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**Monday, March 11, 2013**

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**Iqaluit**

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

## Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

### *Speaker*

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**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 Qulliq  
Energy Corporation; 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 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)

**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)

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

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**Iqaluit, Nunavut****Monday, March 11, 2013****Members Present:**

Honourable Eva Aariak, 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, Mr. Fred Schell, Honourable Daniel Shewchuk, Mr. Louis Tapardjuk, Honourable Peter Taptuna, Honourable Hunter Tootoo, Ms. Jeannie Ugyuk.

>>*House commenced at 13:31*

**Item 1: Opening Prayer**

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

>>*Prayer*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. (interpretation ends) Moving on with our orders of the day. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Government House Leader, Minister Kusugak.

**Item 2: Ministers' Statements****Minister's Statement 254 – 3(3):  
Minister Absent from the House**

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) I say "good day" to the people of Rankin Inlet and Whale Cove. I wish to advise members that the Hon. James Arreak will be absent from the House today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Minister responsible for the Department of Community and Government Services, Minister Kusugak.

**Minister's Statement 255 – 3(3):  
Search and Rescue and Land  
Safety**

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to remind all Nunavummiut to be prepared when they go out on the land. Last year, our officials responded to 178 requests for search and rescue assistance. Of the total number of searches, 53 of these were SPOT tracking device activations. We have documented cases where individuals would have perished without the use of the SPOT tracking units. This underscores the importance of taking a tracking communications device like a SPOT device when going out on the land. Carrying a SPOT device can often be the difference between life and death.

Mr. Speaker, the Government of Nunavut has supplied 500 SPOT devices to communities throughout the territory. They are free for anyone to use and can be signed out by contacting the local hamlet offices or HTOs.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to remind Nunavummiut to be prepared when travelling out on the land. Forty of our searches occurred as a result of people not taking enough fuel when they travelled. An additional 49 searches were the result of mechanical breakdowns. Being prepared with extra fuel and a few critical snowmobile parts can save lives.

Mr. Speaker, we are currently working closely with the RCMP to develop a new policy on search and rescue that clarifies and strengthens the roles of government, communities, and our partners in search and rescue activities.

(interpretation) Our Protection Services Division is also working with Environment Canada to have 1-800 numbers available for communities to call for weather updates. Once this program is in place, I will be asking my colleague, the Minister responsible for the Department of Culture and Heritage, to assist us in having the automated reports translated into Inuktitut and Inuinnaqtun. We are also committed to continue with our training efforts for local volunteers in search and rescue techniques and personal safety while assisting citizens in need.

Mr. Speaker, each search puts volunteer search and rescue personnel at risk, yet they undertake their mission without question.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would like to remind all Nunavummiut of these land safety principals:

- Before you go, let someone know – tell others of your travel plans and when you expect to return.
- Always be prepared for 72 hours on land – take additional food, shelter, and equipment, even on short day trips, in case of emergencies.
- Take a communications signalling device like a satellite phone or SPOT device – SPOT devices can be signed out for free.

Mr. Speaker, let's improve our preparation and take responsibility for

safe travels on the land. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

### **Minister's Statement 256 – 3(3): 2013 Nunavut Mining Symposium**

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, colleagues, Kuglukturmiut, and Nunavummiut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remind everyone of the 16th Nunavut Mining Symposium which will be taking place here in Iqaluit in April. The symposium is one of the largest and longest running annual events in Nunavut with 500 delegates in attendance. Delegates represent all major exploration and mining companies, Nunavut organizations, agencies and NGOs, service providers, and many of our communities.

This year's agenda includes 60 technical and general talks covering topics such as exploration and development updates, training, service sector businesses, and regulatory affairs. As always, the tradeshow is a good opportunity to meet with some of the mining companies and other businesses active in the sector.

The Department of Economic Development and Transportation is a founding and regular sponsor of the Nunavut Mining Symposium, which has become the main annual event for operators and all stakeholders in Nunavut to come together, share

information, do business, or else reach an agreement.

The symposium will be held April 8 to 11 and this year's theme is "Making Connections," which is a good summary of the busy and energetic week of the symposium.

Mr. Speaker, we are entering into an exciting and challenging period of growth in Nunavut, with a number of projects approaching commercial viability and mine development. I encourage all persons with an interest in any aspect of the industry to attend the upcoming Nunavut Mining Symposium. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Minister responsible for the Department of Justice, Minister Shewchuk.

**Minister's Statement 257 – 3(3):  
Launch of Online Land  
Registration System**

**Hon. Daniel Shewchuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As Minister of Justice, it gives me great pleasure to announce that on Monday, April 8, 2013, Nunavut's new Parcelized Online Land Registration system (POLAR) will become available online to real estate practitioners.

For the last few years, Nunavut has been leading the territories in the development of land registration systems. In the first phase, the Land Titles Office allowed submission of electronic documents in PDF format. This had the effect of drastically reducing registration times

from several weeks to our well-established standard of 48 hours.

