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**3rd Session**

**3rd Assembly**

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Official Report

**DAY 60**

**Monday, November 5, 2012**

**Pages 3280 – 3341**

**Iqaluit**

**Speaker: The Honourable Hunter Tootoo, M.L.A.**

## Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

### *Speaker*

**Hon. Hunter Tootoo**

(Iqaluit Centre)

**Hon. Eva Aariak**

(Iqaluit East)

*Premier; Minister of Education;  
Minister of Executive and  
Intergovernmental Affairs; Minister  
responsible for Aboriginal Affairs;  
Minister responsible for Immigration*

**Hon. James Arreak**

(Uqqummiut)

*Minister of Culture and Heritage;  
Minister of Environment; Minister of  
Languages; Minister responsible for the  
Utility Rates Review Council*

**Moses Aupaluktuq**

(Baker Lake)

**Tagak Curley**

(Rankin Inlet North)

**Hon. Monica Ell**

(Iqaluit West)

*Minister of Human Resources;  
Minister responsible for Homelessness;  
Minister responsible for the Status of  
Women*

**Ron Elliott**

(Quttiktuq)

**Joe Enook**

(Tununiq)

*Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole*

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak**

(Rankin Inlet South – Whale Cove)

*Government House Leader; Minister of  
Community and Government Services;  
Minister responsible for the Qulliq  
Energy Corporation; Minister  
responsible for the Workers' Safety and  
Compensation Commission*

**John Ningark**

(Akulliq)

**Johnny Ningeongan**

(Nanulik)

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

**Hezakiah Oshutapik**

(Pangnirtung)

**Hon. Keith Peterson**

(Cambridge Bay)

*Minister of Finance, Chair of the  
Financial Management Board; Minister  
of Health and Social Services*

**Allan Rumbolt**

(Hudson Bay)

**Hon. Fred Schell**

(South Baffin)

**Hon. Daniel Shewchuk**

(Arviat)

*Minister of Justice; Minister  
responsible for Nunavut Arctic  
College*

**Louis Tapardjuk**

(Amittuq)

*Deputy Chair, Committee of the  
Whole*

**Hon. Peter Taptuna**

(Kugluktuk)

*Deputy Premier; Minister of  
Economic Development and  
Transportation; Minister of  
Energy; Minister responsible for the  
Nunavut Housing Corporation*

**Jeannie Ugyuk**

(Nattilik)

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**Iqaluit, Nunavut**  
**Monday, November 5, 2012**

**Members Present:**

Honourable Eva Aariak, Honourable James Arreak, Mr. Moses Aupaluktuq, Mr. Tagak Curley, Honourable Monica Ell, Mr. Ron Elliott, Mr. Joe Enook, Honourable Lorne Kusugak, Mr. John Ningark, Mr. Johnny Ningeongan, Mr. Hezakiah Oshutapik, Honourable Keith Peterson, Mr. Allan Rumbolt, Honourable Fred Schell, Honourable Daniel Shewchuk, Mr. Louis Tapardjuk, Honourable Peter Taptuna, Honourable Hunter Tootoo, Ms. Jeannie Ugyuk.

>>House commenced at 13:30

**Item 1: Opening Prayer**

**Speaker** (Hon. Hunter Tootoo): *Qujannamiik*, Sergeant-at-Arms. Before we proceed today, I would like to ask Ms. Ugyuk if she could lead us off in a prayer, please.

>>Prayer

**Speaker's Ruling**

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. (interpretation ends) Before we proceed with our orders of the day, I would like to inform you that I am now prepared to deliver my ruling on the point of order raised by the Member for Rankin Inlet North at the Legislative Assembly's sitting of November 2, 2012.

The point of order was raised in relation to the Minister of Education's delivery of the government's formal response to Petition 3 – 3(3), which had been presented by the Member for Rankin

Inlet North at the Legislative Assembly's sitting of October 23, 2012.

Rule 43(10) of the *Rules of the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut* provides that, and I quote, "The Speaker or Minister responsible shall provide a response to a petition within 60 calendar days of its presentation."

I would note that the rule does not prescribe any specific form for a response to a petition beyond the implied and self-evident requirement that it respond to the substance of the petition in some way.

Having now had the opportunity to review a copy of the minister's response to Petition 3 – 3(3), I note that it does provide a response to the subject matter contained in Petition 3 – 3(3).

I would emphasize that it is not the role of the Chair to determine whether or not the response is satisfactory. Members who are dissatisfied with the government's response to a petition are at liberty to ask questions to the responsible minister or make statements in the House concerning the substance of the response. I would also note that Rule 43(4) provides that no debate shall be allowed on the presentation of a petition.

Accordingly, the document shall be entered into the records of the Legislative Assembly in fulfillment of the minister's obligations under Rule 43. The official date of the response shall be noted as November 2, 2012. A copy of my ruling will be attached to the response.

In raising his point of order, the Member for Rankin Inlet North did not explicitly



indicate which rule he believed to have been broken.

In reviewing the relevant excerpt from *Hansard*, I note that the member's intervention focused on the appropriateness and necessity of the general observations contained in the response which concerned provisions in the *Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act* and the *Rules of the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut* with respect to the function of petitions and members' obligations in relation to the presentation of petitions.

In preparing my ruling, I reviewed a number of past government responses to petitions, some of which also addressed matters concerning current and former employees of the government.

I note that the length of government responses to petitions has varied considerably. In some cases, the government has provided extensive detail in support of its position. In other cases, the responses have been very brief.

In this case, nothing in the government's response to Petition 3 – 3(3) directly contravened our rules or requires further action on the part of the Chair, such as ordering the item to be withdrawn.

That being said, I would note that it is already incumbent on all Members of the Legislative Assembly to be familiar with relevant provisions of our rules and legislation. The language in the minister's response to Petition 3 – 3(3) concerning the function of petitions and members' obligations in relation to the presentation of petitions was unnecessary. Accordingly, I would

strongly urge the government to ensure that future responses to petitions focus on the subject matter in question.

I would also note that this matter could have been avoided altogether if all parties involved had sought and had followed my office's advice concerning petitions and responses to petitions at an earlier point in the process.

I would also note that the response to this petition was not provided to my office immediately prior to the sitting day. This did not allow for any opportunity to provide further advice with respect to its form.

I would also note with concern that the response to the petition contained critical commentary regarding its form and other matters, including speculative remarks concerning the petitioners. I would remind the House that individual members, ministers and their officials do not have the authority to unilaterally determine whether or not a given item is in compliance with our rules, procedures, practices, or precedents.

I would close by reminding the House that the Standing Committee on Rules, Procedures and Privileges exists to consider matters arising under our rules. In the event that the standing committee chooses to review the existing provisions concerning petitions, I am confident that the House will review its report and recommendations with interest.

Having delivered my ruling, this matter is concluded. I thank members for their attention.

Moving on in our orders of the day. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Minister responsible for the Department of

Economic Development and  
Transportation, Minister Taptuna.

## **Item 2: Ministers' Statements**

### **Minister's Statement 219 – 3(3): Nunavut Business Credit Corporation Audits for 2011 and 2012**

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, colleagues, Nunavummiut, and Kuglukturmiut. Mr. Speaker, in June 2011, I informed my colleagues that the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation had received an audit opinion from the Auditor General of Canada for the 2009-2010 fiscal year. Apart from missing the statutory reporting deadline, that audit was positive and was evidence of dramatic improvements in the corporation's management and governance.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce that improvements at the corporation have continued. The Auditor General has recently completed his audit of the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation's financial statements for the 2011 and 2012 fiscal years, and for the first time has issued an unqualified opinion of the corporation's books.

The Nunavut Business Credit Corporation has made considerable improvements in their financial reporting and meeting their reporting deadlines. As a result, the corporation is now in a position to aggressively pursue its mandate of stimulating the development of Nunavut's economy through small business lending.

I applaud the management and board of directors of the Nunavut Business Credit

Corporation for achieving such remarkable progress. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation, Minister Kusugak.

### **Minister's Statement 220 – 3(3): WSCC Most Innovative Award to Qulliq Energy Corporation**

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day to the residents of Whale Cove and Rankin Inlet. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, in August of this year, the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission (WSCC) of Nunavut and the Northwest Territories announced the presentation of the North American Occupational Safety and Health (NAOSH) Week, Employer Challenge.

The WSCC, in partnership with the Canadian Society of Safety Engineering, invited organizations across Nunavut and the Northwest Territories to tell them what they did to promote the spirit of the week - injury and illness prevention in their workplaces, homes, and communities. Judging criteria focused on four categories: Most Innovative, Best Representation of the Theme, Best New Entry, and Best Overall Entry.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to announce that the Qulliq Energy Corporation won Most Innovative. This award is a credit to the Health, Safety and Environment (HS&E) department of QEC and the hard work and planning put in by the

Director of HS&E, Rick Hunt, and staff members Jenine Bodner, Gemma Braun, and Maurice Guimond.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to acknowledge the leadership of QEC in recognizing the importance of workplace health and safety and giving the staff the tools to make this a fun, educational experience for the participants. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Minister with the responsibility for Homelessness, Minister Ell.

**Minister's Statement 221 – 3(3):  
Addressing Homelessness in  
Nunavut**

**Hon. Monica Ell** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to take this time to speak about the Government of Nunavut's commitment to addressing homelessness in a way that is accountable, sustainable, and responsive to the needs of Nunavummiut.

Mr. Speaker, the homeless shelters play an integral part to the GN's response to the issue of homelessness. I am very grateful for the hard work and commitment of the staff and board of directors of the Sivummut House and Oqota Shelter. I admire their dedication and fully support their efforts.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, the Nunavut Housing Corporation's budget for homelessness is \$400,000. These limited funds are essential to the operation of the shelters and are intended to support all homeless shelters and

initiatives throughout the 25 communities in Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, the Tunngasugvik Homeless Shelter Policy governs the types of expenses eligible for NHC funding, which are meant to help bridge the gap between other funding sources and the shelter's basic operational needs. The homeless shelters are expected to seek out additional financial resources to assist with capital, operational, and maintenance costs not covered by the GN.

Mr. Speaker, the GN remains committed to administering fair and equitable solutions to our shelters. The GN is eager to work with the shelters to help identify ways in which their funds could be utilized to increase the efficiency of the shelter and enhance services to the clients.

However, Mr. Speaker, I believe you will agree that homelessness is too big of an issue for the government to address on its own. It is clear that if we truly want to be effective in how we confront homelessness, we must create local solutions to adapt to local circumstances.

To this end, I have recently sent letters to local Iqaluit businesses requesting their support in reducing the shelters' operating costs, as they provide a much needed service for a vulnerable sector of Nunavummiut. I look forward to following up with them to find how we can work together to tackle this growing issue in our capital city.

Mr. Speaker, homelessness is not limited to Iqaluit and so I want to encourage any group or individual that wishes to help and get involved in the ongoing efforts

to reduce homelessness in their community to seek information on available homelessness supports by contacting their regional NHC district office. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister Ell. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Minister responsible for Economic Development and Transportation, Minister Taptuna.

### **Minister's Statement 222 – 3(3): Co-operatives in Nunavut**

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to mark the International Year of Co-operatives and to speak about the important role co-operatives play in the economic development of Nunavut's communities.

Mr. Speaker, there are 23 multi-purpose co-operatives located in the communities of Nunavut. The Co-op system in Nunavut employs more than 700 people in our communities and the Co-operatives provide a number of important services, including retail stores, hotels, cable TV, and fuel distribution.

Co-ops in Nunavut are true community builders. According to the service federation, Arctic Co-operatives Ltd., over the last 10 years, community-based co-ops in Nunavut have invested more than \$45 million in community assets.

Co-ops in the north are also leaders in the development of programs to help build local capacity, including a director leadership program, an employee

development program, and a financial education program for co-op members.

I encourage Nunavummiut to become and remain actively involved in their local co-operatives. Following the principle of "One Member, One Vote," Nunavummiut can ensure that co-ops put people before profit and reinvest in their communities.

Mr. Speaker, as the International Year of Co-operatives draws to a close, we can be very proud of the accomplishments of the locally owned co-operatives in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Moving on in our orders of the day. Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Akulliq, Mr. Ningark.

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

#### **Member's Statement 359 – 3(3): Stretching the Dollar**

**Mr. Ningark:** Thank you and good afternoon, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to speak about the importance of basic household budgeting.

Mr. Speaker, recent figures from Statistics Canada indicate that the average household in Nunavut spends approximately 17.5 percent of its income on food. The national average is just over 10 percent.

Mr. Speaker, back when we had dollar bills, we used to talk about the importance of "stretching the dollar."

Although we now use loonies, the principle remains the same.

Mr. Speaker, last week, the government tabled a new home will guide, which is intended to help families ensure that their affairs are in order for when the inevitable comes to pass.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the government to work with its partners to also help families, especially young families, to build skills in the area of basic household budgeting.

Mr. Speaker, we all know that the cost of living in Nunavut is very high and we all know that many of our families have to make ends meet on their limited incomes.

Mr. Speaker, household and family budgeting is a valuable skill that can be learned. I strongly support further work in this important area. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Nattilik, Ms. Ugyuk.

**Member's Statement 360 – 3(3):  
Improving Services for Children**

**Ms. Ugyuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say “good day” to the people of Nattilik and my relatives. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I rise today to draw attention to the ongoing need to improve services for children and their families across Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, some time ago, in June of 2010, the Minister of Health and Social

Services tabled the Final Report of the Knowledge Sharing Forum, which was a review of child welfare practices in Nunavut. The review was the beginning of public consultations which would lead to a review of the *Child and Family Services Act*.

Mr. Speaker, to this day, we have received no clear information or updates with respect to what changes are being considered to amend the legislation which governs many child welfare practices in Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, when the government undertakes consultations and reviews in an important issue, it leads to expectations across the territory. People are anxious for changes to the system that provides protection for Nunavut's children.

Mr. Speaker, there are many factors which affect the safety and well-being of Nunavut's children and youth. It is important that solutions be family-oriented. For example, we need to focus on substance abuse programs so that families, as a whole, can get back on their feet. We need to address domestic violence. We need to work towards providing adequate housing and employment opportunities.

Mr. Speaker, I was very pleased to note that Nunavut Tunngavik approved a resolution at its recent AGM calling for government action to improve the situation for Inuit children in care.

Mr. Speaker, I would note that our regional Inuit organizations also have responsibilities in this area and it is not clear to me that much effort is made to meet those responsibilities.

Mr. Speaker, it is important that our government work with all the stakeholders across Nunavut to provide and administer the best possible services for all of our children, Inuit and non-Inuit alike. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Pangnirtung, Mr. Oshutapik.

**Member's Statement 361 – 3(3):  
Tribute to the Canadian Rangers**

**Mr. Oshutapik** (interpretation): Good afternoon, my fellow residents of Pangnirtung. Good afternoon, my colleagues. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Canadian Rangers.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, this year marks the 65th anniversary of the establishment of the Canadian Rangers, which occurred in 1947. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, although the Canadian Rangers have been on duty for 65 years, we are not yet ready to retire.

>>Laughter

Mr. Speaker, the formal role of the Canadian Rangers is to protect Canada's sovereignty by reporting unusual activities or sightings, collecting local data of significance to the Canadian Forces, conducting surveillance and sovereignty patrols, and participating in search and rescue operations.

