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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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(Tununiq)

Moses Aupaluktuq
(Baker Lake)

Hon. Tagak Curley
(Rankin Inlet North)
Minister of Health and Social Services; Minister responsible for the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission; Minister responsible for the Utility Rates Review Council

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna
(Kugluktuk)
Deputy Premier; Minister of Economic Development and Transportation

Hon. Hunter Tootoo
(Iqaluit Centre)
Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation; Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation; Minister responsible for Homelessness

Jeannie Ugyuk
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Table of Contents

Opening Prayer.....	1959
Money Message.....	1959
Ministers' Statements	1960
Members' Statements	1963
Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery.....	1974
Oral Questions.....	1975
Written Questions.....	1994
Returns to Written Questions*	1994
Tabling of Documents	1995
Notices of Motions	1996
Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills	1997
Motions.....	1998
Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters	1999
Report of the Committee of the Whole	2025
Orders of the Day	2026

A.

Daily References

Tuesday, June 1, 2010 1959

B.

Ministers' Statements

148 – 3(2): Fiscal Action Plan (Peterson) 1960
149 – 3(2): Update on Audit of Nunavut Housing Trust Expenditures (Tootoo) 1960
150 – 3(2): Boarding Home Update (Curley)..... 1961
151 – 3(2): Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit Update (Tapardjuk) 1962
152 – 3(2): Environment Week 2010 (Shewchuk)..... 1962

C.

Members' Statements

215 – 3(2): Reflections on Being Elected to Represent the Constituency of Nattilik (Ugyuk). 1963
216 – 3(2): Committees and Councils of Baker Lake (Aupaluktuq)..... 1965
217 – 3(2): Congratulations to Sanikiluaq's Grade 12 Graduates (Rumbolt) 1966
218 – 3(2): Encouraging Nunavummiut to Recycle (Okalik) 1967
219 – 3(2): Welcome Jeannie Ugyuk, Nattilik MLA (Aariak)..... 1967
220 – 3(2): Spending Summer in Grise Fiord and Resolute Bay (Elliott)..... 1968
221 – 3(2): NTEP Graduates in Kugaaruk (Ningark)..... 1969
222 – 3(2): 30th Anniversary of the Hamlet of Chesterfield Inlet (Ningeongan) 1970
223 – 3(2): Plebiscite Result in Pond Inlet (Arvaluk) 1970
224 – 3(2): Kitikmeot Tour (Peterson)..... 1971
225 – 3(2): Congratulations to Kugluktuk Graduates (Taptuna)..... 1972
226 – 3(2): Annual Fishing Derby (Curley) 1973
227 – 3(2): Decentralized Positions in Pangnirtung (Komoartok) 1973

228 – 3(2): Arviat Fishing Derby (Shewchuk)..... 1974

D.

Oral Questions

348 – 3(2): Mentoring Program for NTEP Graduates (Ningark) 1975

349 – 3(2): Update on Baffin Bay Polar Bear Quota (Arvaluk)..... 1977

350 – 3(2): Plastic Bags in Nunavut (Okalik) 1978

351 – 3(2): Minimum Wage (Rumbolt) 1980

352 – 3(2): Need for Training in Relation to the Family Abuse Intervention Act (Ugyuk)..... 1980

353 – 3(2): Oil Spill Preparedness in the Arctic (Elliott) 1982

354 – 3(2): Purchase Price of 12 Telehandlers (Schell) 1985

355 – 3(2): Plans for Non-Inuit Nunavummiut Health Coverage (Okalik)..... 1986

356 – 3(2): Dialysis Machine for Nunavut (Ningeongan)..... 1988

357 – 3(2): Minimum Wage Annual Report (Elliott)..... 1990

358 – 3(2): Sealift Shipping Contract (Okalik) 1992

E.

Written Questions

018 – 3(2): Attendance Rates in Nunavut (Ugyuk)..... 1994

F.

Returns to Written Questions

Return to Written Question 003 – 3(2): Annual Fuel Purchases by the Government of Nunavut
(Clerk)..... 1994

Return to Written Question 004 – 3(2): Government of Nunavut Responses Adopted at the 2009
Annual General Meeting of the Nunavut Association of Municipalities (Clerk) 1994

Return to Written Question 005 – 3(2): Ministerial Travel (Clerk) 1994

Return to Written Question 006 – 3(2): Status of the Implementation of the Nunavut Housing Trust Delivery Strategy (Clerk)	1994
Return to Written Question 007 – 3(2): Enforcement of the Wildlife Act (Clerk)	1994
Return to Written Question 008 – 3(2): Correctional Facilities, Recidivism Rates and Rehabilitation Programs (Clerk)	1995
Return to Written Question 009 – 3(2): Activities of the Nunavut Liquor Licensing Board (Clerk)	1995
Return to Written Question 010 – 3(2): Development Partnership Agreement between Government of Nunavut and the Meadowbank Mining Corporation (Clerk)	1995
Return to Written Question 011 – 3(2): Government of Nunavut Responses to Resolutions Adopted at the 2009 Kitikmeot Mayors’ Conference (Clerk)	1995
Return to Written Question 012 – 3(2): Government of Nunavut’s Actions in Response to Motion 46 – 2(4) (Clerk)	1995
Return to Written Question 013 – 3(2): Loans Made By the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation (Clerk)	1995
Return to Written Question 014 – 3(2): Operations of the Nunavut Liquor Commission (Clerk)	1995
Return to Written Question 015 – 3(2): Foster Care (Clerk)	1995
Return to Written Question 016 – 3(2): Status of Integrated Community Sustainability Plans and Infrastructure in Arctic Bay, Grise Fiord, and Resolute Bay (Clerk)	1995
Return to Written Question 017 – 3(2): Patient/Client Complaints Procedure of the Department of Health and Social Services (Clerk)	1995

G.

Tabling of Documents

155 – 3(2): Commission of Appointment (Aariak)	1995
--	------

156 – 3(2): Resolutions from the 2010 Baffin Mayors’ Forum (Elliott).....	1996
157 – 3(2): Return to Oral Question 319 – 3(2) Addressing Concerns Relating to Health and Social Services (Clerk)	1996
158 – 3(2): Return to Oral Question 344 – 3(2) Cape Dorset School Project Cost (Clerk)	1996
159 – 3(2): Return to Oral Question 277 – 3(2) By-Elections for DEAs (Clerk)	1996
160 – 3(2): Response to Petition 3 – 3(2) Petition for a Safe House in Kugaaruk (Clerk)	1996
066 – 3(2): 2008-2009 Lease Activity Report – Consideration in Committee.....	1999
099 – 3(2): Contract Activity Report 2008-09 – Consideration in Committee	1999
100 – 3(2): Procurement Activity Report 2008-09 – Consideration in Committee.....	1999

H.

Motions

022 – 3(2): Standing Committee Appointments and Revocations – Notice (Aupaluktuq)	1996
023 – 3(2): Removal of the Member of Iqaluit Centre from the Executive Council – Notice (Okalik).....	1996
022 – 3(2): Standing Committee Appointments and Revocations (Aupaluktuq).....	1998

I.

Bills

Bill 33 – An Act to Amend the Integrity Act – Notice.....	1997
Bill 34 – An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act – Notice ...	1997
Bill 28 – Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 1, 2010-2011 – Notice.....	1997
Bill 29 – Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 2, 2010-2011 – Notice.....	1997
Bill 30 – Supplementary Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, No. 1, 2010-2011 – Notice.....	1997
Bill 31 – Supplementary Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, No. 2, 2010-2011 – Notice.....	1997

Bill 32 – Forgiveness of Debts Act, 2010 – Notice.....	1997
Bill 36 – Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act, No. 2, 2010 – Notice	1997

Iqaluit, Nunavut
Tuesday, June 1, 2010

Members Present:

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

Item 1: Opening Prayer

Speaker (Hon. James Arreak): Thank you. Before we start, I would like to ask Mr. Elliott to say the opening prayer. Mr. Elliott.

>>*Prayer*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Elliott. A very good afternoon, Premier, Ministers, Members of the Legislative Assembly, and Nunavummiut. We are very pleased to have you back in the House.

(interpretation ends) Before we proceed, I would like to take this opportunity to welcome the new Member for Nattilik, Jeannie Ugyuk, to the House.

>>*Applause*

Welcome. This balances out the House, with women on both sides, and brings more warmth to the House.

Before we proceed with the Orders of the Day, I have received the following

communication from the new Commissioner of Nunavut, Edna Elias, dated May 31, 2010.

Money Message

Hon. James Arreak, Speaker of the House
Legislative Assembly of Nunavut
Iqaluit, Nunavut
X0A 0H0

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

- Bill 28 – *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 1, 2010-2011*
- Bill 29 – *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 2, 2010-2011*
- Bill 30 – *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 1, 2010-2011*
- Bill 31 – *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 2, 2010-2011*

Sincerely, Edna E. Elias, C.M.
Commissioner of Nunavut

Going back to the Orders of the Day. Ministers' Statements. Hon. Keith Peterson.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

Minister's Statement 148 – 3(2): Fiscal Action Plan

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Welcome back to my colleagues. It's good to be back here at the spring session. I'm sure we're missing some good spring weather back at our home communities.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to update members on the actions we are taking to address the shortfall in the Nunavut Housing Trust. We have developed a four-point action plan.

The first step requires the Nunavut Housing Corporation to provide \$18.9 million from its own fiscal resources.

Second, \$22 million of capital projects for 2010-11 have been deferred to 2011-12. We intend to move these projects forward and associated funds are in the draft 2011-12 capital plan.

Third, reductions in departmental budgets account for an additional \$16.8 million. These reductions in departmental operations and maintenance include: prioritizing the hiring of vacant positions and maximizing professional development and training budgets.

The fourth and final point to the fiscal action plan sees \$2.3 million coming from the government's contingency fund.

We have carefully balanced the needs of Nunavummiut in developing the plan. Housing is an essential component of our *Tamapta* mandate. The plan seeks to

ensure that the Nunavut Housing Trust is completed as originally envisioned while minimizing the impact to departments.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to reassure members that all existing programs and services provided to Nunavummiut continue to be maintained. This is an opportunity for the government to enhance efficiencies in its operations and support increased productivity.

Tomorrow, I am introducing supplementary appropriation bills and all members will have the opportunity to review our plan in detail. I look forward to working with all members to address the challenge. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Minister's Statement 149 – 3(2): Update on Audit of Nunavut Housing Trust Expenditures

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Welcome back everybody. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to inform my colleagues that as per Cabinet and Minister of Finance direction, the Nunavut Housing Corporation has engaged Deloitte & Touche LLP to audit the Nunavut Housing Trust.

The Minister of Finance and I met with the Auditor General of Canada, Ms. Sheila Fraser, on April 26 of this year to undertake this audit. The Office of the Auditor General was unable to do so at this time, but recommended a number of accounting firms who could complete this audit to her satisfaction. An

invitational request for proposals was issued and closed on May 28. The terms of reference were developed in conjunction with the Office of the Auditor General and GN's Department of Finance.

The results of this audit will be available by the end of the summer and will verify the Nunavut Housing Corporation's reported expenditures, comment on the corporation's forecasting to completion, and review the original budgeting process to comment on contributing factors to the shortfall. The report will also review the controls and reporting that have since been implemented by the Nunavut Housing Corporation and recommend any process improvements. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Minister's Statement 150 – 3(2):
Boarding Home Update**

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to also welcome the new Member of the Legislative Assembly, Ms. Ugyuk, and I am very pleased that she is here.

I would also like to welcome the people of Rankin Inlet and please feel free to call our office if you would like further information.

Mr. Speaker, the Department of Health and Social Services is committed to providing high quality facilities and consistent care for clients who stay in boarding homes. Boarding homes are an

integral part of Nunavut's medical travel system and provide a home away from home for eligible Inuit, especially unilingual Inuit who do not speak English.

I am pleased to update my colleagues today on two of our new and expanded facilities in Yellowknife and Iqaluit.

Mr. Speaker, the Larga Kitikmeot Boarding Home in Yellowknife started accepting clients in December 2009. This facility provides comfortable accommodations, programs, and services for up to 56 clients at a time. We have received positive comments from clients who have stayed at this new home. The official grand opening of Larga Kitikmeot took place recently last month on May 29.

The new Iqaluit Boarding Home is nearing completion and will ensure Baffin region residents continue to receive quality care and service while staying outside the hospital. This 90-bed boarding home is located directly across the street from Qikiqtani General Hospital and is expected to be ready for occupancy by July 2010.

Mr. Speaker, we ensure that our boarding home partners make their facilities as comfortable and familiar as possible by providing culturally relevant services, furnishings, and traditional food. We strive to make each client's experience in the boarding home the next best thing to staying in their own home when accessing medical care. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Minister's Statement 151 – 3(2): Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit Update

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Welcome to Iqaluit. Most of us prefer to be home, but we are here to deal with some pressing issues.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to give an update to my colleagues and Nunavummiut about *Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit's* development. *Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit* Members were appointed in November 2009. The members attended orientation sessions and voted their chair and vice-chair in January-February 2010.

Executive director and manager of research and evaluation have been recently hired and the job openings will soon open for the remainder of staff. The current staff are setting up the office and establishing relationships with different organizations in Nunavut and Nunavummiut.

The IUT members met in Cambridge Bay at the end of May to establish their procedures and by-laws and considered other matters. The mandate of the *Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit* is to help expand the knowledge and expertise available with respect to the Inuit language and to make important decisions about its use, development, and standardization.

Once the division is staffed, the IUT office will soon become fully functional. The members and staff are looking forward to working with you and Nunavummiut to protect and preserve our beautiful Inuit language, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

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

Minister's Statement 152 – 3(2): Environment Week 2010

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, would like to welcome all the members back to the sitting of the House, especially to the new member.

Mr. Speaker, May 31 to June 6, this week, marks Environment Week, which is dedicated to raising environmental awareness and appreciation across the country. I would like to take this opportunity to update you on the many great public education and awareness building initiatives led by my department taking place during Environment Week and year-round.

As you know, Nunavutmiut have lived sustainably for countless generations by showing respect and care for the land, animals, and environment. My department uses *Avatittinnik Kamatsiarniq*, or Environmental Stewardship, as a guiding principle to promote and work towards environmental sustainability.

This year, as an Environment Week challenge, we are asking Nunavummiut

to share with us what this principle means to them today. All participants will receive an eco-friendly prize and the best entries will be published and shared throughout the territory. The goal of this campaign is to inspire and motivate people to take pride in both the environment and the age-old traditions that have and will help people live in harmony with it in the past, present, and future.

In addition to this Environment Week challenge, my department is also working on a territory-wide anti-littering campaign as well as supporting community cleanup events throughout Nunavut once again this year. We also have an ongoing environmental education program that works with schools, community, and non-profit organizations and our departmental staff to promote and foster environmental leadership development and environmental literacy year-round.

Mr. Speaker, I truly believe that education and awareness are integral parts of the environmental stewardship puzzle. Through its demonstrated commitment to engaging and educating the public, my department is taking great strides toward environmental sustainability in Nunavut. *Ma'na*, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Ministers' Statements. Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Nattilik, Jeannie Ugyuk.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 215 – 3(2): Reflections on Being Elected to Represent the Constituency of Nattilik

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is a great honour to rise today to make my first Member's Statement in this House.