On April 8, Nunavut will again take a dramatic step forward. On that date, our new parcelized online land registration system will be available to our professional users and land titles paper submissions will become a thing of the past.

POLAR boasts a host of features long awaited by real estate practitioners, such as real-time searches, automatic registration notification, and online billing. It is a system second to none and the first introduced in the north. It can be accessed from anywhere via a web browser and will serve Nunavut well by encouraging speedier real estate transactions that stimulate our economic growth.

Parcelized online land registration will enhance Nunavut's recognition in Canada and the world. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Akulliq, Mr. Ningark.

**Item 3: Members' Statements**

**Member's Statement 426 – 3(3): Help  
for Homeowners**

**Mr. Ningark:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to talk about the importance of providing help for Nunavut homeowners.



Mr. Speaker, for many years, the government has encouraged Nunavummiut to consider purchasing their own homes. Homeownership is a good goal. Owning one's own home provides a sense of pride and self-reliance. However, it is well known that the cost of owning and operating a home in Nunavut can be very expensive.

Mr. Speaker, the high cost of living in the north is especially evident when we pay our monthly heating fuel and power bills. Mr. Speaker, I recognize that the government does provide support to homeowners.

The Nunavut Electricity Subsidy Program, which is administered by the Department of Finance, helps small businesses and residential consumers with respect to their power bills.

The Senior Fuel Subsidy Program, which has been administered by the Department of Education and which will be taken over by the new Department of Family Services, provides assistance to Nunavummiut aged 60 or over who own their own homes.

Mr. Speaker, a few years ago, the Department of Finance provided a one-time Homeowner Fuel Rebate Program. Eligible applicants could apply for a \$400 rebate.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage the government to regularly review its programs that are intended to help homeowners keep pace with the high cost of living. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. Elliott.

**Member's Statement 427 – 3(3):  
Successful Heavy Equipment  
Operator Training Course in  
Arctic Bay**

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to again highlight the good work that is being done by a number of Nunavut organizations to deliver training initiatives to the residents of the High Arctic.

Mr. Speaker, last summer saw 13 residents of Arctic Bay participate in a locally delivered pilot project to provide Class 3/Airbrakes certification and heavy equipment operator training on loaders, graders, and gravel screeners.

Mr. Speaker, the training was delivered by the Municipal Training Organization in partnership with the Kakivak Association, the Arctic Bay Community Learning Centre, and the Municipality of Arctic Bay. This is yet another example of the success that can be achieved when organizations focus their efforts and resources in delivering training to our residents in their home communities.

Mr. Speaker, this pilot project was a win-win situation for the entire community. As part of their training, students completed an important community road project. This element of the course contributed greatly to the participants' well-justified sense of pride and accomplishment. The municipality itself has strengthened its capacity to deliver services and has more skilled workers to draw on.

Mr. Speaker, as I noted last week, Arctic Bay is one of the point-of-hire communities for the Mary River Project. Courses such as the one that was delivered in Arctic Bay are helping to build a skilled local workforce for this major economic development.

Mr. Speaker, the participants in this course were:

Kenny Allurut;  
Kenneth Barnabas;  
Richard Bohlender;  
Terry Ejangiaq;  
Darcy Enogoo;  
Salmo Inutiq;  
Daniel Iqaqrialu;  
Benjamin Issuqagituq;  
Joseph Kalluk;  
Boisey Kilukishak;  
Joanna Koonoo;  
Sandra Qamanirq; and  
Valerie Taqtu.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in congratulating my constituents on their success and in expressing appreciation to the Municipal Training Organization, the Kakivak Association, the community learning centre, and the Municipality of Arctic Bay for their innovative and successful partnership. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 428 – 3(3):  
Search and Rescue in Pond Inlet**

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, people of Pond Inlet and Nunavut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and acknowledge those residents of Pond Inlet who are active in search and rescue activities in the community.

Mr. Speaker, a number of my colleagues have spoken during our current sitting on the importance of search and rescue in Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, when incidents occur that involve community residents, many of my constituents are quick to respond. I pay tribute to their sense of responsibility and willingness to risk their own lives to come to the aid of others.

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

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Mr. Speaker, I understand that the Civil Air Search and Rescue Association will be offering training next month to residents of Pond Inlet who are interested in volunteering with this organization. I am pleased to see such initiatives taking place and I encourage CASARA to work closely with the community's current search and rescue organizations.

Mr. Speaker, awareness of the importance of search and rescue is growing by the day.

I ask all members to join me in paying tribute to the residents of Pond Inlet who help make Nunavut a safer place. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Enook. Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Iqaluit West, Ms. Ell.

**Member's Statement 429 – 3(3):  
Tribute to Martha Michael**

**Hon. Monica Ell:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to pay tribute to a constituent and an elder, Martha Michael, a beloved community member who passed away recently. My heart is with her and her family and Iqalumiut as they are laying her to rest this afternoon.