Mr. Speaker, I have been proud to serve in the Rangers for a number of years. At the community level, Rangers instruct, mentor, and supervise the Junior

Canadian Rangers. This excellent program teaches our youth a number of important skills, as well as building such qualities as personal discipline and commitment to community.

Mr. Speaker, there are approximately 5,000 Canadian Rangers in 178 communities across the country.

Mr. Speaker, Remembrance Day falls on Monday of next week. I ask all members to join me in saluting the Canadian Rangers for 65 years of courage and dedication. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Oshutapik. Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Tununig, Mr. Enook.

**Member's Statement 362 – 3(3):  
Support for Decentralization**

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, people of Pond Inlet and Nunavummiut.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my strong support for decentralization.

Mr. Speaker, as the Member of the Legislative Assembly for Tununig, I represent one of Nunavut's decentralized communities.

Mr. Speaker, when the Government of Nunavut was established, its decentralized model was intended to achieve a number of important goals. These included ensuring that not all decision-making was centralized in the capital city; providing employment and training opportunities in smaller

communities; and strengthening local economies.

Mr. Speaker, recent figures tabled by the government indicate that there are approximately 150 government positions located in Pond Inlet. Over 80 of these are filled by Inuit. Mr. Speaker, decentralization has provided real benefits...

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

...for my community and my constituents.

Mr. Speaker, earlier this year, the government tabled a detailed functional review of decentralization as well as a new Decentralization Action Plan. I will have questions for the government at the appropriate time on its action plan.

Mr. Speaker, I will continue to urge the government to take action to fill vacant positions in decentralized communities.

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

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

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

I will continue to urge the government to take action to fill vacant positions in decentralized communities.

I will continue to oppose any attempt to move positions or functions back to

Iqaluit that are currently located in Pond Inlet. I will continue to stand up for my constituents, who expect and deserve to share in the benefits of decentralization. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Enook. Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Amittuq, Mr. Tapardjuk.

### **Member's Statement 363 – 3(3): Involving Our Communities**

**Mr. Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, residents of Igloolik and Hall Beach. Prior to making my statement, I would like my relatives to note that although my grandchild was medevaced last night, I can state that he is safe and sound. He is feeling better and my relatives ought not to worry about him. I just wanted to convey that message to my relatives.

Mr. Speaker, I have risen many times in this House to bring forward questions and concerns regarding the government's lack of progress in ensuring that Inuit knowledge and Inuit understanding and Inuit values are an integral part of delivering services across the territory.

Mr. Speaker, I recognize that Inuit are taking more of a role in governing themselves. However, Inuit participation in the government labour force is not enough to ensure the incorporation of *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* in how they perform their work and deliver services to the general public.

Mr. Speaker, when we define and use the term *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit*, the cultural distinctiveness of Inuit knowledge exerts itself. *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* is the all-encompassing term for, among other things, cultural, environment and humanitarian values. These further define Inuit societal values.

Mr. Speaker, incorporating *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* into government does not mean creating some abstract framework with an existence and justification totally distinct from the people the government is meant to serve.

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

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

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

Incorporating *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* into government does not mean creating some abstract framework with an existence and justification totally distinct from the people the government is meant to serve. Instead, the goal should be to provide social and cultural cohesiveness in order that our society as a whole, with the advice of our elders, can maintain its culture and identity while facing rapid social change.

Mr. Speaker, I am very concerned that the government's lack of vision and action in incorporating *Inuit*

*Qaujimajatuqangit* is alienating our communities more and more. Mr. Speaker, the government is getting further and further away from the people. The people feel less involved in a system which has a major influence on their lives and the lives of their families.

Mr. Speaker, if I may use a simple example, every community has a hamlet council and under each council, there is a community wellness committee. However, the committee has little to no say in how wellness services are accessed or delivered in the community. The Department of Health and Social Services, run out of a faceless headquarters, determines all of those services. *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* isn't even given a chance.

Mr. Speaker, there is a great divide. For the sake of our future and the future of this territory, I call upon the government to make greater efforts to bridge this divide. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Tapardjuk. Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Iqaluit East, Ms. Aariak.

**Member's Statement 364 – 3(3): Get Well Soon, Betty Ann Eaton**

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to send best wishes for a speedy recovery to one of my constituents, Betty Ann Eaton, whom people know quite well, both here in Iqaluit and points beyond.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I wish to send good wishes for a speedy



recovery to one of my constituency members.

Mr. Speaker, Betty Ann Eaton needs little introduction. Betty Ann is an active member of our community and has worked for First Air for almost 30 years.

Mr. Speaker, as some of you may know, Betty Ann suffered a massive stroke this summer and, as a result, underwent open-heart surgery. Betty Ann has a long recovery ahead of her and is currently receiving rehabilitation treatments.

Those who know Betty Ann will know what a strong woman she is. Our community rallied Betty Ann and will support her as her health improves. My thoughts are with her husband, Randy, and her children Herbert, Jacklyn, Shawn, and Mary Ann. Get well soon, Betty Ann. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Thank you, Ms. Ariak. I'm sure we all wish Betty Ann a speedy recovery. Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Rankin Inlet North, Mr. Curley.

**Member's Statement 365 – 3(3):  
Insurance Rates in Nunavut**

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, Rankin Inlet residents and I hope you have a wonderful day.

I wish to make a brief statement about a concern I have as a Member of the Legislative Assembly and as a regular person. This concern, which is starting to

be shared by many residents, is with respect to roads.

With Nunavut not having any highways, insurance rates with our amount of traffic is amongst the highest in all of Canada. Every vehicle, whether it is hunting equipment, now requires insurance, such as ATVs, which are called four-wheelers or Hondas. As well, if you purchase any vehicle, you can't drive the vehicle within a community without insurance. The insurance policies are enough that it is profitable, yet we don't even have a single highway.

Mr. Speaker, the insurance, in my opinion, is only used whenever we have freezing rain or flash freezing. The driver is not the one responsible for the freezing rain, but if the driver is in an accident and if they are liable for that accident, the insurance rates increase. It is almost impossible to pay for the insurance rates, especially when you aren't permanently employed. Many people are unemployed in our communities who require vehicles for mobility.

Due to this reason, Mr. Speaker, our vehicle regulations are quite cumbersome here in Nunavut. Just recently, the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission developed a traffic control code of practice, which is specific to construction sites, particularly with workplace hazards and safety.

Here in Iqaluit, we observe this practically everyday, where construction workers are trying to climb slippery ladders or stairs, or trying to drag materials with heavy equipment, which can be quite dangerous. Last week, there

was a blockage when a vehicle lost traction and wood was on the road. You couldn't stop or go around it since you would get rear-ended if you stopped.

Mr. Speaker, we are seeing too many potential safety violations. The vehicles sometimes have to park on the sides of the road up in the plateau subdivision on both sides of the road. There are also students walking along the road, so this becomes another safety concern. I will be asking questions on this at the appropriate time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Curley. Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Cambridge Bay, Mr. Peterson.

**Member's Statement 366 – 3(3):  
Appreciation to Iqaluit Elders'  
Centre**

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon to my constituents in Cambridge Bay. Mr. Speaker, I would just like to take this opportunity, while I have this chance, to thank the elders at the Iqaluit elders' centre for their hospitality on Friday afternoon.

Mr. Speaker, Mayor John Graham and I had the opportunity to drop by the centre and visit the ladies. They invited us over. It was a very pleasant and relaxing afternoon for us. We had some good conversations. I told the ladies about the elders in Cambridge Bay and how they live and enjoy life in our community.

The ladies told me that they're open Monday to Friday, 1:00 to 4:00. They welcome visitors. I wholeheartedly encourage people to drop by and visit

them and share. If you're from out of town, tell them what's happening in your community.

I have to say that it was a very relaxing afternoon. Mayor Graham was the new politician, so it was a good chance for him to relax for a couple of hours and talk to the people who had some good advice to give to people, such as politicians. I was getting lobbied a little bit down there.

>> *Laughter*

For the most part, it was a good afternoon. I would probably go again. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Item 3. Members' Statements. Moving on in our orders of the day. Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Minister of Education, Minister Aariak.

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

**Return to Oral Question 437 – 3(3):  
Lack of Daycare Spaces in  
Nunavut**

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I have a return to oral question asked by the Member for Nattilik concerning lack of daycare spaces in Nunavut. Mr. Speaker, this return is quite detailed. I have filed it with the Clerk for transcribing into *Hansard* for public record and for distribution to all members.

\*See Appendix for charts of Return to Oral Question 437 – 3(3) filed with the Clerk.

The Department of Education offers support for early childhood education and development programs and services through various initiatives. These initiatives include:

- Licensed Childcare Facility Program
  - District Education Authority Early Childhood Education Program
  - Healthy Children Initiative
  - Parental subsidies (daycare user subsidy and Young Parents Stay Learning)
  - Early childhood education training.
- Below you will find a description of each program.

Four regional early childhood officers (ECOs) administer the Licensed Childcare Facility Program, Healthy Children Initiative, Young Parents Stay Learning, and may provide assistance with the daycare user subsidy and early childhood training programs. The ECOs are located in the regional offices for career and early childhood services located in Pangnirtung, Rankin Inlet, and Cambridge Bay.

Two early childhood language program coordinators administer the DEA early childhood education funding, as well as work on developing early childhood education resources that promote Inuit language and culture. They are located in the curriculum and school services headquarters office in Pangnirtung.

The early childhood development manager provides policy direction, updates to the minister and senior management, as well as supporting and providing guidance to the ECOs and the early childhood language program coordinators. The early childhood development manager is located with

adult learning, career and early childhood services in Iqaluit.

### **Licensed Childcare Facility Program**

Licensed child care facilities can include:

- Daycare (care for children 0 to 6 years old, either full time (more than five hours per day) or part time, depending on the needs of the parents/caregivers)
- Preschool (sessions for children less than 6 years old for less than four consecutive hours per day)
- Out of school care (care for school-aged children after their normal school hours)
- Family day home (care to all age groups in operators' own home)

There are 52 licensed child care facilities currently operating:

- 7 Aboriginal Head Start preschool programs (we do not fund Aboriginal Head Start programs (they receive funding from Health Canada), but we still license, inspect, and monitor them)
- 30 full-time child care facilities
- 7 part-time child care facilities
- 1 family day home and
- 7 after school programs

This constitutes a total of 1,083 licensed child care spaces:

- 520 full-time preschool spaces;
- 170 full-time infant spaces;
- 244 part-time preschool spaces; and
- 149 after school spaces

Attached with this letter is a list of all licensed child care facilities by community that are currently operating, as well as the list of child care facilities that are closed and those in development.

Under the Licensed Childcare Facility Program, early childhood offers assist all licensed child care facilities by monitoring, inspecting, providing guidance and advice, as well as funding licensed child care facilities. The ECOs also will assist any group or individual wishing to open a licensed child care facility.

The Department of Education has a budget of \$2.15 million to assist eligible licensed child care facilities with their operating costs (O&M Program Contribution), start-up costs (Start-Up), or for health and safety expenses (Health and Safety). O&M program contribution funding was increased by 10 percent April 1, 2010 and the funding allocation was changed to 75 percent for licensed spaces and 25 percent based on actual attendance from 50 percent for licensed spaces and 50 percent for actual attendance. Only facilities that are in good standing with Legal Registries may be eligible for funding.

**O&M Program Contribution** - Annual funding that can be used for any operating expense that helps maintain established licensed child care programs and encourage the development of qualified staff and programs, and the provision of infant and special needs spaces. Licensed facilities must be in good standing with Legal Registries and provide current financial statements and list of board of directors to our offices in order to be eligible for O&M program contribution funding.

**Start-Up** - One-time funding for non-profit organizations to help child care facilities purchase the necessary toys, equipment, and program materials needed to open. This funding cannot be

used to purchase, construct, or do major renovations to a building. In order to receive start-up funding, there needs to be a demonstration of community need (e.g. if an existing centre is not used to at least 90 percent capacity, startup for a new centre will not be approved). To start any licensed child care facility, the following is needed:

- A brief description of the program, including goals and objectives
- Needs assessment and three letters of support
- Approval from the Office of the Fire Marshal regarding compliance with the National Fire Code
- Approval from the office of the environment health officer regarding compliance with the *Public Health Act*
- A copy of a draft budget for the start-up funds (if applying for funding)
- Proof of incorporation as a non-profit organization in good standing with Nunavut Legal Registries (if applying for funding)
- Proof of compliance with zoning by-laws from the municipality
- Proof of a minimum of \$2 million comprehensive general liability insurance (or proof that there will be once the premium is paid)
- Application for a child care facility licence

**Health and Safety** - Funding (limited to \$5,000) is to correct or improve the facility through repairs, renovations, or additional equipment so that it meets all fire and health regulations. Facilities in currently operating GN buildings are not eligible for this funding component of the Early Childhood Program. A letter with a quote for the work to be done, along with the inspection report from fire or health showing the requirement

for the work to be done must be submitted to our offices before funding will be approved.

While the department recognizes that in some communities, more licensed child care spaces are needed, it is up to community groups and individuals to open and operate the licensed child care facilities. The biggest barrier in opening a new facility seems to be the lack of available physical space, either in an existing building or in a new construction of a building. The Department of Education has committed that all new constructions of education buildings or major renovations and additions to existing education buildings will include a space for early childhood programming (whether it be a licensed facility or an unlicensed program, such as a parent and tot group). The extra cost to a project is an estimated \$1,350,000 to incorporate a space of an average size daycare of 150 square metres (for approximately 20 to 30 spaces, dependent on the type of spaces – infant, preschool, school-age).

Another challenge for early childhood programs is finding qualified staff to work for the wages that they can afford to pay. On average, staff at licensed early childhood facilities earn between \$14 and \$20 an hour to care for, supervise, and teach young children.

**District Education Authority (DEAs)**  
**Early Childhood Education Program**

In 2011, section 17 of the *Education Act*, which states that DEAs shall provide early childhood programs that promote fluency in the Inuit language and knowledge of the Inuit culture, came into effect. Regulations were also developed and require all district

education authorities to provide and report on how they are in compliance with section 17 of the *Education Act*. To aid in meeting section 17 of the *Education Act*, there is \$1.6 million available to district education authorities to support Inuit language and culture in existing early childhood programs or the DEAs may provide their own program. Funds are allocated based on project application(s) from DEAs that are in support of increasing language and culture activities, such as elder involvement, engaging parents, and using local resources. DEAs are encouraged to work with early childhood programs in their communities.

For the 2010-11 fiscal year, 11 DEAs accessed the funding available through the department and for the 2011-12 fiscal year, 21 DEAs accessed the funding. However, for this 2012-13 fiscal year, proposals and/or reports are slower coming in and so to date, only a handful of proposals have been pre-approved pending receipt of last fiscal year's funding financial report. A list of what DEAs accessed the funding since 2010 is attached to this letter.

Some DEAs have struggled with meeting section 17 of the *Education Act*. The department has noticed that there are some challenges in accessing the funding, implementing the approved proposals, and submitting the required reports in a timely manner. Programs (whether DEA run or run by an early childhood program) may have difficulty finding qualified staff and elders, there may be a delay in transferring funding from a DEA to an early childhood program, there may be difficulty in keeping accurate financial records, and there may be a lack of will to provide

this programming. The two early childhood language program coordinators are available to assist the district education authorities and early childhood programs in accessing this funding and submitting the required reports.

