever possible you ask your detailed questions during the page-by-page review of the departmental estimates. Do members

have any general comments? Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do not want to make a lengthy comment, but I want the minister to be patient with me as I ask my questions when we get to I-5.

In your opening comments, I don't know how much spillage you said there was of hazardous materials as we did not hear of them either from the media. My question regards your opening comments about the spills of hazardous materials. How much of the spills came from residential sources? Thank you.

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

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the member for that question. I don't have that exact information in front of me, but my understanding is that a very small percentage of the 57,000 litres, I think, that were reported in the 146 occurrences that took place, very few of them were to homeowner fuel tanks. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Shewchuk. I have no more members on my list for general comments. We will now proceed to the page-by-page review of the departmental estimates starting with I-4. Environment. Branch Summary. Corporate Management. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$3,867,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: We will go to I-5. Branch Summary. Environment. Program

Management. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$16,272,000. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under I-5, I need some clarification here. You have Grants and Contributions for \$1,891,000. If you go to I-6, Summary of Grants and Contributions, on the top part is grants, \$150,000, and the contributions part is on the bottom for \$1,891,000. That should total to \$2,041,000. Why is Grants and Contributions on I-5 only \$1,891,000? Where is the grants part on this page? (interpretation) Thank you.

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

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I could take the member back to I-6, I believe he says that the total of the grants is \$150,000 and then the total of the contributions, if you look above the \$1,891,000, is \$1,741,000. When you add those together, you get the \$1,891,000. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I should have worn my glasses.

>> *Laughter*

Mr. Chairman, on the grants part, you have Program Management in the Summary of Grants and Contributions of Disaster Compensation. Can you tell me what it covers? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Disaster Compensation Program at present, with the criteria we have, will cover anything that is a natural disaster and there is criteria set out for that. I could also state the process of how that compensation is awarded. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So that has nothing to do with the disaster we just had from the export ban on polar bear hides. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>> *Laughter*

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

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The member is absolutely correct on his statement. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Will the minister then be putting forward a supplementary budget for the spring session to cover that disaster from the export ban on polar bear hides? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, there are no plans to

do that. I think we discussed this in the House that I am meeting with all of the affected communities in Baffin Bay to explain the options that are available to them. It's actually next week, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am little bit confused. How do you determine what is a disaster and what is not?

The export ban on the Baffin Bay polar bears has a disastrous effect on the hunters and the sport hunting programs. There has to be some kind of compensation made because there is a definite amount that is lost in each of those three communities that have direct effect of that export ban. Is there at least a plan to discuss the effect of that disaster with your Cabinet? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again I will state, no, there are no plans.

We are going to visit the communities next week that are affected by this. Along with ED&T, we are going to explain the programs and other options that are available to pursue other tourism and outfitter industries that are there.

The answer is no, we are not going to look at any type of program like that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you. Your department's draft 2010-11 main estimates include \$80,000 in disaster compensation funds, which is the same as the previous year. Has this amount of funding been adequate and if not, has your department looked into increasing the fund? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thanks for the question. Yes, this amount of funding has been adequate and it has never been completely all used up. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In your department's draft 2010-11 main estimates, the amount of funding for hunters and trappers organizations has not increased from previous years. On March 23 of 2009, you committed in the Legislative Assembly to review the amount of funding provided to HTOs. What is the status of this review? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The funding contribution to HTOs and RWOs has been looked at. The funding has not increased. However, the end increase to funding to RWOs and HTOs has been through other

sources of funding that they have received. So this has been reviewed and at the present time, there is no intent to increase that funding. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. I have no more names on the list here. Branch Summary. Mr. Komoartok.

Mr. Komoartok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to raise a question while we are in Program Management with respect to the caribou population study in the South Baffin region. I am unsure whether this issue falls under your department, but I do know that the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board has sent out information regarding this matter. I wonder if this population survey will commence this year and if so, what the approximate end date of this caribou population survey is. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Komoartok. Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would just like to ask for clarification from the member if he is speaking about his own community and the area or is he talking about the planned survey that's coming up with the NWT and Nunavut for the western Arctic. But I believe he's talking about his own area, I think. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Komoartok.

Mr. Komoartok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm talking about the Pangnirtung area and also Qikiqtaaluk. I

believe there was a news report a few weeks ago from NWMB indicating that they want to do a caribou numbers survey on Baffin Island. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Komoartok. Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe I responded partially to this and the member in his question in the House too. Consultations are taking place very soon and once those consultations are complete, an action plan will come up on doing the survey.

Also, in conjunction with this, which I made a statement on, we are completing a caribou management strategy for the entire territory of Nunavut. So that will also assist us in completing the survey. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. Mr. Komoartok.

Mr. Komoartok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. His response raises another question with respect to sealskins that are sent down south for auction. I believe that in the last auction, the skins were selling at much reduced prices, at approximately \$25 to \$35 per pelt. When Nunavut residents purchase tanned pelts from the sale of these same skins, they have to pay upwards of \$90 to \$110 per pelt. However, these companies are able to purchase these skins on the cheap, so to speak. Shouldn't they be offering discounts or incentives on tanned pelts coming back to Nunavut for retail sales? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Komoartok. Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The member brings up a very good point in the sealing industry.

As the House knows, we are continuing our fur program and our seal program, as has been in the past, even due to the low price of sealskins. We had quite an inventory of sealskins in the south at the auction. However, we offer the program, as the member has stated, and that is the cost of getting those seals tanned and returned to Nunavut is the price of why they are.

We have actually, out of those 11,000 skins, probably brought back about two-thirds of them to Nunavut for individuals to buy, for businesses to buy, and also in our involvement in Arctic College programs with our fur dressing programs too. So that is the price that we have to pay to get them back. It's not the price that we set; it's the price of the cost of the auction and the price that they have to sell it back to us. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. Mr. Komoartok. Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to thank the hon. minister and his officials for being here.

As you know, Baker Lake is the only inland community, not only in Nunavut but in Canada. We are very proud of our land. We've got rolling hills, great landscape, the scenery is amazing, and our waterways are amazing. They are even accessed and shared by many

wildlife tourists every summer. We get them from all over and if not, even in the winter, we get a lot of the Kivalliq coastal communities coming inland to go hunting and we've got a lot of wildlife over there.

We the people of Baker Lake are very proud of where we come from and with it, we have, as you know, the Thelon Game Sanctuary and the Thelon River as well as the Kazan River being a Heritage River. But I have mentioned as well before that the Back River holds a lot of significant historical values to the people of Baker Lake with other ties to other communities, such as the Kitikmeot and Natilik extended family members.

With that, specifically the group of people who come from the Back River area have contributed a lot and majorly into the world of arts as well as cultural awareness. We're very proud of that aspect. I was glad to see before in the minister's opening comments mentioning the possibility or potential of having Back River recognized as a Heritage River. We would very much welcome that opportunity to preserve and also enhance our cultural identity, not only as unique Inuit but also as Canadians.

I wanted to see at this stage: what would the process be in order to get a Heritage River recognized and how long would the process be? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that. I think, by the statement that I made

today, our commitment is shown by our department to support the request of the member in the Back River being named a Heritage River.

I must be honest, though, and say it's a very long process. It is a nomination that first takes place and then in 2011-12, we plan to have a more in-depth community consultation with the community of Baker Land. From that, it goes on through the whole process. It is a lengthy process, but we are committed to it, it's initiated, and I assure you that we will follow through with this process. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm glad to know that there is a process in place and we are aware that it takes procedure, it takes time, and it won't happen very quickly. It may not even happen during our term of office, but in the meantime, it's good to see that there is some commitment.

I guess what I just want to express as a comment, Mr. Chairman, to share with my colleagues and the rest of Nunavut is that for example, Kazan River, you can go from Saskatchewan and end up in Baker Lake. You can also end up in Great Slave Lake right down Thelon to Baker Lake. We get a lot of wilderness travellers and a lot of tourists.

I think it's exceptional that Nunavut would be able to identify that, and I say that humbly and without favouritism for my community or even distinctly my relation to the people of Back River. I think it's just more or less to enhance the heritage aspect of it. I think that's

something that is very unique to the rest of the world and I have been emphasizing that as well.

We have different needs that are different from Canadians, but we also have the same rights as Canadians in order to provide our landscape and to be able to protect. I just want to share that with a comment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. That was just a comment. Member for Nanulik.

Mr. Ningeongan (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Your department's draft 2010 -13 business plan indicates that the evaluation of the Conservation Officer Trainee Program was completed in October 2009 and 27 recommendations were provided. Can you provide an update on this issue? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that very good question. We are so very much interested in this trainee program to offer conservation officer positions to beneficiaries. We had this program operate once already. It's being reviewed. The review has been quite in-depth. The plan is to initiate another intake of three trainee positions coming this fall. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. Member for Nanulik. I don't have any more on my list here, so we will go to Branch Summary.

Environment. Program Management. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$16,272,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: We will go back to page I-3. Department Summary. Environment. Detail of Expenditures. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$20,139,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Are members agreed that we have concluded Environment?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Does the Minister of Environment have any closing comments?

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: I do. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Again I would like to thank all of my colleagues around the table for contributing to the work and the efforts of the Department of Environment and serving the people of Nunavut as best we can.

I would like thank my witnesses, Simon Awa and Camilius, for supporting me and providing me with documents. Today, I would just like to make a special "thank you" and that's to my staff upstairs, Susie Alainga, who brought her brand spanking new little daughter in to visit us today, and Susie Arnaquq. A very special "thank you" goes to my Executive Assistant, Tracy Hughes, who was working 24/7 behind me all of the time. So I would like to send her a special "thank you." Thank you all, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. I would like to thank you and your officials for showing up. Would the Sergeant-at-Arms please escort the minister and the officials out.

I am advised that the Premier is not available to appear before the committee at this moment, so we will proceed with the review of the main estimates for the Legislative Assembly.

I would now like to ask the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut to make his opening remarks.

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

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is a pleasure for me to appear before members today to present the 2010-11 main estimates and 2010-13 business plan for the Office of the Legislative Assembly.

The proposed 2010-11 operations and maintenance budget for the Office of the Legislative Assembly is \$15,508,000. This represents a moderate increase of just over 3 percent from the Legislative Assembly's 2009-2010 main estimates. Over 75 percent of our budget increase is accounted for by the upcoming establishment of the Electoral Boundaries Commission, which will be established later this year. \$400,000 has been allocated for the commission.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Chairman, in addition to highlighting our operational priorities for the coming fiscal year, I would like to update members on the

status of a number of our ongoing initiatives.

As members will recall, *The Order of Nunavut Act* was passed by the Legislative Assembly at our last sitting and came into force on January 1 of this year. The Act establishes the Order of Nunavut Advisory Council, which is chaired by the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly. Its other members are the Senior Judge of the Nunavut Court of Justice and the President of Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated. Support to the council is being provided by the Office of the Legislative Assembly.

As chairperson of the advisory council, I was honoured to convene its inaugural meeting last year. I am pleased to announce today that the council has begun working towards our goal of unveiling the designs for the order's insignia on July 9 of this year. Nominations for the order will be opened on that day and the council looks forward to the first investiture ceremony taking place on July 9, 2011.

(interpretation) As I noted earlier, an Electoral Boundaries Commission is planned to be established this fall. The Office of the Legislative Assembly and Elections Nunavut will be collaborating on a number of preparatory technical steps over the coming months so that the commission will be able to begin its work immediately upon the appointment of its members.

Mr. Chairman, the Third Speaker's Youth Parliament will be held this fall. We look forward to again hosting young Nunavummiut and future leaders in this Chamber for a week of learning and fun.