I would like to begin by thanking you and all of my colleagues for the warm welcome that I have received since being elected to the Legislative Assembly. I am very grateful for your support and I look forward to working with every Member of this House during my term of office.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to express my deep appreciation to all of my constituents in Gjoa Haven and Taloyoak for the trust and confidence that they have placed in me to serve as their representative in the Legislative Assembly. I intend to live up to their trust every day that I serve here.

Mr. Speaker, I also wish to thank the elders of Taloyoak and Gjoa Haven for the advice and wisdom that they shared with me. They have given me a past to the future, provided valuable advice, and told me not to be fearful of the government operations or system. They want me to represent the people.

For the kind words of advice, I would like to thank Angmalluk, Uttaq, and Iqalliyuk, who I believe is currently in a hospital in Yellowknife. I just want to thank those three ladies because they provide me with a lot of advice. In Gjoa Haven, I would like to thank Sangujaq as well as Annie Marnaq and Joseph Aoko. They all shared their strength

with me in trying to provide services to my people and I thank them.

I want to thank my relatives; my family, my mother, my uncles, my aunts, my godmother, and my nephews. They have been supporting me and they have helped me get to this day. They are my relatives and I thank them.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to acknowledge...

Speaker (interpretation): I'm sorry, but your time has run out. You have to ask for unanimous consent to conclude your statement. Ms. Ugyuk.

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): I would like to ask for unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ms. Ugyuk is seeking unanimous consent to conclude her statement. Are there any nays? There are no nays. You may conclude your statement, Ms. Ugyuk.

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I also wish to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the contributions made by the previous MLAs who represented my constituency, including the Hon. Leona Aglukkaq, who is now our hard-working Member of Parliament. She is working very hard in trying to promote the interests of Nunavummiut.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to acknowledge my fellow candidates in the recent by-election, Joseph Aglukkaq and Anthony Angutittauruq. Both

candidates brought energy and ideas to the race.

Mr. Speaker, the recent by-election for the Nattilik riding provided me with the opportunity to hear directly from residents in Taloyoak and Gjoa Haven about their concerns and priorities for our two communities. I would like to take a moment to share these with the House.

Mr. Speaker, as you know, I am the first resident of Taloyoak to have been elected to the Legislative Assembly since the creation of Nunavut. During the by-election campaign, I was able to travel to Gjoa Haven on two occasions to meet with residents. I very much look forward to advocating for the needs both communities in the Legislative Assembly to the best of my abilities.

Mr. Speaker, both of the communities of Taloyoak and Gjoa Haven have urgent infrastructure needs, including renovations to Gjoa Haven's high school and a new health centre and air terminal building for Taloyoak. I will work to ensure that Nattilik receives its fair share of capital investment.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, there are a number of broad issues that I look forward to addressing in the Legislative Assembly. As you may be aware, my personal background is in the area of social work and education. My experience in working with youth and families has made me very aware of the challenges that we face as a territory in these areas.

Mr. Speaker, there is an urgent need to address the issue of family violence. We need to ensure that our communities

have adequate resources to provide shelters to people in need. We need to ensure that our frontline workers and RCMP officers receive appropriate training and tools with which to administer the *Family Abuse Intervention Act*.

Mr. Speaker, I understand that some of my new colleagues have been raising questions and suggestions concerning the organizational structure of the government.

I believe that we need to take a serious look at reorganizing the Department of Health and Social Services into two separate departments. I believe that this has the potential of allowing one department to focus its energies and attention on the delivery of medical care, while allowing the other department to focus on social services and programs for children and families.

I also look forward to considering the government's proposed new *Child and Family Services Act*. I hope that my personal experience in working with the current legislation will enable me to make a positive contribution to this process.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that we need to take action to address the issue of addictions and substance abuse. We need to open a residential treatment facility in Nunavut that is staffed by Nunavutmiut using culturally appropriate methods of counselling. We need to recognize that it takes the whole community to support each other.

Mr. Speaker, I am a former teacher and I am committed to an education system that provides the knowledge and skills

that our children need to succeed in today's world. As a Member of the Legislative Assembly, I will be pushing the government to pay more attention to such issues as non-attendance, graduation standards, and learning outcomes.

I am not confident that our schools today are graduating students with the skills that they need to pursue post-secondary education and training anywhere in this country. As a former language teacher, I am pleased that our education system has made progress in the areas of language and culture. However, I believe that the system needs more balance by increasing emphasis on the other areas that I mentioned.

Mr. Speaker, I want to conclude by acknowledging that while it is a tremendous honour to serve in this House, I recognize that our work has only just begun. Working together, I am confident that we can achieve important progress on behalf of all of our constituents. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. Members' Statements. Member for Baker Lake, Mr. Aupaluktuq.

**Member's Statement 216 – 3(2):
Committees and Councils of Baker
Lake**

Mr. Aupaluktuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to acknowledge especially the newest Member, Jeannie Ugyuk. I would like to welcome her to the House. She will be

working with us and she will be learning a lot of the legislative systems.

Mr. Speaker, it's boating time now in Nunavut and Baker Lake. I want all Nunavummiut to remember that when you go boating or ski-doing when you are going fishing or hunting, use life vests and ensure that you have them on hand because people always go through hard times.

I also want to remind the people of Baker Lake, especially the younger people, that the youth are starting to understand slowly how the systems work in our community and who the members are. Youth are starting to want to find out more details about the committee in Baker Lake, when they will be meeting, and when that committee will end. They also want to know when the next election will be for the committees

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, the reason why I mention that in this Legislative Assembly is that many young people are becoming more politically aware and also concerned about services provided in our communities.

I would continue to encourage all of the committees and councils of Baker Lake to continue keeping the MLA's office informed so that we can best serve the community of Baker Lake. With that, I would be in a better position to address the needs of Baker Lake and also try to bridge services and offer support to the other communities by example as well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. (interpretation ends) Members; Statements. Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Rumbolt.

**Member's Statement 217 – 3(2):
Congratulations to Sanikiluaq's
Grade 12 Graduates**

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to congratulate this year's grade 12 graduates of Sanikiluaq's Nuiyak School.

Mr. Speaker, I am very proud to be able to recognize Charlotte Crow, Daniel Kavik, Danny Kavik, and Gordon Kavik of Sanikiluaq on their achievement, the completion of their high school graduation requirements.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to acknowledge the parents of the graduates for the support to their children. I would like to recognize the commitment of the teachers and principals of Nuiyak School for helping these students to reach their goal. The support of friends and community also plays an important role.

Mr. Speaker, I am sure that you would agree that a grade 12 graduation certificate is an important tool for continuing with lifelong learning. I believe that these graduates are able to go on to even greater accomplishments in their future.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to encourage all of our grade 12 graduates across Nunavut to become role models for other students and pass on the message about the importance of staying in school.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Charlotte, Daniel, Danny, and Gordon and in wishing them success in the future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 218 – 3(2):
Encouraging Nunavummiut to
Recycle**

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am very happy to have our newest member added in the Legislative Assembly. The person next to me is also a relative. I am very proud of her and I look forward to working with her in the future as we work on the legislation that is required.

I also want to talk about the environment today. The minister mentioned earlier that this is Environment Week. I am also encouraging my fellow Nunavummiut to look at ways of how to better look after our environment in the future. Personally, this is an issue that is near and dear to my heart. So I further promote other Nunavummiut who travel down to the south to always bring a large suitcase filled with recyclables.

I have always tried to recycle every time I travel to the south by filling my suitcase with metal cans and recyclables instead of just throwing them away because they can be recycled and reused. Otherwise, they just end up in the environment. So all ministers, I am encouraging you to make better use of your empty suitcase down. You can just

grab a lot of these materials and then when you get down south, you can put them into a recycle bin.

I further encourage all Nunavummiut to think of these things because we can all do our part to protect the environment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 219 – 3(2):
Welcome Jeannie Ugyuk, Nattilik
MLA**

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, I would like to welcome you. It is evident that you have been outside before you came to Iqaluit. I also would like to welcome the newly elected member and I am very pleased that she is a female. We will work closely with you during the session.

The person who was sitting across from me is now sitting on this side. Perhaps he is a part of the Cabinet now.

First of all, I would like to welcome each and every one of you to this spring session. I would also like to welcome my constituents.

Last night, we had a meet-and-greet with elders and I do welcome them again because they have asked if I could do that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 220 – 3(2):
Spending Summer in Grise Fiord
and Resolute Bay**

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Welcome to our new Commissioner, the Hon. Edna Elias, and our new colleague, the member from Natilik, who I very much look forward to working with.

I recall that Commissioner Elias spent some time in Arctic Bay as a teacher and I know that the entire community welcomes her appointment, as do I.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to announce an initiative that I anticipate will strengthen the connections between the residents of the High Arctic and their government. As all Members of this House are aware, I have the honour of representing the only constituency in Nunavut that includes three communities. This honour brings with it a number of significant challenges.

As my colleagues who represent more than one community in the Legislative Assembly are aware, the fact that we have no roads in our territory means that we have no choice but to fly when we want to visit our other communities. This often prevents us from spending as much time there as we would like given the realities of northern travel.

Mr. Speaker, I have travelled to Grise Fiord and Resolute Bay on a number of occasions during the past year and a half and have held many meetings with municipal representatives, the High Arctic Council, and other local leaders

and residents. However, Mr. Speaker, every time that I visit these communities, I want to stay longer.

Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to inform you that I will be spending most of this summer living in the communities of Grise Fiord and Resolute Bay. Between June 19 and July 17, I will be living in Resolute Bay and from July 18 to August 20, I will be living in Grise Fiord. I will then return to my home community of Arctic Bay to prepare for the next session of the House.

Mr. Speaker, I am very excited about this plan. There are many challenges and opportunities facing both communities and I know that the time that I spend in the communities will help to strengthen my ability to effectively represent their concerns and aspirations.

Mr. Speaker, I know from the many years that I have lived in Arctic Bay that summer in the High Arctic can be a wonderful time. In addition to spending time on the land with my constituents, I am looking forward to taking part in this year's Operation Nanook, which will happen in the High Arctic.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to inform the House that I am looking forward to welcoming...

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

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Elliott is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Are there any nays? There are none. You may conclude your statement, Mr. Elliott.

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

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to inform the House that I am looking forward to welcoming the Auditor General of Canada, Sheila Fraser, to Grise Fiord on the occasion of her upcoming visit to the community in August. This will be her second visit to the High Arctic during her term of office and I believe that it is a testament to her personal commitment to the North that she has made the effort to familiarize her and her officials with the conditions and challenges in our small communities.

I would also note that this visit can be anticipated to provide her with a first-hand perspective on such issues as the high cost of living in the High Arctic. This will benefit her office's future reporting to Parliament on such federal initiatives as the new Nutrition North Canada, which is replacing the Food Mail Program.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to reporting back to this House on the success of this initiative at our fall sitting. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 221 – 3(2):
NTEP Graduates in Kugaaruk**

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also want to acknowledge the newest Member for Nattilik. I am ecstatic that her relatives as well as the residents of Taloyoak now

have a Member of the Legislative Assembly from their community.

I am also very happy that the people who are in the Nunavut Teacher Education Program, I believe there were eight or nine students, will be initiating their work plans over the summer. A person came in from another community. They were interviewed and they determined which ones would be working in the community. Now that that has been finalized, they will be doing their first teaching this fall.

(the member is clearing his throat) I apologize, Mr. Speaker.

I will be asking the Minister of Education during question period about teachers who have graduated from the program and who have been approved to become teachers. They have been chosen to become teachers in our community. I want to know whether they will have teacher assistance or a mentoring program so that they may be able to handle their new positions smoothly and so that they can plan properly and further down the road. They will require support when they first start out as teachers.

When we come to question period, I will be asking questions to the Minister of Education with regard to this and whether they have a plan for how they will be supporting these new teachers. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Member's Statement 222 – 3(2): 30th Anniversary of the Hamlet of Chesterfield Inlet

Mr. Ningeongan (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to congratulate the Hamlet of Chesterfield Inlet on its 30th anniversary. I was honoured to be in attendance at the ceremony and I was very pleased that Premier Aariak and Minister Kusugak were able to join Chesterfield Inlet's Mayor, His Worship Harry Tootoo, for this important occasion.

Mr. Speaker, the community of Chesterfield Inlet has a long and proud history. It was the first established community in the Kivalliq region and served as an important base for providing services to the whole area as well as outside the region.

Mr. Speaker, for many years, the RCMP was based in Chesterfield Inlet and their successful operations relied on the support and expertise of local people, their dog teams, and their skill on the water.

Families from all across the region would bring their sick relatives to St. Theresa's Hospital. Even though it is a small community, for many years, Chesterfield Inlet shouldered a big responsibility by providing support for those in need. The Pimaksirvik Naja Isabelle Home for people with disabilities is a shining example of what can be done when a community works together for a common good.

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

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

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

(interpretation ends) The theme of Chesterfield Inlet's anniversary celebrations is "Stepping Forward." Despite some bad memories from the past, the community as a whole is working together towards recognizing the positive contributions that have been made over the years and across the region.

Mr. Speaker, using the theme of "Stepping Forward," the Hamlet of Chesterfield Inlet is taking charge of its own progress towards being a healthy and thriving community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Hamlet of Chesterfield Inlet on reaching an important milestone. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Member's Statement 223 – 3(2): Plebiscite Result in Pond Inlet

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can't quite fix my voice. It's been kind of groggily, but it's not on purpose.

Today, Pond Inlet has just lost another elder. Their relatives are in our thoughts.

I also want to welcome the newest Member, Jeannie Ugyuk, into the Legislative Assembly.

I rise today, Mr. Speaker, to congratulate my community of Pond Inlet for the successful plebiscite that was held last month on May 17.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, residents of Pond Inlet voted on the question of whether or not to abolish the current system of liquor restriction in the community. This vote was held following the submission of a petition to the responsible minister.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, 614 residents of the community voted in the plebiscite. I am pleased that over 60 percent of eligible voters made the effort to make their voices heard. It's actually a higher voter ratio than the ones that came out for MLA votes. The result of the vote was very clear: over 70 percent of voters chose to keep the current system of liquor restriction in place.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, in the weeks leading up to the plebiscite, I had the opportunity to speak with many of my constituents on this issue. Although I am personally satisfied with the result of the vote, I thank all of my constituents for making the effort to participate in this process regardless of which position they supported.

Mr. Speaker, we all recognize that the issues surrounding access to alcohol are complex and challenging.

I want to take this opportunity to emphasize the importance of providing support for the individuals who take the time to serve on health and social service committees and alcohol education committees.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, I am almost done, so I am seeking unanimous consent to conclude my statement. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Mr. Arvaluk is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Are there any nays? There are no nays. You may conclude your statement, Mr. Arvaluk.

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

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to state that the community of Pond Inlet is very much looking forward to sharing its views with the minister's task force to review the *Liquor Act*, which we hope will visit Pond Inlet in the near future. The committee wants to speak to the review committee about how alcohol control should be dealt with. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Members' Statements. Member for Cambridge Bay, Mr. Peterson.