Martha was a devoted wife and mother. A much valued pillar of her community and Nunavut, Martha was involved in various community activities over the years, sitting on different boards in communities, tackling social and health issues.

Some of my colleagues may remember that Mrs. Michael was an honorary elder who lit the *Qulliq* at the swearing-in ceremony during the first sitting of the Nunavut Legislative Assembly on April 1, 1999.

Born on the land, Martha witnessed and lived through great changes during her lifetime, making her passionate about retaining and imparting Inuit culture and values. Martha was a true Inuk, a genuine and straightforward person with a gentle nature.

Just last year, Mrs. Michael was awarded a Diamond Jubilee Medal in the field of heritage and history.

A respected elder, Martha was most recently appointed a member of the *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit Katimajit* and was

looking forward to providing guidance and to sharing her wealth of traditional knowledge.

Those who knew Martha will remember her fondly. I can still hear her distinctive voice and laughter. Her passing is a great loss, not only to her family but to Nunavummiut as a whole.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the Chamber to join me in expressing our sincere condolences to the Michael family on their loss. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Thank you, Ms. Ell. Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Rankin Inlet North, Mr. Curley.

**Member's Statement 430 – 3(3): A  
Canadian Success to Defeat the  
Up-listing of Polar Bears under  
CITES**

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, people of Rankin Inlet and Nunavut. Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege and honour to represent Canada and Nunavut. It is very good to be home to Canada.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to tell the people of Nunavut about the CITES convention held in Bangkok, Thailand. It was a privilege and honour to represent Canada and Nunavut as one of the delegates attending the CITES convention in Bangkok, Thailand, opposing the up-listing of polar bears to Appendix I, the endangered species category, from Appendix II, the special concern category.

I would like Nunavutmiut to know that I wish to thank my good friend and colleague in this Assembly, the Minister of Environment, Hon. James Arreak, who invited me to join me in this difficult and challenging mission.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, our Canadian team included our federal government officials, the Nunavut government, the NWT government, ITK, NTI, and the wildlife organizations from Inuvialuit, Nunavik, Nunatsiavut, and our own NGOs and Inuit wildlife organizations were all part of the team.

Mr. Speaker, all of our team members defended the Canadian position with passion and determined resolve to, number one, first of all, defeat the US proposal and secondly, to tell the world that the Canadian and the north's relationship on the harvesting rights of the polar bears for centuries was fair, respectful, and that it included our rigorous wildlife regulations, including proper population surveys, and our regulated quota system was pretty fair in Canada. The world did not know that.

Mr. Speaker, as you have heard by now, the result of our fight, the Canadian team was successful.

**Speaker:** Mr. Curley, your time is up. Would you like to seek unanimous consent to conclude your statement?

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

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

**Mr. Curley:** Thank you.

Mr. Speaker, it is important from my perspective that most of our audience, Nunavutmiut communities, are given a bit of a story of our fight.

Mr. Speaker, as I said, as you have heard by now, the result of our fight, the Canadian team was successful in defending two very difficult proposals. The first one I did comment on earlier was the United States proposal. Why was it difficult? Because it involved 170 nations to vote and the majority was in favour of the Canadian position.

Our team, the Canadians, had the fight of our lives with our pride and reputation pretty much at stake. We had formidable opponents, Mr. Speaker. There was one of the greatest nations on the face of the earth, United States, opposing our position, including Russia, the European Union, and some states in South America, as well as mostly pretty active were some Middle East nations, which were not as large as the other nations. Along with the other host countries that opposed our position were countries from South America, Pacific nations, Eastern Asia, the Middle East, and African nations.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, in short, I am proud and humble to say to Nunavutmiut that our Canadian team won the battle and defeated the two proposals. We were very humble. The two proposals I mentioned were to convince our government to manage and protect polar bears with the Canadian jurisdiction, the federal government, the Government of Nunavut's polar bear management system, and our co-management partners with the regional

wildlife organizations and our local hunters and trappers organizations. The world did not know that there was a close working relationship between the Canadian institutions, governments, wildlife organizations, and HTOs. Again, we had to tell the world out there about the co-management system that the Nunavut government uses.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I mentioned that the Canadian team faced two very difficult versions of proposal, which required 117 nations to vote in two proposals. The first proposal was to up-list the polar bear to Appendix I, which means that they were endangered and therefore, banned commercial trade for all that matter, including the sport hunts of polar bears. This proposal required a vote of 50 plus 1 to pass.

When the debate began, US lead the pack vigorously. They made it quite clear that our system was not adequate, that polar bears were endangered, and the research that Canadians conducted was not acceptable to them.

Mr. Speaker, early in the debate, the US proposal and the European Union, which includes 30 nations, put forward an amendment on the US proposal. The proposed amendment presented by the European Union was not acceptable to the Canadian position either because to the Canadian delegation, it was not an amendment, but a new proposal.