Later this year, I also look forward to launching the *Bringing our House to your Home: Speaker's Parliamentary Outreach Program and Community Mace Tour*. It is my intention to visit schools and elders' facilities in a number of communities across the territory over the coming years. These visits will help to improve awareness of our Assembly's procedures and activities and contribute to a greater understanding of our distinctive style of consensus government. I am very pleased to report that Premier Aariak and I have undertaken preliminary discussions about jointly undertaking these visits as a team.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Chairman, under the direction of the Management and Services Board, the Office of the Legislative Assembly continues to undertake improvements to the services and infrastructure supporting the work of members. These include upgrades to audio-visual and interpretation equipment, as well as a redesign of the Assembly's website.

I am pleased to report to members that the Office of the Legislative Assembly continues to successfully meet our statutory deadlines for the tabling of annual reports and other documents that are produced under the authority of the Speaker.

That concludes my opening comments, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank members for their ongoing support and I welcome their comments, suggestions, and questions. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Do you have witnesses that you would like to bring to the table?

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I do.

Chairman: Does the committee agree to bring in the witnesses?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Sergeant-at-Arms, could you escort the witnesses in.

Mr. Speaker, could you please introduce your witnesses.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my right is John Quirke, the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly, and to my left is Michael Rafter, Director of Corporate Services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Are there any general comments? Minister Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also want to welcome the Speaker and his officials to the witness table.

I wish to speak to this matter as I am very proud of the initiative to create an Order of Nunavut. This is intended for all of Nunavut. Once approved and passed, the Order of Nunavut will be another point of pride for our residents.

I believe it was last year or the year before when we discussed an Elders' Parliament. If you recall, we held a Youth Parliament and are in the process of setting up another one. I asked about this issue previously with respect to the

Elders' Parliament that was held in Québec City. I would like to know if this is an idea with merit and if we could consider it down the road. This idea of holding an Elders' Parliament, Mr. Chairman, I would first like to ask if this will occur.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Tapardjuk. Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank Mr. Tapardjuk for his question. We are aware of the subject raised in his previous question and we have conducted research on the matter.

The Management and Services Board has analyzed this situation. We reviewed this matter, but we agreed that we will not create an Elders' Parliament at this time. The reason for holding a Youth Parliament is to expose young people who may wish to pursue a public career and it allows them to think about their career path in government if they so desire.

Also, as I said earlier, we will be touring the communities. We are currently planning and organizing for this tour where we want to present 'Bringing our House to your Home.' This tour will include visits to local elders' facilities.

At this time, we agreed to defer the idea of an Elders' Parliament as it is not considered a priority item by the board. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Minister Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank

the Speaker for his detailed response. We can claim that this government passed two language bills, namely, the new *Official Languages Act* and the *Inuit Language Protection Act*. In my opinion, the operations of the House should have the appropriate written documents and signage in all of the official languages. I have already discussed this issue of signage with the Clerk.

Consider for a moment the badly done sign inside this House, which I find embarrassing. I am referring to *Nunavut Sanginivut*. The term "Sanginivut" is wrong in spelling; it should be "Sannginivut" instead. The wording of the sign is wrong for a missing simply the "na" syllabic final. The proclamation uses the term as it stands in the sign, but the wording is not the same in the legislation where the correct spelling is used. A missing final sometimes creates an entirely different meaning.

Can you ensure that correct spelling is used into signage here, starting with the correction of the spelling of that sign? Do you have it in your budget estimates for correcting wrong spellings of signage or would this be in the unforeseen costs? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Tapardjuk. Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Minister Tapardjuk for his sharp eye and for pointing out the spelling error in the signage. We have taken note of his comments regarding the signage and we will be correcting the errors in the sign. We will also ensure that the board looks into the matter further. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you. I am happy to see you appearing before the committee. It is hard to sit back and not field questions when you are sitting on this side of the table.

>>*Laughter*

Now, I am not sure whether this question I am about to ask is included in your work plans, but it is included as part of your communications budget. Since you are looking at making improvements in your communications systems here, including email which is now up and running, let me first thank you for that.

Back when Nunavut was starting out, we had many communication issues to deal with, especially with the email system. Government email had just come online and computers, including the Internet, were still new technologies. Nowadays, this communications technology forms an integral part of our communications tool kit.

I believe that our system is amongst the best compared to other jurisdictions, at least with respect to the Legislative Assembly's email system. I have gone through two different systems and I can say that the second version is much faster. The Assembly's server is used extensively by the regular members and our legislative staff. When repairs are required, our service technicians are much faster now in addressing them.

My question with respect to this issue is: have considerations been discussed to extend the Assembly's server coverage

to our constituency offices? Currently, we have to use a private business server in our communities and most communities do not have full-time IT technicians to serve them. In some cases, repair times can be quite lengthy and expensive since the technicians have to be flown in and these repairs can take days.

To improve the set up, would it be worthwhile to add the constituency offices to the GN servers? Has any consideration been put into this possibility? My reasoning is that we seem to have been placed in a second-hand system with all sorts of issues, while the government offices, which are usually right next door, have the best system to use.

Our constituency offices are sometimes hampered by the limitations of the system we are stuck with. How is this problem resolved in your future plans, especially if we were to add the constituency offices to the GN server system? Thank you.

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

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Curley. If you want these issues addressed, perhaps it is worthwhile to ask your colleagues from this side who, I am sure, would welcome you to their side.

That is a very interesting question. We are aware of the issues faced by our constituency offices. There will always be room for improvement on any system and we continue to look into issues raised by our members. We have noted your concerns. We will also look into

them to see how we can meet your needs and how we can work more cooperatively with the government on this matter. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe that this matter should be reviewed in greater detail.

I personally have no idea about how other jurisdictions handle this issue and how their IT systems are set up. I do not know whether their constituency offices are linked to a main system, or whether the legislatures own the system in use by the constituency offices, or whether they have to use a separate, private service like us. I am not familiar enough with their systems to make definitive comments on how they are set up.

Perhaps we need to see how other jurisdictions deal with the challenges faced by your office. I think that if we had other systems to compare ours with, then we would be able to improve upon them. The reason why I am bringing this up is because according to legislation, including the Privacy Act, the government cannot own or withhold information in its system.

Sometimes when a private server is used, the emails sent to ministers' offices do not make it through. With that being said, the performance of our duties sometimes seem cut off and separate from government and we have to rely on facsimile machines to conduct our business. So it would be worthwhile to look into how other jurisdictions have

dealt with their communications challenges. Thank you.

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

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I said earlier, our website is currently undergoing a major overhaul. We will continue looking for ways to improve our system and we will look at how other jurisdictions have their system set up. We try and ensure that our system is the best possible.

With respect to the question regarding the possibility of linking up the constituency offices to a main server, it's something we can look into. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Komoartok.

Mr. Komoartok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also want to add my piece to Mr. Curley's concern. He just reminded me of the problems we face in the smaller communities with respect to computers and the Internet. Most of the smaller communities do not have IT technicians to serve them.

In my constituency office, when my assistant's computer crashed, we tried to take it over to the GN offices in Pangnirtung where they have their own IT technicians so that we would not have to send it down to Iqaluit for repairs. We were initially told that the computer would be repaired by the GN's IT technicians.

However, when we brought the computer over, we later found out that it just sat for two days untouched. The IT

technician said that the computer belonged to the Legislative Assembly and therefore, he was uncomfortable to even touch it. We came across this problem which left us in a bind when we were told that they were reluctant to repair what we thought was a computer belonging to the GN.

We just assumed that we had this service option available to us. We did not want to pay expensive shipping costs and we thought we could have the computer fixed by the in-house IT technician. The technician himself stated that he could repair the computer, but since the computer was issued from a different department, the directives were to treat it as not part of his IT tasks and responsibilities.

I want to ask the Speaker if it is possible for the Legislative Assembly to develop policy to allow for IT technicians working for the GN in the communities to repair our computers. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Komoartok. Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank Mr. Komoartok for asking that particular question. Indeed, we are aware of this situation where IT technicians are not readily available to service our computers. This is especially true in the smaller communities, such as my community.

We will look into it further to see if we can accommodate that request and if we can enter into a contract or agreement with the GN technicians for repairs and maintenance of constituency office

computers. We can check into that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have no more members on my list for general comments. We will now proceed to the page-by-page review of the departmental estimates starting with page A-4. Office of the Legislative Assembly. Branch Summary. Assembly Operations. Total [Operations] and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$6,747,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Go to A-5. Branch Summary. Office of the Legislative Assembly. Expenditures on Behalf of Members. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$6,126,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Go to A-6. Office of the Legislative Assembly. Branch Summary. Independent Officers of the Legislative Assembly. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$2,635,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Go back to A-3. Department Summary. Office of the Legislative Assembly. Detail of Expenditures. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$15,508,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Are members agreed that we have concluded with the Office of the Legislative Assembly?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Does the Speaker have any closing comments?

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also would like to thank my colleagues. We may now expect to have the operations and maintenance budget for the Legislative Assembly approved.

I want to thank my support staff, John Quirke and Michael Rafter, and all people up on the third floor. I thank each and every one of them on behalf of the members here for running and managing the Legislative Assembly.

Thank you for approving the main estimates, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank you and your officials. Could the Sergeant-at-Arms escort the Speaker and the witnesses out. Thank you.

We have concluded the review of the Legislative Assembly. We are now ready to commence with the review of the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. Madam Premier, please proceed with your opening comments.

Bill 22 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2010-2011 – Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs – Consideration in Committee

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) It is a pleasure for me to appear before members today to present the

2010-11 main estimates and 2010-13 business plan for the Office of the Legislative Assembly.

The proposed 2010-11 operations and maintenance budget... (interpretation) just a minute, let me get the other documents. My apologies, I didn't get the right document. Okay, I have a copy in front of me now. Can I resume, Mr. Chairman? I sincerely apologize for that.

(interpretation ends) I am pleased to have this opportunity to present to the committee the budget for the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs for 2010-11.

The role of the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs includes providing support to Cabinet and overall coordination of the work of the public service, including the implementation of the priorities we, as Full Caucus, have set under *Tamapta/CLC: Building Our Future Together*. In addition, the department coordinates intergovernmental and circumpolar relations and supports the Minister responsible for Aboriginal Affairs. The department ensures that our responsibilities under the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement are implemented.

The department's main estimates total for fiscal year 2010-11 is just under \$17.6 million. This includes approximately \$11.8 million for salaries and benefits and \$5.8 million for other operations and maintenance costs.

Iksivautaaq and hon. members of the committee, please allow me to outline several of the key budgetary priorities for the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs for this year.

In the *Tamapta* Action Plan, we agreed that one of our priorities would be to strengthen the public service, including “multi-year planning [and] interdepartmental collaboration.” The Department of Executive first coordinated the business planning function again for the 2009-2010 plan that you considered in June 2009. Starting with the business plans which you are currently considering, the GN has moved to a true three-year planning format. The Government of Nunavut now has operational priorities for every year from 2010 to 2013. This additional coordination will be carried out by the existing Policy Division, but two positions were moved in 2009-2010 from Finance to EIA to undertake this work.

The most significant change in EIA’s budget for this year is the addition of 25 positions for the new Government Liaison Program. This is a direct response to our direction in the *Tamapta* Action Plan. A government liaison officer will be the public’s central point of contact with our government in communities. This program will serve as a reliable source of information about programs as feedback to government, as coordination for collaborative initiatives, and as delivery agent for some services.

The full details of the program will be developed over the next six months in consultation with all stakeholders, including various levels of government and community organizations. Initial estimates are that the annual operating cost, which is primarily driven by salary and training, will be around \$4 million. In 2010-11, EIA will complete a program design, including training, and then create the first GLO positions in the

14 non-decentralized communities during this fiscal year. Since this will take time, we estimate that only about half of the annual operating cost will be required during the coming year and have allocated \$2 million to this in the 2010-11 main estimates.