**Member's Statement 224 – 3(2):
Kitikmeot Tour**

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to thank the people of Kitikmeot, who welcomed us on the Kitikmeot tour between the dates of April 29 to May 3. Mr. Speaker, the

Premier, I, Minister Taptuna, and Minister Shewchuk visited five Kitikmeot communities. We started in Kugaaruk. We had a great welcome. We met with the hamlet council and met with the public with the help from our colleague, Mr. Ningark.

We went to Taloyoak and met Jeannie. I welcome her to be an MLA. She had a good taste of what it's going to be like to be an MLA. She came to the hamlet meeting and the public meeting, and heard all of their concerns and issues. She accompanied us to Gjoa Haven, where we again had very good meetings with everybody in the community.

In fact, Mr. Speaker, everywhere we went, we were welcomed with great respect, I would say, and the people were very understanding of the hard work that the MLAs and the ministers have in looking after all of the concerns and issues of the people in Nunavut. We have a lot of work ahead of us. That was the general feeling that I got from the tour.

People shared all of their concerns and issues with us. They encouraged us to work hard, work together, support each other, and they wanted us to visit more often. They said that it's not very often that they've got four ministers in a community at one time. I applaud my colleague, Minister Taptuna, for making that happen.

I look forward to working with Jeannie in representing the concerns and issues of the Kitikmeot. Also being an MLA, it doesn't mean that you just represent your own riding; you have to represent all people in Nunavut.

So it's going to be good to work with Jeannie. If she needs any help, advice, or anything on what it's like to be an MLA, my door is always open. My office is on the second floor. You can give me a phone call. We know each other quite well, from the Kitikmeot anyways. Welcome to the House, Jeannie. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 225 – 3(2):
Congratulations to Kugluktuk
Graduates**

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to congratulate the students of Kugluktuk, the graduates. As you know, in Kugluktuk, the school year ended yesterday.

The appreciation for the parents and the educators have been lacking in some cases, but I do want to send my congratulatory affirmation that the hard work they do, the parents who wake up their kids early in morning and get them to school, there is a lot of work that the parents and the teachers do. I want to congratulate all of the students of this year that are going to be graduating.

Jeannie, welcome to your first sitting here. Congratulations, Hon. Jeannie Ugyuk.

Last but not least, also I want to congratulate our new Commissioner for Nunavut, Ms. Edna Elias, who is also from Kugluktuk. I'm sure she's going to be putting in a lot of hard work to

benefit all Nunavummiut. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate her. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Taptuna. Members' Statements. Member for Rankin Inlet North, Mr. Curley.

**Member's Statement 226 – 3(2):
Annual Fishing Derby**

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to speak to our community. They now have an annual spring festival, especially fishing derbies.

Currently, I believe the whole region of Kivalliq in every community holds their own fishing derby. They work with all of the businesses in their region and it becomes a very big occasion when people are really working to win the fishing derbies. The reason why it is such a momentous occasion is because the weather is nice, the people are nice, and they enjoy being outdoors.

We heard a lot about who was successful and these are broadcast all over the news. Every year, we stand up to acknowledge them because they're rarely ever mentioned. There are a lot of men who are fishermen. They have to do all of the hard labour. They have to cut all of the holes and they have to keep the holes clean. Many relatives also take a week off in order to be out on the land for these fishing derbies. The whole families are out.

It seems, every year, certain families like the Pisuk boys, the descendants of Pisuk, get the largest fish. That was the

occasion again this spring. Mr. Speaker, I believe he won last year as well. Paul Pisuk got the largest fish. I believe he got the biggest fish in Nunavut. It was 48.125 inches long. It was a little over four feet long and we could speak to the long fight that I imagine he had because some of them are always looking for larger ones, but they were unable to get it.

I did hear that Pisuk caught more than one fish. I believe he also caught the second or third largest fish. He also won \$6,000 for having the largest fish. Let's acknowledge Paul Pisuk and congratulate him on his success. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 227 – 3(2):
Decentralized Positions in
Pangnirtung**

Mr. Komoartok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to thank my colleagues for returning back here to Iqaluit. I would also like to welcome Jeannie Ugyuk. I had to move to a new office and you now have my old office.

Today, I want to speak to an issue while we are meeting here. My fellow residents are in my thoughts because again, the sea ice is starting to melt and it's now become more difficult. The shore ice is now melting and only people who really want to go hunting will be

able to go hunting because it's quite difficult and challenging now.

Today, I want to speak to an issue that I brought up when we were here at our last session in March with respect to jobs in Pangnirtung. We have heard that they took out three positions in the Department of Education. There were 71 positions and there are now 65 positions left in Pangnirtung. There are very many local residents being trained to take over these positions. I believe this is something we regret because we want to see more local residents work on this.

I was just at a hamlet meeting and they informed me that they hadn't heard any updates about what's happening with the jobs in Pangnirtung. Again, I raised these questions in March as to how many jobs were transferred back to Iqaluit. I haven't heard any updates as to where they are with the process. We still haven't been given any information.

I will be raising questions this week and next week about how this impacts our communities. Pangnirtung is still expecting these positions to be retained in Pangnirtung, so I want to work with the community and the ministers to deal with this job transfer issue. I will be raising questions on this issue during this session. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 228 – 3(2):
Arviat Fishing Derby**

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, would like to take this time to say "hello" to all of the residents of Arviat, Nunavut and to ensure them that I am trying to represent them and speak with their voices as best as I can in the Legislative Assembly. I also would like to congratulate all of the winners in Arviat in the last two fish derbies that were held earlier this month.

I also, Mr. Speaker, would like to congratulate Ronnie Salluk, who completed an internship program through the Sivuliuqtiksat Program with the Department of ED&T. I will be celebrating with him on this accomplishment and having dinner with him tonight. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Shewchuk. Members' Statements. Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Ningark.

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to acknowledge these people who are sitting in the Gallery. I would like to welcome the new MLA's friend from Taloyoak, as well as Iola Mittuq, and next to Iola is his friend from Taloyoak, Sarah.

We are very happy that they are here because we rarely ever get Kitikmeot visitors here during our session. Sometimes we don't even get a chance to acknowledge anybody because a lot of the people are from different regions, so it's very good to see someone for

Kitikmeot. Welcome. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Ms. Ugyuk.

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to acknowledge my child, Sammurtok, who is here, as well as my husband, Naujaq. I thank them for being able to attend. My daughter is absolved with my grandchild. I also want to acknowledge them because they were able to come to this session.

>> *Applause*

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize a couple of members of my constituency from Kugluktuk, Clarence and Wendy Bolt.

Wendy Bolt has just completed her internship with the Government of Nunavut under the Department of Economic Development and Transportation. As previously stated by the hon. member from Arviat, we are celebrating their ceremonies tonight and I want to congratulate them too at the same time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Taptuna. Welcome to the Gallery. Recognition of

Visitors in the Gallery. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Nanulik, Mr. Ningark.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 348 – 3(2): Mentoring Program for NTEP Graduates

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am from Akulliq by the way, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Laughter*

I want to raise a question to Minister Tapardjuk.

As I stated earlier in my Member's Statement, I believe there were eight or nine students who undertook the Teacher Education Program in Kugaaruk and we want to see them all succeed. They worked really hard to try and finish it. Even their relatives were working hard. They got a lot of support from the government and other schools. When they start teaching, we want to see them succeed down their chosen career paths.

My question is whether the teachers will have assistants or mentors during their first winter and whether a mentoring program will be in place for their first year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleague from Akulliq for that question. First of all, let me thank Minister Shewchuk of the Nunavut Arctic

College. The Teacher Education Program is under their portfolio. They really support these students. This program will be ongoing and our expectations are that we will see more graduates. People who will be teaching in their own community are a real benefit.

Mr. Speaker, with respect to my colleague's question, we have regional offices. In the Kitikmeot, as an example, the managers are working on how to best support these new teachers and how they will be able to provide more support, especially in the first year. This is what we're working on now. We will be looking at more and better programs to be able to support them.

Again, right now, the Nunavut Arctic College has graduated teachers who will now become teachers, so we have to work with them. With that being the case, Mr. Speaker, I want to tell my colleague that next week, we will be looking at a mentorship program and we will be trying to look at opening up a position in Kugaaruk to ensure that they provide support to these new teachers. This is what we're looking at down the road. We want to provide more support.

I will also keep the member informed as to what's happening and how we're going to be resolving these challenges as it relates to teachers. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister profusely. I am hoping that he

will be directing the Kitikmeot office perhaps in Cambridge Bay.

I believe this is the Second Session of the Third Legislative Assembly. When we're finishing up this session, can he inform me prior to the end of this session that this position has indeed been created? Will he be able to provide me with that information? Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At this time, the position that we're talking about has not been released yet, but we're planning to open it next week. It is being handled by the regional office in the Kitikmeot. We still have to work out a few more details as to exactly how it will be set up.

Mr. Speaker, on top of that, I wanted to clarify that with respect to the Teacher Education Program, we will continue to provide services and support, especially when they need to learn more programs and undertake university modules, specifically as it relates to getting a Master of Education degree.

So we will keep providing support to those teachers who want to progress further in their career. We will be working to our utmost to try and provide support. I will also keep the member informed about his concerns with relation to the Teacher Education Program in Kugaaruk. So I just want him to know that we will keep him updated, Mr. Speaker.

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

Questions. Member for Tununiq, Mr. Arvaluk.

Question 349 – 3(2): Update on Baffin Bay Polar Bear Quota

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

First of all, I would like to thank the government because they are starting to listen to Inuit, especially when they were talking about... now we weren't sure as to what occurred and the government wanted to utilize Inuit knowledge and experience. When that occurred, you made the decision that ten bears a year will be taken out of the quota for a period of four years. Can you explain where that is at now? Thank you.

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

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the member for his question. First of all, I would also like to thank him for inviting us to his community when he suggested that we visit the Baffin Bay communities that are affected by our reductions of ten per year. The ten per year will be ongoing and implemented starting July 1 of this year.

Through the community consultations that we attended there, there was very good information that was taken. Our purpose of that trip was to educate the communities involved about the programs that the government is offering to mitigate the circumstances and assist them in looking at different economic

opportunities in the outfitting field and the guiding field.

The decision has taken place. There have now been two joint committee meetings with Greenland, one that was held this past January and one that was just held last week in Greenland. I do not yet know what the discussions of the last meeting are, but the communities are all involved, Inuit organizations are involved, and again, I should be able to write a report before the House finishes sitting here on the latest meeting. Thank you, Mr. Speaker

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

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to know why it is necessary to continue enforcing reduction policies for those bears when the government made an announcement in reversal of their belief of endangered species, particularly the polar bears in question. (interpretation) Thank you.

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

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The announcement we made in our reversal in supporting the species to be listed as a special concern under COSEWIC and listed under SARA is due to the fact that we have travelled to communities.

We do realize in Baffin Bay and in western Hudson Bay that we do have challenges in polar bear populations, and we are working with the communities very actively to come up with resolutions to the problems that we face.

But overall in Nunavut, our polar bears are healthy. We have 13 populations that we manage. The two that we have identified as having concerns, we are working with communities and Nunavut entities of wildlife management people to deal with them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker

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

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Has the minister received a report yet from the NWMB, or the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board, about their own findings and if so, will this be tabled in the House? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am not sure if I understand the question fully, but to this date, we have not received any report from NWMB in regard to and I believe he is referring to the Baffin Bay polar bear population. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I was referring to that, if you get the report. Following his previous statements, the government's position on the status of the polar bear is that they are not endangered. If the NWMB states that the polar bear status is not endangered, then how will that impact the quota reduction that this minister has undertaken where he is

trying to reduce it over a period of four years? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The tenth reduction schedule will still take place, Mr. Speaker. The Nunavut Wildlife Management Board has made that recommendation to us as a government and my department. That is the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board's position and recommendation to me, so that will be implemented. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 350 – 3(2): Plastic Bags in Nunavut

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

Today, he stated that this week is Environment Week, and that there are plans to clean up communities, especially in the future and to try and clean up the environment. I know for a fact that wherever in Nunavut, these plastic bags create the biggest amount of garbage and they can last forever.

I would like to raise a question to the minister. Do they have a plan in place to phasing out the plastic bags and/or if they can get biodegradable plastic bags? I would like to know what the minister's plan of action is for environmental stewardship. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Environment, (interpretation ends) Hon. Daniel Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the member for that concern and suggestion, as he has brought it up before. The department is looking at alternative measures instead of using plastic bags and one of them is the use of recyclable bags too. At present, we are still looking into the issue. We are consulting with industry, with communities, and with users on a program like this and how it would be laid out and worked.

There is interest by all people involved in recycling of plastic bags, but I agree with the member that the amount of plastic bags we can lessen in our landfills and our communities would be very helpful to our environment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Minister. This has been an ongoing process which we have been speaking to over a number of years. I would like to know when the minister would be able to make a statement about his plan for replacing plastic bags, when this review process will be completed, and when he will be able to bring about replacement bags. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Okalik. Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the member for his comments again. As I

advised, there are ongoing negotiations in this regard into the use of plastic bags and into alternative ways to deal with this situation. I will commit to keeping the member updated, but as far as timelines are concerned, I cannot commit to any timelines as of yet. As everyone well knows, negotiations and consultations take time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think this is an issue that we keep returning to and this is something that we will keep bringing up down the road in the future.

Currently, there are a lot more viable options that are surfacing. It seems like this is not a contentious issue anymore, especially when new materials are being created, including biodegradable plastic bags. Shouldn't we be looking at trying to replace plastic bags?

Some stores have already undertaken their own initiatives to create new bags separate from plastic bags. I wonder how the minister could further encourage and promote alternatives to the plastic bags. I would like to see them work towards that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Okalik. Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, I would like to thank the member for his suggestion because it's a very important one. He's absolutely right that we should be moving this way to using recycled bags that will not harm our environment as

much. He's absolutely right in saying that some industry users are implementing this policy by themselves and we applaud them for doing that. However, we would like to consult all across industry to ensure that this happens as best as it can. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 351 – 3(2): Minimum Wage

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Justice.

During our March sitting, I brought attention to the fact that the minimum wage in Nunavut has not increased since June of 2008. At that time, I asked the Minister of Justice when he plans to introduce legislation to increase the minimum wage to keep up with the annual inflation rate in Nunavut. The minister stated that he would endeavour to do that as soon as possible.

Can the minister provide an update on this matter? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Rumbolt for that important question. I again thank Mr. Rumbolt for representing the people who are struggling to live on minimum wage.

Mr. Speaker, I recently read a report in the media that Nunavut is now one of the lowest, if not the lowest, minimum wage jurisdictions in Canada. I have instructed

my officials to prepare a review and when that information is possible, I'll provide it to the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for his response. Section 12.1 of the *Labour Standards Act* states that "The Minister shall review the minimum rate of wages annually and shall report the results of the review to the Legislative Assembly."

The last report on minimum wage was tabled in May of 2008, which was more than two years ago. Can the minister inform us when he will be tabling the next minimum wage report? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Rumbolt for reminding me of that section there.