The rules of the United Nations Convention were, in my view, weird. It should not have been accepted as an amendment nor presented for nations to debate. One nation in particular supported Canada that the European Union proposal should not have been

accepted. That position was vigorously presented by the nation of Israel. It said that it did not fit the criteria for an amendment. That amendment, Mr. Speaker, would have put Canada completely in a very difficult position about the management of polar bears. We would have abdicated and passed the responsibility for surveys and management of polar bears, and commercial quotas to the United Nations Polar Bear Secretariat. That would be unacceptable.

This version of the amendment requires two-thirds of CITES members to be accepted as an amendment. I am proud to say, Mr. Speaker, that even our own delegation, the deputy minister presented a vigorous, defensive Canadian position when speaking to the amendment. I spoke on the US proposal earlier. The Canadian government also spoke vigorously in opposing the amendment by the European proposal.

So, Mr. Speaker, we are proud, including all of our non-governmental spokespeople down there, particularly I am grateful for Terry Audla, President of ITK, who passionately spoke and defended Inuit. Thereby, along with the whole Canadian team, turned the tide in favour and the two votes that were presented did not pass as a result of the vigorous Canadian passionate position.

Mr. Speaker, our mission was successful and we have work to do for the next three years to put our proposals and our system in a better management system. (interpretation) Thank you.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Curley. Item 3. Members' Statements. We will move on in our orders of the day. Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Kusugak.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for this opportunity. Last week, I came here and introduced 15 people from the Department of Community and Government Services, and I got bombarded with questions.

This time, I bring 15 of our finest bantam hockey players in Nunavut and they are here to support us today.

>> *Applause*

Mr. Speaker, it's my privilege to introduce the 2013 Bantam Hockey Tournament champions from Rankin Inlet. I would like to introduce the following:

My buddy, Stephan Nukapiak;  
Jakob Voisey;  
Bubba Muktar;  
Randall Qiyuq;  
Ethan Mukpah;  
Wager Tatty;  
Ian Paniyuk;  
Nik Deagle;  
Sidney Nichol;  
Kaelan Collier;  
Tyrese Dias;  
Kalaa Tartuk;  
Nicholas Mukpah;  
Issaluk Tattuinee;  
Jaden Sigurdson.

And their fine coaches:

Darren Nichol;  
Eric Nukappiak; and  
General Manager Craig Collier.

Also the parents:

Christine Nukappiak, who is also the grandmother of my grandson, and the other grandfather is over there, Eric Nukappiak;  
Lewis Voisey Jr., (interpretation) my father; and  
Noah Paniyuk.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I welcome the Rankin Inlet hockey team, hockey moms and parents to the Legislative Assembly.

We have some of the best hockey coaching and volunteers in Rankin Inlet. I encourage them to keep up the hard work because they produce champions.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to mention that these fine young hockey players are relying on us to help them get a new arena in Rankin Inlet.

>> *Laughter*

My colleagues, let's welcome the Rankin Inlet Bantam Team. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Kusugak. Congratulations to all of you and welcome to the Gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Oshutapik.

**Mr. Oshutapik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the Bantam hockey players representing the winning team. I would love to see my

fellow residents in their place if they were to start earlier in their hockey careers.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to recognize a visitor to the Gallery, although he was recognized earlier. I wish to put another hat on his head and recognize him in that capacity. I have worked with this person in the past, especially when I was the chairperson of the Pangnirtung Fisheries for about six years. I would like my colleagues to welcome him to the Gallery.

Although he is here in his capacity as a hockey coach, he does have a full-time job elsewhere. I want my colleagues to share my recognition of Darren Nichols, who is also the president of the Nunavut Development Corporation. Thank you.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Oshutapik. Welcome again to the Gallery, Mr. Nichols. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Curley.

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. These players were already mentioned by my colleague from Rankin Inlet as to their trip here to Iqaluit. As a member for Rankin Inlet North, I rarely have the chance to welcome people from my constituency and some of the players' parents live in my constituency. Noah and the boy sitting next to him are both sons of my constituents. As to the other sons of various parents, I want you to know that you are in this tournament due to your hard work. (interpretation ends) You make us proud. Thank you.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Curley. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. We will move on in our orders of the day. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Baker Lake, Mr. Aupaluktuq.

### Item 6: Oral Questions

#### Question 550 – 3(3): Budget Address Announcement Concerning Sustainable Development Committee

**Mr. Aupaluktuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am glad that people from the Kivalliq are here. I watch hockey regularly. I say “hello” to the people of Baker Lake. Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the Minister of Finance.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, in his recent Budget Address, the Minister of Finance indicated that “nine departments and agencies take part in environmental assessments for major mining projects.”

The minister's Budget Address subsequently announced that the government will provide “additional funding of \$1.4 million” to the Sustainable Development Committee in order to “enable the government to participate continuously in assessments for major mining projects conducted by the Nunavut Impact Review Board.”