The department also has a budget of \$674,000 for developing resources and materials for use in early childhood programs, as well as resources for children and parents who want to develop language and culture at home. Currently three curriculum units (Stars, Fish, and Boats) are being finalized and translated for distribution to kindergarten classes and early childhood programs.

#### **Healthy Children Initiative (HCI)**

Healthy Children Initiative is a proposal-based program designed to fund the development of early childhood family-centred programs and services in communities that would support the developmental needs of young children and their families from before birth to age 6. HCI provides financial support to organizations and communities for programs and services that try to achieve the vision of “healthy children born to healthy parents, growing up in strong and supportive families in caring communities.”

There is a total annual budget of \$908,000 for HCI’s two funding programs, Community Initiatives and Supportive Services. Community Initiatives fund family-centred early childhood services and programs for young children 0 to 6 and their families, while Supportive Services fund additional programs and services for children 0 to 6 who require extra

supports to reach their full developmental potential.

Eligibility criteria for HCI funding include:

- Proposals offering services for children from prenatal to 6 years of age
- Proposals offering family-centred services involving parents in programs
- Proposals having cultural relevance
- Proposals building on existing strengths of children, parents, and community
- Proposals enhancing rather than duplicating existing services
- Proposals having an interagency approach
- Proposals having a letter from a health professional for Supportive Services

The Healthy Children Initiative is administered through the regional education offices by the early childhood officers and regional Healthy Children Initiative committees.

The regional HCI committees are made up of representatives from Education, Health and Social Services, regional Inuit organizations, and elders/cultural advisors. The regional HCI committees review and approve/deny proposals based on the proposals meeting the necessary criteria. If proposals are approved, contribution agreements are signed with the appropriate organization.

#### **Parental Subsidies (Daycare User Subsidy and Young Parents Stay Learning)**

The Department of Education has two parental subsidy programs that assist in paying for child care: daycare user

subsidy and Young Parents Stay Learning. The Young Parents Stay Learning program and daycare user subsidy are administered through the regional career and early childhood offices in Cambridge Bay, Rankin Inlet, and Pangnirtung.

### **Daycare User Subsidy**

The Daycare User Subsidy Program (under Income Support) is a needs-based parental subsidy that pays child care fees for parents who are attending school or working. The day care subsidy provides financial assistance to families to help with the costs of child care. The daycare subsidy also helps to ensure that children have access to child care so that parents who are not working can participate in academic or training programs and take advantage of employment opportunities.

Information regarding daycare user subsidy can be found at community income support offices and at licensed child care facilities.

Eligible candidates must:

- Be at least 18 years of age and live in Nunavut
- Have one or more children age 11 or younger
- Be employed or enrolled in a training and/or education program
- Have their financial needs assessed by an income support worker
- Send in a completed application that includes
  - proof of child care expenses (signed by the daycare or private caregiver)
  - proof of school or training course enrolment signed by the program instructor

- proof of employment and hours of work (i.e. pay stub/employer's statement)
- proof of living expenses (i.e. rent/mortgage, utility costs)

For 2012-13, \$502,000 has been allocated for the daycare user subsidy.

### **Young Parents Stay Learning**

The Young Parents Stay Learning Program (under Early Childhood) is a child care subsidy program to help young parents with the cost of child care while the parent attends school. It pays licensed child care fees (where available) for parents who are attending school to achieve their High School Diploma or are attending post-secondary school in Nunavut and are under the age of 18 years. Information regarding Young Parents Stay Learning is sent to all licensed child care facilities, all schools, and all health centres in Nunavut annually.

Eligible candidates must:

Not receive the daycare user subsidy funded by the Department of Education or from a regional Inuit organization  
 Be the parent or legal guardian of one or more children needing care  
 Be enrolled in a full-time program of study for middle or high school in Nunavut or under 18 years of age and enrolled in a full-time post-secondary program of study in Nunavut  
 Prepare a letter of why this subsidy is important to them  
 Submit an application form signed by a school counsellor or principal  
 Sign an agreement to attend full time and to commit to progressing in studies  
 Have space available at a licensed child care facility or with a private unlicensed caregiver (only with approval from the

department when licensed child care is not available)  
 Have evidence of satisfactory attendance at school  
 Have evidence of satisfactory progress in school

For 2012-13, \$140,000 has been allocated for Young Parents Stay Learning.

### **Early Childhood Training**

The early childhood officers provide informal workshops to licensed child care facility staff and board members when requested. The department also has a budget of \$200,000 for post-secondary institutions to provide early childhood education courses in Nunavut.

For 2012-13, an early childhood education certificate course is being offered in Baker Lake. Early childhood education course modules are also being offered in Qikiqtarjuaq and Pond Inlet.  
 Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Madam Minister. That return to oral question will be entered into the record.

Returns to Oral Questions. Minister of Education, Minister Aariak.

### **Return to Oral Question 440 – 3(3): Status of Implementation of Nunavut's Education Act**

**Hon. Eva Aariak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a return to oral question from the Member for Nanulik, Johnny Ningeongan, on the status of implementation of Nunavut's *Education Act*.

### **Question:**

Can the minister provide an update on what progress has been [made] in implementing the made-in-Nunavut *Education Act* which came into force in 2009?

### **Response:**

There has been much progress in the implementation of the *Education Act* since it was brought into force in 2009. The department has been implementing the *Education Act* as a phased-in, multi-year project. This phased-in approach will allow for a smooth implementation and ensure that the capacity is available to achieve change by school staff, district education authorities (DEAs), and the Department of Education as a whole. The phased-in approach is also allowing the Department of Education the time it needs to conduct meaningful consultations with its partners and stakeholders when developing the required regulations.

The cabinet-approved regulations development timeline provides for all *Education Act* regulations to be complete by the fourth quarter of the 2014-15 fiscal year.

There will be 14 regulations under the *Education Act* in total, each of which will be consulted on, 6 of which have been completed to date, including:

- Inclusive Education Regulations,
- Administration and Finance Regulations,
- Early Childhood Program Regulations,
- Inuuqatigiitsiarniq Policy and Discipline Regulations,
- Language of Instruction Regulations,
- Dispute Resolutions Regulations.



The Department of Education is continuing to develop the regulations this school year. Three additional regulations will be complete by the end of the school year on the topics of registration and attendance, DEA administration, and school calendars. The remaining five regulations on the topics of planning and reporting, student records, home schooling, staff certification, and private schools are scheduled to be complete over the course of the next couple of years.

In addition to regulation development, the department has been busy implementing the various requirements of the *Education Act* and regulations, including enhancing positive school environments, implementing bilingual education, procedures for the employment of certified elders, reporting requirements for principals, and district education authority responsibilities like early childhood education programming that promotes the Inuit language and culture.

Schools also began to meet new regulatory requirements in 2010-11 and 2011-12, such as delivery of 20 minutes per day of physical activity in grades kindergarten to 9 and a focus on the responsibilities of teachers in carrying out the *Education Act*. Principals have been submitting monthly reports to DEAs and the department regarding the activities in the schools as well as two reports on the effectiveness of the school program.

I will be tabling an annual report on the status of the Nunavut education system in the near future, which will include highlights on the K-12 section, including those which relate to the *Education Act*,

for the 2009-2010 calendar year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister Aariak. Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation, Minister Kusugak.

**Return to Oral Question 452 – 3(3):  
Operations of the Qulliq Energy Corporation**

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On October 31, 2012, Mr. Elliott, MLA for Quttiktuq, asked the following question: “Can the Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation indicate if he approved the QEC’s action plan prior to it being tabled in the Legislative Assembly?”

The response is:

In April 2012, QEC developed a draft action plan in response to the recommendations in the 2012 *Report of the Auditor General on Procurement of Goods and Services*. I was provided a copy of this draft and discussed it with the corporation. An updated version of this action plan was provided to me for review and approval during the June Assembly. I also had an opportunity to review and approve the updated action plan as tabled in this House during the fall 2012 Assembly.

In its 2012-13 corporate plan, QEC stated that it “operated within the content of Article 24.”

As a result of the OAG audit on procurement practices, the corporation discovered that it may, in fact, be exempt from Article 24, as stated in section 24.1.1 of the NLCA.

Mr. Speaker, the GN NNI Policy is to be applied per 5.1(b), where the Government of Nunavut provides directly more than 51 percent of the total contract funds, or 5.1(c), where the Government of Nunavut directly 51 percent of the annual operating funds of the parties.

QEC funds its capital and O&M through both debt and equity.

If, at any time, the Government of Nunavut does provide 51 percent of the funding towards a QEC initiative, the corporation will apply the NNI provisions.

The QEC Act states that QEC is to produce economic and affordable energy. If directed to fully apply the NNI Policy, this will increase the cost of operating the utility. This cost will be passed on to customers in the electricity rates or borne by this government directly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Moving on in our orders of the day. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Minister responsible for the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation, Minister Taptuna.

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

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker and colleagues. I would like to take this opportunity to recognize and congratulate the people who stand here within the Gallery, the folks from the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation, for their hard work in getting this entity to where it stands today.

I want to recognize the Chairman, Greg Cayen, Ms. Sherri Rowe, the CEO, and her staff, Angela McPherson, Damian Lachance, and Priscilla Kuksuk. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Welcome to the Gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Cambridge Bay, Minister of Finance and Health and Social Services, Minister Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Although they're not quite in the Gallery, they're very close to the Gallery. I would like to recognize the interpreters from Cambridge Bay who keep the Kitikmeot MLAs company and keep us up to date on what's happening in Cambridge Bay and elsewhere in the Kitikmeot. James Panioyak, Attima Hadlari, and Gwen Angulalik, I would just like to thank them for being here and tell the folks back home that they are doing a great job. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister Peterson. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Iqaluit West, Ms. Ell.

**Hon. Monica Ell** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say "good afternoon" to residents in Iqaluit West. I would like to recognize two Iqaluit residents who are in the Gallery, Archie Angnakak and especially Franco Buscemi. Some of the members may be aware of his previous work, as he produced the blocks with syllabics that children can play with that show the i,

pi, ti, ki symbols. There are no more of these blocks available, which is unfortunate, as I now have a grandchild who wants these kinds of blocks. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Thank you, Ms. Ell. Welcome to the Gallery. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Moving on in our orders of the day. Sorry. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Iqaluit East, Ms. Aariak.

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize someone from my constituency who just left, Archie Angnakak, who is the CEO for Nunasi Corporation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Thank you, Ms. Aariak. I apologize for that. Moving on. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Moving on in our orders of the day. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. Elliott.

### Item 6: Oral Questions

#### Question 474 – 3(3): Government of Nunavut's Legislative Agenda

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Government House Leader.

In just 321 days, the current Legislative Assembly will be dissolved. During the current fall sitting, only one non-financial bill has been introduced by the government. Can the House leader indicate what the government's

legislative agenda is for the remainder of our term of office? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Elliott. The question is directed to the Government House Leader, Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll take that question as notice. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister Kusugak. The question has been taken as notice. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Nanulik, Mr. Ningeongan.

#### Question 475 – 3(3): Social Worker for Coral Harbour

**Mr. Ningeongan:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Health and Social Services.

Mr. Speaker, on several occasions in this House, I have raised the need for a full-time social worker in the community of Coral Harbour. It has been over two years since this position has been permanently filled. Can the minister provide an update on the staffing of the social worker position for Coral Harbour? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. Minister responsible for the Department of Health and Social Services, Minister Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Ningeongan for the question. Mr. Speaker, social workers are, as we discussed in this House for the last couple of weeks, very important positions in all communities and we

endeavour to have social workers, either casual, indeterminate, or agency social workers.

I must apologize to Mr. Ningeongan. We do have an agency social worker in the community. She's doing a very good job and we appreciate what she is doing down there. I have talked to my staff and I said, "Make it a high priority to fill this position with an indeterminate social worker." So I will follow up with the staff on that and make sure it is getting done. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Ningeongan:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for the response from Minister Peterson. Can the minister clarify what specific challenges arise when trying to fill the position in Coral Harbour? Is it the location that deters potential candidates or is it simply that potential candidates are hard to find? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. Minister responsible for Health and Social Services, Minister Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I again thank Mr. Ningeongan for the question. I don't think it's the location. I believe it's a combination of a number of factors. One would be housing, which we lack in most of the communities, housing for government employees, and then it's the length of time for recruiting social workers. I don't think it is anything to do with the community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Your second supplementary, Mr. Ningeongan.

**Mr. Ningeongan:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for the response from the minister. The Premier has indicated that the Minister of Health and Social Services is taking the leadership role in determining the activities of the new Department of Family Services. Can the minister clarify whether the new department will be taking a new approach to filling social worker positions in those communities which have been without a full-time social worker for extended periods of time? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. Minister responsible for Health and Social Services, Minister Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Ningeongan for the question. Yes, Mr. Speaker, we hope that with the creation of the new Department of Family Services, there will be a much greater focus on children, family, and youth programs and the people who support those folks in the communities by taking it away from the bigger Department of Health. They will have a minister and all the staff that can focus on those types of activities and the legislation and other programs that help people in the communities.

Of course, as I said, social workers are a high priority for our government, and I'm very hopeful that there will be a concerted effort to support them. Actually, I hope also, going forward in the coming years, that we will get additional resources to support that department and those folks in the communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Ningeongan:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Minister Peterson, for your responses. Although I heard you mention that you will put high priority over those communities that have been without social workers for the last couple years, at the present time, we are depending on term positions to fulfill these positions in Coral Harbour or other communities. As we have found out before, the government expends more money because of term positions that are put in these communities.

Will you commit to increasing efforts once again to make sure that communities like Coral Harbour do get, in fact, a full-time position for social workers? Thank you.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. Minister responsible for Health and Social Services, Minister Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Ningeongan for his question. I understand perfectly well what Mr. Ningeongan is asking. It is very expensive when we have to use agency nurses or agency social workers. Although the staff is very well qualified, we do seek continuity in the positions. People get to know the communities, get to know the local traditions and culture, and they understand just how the community dynamics work.

I will give Mr. Ningeongan my commitment that I will make it a high priority to have the department staff this position in his community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Question 476 – 3(3): Emergency Preparedness Plan for Kugaaruk**

**Mr. Ningark** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions will be directed to the Minister of Community and Government and Services.

First of all, I would like to thank him for (interpretation ends) the Nunavut Emergency Management Annual Report 2011-12 (interpretation) that he tabled on November 1. I have more understanding from the report.

In Repulse Bay, the hamlet has to make some plans and they said that they already have a response plan. They have a report for that and I thank the minister. I congratulate the community of Repulse Bay and they apparently had their plan, but Kugaaruk has not completed their plan.

Can the minister work with the community to make an emergency response plan? It seems that they need to complete their emergency response plan. Maybe you can encourage them in completing it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Minister responsible for Community and Government Services, Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Ningark for asking that question. All communities are required to draft up an emergency response plan that provides clear direction and roles to ensure that

people don't panic or become confused during an emergency.

Further, during an emergency, frontline workers are the first to respond and they must have a very clear emergency response plan. In this area, we are working with all the hamlets to develop these plans. Some of the issues can only be dealt with by the hamlet, especially local resources that are listed in the plan. We assist the hamlets with the work, both support and sometimes we walk the hamlet through the plan. This is to ensure that the emergency plan is comprehensive.