Mr. Speaker, there's no one in this House who's more eager to table that report. Mr. Speaker, when it's available, I will table it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Oral Questions. Member for Natilik, Ms. Ugyuk.

Question 352 – 3(2): Need for Training in Relation to the Family Abuse Intervention Act

Ms. Ugyuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Justice.

The government's first annual report on the administration of the *Family Abuse Intervention Act* was tabled on March 22, 2010. This report covers the operation of the Act for the 2008-09 year. Section 11 of the Family Abuse Regulations specifies the number of items that are required to be included in the annual report. One of the items is a list of outstanding needs to help implement this important legislation.

While the 2008-09 annual report does not provide such a list, there is some mention of outstanding needs in the communities of Arctic Bay and Iqaluit, including the need for more training. I know from personal experience that this training is needed in the communities that I represent.

Can the minister give us an update on any new training initiatives for community justice outreach workers?

Speaker: Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. Minister of Justice, Hon. Keith Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Member Ugyuk for asking that question.

Mr. Speaker, the *Family Abuse Intervention Act* was rolled out a couple of years ago and there was an evaluation of the program last year. We received a report from a consultant. There are a number of issues identified in that report that have been flagged in the *Family Abuse Intervention Act*. Our officials are developing an action plan to address a number of those issues.

However, I want to assure the member that again we support the work of the justice committees and the community

justice outreach workers, and we believe that the work they do in the community level is very important. The more training that we can provide to the community justice outreach workers and resources to the community justice committees, the better served we will be in Nunavut.

I want to ensure the member that we are working very hard as a department to help the people who are at the frontlines of the justice system in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Your first supplementary, Ms. Ugyuk.

Ms. Ugyuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that response. I recognize that the Department of Justice's 2010-13 business plan indicates that community justice outreach worker training was delivered in November 2009. The business plan also states that a priority for the 2010-11 fiscal year is to provide workshops for "Community Justice Committees in all regions."

Can the minister update us on the status of new workshops in the Kitikmeot concerning the application of the *Family Abuse Intervention Act*? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I again thank Ms. Ugyuk for asking the question. Mr. Speaker, as I said in my opening answer, we support the work of the justice committees and the community justice outreach workers.

Yes, we are being tasked with providing that training. We have committed that training and my officials are well aware that I want that training to occur in the communities in the regions. I can't give her the details of what training is occurring this fiscal year, but I can provide that information to her when I can. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 353 – 3(2): Oil Spill Preparedness in the Arctic

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are directed towards the Minister of Environment, the Hon. Daniel Shewchuk.

The eyes of the world are watching with horror at the environmental catastrophe that is currently unfolding in the Gulf of Mexico. The oil spill that has occurred threatens to devastate the US coastline and waters. Here at home, many voices are calling for action to ensure that we are prepared to deal with such an oil spill in the Arctic.

Recent news reports have indicated that the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans had planned to perform... and I say "had" because I don't want to confuse you; there is so much stuff going on in the High Arctic in terms of Lancaster Sound and different projects. The Department of Fisheries and Oceans had planned to perform a controlled oil spill in Barrow Strait, Wellington Channel, and Lancaster Sound this summer as part of a project called

"Improvement of Marine Oil Spill Response Methods for use in the Arctic." Apparently, it had been postponed due to the lead researcher assisting in British Petroleum's Gulf of Mexico oil rig disaster.

Can the minister indicate to the House whether the territorial Department of Environment has been consulted by the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans on this matter? Thank you.

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

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the member for that question; he raised a very big issue and topic in the world that's happening right now.

As far as the DFO testing that was proposed, I believe it was not just postponed, I believe that there was no permit that was actually issued to do this project, that consultations were not completed and taken place on this project, and that there were concerns by community people who were involved. So this project will not commence, as the member states correctly. That is my understanding of what's the status of 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. As the minister will understand, my constituents in the High Arctic are deeply concerned about the prospect of an environmental disaster taking place where they live.

In its recent appearance before a standing committee of the House of Commons, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated recommended that “any future offshore oil and gas drilling and production in the Arctic should proceed only on the basis of the most rigorous international environmental standards available.”

Can the minister indicate to the House today what the Government of Nunavut’s position is on this issue? Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again I would like to thank the member for bringing up an awareness of this important topic.

As the Government of Nunavut and I know, the Premier, our leader, has been in consultation with the federal government in regard to this and how important these issues are and the importance of Nunavut’s interest in dealing with such a disaster if it ever were to happen here.

I think that what’s important is that our interests are known, our concerns are listened to by the federal government, and that we take all precautions to ensure the safety of our environment and the territory, and that will be our position.

We are a long ways from any drilling or any exploration of oil going on here in Nunavut, but we need to be ready when these things do come to our attention. So we take this very seriously and are on ongoing consultations with the federal

government all of the time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my understanding that the federal testing project was scheduled to take place in August of this year and that the minister has clarified it’s either postponed or maybe happening at a later date. However, concerns have been raised that the community of Resolute Bay have not been contacted, let alone consulted, regarding this proposed project.

Our Minister of Environment is also responsible for the operations of the Nunavut Research Institute, which issues research licences. Can the minister clarify what permissions the federal government requires from us to undertake tests of this nature in offshore waters and can he indicate how the Department of Environment works with the Nunavut Research Institute on such matters? Thank you.

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

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Nunavut Research Institute administers research permits that happen under the *Scientist Act* of Nunavut. The *Scientist Act* of Nunavut is established and has authority under old NWT legislation. So any research that goes on that doesn’t involved wildlife and vertebrate animal is funnelled through the Nunavut Research Institute.

As far as the member states that NIRB accepts recommendations and concerns

from communities, that is a NIRB responsibility as well as either under the Department of Environment or the Nunavut Research Institute, when the permit is applied for, to allow those communities and interested parties to have an opportunity to state their opinions through NIRB, and then NIRB is the final one that makes recommendations to the appropriate minister whether they agree with the project going ahead or not.

I would also like to state at this time, as the member is very well aware of, that the Department of National Defence, DFO, Denmark, and the US... there is also going to be a planned oil spill project happening this summer in the High Arctic, a scenario where there is an oil spill taking place and how that cleanup would happen involving all communities and all parties involved. That is happening this summer at the request also of the member. Last year, he requested that that take place. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for that answer. That brings up another question that I had. I just need clarification. My understanding in terms of what's actually happening with Operation Nanook with the Department of National Defence and what the Canadian Coast Guard is doing through DFO there, it's not a planned oil spill, it's a mock oil spill. So no fuel will actually be put into the waters. This is a sort of area where there is a real strong emphasis upon training local people within Resolute Bay, training with the rangers as well, to make sure that if an

oil spill happens, the first responders would be those people.

In terms of what the minister actually said and to avoid confusion, because that's one of the things I find happening with all of the projects that are going on in the High Arctic, are we being told in terms of community consultations... where I was sitting at meetings, we were told that no oil is going to be spilled into the water. Could you clarify that? Thank you.

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

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The member is absolutely correct. It is a mock oil spill; there will be no oil or no dispersants used in the water at all.

We had a briefing here last Friday by General Millar of the Department of National Defence on how this project would work, involving all of the entities that the member has mentioned. The rangers, communities, hamlets, the Coast Guard, and DFO will be involved. In preparation for this scenario to happen, there are 19 communities in Nunavut that will be trained by the Coast Guard in initial response to oil spills, and then it will get more technical and a bigger picture of containing an oil spill will happen with all of the research vessels involved. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 354 – 3(2): Purchase Price of 12 Telehandlers

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the housing minister.

Earlier this year, the Housing Corporation purchased 12 New Holland telehandlers. Can the minister let us know what the purchase price was for these 12 New Holland telehandlers? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am anticipating the member coming back with that question that I am sure he hadn't forgotten from the last Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, the 12 New Holland telehandlers that were purchased last year were purchased at, I believe, it was \$123,750 each. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My next question is that there was an RFP put out earlier this year for 12 additional new telehandlers because apparently, those New Holland telehandlers weren't capable of doing the job. Can the minister let us know who got the contract for those other 12 telehandlers? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It was a request for proposals that was issued, I believe, it was last March and the successful proponent on that was Toromont Arctic. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My next question is in that proposal, Toromont Arctic had to take these New Holland telehandlers in trade. Can the minister let us know what they received in trade for these brand New Holland telehandlers that were never used? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Member. Minister Tootoo.

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm sure the member is aware already of that information, but I would be more than happy to provide it to him. It's my understanding, Mr. Speaker, that in the proposal put forward by Toromont Arctic, there was a credit of around \$80,000 per telehandler for the 12 New Holland ones. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So in other words, it was like a \$50,000 or \$60,000 loss on 12 units, so \$600,000 or \$700,000 plus the purchase price of the telehandlers. Can the minister let us know if that is part of the \$60 million that was lost in the \$200 million trust or is that money coming out of the \$100 million trust? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just want to clarify to him that we didn't lose \$60 million. It was under-budgeted and over-expenditures that led to that \$60 million, but I can assure the member that my understanding from the numbers that I have that it was about a \$525,000 loss that was taken on those New Holland telehandlers.

That is not included in the \$60 million under the trust. That funding and those pieces of equipment were under the Economic Action Plan funding of the \$100 million that we received and those equipments were specifically going to communities where the structured insulated panel single family dwellings are going. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 355 – 3(2): Plans for Non-Inuit Nunavummiut Health Coverage

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) My next question is to the Minister of Health so he doesn't fall asleep.

>> *Laughter*

I believe, Mr. Speaker, there has been more headlines about families who aren't covered by non-insured health benefits here in our community. When they're not government employees or aren't covered by their insurance plans through their employers, they fall through the cracks. Unfortunately, they

go through a very difficult time in trying to get health care from outside the territory.

I would like to ask the Minister of Health if there is any plan to try and address this shortfall that is becoming more apparent as we grow as a community. Not all of us are Inuit, so we don't qualify for non-insured health benefits. This problem will probably become more evident as we grow as a community.

Can the minister explain if there are any plans to come up with some sort of insurance plan for non-Inuit in our territory? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I am well aware of this issue that the member is speaking to. However, I believe the member needs to learn more about the review that was done on the Extended Health Benefits Policy. This policy is designed to assist those very people. I believe that many members of the public who believed they were falling through the cracks are unaware of this policy.

What I can state is that assistance is available through that Extended Health Benefits Policy, which includes coverage for prescriptions that are often expensive. That is no longer a major concern through that program as far as I know.

I'm not too sure if they can obtain other insurance outside of Extended Health

Benefits Policy. I believe that option is a difficult one. I believe it would be second or third tier, but I could tell you that the Extended Health Benefits Program is to cover non-beneficiaries. That program exists. The provinces don't have that program, only the Northwest Territories and Nunavut. They provide support that includes hotel accommodations and medication.

We all know that in the Northwest Territories, they say that the number of those people who are covered under the Extended Health Benefits Program was lower, but I believe that the number of people who are covered by that program is going to increase in Nunavut. That's what I can say, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) As a government, our employees are covered through premiums. I'm sure that we pay through our payroll system and we are covered for hotel expenditures that we incur as employees. So what I would like to ask the minister is that we also cover for other programs, like paying for workers' compensation situations when we encounter those problems.

Perhaps our government can introduce a program for those who aren't covered by our programs in a comprehensive way. Maybe we should look at adding premiums to those so that they can be covered in their unfortunate situations when those arise in the future. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, those are very good options to consider. I know that we will have to look at more than one option.

However, with regard to the matters he has brought up, a lot of these concerns are in the private sector. I believe it's only because they're simply ignorant about the programs and services that we provide. They're not aware that these programs and services exist. We have to ensure that our insurance providers give this information out there. The website which is under construction should be up and running soon.

I guess there's not enough communication, especially for those who are not members of the government union, who are in the private sector. As I stated earlier, we're reviewing the situation and how best to deal with this particular challenge and what kind of options we may look at initiating. It will still have to go through Cabinet, perhaps in the fall.

We will have a bit more information as to how we plan to deal with this and perhaps even an approval on the policy. Once a lot of these details have been worked out, I will be able to provide a report on what we have been deliberating. Thank you.

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

Question 356 – 3(2): Dialysis Machine for Nunavut

Mr. Ningeongan (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed towards the Minister of Health. I raised this question at our last session this past March about dialysis machines. I was informed that the minister would be able to provide a proper answer in June. I had to wait around for a few more months in order to get the news.

Mr. Speaker, patients from Coral Harbour and Chesterfield Inlet have been undergoing dialysis back and forth between Winnipeg and their communities. It was because of this issue that I want to ask the Minister of Health. It's now June, so what is the status of the dialysis machine? You had made it sound as if this would occur, so I would like an update as to the situation. 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. As we told the member that we would have an update in June, we had assumed that we would have everything ready, but we unfortunately are a bit delayed.

We have a lot of reasons for that. We continue to be plagued by a shortage of managers and senior managers. It is because of that lack of capacity that we have not been able to meet all of the demands.

We will move forward on this and I am in communication with the member.

That piece of equipment is very expensive, particularly because it is used for people with kidney issues. We are really deliberating what the best option is with our medical staff. We are not quite finished with this process. We have to determine where the machines would be located. We are still in the planning stage and that is all I can state now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Ningeongan (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also now want to ask this question to the minister because you led us to have expectations. When exactly will this process be undertaken? What is the timeline? Would it proceed this month or next month? Can the minister inform me? I will have to get back to the people who have asked me to raise this issue, so I would like to give a timeline if at all possible. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I stated earlier, the reason why it is so complicated and complex in Nunavut is because if the hospital had the dialysis machine, it would still require technicians and maintenance. It still would have to be maintained and operated. Therefore, we have to look at what resources will be required in order to have that dialysis machine.

For that reason, I cannot state at this moment that this machine will be ready at a certain date. However, we are

working on this issue and we are trying to deal with all of the details. I can tell the MLA that once the information has become available, I will bring up the news to the member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Ningeongan (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We know that it is not on purpose and that the minister perhaps gave me expectations about what to expect in June. Although June has arrived, there is no other information available due to the fact that they are still studying it.

Perhaps I could even receive more details because my constituents have requested more detailed information. They are expecting a dialysis machine and I told them that I would know by June. It turns out I have the same status as I had in March because I had expectations that the answer would be provided by June.

Within this fiscal year some time, will this process be completed concerning the dialysis machine? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, as ministers, sometimes when we say something, we usually don't set a date. We try not to provide a deadline.

However, the medical and technical resources that are required to support the

dialysis machine is what is making it a complex situation and new to the North. We know that we had given a lot of medical clients a false expectation that the machines would become available at a certain date, but that did not come from us. It is possible that we might have an update in June on the length of this process.

It's a very complicated matter. For this reason, we can say that once we have an update or more information, we will provide it. The update will have to go through Cabinet and questions such as the locations for the machines. We aren't quite there yet, but it is now in the hands of our medical and technical staff. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Ningeongan (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm kind of shocked listening to the minister because of a lot of the staff in the health department apparently went and started asking about possible options to our medical clients in Winnipeg.

Patients were asked about how they could deal with dialysis if it was offered in Nunavut, whether they could have that in their community or if they would have to move to Rankin Inlet in order to get this treatment. These questions were raised to the patients while they were in Winnipeg.