Can the minister clarify what the total budget for the Sustainable Development Committee will be during the 2013-14 fiscal year? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. Minister responsible for the Department of Finance, Minister Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Aupaluktuq for that question. Mr. Chairman, as Mr. Aupaluktuq is well aware, there are major mining projects currently in the very stages of exploration and proceeding through the environmental process.

The Government of Nunavut supports major initiatives. We wish to participate at the hearings as much as we can. It was determined that to facilitate this, the government would increase the funding and spread it through all the departments, there are nine departments, increase the funding by \$1,426,000 to enable us to participate meaningfully and actively at these hearings and expedite the processing of the hearings. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Aupaluktuq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate that response as well because, no doubt, the people of Baker Lake and other potential mines are all in support of employment and opportunities for employment. As well, with that in mind, there is also respect for the environment and resources, such as the animals that are there.

Mr. Speaker, during my time last week at the meeting of the Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada, I noted that the issue of regulatory processes and reform is always a topic of concern. Can the minister explain what problems with the current system of environmental assessments led the government to decide that its Sustainable Development Committee required

additional funding of \$1.4 million to fulfill its responsibilities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. Minister of Finance, Minister Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Aupaluktuq for the question. Mr. Speaker, unfortunately, I wasn't at the PDAC last week. I appreciate my colleague was there. I know mining is a great interest to all Nunavummiut. It has to be done properly. We don't want inappropriate development of our resources in Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, I have to apologize. I am not the Minister of Environment nor am I the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation; I am the Minister of Finance. Perhaps the member would like to ask the appropriate minister that question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Aupaluktuq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the redirection as well and I will follow up with the appropriate department. As the Minister of Finance, I just want to ask: can the minister indicate how the figure of \$1.4 million was determined? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. Minister of Finance, Minister Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. Aupaluktuq for the question. Mr. Speaker, I could take the member through a long, convoluted process from



start to finish. It takes five or six months. I don't know if he wishes that today if we have enough time in question period.

Mr. Speaker, the departments know their responsibilities, their priorities, and they develop business cases that are submitted to the Department of Finance, and then the deputies have regular meetings to determine what the priorities are within the department.

An appropriate department made a very solid case that they needed additional funding, but the funding would be spread through all the departments. So it's not just for one department; it's spread through all departments so all of the nine departments can all participate. They have funding to participate meaningfully at these hearings.

So if it was a solid case, it's a priority for the government. The FMB and then ultimately this House would be approving it through the Committee of the Whole process, hopefully. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Aupaluktuq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I very much appreciate the communication from the Minister of Finance. Mr. Speaker, I guess, to avoid the convoluted process and also to enhance on the participation in meaningful dialogue between the agencies, I want to ask: can the minister indicate how this additional funding will be used by the Sustainable Development Committee? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. Minister of Finance, Minister Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Aupaluktuq again for the question. Mr. Speaker, every department will get a portion of the funding. It will either fund PYs or research into the particular project so that when hearings are scheduled, the departments can participate at the hearings and be quite active and get the message across to all the other participants at the hearings. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Question 551 – 3(3): Government of Nunavut's Intervention Respecting Senate Reform Reference Questions**

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Justice in his capacity as the Attorney General for Nunavut.

Last month, the Government of Canada submitted a number of reference questions to the Supreme Court concerning the issue of Senate reform. The reference questions concern a number of options and issues related to reform of the Senate.

On Tuesday of last week, Nunavut's Attorney General joined a number of other provinces and territories in filing a notice of intervention concerning this matter. For the benefit of Nunavummiut who are following our proceedings today, can the minister explain why our

government wishes to intervene in this matter? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister responsible for the Department of Justice, Minister Shewchuk.

**Hon. Daniel Shewchuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to take that question as notice right now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. Your question has been taken as notice. Moving on to Oral Questions. Member for Natilik, Ms. Ugyuk.

### **Question 552 – 3(3): Status of Gjoa Haven Sewage Lagoon**

**Ms. Ugyuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say “good day” to the people of Natilik. Just so that the people watching the televised proceedings can know, it sure smells like a hockey dressing room since it smells sweaty.

>>*Laughter*

Yes, I sympathize with the young hockey players who are here and I hope they have a good tournament.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Community and Government Services.

Mr. Speaker, the sewage lagoon for the community of Gjoa Haven is located on a high ridge very close to the community’s runway. There are often many birds in the area which can pose a significant risk to airplanes taking off or landing. Can the minister provide an update on what consideration was given

to the placement of Gjoa Haven’s sewage lagoon? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. Minister responsible for Community and Government Services, Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Whenever there is work ongoing in any water reservoir or sewage lagoon, the municipal governments are consulted on the proposed project, especially when reviewing possible sites for these facilities. They look at potential spillways or leaks. That is what the hamlets are consulted on for these types of projects. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Ugyuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) It is my understanding that some additional engineering work was required in order to expand the Gjoa Haven sewage lagoon. Can the minister clearly explain what consideration was given to the location of the lagoon and why it is still so close to the runway? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. Minister responsible for Community and Government Services, Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I stated earlier, whenever these types of projects are planned for construction, the SAO and community leaders of the hamlet are

consulted regarding the potential location.