We are working with the hamlets, and we will continue to work with the Hamlet of Kugaaruk to ensure that their emergency plan is worked on and completed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Ningark** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With my first supplementary question, let me first thank the minister. You stated that there are 21 completed emergency response plans, which is commendable and enviable to have the communities that have completed them here in Nunavut. This means that only four communities have to complete their plans, perhaps to say it in English, (interpretation ends) pending.

(interpretation) With that the case, Kugaaruk is one of these four communities in this position. Additionally, they get funds for programs from the federal government, the territorial government, and base funding for operating the hamlet. I hope

that you collaborate with the Hamlet of Kugaaruk to complete their emergency plan, as communities that have completed their plans are in an enviable position. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Minister responsible for Community and Government Services, Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Some of the templates ensure that certain parts of the plans are not very complicated to draft up. All it requires is for the council to pass the emergency response plan.

I believe that there aren't any further barriers to complete the last few sections of the plan and it is obvious that most of the work can be completed in the upcoming months. I don't believe that there are any obstacles that would stop this process. I will keep you informed if there are any problems that crop in down the road or in a few months.

It is obvious that these plans will be completed in Kugaaruk and the other communities that need to complete these plans. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Question 477 – 3(3): School Community Counsellor Training**

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon to the people of Sanikiluaq. Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Education.

Earlier in this session, the minister announced a new training program for school community counsellors. Our school counsellors play a very important role in helping our students get the most out of their educational opportunities and I support any initiative that will give them more tools to do their job. Can the minister provide an update on how this training will be delivered? Will instructors be travelling to each community or will the counsellors come together at a central location to receive their training? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Minister responsible for the Department of Education, Minister Aariak.

**Hon. Eva Aariak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for the question from the member. The first session of the new School Community Counsellor/Ilinniarvimmi Inuusilirijiit training program was held here in Iqaluit on October 15, 2012 and there are 20 counsellors attending the program right now. All the training programs that will be offered will be held in Nunavut. The program consists of 11 courses taught over 8 sessions from October 2012 to March 2015. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The minister described this course as a three-year, part-time certificate program with eight sessions. Can the minister clarify whether it will take counsellors three years to finish the training and if this means that they will have to travel out of their community eight times in order to do so? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Minister responsible for the Department of Education, Minister Aariak.

**Hon. Eva Aariak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't have the particular details as to where the training programs will be held at this time. Under the *Education Act*, it is a requirement that these individuals in the schools receive certification.

Some counsellors work half time, some work full time, and some communities have two. So in terms of the actual location and frequency of their training program, I don't have that information yet, but I would be happy to provide it when I get it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the minister getting back to us with more information. Mr. Speaker, in her Minister's Statement, the minister indicated that the training would focus on many areas. Can the minister confirm that the training will also give counsellors the skills to assist students in career planning? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Minister responsible for the Department of Education, Minister Aariak.

**Hon. Eva Aariak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, this is a very important program that our community school counsellors will be receiving because they offer very important subject areas in the schools.

The areas that they will be learning and enhancing the skills that they already have are such things as building partnerships between our students, their parents, school staff, district education authorities, and our communities. This is a very important component where, collectively, the counsellors will be working within the community.

The program content includes such things as Inuit societal values, *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit*, traditional child socialization, counselling skills, counselling skills development, understanding the Nunavut school system, communication skills, leadership skills, and personal development. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister provide an estimate of how much this three-year, eight-part course will cost to train all of Nunavut's 43 school counsellors between 2012 and 2015? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Minister responsible for the Department of Education, Minister Aariak.

**Hon. Eva Aariak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are 20 counsellors attending the program right now. There are seven vacant positions at this point that will need to be filled. There are about 12 counsellors who have already been in the system since the '90s and who have received training at that time.

In saying that, I don't have the dollar figure that the member is requesting at this point. Again, I would be happy to

provide that when it's available. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister Aariak. Oral Questions. Member for Baker Lake, Mr. Aupaluktuq.

**Question 478 – 3(3): Baker Lake Hospice Society**

**Mr. Aupaluktuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I send my greetings to the people of Baker Lake, especially the ones in the hospice, and also to the young people and my relatives.

I am pleased that the Minister of Health and Social Services, Minister Peterson, along with Iqaluit's new mayor, John Graham, was visiting the elders centre and the elders were very grateful for that.

Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the Minister of Health and Social Services, Hon. Keith Peterson.

As the minister is aware, the Baker Lake Hospice Society does wonderful work in caring for our community's elders. Can the minister describe what support and funding his department provides to the Baker Lake Hospice Society? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. Minister responsible for the Department of Health and Social Services, Minister Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Aupaluktuq for the question. Mr. Speaker, the Baker Lake Hospice Society, I believe it's a contract with the Department of Health and Social Services. There's an annual



contract at a bit over \$1 million. They receive support from our Kivalliq regional office, our executive director, and our social workers, who regularly visit and discuss the operational services that they provide to the elders who are being assisted by that facility. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Aupaluktuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The residents of Baker Lake are very grateful for that information because the elders have to be looked after in Baker Lake. I'm sure that they are listening to our debate right now.

Mr. Speaker, the residents of Baker Lake are very grateful to the hard-working staff who care for our community's elders. Can the minister describe what role his department plays in ensuring that training is provided to all staff at the elders' hospice? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. Minister responsible for the Department of Health and Social Services, Minister Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Aupaluktuq for the question. Mr. Speaker, yes, in all communities of Nunavut, we have elders who require assistance. I recall in September 2004, we had a Full Caucus retreat in Arviat. One of our priorities was to put a continuing care facility in every community in Nunavut. Unfortunately we have only been able to build, in the last government and this

government, two continuing care facilities, one in Igloolik and one in Gjoa Haven. I understand they are providing excellent 24/7 care to folks who utilize them.

Mr. Speaker, the hospice in Baker Lake provides valuable services to the elders of Baker Lake. I believe, as I mentioned earlier, they receive support from our regional staff. If they require assistance, I don't believe there's any issue with our officials going into the community and working with the hospice to train staff. I understand that there's a concern right now that some of the positions are vacant. We encourage them to recruit and fill those positions. If they require training, I'm sure our officials can work with the hospice to provide that training. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Aupaluktuq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to see those positions filled to ensure that adequate care is being provided with respect and sensitivity to our elders. I would encourage the hon. minister and his staff to do some posting as well as recruiting to ensure that we have the adequate positions filled.

Mr. Speaker, it is important that the community of Baker Lake be confident that the programs and services delivered by elders' hospices are adequate and appropriate, and that the facility itself is in good condition. Can the minister indicate if his department performs periodic inspections of elders' hospices in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. Minister responsible for Health and Social Services, Minister Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As a matter of fact, officials from our Kivalliq office were recently in Baker Lake and they met with the contractor to discuss services at the hospice. I understand that there's no issue with the level of care for the elders who are there. I believe there are six.

With respect to periodic visits, I believe there's a contractual requirement that our officials will or could drop by when necessary. I want to assure the people of Baker Lake that the hospice's operations are a high priority. We want to ensure that we provide a high level of care for the elders who use that facility. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Aupaluktuq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. No doubt the contractors are giving and administering to the best of their abilities and resources, and we are thankful for that, as in all departments and all sensitive care of Nunavummiut and their well-being, there are always never enough resources.

I want to ask: it is also important that the community has confidence in the transparency and accountability of the hospice's management. Can the minister explain what the reporting requirements are for the boards of directors of such facilities, if there are such entities, such as contractors, that are administering for the care and well-being of our elders? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. Minister responsible for the Department of Health and Social Services, Minister Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't have the specific details of the reporting requirements for the board. Of course, the board of directors being independent of the government, they will have their own governance structure. Contractually, they would have to provide annual audited statements and reports of the services that they provide to the people who use the facility. We require a certain level of services to be provided to the individuals who use the facility, so, of course, we would want to ensure that that's provided.

As I mentioned, if we have any concerns with the hospice, our people in the Kivalliq region can go to Baker Lake to inspect the facility if there are any concerns or issues. If the current operators of the facility or owners of the facility wish to discuss with the Government of Nunavut about, perhaps, turning the facility over to the Government of Nunavut, I think that we would be willing to listen as well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister Peterson. Oral Questions. Member for Nattilik, Ms. Ugyuk.

### **Question 479 – 3(3): Improving Services for Children**

**Ms. Ugyuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have really noted members who have shaven their beards and moustaches. They look much better and some of them are so "Ooh!"

>>Laughter

We will be going home pretty soon. I would like the people of the Kitikmeot to participate in these fundraising activities for cancer, but (interpretation ends) I want to get down to business.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Health and Social Services, like you don't have enough questions today.

Mr. Speaker, earlier in my Member's Statement, I spoke of the need to improve for children and youth across Nunavut.

Can the minister provide an update on his department's review of the *Child and Family Services Act*? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. I think you have everybody wondering who is who now.

>>Laughter

Minister of Health and Social Services,  
Minister Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm one of the individuals. I'm only partially shaved. I'm growing a moustache here, so in another week or so, I'll be walking around incognito in Nunavut. Nobody will be able to recognize me if they're angry with me. It's for a good cause, Movember, prostate cancer. So I encourage everybody, while I have this opportunity, to donate to those individuals who are raising money across Nunavut for Movember.

Mr. Speaker, with respect to Ms. Ugyuk's question, one of the big initiatives we talked about in the House already is creating the standalone Department of Family Services that would be responsible for children, youth, and family programs and services. Under that department, of course, we would have the *Child and Family Services Act*. That Act is currently progressing along. There was the Knowledge Forum, then the Child Welfare League of Canada consultations, and then the Office of the Auditor General's report that was tabled last year in the House which provided some great information about the issues affecting our children. So we are making good progress.

I hope that on April 1, 2013, when the department begins, they will be able to move forward with that legislation and continue the good work that has already been going on for the last couple of years with consultations, internal reviews, and the legislative proposal process. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Ugyuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister. (interpretation ends) Can the minister advise this House when he will be bringing forward a bill to amend or replace the current *Child and Family Services Act* and what major changes will be proposed? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. Minister responsible for the Department of Health and Social Services, Minister Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are currently working on the legislative proposal that we will be bringing forward to cabinet. I anticipate that we will be making some minor amendments and changes in practice going forward. It's my hope and belief that the new Department of Family Services can take that legislation on and continue the major proposal and move it through the process.

I'm getting a little tongue-tied here; it must be the moustache or something. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister Peterson. Your second supplementary, Ms. Ugyuk.

**Ms. Ugyuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker (interpretation ends) It has been recognized by many that the current system and legislation is not doing the best job of providing services to children and families across Nunavut. Can the minister clarify why it is taking so long to address this much needed issue? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. Minister responsible for Department of Health and Social Services, Minister Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm not sure if I can clarify.

A lot of work has gone into this legislation and reviewing it. As I said earlier, there's the Child Welfare League of Canada. There's also the Auditor General's report. There was a Knowledge Forum. My predecessor did a lot of good work on that, bringing people forward. The department has to review the legislation. They also have to

develop a legislative proposal; extensive consultations through the legislative process. It's a very complicated process to ensure that it's done right and that it will suit Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister Peterson. Your final supplementary, Ms. Ugyuk.

**Ms. Ugyuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for his response (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, NTI has made a strong statement regarding the need for the government to improve services for children in care. Can the minister explain how he works with major stakeholders across Nunavut to address these issues? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. Minister responsible for the Department of Health and Social Services, Minister Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank NTI for their support and their motions. Mr. Speaker, I recall when we were first elected in November 2008, one of the first things we did was we flew to Cambridge Bay. NTI was having their AGM there. We talked about partnerships, the Government of Nunavut, NTI, and other organizations in Nunavut, on major issues.

We do, indeed, consult with NTI on major legislation. A recent example is the *Family Support Orders Enforcement Act*. This will be a piece of legislation that we would certainly have them involved in. We look forward to input and advice. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Oral Questions. Member for Pangnirtung, Mr. Oshutapik.

**Question 480 – 3(3): Funding to Improve Pangnirtung Arena**

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

As we are aware in Nunavut, there are many communities that are now using the hockey arenas, but in my community, it's very difficult to put water in there because it can't freeze up and turns into mud. It's having a negative impact on our youth and all the youth in our community are anxious to get the arena open and they are hoping to get it open by December. If it doesn't freeze again in December, we can only use it by the end of January.

For that reason, I would like to directly ask the minister; after hearing about the communities opening their arenas after they were renovated. Can the minister or his department state if they have already assessed the arena in Pangnirtung? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Oshutapik. Minister responsible for Community and Government Services, Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understand the member's question very clearly. The north is feeling climate change and the lakes would have been frozen by now and they take longer to freeze with climate change. We started dealing and working with our arenas to make sure that we can utilize them sooner.

We have heard a few days ago in Coral Harbour that they can't use their arena unless they have artificial ice. We have seen that and experienced that in Coral Harbour, Arviat, and Sanikiluaq. It's becoming evident that with artificial ice, they can use the arena earlier. We would like to see artificial ice installed in all the hockey arenas in Nunavut communities. It's impossible to work on them all at the same time.

We wanted to work on the arena in Pangnirtung. I can tell the Member for Pangnirtung that we will be making a proposal for additional funds so that we can get artificial ice in two or three communities, but they will have to wait until next year. Pangnirtung is one of the communities on the priority list. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Oshutapik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for his response. I know that you didn't say that we are at the top of the list, but we will expect that.

I want the minister to be aware that ever since artificial ice equipment was used, there are buildings in our communities that had tried to utilize the artificial ice. Although they have thermosiphon, the floors are not level and there's a problem. If we have no choice, we would like to use artificial ice rather than thermosiphon. We can accept the thermosiphon, but we're requesting artificial ice. Following the seasons, it would slow the people who use the arena.

Are you considering putting artificial ice rather than thermosiphon for Pangiirtung? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Oshutapik. Minister responsible for Community and Government Services, Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If we use the artificial ice, it's going to be more expensive. They would have to put in concrete, which is totally different from the thermosiphon, but we can look into it. I cannot tell you to start expecting artificial ice. We are looking into it. In the communities where we have put in thermosiphon, they seem to be working out really well. For the artificial ice, it would be more expensive, but we can look into it. I cannot tell you that that's exactly what we will be using. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Oshutapik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for his response, although I was expecting to hear that we will get artificial ice. Also, in the community hamlet councils and the recreation committee, they have an opportunity to do fundraising as long as they will be utilizing the funds until next year. If we do fundraise, will the government commit to provide matching funds? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Oshutapik. Minister of Community and Government Services, Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Yes, I almost said you won't be getting... I'm just teasing.

Mr. Speaker, the funding is always inadequate for sports and recreation. There has never been sufficient funding that's geared towards this. When the communities want to initiate something on their own, they shouldn't be waiting for the government. When the communities initiate their fundraising, we feel for them and we urge them, and it becomes easier to get funding from the government.

With the fundraising, the sports and recreation funding can be stretched further. We have seen that in Pond Inlet. They built a baseball diamond and they did fundraising. That also has occurred in Coral Harbour, and we wanted to provide support to them for a youth centre. For Rankin Inlet's baseball diamond, they do their own fundraising. We feel encouraged to provide support for them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Oshutapik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister. At least you're providing better expectations to the youth in our community. When we ask a question and get the appropriate answer, at least we accept the little piece of information that we receive any time.