It makes me a little shocked when the minister says that even before the department has concluded the issue that the staff had already started interviewing our patients in Winnipeg. This created

false expectations. That's why I raised a question with regard to the dialysis machine treatments and the patients who require them.

Officials from the Department of Health and Social Services had already asked those questions to patients. I would like to know if the minister knows about this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are not trying to shock the member. There is a procedure we use in the government and I tell the staff to please look into what Nunavutmiut want. That is something I would like to see, that consultations be made and get more information.

As a minister in the government, I know that we need to work on this as an emergency issue, but with the government system, it doesn't take overnight to complete that as it is technical and complex. We need to train the technicians on those dialysis machines. Once all of the aspects have been completed and everything has been done, it's not just the money that the government has to determine. The government will have to work thoroughly and do it properly. That is why it is taking longer.

As we stated before, we need a dialysis machine in Nunavut, but I cannot tell you the exact date when we will be able to get it. The review by the technical and medical professions is now in process. As they progress, we will be informed, but I cannot tell you the exact date when

we can provide you with that information.

We have to listen to our technical and medical staff because they are looking into it right now. It will eventually be completed and the machine will arrive. It's just that I am in no position to tell you when it will happen. Once it is, I will make an announcement. Thank you.

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

Question 357 – 3(2): Minimum Wage Annual Report

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

I wanted to follow up on some of the questions asked by the Hon. Member from Hudson Bay, Allan Rumbolt, in regard to questions about the annual report for minimum wage.

In 2008, the report was actually tabled but it was for July 2007. That means there should have been a review, if it's done annually, in July 2008 and July 2009. My question to the minister is: could he clarify? When he was saying that it had not been done, is it not complete for 2008 or is it not complete for 2009? 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 that question or was it questions.

Mr. Speaker, as I indicated to Mr. Rumbolt, the department is working on the reports. I think Mr. Rumbolt tabled a number of issues with the minimum wage report. I indicated that our department would work on it and it is being worked on. I followed up on it about a month ago and I'll get an update and provide that to Mr. Rumbolt and Mr. Elliott if they wish. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for that response. I am actually referring to Tabled Document 231 – 2(4) from May 23 of 2008, which was tabled by one of the ministers in regard to the annual report for minimum wage. According to this and according to the regulations, there should have been a report done in 2008-09.

It's only a nine-page report which we're going to be reviewing later, the contracts that are handled by the government. I'm sure a consulting firm would have taken 15 minutes to charge \$5,000 to do it. I'm just concerned that these reports are not being done because it leads to my next question.

In a report, when I was doing some research on the issue of poverty, the Canadian Teachers Federation published something called "Taking Action against Poverty." There are three recommendations: family income, housing, and education opportunities need to be worked on. This fits into what we're talking about in terms of where we are going with the Anti-Poverty Strategy. One of the suggestions was the increase in minimum wage.

So if the minister could commit to telling us when this information can be available because I'm sure ED&T would be interested in the information as well to help with their Anti-Poverty Strategy. Thank you.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Elliott for the question. Mr. Speaker, if a minister could contract the Government of Nunavut, I would have written a report for \$2,500 and probably done it in 10 minutes.

Mr. Speaker, as I said earlier, there's no one in this House that wants that information tabled sooner. I recognize that people in Nunavut are struggling to get by on minimum wage. I have been a strong anti-poverty supporter for many years, decades in the Kitikmeot, and I have raised it in the House in the Second Assembly and at the Cabinet level. So we do want to address this issue.

I'm sure my officials back at the department are working feverishly right now as I speak to get that information that I can table in the House so that we can move forward with this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So was that a commitment before the end of this session that we will actually have this in our hands and it will be tabled? That's my question.

But I think the reason why I see it as a concern is as a former GN employee and working at Nunavut Arctic College, I always found it kind of discouraging the fact that my hourly wage working as a Government of Nunavut employee was guaranteed a certain level by our collective agreement and then on top of that, to defray the costs of living in the northern communities, there is a northern settlement allowance. My settlement allowance as an employee of the Government of Nunavut was more by 50 cents than the minimum wage. So with myself working in the college, I was making 50 cents more before I even got my wage than someone who is working at the Northern Store at minimum wage.

So if the minister could commit to tabling it before the end of the session. Thank you.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Elliott again for that question. It is a sad state. We recognize the people of Nunavut are struggling to get by on minimum wage that some of them are being paid. My colleague, Minister Taptuna, is going to be leading the Poverty Reduction Strategy work. It's very important and we encourage all of the ministers, departments, and all officials to get involved, including MLAs.

The only thing I can commit to is that I will table a document as soon as possible. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 358 – 3(2): Sealift Shipping Contract

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am very lucky to have caught question period. I would like to raise a question today to the Minister of Community and Government Services.

I recall that when we placed sealift orders as a government, we compiled all of the orders and we made a single government order. That was in the previous government and I believe it ended this fiscal year. I am wondering what the government is working toward now and whether this minister will continue with that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Okalik. (interpretation ends) Minister of Community and Government Services, Hon. Lorne Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say "good day" to Rankin Inlet and Whale Cove. I thank my colleague for saving me a bit of time for question period so that Mr. Okalik could raise a question.

With regard to the issue, it's true that this was a five-year plan of action, where we would utilize the sealift by both barge and ship. We have contracts in place here in Nunavut for all communities as stated in the five-year agreement. This summer's season will not change as that this contract will expire at summer's end. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When we initiated this program, we knew there were places to make it more efficient because these shipping companies aren't the only ones. We have other means of shipping that could be cheaper. We now have a lot more options available. I would like to ask the minister if he is going to be reopening the process. Are you going to be encouraging the shipping companies to offer the cheapest rates possible for Nunavummiut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With regard to the details in the agreement, it states that after the five-year period, there will be a two-year possibility of extending the agreement if both parties agree. There was an extension clause in there. Based on the extension clause, we have extended it another year to give us time to review and determine how shipping will be worked out for future years. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think we have to look for all options on how best to make any kind of savings, especially in all areas of our operations. When you look at the government, there are even cases where you can ship from Montreal all the way to the Kitikmeot at lower rates.

We have to look at options that allow us to accrue the largest savings, especially in government operations. A lot of these can really cut down the cost in our communities. So I am asking the minister: what kind of plans are you looking at dealing with down the road on this issue? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): We are doing exactly as he says. We conducted a review of the past five years of operations with both the barges and the sealift ship. The current contract we're using now is the end of that five-year agreement. We did extend the agreement one extra year based on our understanding that it's operating smoothly.

Whenever we have a tender, we look for the best shipper and the cheapest shipper. We have looked at what would be the best option and which would be the cheapest rates, so we have looked at the review. With the timeline of the agreement ending, we will be looking at perhaps another tendering process where we can get a competition for the sealift to the communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Thank you, Mr. Okalik. Going back to our Orders of the Day. (interpretation ends) Item 7. Written Questions. Ms. Ugyuk.

7: Written Questions

Written Question 018 – 3(2): Attendance Rates in Nunavut

Ms. Ugyuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a written question for the Minister of Education on the issue of attendance rates in Nunavut schools. The question is lengthy, so I would ask that it be entered into the record as read.

- 1) Within the meaning of section 34 the *Education Act*, what mechanisms will schools across Nunavut use to measure and record the punctuality and attendance of students?
- 2) Within the meaning of subsection 16(1) of the Transition Regulations of the *Education Act*, how many principals in the current academic year have provided monthly reports on attendance?
- 3) Within the meaning of subsection 16(3) of the Transition Regulations of the *Education Act*, how many district education authorities in the current academic year have provided communities with information on attendance in schools in the community?
- 4) Within the meaning of subsection 37(1) of the *Education Act* and recognizing section 15 of the Transition Regulations of the *Education Act*, how many district education authorities across Nunavut have developed and adopted registration and attendance policies during the current academic year?
- 5) Section 36 of the *Education Act* is scheduled to come into force on July

1, 2010. What specific attendance programs have been established to encourage regular and punctual attendance across Nunavut schools?

- 6) For the 2009-2010 school year, what were the attendance rates for all Nunavut schools?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. Written Questions. Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Mr. Clerk.

Item 8: Returns to Written Questions*

Return to Written Question 003 – 3(2): Annual Fuel Purchases by the Government of Nunavut

Return to Written Question 004 – 3(2): Government of Nunavut Responses Adopted at the 2009 Annual General Meeting of the Nunavut Association of Municipalities

Return to Written Question 005 – 3(2): Ministerial Travel

Return to Written Question 006 – 3(2): Status of the Implementation of the Nunavut Housing Trust Delivery Strategy

Return to Written Question 007 – 3(2): Enforcement of the Wildlife Act

*See Appendix for full text of Returns to Written Questions 3 – 3(2), 4 – 3(2), 5 – 3(2), 6 – 3(2), 7 – 3(2), 8 – 3(2), 9 – 3(2), 10 – 3(2), 11 – 3(2), 12 – 3(2), 13 – 3(2), 14 – 3(2), 15 – 3(2), 16 – 3(2), and 17 – 3(2) filed with the Clerk.

**Return to Written Question 008 –
3(2): Correctional Facilities,
Recidivism Rates and
Rehabilitation Programs**

**Return to Written Question 009 –
3(2): Activities of the Nunavut
Liquor Licensing Board**

**Return to Written Question 010 –
3(2): Development Partnership
Agreement between Government
of Nunavut and the Meadowbank
Mining Corporation**

**Return to Written Question 011 –
3(2): Government of Nunavut
Responses to Resolutions Adopted
at the 2009 Kitikmeot Mayors'
Conference**

**Return to Written Question 012 –
3(2): Government of Nunavut's
Actions in Response to Motion 46
– 2(4)**

**Return to Written Question 013 –
3(2): Loans Made By the Nunavut
Business Credit Corporation**

**Return to Written Question 014 –
3(2): Operations of the Nunavut
Liquor Commission**

**Return to Written Question 015 –
3(2): Foster Care**

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

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

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am tabling returns to written questions numbers 3 to 17 that were asked at the March sitting and filed with my office. Thank you.

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

Item 13: Tabling of Documents

**Tabled Document 155 – 3(2):
Commission of Appointment**

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Following yesterday's swearing in of the Commissioner of Nunavut - congratulations to Edna Elias - I would like to table the following document: the Commission of Appointment.

Furthermore, at a later time, I intend to table the letter of instructions to new Commissioner of Nunavut. (interpretation) Thank you.

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

Tabling of Documents. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. Elliott.

**Tabled Document 156 – 3(2):
Resolutions from the 2010 Baffin
Mayors' Forum**

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table today a collection of resolutions from the 2010 Baffin Mayors' Forum which was held earlier this year in Iqaluit. I urge all of my colleagues to review these with care. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Tabling of Documents. Mr. Clerk.

**Tabled Document 157 – 3(2): Return
to Oral Question 319 – 3(2)
Addressing Concerns Relating to
Health and Social Services**

**Tabled Document 158 – 3(2): Return
to Oral Question 344 – 3(2) Cape
Dorset School Project Cost**

**Tabled Document 159 – 3(2): Return
to Oral Question 277 – 3(2) By-
Elections for DEAs**

**Tabled Document 160 – 3(2):
Response to Petition 3 – 3(2)
Petition for a Safe House in
Kugaaruk**

Clerk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am tabling returns to oral questions that were taken as notice at the last sitting. I have question number 277, number 319, and number 344. Mr. Speaker, I am also tabling the response of the Minister of Health and Social Services on petition number 3. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you. Tabling of Documents. Item 14. Notices of Motions. Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Item 14: Notices of Motions

**Motion 022 – 3(2): Standing
Committee Appointments and
Revocations – Notice**

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Thursday, June 3, 2010, I will move the following motion:

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the Hon. Member for Pangnirtung, that Ms. Jeannie Ugyuk be appointed a member of the Standing Committee on Legislation, a member of the Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts, a member of the Standing Committee on Social Wellness, and an alternate member of the Standing Committee on Community and Economic Development.

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

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. Notices of Motions. Mr. Okalik.

**Motion 023 – 3(2): Removal of the
Member of Iqaluit Centre from
the Executive Council – Notice**

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I give notice that on Thursday, June 3, 2010, I will move the following motion:

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the Hon. Member for Baffin South, that the Member for Iqaluit Centre be removed from the Executive Council of Nunavut.

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Okalik. (interpretation ends) Notices of Motions. Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Mr. Elliott.

Item 15: Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills

Bill 33 – An Act to Amend the Integrity Act – Notice

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Thursday, June 3, 2010, I will move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Iqaluit Centre, that Bill 33, *An Act to Amend the Integrity Act*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Mr. Elliott.

Bill 34 – An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act – Notice

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Thursday, June 3, 2010, I will move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Iqaluit Centre, that Bill 34, *An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Minister of Finance, Hon. Keith Peterson.

Bill 28 – Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 1, 2010-2011 – Notice

Bill 29 – Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 2, 2010-2011 – Notice

Bill 30 – Supplementary Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, No. 1, 2010-2011 – Notice

Bill 31 – Supplementary Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, No. 2, 2010-2011 – Notice

Bill 32 – Forgiveness of Debts Act, 2010 – Notice

Bill 36 – Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act, No. 2, 2010 – Notice

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on June 3, 2010, that Bill 28, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 1, 2010-2011*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I give notice that on June 3, 2010, that Bill 29, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 2, 2010-2011*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I give notice that on June 3, 2010, that Bill 30, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 1, 2010-2011*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I have a few more here to go.

Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on June 3, 2010, that Bill 31, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and*

Maintenance) Act, No. 2, 2010-2011, be read for the first time.

Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on June 3, 2010, that Bill 32, *Forgiveness of Debts Act, 2010*, be read for the first time.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on June 3, 2010, that Bill 36, *Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act, No. 2, 2010*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 16. Motions. Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Item 16: Motions

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

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

Motion 022 – 3(2): Standing Committee Appointments and Revocations

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also want to thank my colleagues as well.

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

AND WHEREAS the Member of the Legislative Assembly for Natilik has taken office;

AND WHEREAS the Legislative Assembly is prepared to make appointments and revocations;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the Hon. Member for Pangnirtung, that Ms. Jeannie Ugyuk be appointed a member of the Standing Committee on Legislation, a member of the Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts, a member of the Standing Committee on Social Wellness, and an alternate member of the Standing Committee on Community and Economic Development;

AND FURTHER I MOVE that the appointment of Mr. Johnny Ningeongan as a member of the Standing Committee on Social Wellness and an alternate member of the Standing Committee on Community and Economic Development be revoked;

AND FURTHER I MOVE that Mr. Johnny Ningeongan be appointed a member of the Standing Committee on Community and Economic Development and an alternate member of the Standing Committee on Social Wellness.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All in favour of the motion, please raise your hand. Opposed. The motion is carried.

>>Applause

(interpretation ends) 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. Tabled Documents 13 – 3(2), 66 – 3(2), 99 – 3(2), and 100 – 3(2) with Mr. Okalik in the Chair.