The Department of Executive will also be coordinating a comprehensive review of social safety net programs, again as directed under the *Tamapta* Action Plan. It is envisioned that this review will identify areas where our social programs may conflict or work at cross-purposes. It will examine such varied programs as income support, transition to work programs, rents scales and supplements, and supplementary health benefits. Given the nature of this review, it will be conducted through contracts which will be overseen by the Social Advocacy Office which was created last year. \$500,000 has been allocated in the budget for this purpose.

That concludes my opening remarks. I welcome your comments and look forward to answering your questions on the EIA business plan for 2010-13 and the main estimates for 2010-11. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman (Mr. Ningeongan): Thank you, Madam Premier. Do you have witnesses that you would like to bring to the table?

Hon. Eva Aariak: Yes.

Chairman: Does the committee agree to bring in the witnesses?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Sergeant-at-Arms, if you can escort the witnesses in, please.

Thank you. (interpretation ends) Madam Premier, for the record, please introduce your witnesses.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you. To my right is Markus Weber, the Deputy Minister, and also to my left is David Omilgoitok, the Deputy Minister of EIA.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Premier. Welcome. (interpretation ends) Does the Chairman of the Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations have opening comments? Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Yes, I do, Mr. Chairman. Thank you. I am pleased to provide opening comments on behalf of the Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts on its review of the proposed 2010-11 main estimates and 2010-13 business plan of the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs.

(interpretation ends) The standing committee notes that the department's proposed 2010-11 operations and maintenance budget of \$17,566,000 has increased by approximately 27 percent since the introduction of the department's 2009-2010 main estimates. The number of positions in the department is increasing from 86.5 PYs in 2009-2010 to 114.5 PYs in 2010-11.

During the Premier's recent appearance before the standing committee, members

took the opportunity to raise a number of issues and concerns.

Mr. Chairman, the most significant change in the organizational structure of the department is the proposed creation of a new "Government Liaison Office." This is being established as a division in the Directorate Branch. 25.0 new PYs are being allocated to the division. The division's proposed annual budget is \$2.0 million in 2010-11 and \$4.0 million in subsequent fiscal years.

The department's business plan indicates that "a Government Liaison Officer will be the public's central point-of-contact with our government. These individuals will ensure that government services can be more easily accessed in every community. This program will serve as a reliable source of information about government programs, as feedback to government, as coordination for collaborative initiatives between government agencies, and as delivery agent for certain government services."

After careful consideration of this issue, some members of the standing committee are in support of the proposed initiative while some members are not in support of it. Some members view the initiative as an important means to improve communications between Nunavummiut and their own government and are of the view that it has the potential to complement the work of such bodies as their own constituency offices. Some members view the proposed GLO model as constituting a needless and costly duplication of services that are already provided through other entities and are of the view that the GLO model risks undermining the role of elected members

in articulating community concerns and priorities to the government.

Mr. Chairman, the Commissioner's Address of April 1, 2009 announced the creation of a new Social Advocacy Office, which has been established as a division in the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. The department's proposed 2010-13 business plan indicates that the Social Advocacy Office plans to undertake a number of initiatives in the coming fiscal year.

The standing committee notes that the proposed budget for the Social Advocacy Office is increasing to \$1,337,000 in the 2010-11 fiscal year. It is projected to drop to \$876,000 in subsequent fiscal years. These include providing "support to Health & Social Services in the first year of implementation of the Nunavut Suicide Prevention Strategy," conducting "a comprehensive review of governments' social safety-net programs, to develop a common framework to ensure these programs are complementary, consistent, accessible, and fair," and "In coordination with the review of child protection being conducted by Health & Social Services, research and consult on the creation of a culturally relevant Child and Youth Representative."

While members support the government's intention to move forward in addressing these priorities, which were identified by Full Caucus in October of last year following its consideration of the findings of the *Qanukkanni* Report Card, it is the committee's understanding that the one-time increase in the Social Advocacy Office's budget is for the engagement of consultants to undertake the

government's planned review of social safety net programs.

Although the committee recognizes the occasional necessity of engaging external consultants for highly specialized or technical projects, it stresses the importance of ensuring that the development of core government policy in this fundamentally important area be led by individuals who will ultimately be accountable for its implementation and who live in the jurisdiction where its results will be measured.

Mr. Chairman, there is still no formal system in place for the registration of lobbyists in Nunavut. A recent annual report of the Integrity Commissioner suggested that the value of lobbyist registration, introduced by other jurisdictions, might be considered. Further work in this area could complement the government's plans to introduce a new *Public Service Act* and a Code of Values and Ethics.

Mr. Chairman, the 2006 Report of the Auditor General to the Legislative Assembly recommended that the GN review aspects of its decentralized financial structure. The department's 2009-2010 business plan indicated that "There has been a persistently high vacancy rate for decentralized positions in many communities. Of the 459 decentralized positions in the GN, the numbers of vacancies have fluctuated between 105-125 positions over the past few years. However, Inuit employment rates for departments for those filled positions have been quite steadily averaging around 56% and positions filled by local residents at around 65%."

The department's proposed 2010-13 business plan indicates that "A functional review of decentralized offices will be conducted as a priority action in 2010/11." This initiative was announced by the Legislative Assembly's Full Caucus in October of last year, following its consideration of the findings of the *Qanukkanniq* Report Card. The standing committee urges the Premier to provide regular updates to the Legislative Assembly on the status of this initiative.

Mr. Chairman, the department's proposed 2010-11 business plan indicates that the budget for its Energy Secretariat has been increased to \$678,000 for 2010-11. Its 2008-09 budget was \$424,000. The department's proposed 2010-13 business plan indicates that "the *Ikummatiit* Implementation Plan will be completed and approved before the end of [the 2009-2010 fiscal year]." One of the department's priorities for 2010-11 is to "Begin implementation of *Ikummatiit* in cooperation with relevant GN Departments and partners..."

On November 1, 2007, the provisions in the *Qulliq Energy Corporation Act* providing for the creation of an Affordable Energy Fund came into force. Its purpose is to "subsidize the cost of energy or otherwise make energy more affordable." The Government of Nunavut's *Ikummatiit* Energy Strategy, which was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on October 30, 2007, indicates that this fund is to be managed by the Department of Finance. However, none of the GN's 2010-13 departmental business plans make any reference to the Affordable Energy Fund. The standing committee looks forward to the

government clarifying its plans in this area.

The standing committee also looks forward to the government clarifying whether it will or will not move forward on the potential initiatives that are included in the *Ikummatiit* Energy Strategy, including "a five percent reduction target for government-related travel, the testing of hybrid vehicles, public transportation in Iqaluit, and graduated registration fees based on the size of vehicle engines."

The standing committee also recommends that the Premier review the balance and distribution of energy-related portfolios between different departments and ministers. At present, almost every member of the Cabinet has an energy-related responsibility in his or her portfolio. The merits of this structure are questionable.

For example, although the Minister of Community and Government Services serves as the Minister of Energy, the government's Energy Secretariat is located in the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. Although the Department of Finance is responsible for the administration of the Nunavut Electricity Subsidy Program and the Harvesters' Fuel Tax Rebate Program, the Department of Education is responsible for the administration of the Senior Fuel Subsidy Program.

On November 20, 2009, the Qulliq Energy Corporation announced that it will file a General Rate Application in the spring of 2010. The standing committee notes that the proposed budget for the Utility Rates Review Council is projected to increase to

\$786,000 in the 2010-11 fiscal year. The standing committee recognizes that this increase is due to its pending review of the General Rate Application.

On September 5, 2009, the Government of Nunavut, the governments Northwest Territories and the Yukon released a joint communiqué announcing the renewal of the Northern Cooperation Accord for a five-year term. The department's proposed 2010-13 business plan indicates that work in relation to the tri-territorial Northern Vision document is "being reviewed for current issues and in the context of the recently released federal Northern Strategy." Members encourage the Premier to effectively represent Nunavut's priorities with respect to arctic sovereignty and pan-territorial initiatives.

Mr. Chairman, the Clyde River Protocol between the Government of Nunavut and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated was signed in 1999. A new agreement was signed between the parties in early 2004. The department's proposed 2010-13 business plan indicates that "Based on direction from the NTI board and the Government of Nunavut's *Tamapta*, drafting is well underway for a new protocol for working together. The protocol is expected to be signed in the 09-10 fiscal year." Members look forward to this document being tabled in the House.

The standing committee supports a positive working relationship between the GN and NTI. At the same time, it is incumbent on the government to be clear and candid with MLAs and the general public concerning the rationale for its own position in areas where the two

parties may have disagreements on specific issues.

Mr. Chairman, the department's 2009-2010 business plan indicated that although one of its priorities was to "Complete the negotiations process of the Implementation Contract for the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement*," there have been no official discussions or negotiations while the NTI lawsuit for breach of contract against the federal government is before the courts. The department's proposed 2010-13 business plan indicates that "While *NTI v Canada* is before the courts, no negotiations on the Implementation Contract have occurred."

The department's proposed 2010-13 business plan indicates that its "Avatiliriniq Coordinator supports interdepartmental Sustainable Development groups, coordinates GN participation in resource development planning activity and initiatives to improve the regulatory system for land management." One of the department's priorities for 2010-211 is to "Take a comprehensive and strategic approach to promoting sustainable economic development and environmental stewardship coordinated with partners to support efficient and effective land use planning, environmental assessment and regulatory processes."

On July 17, 2008, the federal Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs released *The Road to Improvement*, the report from Neil McCrank, Special Representative for the Northern Regulatory Improvement Initiative. The report made three specific recommendations for Nunavut, including one which stated that "the duplication of efforts by the

Nunavut Impact Review Board and the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency should be addressed.” The standing committee looks forward to ongoing updates on the status of regulatory reform in Nunavut.

On June 4, 2007, the GN announced six principles to “serve as a framework for the development of a uranium development and mining management plan.” In February of 2009, the Government of Nunavut made a two-page submission to the Nunavut Impact Review Board concerning the proposed Kiggavik project. The standing committee looks forward to the finalization and release of the government’s actual uranium development and mining management plan.

On September 5, 2008, the Government of Canada, the Government of Nunavut, and NTI announced the signing of a *Lands and Resources Devolution Negotiation Protocol*. The department’s proposed 2010-13 business plan indicates that “Canada has appointed a chief federal representative to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development to advise him on devolution issues. Canada has not yet appointed its devolution negotiator or received a devolution negotiation mandate from the Privy Council.”

The business plan also indicates that one of the department’s goals for the 2011-12 fiscal year is to “Finalize a devolution Agreement in Principle with Indian and Northern Affairs Canada and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, pending the conclusion of negotiations.”

The standing committee also notes that the department’s Devolution Division is proposing an increase of 1.5 PYs in the 2010-11 fiscal year. The division will have a total of seven positions. Given that formal devolution negotiations have yet to begin, it is not immediately clear why the division requires new positions at this time.

However, the standing committee notes with approval that the recent federal Speech from the Throne indicated that the Government of Canada will “continue to give northerners a greater say over their own future and take further steps toward territorial devolution.” The standing committee looks forward to ongoing updates on this important issue.

The standing committee also notes with approval the announcement in this month’s federal budget of enhancements to the Food Mail Program. The committee is hopeful that the federal government will respond positively to the recommendations contained in the Government of Nunavut’s submission on this critical program, which the Premier tabled in the House on December 3, 2009.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening comments on the proposed 2010-11 main estimates and 2010-13 business plan of the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. It’s making me hungry now; I understand that there are some refreshments in the Members’ Lounge. At this time, we will take a 15-minute

break and then we will get into the general comments once we're back. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you.

>>Committee recessed at 15:02 and resumed at 15:25

Chairman: Welcome back, everyone. Do members have any general comments, I state, general comments? Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My general comment will be a little shorter than my committee's opening remarks. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I note with interest that there has not been a really good exploration by the government of the different funding sources, especially non-governmental funding sources that could be accessed by the communities. There are no personnel in place in Intergovernmental Affairs to seek funding for different programs in Nunavut communities. I'm not sure if the GLO positions will accommodate that because they will require quite a specialized or at least a research-oriented position.