My last question is: how many communities have artificial ice? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Minister responsible for Community and Government Services, Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If you're asking about artificial ice equipment, in Iqaluit, there are two and one in Rankin Inlet. I don't know of any communities that have artificial ice equipment. I think there are six or seven using thermosiphon and for new arenas, they include that in there. I hope I got the answer you were looking for, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

**Question 481 – 3(3): Activities of the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission**

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Minister responsible for the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission and I would like to get a response.

In August of this year, the WSCC published a new Traffic Control Person Code of Practice. This document contains detailed information to help ensure safety on job sites, including construction sites. This code relates to sections on traffic control and flagpersons in Nunavut's General Safety Regulations. Can the minister indicate if this new code of practice is currently being enforced in Nunavut? Thank you.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister responsible for the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission,

Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The regulations and codes have to be abided by any workplace or within the vicinity of a workplace. These are general safety guidelines that are provided to companies that are required to follow them, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the people who work in by-law because they are to enforce the code.

As the minister is well aware, construction season is in full swing across Nunavut. I have seen with my own eyes some potentially dangerous practices on construction sites with respect to traffic control, parking of construction vehicles, and other matters. Can the minister indicate how frequently the WSCC inspects construction sites to ensure compliance with all applicable safety codes and rules? Thank you.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister responsible for the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission, Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understand the member's question. We usually see all the construction going on and they never stop, not just here in Iqaluit, I am sure. Construction sites are very hard to access through and they're right close to the bus stop.

According to my knowledge, the inspectors inspect the construction sites without the expectation and knowledge of the construction workers or company. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for the answer from the minister. I am aware that the WSCC offers safety training and courses for employers in Nunavut, which includes safety rules of the construction site. Can the minister indicate whether safety training and courses are being offered? If so, have they met in Rankin Inlet and Iqaluit or taken training on safety rules? The workers have to understand them. What I'm trying to ask is: how many courses are being offered? Thank you.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister responsible for the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission, Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for the question. The safety of the worksite is very important and it's also nice to see some businesses abiding by the rules to keep the worksite safe. Our workers, inspectors do go inspect these construction sites to make sure that they are working in a safe place. If the staff needs training on safety issues, we can arrange that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Oral Questions. Member for Tununiq, Mr. Enook.

### **Question 482 – 3(3): Status of Decentralization Action Plan**

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thought I was going to run out of time. My questions are for the Minister of Human Resources.

Mr. Speaker, on June 5 of this year, the minister tabled the Government of Nunavut's Decentralization Action Plan. This document indicates that one of the government's key goals is to, and I quote, "continue to situate at least 60% of all public service jobs outside of Iqaluit."

Mr. Speaker, my reading of this sentence is that the government is providing itself with wiggle room to move some decentralized positions out of some communities, so long as the overall figures across Nunavut remain the same.

Can the minister assure me that not a single decentralized position will be moved out of Pond Inlet, yes or no? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Enook. Minister responsible for the Department of Human Resources, Minister Ell.

**Hon. Monica Ell** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for the question. We have no plans in job positions to be moved from Pond Inlet and nothing has changed. Since we are talking about decentralization, it will be at least 60 percent. If a position is to be transferred, it has to be first approved. If a position will be transferred, then there has to be agreement on what position will be sent to that community and cabinet has to approve these changes.



These changes can't be done arbitrarily.  
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Within the Government of Nunavut's Decentralization Action Plan, it indicates that one of the government's priorities is to, and I quote, "find a way to ensure that the positions outside of Iqaluit get staffed and that government staff are able to connect with the communities they live and work in." Can the minister indicate what specific actions are being taken by the government to fill vacant decentralized positions in the community of Pond Inlet? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Enook. Minister responsible for the Department of Human Resources, Minister Ell.

**Hon. Monica Ell** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This Decentralized Action Plan that the member is referring to was tabled on June 5, 2012 in the Legislative Assembly. It includes 29 recommendations for implementation, and I want to mention a few of them. Perhaps I should read them in English.

(interpretation ends) Improve structures and support for a decentralized public service; building capacity and capabilities to deliver programs and services; addressing the issues at risk; decentralized functions; promoting Inuit employment; and practising Inuit societal values.

(interpretation) These recommendations are examples of how to improve the employees in the communities,

especially if training is required or if there needs to be improvements made related to their employment practices. That is how we understand these recommendations. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Government of Nunavut's Decentralization Action Plan indicates that one of the government's goals is to, and I quote, "increase flexibility in HR processes in order to staff positions more efficiently and encourage local hiring." Can the minister indicate what specific actions have been taken by the government to accomplish this? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Enook. Minister responsible for the Department of Human Resources, Minister Ell.

**Hon. Monica Ell** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Currently, with respect to Pond Inlet, there are more senior positions filled, with about 57 management level employees in Pond Inlet, at CG&S, they have 31 staff in these positions, at Economic Development and Transportation, they have 8 staff, 17 within the Department of Education, and 1 position at Justice.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, it is recognized that by focusing on some of the issues that my colleague mentioned, the GN will be able to achieve objectives for improving decentralization and to bringing decisions closer to Nunavummiut. It is also recognized that in the four categories, communities, communication,

strengthening... (inaudible)... and capacity building, we will help achieve the underlying change in how Nunavummiut and government itself view decentralization as a functioning model of governance.

The change in the way we operate will improve our ability to enhance employment, training, and career development opportunities for local residents, strengthening and diversifying local economies, and improve the relationship between Nunavummiut and the GN. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Also under the Decentralization Action Plan, it indicates that one of the government's goals is to, and I quote, "engage municipalities in implementing parts of the Decentralization Action Plan." Can the minister tell me if her officials have formally met with the municipal council of Pond Inlet within the last three months to discuss the status of decentralization in Pond Inlet and, if not, will she commit to having them do so before the end of this calendar year? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Enook. Minister responsible for Department of Human Resource, Minister Ell.

**Hon. Monica Ell:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In March 2011, the review of decentralization was conducted for the continuing efforts to strengthen the public service as part of the commitment to *Tamapta: Building Our Future Together*. As part of this, consultations

were taking place. Consultants met with a total of 94 GN personnel in departments and agencies from all levels, frontline workers to executives, in order to get a good sample of communities with decentralized offices.

They also visited the communities of Arviat, Baker Lake, Kugluktuk, and Pond Inlet. Yes, Mr. Speaker, to answer my colleague, they did go to Pond Inlet, and in those communities, they met with both staff and mayors.

However, mayors in all of the decentralized communities were also invited to respond to a survey that was conducted. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister Ell. Members will note that the clock is indicating that the time allotted for question period has expired. We will move on in our orders of the day. Item 7. Written Questions. Mr. Enook.

### **Item 7: Written Questions**

#### **Written Question 020 – 3(3): Government of Nunavut's Staff Housing and Public Housing Units Equipped with Hurricane Strapping**

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have three written questions that I would like to produce.

I have a written question to the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation concerning staff housing and public housing units. The questions are very detailed, so I ask that they be entered into the record as read.

1. Broken down by community and type of unit, how many Government of Nunavut staff housing units and public housing units have been equipped with hurricane straps?
2. Broken down by category of expenditure, what have been the total costs to date associated with equipping hurricane straps to Government of Nunavut staff housing and public housing units?
3. Does the Nunavut Housing Corporation plan to equip every Government of Nunavut staff housing and/or public housing unit with hurricane straps and, if so, how many additional staff housing and public housing units require hurricane strapping?
4. What is the Nunavut Housing Corporation's timeline for equipping additional staff housing and/or public housing units with hurricane strapping?
5. What are the Nunavut Housing Corporation's guidelines and/or criteria for determining whether staff housing and/or public housing units require hurricane strapping?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Enook. Do members agree that they be entered into the record as read?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Speaker:** It has been agreed to and so it shall be.

Item 7. Written Questions. Mr. Enook.

### **Written Question 021 – 3(3): Status of Decentralization**

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a written question today for the Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs concerning the issue of decentralization. The question is very detailed, so I ask that it be entered into the record as read.

1. Expressing the data in a comparable format to that which is contained in the tables on pages 137, 140, 143, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 151, and 153 of the report titled “A Functional Review of Decentralization” (Tabled Document 153 – 3(3)), what is the status of decentralization in Pond Inlet as of November 5, 2012?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Enook. The member is again asking that the question be entered into the record as read. Do members agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Speaker:** It shall be entered in right after the last one.

>> *Laughter*

Item 7. Written Questions. Mr. Enook.

### **Written Question 022 – 3(3): Allocation of Conservation Officers**

**Mr. Enook:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) I have a written question today for the Minister of Environment concerning the issue of allocation of conservation officers. The questions are

very detailed, so I ask that they be entered into the record as read.

1. Broken down by community and rank of conservation officer, how many conservation officers are currently employed by the Government of Nunavut?
2. With respect to communities that are allocated more than one conservation officer, what are the department's guidelines and/or criteria for determining the allocation of additional conservation officers for the community?
3. With respect to communities that are allocated one conservation officer, what are the Department of Environment's guidelines and practices to ensure continuity of service in circumstances where the conservation officer is on approved leave?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Enook. The member is asking that the question be entered into the record as read. Do members agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Speaker:** The members have agreed, so it shall be entered into the record as read.

Item 7. Written Questions. Moving on in our orders of the day. Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Item 10. Petitions. Item 11. Responses to Petitions. Mr. Clerk.

#### **Item 11: Responses to Petitions\***

#### **Response to Petition 003 – 3(3): Petition for Resignation**

**Clerk** (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Further to your ruling, I am tabling the response to Petition 3 – 3(3). A copy of your ruling is attached to this item also. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Item 11. Responses to Petitions. Item 12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. Elliott.

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

#### **Tabled Document 284 – 3(3): Bill 42, Donation of Food Act**

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table a copy of Bill 42, *Donation of Food Act*. This bill was tabled without opposition by the Legislative Assembly of Yukon on Monday of last week. I encourage all members to review this legislation with care. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Minister of Environment, Minister Arreak.

#### **Tabled Document 285 – 3(3): Environmental Rights Act Annual Report for the Period: January 1, 2011 to December 31, 2011**

**Hon. James Arreak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table the *Environmental Rights Act Annual Report* from January 1, 2011 to December 31, 2011. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

\*See Appendix for full text of Response to Petition 3 – 3(3) and Speaker's Ruling filed with the Clerk.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister Arreak. Tabling of Documents. Minister of Education, Minister Aariak.

**Tabled Document 286 – 3(3):  
Financial Assistance for Nunavut  
Students (FANS) Progress Report**

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am very pleased to table the Financial Assistance for Nunavut Students (FANS) Progress Report. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister Aariak. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Minister responsible for the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation, Minister Taptuna.

**Tabled Document 287 – 3(3):  
Correspondence from the Auditor  
General of Canada on the Audit of  
the Nunavut Business Credit  
Corporation (NBCC)**

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table a letter from the Auditor General of Canada on the audit of the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation (NBCC). This will be the first year the corporation will receive an audit opinion with no qualification. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Minister responsible for Community and Government Services, Minister Kusugak.

**Tabled Document 288 – 3(3):  
Memorandum of Understanding  
with NWT on Legislation and  
Regulation of the Northern  
Employee Benefit Services Pension  
Plan**

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table the Memorandum of Understanding with NWT on Legislation and Regulation of the Northern Employees Benefit Services Pension Plan, as per my commitment to the Assembly on October 23, 2012. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Minister of Finance, Minister Peterson.

**Tabled Document 289 – 3(3): Grants  
and Contributions Report for  
2011-2012**

**Tabled Document 290 – 3(3): Nunavut  
Liquor Commission's Annual  
Report for 2009-2010**

**Tabled Document 291 – 3(3):  
Territorial Corporations'  
Responses to 2012-2013 Letters of  
Expectation**

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have three documents I would like tabled.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to table the Grants of Contributions Report for 2011-12.

I am also pleased to table the Nunavut Liquor Commission's Annual Report for 2009-2010.

And finally, Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to table the Territorial Corporations' Responses to the 2012-13 Letters of Expectation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister Peterson. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Minister of Justice, Minister Shewchuk.

**Tabled Document 292 – 3(3):  
Community Justice Committee  
and Family Abuse Intervention  
Act Year-end Report for 2009-  
2010**

**Hon. Daniel Shewchuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table the Community Justice Committee and *Family Abuse Intervention Act* Year-end Report for 2009-2010. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Minister responsible for Economic Development and Transportation, Minister Taptuna.

**Tabled Document 293 – 3(3): FPT  
Ministerial Report on the Meeting  
of the Energy and Mines Ministers  
in Charlottetown, PEI, September  
10 to 11, 2012**

**Tabled Document 294 – 3(3):  
Canadian Council of Tourism  
Ministers Meeting from May 10 to  
11, 2012 in Saint John, New  
Brunswick**

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have two documents to table.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to table the federal/provincial/territorial ministerial report on the meeting of the energy and

mines ministers in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, September 10 to 11, 2012.

I am also pleased to table the Canadian Council of Tourism Ministers Meeting from May 10 to 11, 2012 in Saint John, New Brunswick. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Item 13. Tabling of Documents.

**Tabled Document 295 – 3(3): Interim  
Report of Members' Absences  
from Sitting of the House and  
Meetings of Committees and  
Caucuses to the Members of the  
Legislative Assembly of Nunavut  
for the Period April to June 2012**

**Tabled Document 296 – 3(3): Interim  
Report of Members' Absences  
from Sitting of the House and  
Meetings of Committees and  
Caucuses for the Period July to  
September 2012**

**Tabled Document 297 – 3(3): Report  
to the MSB of Contracts for the  
Legislative Assembly for the  
Period: April 2011 to March 2012**

**Tabled Document 298 – 3(3): 2011-  
2012 Annual Report for Members'  
Indemnities, Allowances and  
Expenses**

Thank you, members. I have a number of items to table today. The first item is the Interim Report of Members' Absences from Sitting of the House and Meetings of Committees and Caucuses for the period April to June 2012.

The second item is the Interim Report of Members' Absences from Sitting of the House and Meetings of Committees and Caucuses for the period of July to September 2012.

The third item is the report to the Management and Services Board on contracting activity for the Legislative Assembly for the year 2011-12.

The fourth item is the Annual Report of Members' Indemnities, Expenses and Allowances for 2011-12. Thank you.

Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Moving on in our orders of the day. Item 14. Notices of Motions. Moving on in our orders of the day. Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Mr. Elliott.

#### **Item 15: Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills**

#### **Bill 46 – Donation of Food Act – Notice**

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was getting too anxious.

Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Tuesday, February 26, 2013, I will move that Bill 46, *Donation of Food Act*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Item 16: Motions**

#### **Motion 036 – 3(3): Acceptance of the Report of the Integrity Commissioner to the Legislative Assembly Regarding Mr. Fred Schell, MLA**

**Hon. Eva Aariak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

WHEREAS the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly has tabled the Report of the Integrity of Commissioner of Nunavut regarding Fred Schell, Member of the Legislative Assembly for South Baffin;

AND WHEREAS the *Integrity Act* requires that the Legislative Assembly shall consider a report laid before the House within 10 sitting days after its tabling and shall respond to the report before the end of the session in which the report is laid before it;

AND WHEREAS the Integrity Commissioner has made certain recommendations in his report;

AND WHEREAS the Legislative Assembly may either accept or reject all of the Integrity Commissioner's recommendations;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet North, that the sanctions and recommendations contained in the Report of the Integrity Commissioner be accepted.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Madam Premier. The motion is in order. Before we go and proceed with the debate on the motion before us, I have a few comments to make regarding the

procedure. Every member has the right to speak once to the motion for a total of 20 minutes. The mover of the motion speaks first and the seconder speaks second. The mover of the motion has the right to the last reply, which closes the debate. To the motion. Madam Premier.

**Hon. Eva Aariak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to speak to my motion, seconded by Hon. Tagak Curley, to accept the report of the 31st, 2012 from the Integrity Commissioner concerning the Hon. Fred Schell, MLA for South Baffin.

Mr. Speaker, Members of the Executive Council are given positions of power and authority of privilege and trust by the Members of this Legislative Assembly. In return, we expect cabinet members to behave with honour. We expect them to make decisions that are in the public good. This is what integrity means.

Mr. Speaker, our *Integrity Act* states clearly and simply: integrity is the first and highest duty of elected office. Without integrity, there can be no trust.

Since day one, I have been clear that this government stands for integrity and this government, under my leadership, will continue to insist that those given the privilege of a ministerial portfolio must act with integrity in all of their actions. Mr. Speaker, ministers are expected to take responsibility for their actions.

The Members of this House will remember that in 2011, the Integrity Commissioner had already warned Mr. Schell about seeking to advance his personal interests as an elected official. The Integrity Commissioner's report came shortly after Mr. Schell was voted

into cabinet. At the time I assigned Mr. Schell his portfolio, I told him in no uncertain terms that he would have to be "squeaky clean." He gave me his word that he would do so.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Schell was well warned. He chose to ignore those warnings. He continued to exercise the same poor judgment. It was with great disappointment that I received information only a few months later that Mr. Schell had breached the *Integrity Act*. I then acted quickly to the limits of the powers provided to the Premier under the *Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act* to protect the integrity of the cabinet.

I talked to Mr. Schell. I discussed the options of his stepping down from cabinet. I told him that should he choose to remain in cabinet, an impartial opinion of the Integrity Commissioner would be sought. Mr. Schell chose not to resign and I removed his portfolio.

Ever since, as further information became available and was disclosed to him, he had the option to resign. He has chosen not to. So we waited for the Integrity Commissioner to complete his work. We now have the bare facts and unbiased conclusions before us. The report speaks to itself.

Mr. Speaker, we must now act to guard the trust that our constituents have given us. Mr. Speaker, we, as a House, must now act to maintain the integrity of the Nunavut system of consensus government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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



**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, I would like to state that when I seconded the motion, it wasn't because I was overjoyed to do so. However, we have a responsibility to resolve this issue before us. I have seconded this motion, and I support the Integrity Commissioner's report and the appended recommendations which the commissioner wants approved to ensure that events as listed in the report don't occur again.

Mr. Speaker, the reason why I stand today is because many of the members feel that we aren't just dealing with the allegations of misconduct or the rules the member broke. However, it seems that the Premier has chosen this path to the crossroads we stand at today. Eight months have passed and it has surfaced that the Premier's Office knew about these issues for over ten months.

Again, these allegations of misconduct came about due to perceptions of conflict because conflict of interest means that a person has put their personal or business needs before their public interest. Further, contravention of the rules, as per the Integrity Commissioner's report, states that all business interests were supposed to be placed in a blind trust. The member had to appoint a manager or lawyer to manage this business placed in a blind trust.

The reason why I stand today is a cause for concern. I have no choice but to voice some of the details, as we ought to have a process related to perceptions of misconduct that apply to any minister. Since the Premier is the leader, she can provide direction and query the member whether or not these conditions have

been met. It is only if we have the proper leadership where we can state that it would be best if the minister was to resign and the minister has to be advised of their options.

Furthermore, we have travelled down this road before by the previous administration where it took 48 hours to complete this process whereby a member resigned when allegations of misconduct surfaced. It didn't require an onerous process to determine if any misconduct had occurred, but that the minister in question preferred to resign.

Due to this reason, I can state that the Premier could have exhibited better leadership and dealt with it in that manner. If she had been clear that misconduct wouldn't be accepted and that if she had applied the rules, she could have told the member that they had to resign. There are many paths that can be taken to resolve this.

Each minister has a conscience when they sit on the government side. As I informed the Premier, when I resigned due to my principles, I made the statement that if the minister were to appoint someone, I felt that the Nunavut Housing Corporation would be best managed if it were under the economic development and transportation department. She didn't have to follow that advice either.

Due to these reasons, as there are quite a few contained in the report, there were various avenues we could have followed based on the legislation, and what the members who stand on this side of the House can state is that we aren't proud of this event with that many rules apparently contravened. However, we

represent Nunavutmiut and we have reached the end of the process up to today.

The details within the report of the Integrity Commissioner are quite numerous. Due to this fact, although the fine is rather hefty where he recommends that the member pays a \$10,000 fine, it includes other recommendations, such as having to meet with the elders of Cape Dorset. From our perspective, we could speak to some of these issues, but many of us feel that the member ought not to just meet with the elders, but with all of his constituents that he represents.

However, the recommendation we are being asked to approve by Mr. Pickell, the Integrity Commissioner, are ones we want supported by all members because Nunavutmiut have had to wait almost an entire year to see this resolved. Due to this reason, I would appreciate if all members were to support this motion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Curley. To the motion. Mr. Schell.

**Mr. Schell:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I feel that it is incumbent on me to speak to this motion for a number of reasons that all members should be aware of.

It has been an honour and a privilege to serve Nunavummiut in my capacity as a minister. The many challenges have led to a great learning experience, and I believe I have fostered good working relationships among respective members. For that, I am deeply grateful.

As a minister, I have provided productive and meaningful input into the

issues facing my portfolio and to government as a whole in addition to carrying out my daily tasks and responding to the concerns of members and their constituents across Nunavut.

For the public record, I would like to mention that although my portfolios were removed, I continued to fulfill my duties and obligations as a minister, including attending meetings of the Executive Council and Financial Management Board, while contributing to discussions and voting to best represent my constituents and the territory. I felt that I could be more instrumental at the table because I had already been stripped of my portfolio and, frankly, had nothing to lose. I regret that this entire process may have been a burden for the Executive Council members who've had to take on additional responsibilities.

I am relieved that we are finally dealing with the Integrity Commissioner's report. This experience has been stressful and gruelling, something that I would not wish upon anyone. For this reason alone, I believe it is necessary to share my story in hopes that other members are well informed so this never happens to another member of the legislature.

Before I go on, I would like Nunavummiut to understand very clearly that I admit there was wrongdoing. I am not here to speak to the specifics of the report. I only wish to share my experiences about the procedures leading up to the allegations with the Integrity Commissioner.

On September 30, 2011, I was sworn into cabinet. The Premier announced on

October the 5, 2011 that I would assume the responsibility of the Department of Human Resources, effective immediately. As members are aware, prior to becoming a minister, the former Deputy Minister of Justice, Janet Slaughter, filed a complaint with the Integrity Commissioner's office regarding my conduct as an MLA. Prior to being voted in as a minister to cabinet, I discussed this investigation specifically with Premier Aariak and with a number of the members.

The commissioner's report concerning that complaint was made public on October 18, 2011. That day when Premier Aariak was questioned whether she was aware of the situation, she said, "Absolutely not. He was a regular member when the investigation was going on. This is private information until the Integrity Commissioner [decides] what he has to do and then it was released."

I had just become a minister. The moment I was notified the report was coming, I informed the Premier of the investigation and made her aware to expect the report. Subsequently, CBC reported the Premier's contradiction, which led to the Premier's staff emailing CBC in an attempt to clarify the situation by stating the Premier did, in fact, have a conversation with me "some time between September 28 and October 5."

As a minister, I worked persistently on two of the territory's most challenging portfolios. Did I enquire about HR matters? You bet I did. That was my job. There were specific HR issues I needed to be informed about to ensure the hiring

process was not flawed. That is the duty of the minister.

On March the 8, 2011, I was summoned to a meeting with the Premier's Principal Secretary, Paul Crowley, and the Cabinet Secretary, Dan Vandermeulen. At the meeting, they stated they had legal information in their possession. In fact, they waved a document in my face, but refused to share it with me. They alleged this information would get me in trouble with the Integrity Commissioner. Of course, I questioned them about the legal information. Again they refused to disclose the legal information and evidence they supposedly had. These officials told me to resign from cabinet or they would file a complaint with the Integrity Commissioner, and they would also ensure I was stripped of my portfolios. Mr. Speaker, who in this government is taking orders from whom?

In the interest of openness and transparency, I would expect the Premier to table the alleged evidence and recommendations her officials waved in my face on March 8, 2011. This is the same alleged evidence and recommendations the Premier told members, the media, and the public that she had based her decision on to strip me of my portfolios. Mr. Speaker, I believe that everyone should have the right to know what they are being accused of. Was I scared? You bet I was. Who wouldn't be? Some would consider this blackmail. I was told to resign without knowing what I did wrong and, in fact, without ever receiving any communication from the Premier herself. Is that leadership?

Understandably, I was confused. What did I do? As a minister, I felt I was working diligently on my files. At no time did I intentionally try to mislead the legislature or cause undue harm to others in my position. In my mind, the motive to seek my resignation must have involved a statement I had made in the legislature that same day. As you may remember, I stated that the Nunavut Housing Corporation would not be giving any more social housing money unless the corporation did another audit. As far as I know, the corporation was agreeable to this audit. I left the meeting with the Premier's senior officials taken aback as to what was going on.

Consequently, the next day, I met with the Premier to get some answers. The Premier did not have an explanation. However, she did follow through on the words of Mr. Vandermeulen and Mr. Crowley, and stripped me of my portfolios. Mr. Crowley and Mr. Vandermeulen were also present for this meeting.

On March 11, the Premier issued a news release and stated, "I have recently been informed by Government of Nunavut officials that Mr. Schell has acted in conflict of interest and abused his authority as Minister." CBC also reported on March 12 that "she requested a report from the Integrity Commissioner." Finally, more than 40 days later, Mr. Vandermeulen filed the complaint and requested a review on April 23, 2012.

Mr. Speaker, I find the Premier's claim that she had just learned of an investigation of one of her cabinet ministers by the cabinet secretary that had been going on for several months

very puzzling.

Mr. Vandermeulen's signed affidavit to the Integrity Commissioner included over 20 allegations. The majority of those allegations were entirely dismissed. My hon. colleague from Rankin Inlet North's comment regarding a witch hunt does not seem too farfetched, does it? I must say that some of the allegations put forward seemed bizarre. I was left with the impression that the Premier's officials were trying to throw anything and everything in the review so at least one allegation against me would stick.

Like some of my colleagues, I, too, have concerns about whether the Premier is being well served by her staff. In fact, her Principal Secretary, Paul Crowley, her right-hand man, was indeed served with a subpoena to force him to appear at the Integrity Commissioner's hearing. The Premier said, and I quote, "I did not know that the principal secretary was subpoenaed, and I don't even know what date it was..." The Premier was unable to explain to another Member of this House why her senior official needed to be subpoenaed.

It is my understanding that all witnesses requested to appear at the hearing were well informed in advance. To be clear, a subpoena is only issued when an individual refuses to voluntarily appear as requested to the Integrity Commissioner. It's curious that Paul Crowley was the only government witness the Integrity Commissioner forced to appear. To me, this shows disrespect to our legislation and this legislature. The Premier claims she didn't even know her own senior official was subpoenaed, and even said, "I think

I was very well served.” Does this give you confidence in her judgment?

There are a couple more questionable matters I would like to address.

I was forthcoming on all of my personal business matters that could present a conflict of interest. Having said that, the Premier chooses a minister’s portfolios. If the Premier was, as she claims, well advised, why did she choose to assign portfolios that could be construed as conflict of interest? Did she or her staff not review the public disclosure statements that we all file annually? This decision makes me wonder whether it was an oversight or intentional.

Mr. Speaker, the decision of the Premier and her staff to pursue this process will undoubtedly cost taxpayers hundreds of thousands of dollars. It has consumed uncountable hours from public servants to do the jobs they were hired to do. I would have thought that a Premier in charge of leading the government could have taken more appropriate action to immediately resolve the issue. Again, is this leadership?

Every single member should be wary. The bureaucracy is limiting our ability to do our job. By far, the most important right accorded to members is the exercise of freedom of speech.

I quote from Special Committee on the Rights and Immunities of Members, first report, April 29, 1977, this is “...a fundamental right without which we would be hampered in the performance of our duties. It permits us to speak in the House without inhibition, to refer to any matter or express our opinion as we see fit, to say what we feel needs to be

said in the furtherance of the national interests and the aspirations of our constituents.”

From experience, I can attest the bureaucracy has become far too powerful under this Premier. As I recall from the recent hearing, I made enquiries to the Deputy Minister of Human Resources, Joe Kunuk. This deputy went directly to the Cabinet Secretary, Dan Vandermeulen, regarding my enquiries. Not once did he suggest to me that my enquiries were inappropriate. In fact, as I recall, he answered all of my questions. I do understand that the bureaucracy is meant to assist the Premier and ministers, but in my experience, that certainly was not the case.

I am uneasy regarding a certain portion of this bureaucracy. We need to be cautious when we express our freedom of speech. Otherwise, the officials may reprimand us and prohibit our ability to perform our duties. I question the appropriateness of allowing the bureaucracy to use the full weight of this government’s resources to vigorously pursue any Member of this House. I believe that our legislation should be reviewed to properly address this matter.

Now that the commissioner’s report is complete, a process that should have taken 90 days to resolve has taken well over seven months. I believed this whole affair would be expedient. It has taken much longer than anyone anticipated.

Mr. Speaker, I think members will understand why I can say now that I have no confidence in the Premier’s leadership, and why I’m concerned with the level of authority that has been

delegated to the Premier's staff.  
Nunavummiut need leadership, not  
readership.

The last eight months have been stressful  
to my family, my colleagues, and me. As  
a father, I love and admire my children  
very much. For that reason, I  
acknowledge my mistakes. I want my  
children to learn from my mistakes and I  
want them to know that admitting our  
mistakes and dealing with the  
consequences is honourable.

I accept the Integrity Commissioner's  
report. Today, effective immediately, I  
am resigning from my position as a  
Member of the Executive Council of  
Nunavut. Thank you, fellow members.  
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Schell.  
Members will note that the member has  
resigned effective immediately from the  
Executive Council. I have no more  
names on my list. Madam Premier, do  
you have any last reply? None. The  
debate is now closed. We will now vote.  
Mr. Enook.

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Mr.  
Speaker, I would like to request a  
recorded vote. Thank you.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Enook. The  
member is requesting a recorded vote on  
the matter. To the motion. All those in  
favour of the motion, please rise. You  
could sit down once I have called your  
name.

Premier Aariak.

Ms. Ell.

Mr. Kusugak.

Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Ningeongan.

Mr. Ningark.

Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Tapardjuk.

Ms. Ugyuk.

Mr. Oshutapik.

Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Curley.

Mr. Enook.

Mr. Arreak.

Mr. Shewchuk.

Minister Taptuna.

All those against the motion, please rise.  
There are none. If there are any  
abstentions to the motion, please rise and  
sit when I say your name.

Mr. Schell.

The record will note that the motion has  
passed, 17 for, none against, and 1  
abstention. The motion is carried.

Item 16. Motions. Minister Taptuna.

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr.  
Speaker. As the Member for South  
Baffin has formally announced his  
resignation from the cabinet, I wish to

withdraw my motion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Does the seconder of the motion agree? Mr. Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I agree. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Kusugak. According to Rule 53, the motion is hereby dropped off the order paper.

Item 16. Motions. Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Item 19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bills 42, 43, and 45 with Mr. Ningeongan in the Chair.

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

Sergeant-at-Arms.

*>>House recessed at 16:09 and Committee resumed at 16:36*

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

**Chairman** (Mr. Ningeongan) (interpretation): Thank you. We now have quorum, so I can now call the committee meeting to order. In Committee of the Whole, we have the following items to deal with: Bills 42, 43, and 45. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We wish to continue with the

review of Bill 42, followed by the review of Bill 43 and Bill 45. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Are we in agreement that we deal with Bills 42, 43, and 45?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Bill 42 – Supplementary Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, No. 2, 2012-2013 – Consideration in Committee**

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. We had begun our review of Bill 42 already. Does the committee agree to bring in Minister Peterson and his witnesses?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort Minister Peterson and his witnesses in.

Thank you, Sergeant-at-Arms. For the record, Minister Peterson, please introduce your witnesses. Minister Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my right is Deputy Minister Chris D'Arcy, Department of Finance, and to my left is Camilius Egeni, Director of Expenditure Management, Department of Finance. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson. I also thank your officials. Welcome to the proceedings. I would like to inform my colleagues that we left off on page 16 of our review. If I

am not mistaken, I believe Mr. Enook had completed his line of questioning. The next name I have is Mr. Curley. Mr. Enook, can you inform me if you had any further questions, please.

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I still have a few questions from Friday, but as the Chair, you recognized the clock. So that is where we were, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Enook. I apologize. I recognized Mr. Curley first. Mr. Enook, you can proceed with your questioning at this time.

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think I have a better understanding at the last response, but to make it clear and to make sure I understand, then I won't have any further questions. The question I was trying to ask is, and I would like to ask, it's for Nunavut housing and homeless shelter, \$350,000. My question is: is this separate from the Nunavut housing review? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Keith Peterson**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Enook for the question. Mr. Chairman, I believe it is separate from the housing review. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson. Are you done, Mr. Enook? Mr. Curley.

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also had a question on that \$350,000, which we hear is not enough. Stats Canada did a study about

two years and they found that there has to be over 3,000 more houses. As my colleague has asked, Statistics Canada is doing a review and stating that there has to be 3,000 more houses.

We are now making plans for homeless people. It's almost like throwing this money out and not doing anything with it. There are a lot of homeless people here in town. I know that Arviat is looking for some funds to help out with housing for the homeless people and they can't get any funding.

Once this strategy is done, are there going to be funds available that the Nunavut government would be using? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Keith Peterson**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Curley for the question. If I understand him correctly, we do have funding already in the homeless portfolio. I guess it's no secret that it's not sufficient for all the homeless shelters in our communities across Nunavut. I think the bulk of the funding goes to homeless shelters here in Iqaluit. I would hope that once this housing homelessness strategy is complete, we would be in a better position to address the amount of funding that is needed across Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Curley**: Thank you, *Iksivautaaq*. My understanding is the current funding level that we have primarily is funding that is voted by the Assembly. The



majority of it, pretty well almost 100 percent of it, is for Iqaluit homeless shelters. I'm not aware of any funding that goes beyond Iqaluit. Would I be correct in assuming that? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Curley again for that question. Yes, that would. I don't want to say for sure, but there is a lot of money within that file that all the communities can apply for. I believe that the bulk of the money for homelessness goes to the two shelters here in Iqaluit. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson. I have no more names on my list. Page 16. (interpretation ends) Nunavut Housing Corporation. Operations and Maintenance. Not Previously Authorized. Nunavut Housing Corporation. Total Nunavut Housing Corporation. \$691,000. (interpretation) Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. At the bottom, (interpretation ends) Total Department. \$691,000. (interpretation) Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Page 17. (interpretation ends) Nunavut Arctic College. Operations and Maintenance. Not Previously Authorized. Nunavut Arctic College. Total Nunavut Arctic College. \$799,000. (interpretation) Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Down at the bottom, (interpretation ends) Total Department. \$799,000. (interpretation) Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Go to page 2. (interpretation ends) Schedule 1. Operations and Maintenance. Operations and Maintenance Appropriation. \$18,931,000. (interpretation) Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. We will now go to Bill 42 in your white legislation binder and review it clause by clause. I believe you now have a copy in front of you. Page 1. (interpretation ends) Bill 42, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 2, 2012-2013*. Clause 1. (interpretation) Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 2. (interpretation) Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 3. (interpretation) Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 4 (interpretation) and Schedule on page 2. Do you agree? Schedule 2. (interpretation ends) Schedule: Supplementary Amounts Appropriated for the Fiscal Year Ending March 31, 2013. Vote 1: Operations and

Maintenance. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$18,931,000. Total Supplementary Appropriation. \$18,931,000. (interpretation) Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. We will now go back to the clause-by-clause review. (interpretation ends) Clause 5. (interpretation) Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 6. (interpretation) Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 7. (interpretation) Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Members, (interpretation) do we agree to Bill 42 as a whole?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Do members agree, pursuant to Rule 62(2), that Bill 42 can immediately be placed on the orders of the day for third reading?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister Peterson, if you have any closing remarks on Bill 42, I give you the floor.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Mr. Chairman, I would just like to thank yourself and the committee for their excellent questions.

It's very important, as we all know, accountability and transparency, and we will continue to work hard to justify your faith in our government to spend public monies wisely. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson. (interpretation ends) Members, (interpretation) we also have Bill 43 to deal with. (interpretation ends) Minister, you can proceed with your opening comments on Bill 43.

**Bill 43 – Supplementary  
Appropriation (Capital) Act, No.  
3, 2012-2013 – Consideration in  
Committee**

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to present Bill 43, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 3, 2012-2013*.

Bill 43 is for capital supplementary appropriations for 2012-13 totalling a reduction of \$628,000. The bulk of the appropriation is for reductions of the capital carryovers from the 2011-12 fiscal year to the 2012-13 fiscal year. There is an additional capital appropriation for the Department of Justice for leasehold improvements to the Inuksugait office space as well as an increase for the Department of Education relating to school renovations and repair projects.

The total capital appropriation can be broken down as follows:

- \$16,000 in reductions to the capital carryovers for Nunavut Arctic College for the Nunavut Trade School and Piquisilirivik;

- A net amount of \$903,000 in increases to the Department of Justice for office renovations in the Inuksugait building estimated at \$1 million and a reduction of \$97,000 in minor capital and the correctional centre;
- A net amount of \$180,000 in increases to the Department of Education for six school renovation and repair projects;
- \$294,000 in reductions to the capital carryovers for the Department of Health and Social Services, with \$275,000 relating to the Qikiqtani General Hospital and \$19,000 relating to the Repulse Bay Health Centre;
- \$622,000 in reductions to the capital carryovers for eight projects in the Department of Community and Government Services, which includes several arena projects, as well as IT network infrastructure, municipal offices, and other infrastructure projects; and
- \$779,000 in reductions to the capital carryovers for the Department of Economic Development and Transportation for three airport improvement projects.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would be pleased to take questions.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson. Members, do you have any general comments on the opening comments? Mr. Ningark.

**Mr. Ningark** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister.

I was given information about the amount of \$19,000, so I don't have any questions. I just wanted to say "thank you." Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningark. I have no more names on my list. We can go to page 4 of Bill 43. (interpretation ends) Finance. Capital. Not Previously Authorized. Total Centrally Administered Funds. -\$16,000. (interpretation) Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Total Department. -\$16,000. (interpretation) Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. We can go to page 5. (interpretation ends) Justice. Capital. Not Previously Authorized. Directorate. Total Directorate. \$997,000. (interpretation) Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Corrections. Total Corrections. -\$94,000. (interpretation) Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Down at the bottom, (interpretation ends) Total Department. \$903,000. (interpretation) Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Page 6. (interpretation ends) Education. Capital. Not Previously Authorized.

Corporate Services. Total Corporate Services. \$180,000. (interpretation) Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Total Department. \$180,000. (interpretation) Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Page 7. (interpretation ends) Health and Social Services. Capital. Not Previously Authorized. Directorate. Total Directorate. -\$294,000. Mr. Enook.

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am very happy about \$275,000 from the previous budget. Can you explain to me why this amount is quite large? I'm very happy with it, but I just want to know the reasoning. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Enook for the question. Mr. Chairman, at the time, we thought we had to carryover that amount of money, but then the bills came in, so were requesting a negative appropriation in that amount to charge it against the appropriate fiscal year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson. I have no more names on my list. We will continue. (interpretation ends) Health and Social Services. Capital. Not Previously Authorized. Directorate. Total Directorate. -\$294,000. (interpretation)

Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Total Department, (interpretation) down at the bottom. (interpretation ends) -\$294,000. (interpretation) Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Page 8. (interpretation ends) Community and Government Services. Capital. Not Previously Authorized. Capital Planning. Total Capital Planning. -\$622,000. Mr. Aupaluktuq.

**Mr. Aupaluktuq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For the benefit of the people of Baker Lake listening, I just want to ask for clarification and for the record, if I may, with both the Baker Lake Pumphouse and Intake, \$13,000, and the bulk fuel storage capacity increase, \$107,000. Just for clarification and for the record, what does that encompass? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. It sounded like you said \$170,000, but you did say \$107,000. That's understandable. Minister Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Same with the previous question, the bills came in and we paid them. So we're just carrying the money back to the appropriate fiscal year to properly account for the money. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson. I have no more names on my list. Page 8. (interpretation ends)

Community and Government Services.  
Capital. Not Previously Authorized.  
Capital Planning. Total Capital Planning.  
-\$622,000. (interpretation) Do you  
agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Total Department. -  
\$622,000. (interpretation) Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you.  
Page 9. (interpretation ends) Economic  
Development and Transportation.  
Capital. Not Previously Authorized.  
Transportation. Total Transportation. -  
\$779,000. Mr. Enook.

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you,  
Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask a  
question on this page. I am happy about  
Iqaluit airport terminal building planning  
and design, -\$728,000. I just don't want  
to worry, but it's good that it is at -  
\$728,000. Sometimes he talks about  
having money and then the money  
comes out. I just want to get some  
information or some clarification why  
they have that negative amount. Thank  
you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr.  
Chairman. I thank Mr. Enook for the  
question. The bills came in after the fact,  
we paid them, and we're applying the  
payment towards the appropriate fiscal  
year, which was 2011-12. So we carried  
the money over, but now we have to  
carry the money back to properly  
account for it. Thank you, Mr.

Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you,  
Minister Peterson. Thank you, Mr.  
Enook. I have no more names on my list  
once again. Continuing on with  
(interpretation ends) Economic  
Development and Transportation.  
Capital. Not Previously Authorized.  
Transportation. Total Transportation. -  
\$779,000. (interpretation) Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): At the  
bottom, Total Department. -\$779,000.  
Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Go back to  
page 2. (interpretation ends) Schedule 1.  
Capital. Capital Appropriation. -  
\$628,000. (interpretation) Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Go to Bill 43  
in your white legislation binder to  
review it clause by clause. We can  
continue. (interpretation ends)  
*Supplementary Appropriation (Capital)*  
*Act, No. 3, 2012-2013.* Clause 1.  
(interpretation) Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 2. (interpretation) Do  
you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 3. (interpretation) Do  
you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 4. (interpretation) There's a (interpretation ends) Schedule on page 3. (interpretation ends) Schedule. Supplementary Amounts Appropriated for the Fiscal Year Ending March 31, 2013. Vote 2: Capital. Total Capital. -\$628,000. Total Supplementary Appropriation. -\$628,000. (interpretation) Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Clause 4 (interpretation) with the Schedule included on page 3. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Clause 5. (interpretation) Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 6. (interpretation) Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 7. (interpretation) Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Does the committee agree to Bill 43 as a whole?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Does the members agree, pursuant to Rule 62(2), that Bill 43 can immediately be placed

on the orders of the day for third reading?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister Peterson, if you have any closing remarks, you may proceed. Mr. Minister.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank all my staff across Nunavut, all of our staff, all of our GN staff for their hard work this year on the capital estimates and the work they're doing on the main estimates. All the hard work they do in delivering our programs and services to all Nunavummiut is very much appreciated by our government and I'm sure all colleagues.

Entering the Christmas season, I would like to give a shout-out to a few people. I would like to give a shout-out to Tim Brown, who's with the "Movember" at Rotary. He's raising funds to fight cancers. I would like to encourage people to dig deep for that effort, and breast cancer, all kinds of cancers, if you can, to donate to research.

Again, being Christmas season, I would like us all to remember all the folks out there who need our help this time of year with donations, the homeless folks, and others. You can dig deep to help out the Girl Guides who are doing work. My New Year's resolution this year was not to eat cookies. I have been quite successful thus far, but I bought four boxes of Girl Guides cookies on Saturday, so I'm tempted, but it's for a worthy cause.

I would also like to wish all of my colleagues here and all Nunavummiut a very happy and safe Christmas season. We will see you again when we sit in the new year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson. I would like to thank you and your officials for appearing before us to answer questions. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses out.

Thank you, Sergeant-at-Arms. (interpretation ends) I would now like to ask the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly to make his opening remarks.

**Bill 45 – An Act Respecting  
Constituency Names and  
Superannuation of Certain  
Independent Officers of the  
Legislative Assembly –  
Consideration in Committee**

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to have the opportunity to appear today before the Committee of the Whole on the occasion of its consideration of Bill 45, *An Act Respecting Constituency Names and Superannuation of Certain Independent Officers of the Legislative Assembly*.

Bill 45 accomplishes two objectives: revising the names of certain constituencies in anticipation of the next general election and amending a number of statutes to designate certain independent officers of the Legislative Assembly as being eligible to participate in the Public Service Pension Plan.

Mr. Chairman, I will first address the issue of constituency names.

As members will recall, Bill 22, *An Act Respecting the Constituencies of Nunavut*, received assent on October 31, 2011. The bill implemented the recommendations of the independent electoral boundaries commission, which were tabled in the House last year.

Subsequent to the passage of Bill 22, a number of Members of the Legislative Assembly provided input to the Management and Services Board concerning the names of their constituencies. As a result, the board approved the proposed amendments that are before the House today.

I am confident that members will agree that the revisions provide additional clarity to our constituency names. I would also note that finalizing the names of Nunavut's 22 constituencies at this time will allow the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer to commence work on preparing and printing materials in advance of the next general election.

Mr. Chairman, I will now address the second issue covered by Bill 45.

As members are aware, employees of Nunavut's public service are eligible to participate in the Public Service Pension Plan under the federal *Public Service Superannuation Act*. The federal legislation provides the legal authority for this participation, as it deems the Government of Nunavut to be a "portion of the federal public administration declared for greater certainty to be part of the [federal] public service."