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

>>*House recessed at 15:46 and Committee resumed at 16:21*

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

Chairman (Mr. Okalik)(interpretation): Thank you and good afternoon. I would like to call the committee meeting to order. Today, we have the following items to deal with: Tabled Documents 13 – 3(2), 66 – 3(2), 99 – 3(2), and 100 – 3(2). What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We wish to commence the review of the Tabled Documents as mentioned. For the record, that's 66 – 3(2), 99 – 3(2), and 100 – 3(2). We will start with the Department of Community and Government Services. If time permits, we will be proceeding with the Department of Executive Intergovernmental Affairs, followed by the Department of Health and Social Services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. Does the committee agree that we will deal with Tabled

Documents 66 – 3(2), 99 – 3(2), and 100 – 3(2)?

Some Members: Agreed.

Tabled Document 066 – 3(2): 2008-2009 Lease Activity Report – Consideration in Committee

Tabled Document 099 – 3(2): Contract Activity Report 2008-09 – Consideration in Committee

Tabled Document 100 – 3(2): Procurement Activity Report 2008-09 – Consideration in Committee

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, colleagues. We will begin with Minister Kusugak, the Minister of Community and Government Services, and he can start with his opening comments. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to give you a brief overview of the contract services with CGS. The department is responsible for the overall procurement process for the government and I would like to outline the various processes as follows:

(interpretation ends) The competitive procurement process which includes:

Request for tenders - This is used when a contract authority knows exactly what good or service is required and is only looking for the lowest prices to deliver it. Tenders are awarded based on lowest price. (Assuming all vendors are responsive and responsible.)

Request for proposals - This is issued when a contract authority knows what it wants done but not how to go about doing it and seeks proposals on methods, ability, and price. Proposals are awarded to the contractor scoring the highest score based on published evaluation criteria.

Standing offer agreements provide the opportunity to establish, through a request for tenders or request for proposals process, pricing arrangements that will offer lowest costs for frequently required goods and services through the consolidation of demand. This is also known as achieving economies of scale.

The other aspect is the non-competitive procurement processes, such as sole source contracts, where regulations provide that a contract authority may award a contract without competition where there are reasonable grounds.

Departments are encouraged to work with CGS to determine the type of procurement process that would best suit their needs. CGS manages the procurement process with the department. Awarded contracts are then managed by the individual departments. CGS reports annually on contracting activity and procurement activity.

A leasing activity report contains leasing information for commercial leases for all government departments. CGS is responsible for maintaining all commercial leases for government departments. It is also committed to ensuring fair and ethical practices through the use of the consolidated policy for leasing of commercial real property.

I would be happy to respond to your questions on the overall procurement process, CGS contracts, and the government's commercial leases for 2008-09. Questions on specific details of contracts relating to other departments, Mr. Chairman, can be addressed to the appropriate minister.

(interpretation) Those are my opening comments, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Kusugak. (interpretation ends) It's nice to see that you will be happy to answer questions. It's a nice change.

Does the member who moved this item into the Committee of the Whole for discussion have opening comments? Mr. Elliott, you may proceed.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am very pleased to have the opportunity to provide some general comments as we begin our consideration of these four important tabled documents. As members will recall, the motion to refer these items to the Committee of the Whole for consideration was adopted by the House at our sitting of March 22. I would like to thank my colleague from South Baffin for having seconded the motion.

Mr. Chairman, as I noted in my motion, the government's most recent annual reports on its procurement, contracting and leasing activities were tabled in the Legislative Assembly last year. The government's annual procurement report was tabled on December 7, 2009. Similar information concerning the activities of the Nunavut Housing Corporation was provided in response to

a written question that was asked by my colleague from South Baffin.

I would like to take this opportunity to note that the preparation and release of such information is consistent with best practices throughout the country in the area of government transparency and accountability.

For example, the federal government's policy of proactive disclosure states and I quote, "The Government of Canada is working hard to enhance the role of Parliament and the proactive disclosure of information so that Canadians are better able to hold Parliament, their Government, and public sector officials to account.

To this end, the Government announced the mandatory publication on departmental Web sites of travel and hospitality expenses for selected government officials; contracts entered into by the Government of Canada for amounts over \$10,000 (with only limited exceptions such as national security); and the reclassification of positions; and, grants and contributions awards. Departments must also make available all reports for audits and evaluations that they perform."

Mr. Chairman, as you are aware, a number of my colleagues have raised important questions and concerns regarding the Government of Nunavut's activities and practices in the areas of contracting, procurement and leasing.

As a new Member of the Legislative Assembly, I have been very disturbed to see the extent to which the government relies on outside consultants to perform key functions and undertake major

initiatives. However, I would also observe that it is perfectly clear to me that it is not only the government that does this. For example, you will recall that I tabled a copy of NTI's recent report on nursing recruitment and retention. That report was also prepared by a consulting firm.

Mr. Chairman, I believe that it is very important for members to have the opportunity to scrutinize these reports in detail. Referring these important documents to the Committee of the Whole will allow for careful consideration of them to take place.

Mr. Chairman, one of the questions that I will be asking is for a clear and candid explanation as to why the government's expenditures on consulting services continue to increase. The government's own annual reports indicate that in the 2005-06 fiscal year, the government spent approximately \$3.3 million on activities that are classified as consulting services. However, according to its most recent annual report for the 2008-09 fiscal year, it spent over \$17.2 million. This trend disturbs me, although I do recognize that this category includes major contracts for specialized residential care and other services.

Mr. Chairman, as Members of the Legislative Assembly, we have a duty to act as guardians of the public purse. We need to ask whether or not the government is getting value for money for the millions of dollars that it spends each year.

We need to ask what safeguards are in place to protect departments against such practices as bid rigging. We need to ask whether its practices with respect to such

matters as sole sourcing contracts to individual consultants and companies are appropriate and justifiable.

We need to question whether it is prudent for the government to have issued over 1,200 sole source contracts between the 2006-07 and 2008-09 fiscal years. We need to ask what impact these practices have on the morale of frontline government employees who are serving our constituents when they observe consultants who may not even live in Nunavut receiving sole source contracts that exceed \$100,000.

We need to ask whether we are relying too heavily on consultants to do the work that should be performed by our own departments and employees. We need to ask how the government evaluates the results of its expenditures in these areas and what conclusions it has reached.

Mr. Chairman, I noted earlier that audit and evaluation reports undertaken by federal departments are freely available to the public. For example, I have recently reviewed a highly informative evaluation report on the economic development programs of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada as well as a management practices review of the department's Nunavut Regional Office. This is the direction that our own government should be heading.

For example, the government's most recent annual report on procurement activities reveals that consultants produce a significant number of reports and studies each year. I believe that since the public paid for these reports, they have a right to see them. Every single one of these documents should be

tabled in this Legislative Assembly so that the public and Members of this House have the opportunity to review them. I can see no justification for treating any of them as secret.

Mr. Chairman, I will conclude by noting that I anticipate that ministers will appreciate the opportunity to account for their departments' contracting, procurement and leasing activities over the next couple of weeks as we review each department. I look forward to a productive exercise and I thank all members for having given me this opportunity to speak. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. (interpretation) Minister Kusugak, do you have witnesses that you would like to bring to the table? Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Yes, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Do you agree to bring in the witnesses?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): They have agreed. Sergeant-at-Arms, if you could escort the witnesses in. Thank you.

Thank you, Sergeant-at-Arms. Minister Kusugak, please introduce your witnesses. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On my left is my Deputy Minister, Kathleen Lausman, and the Director of Finance, Alma Power, is on my right.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Welcome, witnesses. Before we proceed, I would like to remind my colleagues 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 a matter under discussion but not until every member wishing to speak has spoken.

Do any of the members have opening comments to make on this matter? Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the minister and his officials for appearing before the committee today.

The questions that I would like to ask are: the government's most recent annual report on procurement activities indicates that the total number of contracts issued by the Government of Nunavut has increased by 44 percent since the 2006-07 fiscal year. In 2006-07, the government issued a total of 1,053 contracts. In 2008-09, it issued a total of 1,521 contracts. What accounts for this trend? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Before I answer that, if I can, Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask Mr. Elliott if he could supply me and my colleagues with his opening statement, as we were not provided them, at an earliest convenience would be good so that we can refer those issues that you raised.

Mr. Chairman, in response to Mr. Rumbolt's question, the increase is directly attributed to the increase in the infrastructure dollars that our government received and thus, the increase in contracting. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The government's most recent annual report on procurement activities indicates that the Department of Community and Government Services will "continue to work with departments towards reducing the occurrence" of sole source contracts. What specific steps are being taken to accomplish this goal? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: There is a combination of things that our department is working on. We are working on training. A lot of those positions are sole sourced for lack of capable people of filling those specific positions. We're also working on standing offers and so on to try to reduce as much as we can on the sole sourcing. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Kusugak. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What consequences are in place for senior departmental and Crown agency managers who do not comply with the government's policies and guidelines in respect to contracting and procurement? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will ask my deputy to respond to that question if you don't mind. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Ms. Lausman.

Ms. Lausman: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are a number of steps that are taken. Quite frankly, training is the most important thing. We run procurement training sessions. We also look at risk around the type of contract risks that exist, whether it's construction, or consultants, or even air charters. If after time and coaching and mentoring doesn't improve on performance, we actually limit the spending authorities for various managers until such time as training results in better contract management and procurement processes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Lausman. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Also, the government's annual reports on its contracting, procurement and leasing activities do not contain information on the activities of the GN's Crown corporations and agencies. When will the government's major Crown corporations and agencies begin to table annual reports on their contracting, procurement and leasing activities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm not at authority to decide when those Crown corporations would be dealing with that matter. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Yes, Minister Kusugak. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Who would have the authority to put that kind of system in place? Thank you.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Mr. Chairman, I would not be. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Rumbolt was asking who we could direct the question to. Mr. Peterson, as Chair of the Crown corporation, maybe he can answer those questions later on. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the last two years, have any employees of the government been disciplined for not complying with the government's policies and guidelines in respect to contracting and procurement? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Mr. Chairman, maybe he could clarify the question exactly what he means by that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Yes, Mr. Kusugak. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm just wondering if there are any cases where contract guidelines and procurement were not followed in the past. I'm just wondering if there are any employees who have had any kind of discipline for not following the proper procedures. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. The question is if there have been rules broken in contracting and if there has been any disciplinary action taken. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I could always address those that CGS is responsible for and to my knowledge, there has been none. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Kusugak. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In 2006-07, the government issued 310 sole source contracts worth a total of \$23,047,000. In 2007-08, the government issued 515 sole source contracts worth a total of \$48,135,000. In 2008-09, it issued 437 sole source contracts worth a total of \$46,674,000. Although the volume of sole source contracts decreased by 15 percent from 2007-08, it increased by over 40 percent from 2006-07. What accounts for this trend? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I could ask Kathleen to answer that question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Ms. Lausman.

Ms. Lausman: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Most of the activity increasing in sole sourcing has to do with a lot more business activity, quite frankly, in the government relative to all departments.

I can only really speak to ours, but certainly a lot of specialty requirements, a lot of IT requirements that are really licensing agreements around existing software in proprietary upgrades that they are required for software. We are, as a government, certainly using a lot more software systems and that is certainly driving a lot of our sole sourcing as well. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Lausman. So from what I understand, we will have to go through each sole source identified in the book and ask about each one for justification.

Are there any further questions to the witnesses? Mr. Rumbolt, do you have any further questions? No. Okay. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My understanding of the questions that we're asking now are not necessarily specific to CGS but sort of government-wide issues and government-wide questions. One of the questions I have is sort of for the other side.

In terms of a business that wants to get into putting in tenders and getting involved in this process where they can actually get contracts from the government, is there any training

available from your department to allow that to happen? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Not specifically from our department, but there are government departments, such as, I believe, Economic Development that do that kind of training, where that kind of training would be available. I will leave it at that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So your department is not responsible for helping businesses understand the tender process, going through that type of process, how it's reviewed, and how the business should be set up. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: That's correct. Economic Development is the business end of our government and they would be responsible for training those in the business private sector to take advantage of or apply for different contracting opportunities. It could also be seen, Mr. Chairman, as a conflict. Conflict issues could arise if we were to be trying to deliver training on what kind of contracting training, and so on and so forth. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will save more of my questions about the specific training for when ED&T comes up.

I have a question. In a case where a departmental or Crown agency employee believes that the senior management of their department is abusing their discretionary authority in relation to issuing contracts, is there a formal process by which the employees can confidentially report their concerns to your department? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Not that I'm aware of, but it would be normal protocol, I believe, to complain to your supervisor. If it's your supervisor that's an issue, you would go further up the train. I'm not aware or neither are we aware of a certain protocol in dealing with that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm not implying that that's actually happening. I'm just implying that in some of the conversations that I've had with people about this person who got that contract and this person, it's almost like they imply that there's something not right going on.

It would seem that if the government is putting up so many contracts and dealing this way so often, there should be a procedure available for employees to be able to do it. Could you maybe commit to working with the Minister of Human Resources? I know he's actually

working on that whistle-blower legislation or something along that line. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Elliott. (interpretation ends) I think one of these is like if a deputy minister for a given department is perhaps abusing the system, where do you go? For example, there is no higher level at the deputy level. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I think any time you are dealing with contracts and tender processes, they are all done in public. All of the tendering process is done through a public process and all of the tenders are open publicly, so it's as public as you could get. I am not aware of any tenders and public contracts that were done behind closed doors.

As for that, the process is very public. If there are specific issues that I may not be aware of, I would invite any of my colleagues and the public to let me know and we will deal with it on a case-by-case basis and deal with it confidentially. The whole process itself is all very publicly done. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Kusugak. I think the question was: where there is a sole sourcing, for example, and if there is a perception problem, then where do you go from there? At the deputy minister level, which avenue do you go? You don't have a supervisor beyond the deputy, for example. I think that's one of the questions that were asked. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: I don't know. Maybe he could ask me again because that's not what I heard him ask. I'll leave it at that. What he's asking and what you're saying he's asking is modelling the situation, so maybe he could be a little more specific. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Kusugak. I had a good discussion with all of my colleagues and that I would try and facilitate and add to their questions where it was necessary. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll get back to the deputy minister, Mr. Chairman, in a minute because Mr. Kusugak said a few things in terms of... and again I hope people don't feel that we're on a witch hunt to try and find out and blame people for giving out contracts to wrong people, and stuff like that. To me, what we're trying to do is show transparency within the government, as what he is saying, in a sense that these things are available. I know in the past when I have actually asked his department for information about different contracts, I felt, myself, I wasn't able to get specific information.

Before I go to the question about the possibility of a deputy minister making decisions and where does the employee go, I want to speak to some of the questions that came up when he was answering my question the first time in a sense that: how open is your department with sharing information? Will you show different contractors how your department went through the bid process? Will you tell them how they graded among the NNI? How the final decision came about? Is that what your department does?

And again, this is a learning process for me because I'm not a contractor and I don't put in bids for tenders, I just listen and I'm learning the process myself from what I hear contractors and businesses say out there. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In terms of the tender processes, we disclose the total price, vendor name, location of project, and procurement method. Itemized price is not disclosed. The name of sub-contractors is not disclosed. NNI bid analysis is disclosed. In terms of request for proposals, we disclose our vendor name, location of project, and procurement method. Price is generally not disclosed at the time of the award, but the total price is disclosed on the power and car reports. The name of sub-contractors is not disclosed. Evaluation scores are not disclosed.