I don't have the information in front of me as to why a certain site was chosen, especially as to why that location is abutting the airstrip or within close proximity. I don't have the information to respond to the question, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Ugyuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, he partially answered my question, but I have another question to direct to him. (interpretation ends) Can the minister provide an update of what kind of community consultation was undertaken with respect to expanding the Gjoa Haven sewage lagoon? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. Minister responsible for Community and Government Services, Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have stated this several times now, but whenever a sewage lagoon is being constructed within a community, the hamlet council is consulted, including participation of the Department of Environment, when deliberating upon the potential site of the sewage lagoon. This includes any potential problems or conflicts that may have arisen over the review of the project.

The capital projects are never constructed by picking any old location since there are potential environmental hazards associated with the project. (interpretation ends) There are very good

consultations that are done within the municipality to ensure that it is not put into a dangerous place. Mr. Speaker, there are consultations that happen with the municipal council, the municipality, and others that they may need input from before putting such a facility near the community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Ugyuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for his responses. (interpretation ends) Gjoa Haven residents are concerned that the expansion of Gjoa Haven's sewage lagoon poses additional risks for the community. Will the minister commit to looking into these issues and providing me and the community with an update on his findings? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. Minister responsible for Community and Government Services, Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is the first time I have heard about any potential concerns. I have met with the mayor during the Kitikmeot Mayors' Forum and this was never mentioned as a possible concern. Since this is the first time I have heard about this concern, I will check to see what status this project is at and what the problems are. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Question 553 – 3(3): Communications with DEAs**

**Mr. Ningeongan:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Prior to asking my question, I want to mention that today is my younger daughter's birthday. I wish you a wonderful birthday, Faith, and tell you that I love you.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Education.

Mr. Speaker, representatives from the DEAs in my constituency have approached me with some concerns regarding their roles, duties, obligations, and budget. On November 7, 2012, correspondence from the DEA coalition was sent to the Minister of Education requesting clarification in a number of areas. I am confident that DEA representatives from across Nunavut are interested in her reply. For the benefit of the listening public, I would like to ask the minister if she can confirm whether or not she received this letter from the DEA coalition regarding a number of DEA issues and, if so, when does she expect to provide a response? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will take the question as notice. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Madam Minister. Your question has been taken as notice. We will move on in Oral Questions. Member for Akulliq, Mr. Ningark.

**Question 554 – 3(3): Help for Homeowners under Age 60**

**Mr. Ningark:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Subsequent to my Member's Statement in regard to the importance of providing help for Nunavut homeowners, I'm not quite sure who would be the lead minister to ask. The Senior Fuel Subsidy Program is administered by the Department of Education. The homeowner fuel rebate is by the finance department.

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I spoke to the fact that some Inuit private homeowners who haven't quite attained the age of 60 who are due to the upsurge in prices related to the cost of living are severely challenged in keeping up maintenance of their homes, especially heating fuel and utility bills, such as power bills. Many homeowners are faced with hardship in trying to keep up with these rising costs.

Perhaps I can direct my question to the Minister responsible for Housing and if I have misdirected my question, Mr. Speaker, please correct my mistake. To whom can these private homeowners turn to? I speak of people who haven't quite reached the age of 60 and don't qualify for a subsidy. Some people are struggling to pay for these heating fuel and utility bills for their private homes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. I, myself, am not sure who you're directing... . Ningark, sorry. You got me confused.

>> *Laughter*

You mentioned three ministers, so if you can indicate which minister you would like to direct that question to. Mr. Ningark.

**Mr. Ningark:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was asking for direction which minister I should be asking this question, but I will choose the Minister of Nunavut Housing Corporation for now. Thank you.

>>Laughter

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Minister Taptuna.

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. Mr. Speaker, through the Nunavut Housing Corporation, we promote the programs, we administer the programs and look at applications, but through the criteria that are required in these applications, we then evaluate, analyze, then approve accordingly through the corporate managers. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Ningark:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First supplementary, I received [correspondence] by fax from a constituent of Repulse Bay who has not attained the age of 60, but he's having difficulty maintaining his home because he did not have the sufficient to pay for fuel and power bills. So will the minister inform this House where this person would get help in order to pay for his monthly power bills and heating fuel? Thank you.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Minister Taptuna.