As members are also aware, subsection 40(3)(f) of the *Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act* provides that the Management and Services Board may

determine the remuneration of independent officers of the Legislative Assembly.

At present, the Chief Electoral Officer of Nunavut and the Languages Commissioner of Nunavut are remunerated on a full-time basis.

However, neither position is considered to be a part of the territorial public service within the meaning of Nunavut's *Public Service Act*. This is a reflection of the independent officers' status as officers of the House who report directly to the Legislative Assembly as a whole rather than as employees of the government. As a consequence, neither the Chief Electoral Officer of Nunavut nor the Languages Commissioner of Nunavut participate in the Public Service Pension Plan under the federal *Public Service Superannuation Act*.

The Integrity Commissioner of Nunavut and the Information and Privacy Commissioner of Nunavut are both lawyers in private practice who are remunerated on an as-and-when-required basis. The officeholders are not eligible for such benefits as participation in a pension plan. Neither officeholder is a resident of the territory.

I would note that the full-time employees of the Office of the Languages Commissioner of Nunavut and the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer of Nunavut are defined in the *Official Languages Act* and the *Nunavut Elections Act* to be members of the public service.

By contrast, although both positions are independent officers of Parliament, the federal Commissioner of Official Languages of Canada and the Chief

Electoral Officer of Canada are both eligible to participate in the Public Service Pension Plan under the federal *Public Service Superannuation Act*. Similar provisions exist in other provinces and territories with respect to certain independent officers.

As members are aware, the Management and Services Board is currently conducting the recruitment process for the next Languages Commissioner of Nunavut. Both the Languages Commissioner of Nunavut and the Chief Electoral Officer of Nunavut are required to reside in the territory.

Given Nunavut's relatively small population, and given the relatively large role that public service employment plays in the territorial economy, it can be anticipated that a number of current members of the public service may be interested in applying for these positions, both of which are considered to be senior positions requiring significant managerial experience.

It is, therefore, important that these changes be made to our legislation so as to ensure that potential candidates are not deterred from applying because of concerns related to eligibility for continued participation in the government's superannuation plan. I would emphasize that these amendments will not alter the status of our independent officers or diminish their accountability to the Legislative Assembly.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening comments. I look forward to responding to any questions that you have, along with my witnesses. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.



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

**Speaker:** No, they're here already. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** They must be invisible. I don't see anyone.

>> *Laughter*

(interpretation) Thank you. Are there any general comments to the Speaker's opening comments? If not, I have no names on my list. We can continue with our review of Bill 45 clause by clause. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Just before we begin with our clause-by-clause review of Bill 45, you can find a copy in your white legislation binder. Thank you. (interpretation ends) Bill 45, *An Act Respecting Constituency Names and Superannuation of Certain Independent Officers of the Legislative Assembly*. Clause 1. (interpretation) Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Schedule. (interpretation) This has no page numbers. Names of Constituencies. Do you agree? Mr. Ningark.

**Mr. Ningark** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think the Member for Tununiq said that there is usually capital funding that is taken out of the plan. My constituency of Akulliq does not appear in this list of constituency names...

>> *Laughter*

...on (interpretation ends) Schedule 1. (interpretation) Thank you. I just wanted to make that comment.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Within our documentation in front of us, what did he mention again? This was just a comment and it is obvious due to the revisions that the subject the member referred to is no longer there. I'm sorry for misunderstanding your comments.

We are on the (interpretation ends) Schedule. (interpretation) Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 1 (interpretation) included. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 2. (interpretation) Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 3. (interpretation) Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 4. (interpretation) Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Members, do we agree to Bill 45 as a whole?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Members, do we agree, pursuant to Rule 62(2), that Bill 45 can immediately be placed on the orders of the day for third reading?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, (interpretation) if you have any closing remarks, I give you the floor.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would first off like to thank the staff that worked at putting this together, especially in the chief electoral officer's office. I know they went and did a lot of work in drafting this piece of legislation.

I would also like to thank all the members who provided input into clarifying some of the names of the constituencies. I believe it has been a very thorough and long-drawn-out process. Hopefully we have it right now, finally. I would just like to thank members for the input that they did provide in relation to the names of the constituencies.

Also, I would like to thank you again for supporting this bill because, as I indicated in my opening comments, those two independent officer positions are going to be coming up. One is open right now and the other one's term is running out in the next year or so. This amendment, as I indicated, won't deter potential candidates who may be in the senior public service from applying because of pension and superannuation reasons.

So I again thank everyone who worked on this and thank you, members, for your support. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you to your invisible witnesses.

>>*Laughter*

Members, I will now rise to report progress.

**Speaker:** It seems like the tables have turned from just a minute ago. Moving on in our orders of the day. Item 20. Report of the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Ningeongan.

### **Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole**

**Mr. Ningeongan:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Bills 42, 43, and 45 and would like to report that Bills 42, 43, and 45 are immediately ready for third reading. And, Mr. Speaker, I move that the Report of the Committee of the Whole be agreed to. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. There is a motion on the floor. Is there a seconder? Thank you very much, Mr. Kusugak. The motion is in order. All those in favour. Any opposed? The motion is carried.

Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. Minister of Finance, Minister Peterson.

### **Item 21: Third Reading of Bills**

#### **Bill 42 – Supplementary Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, No. 2, 2012-2013 – Third Reading**

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon.

Member for Rankin Inlet South and Whale Cove, that Bill 42, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No.2, 2012-2013*, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister Peterson. The motion is in order. All those in favour. Any opposed? The motion is carried and Bill 42 has been read for the third time and is ready for assent.

Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. Minister of Finance, Minister Peterson.

**Bill 43 – Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 3, 2012-2013 – Third Reading**

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet South and Whale Cove, that Bill 43, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 3, 2012-2013*, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister Peterson. The motion is in order. All those in favour. Any opposed? The motion is carried and as such, Bill 43 has had third reading and is now ready for assent.

Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. Mr. Elliott.

**Bill 45 – An act Respecting Constituency Names and Superannuation of Certain Independent Officers of the Legislative Assembly – Third Reading**

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for

Hudson Bay, that Bill 45, *An Act Respecting Constituency Names and Superannuation of Certain Independent Officers of the Legislative Assembly*, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Elliott. The motion is in order. All those in favour. Any opposed? The motion is carried and Bill 45 has had third reading and is therefore ready for assent.

Item 21. Third Reading of Bills.

Before we proceed with the *Orders of the Day*, Mr. Clerk, will you ascertain if the Commissioner of Nunavut is prepared to enter the Chamber and give assent to bills.

**Assent to Bills**

**Bill 41 – Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2013-2014 – Assent**

**Bill 42 – Supplementary Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, No. 2, 2012-2013 – Assent**

**Bill 43 – Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 3, 2012-2013 – Assent**

**Bill 45 – An Act Respecting Constituency Names and Superannuation of Certain Independent Officers of the Legislative Assembly – Assent**

**Commissioner Edna Elias** (interpretation): Members of the Legislative Assembly, please be seated. As Commissioner of Nunavut, I am

honoured to give assent to the following bills:

- Bill 41, *Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2013-2014*;
- Bill 42, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 2, 2012-2013*;
- Bill 43, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 3, 2012-2013*; and
- Bill 45, *An Act Respecting Constituency Names and Superannuation of Certain Independent Officers of the Legislative Assembly*.

Although the air outside is turning cold, our hearts grow warm at the knowledge that the festive season will soon be upon us.

As you conclude your work here and prepare to return to your families and communities, I wish you all a safe journey home.

(interpretation ends) On a personal note, this month being the month of Movember, I noticed, watching the proceedings today on the television, some looked pretty clean shaven, some have peach fuzz, and a few faces have changed. So I would like to acknowledge and thank all those members who, I'm guessing, have joined the Movember movement, supporting the cause of prostate cancer research. I encourage those of us who cannot grow a peach fuzz to contribute by making donations.

I wish you all a safe journey home and a very good winter.

**Speaker:** We will move on in our orders of the day. Item 22. Mr. Clerk.

### **Item 22: Orders of the Day**

**Clerk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just for certainty, there are no meetings scheduled for regular members tomorrow.

*Orders of the Day* for February 26, 2013:

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. Responses to Petitions
12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters
13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motions
15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions

## 17. First Reading of Bills

- Bill 46

## 18. Second Reading of Bills

19. Consideration in Committee of  
the Whole of Bills and Other  
Matters20. Report of the Committee of the  
Whole

## 21. Third Reading of Bills

## 22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** I guess a big “thank you very much” is in order for you, Mr. Clerk, for that. I’m sorry about that little distraction. Hopefully it didn’t throw you off too much; it doesn’t sound like it did.

Before we adjourn, members, I would like to take this opportunity to thank our pages, Joe Audlakiak, Amanda Purcell, Uliipika Irngaut, and Laura Churchill, for their time here. I hope you enjoyed yourselves and thank you very much for looking after the needs of the members.

>>Applause

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank our Sergeant-at-Arms, Sammy Josephie, for his first sitting. He did a great job. Thank you very much.

>>Applause

Also, I would like to thank all the technical staff that kept our lights going on and off, and fixing my mute button in

a hurry, for all their work and ensuring that everything went smoothly in here.

As well, I can’t finish without thanking the interpreters for all their work during our proceedings as well.

With that, I wish all of them, everyone that I mentioned, and all of you a safe journey home and a very safe and happy holiday season.

>>Applause

This House stands adjourned until Tuesday, February 26, 2013.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>House adjourned at 17:31

## **Appendix – November 5, 2012**

**Return to Oral Question 437 – 3(3): Lack of Daycare Spaces in Nunavut**

**Asked by:** Jeannie Ugyuk, MLA (Nattilik)

**Asked of:** Hon. Eva Aariak, Minister of Education

**Date:** October 29, 2012

**Question:**

Can the minister update this House on how many daycare spaces are currently available across Nunavut?

**Response:**

Please see attached charts.

## **Response to Petition 003 – 3(3): Petition for Resignation**

**Petition tabled by:** Tagak Curley, MLA (Rankin Inlet North)

**Date:** October 23, 2012

**Subject:** Rankin Inlet Teacher

### **Response:**

Petition 3 – 3(3) was tabled in the Legislative Assembly October 23, 2012 by the Member for Rankin Inlet North, Mr. Curley.

I fully respect the right of Members of this House to table petitions. The tabling of petitions is an important mechanism by which critical information can be brought before us for consideration and debate.

I also acknowledge that under section 19(3) of the *Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act*, no Member of this House is “liable to any civil action or prosecution, arrest, imprisonment or damages by reason of any matter or thing brought by the member by petition.”

Despite the immunity of Members of this House when we table petitions, we, as members, have responsibilities that we should carefully consider. I note that under section 43(5) of the *Rules of the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut* that a “Member presenting a petition shall be answerable for any impertinent or improper material that it contains.”

When a petition is tabled, I submit that we should ensure that it is in a form that enables us to know that those who have signed the petition actually exist and that they were able to clearly understand the substance of the petition. On that front, I find Petition 3 – 3(3) does not measure up.

Further, I would encourage us, as Members of this House, when we table a petition, to also ensure that no confidential information is unnecessarily revealed.

Citizens are guaranteed certain rights under legislation, collective agreements, and in the case of employees, under our own human resource policies and processes. Matters relating to their employment are matters of confidential staffing relations. The resolution of government employment matters are required to be conducted with informed and relevant parties, in accordance with the human resources procedures that our government has agreed upon.



It is important to know that the school administration and the Department of Education take parents' concerns seriously and, in the case referred to in Petition 3 – 3(3), have been and will continue to be actively engaged with all parties on this matter.

In conclusion, I wish to say that while the interests of our students are first and foremost, the Government of Nunavut also values our public servants and our teachers, as well as the hard work they do on behalf of us all.



# Speaker's Ruling

The Speaker  
November 5, 2012

## ***Point of Order Raised by the Member for Rankin Inlet North***

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Thank you, Members.

I am now prepared to deliver my ruling on the point of order raised by the Member for Rankin Inlet North at the Legislative Assembly's sitting of November 2, 2012.

The point of order was raised in relation to the Minister of Education's delivery of the government's formal response to Petition 3-3(3), which had been presented by the Member for Rankin Inlet North at the Legislative Assembly's sitting of October 23, 2012.

Rule 43(10) of the *Rules of the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut* provides that:

“The Speaker or Minister responsible shall provide a response to a petition within 60 calendar days of its presentation.”

I would note that the rule does not prescribe any specific form for a response to a petition, beyond the implied and self-evident requirement that it respond to the substance of the petition in some way.

Having now had the opportunity to review a copy of the Minister's response to Petition 3-3(3), I note that it does provide a response to the subject matter contained in Petition 3-3(3).

I would emphasize that it is not the role of the Chair to determine whether or not the response is satisfactory. Members who are dissatisfied with the government's response to a petition are at liberty to ask questions to the responsible Minister or make statements in the House concerning the substance of the response. I would also note that Rule 43(4) provides that no debate shall be allowed on the presentation of a petition.

Accordingly, the document shall be entered into the records of the Legislative Assembly in fulfillment of the Minister's obligations under Rule 43. The official date of the response shall be noted as November 2, 2012. A copy of my Ruling will be attached to the response.

In raising his point of order, the Member for Rankin Inlet North did not explicitly indicate which rule he believed to have been broken.

In reviewing the relevant excerpt from *Hansard*, I note that the Member's intervention focused on the appropriateness and necessity of the general observations contained in the response which concerned provisions in the *Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act* and the *Rules of the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut* with respect to the function of petitions and Members' obligations in relation to the presentation of petitions.

In preparing my Ruling, I reviewed a number of past government responses to petitions, some of which also addressed matters concerning current and former employees of the government.

I note that the length of government responses to petitions has varied considerably. In some cases, the government has provided extensive detail in support of its position. In other cases, the responses have been very brief.

In this case, nothing in the government's response to Petition 3-3(3) directly contravened our Rules or requires further action on the part of the Chair, such as ordering the item to be withdrawn.

That being said, I would note that it is already incumbent on all Members of the Legislative Assembly to be familiar with relevant provisions of our Rules and legislation. The language in the Minister's response to Petition 3-3(3) concerning the function of petitions and Members' obligations in relation to the presentation of petitions was unnecessary. Accordingly, I would strongly urge the government to ensure that future responses to petitions focus on the subject matter in question.

I would also note that this matter could have been avoided altogether if all parties involved had sought and had followed my office's advice concerning petitions and responses to petitions at an earlier point in the process.

I would also note that the response to this petition was not provided to my office immediately prior to the sitting day. This did not allow for any opportunity to provide further advice with respect to its form.

I would also note with concern that the response to the petition contained critical commentary regarding its form and other matters, including speculative remarks concerning the petitioners. I would remind the House that individual Members, Ministers and their officials do not have the authority to unilaterally determine whether or not a given item is in compliance with our Rules, procedures, practices or precedents.

I would close by reminding the House that the Standing Committee on Rules, Procedures and Privileges exists to consider matters arising under our Rules. In the event that the Standing Committee chooses to review the existing provisions concerning petitions, I am confident that the House will review its report and recommendations with interest.

Having delivered my Ruling, this matter is concluded. I thank all Members for their attention.

Thank you.