I hope that answers your question, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the information because that brought up another question. If an Inuit owned company applies for this bid, or for a tender, or for a contract, it is company XYZ, and it is totally Inuit owned, you said that it doesn't disclose the subcontractors. So I could technically be a contractor in a community and say that I'm going to do the work, but I could then contract it out to some southern company and no one else would know that I would get the bid

and the points for being a totally Inuit owned company. To me, that doesn't seem fair to what happens a lot of times to our small businesses in the communities. Could you clarify that? Is that what you are saying to me? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Elliott. (interpretation ends) I think there are processes to determine if there is abuse and penalties, and those things, but I'll let the minister answer that one. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No. Maybe I could ask Alma to explain that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Ms. Power.

Ms. Power: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The company would disclose to us in their bids who their subcontractors were. We would not disclose that information to the other bidders when we did our letters of regret. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that explanation. That does help a lot. Again, this is a new process for me and I think for the people who are watching it, it's probably a good educational experience. As Minister Kusugak said the last time we were here, I must be learning lots.

I want to get back to the question. Say, for example, I work in the deputy minister's office and I see stuff going on

with sole source contracts going out to certain people, there's a tender that needs to go out for reviewing some policy or whatever, and I'm not happy with the way that it's being done, where do you go when your boss is the deputy minister? Do you actually go to the minister?

Again, I'm getting to the point with whistle-blowing and obviously, it has been in the newspaper in the past couple of weeks with reports about things that are going on with departments that are confidential information about employees. I just want to know where employees can go. Thank you.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that question. I'll have my deputy answer that question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Ms. Lausman.

Ms. Lausman: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I presume to answer this question relative to procurement. I have to admit that frankly, I don't think too many deputy ministers actually get involved in the procurement process themselves, most of that is done rightly by their staff. Virtually all procurements run through the procurement office certainly in our department and gets guidance from the procurement office itself.

The contracts are relative to the type of work going on. In our business, it's a great deal of consulting work on engineering, architecture, and

construction. All of those contracts are managed by project officers and project managers. There is a credit checks and balance system involved because every contract needs signatories by at least three or four folks, usually ending with the deputy minister depending on the value. So the deputy minister does see it.

Each one of these contracts are also signed off and registered as a financial transaction. So there are an awful lot of folks who actually see the contract details and the financial details around the contracts and are privy to the process. So it's highly unlikely that there would be one person involved at any level in any kind of contract award. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Lausman. (interpretation ends) I think one of the things is, where there is a sole source contract, the procedures aren't followed through the usual process. Can you explain that process perhaps? Ms. Lausman.

Ms. Lausman: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Even with sole source contracts, they begin with the need for a contract. Unless it's a dire emergency, even sole source contracts have a sign-off as to the justification and that goes through at least three or four signatures, frequently the deputy minister because of the value. So again, the checks and balances around all types of contracts themselves are quite expansive, so it's very rare. In fact, I personally don't know a case where a contract would be signed off by one individual in one department. They're really scrutinized quite widely. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that explanation. That again helps. So if you were an employee who thought that the process wasn't properly followed through and then the deputy minister does sign it, does that employee still go to the deputy minister and say, "I have a problem with you hiring."

Again, I'm not talking about contract services for an airline for medical travel and things like that; I'm talking about individual employees. We have so many different cases where there are individual people who are employed as and you think they're employees, but they're actually contract workers. Again, we're in a small territory and there's bound to be nepotism that happens. Now, I'm not saying that it has happened, but you know, we're in a small territory.

If I am an employee, and again I think to me, what we want to try and do is to make sure that your employees feel that the process is being followed through, and if I'm sitting there and I don't know who to ask, then ultimately, I'm going to be upset and frustrated thinking that I have no one to tell this to. It might very well find out that the process was followed through properly and everything went through, but there is no process to be able to help that employee air their concern.

Again there is a difference between airing your concerns and having a real concern and then just bitching about it. I am talking about someone who has a legitimate concern about what's

happened and the process being followed. Is there or could you commit to working towards having a process in place? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Elliott. (interpretation ends) I would caution you on using language that is considered unparliamentary, just a reminder. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: In our department, in terms of sole sourced contracts or any contracts, we do our utmost to ensure that there is no illegal activity, if I may use that, in terms of nepotism or anything else being done through any of the contracting processes.

If there are issues out there, again I haven't been made aware of any, such as what Mr. Elliott is outlining. If there is an issue there and it needs to be looked at, I'm sure that our department could take a look at, if there was an issue like that, how we would begin to deal with it in terms of our department. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I apologize for using that term. Thanks for the explanation.

What I would like to know is if the minister could commit to actually working with the Department of Human Resources. As what the Premier has said, she wants the different government departments working together, working together better, and communicating better.

If the Department of Human Resources is actually working on some type of whistle-blower legislation, to me, this seems like it could fit under it in terms of when contracts are happening, there is an out for employees to go and talk and have a process. So instead of your department looking at the situation and coming up with your own policy, maybe working with the Department of Human Resources to have one policy that fits all government departments. Thank you

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister Kusugak, if you want to answer the question.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for those comments. In terms of this issue, the contracting and procurement, we do the utmost that we can to ensure that the people who receive the contracts and win the awards are done fairly and equitably. Nothing, as far as I know, is done under the table; it's all a very public process. It's as fair as you can get. There is a whole process with checks and balances, and checks within checks and balances.

Our process right now works. If we need to review those checks and balances, we will review them with those departments that we need to work with them with. Our government is a very good government in terms that we work with all departments. We work with all departments in terms of procurement. I am sure that my colleague and the others would be more than happy to work with us in terms of ensuring that the checks and balances are fair and equitable for everybody. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Kusugak. I think that when you turn the page on this thick piece of paper, you will see a lot of individuals that are under sole source. That's where I think, once we get into the details, it will become obvious that there are a lot more questions to these sole source issues that we're facing. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for those answers. One of the things that always has stuck out in my mind with people who are either sole sourced or they're contracted out to work in a government department is they show up on the staff list as an employee. If you are contracted by the Government of Nunavut, are you technically an employee of the Government of Nunavut? Thank you.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: A very short answer to that, no, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If they're not technically employees of the Government of Nunavut, what happens if they make a mistake? They don't carry a zero in their financial person and they cause a department to go into a deficit or overspend by some ungodly amount of money. Is there any recourse for compensation or giving that back?

If there are people who are making decisions about policy and if you are a Government of Nunavut employee, then obviously, if you're an employee, there

are ways of going through a process of reviewing, sitting down with the person, evaluating the performance, and helping that person grow and become a better employee of the Government of Nunavut. If they are a contractor, is there anything in place where that's allowed to happen or do they just come and do their work and then leave? Thank you.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I could ask Kathleen to answer that question. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Ms. Lausman.

Ms. Lausman: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There is actually a fair bit of work done around contracts for service contractors as opposed to employees and it's very important, especially to Revenue Canada, to ensure that there is a clear separation between what is an employee and what is a contractor. Frankly, contractors are hired with very specific deliverables for a very specific timeframe. Those deliverables are checked and recorded as part of the deliverance of that contract itself. It's frankly much easier to deal with contractors and their performance, probably, than with a lot of staff issues, quite frankly.

The issue of where you would hire a contractor to do work, whether it's financial or otherwise, is probably not in your strategic positions. You would hire them to fulfill a task, a certain deliverable, and the price of the contract would be based on that particular deliverable over that particular time.

There is a considerable effort taken to separate what is a contract for staff under the *Public Service Act* and what is a contract for an individual for a certain type of work. It's quite distinct. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Lausman. (interpretation ends) Mr. Elliott, your time's up for the time being. The next name I have is Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Along the lines of response that Ms. Lausman has provided for us in terms of hiring to get a task done or to get a job done.

In the 2008-09 fiscal year, a number of individuals received contracts worth more than \$100,000 from different governmental departments. In some cases, individuals have received more than a quarter of a million dollars in government contracts. Will you commit to working with the Minister of Finance to implement a process where contracts are automatically audited in cases where a single individual receives more than \$100,000 in contracts in any given fiscal year? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I could ask Kathleen to give a quick response to that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Ms. Lausman.

Ms. Lausman: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To that question, there is

actually an established Central Accountability Committee that's chaired by Finance and that committee deals with issues of this nature, which typically begin with internal audits that the Department of Finance actually generates. So we are already involved in oversight over a number of issues like that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Lausman. Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also want to thank the deputy minister for providing that answer there. It is always nice to know how people always overuse the word "transparency," especially in the government system, but basically, what it comes down to is the accountability aspect of it. I think that we are all trying to do our best to best serve the interests of Nunavut, so is the department, so is the public in keeping us informed and holding us accountable.

I've got a question along the lines of that just to follow up what I had asked. A number of former government employees have been awarded contracts by the government to perform work that would normally be performed by full-time employees. Concerns have been raised that employees have an incentive to leave the government in order to return as consultants who perform the same work for more income.

Will you commit to working with the Minister of Human Resources to implement a policy whereby people who leave the government cannot be awarded government contracts or be hired to work as consultants until a certain time has passed in order to avoid that

reputation of having staff leave in order to provide the same type of service as consultants? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we could, but in saying that, there are cases where an individual or individuals may leave the government and that position cannot be filled in the time. During the individual's vacancy, the work still needs to be done. There are times and cases where, as before, we have to get the individuals back to do some contract work while the position is trying to be filled.

It is just a problem of getting qualified staff to fill those positions and most of these are very specific jobs that cannot be filled immediately, but we are trying to deal with that. We are working with the appropriate department in trying to deal with shortage of staff and working towards trying to get redundancy in departments so that if a certain staff member leaves, they don't leave such a void. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thanks for the response. To kind of put into perspective, another way to ask this, I believe, would be asking in this sense: how many of the government's positions are currently being filled on a contractual basis by consultants who are not actually members of the public service? Thank you.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: I'm sorry, Mr. Chairman. I wouldn't be able to answer that.

Chairman: I think Mr. Kusugak, perhaps, if an employee leaves, they sometimes go with severance. While they are in severance, are they allowed to be given contracts and double-dip, for example? Other governments have put in safeguards to prevent such activities. So is there a system in place within our contracting practices to prevent that from happening where we are paying twice over, perhaps, for the same service? Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: I really wouldn't be able to answer that, Mr. Chairman, but I think the Department of Human Resources may be better suited to answer that question. I wouldn't know, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: We will get to Human Resources a bit later, I understand. Are there any further questions on this section? I don't see any other arms. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just need clarification. On page 4 of the Government of Nunavut Contract Activity Report, Tabled Document 99 – 3(2), it says that sole source contracting practices are monitored closely. The GN believes we get the best value for our money through a competitive bidding process. Yet, in their procurement of these contracts, the sole sourcing contract is so much higher in terms of percentage. Why is the government saying that we get the best for our money in a competitive bidding process and yet, there are a whole lot of sole sourced contracts? Why is there a

contradiction there? (interpretation)
Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In that same document, it says that the volume of sole sourced contracts has decreased by 15 percent from the fiscal year 2007-08 to 2008-09.

In terms of sole source contracting though, Mr. Chairman, we are talking about most of the sole source contracting is done with specialized trades and emergency situations, such as the Pangnirtung disaster we had. We have emergency situations where sole sourcing spikes up. We have specialized fields and specialized contracts that are let.

I hope that clarifies some of Mr. Arvaluk's questions, but again that I can only answer in terms of our department's sole sourcing. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thanks for the partial answer.

My specific question was the percentage of contracts that are procured or have gone through the government. Sole sourcing is a lot higher than the competitive process. There are a lot more contracts in sole sourcing and I know it has decreased by 15 percent, but why was it even higher than 15 percent? My question is: because they couldn't fulfill jobs for whatever reason, that's

why they had to get a contractor just to do a service, especially service work?

I am not so worried about building a bridge in Pangnirtung, that's an exception. I am talking about IT technology. I think it has a whole lot of contracts for individual people who could have easily been, I think, hired by the government as employees of the government rather than contractors. Why is the practice continued rather than employing staff to do these things? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Arvaluk responded to some of those issues.

One of the bigger issues is we have severe staff shortages. We have experts required in the different fields that are not available here or within departments. We have emergency situations that arise. There are a number of contributing factors to this throughout the government. Our department, believe me, would rather be not sole sourcing if it can.

But I would like to ask Kathleen if she could add to those comments, Mr. Chairman, if you would allow her. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Ms. Lausman.

Ms. Lausman: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do want to respond to the question around IT because I think that one is quite important. There is an awful

lot of expert IT skill sets required, actually, within Nunavut.

Rather than sole source, what the government has done is issued standing offer agreements to a number of what are called body shots. What they do is they provide expert consulting for different types of IT expertise, whether it's business analyst or project managers, experts in different software and different hardware systems.

Those, in fact, are tendered and are procured with transparency. It's certainly not a sole source, but it does bring in consulting individuals to deal with specific IT issues over a specific period of time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Lausman. (interpretation) Are there any further questions? Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for allowing me to ask more questions.

The government's most recent annual report on procurement activities indicates that the Department of Health and Social Services issued 186 sole source contracts in 2008-09. This accounted for over 42 percent of the total number of sole source contracts.

As Minister of Community and Government Services, are you satisfied that the Department of Health and Social Services is following proper government procurement and contracting practices with respect to sole sourcing? Thank you.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think that question is better asked of the Minister responsible for Health and Social Services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In terms of giving out these 186 sole source contracts and 42 percent of the total sole source contracts for the Government of Nunavut, your department has no role in this. It's strictly Health and Social Services that is totally responsible for writing up the description of the job like you said, assigning the dollar value, reviewing whether it is Inuit owned or not Inuit owned, and you have nothing to do with that. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We don't participate in the other departments' sole sourcing. That is done by their departments, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We will have a chance to have different departments come before us.

I guess it's a good thing I asked that question because now it leads me to ask you: when you answered the question about sole sourcing, following proper

procedures, following a proper job description or viable outcomes, and then evaluating those outcomes back to the dollar value spent, were you answering that just for your department in terms of your process and the way you do it, not the overall government? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: In terms of sole sourcing contracts, yes.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Kusugak. Mr. Elliott, any further questions? I don't see any further arms on this one. (interpretation) Are there any questions for government-wide issues? No one has their hand up for that one.

Thank you, Mr. Kusugak. I give you the opportunity to make any closing comments.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you. I would like to thank the members for their questions and at this time, I will just show my appreciation, Mr. Chairman.

When we are dealing with contracts, we try to be transparent and open to the public out there. We have to give everybody an opportunity. That's why I and my staff work hard to make sure that there is fairness in dealing with contracts in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for giving us an opportunity.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Those were government-wide issues and I thank you for responding to those questions.

At this time, we will have to deal with your department. You can now ask questions specifically regarding Community and Government Services. Are there any questions? (interpretation ends) To the Department of CGS solely, are there any other questions? Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are a number of contracts outstanding or to be completed, for example, in Pond Inlet that we have yet to build an arena. The foundation, I think, is being worked on now and that the rest will come in during the sealift.