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I again thank the member for that question. Mr. Speaker, homeowners do have difficulty at times in paying for their number of expenses. If a homeowner encounters that, I would suggest that they go to their local LHOs to get assistance and once it's reviewed, eventually down onto the regional district offices. I suggest to the member that the person writes a letter and take it from there, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

#### **Question 555 – 3(3): Status of Kimmirut Airport**

**Mr. Schell:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation.

As the minister will recall, I asked questions on March 7, 2011 concerning Kimmirut's airport. At that time, his responses to my questions indicated that his department would be "undertaking work on the runway surface and on the airport electrical system." Can the minister confirm if this work was successfully completed? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Schell. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Minister Taptuna.

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that

question. Mr. Speaker, I understood that there's ongoing work that was taking place. There are a certain number of phases that were ongoing. Once I get that information from my officials, I will certainly share it with the member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Schell:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The minister's responses to my questions in 2011 also indicated that the department would "consider allocating funds to a preliminary study on the feasibility of relocating the airport" after it had "completed the required resurfacing of the runway." Can the minister indicate if the department has initiated this much needed study into developing a new airport for Kimmirut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Schell. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Minister Taptuna.

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are a lot of needs within the 25 communities when it comes to the airport facilities and Kimmirut is one of them. As I indicated, once I get the finer details of what actually happened there, I will get back to the member with the details and the report. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Schell:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the minister is aware, the need for a new airport has been a top priority for the community of Kimmirut for many years. We know that Iqaluit is getting a new

international airport. Can the minister indicate what would be the approximate cost of a new airport for Kimmirut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Schell. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Minister Taptuna.

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm not going to assume a certain figure for construction of an airport in Kimmirut. I don't have those figures in front of me. Usually, in the early days of estimating actual costs of whether it's renovations and upgrading of the airport, I don't have those figures in front of me, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

### **Question 556 – 3(3): Update on the Resolute Bay Utilidor System**

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Community and Government Services. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the minister, our MP, and the federal government for their commitment of capital dollars to the community of Resolute Bay.

Mr. Speaker, last year's capital budget saw a commitment of \$32 million to the Resolute Bay utilidor system. Could the minister provide an update on the progress of this project? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Gladly, Mr. Speaker. There has been a lot of work between the different levels of government in working towards the Resolute Bay utilidor work. Mr. Speaker, as I understand it, the construction tender documents are expected to be issued some time this spring. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When the program was initially introduced to the community, the department committed to keeping the community informed about the progress of the project on a regular basis. Could the minister explain how his department is communicating with the community of Resolute Bay on this huge infrastructure project? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I said, the tender documents will just be awarded in the next couple months. Following that, the equipment has to arrive on the sealift and we will keep the community informed as to its progress as it proceeds. Most of it will be visual. You will see the actual earthwork happening in the community, but if there are other work that are happening in the community that are not visual, our department will work closely with the municipal government there to ensure that whatever communication needs to be done with the municipality is

done in a timely manner. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Currently, the utilidor is struggling to keep up with the demand of the community. From what I have been told, for every 250 litres that flow through the system, 150 litres go missing. This is a tremendous expense on the community. At the same time, some residents, because of freeze-ups, have been without water for a number of weeks. What is the department doing to provide adequate service to the community until the new system is operational? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Mr. Speaker, our department is working very hard to ensure that the system keeps going, trying to keep it from freezing up. We live in the harshest territory, but they live in one of the harshest communities within the harshest territory, Mr. Speaker. With failing equipment like that, I commend our staff to try to keep the system working, Mr. Speaker. They work tirelessly and a lot of water has to flow through the utilidor in order to keep it from freezing, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Currently, the new arena and the RCMP

buildings in Resolute Bay are not a part of the utilidor system and receive service through trucked service. During my most recent constituency visit, the issue was raised as to whether or not these new infrastructure projects would be connected to the new utilidor system that would be provided to the community. Could the minister clarify if the new arena and the RCMP buildings would be included in this infrastructure? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In a nutshell, I have no documentation I'm aware of that says that they wouldn't be. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Question 557 – 3(3): Expediting the GN Hiring Process**

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to direct my question to the Minister of Human Resources.

Approximately two years ago, we debated the issue of job advertisements for positions that resulted in long periods before any candidate was chosen for the position. Those of us from Nunavut have a preference to hire Nunavummiut for government positions, especially Inuit from our Nunavut communities.

Based on information that is available, we have been apprised that the interim period from when an advertisement is made for a position to the time it takes a candidate to be hired is approximately 300 days. Can the minister provide an update whether or not the hiring process has been expedited? 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. I am unsure which number of days he is referring to. Is the member talking about the number of days the advertisement runs or is he talking about the length of time between advertisements? At that time, prior to my assuming this ministerial position, there was a decision as to the number of days they would take to hire employees, which was a decision while Mr. Schell was the minister.

Further, we are always trying to improve the hiring process to lower the time period and this occurred. When the directors or other senior managers are aware of certain positions, they are required to discuss the position with their departmental staff. They try to lower the number of days set for the hiring process and they have been able to lessen the number of days required for this process. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank Madam Minister for her response. With respect to the shortening of the hiring process



and, if indeed, the number of days has been diminished, can the minister provide an update as to how many days it still takes for a candidate to find out about the successful placement for the position? I am asking for the number of days from the advertisement to the actual hiring. 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. Although I have that number somewhere amongst my briefing notes, I can't find it right now.