There are literally thousands and thousands of funding sources around the world. We were told at one point, and I have never actually seen it myself, that the Gates Foundation, for example, has I don't know how many thousand pages of funding programs for organizations that we as Inuit, especially Inuit communities, could access.

We are trying to deal with young people and taking them out on the land. I think the Member for Pangnirtung was talking about the funding that might not be made available again for outpost camp programs for students, where they usually go for a week or several weeks. Healing programs and other cultural activities can be initiated with that kind of funding.

I guess my general question to the Premier is if this government considers finding a research team hired by the government to do research on behalf of the communities. My point here, Mr. Chairman, is we have no ability or knowledge in our communities to seek funding for our projects, nor are we able to write complicated proposals to carry out the activities that we would like to do. However, we know what we want to do, but we don't know how to start it. We don't know the protocols. We don't know the proposal writing. We don't even know how much we would need to carry out the activities that we would like to do.

So I guess my question is if there has been any consideration to finance research or liaison people in the government that communities can go to and simply tell them, "Here is what I would like to do. Here is the general information on what I would like to do in my community. Can you help me to find funding and writing proposals to find funding and lead me to the way to go seek funding from different sources?" If that could be produced as a position or positions, then I think that would create a lot of activities in the communities.

Communities like to do something for themselves, for their own community.

They don't want to be on welfare. They want to be out on the land. They want to be doing activities that are culturally relevant. You cannot do that voluntarily and feed your family at the same time. That type of position is necessary. Has the minister considered this kind of activity or job creation to do that kind of work? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Madam Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's a good topic of discussion. He also stated that the communities want to become more self-reliant economically to help each other in the community.

In looking at the funding requirements, some departments look to different funding sources or third party funding through the federal government. For example, if we look at economic development and transportation, because they are in the economic division, they look at ways to access funds. CGS does that too. Each department is in charge of securing additional funding for some of their programs. This is important.

For example, the economic development officers in the community are also available to help people. If you should approve our GLO proposal, they would be available to give support to the people out there who would like to access funds. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Madam Premier. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't think I was

clear enough. We have the Business Development Corporation, the Credit Corporation, CEDOs, and Kakivak that access funds from the federal government through NTI and other sources, but their mandate is very restricted.

I have also helped people write proposals and access program dollars or start their businesses. They have to wait very long and the proposals are sent back time and again because of this or that mistake to be corrected, or to fill out some information that they had forgotten and some to put in their signatures.

If there was a dedicated team for these, things would get done much faster. Some people have very creative ideas to start a business, but then they give up because it takes so long to secure financing and the process so cumbersome. What I'm thinking about here, Mr. Chairman, is a dedicated team of experts who can seek out and find information.

As things stand, if we were to put a CEDO and GLO as witnesses here and I asked them for information I needed, they would probably not have a clue as to where to look. What I'm trying to get at with this is if you will consider developing knowledgeable people who know how to look for information and know of charitable organization registries, foundations, and what they fund. These are the types of information-gathering skills I am talking about.

Experts who can assist people find the right information is what I would want as the type of person to fill this position. Currently, only one PY is set aside for the liaison offices, the government

liaison officer. We all know what a liaison officer is. In fact, we currently have a municipal liaison officer. That person would not know how to look for relevant information if they had to read through these proceedings.

Would you be willing to consider creating a PY that would specialize in getting all that research funding? I was thinking of the position as assisting communities that want to become more self-reliant. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Madam Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This issue highlights the importance of providing assistance to communities to become more self-reliant. Currently, the Department of Economic Development and Transportation is tasked to provide these types of services.

I personally believe that the public servants we have serving in the various capacities are fully capable of providing that type of assistance to Nunavummiut. The request has to be specific and clear so that they get what they want.

All departments have policy officials who are expert researchers and do provide that service to their department. When they themselves cannot provide it, they can identify where information can be obtained. It would again fall into specific categories for which they require assistance as each department has different mandates. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Madam Premier. I have no other names. Therefore, we

will go to the page-by-page on B-4. Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. Branch Summary. Directorate. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$5,322,000. Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I welcome Madam Premier, Mr. Weber, as well as Mr. Omilgoitok.

Under B-4, under the Directorate, EIA's business plan indicated that one of the priorities is, "Take a comprehensive and strategic approach to promoting sustainable economic development and environmental stewardship coordinated with partners to support efficient and effective land use planning, environmental assessment and regulatory processes."

How will EIA and this government approach the issue of balancing economic development goals with environmental concerns? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. Madam Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Let me thank the member for that question, Mr. Chairman. I believe that the English term is "Sustainable Development Committee." The Minister responsible for ED&T reviews issues tasked to this committee. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Chairman: Thank you, Madam Premier. Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I look forward to asking further questions in regard to this in future House sittings.

Mr. Chairman, if I may, I would like to direct my question to Madam Premier in the line of development and mining. In 2007, the Government of Nunavut announced six principles to “serve as a framework for the development of a uranium development and mining management plan.” What is the status of developing this plan and when will it be tabled in the Legislative Assembly? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. Madam Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This matter is still under review by the Department of Economic Development and Transportation as this issue falls under their departmental mandate and responsibilities.

Currently, our government is guided by principles that were developed prior to the formation of this government. There are six principles defined that form the foundation of this government’s mandate which guide us today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Chairman: Thank you, Madam Premier. Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will look forward to asking these other economic development and environmental concerns with the appropriate departments, Hon. Minister Taptuna as well as Hon. Minister Shewchuk.

So I just want to follow up as well with these lines of questioning to see, for the record, where EIA stands on this. So with Madam Premier indicating the

economic development minister may be able to answer some questions, but I will find the appropriate time to ask these questions as a follow up. That’s just a comment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. (interpretation) That was not a question in my judgment, so I will let it slide. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have some questions about the GLO positions. I want to state for the record that I think it’s a great idea. Any employment or any position going to all three of my communities is definitely welcome.

The first question I’m wondering is: in terms of the GLO position, which is the government liaison position, and the MLO position, which is the municipal liaison officer, in no way, the funding for that position and the funding that goes to the hamlet is not going to be interrupted or changed, it will stay the same. Is that correct? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Madam Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With respect to this issue, we would need to start discussions on things related to this program between the hamlets and this government. The hamlets will have the discretion to decide what they want. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Madam Premier. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I got sidetracked, I guess. I didn’t actually

hear a yes or no. So yes, the funding will stay the same for the MLOs and they will receive the same amount of money. This is not a reduction. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Madam Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) The hamlets will have a choice. We will be in a position to discuss certain issues with the GLO and MLO duties and whatnot. The hamlets will have a choice to keep the MLO or give up the funding entirely. So we will be very much involved in discussions with the hamlet offices and they will have a choice.

Chairman: Thank you, Madam Premier. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So I guess we don't have to worry about the duplication of programs provided by the MLO and the GLO because they will have a choice to either take the GLO position, which would be a Government of Nunavut position with all of the benefits, northern allowance, and everything, or continue on with what they have. Is that what the Premier saying? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Madam Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you. Regarding the particular terminology in Inuktitut, Mr. Chairman, I would probably call it the government liaison officer.

We are looking towards creating GLO positions in all of the Nunavut

communities. As I stated earlier, we will be prioritizing the recruitment of these positions in the non-decentralized communities. During the planning stage, the hamlets that have MLOs, as not all communities have MLOs, we will start dialogues with those communities and see where there is duplication.

The new GLO positions will be government employees, well structured, and their job descriptions will be finalized. They will have the same benefits and job descriptions as any other Nunavut government employee. Everything will be detailed, their roles and responsibilities will be finalized, but they will have negotiated with the hamlet prior to that.

I hope that clarified it, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Madam Premier. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The explanation that you just gave and my understanding of what you are saying is different than what I had initially envisioned or had heard.

I'll use Arctic Bay as an example. Arctic Bay has an MLO and we have a person who is hired by the hamlet and CGS provides funding to the hamlet through its operational budget to pay for that person. So that person now who is working for the hamlet gets paid and now there is going to be this GLO position coming up. So are you saying she's going to lose her job and a GLO will then be coming in or will the funding still be there?

My question was: the funding will still be there for the person in the hamlet to

work as the MLO and then the position and the funding for Arctic Bay would come in for the GLO as a new position. That's the question I'm asking. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Madam Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think you understand it that yes, it's a new position. The GLO position is new. It's going to be exactly the way you stated. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Madam Premier. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you. That explains it. The next question is in regard to the rollout. In your opening comments, you spoke a bit about it and I know it says in the business plan that there are 15 positions to start with and then going up to 25. You had also sort of hinted in your opening comments that it's going to take a while to get the job description and to get the information together. So you're anticipating \$2 million this year.

When will those positions be filled? When will we see a GLO in, let's say, Grise Fiord? Are we thinking towards November or are advertisements going out April 1, once this is approved, to hire people within the next, hopefully, 90 days with the increase in productivity in HR? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Madam Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First of all, we will have to create the hire level or

the positions that the GLOs will report to and it will start in the fall in 2012, before the end of 2012. We would like to see those 14 positions established before the end of 2012. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Madam Premier. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was under the impression that they would be working by the end of this fiscal year. So then my understanding of the \$2 million is it was going out towards salaries, compensation and benefits for the 15 people who would be starting to work. My next question is: where is the \$2 million going this year and the \$4 million going next year? Is this not salary dollars? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Madam Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, I actually stated the year 2012 when I should have said 2011 when the 14 positions would be hired. I stated 2012, (interpretation ends) but it's actually 2011.

Chairman: Thank you, Madam Premier. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: That's great. 2011 is next year. My next question is: where is the \$2 million from this year that we're going to approve for this department? Where is it going this year? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Madam Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With respect to the GLOs, they will be an integral part

of forming our partnerships with the communities and they will be fully trained for their task.

We wish to undertake comprehensive training once the people are recruited, especially as they will form a direct linkage between the communities and this government. They will be the main point of contact in the communities. They will need to know all of the relevant information related to government operations as well as the peripheral organizations and associated bodies. This training will provide them that knowledge and we want ensure that all of these workers are properly trained.

We plan to have all of the 25 positions filled by fall of 2012. We want to start hiring by this November and the process will continue up to March 2012. This is how we envision these positions being filled. Am I clear enough?

Chairman: Thank you, Madam Premier. (interpretation) I would like to remind you that in order to make the technician's job easier, you should be acknowledging the chairperson by stating "Thank you, Mr. Chairman" when concluding your responses. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's great and I think that goes along with what Mr. Arvaluk was saying in terms of we need to make sure that the GLOs actually have the skill sets to be able to provide the service to the people in the communities. I agree with that.

I still don't think the Premier has answered my question. As of April 1, 2010 until March 31, 2011, we're going to approve \$2 million today for your

department to do something with the GLOs. You have now told us that it's not for paying salaries, which I was initially under the impression that that's what it was for, and it is for training, but there is going to be training after next year.

So that leaves a whole year and \$2 million of where money is going or not going. So I am curious to find out: where is this \$2 million that we're going to be approving going? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Madam Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): If I read out, Mr. Chairman, the breakdown of the funding, it's (interpretation ends) \$260,000 for tangible assets, this is basic set up; \$200,000 for training through contract services; \$130,000 for computer hardware and software; and \$40,000 for materials and supplies. (interpretation) This is funding slated for the GLOs.

The \$2,558,472 would be for salaries and benefits and \$812,000 for travel, so it totals to that figure. (interpretation ends) We estimate that no more than 40 percent of the anticipated ongoing budget would be required for salaries and benefits in 2010-11. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: *Qujannamiik*, Madam Premier. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Okay, I'm going to really have to go through the *Hansard* and read that because I'm confused again.