We have been informed that federal monies for stimulus programs may stop some time in the near future. Will these contracts be completed while the money is still available from the federal government? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's a very good question, Mr. Arvaluk. In terms of the arena in Pond Inlet, those dollars are already committed, Mr. Chairman, and our department is not aware of any funding that's going to stop. I'm not aware of that, Mr. Chairman. As for his arena, those funds are committed and it will be built. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I'm using Pond Inlet as an example. There must be other infrastructure

programs in other communities that are in the same boat literally, I guess.

So 75 percent of the fed's money that is going towards that arena is secured with the Government of Nunavut already. Is that the answer? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: I think, Mr. Chairman, there are funds that we have from the federal government, the Building Canada Fund, municipal and recreational infrastructure funds, and stimulus funds. As far as I know, those funds are not going to be cut short and that they will run through due process, Mr. Chairman. I'm not aware and have not been made aware of anything different than that, Mr. Chairman.

So as far as my department and this government understand, those projects that are highlighted and will be highlighted will go ahead. I'll leave it at that, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm just concerned with any of the money that is committed, 25 percent from the GN and 75 percent from the federal government. However, we had an experience in Arctic Bay where an airstrip completion date has been delayed for several years, I think, for unforeseen problems.

If that happens, if the completion date is deferred and the federal money runs out, then what is the contingency plan of the

Government of Nunavut to honour that commitment? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Mr. Chairman, I can only reiterate that as far as we know, the money is committed and I can't speculate, Mr. Chairman. All I could tell you and assure my colleague is that we have agreements with the federal government for those funds that I earlier stated. I have not heard anything different from that and we will go on that premise, Mr. Chairman. Thank you very much.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Are there any further questions? Mr. Schell.

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. A question for Mr. Kusugak here. On February 17, 2009, the federal Competition Bureau publicly announced that criminal charges had been laid against a number of companies "accused of rigging bids to obtain Government of Canada contracts for information technology services." One of the companies that were charged was Donna Cona. In 2008-09, your department awarded \$1,742,000 in contracts to this company.

What measures does your department have in place to ensure that the Government of Nunavut is not the victim of bid rigging? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Schell. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I could ask Kathleen to answer that question. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Ms. Lausman.

Ms. Lausman: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We certainly spend a lot of time consulting with our colleagues federally and in other provincial jurisdictions. There are certainly a lot of publications in the procurement business that allow professionals in that area to be informed about various things going on.

We are certainly aware of this particular charge, if you will, or case. Until it concludes, we have to wait and see what happens. Certainly, the procurement process that this government undertook to get a standing offer in place with that company was open, transparent, and competitive.

Certainly, the process that the GN went through to hire that company and others allowed us some comparative price comparisons. So we certainly believe that with that contract, we have some value for money and the process itself was quite transparent.

I think that until there is an actual conclusion to some of those matters, we would prefer not to speculate. We would certainly be concerned, but our process was stellar and transparent. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Lausman. Mr. Schell.

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What advice does your department provide to other GN departments and

Crown corporations, including the Nunavut Housing Corporation, to help them avoid awarding contracts whose value has been over-inflated by bid rigging? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Schell. (interpretation) Who would like to respond? Ms. Lausman.

Ms. Lausman: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We certainly discussed a lot. This is a large territory but a small market. It is a concern firstly for everyone who contracts within this territory that we are getting value for money and that we are, in fact, achieving what we set out to achieve at the end of our contracting practices. We certainly are concerned with the number of respondents we have to construction contracts.

I know that two of the concerns was housing. That means that we have to take measures to ensure that we've got more contractors interested in our work. There are a number of ways that we have to do that. We must scrutinize prices. We must ask for price breakdowns. So there are different methodologies that we undertake when we are certainly doing contracting.

I apologize for speaking for more specifically to construction because that's where we do most of our work. We are aware of it and we do discuss these issues amongst colleagues because we want the best value for Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Lausman. Mr. Schell.

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My next question is: when you find out what the results on these charges are, will you inform the House as to what decision has been made so that we can monitor this company if there are any charges? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Schell. There are already charges. It's perhaps the outcome that you are asking about. Ms. Lausman.

Ms. Lausman: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Certainly that would be of interest to ourselves and to the House, and we will certainly report back.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Lausman. Are there any further questions? Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The government's most recent annual report on procurement activities indicates that the Petroleum Products Division of the Department of Community and Government Services spent approximately \$195 million in 2008-09 on fuel resupply contracts. It spent approximately \$137 million in 2007-08. Approximately how much did it spend in the 2009-2010 fiscal year? Thank you.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We just don't have that information in front of us, Mr. Chairman. Sorry, we don't have that detail with us today. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Kusugak. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: The government's most recent annual report on procurement activities indicates that Woodward's was paid approximately \$167 million in fuel resupply contracts and NTCL was paid approximately \$25 million in fuel resupply contracts in the 2008-09 fiscal year. These amounts were significantly higher than in 2007-08. How is the department monitoring these companies' compliance with the terms and conditions of their contracts? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the question, Mr. Elliott. If I could have Kathleen answer that, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Ms. Lausman, please.

Ms. Lausman: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that question. It's certainly a bit of an art right now and actually over the past years to determine the cost of fuel, which is a huge part of that contract. Bulk supply contracts, frankly, is the bulk of the cost. Our PPD folks spend a lot of time monitoring the market and the stock market, and get expert advice on what's happening both with the price of crude and also currency. We have also taken effort to do early purchases to moderate the cost.

There isn't a lot of time spent dealing with the contractors themselves. Certainly leading up to the resupply time, which is predominantly summer, there are volumes that are calculated as forecast for requirement at different times of year that are communicated back to the bulk contractors so that they

have an idea of the volumes that the government will likely be purchasing.

There are folks who actually ride on the ships as the product is being delivered. There are different tests done of the fuel at the point of loading the ship, unloading the ship, and into the tanks, and so on. It's quite a rigorous testing process that is undertaken throughout the whole fuel resupply. Once the fuel is in the tanks themselves, there is further rigour as the fuel gets consumed throughout the course of the year, and then ultimately gets delivered to individual consumers.

Managing those contracts is very important and it's certainly important through that management that we get the best pricing and that we actually get fuel delivered to the communities. There is quite a lot of contract management around both of them. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In April of 2004, the Government of Nunavut filed a lawsuit against NTCL for approximately \$7.5 million to recover costs incurred by the government for its "bad gas" compensation program. In March of this year, the Nunavut Court of Justice issued a judgment in relation to this matter.

Without discussing the specifics of this case, when does the government anticipate that it will be finally resolved and is it satisfied that NTCL has successfully addressed the problems with gasoline quality that led to this lawsuit being filed? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Elliott. (interpretation ends) I remember that situation. It was challenging. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In terms of risk management and that whole issue, I think this question would be best asked by my colleague, the Minister responsible for Finance. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Kusugak. The minister is not here. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The government's most recent annual report on procurement activities indicates that your department awarded a \$38,000 sole source contract in 2008-09 to Aarluk Consulting to prepare a "Gas Tax Program Evaluation." What did this evaluation determine and will you commit to tabling it in the Legislative Assembly? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As part of the gas tax agreement, the program evaluation was required to be completed by March 31, 2009. A standing offer agreement was in place with the contractor. However, time constraints did not allow the full competitive process to be complete. The sole source contract was necessary. The GN remains in full compliance with the gas tax agreement. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Kusugak. (interpretation ends) I think that my colleague asked when you plan to table this document as well.

Minister Kusugak, can you respond to that?

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: I'll table it at an appropriate time, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Kusugak. I take it tomorrow.

>> *Laughter*

Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just so I understand a little bit more and maybe if people have questions in terms of the Gas Tax Program, is it a reporting mechanism going back to the federal government saying where we spent? My understanding of the Gas Tax Program is it's for helping to build recreational facilities and stuff like that. Am I off? Is that what it is? It's reporting back to the federal government saying, "We spent the money on this, this, and this," and reporting back to the federal government to meet requirements. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Who can respond? Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I believe it's to ensure that we are complying with the program. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess the next question then would be: why couldn't your department perform this work if it was a matter of doing a

report back on programs handled by your department? Thank you.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We didn't have the staff to be able to fulfill that work. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The government's most recent annual report on procurement activities indicates that your department awarded three sole source contracts worth a total of \$91,500 to an individual in 2008-09 to act as a contracts specialist for your department. Why were these contracts awarded on a sole source basis? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Elliott. (interpretation ends) I think the contracts our colleague is referring to is C995, C1240, and C1282. For the minister's benefit, I am highlighting those particular items. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: I'll ask Ms. Lausman to respond to that, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Ms. Lausman.

Ms. Lausman: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This particular individual was formerly with PPD and I believe, actually before the division, provided the contracting expertise to PPD in negotiating their resupply contracts as

well as the contracts with various distributor contractors by community.

This was absolutely to fill a vacancy and a void in PPD and ensure that these contracts and this work were completed for the fuel resupply. This contractor is no longer used and it was for a specific period of time. That staff position has now been filled and we are pleased about that.

This is perhaps what contractors are used for, to plug gaps in business and make sure that we can get on with business while we staff positions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Lausman. Are there any further questions on this section? Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just a while ago, you presented a report with regard to rental units in Arviat. In your report, it outlines that it would end by June 13, 2007. Now this rent is \$332,000 annually. This lease was from the Arviat Development Corporation. Apparently, the lease has expired and that development corporation has run out of money.

Last year, we approved a supplementary appropriation of \$4.4 million in the Legislative Assembly and this was to allow the purchase of the Arviat Health Centre now that the Arviat Development Corporation has closed. What I would like to raise in a question is with regard to these offices in Arviat that are owned by this corporation. Are they going to be bought and if not, what's the reason? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Who would like to respond to that question? Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With regard to the issue that the member has raised with the health centre or the office in Arviat, we haven't made a decision to buy that facility at this time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Why haven't you deliberated or considered the option as to whether you ought to purchase that facility? Are you still renting or leasing it? If you haven't purchased it, what's the status? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): As far as we have been led to understand, we have not been informed by the operators or the managers of this facility as to whether we are supposed to operate that building. That is what we understand. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wanted to add with regard to Cambridge Bay. There's also a facility that you have been leasing and it's supposed to end on March 31, 2027. This was signed and agreed to in 1997. The cost of the facility is \$1,110,022 annually. Now, this lease is a 40-year

lease and the accrued form would be \$44 million over the life of the lease.

Have you looked at options? Have you learned from this long-term lease? It's costing the government a lot and it was agreed to in 1997. Have you considered other options? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): There are a lot of things that we have learned over the last ten years based on rentals and leases of private facilities. Because these are privately owned by the communities, it is the only way they create economic development and derive their income from that.

We are deliberating on the options and whether we will have to come up with a new lease agreement, especially for capital items or projects. Yes, we know it's quite expensive, but it's also included in the operations and maintenance budget. We are trying to deal with the operations and how they would be dealt with when we are renting facilities or offices from the private sector. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Are there any further questions? Mr. Schell.

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The government's most recent annual report on procurement activities indicates that your department's Cape Dorset office awarded a contract for an indoor air quality investigation. What facility was looked at and what did the

investigation conclude? Thank you, Mr. Chairman

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Schell. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: If you would bear with me, Mr. Chairman, I'm trying to find which item number he is referring to, Mr. Chairman, so I can better answer his question.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Kusugak. The contract number is C546. So for the benefit of the minister and his officials, that's where it's being referred to. (interpretation) Who is going to respond to the question?

(interpretation ends) Again, it's C546. I know it's hard to find because there is no page reference for these particular contracts, so it's a challenge trying to find a particular item. If they were in sequence, it would be a little easier too. Perhaps that's another lesson that your department can learn, to sequence these contracts so that it's easier to find as you go. I see some nodding, so hopefully that will improve.

I should remind my colleagues that when you are referring to a question, you should also identify the contract number so that they can get at least some advance notice on this.

(interpretation) To the question, Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: The reason I couldn't find it here, Mr. Chairman, is because it wasn't a sole source, it was a tender. I will have to get back to him as to which building it was. We may have

to tender out or maybe sole source on how to organize these things better.

>> *Laughter*

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Kusugak. (interpretation) Questions? Mr. Schell.

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The government's most recent annual report on procurement activities indicates that your department awarded a number of different contracts for air charters on a sole source basis. In what circumstances should departments obtain competitive quotes from different airlines and in what situations is it appropriate to sole source an air charter? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Schell. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The sole sourcing in terms of air travel is usually based on availability at the time, Mr. Chairman. In terms of emergencies and stuff based on priority, the sole sourcing is done due to lack of availability of a certain plane at a certain time. It varies on a case-by-case situation, Mr. Chairman, but we do try to get more than one quote before a contract is done given time and space, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Mr. Schell.

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is referring to contract C864. The government's most recent annual report on procurement activities indicates that

your department paid \$275,668 in 2008-09 for an all-wheel drive vehicle. Was only one vehicle purchased and what was its purpose?

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Schell. Who wants to respond to that question? Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation) I thank you for the question. (interpretation ends) This all-wheel drive vehicle is actually a typo; it should be all-wheel drive vehicles. Those are, I believe, the amphibious machines that were purchased from our department for emergency services and search and rescue that were distributed throughout the territory.

I'm jogging my memory, but I think it's like nine or ten, or I forget the exact number of those amphibious vehicles. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Kusugak. (interpretation ends) Are there any further questions on CG&S? I do not see any further arms and I recognize the clock. We're close to six o'clock, so perhaps we can report progress and start with a new department tomorrow. (interpretation) Is that agreeable?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): You are all agreed. Thank you, Minister Kusugak. If you would like to make closing remarks, you have the floor.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank our officials who were able to be here at

the witness table because they deal with this daily. It's quite challenging and complex to deal with these issues, so I thank them dearly. They work really hard to ensure that the contracts are dealt with fairly and they deal with all of the communities.

I want to thank all of my colleagues, especially for conducting a thorough review because it really helps us. Whenever you have concerns or issues about these contracts, you can come and check with me either at the meeting or outside the meeting.

Thank you for being a very good chairperson, Mr. Chairman. I thank you for your facilitation. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Kusugak. I thank your officials for appearing before the committee. Sergeant-at-Arms, if you could escort the minister and his officials out. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Going back to our Orders of the Day. Item 20. Report of the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Okalik.

Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Tabled Documents 66 – 3(2), 99 – 3(2), and 100 – 3(2) and would like to report progress. Also, Mr. Speaker, I move that the Report of the Committee of the Whole be concurred with. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Okalik. There is a motion on the floor. Is there a seconder? Mr. Arvaluk. The motion is in order. All those in favour of the motion, raise your hand. Opposed. The motion is carried.

Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. Item 22. Orders of the Day. (interpretation ends) Mr. Clerk.

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Clerk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A reminder for meetings for tomorrow, there is a meeting of the Standing Committee on Legislation at 8:30, followed by a meeting of the Regular Caucus at 10:30, and both meetings are being held in the Nanuq Room.

Orders of the Day for June 2:

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 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.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned until June 2 at 1:30 p.m.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 18:01*