Mr. Speaker, if my recollection is correct, I believe it is slightly over 100 days and the push was to shorten that further. We are still working to lower the amount of days for this process. Once I have that information, I will ensure I pass it along to my colleague. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For this subject, perhaps if I rephrase my question to clarify the matter. The minister's response was that the period has been shortened. Now I wonder exactly what was done or what changes were made to lessen the amount of days for the hiring process. 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. There have been

many improvements related to lessening the days required for the hiring process when you are talking about government civil service positions. We have tried to make the hiring process more transparent.

With respect to the casual staffing actions, we have tried to lower the number of casual hires. Regarding the casual hires, we have tried to employ them for longer periods or in other words, retaining them. As an example, there are many reasons for the hiring process period becoming shorter. Mr. Speaker, I can provide my colleague this information outlining all of the changes, as there are quite a few to date. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For my last question, can the minister inform me as well as this House that the improvements to the hiring process, including changes she referenced in her prior response, that she is satisfied with these changes? Are they adequate in her opinion? 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. Yes, personally they seem adequate given the history. I am quite pleased with the senior management officials who work with their counterparts in the various departments to try to improve the hiring process. It is obvious that in the short-term future, more improvements will be

forthcoming. They are quite dedicated and I am proud of their work in this regard. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Question 558 – 3(3): High Arctic Transportation Strategy Update**

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my questions to the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, the Hon. Peter Taptuna.

Mr. Speaker, as we all know, the cost of transportation is very expensive in Nunavut, especially for the High Arctic communities that I represent.

As the minister will recall, on October 31 of last year, he made a statement in the House concerning the status of the High Arctic Transportation Strategy. He indicated that “As we conclude the study, we will have recommendations to this government and to bring forward to the federal government.” Can the minister provide an update on the status of the High Arctic Transportation Strategy? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister responsible for the Department of Economic Development and Transportation, Minister Taptuna.

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We all know that it’s a huge impediment for families that live up in the High Arctic in Nunavut. The costs of food, transportation, and travel are one of the most phenomenal costs that anyone bears up there. At this point, Mr. Speaker, we’re fairly close to making a

decision on what we’re discussing between the parties involved, including the communities. Once it comes to a conclusion, I’ll certainly let the member know. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This issue has been ongoing even before I started my term as MLA for Quttiktuq. In 2008, we just kind of ramped it up and were able to meet with our Nunavut Senator. Minister Taptuna was there as well. It seems like we’re having baby steps in terms of progress and movement on this. Will the report and the strategy be done or will something be presented to the three High Arctic communities before the completion of this Assembly? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister responsible for Economic Development and Transportation, Minister Taptuna.

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think the discussions were ongoing before Nunavut became its own territory from the NWT days. It has always been ongoing. There is a lot of difficulty in coming up with solutions. Mr. Speaker, I’ll do my best to make sure that the report is complete and a solution looked at with all parties involved, including the community mayors, hamlets, and other groups that are looking at this report. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister give any indication of what the Government of Nunavut is thinking of as possible solutions that they would be bringing forward? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I cannot divulge on discussions that are happening now. At this point, we're looking at several options. Through discussions with community mayors, hamlets, and partners that are involved, I'll certainly let the member know once a decision is made. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Department of Economic Development and Transportation's 2012-15 business plan indicates that the department will implement the Nunavut Transportation Strategy, including specific initiatives to address the needs of High Arctic communities, following direction from cabinet. Can the minister provide an update on the status of the Nunavut Transportation Strategy, and can he provide details on the specific initiatives that will help address the needs of High Arctic communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister responsible for Economic Development and Transportation, Minister Taptuna.

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. Mr. Speaker, we completed a preliminary study on the high cost of transportation in the past and we did share that information with the three communities that were involved in this. I intend to do the same again before we come to a solution or conclusion, whatever the case may be, to have the information report forwarded on to the member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Motion 045 – 3(3): Adjournment for the Day**

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Due to some unforeseen circumstances, I move, seconded by the Member for Rankin Inlet South and Whale Cove, that we adjourn for the day. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. The motion is in order. It's a weather-related issue, I believe. All those in favour. Any opposed? The motion is carried. We will adjourn for the day.

Item 22 in our *Orders of the Day*.  
*Orders of the Day*. Mr. Clerk.

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

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

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions

5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions
8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to Opening Address
10. 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
18. Second Reading of Bills
19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
  - Bill 47
  - Bill 48
  - Bill 49
20. Report of the Committee of the Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills
22. Orders of the Day

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned until Tuesday, March 12, at 1:30 p.m.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 14:51*

Thank you.