I thought the Premier said that no one was being hired this year. So you're

telling me that the people you are trying are not actually going to be Government of Nunavut employees, they're just going to be volunteers to go out for training. I guess what I'm understanding is that I'm not understanding the process and how this is going to work.

If I understand you correctly, there are going to be 15 people hired as GLOs, but they need to be trained. They won't be hired until next year, but training is going to happen this year. So maybe if you could clarify; I'm really trying to listen and understand this, but I must be missing something. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Madam Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We want to start seeing the GLO positions filled in the 2011 fiscal year.

With respect to the details that you are so inquisitive about, I will ask my deputy minister, who is on my right, to talk about them. He will probably repeat some of my response earlier in English. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Madam Premier. Mr. Weber.

Mr. Weber: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The ongoing cost of this entire program will be approximately \$4 million in O&M costs, including salaries of about \$2.5 million, and the other \$1.5 million are for all of the other things like travel, assets, and contract services.

In this current fiscal year, our goal by the end of the fiscal year is to have all 14 non-decentralized GLO positions staffed

and to have the 4 management positions staffed. So in total, we will have 18 positions staffed by the end of this fiscal year. We hope to staff the four management positions early.

We don't want to rely on contractors to design this program. We want it to be designed by employees. So those four management positions will be staffed in April. The salaries will start flowing for those as of April or as soon as we can get them staffed. Those people will design the program and design the training.

We hope to start the staffing of the 14 non-decentralized GLO positions by September of 2010. We have no illusions that we will have them all staffed by September of 2010. If we did, we would be spending about 50 percent of the salary dollars this fiscal year, but we realized that that will take some time in some communities.

So we estimate about 40 percent of the salary dollars will be spent in 2010-11. That's being used along with hiring and start-up costs for things like training to arrive at the \$2 million estimate for this year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Weber. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that explanation. That answers everything, so thank you very much.

My next question is that under the social advocate office, there's the Nunavut Suicide Prevention Strategy. I was just wondering if the Premier could give us an update as to what's happening with

that. This year, there's supposed to be the implementation of it. I'm just wondering if it's ready and finished and whether implementation can start. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Madam Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This strategy is now in its final phases. The Nunavut government is not the only one dealing with this issue as it relates to the Nunavut Suicide Prevention Strategy working group.

Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, the Nunavut government, and the Embrace Life Council are all working on the Nunavut Suicide Prevention Strategy. It's near completion and we believe it will soon be implemented. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Madam Premier. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With that Suicide Prevention Strategy complete and it is with NTI and the Embrace Life Council, when do you actually anticipate to have it... you said it's nearly complete, but is it going to be finished in April or when will it actually be done? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Madam Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The three partners are working together on the Nunavut Suicide Prevention Strategy, but I cannot say exactly when it would be completed. The three partners, which

are NTI, the Embrace Life Council, and the Nunavut government, are working together on it. I cannot tell you the exact date as to whether they will complete it, but I expect that it will be completed shortly. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Madam Premier. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again I hope it is completed soon mainly because we're going to be starting into April 1. It's my understanding is if you're a department and you're being asked to implement something, it would be nice to have the document that you're implementing in. If you're going to have it filtered through the different levels, people need to be able to read, understand, and interpret it and see how it's going to be ingrained into the department.

Part of my understanding of what the Suicide Prevention Strategy is, is the ASIST workshops. I know Mr. Tapardjuk was doing a Member's Statement about it. I was wondering if the Premier could update us on how that's going. My understanding of the ASIST program is that again it's a southern program but it is being *Nunavutized*. I'm just wondering if that has been accomplished. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Madam Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To elaborate further on this program, the Nunavut Suicide Prevention Strategy is being worked on as a three-way partnership. Although we do want them to complete it soon, (interpretation ends) it's an inter-

agency work, so we really have no control over as to when they will be done.

(interpretation) They are trying to *Nunavutize* the ASIST workshop that was done recently last spring and provide training in the communities. This is running very successfully. I have been informed that this is a program that's going to be planned for Nunavut communities. I will be pleased to inform the members and update the members on the progress of this program. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Madam Premier. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In terms of the social advocate's office itself, could the Premier explain how the positions have been drawn from different departments and how they're working together? Are they all now EIA employees or is there still a health representative, or a justice representative, or two EIA representatives on that advocate's office? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. I would like to note that your time has come up. Madam Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Deputy Minister, Markus Weber, will answer that question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Madam Premier. Mr. Weber.

Mr. Weber: Thank you. The office was created through last year's main estimates and business plan. One

director level position from the Department of EIA has been turned into the director of the Social Advocacy Office. That position is currently open for staffing with that competition closing on March 31 of this year. That person will lead the office.

There are two current employees of the office. One is the manager of the Women's Secretariat and that position was a transfer from the Department of Health and Social Services through the 2009-2010 main estimates. There is another person working as a contract employee on the suicide prevention work that was being funded out of the vacancy in the director position. So with the director being hired, that contract will be ending.

A new position was created as well for a social policy analyst and that position will be staffed by competition. It is currently vacant.

Lastly, the other position that was transferred from the Department of Health and Social Services is an administrative position for the Women's Secretariat. That position will take on further work. It is not just about women's issues but the position will also do administrative work for the rest of the office and do some work on other gender equality issues.

So in total, there are four positions. Two of those are currently staffed; one with the staff member, the other with a contractor. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Weber. I have Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am a bit perplexed by some of Mr. Elliott's comments. I was trying to see where his line of questioning was leading to and while he was talking, I was trying to envision myself in different positions. I would imagine myself as a mayor or as a councillor at the hamlet council when he was talking about the terms of reference currently in play for the MLO position in the communities, such as in Pond Inlet. I believe that is also the case for the other communities as that position will become redundant once the GLO position is created.

Will these municipalities be forced to pay the salary of the MLO if they wish to retain that position? From my perspective, this position becomes unnecessary since all of their duties are superseded by the GLO position. The MLO is already a liaison officer. The way it was set up was that the MLO, which is a hamlet position paid for via contract by the CGS department, served that role.

Now this other position will try and gather information related to hamlet operations, such as water trucks, garbage trucks, or the like, which require funding from the government. Now the GLO will be funded through the executive, but will be simply fulfilling that same role as a liaison officer.

With respect to the MLO position, that role will no longer be necessary as it will become redundant. If the hamlet wishes to retain the MLO position, how can we justify this when our finances are reviewed by the Auditor General? Will we not be reprimanded again for wayward spending? We ought to be

discussing this matter further before we cross that bridge and we also have to report to the Public Accounts Committee.

Can you provide some details as to how the hamlet could either retain the MLO position or how it will be resolved if they would like to transfer those funds to another position? A different PY will require funding from a different source so as not to see this funding. Can the hamlets be provided funding by the CGS department if the hamlets wanted to create another role for their MLOs? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Madam Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The municipalities will be able to keep those funds that they receive as block funding from this government. We will leave it at the discretion of the hamlets if they wish to return those funds.

With regard to communication, this government views the line of communication as a top priority. Just by listening to the concerns expressed by the public, they wanted this position created and we agreed to this initiative, along with all of the Members of the Legislative Assembly. Due to the importance we place on communication as the Nunavut government, we want the lines of communications between our governments, between the residents in the communities, as well as from Inuit in the communities to the government.

With respect to the roles envisioned, there are many roles for this position to undertake based on what we have

researched in relation to the MLO position. Currently, the MLO position has to work as a liaison for the hamlet, but on the side, they are also handling the government liaison related duties. The one position tasked to provide these services currently is overburdened simply due to the existing workload. We envision the GLO and MLO splitting those tasks based on their job requirements as each position has different responsibilities.

Further, those funds currently used for the MLO positions can be retained by the hamlets. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Madam Premier. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I accept that. However, there's a contract between the hamlets and CGS in which the hamlets agreed to carry out certain work to coordinate the government and the hamlets' O&M. So are you saying that you will be agreeing to changing the contract and the terms of reference with the hamlets so that they could keep their MLO and doing new jobs in the hamlet? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Madam Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) As part of the municipal funding program, I don't think the contract will be changing. What will be changing are the duties, as I illustrated earlier. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Madam Premier. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm relieved by that because that MLO position is everything in my community; anything that nobody wants to do, that's what he or she does. I'm glad that the contract is flexible to continue the funding for that position.

However, I'm still not in support of the creation of the GLO position, not because I don't want the job in my community but because the money is a beautiful \$4 million a year that I could use for something else that is a more tangible benefit to the community instead of just a liaison between the government and the community. Tangible benefits can be made, but money is always tight.

In this case, we seem to be creating a position for the purpose of communication when, in fact, the communities have been doing pretty good communicating since the creation of Nunavut in 1999 with emails, television, local radios, writing letters, and emailing to the government directly from their homes.

There's a lack of swimming pools in the communities. There's a lack of youth initiative programs in our communities. We seem to be only concentrating on adults all of the time maybe simply because they can vote. I don't know.

But I'm still not in support of the creation of a position. I think that money could have been used better elsewhere within the government. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Did you want to comment on that? Madam Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) In the *Qanukkanniq* report, communication was one of the loudest complaints that we received from the people that we are serving. They said that not only is the communication poor but it's broken. We want to move things forward so that we fix this communication issue as much as we can. Not only will the position be addressing communication issues but it will also be addressing services to the people in the communities and providing feedback to the government.

I have heard some complaints over the last week during question period or during the Committee of the Whole where individuals in the smaller communities or in any community are not being provided enough information, delays in receiving ID cards, job ads are not available, or the fact that summer student employment information is not readily available.

This position will be a major communication link in the communities. If the GLO will be in a position to immediately communicate to the government that things are not being received by the communities in such cases as, perhaps, information on summer employment, or job ads, or driver's licences and ID cards are delayed, and other stuff that happen here.

(interpretation) In the past, the GLO positions were very important as the residents of the community depended on

them. We have been reminded time and again that ever since the GLO position was cut, most residents no longer had anyone to turn to, especially Inuit in the communities.

With the original positions having been so important to the residents, when the research team looked at what was handled by the Nunavut government or for that matter, by the federal government, they noted that many Inuit, especially the unilingual people, depended on the GLO. Specifically, when they received any type of government documentation, many elders would become confused as to which person or position was now responsible for the services that used to be provided by the GLO. With the re-establishment of the GLO position, these individuals would be able to turn to the GLO to provide guidance as to where they would have to go.

If the GLO is unable to provide the proper service, the GLO would continue to assist the person to try and contact the other positions that could provide that assistance as this position will serve in that capacity. The position will serve many roles to many people in the community, more or less to coin an English phrase, the glue that binds the community to the government since this role will provide that linkage between the two in all different capacities.

We were simply trying to follow the recommendations as outlined in the *Qanukkanniq* Report Card and that was when we instigated this initiative. This government is listening to its constituents whom we represent here in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Madam Premier. (interpretation) Mr. Arvaluk, I think that you stated that you were done. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think the Premier misunderstood me. I'm not opposing the position in my community. I don't think the position is crucial or critical. There are other critical programs that need to be funded in the communities. That's all I'm saying.

I just don't feel that these positions should be a priority over other programs that have not yet been funded, that should be funded, rather than a lot of programs that are lacking in the capital items you will see in the fall when we're reviewing the capital that is shrinking all of the time in terms of needs and requirements. Very poor health centres elsewhere in three communities; municipal programs, water trucks and sewage, etcetera are in very poor condition.

I just felt that this position was not crucial or critical to be funded as quickly as possible. That's all I was saying. That's just a comment. (interpretation) That's it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Madam Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I agree there are a lot of crucial things that we have to work on as a government and we are addressing those crucial issues. Each individual department has their priorities looking at those crucial issues and this is one of the crucial issues under EIA that

we are trying to address, to accommodate the request by the public. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Madam Premier. I have a couple of names here that I have allowed for questioning earlier on. I would like to ask the members to keep in mind that if your question is not related to what has already been dealt with I will invite you to ask the question. Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank you for the opportunity. I wanted to wait until my colleagues had asked their questions. Mr. Chairman, if I may, just with your statement, I would like to follow up very quickly on a question that I had asked the Premier in regard to environmental assessment, regulatory processes, and the six principles, if I may, very briefly Mr. Chairman.

The GN's submission to the Nunavut Impact Review Board on the Kiggavik project was signed by an official with the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, dated February 17, 2009. Mr. Chairman, the reason why I raise this is because I tabled this letter in the House earlier this month and this letter indicates the screening of the Kiggavik proposal and the six principles.

Mr. Chairman, my question, I believe, is legitimate. Earlier, the Premier told me that ED&T is developing the government's uranium mining management policy. My question, Mr. Chairman, is: can the Premier clarify what EIA's role will be in approving the policy? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. Madam Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) ED&T has a mining policy, not a uranium policy. ED&T's mining policy encompasses all of the mining issues. I just want to make that clear.

As a Cabinet, we work together. As the Premier, I work with the Cabinet. We come out with one voice from the Cabinet, including the Premier. I do not work alone, but I do work with my very competent colleagues, the ministers that I work with in the Cabinet. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Madam Premier. Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The reason why I asked that was because in the letter, it states that "As the project proposal involves the mining of uranium NIRB is reminded of the Uranium Management Plan Principles approved by the Government of Nunavut on June 4, 2007," and it lists the six principles. So this one is specific, Mr. Chairman, on uranium and my question was: what is EIA's role in approving the policy, if I may ask? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. Madam Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are currently working on the issue of the six principles that you mentioned. The six principles were established before this government and now this government is

currently using them, but it is still under the mandate of Economic Development and Transportation. Once it's complete, it would have to be reviewed by the Cabinet and then if it is approved, you will be informed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Madam Premier. Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would not like the general public and the people of Baker Lake to be confused. I don't oppose development and employment opportunities. In fact, I'm in full support of advancement and economic development.

I know personally some people who work in the field of being support staff in certain areas. I'm very glad to see them have employment. I just want to discuss the fact that the issue of constituents in regard to this is very sensitive and their main concern is the environmental assessment. I just want to stress that perspective.

I just want to thank you, Mr. Chairman, for allowing me to raise this question again. I also thank Madam Premier for answering as well. Thank you very much. It's just a comment.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. Your point is taken.

I have Mr. Elliott. I would like to ask you to possibly ask questions that you had not already asked. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was going to ask if I'm allowed to in terms of the structure of the social advocate's office. There are four

positions. Do they physically work together in one office to coordinate and work together on the social net? Is it all one physical office? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Madam Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I did want to comment further with regard to my colleague's comments, but perhaps I will have some time later on to speak to that issue.

With respect to the particular question asked by my colleague, Mr. Elliott, yes, it is true. They would work in the same office. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Madam Premier. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I haven't actually asked any questions about the child and youth representative, which is part of that office as well and working with Health and Social Services.

To make my question short and hopefully get some answers so that I don't have to ask more, what I'm getting at and what I would like to know is: over the last couple weeks, in June, and in November, I was asking questions about what is being done and what has been happening with the social advocate's office and the child and youth representative. I have been told, "Research, research, and more research." So if you could outline what research had been done and what community consultations have been done, it would be greatly appreciated. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Madam Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The research area that the member speaks to is something we deem important, especially whether it is properly incorporating Inuit customs and practices, as the member has heard the response a fair number of times with how comprehensively this matter is being looked at. Also, (interpretation ends) the child and youth advocate position will be created. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Madam Premier. Any more questions, Mr. Elliott? Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It has been a year and I was just wondering. Other than shifting four positions, two from your department and two from other departments, I don't think I received an answer as to what research has been done or what has been done over the last year. So if you could give me a broad explanation of what has been done, it would be greatly appreciated. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Madam Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We're not the only department that deals with social issues. We collaborate with different departments. In particular, we are working with the Department of Health and Social Services.

As the minister stated earlier, he met with Inuit to consult with them on

traditional Inuit customs and practices to develop policies for youth and children and about child rearing and other issues during his December 2009 meeting. The process to embed Inuit culture in there is not completed yet, but we are attempting to put it into the government policies. We still have to consult with the people to embed Inuit culture into our government policies.

I wanted to mention that and Mr. Weber will make a supplement if I left anything out.

Chairman: Thank you, Madam Premier. Mr. Weber.

Mr. Weber: Thank you. The director of the Social Advocacy Office is being staffed. It has not been staffed, but the Social Advocacy Office has been very active over the last year. The focus has been a continuation of the Women's Secretariat work. It's the same individual doing the same work, but doing new initiatives as well. She has been very active in support of the Qullit Nunavut Status of Women Council and all of the work that they do.

In addition, the primary focus of the Social Advocacy Office over the last year has been using the funding from the director position to fill the suicide prevention and intervention advisor position for a second year. That individual has been coordinating the inter-agency work with the Embrace Life Council, NTI, and the RCMP on the development of the Suicide Prevention Strategy, which we hope will be done soon. We have also rolled out the ASIST training over the course of the last year, including the training of 24 Nunavummiut to be suicide intervention

trainers. All of that work has been going on through the Social Advocacy Office this year.

We have started to aggregate some of the research that have already been done on similar models in many jurisdictions that's called the child advocate. We have aggregated some binders of research that have been conducted in other jurisdictions and the model that's currently in place in other jurisdictions, including ombudsman models, but that's just an aggregation of paper at this point. We haven't done any thorough study of those different models. On the surface, considerable work needs to be done to customize those to Nunavut.

That is the reason that the Premier has repeatedly indicated that the Department of Health and Social Services really is taking the lead on child protection at this point. The ultimate outcome will be a review of the child protection program and the legislation, and that will happen over the course of the next two years. The ultimate outcome of that will also be the creation of a child and youth representative, which also will happen before the end of this government's mandate.

So there will be legislation for a child and youth representative, but it needs to be focused on Nunavut's needs and the specific circumstances of Nunavut, including Inuit societal values. So a lot of work has to be done on customizing those models. There isn't much sense when we don't currently have the leader of that group nor do we have all of that input from Nunavummiut that would allow us to create a position of a child and youth representative. That will happen once we have received all of that

input from Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Weber. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that explanation. That helps a lot.

From my side, I am sitting and wondering what's happening. We've got an office of four positions and one is not filled. It has been a full year and it hasn't been filled; \$186,000 was given last year and now you're asking for more. In my role as being accountable and prudent, I just want to make sure that the dollars are being spent in the manner that they should.

Is some of that \$186,000, obviously since that position wasn't filled, did that go to Health and Social Services to cover the work that they were doing in December? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Madam Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will refer that question to Deputy Minister Weber. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Madam Premier. Mr. Weber.

Mr. Weber: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Social Advocacy Office is currently staffed only by two individuals, but the expenditures of the office include the salary of those two individuals. They also include the \$250,000 contribution towards the Qullit Status of Women

Council. It includes \$50,000 in women's initiatives and grants.

In addition, they helped to fund many other activities with respect to the Suicide Prevention Strategy development over the course of the last year and with the ASIST training and some of the costs associated with that. The bulk of the costs of that training were covered by the Department of Health and Social Services, which also received funding from other sources in order to make that possible, but that is where many of expenditures went this year. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Weber. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think this will be my final question. I'm sure the Premier is expecting this one, but with my questions earlier, what actually went to people with disabilities in terms of that Social Advocacy Office and them being represented? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Madam Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It would be nice to create everything all at the same time for everybody, but it's not possible. We are working on it. We're looking for people to work there and also putting a priority on setting up the job descriptions. It would be nice to have somebody there working with people with disabilities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Madam Premier. Madam Premier, (interpretation) I believe you wanted to make a comment

before Mr. Aupaluktuq. You may go ahead.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank Mr. Aupaluktuq for asking a question about mining. It's very important for Nunavut. To elaborate further, mining related issues are reviewed by ED&T. (interpretation ends) The mining issues are taken into consideration on a case-by-case basis. I just wanted to reiterate that so that there is a good understanding by everyone. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Madam Premier. B-4. Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. Branch Summary. Directorate. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$5,322,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much.

>>*Laughter*

(interpretation ends) B-5. Branch Summary. Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. Statistical Services. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$824,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) B-6. Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. Branch Summary. Policy and Communications. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$2,916,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) B-7. Branch Summary. Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. Nunavut Cabinet. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$4,624,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) B-8. Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. Branch Summary. Commissioner of Nunavut. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$290,000. Agreed? Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just a question. If the Premier could give us an update on whether she's heard whether they have decided who the commissioner will be. I think her term is done on April 12 or 11. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Madam Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have asked our elected members about the issue of the Commissioner of Nunavut. The federal government is usually provided with a list of candidates for consideration. Once I was provided with a list, I submitted that list of candidates to the federal government. However, to date, I haven't had a response back on whether they have made their decision and who they named yet. Thank you. Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Madam Premier. I have no other names. Once again, Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. Branch Summary. Commissioner of Nunavut. Total

Operations and Maintenance. \$290,000.
Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) B-9. Branch Summary. Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. Total Intergovernmental Affairs. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$1,893,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) B-10. Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. Branch Summary. Aboriginal and Circumpolar Affairs. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$478,000. Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As of today, what is the status of the transboundary negotiations with First Nations groups in northern Saskatchewan and Manitoba? How is the GN keeping residents in affected communities, such as Arviat, informed of the situation? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. Madam Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will have Mr. Omilgoitok answer that question with regard to Aboriginal and Circumpolar Affairs.

Chairman: Thank you, Madam Premier. Mr. Omilgoitok.

Mr. Omilgoitok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Through you, Mr. Chairman, to the member first if I could preface my comments. The discussions between Canada and the Manitoba Denesuline are covered by a confidentiality agreement, so some of what we discussed we cannot disclose at the moment. The Government of Nunavut is an observer to those discussions.

Recently, the Government of Manitoba has agreed to negotiate with Inuit for Inuit interests south of the 60th parallel in northern Manitoba. So the Government of Manitoba has indicated that they have given their officials a mandate and a negotiator, and have communicated that to NTI's chief negotiator. There has been some communication there.

In terms of providing communication and notice to communities, we have to be careful in terms of what we communicate at the moment. They are in negotiations between parties and it is difficult at times to disclose those in public.

So if I could leave you with that, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Omilgoitok. I have no other names here. Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. Branch Summary. Aboriginal and Circumpolar Affairs. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$478,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) B-11. Branch Summary. Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. Devolution.

Total Operations and Maintenance.
\$1,219,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: We will go back to B-3. Department Summary. Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. Detail of Expenditures. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$17,566,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Are members agreed that we have concluded with Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) I would like to ask Premier Aariak if you have closing comments.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank everyone for their very excellent questions. Since communication is very important, I didn't mind at all your questions. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank my staff, Markus and David, and also the staff at the EIA office. Thank you.

Chairman: *Qujannamiik*, Madam Premier and your officials. (interpretation) Thank you. Sergeant-at-Arms, could you escort the officials out, please.

At this time, we will begin the clause-by-clause review of Bill 22 and Mr. Schell as the Chair. Thank you.

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

Chairman (Mr. Schell): Members, go to Bill 22 in your white legislation binder. Bill 22, *Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, 2010-2011*. Go to clause 1. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 2?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 3?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Go to Schedule on page 2. Schedule. Amounts Appropriated for the Fiscal Year Ending March 31, 2011. Vote 1: Operations and Maintenance. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$1,089,413.

Some Members: No.

Chairman: One billion, I'm sorry.

>>*Laughter*

I cut that a little short. \$1,089,413,000. Total Appropriation. \$1,089,413,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: We will go to clause 4.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 5?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Do members agree to Bill 22 as a whole?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Do members agree that pursuant to Rule 62(2) that Bill 22 can immediately be placed on the Orders of the Day for third reading?

Some Members: Agreed.

Bill 23 – Supplementary Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, No. 2, 2009-2010 – Consideration in Committee

Chairman: Go to Bill 23, Supplementary Appropriation (O&M) No. 2, 2009-2010. Committee of the Whole procedures, Mr. Chairman... I would like to ask the Minister responsible for the Department of Finance, Mr. Peterson, to make his opening remarks.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good afternoon. It's been a long afternoon.

Bill 23 provides \$12,081,000 for operations and maintenance expenditures, the bulk of which is for the Department of Health and Social Services. Of the \$9,191,000 being appropriated for the Department of Health and Social Services, \$5,991,000 is for one-time treatment costs of the H1N1 pandemic flu virus. The balance of \$3,200,000 is for anticipated shortfalls in residential care services and out-of-territory hospital services.

Other amounts in Bill 23 are:

- \$1 million to the Department of Finance for the Nunavut Outfitters Liability Protection Fund that was committed to by the government in 2008-09
- \$700,000 to the Department of Finance for the 2009-2010 Homeowner Energy Rebate program in recognition of the continuing high cost of heating our homes in the cold Nunavut winters
- \$670,000 to the Department of Environment to allow for the write-off of outstanding accountable advances for harvesters related to the Fur Pricing Program
- \$270,000 to the Department of Economic Development and Transportation to continue mine training projects and socio-economic monitoring committees through funding from the Community Development Trust
- \$150,000 to the Nunavut Housing Corporation for operational support to the Oqota Homeless Shelter for Men in Iqaluit
- \$100,000 to the Department of Justice for one-time transfers to the Legal Services Board funded through the Access to Justice Agreement

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my opening comments. I would be pleased to take questions. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Do you have witnesses that you would like to bring to the table?

Hon. Keith Peterson: They're not here right now, Mr. Chairman.

>>Laughter

He will be here shortly. Here he comes.

Chairman: Does the committee agree to bring in the witnesses?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Sergeant-at-Arms, could you escort the witnesses in.

Minister, please introduce your witness.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My witness is my Deputy Minister of Finance, Mr. Peter Ma. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Peterson. I suggest to members that wherever possible you ask your detailed questions in the page-by-page review of the supplementary estimates. Do members have any general comments? We will go to page 4. Finance. Operations and Maintenance. Not Previously Authorized. Centrally Administered Funds. Total Centrally Administered Funds. \$1.7 million. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Total Department. \$1.7 million. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: We will go to page 5. Justice. Operations and Maintenance. Directorate. Total Directorate. \$100,000. Agreed? Sorry, it was Not Previously Authorized. Directorate. Total Directorate. \$100,000.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Total Department. \$100,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Go to page 6. Health and Social Services. Operations and Maintenance. Not Previously Authorized. Directorate. Total Directorate. \$204,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Public Health. Item 2. Total Public Health. \$348,000. Not Previously Authorized. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Item 3. Treatment. Total Treatment. Not Previously Authorized. \$5,439,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Social Services. Item 4. Not Previously Authorized. \$1,769,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Health Insurance Programs. Item 5. Not Previously Authorized. \$1,431,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Total Department. \$9,191,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Page 7. Environment. Operations and Maintenance. Not Previously Authorized. Program Management. Total Program Management. \$670,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Total Department. Not Previously Authorized. \$670,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Page 8. Economic Development and Transportation. Operations and Maintenance. Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also want to thank the hon. minister and his officials for being here to answer this, I hope.

On page 8 of Economic Development, Item 1, it states, "To provide funding of \$270,000 to continue the mine training projects and Socio-Economic Monitoring Committees under the Community Development Trust." My question, Mr. Chairman, to the hon. minister is: who or which committees specifically are these? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Aupaluktuq for that question. Mr. Aupaluktuq had asked that question during a standing

committee meeting. I indicated then that we would have the appropriate minister here to provide the details of it, so I would like Minister Taptuna to take that question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Peterson. Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. A very good question. The mine training round table encompasses a number of organizations, which is led by the Department of ED&T. For that purpose, we do have some industry people. I will name off a couple of examples. We have Baffinland Iron on the board that sits on the table here, the mine training round table, Agnico-Eagle, Newmont, and we do have INAC and Arctic College within this organization to determine what specific training needs are at the time and into the future projects that are happening within Nunavut, specifically again for mine training.

The Socio-Economic Committee again is led by ED&T through the three regional directors of the regions. The entity encompasses all of our communities, particularly the affected communities that are affected by mining development. All of the concerns and issues are brought to the committee, which we, in turn, use as data information, which helps the government in determining what kind of negotiations we're going to be doing, or what we're going to be negotiating, or what our main points of negotiations are going to be during the DPA, or Development Partnership Agreement, negotiations. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the Hon. Minister Peterson for directing that question to ED&T. If I may, Mr. Chairman, just a follow-up for the record, where is this Socio-Economic Monitoring Committee based in? As you basically said, you obviously said that ED&T is taking the lead. Basically, that answers my own question.

If I may, for the record, ask: which projects and where? Obviously, the answer is that ED&T is leading this project as well. For the record, I want to ask: which projects and where are they? Obviously, I just wanted to ask that as a formality in the sitting. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that question. Within the three regions, in the Baffin, we do have the director in Pond Inlet chairing the committee in relation to the project that is happening by there, the Mary River project. In the Kivalliq, the director chairs the committee there on a number of projects, one of them in the past having been Agnico-Eagle at Meadowbank. In the Kitikmeot, the director in Kugluktuk chairs the committee for projects at Hope Bay. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Are there any other questions? We will go back to Economic Development. Operations and Maintenance. Not Previously Authorized. Economic Development.

Total Economic Development. \$270,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Total Department. Not Previously Authorized. \$270,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Go to page 9. Nunavut Housing Corporation. Operations and Maintenance. Not Previously Authorized. Nunavut Housing Corporation. Item 1. Total Nunavut Housing Corporation. \$150,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Total Department. Not Previously Authorized. \$150,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Go back to Schedule 1 on page 2. Schedule 1. Operations and Maintenance. Operations and Maintenance Appropriation. \$12,081,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Go back to Bill 23 in your white legislation binder. Bill 23, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 2, 2009-2010*. Clause 1. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 2. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 3. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Go back to Schedule on page 3. Schedule. Supplementary Amounts Appropriated for Fiscal Year Ending March 31, 2010. Vote 1: Operations and Maintenance. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$12,081,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Total Supplementary Appropriation. \$12,081,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Go back to Clause 4. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 5. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 6. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 7. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Do you agree to Bill 23 as a whole?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Do members agree that pursuant to Rule 62(2) that Bill 23 can immediately be placed on the Orders of the Day for third reading?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: I would like to ask Minister Peterson if he has any closing comments.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank yourself and the standing committee for your scrutiny of Bill 23. A couple of weeks there, last week, and again today, there were very good questions. I appreciate the colleagues for showing up to answer any questions that may have arisen.

I would like to thank my officials, Peter Ma for being here and also Mr. Chown, the Director of Expenditure Management, who is sitting in the Gallery.

I thank you very much for your time overall. Scrutiny of government monies is always appreciated. I think I have earned a new nickname over the last two weeks here. I'm starting to choke up because everybody has been calling me "Prudence" and the Minister of Prudence. I have been thinking of changing the name from the Department of Finance to the Department of Prudence in recognition of the support from the standing committee. So I appreciate your time today. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Peterson. I appreciate you answering the questions here. Could the Sergeant-at-Arms escort the minister and his witnesses out, please.

We will go to Bill 14, Miscellaneous... I would like the Law Clerk to join us at the table. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

**Bill 14 – Miscellaneous Statutes
Amendment Act, 2009, No. 2 –
Consideration in Committee**

Chairman: I would now like to ask the Minister responsible for Justice, Mr. Peterson, to make his opening remarks.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to present these proposed amendments to Bill 14.

Miscellaneous bills are commonly used in other jurisdictions to correct mistakes in Acts and to make other non-controversial changes. In fact, many jurisdictions do one every year. On division, Nunavut inherited several hundred statutes, many of which contain outdated references to the Northwest Territories or other errors.

Bill 14 is much longer than our previous Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Acts. It amends 21 Acts. The majority of the clauses deal with correcting minor errors and replacing references to the Northwest Territories. This bill also improves on some past legislative drafting practices, especially in relation to the use of definitions and ministerial titles.

I thank the committee for its consideration and look forward to the committee's assistance in improving the statutes of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Peterson. Do you have witnesses that you would like to the table?

Hon. Keith Peterson: Yes, I do, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Does the committee agree to bring in the witnesses?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Sergeant-at-Arms, could you escort the witnesses in.

Minister, please introduce your witness.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to introduce Mr. Thomas Druyan. He's the legislative drafter for the Department of Justice. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Does the Co-Chair of the Standing Committee on Legislation have comments? Please proceed.

Mr. Ningeongan: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As Co-Chair of the Standing Committee on Legislation, I am pleased to make some very brief opening comments as we begin consideration of Bill 14, *Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act, 2009, No. 2*.

The standing committee recognizes that the provisions of the bill are non-contentious and housekeeping in nature. Accordingly, the standing committee recommends the passage of Bill 14 to all members. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. We will now proceed to the clause-by-clause review of the bill starting with page 1. Clause 1. Do you agree? Sorry. I've got to read it upfront here first. Bill 14, *Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act, 2009, No. 2*. Clause 1?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 2?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 3?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 4?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 5?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 6?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 7?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 8?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 9?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 10?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 11?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 12?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 13?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 14?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 15?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 16?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 17?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 18?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 19?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 20?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 21?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: We will go back to Schedule A on page 9. Schedule A. *Archives Act, No. 1*. Do you agree to Schedule A?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Go back to Schedule B on pages 10 and 11. Page 10. Schedule B. *Coroners Act*. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: We will go to Schedule C. *Environmental Protection Act*. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: We will go to Schedule D on page 14 and 15. Schedule D. *Appropriation Act*. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: We will go to Schedule E on page 16. Schedule E. *Human Rights Act*. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: We will turn to Schedule F on page 17. Schedule F. *Income Tax Act*. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Go to Schedule G on page 18. Schedule G. *Interprovincial Subpoenas Act*. Do you agree to Schedule G?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Go to Schedule H on page 19. Schedule H. *Qulliq Energy Corporation Act*. Do you agree to Schedule H?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Go to Schedule I on page 20. Schedule I. *Victims of Crime Act*. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Do you agree to Bill 14 as a whole?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Does the committee agree that pursuant to Rule 62(2) that Bill 14 can now be immediately placed on the Orders of the Day for third reading?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Does the Minister of Justice have any closing comments?

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the standing committee for its scrutiny of Bill 14. It's important to keep our legislation up to date and this helps in that regard. We still have a little bit of work to do ahead of us over the next year.

I would like to thank Mr. Druyan for his diligent work in reviewing all of the legislation. I had an opportunity to talk to him last week about how he does it. It's quite amazing. I think he deserves a round of applause for the work he does, plus the other legislative lawyers in the Legislative Division over in the Department of Justice. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>>Applause

Chairman: I would like to thank the Minister of Justice for answering... there were no questions, but for showing up here and doing his opening statements and for his witness. Could the Sergeant-at-Arms please escort the minister and the witness out. Actually, you could stay there, I guess.

Now we're going to deal with Bill 25. I would now like to ask the Minister of

Justice, Mr. Peterson, to make his opening remarks.

**Bill 25 – Miscellaneous Statutes
Amendment Act, 2010 –
Consideration in Committee**

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank you for not making me walk back to my desk and then back here.

>>*Laughter*

Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to present these proposed amendments to Bill 25.

Miscellaneous bills are commonly used to correct mistakes in Acts and to make other non-controversial changes.

Bill 25 amends errors or outdated references to the Northwest Territories and the commissioner in another 30 Acts.

I thank the committee for its consideration and look forward to the committee's assistance in continuing to improve the statutes of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: We will go to Bill 25, *Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act, 2010*. Clause 1. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Go back to Schedule A on page 9. Schedule A. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 2. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Go back to Schedule B on page 9. Schedule B. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 3. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: We will go back to Schedule C on page 10. Schedule C. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 4. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Go back to Schedule D on page 10. Schedule D. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 5. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 6. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Go to Schedule E on page 11. Schedule E. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 7. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Go to Schedule F on page 11. Schedule F. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 8. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 14. Do you agree?

Chairman: Go to Schedule G on page 12. Schedule G. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Go to Schedule L on page 21. Schedule L. Do you agree?

Chairman: Clause 9. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 15. Do you agree?

Chairman: Go to Schedule H on page 13. Schedule H. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Go to Schedule M on page 22. Schedule M. Do you agree?

Chairman: Clause 10. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 16. Do you agree?

Chairman: Go to Schedule I on page 15. Schedule I. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Go to Schedule N on page 22. Schedule N. Do you agree?

Chairman: Clause 11. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 17. Do you agree?

Chairman: Clause 12. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 18. Do you agree?

Chairman: Go back to Schedule J on page 19. Schedule J. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 19. Do you agree?

Chairman: Clause 13. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 20. Do you agree?

Chairman: Go to Schedule K on page 20. Schedule K. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Go to Schedule O on page 23. Schedule O. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 21. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Go to Schedule P on page 24. Schedule P. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 22. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 23. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 24. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 25. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Go to Schedule Q on page 24. Do you agree with Schedule Q?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 26. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Go to Schedule R on page 25. Do you agree with Schedule R?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 27?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Go to Schedule S on page 25. Do you agree with Schedule S?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 28. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 29. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Go to Schedule T on page 25. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 30. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Go to Schedule U on page 26. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Do members agree to Bill 25 as a whole?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Do members agree that pursuant to Rule 62(2) that Bill 25 can immediately be placed on the Orders of the Day for third reading?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Does the minister have any closing comments?

Hon. Keith Peterson: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I again would just like to

thank the standing committee for its scrutiny of Bill 25. It's very important work. We only have 140 or 150 statutes to update and you will be seeing more of these, so I appreciate your scrutiny of the future legislation that will be coming forward. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Could the Sergeant-at-Arms please escort the minister and his witness out.

I would now like to ask the Minister responsible for the URRC, Minister Curley, to make his opening remarks.

Bill 21– An Act to Amend the Utility Rates Review Council Act – Consideration in Committee

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to appear before this committee today to provide you with information about amendments proposed to the *Utility Rates Review Council Act*.

Mr. Chairman, while larger amendments to the legislation may be necessary in the long run, I recommend to you the current amendments which would immediately address three issues raised with me by the Utility Rates Review Council.

The legislation will be amended in three areas to address the URRC's concerns: the size of the council and its support; the time allowed for the URRC to report to the Minister responsible for QEC on any applications; and the implementation of interim refundable rates so that the council is able to respond to urgent requests.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to thank the Standing Committee on Legislation for their questions, comments, and concerns

in our appearance before them on this legislation. It was helpful for the council to hear your questions, comments, concerns, and I'm sure that they will take them into consideration as they continue their fine work on our behalf.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to thank all of you for the opportunity to appear before you today. I look forward to any further questions that you may have. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Curley. Do you have witnesses that you would like to bring to the table?

Hon. Tagak Curley: I do, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Does the committee agree to bring in the witnesses?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Sergeant-at-Arms, could you escort the witnesses in.

Minister, please introduce your witnesses.

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On my left is Mr. Kirk Janes, he is the Secretary to the URRC. On my right is Mr. Thomas Druyan. I think he is quite familiar with the committee members. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Curley. Does the Co-Chair of the Standing Committee on Legislation have comments? Please proceed.

Mr. Ningeongan: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As Co-Chair of the Standing Committee on Legislation, I am pleased

to make opening comments as we begin consideration of Bill 21, *An Act to Amend the Utility Rates Review Council Act*.

During the minister's recent appearance before the standing committee on the occasion of its clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 21, members took the opportunity to raise a number of concerns and questions.

On November 30, 2009, the Qulliq Energy Corporation announced that its next General Rate Application will be submitted in the spring of 2010. Bill 21 proposes to increase the size of the Utility Rates Review Council to five members. Although the standing committee has no objections to this expansion, it is noteworthy that the appointments of the council's current members expire in August of this year. It will be important for the minister to act quickly to ensure that members of the council are appointed in a timely manner and are fully prepared to review the General Rate Application.

The standing committee notes that Bill 21 proposes to appoint an executive director for the council. It is the committee's understanding that the present incumbent who serves as the Utility Rates Review Council's secretary will assume this responsibility. Given that the office-holder is an employee of the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, it is important to ensure that the position's reporting relationship to the Utility Rates Review Council is structured in a manner that respects the independent nature of the council.

The standing committee notes that Bill 21 proposes to give the Utility Rates Review Council new powers to "require a utility to provide any relevant information that the Review Council requests." Although it is not entirely clear to the standing committee what problems may have existed in the past that have necessitated this amendment, the standing committee recognizes that the Utility Rates Review Council must have complete and timely access to financial and other information that is relevant to fulfilling its mandate. However, it is also important that these powers be exercised in a manner that respects the confidentiality of personal information concerning the QEC's employees and customers.

On December 18, 2009, the Qulliq Energy Corporation applied for permission to continue imposing a fuel stabilization rider of 4.68 cents per kilowatt-hour. On the same date, this request was referred to the Utility Rates Review Council for review. A few days later, the Cabinet approved regulations to impose this fuel stabilization rider on an interim basis until a final instruction is given by the minister, following the completion of the Utility Rates Review Council's review process. These regulations were published in the Part II of the December 2009 edition of the *Nunavut Gazette*. The Qulliq Energy Corporation did not issue a news release concerning its application until February 4, 2010.

Clause 8 of Bill 21 provides that in the event that a ministerial instruction arising from the review process results in no new rate or a rate that is less than the interim rate, customers are to receive a credit to reflect any overpayment. This

approach has been included in previous regulations approved by the Cabinet with respect to the Qulliq Energy Corporation's previous applications for fuel stabilization riders.

It is important that customers and the general public receive clear and timely information concerning what ministerial instructions are ultimately given and that the Qulliq Energy Corporation issues any credits in a timely manner. It is also important that the Qulliq Energy Corporation's annual reports and financial statements provide clear and comprehensive information concerning the operations of its Fuel Stabilization Fund.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening comments. The standing committee recommends the passage of Bill 21 to all members. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Are there any general comments? If there are no general comments, we will now proceed to the clause-by-clause review of the bill starting with page 1. *Bill 22, An Act to Amend the Utility Rates Review Council Act.* Clause 1. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 2. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 3. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 4. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 5. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 6. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 7. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 8. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 9. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 10. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 11. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 12. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 13. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 14. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Go back to Schedule on page 5. Is the committee agreed to the Schedule?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Is the committee agreed to Bill 21 as a whole?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Is the committee agreed that pursuant to Rule 62(2) that Bill 21 can immediately be placed on the Orders of the Day for third reading?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: I would like to ask the minister if he has any closing comments.

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would just like to thank all of the members for their very courteous agreement on all of the amendments. I look forward to working with an expansion in URRC and I'm sure that the chairman who is currently in Rankin Inlet, who was not able to be here, but he will be grateful for having an opportunity now to do his work with some relief and help on the way. Thank you.

Chairman: I would like to thank the minister and his witnesses for arriving here. Would the Sergeant-at-Arms please escort the minister and witness out.

Go ahead, Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At this time, I would like to move to report progress. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: There is a motion on the floor and it is not debatable. Everybody in favour. The motion is carried. I will now rise to report progress. I've got to get out of here.

>> *Laughter*

Speaker (interpretation): 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 Bills 14, 21, 22, 23, and 25 and would like to report that Bills 14, 21, 22, 23, and 25 are immediately ready for third reading. And, Mr. Speaker, I move that the Report of the Committee of the Whole be agreed to.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Schell. There is a motion on the floor and it's seconded by Mr. Arvaluk. The motion is in order. All those in favour, raise your hand. Opposed. The motion is carried.

Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. Hon. Keith Peterson.

Item 21: Third Reading of Bills

Bill 22 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2010-2011 – Third Reading

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Arviat, that Bill 22, *Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, 2010-2011*, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. The motion is in order. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 22 is ready for assent.

Third Reading of Bills. Hon. Keith Peterson.

**Bill 14 – Miscellaneous Statutes
Amendment Act, 2009, No. 2 –
Third Reading**

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Arviat, that Bill 14, *Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act, 2009, No. 2*, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. The motion is in order. All those in favour of the motion, raise your hand. Opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 14 is ready for assent.

Third Reading of Bills. (interpretation ends) Hon. Tagak Curley.

**Bill 21 – An Act to Amend the Utility
Rates Review Council Act – Third
Reading**

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Arviat, that Bill 21, *An Act to Amend the Utility Rates Review Council Act*, be read for the third time. (interpretation) Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Curley. The motion is in order. All those in favour, raise your hand. Opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 21 is ready for assent.

Third Reading of Bills. (interpretation ends) Hon. Keith Peterson.

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

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

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. The motion is in order. All those in favour of the motion, raise your hand. Opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 23 is ready for assent.

Third Reading of Bills. (interpretation ends) Hon. Keith Peterson.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet and Whale Cove, that Bill 25, *Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act, 2010*, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. The motion is in order. All those in favour of the motion, raise your hand. Opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 25 is ready for assent.

(interpretation ends) Third Reading of Bills.

Before we proceed with the Orders of the Day, Mr. Clerk, will you ascertain if

the Commissioner of Nunavut is prepared to enter the Chambers and give assent to bills. Mr. Clerk.

Assent to Bills

Bill 14 – Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act, 2009, No. 2 – Assent

Bill 21 – An Act to Amend the Utility Rates Review Council Act – Assent

Bill 22 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2010-2011 – Assent

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

Bill 24 – Legislative Assembly Statutes Amendment Act, 2010 – Assent

Bill 25 – Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act, 2010 – Assent

Commissioner Ann Meekitjuk-Hanson (interpretation): Thank you. Members, as the Commissioner of Nunavut, I hereby give assent to the following bills:

- Bill 14, *Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act, 2009, No. 2*;
- Bill 21, *An Act to Amend the Utility Rates Review Council Act*;
- Bill 22, *Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, 2010-2011*;

- Bill 23, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 2, 2009-2010*;
- Bill 24, *Legislative Assembly Statutes Amendment Act, 2010*; and
- Bill 25, *Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act, 2010*.

That is it for the bills.

I would like to take this opportunity to say that I am grateful to you all. When I went to your communities, I felt the reception and the warmth from the time I began my office. Five years have already passed and this is my last opportunity as my term expires April 11, which is next month. This marks the end of my term.

I thank you all, members, for your kind words and support over the years and for your communities that are very receptive. Thank you very much all of you and I'll shake each of your hands. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Please be seated. Thank you. We now have Acts.

Item 22. Orders of the Day.
(interpretation ends) Committee Clerk Stephen Innuksuk.

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Clerk Assistant (Mr. Innuksuk) (interpretation): Orders of the Day for June 1, 2010:

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
17. First Reading of Bills
18. Second Reading of Bills
19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
 - Tabled Document 13 – 3(2)
 - Tabled Document 55 – 3(2)
 - Tabled Document 66 – 3(2)
 - Tabled Document 99 – 3(2)
 - Tabled Document 100 – 3(2)
20. Report of the Committee of the Whole

21. Third Reading of Bills

22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

>>*Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you very much. This House stands adjourned until Tuesday, June 1, at 1:30 p.m.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 17:52*

