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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Speaker

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(Iqaluit Centre)

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(Iqaluit East)

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Minister of Executive and
Intergovernmental Affairs; Minister
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Minister responsible for Immigration*

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(Uqqummiut)

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

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(Baker Lake)

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(Rankin Inlet North)

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(Iqaluit West)

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Iqaluit, Nunavut
Monday, May 13, 2013

Members Present:

Honourable James Arreak, Mr. Moses Aupaluktuq, 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, 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 with today's sitting, I would like to ask Mr. Oshutapik to lead us off in a prayer, please.

>>*Prayer*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Oshutapik. (interpretation ends) We will move on in our orders of the day. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Government House Leader, Minister Kusugak.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements**Minister's Statement 287 – 3(3):
Minister Absent from House**

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to advise members that the Hon. Eva Aariak will be absent from the House today. She is attending her son's graduation in Ottawa. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Minister responsible for the Department of Environment, Minister Arreak.

**Minister's Statement 288 – 3(3):
Launch of "A Homeowner's Guide
to Permafrost in Nunavut"
Guidebook**

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, Nunavummiut and residents of Qikiqtarjuaq and Clyde River. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to inform members of a newly released Department of Environment publication: *A Homeowner's Guide to Permafrost in Nunavut*.

The new guide provides homeowners in Nunavut with the knowledge and resources necessary to make simple household changes to help preserve the permafrost beneath their homes. The guide explains what permafrost is, how climate change is affecting it, the impacts on houses from thawing permafrost, and the importance of preventing thaw.

The guide was developed with funding support from Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC) Climate Change Funding Partnership. It has also been developed in partnership with the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Natural Resources Canada, Université Laval, City of Iqaluit, and the Canada-Nunavut Geoscience Office. This guide was also developed as part of a series with the Government of the Northwest Territories: *A Homeowner's Guide to Permafrost in the Northwest Territories*.

Mr. Speaker, damage to buildings caused by thawing permafrost can be costly to not only homeowners but also to government and private construction companies. By promoting good building maintenance practices and providing education about the importance of permafrost and the impacts of climate change, it is expected that some of these costs will be reduced and will lead to significant future cost savings. In using this guide, homeowners will be better equipped to make decisions about construction and the upkeep of their homes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Arreak. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Minister Taptuna.

**Minister's Statement 289 – 3(3): GN
Long-term Housing and
Homelessness Strategy**

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, colleagues, Kuglukturmiut, and Nunavummiut. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to take this opportunity to present to my fellow members the Government of Nunavut's long-term housing and homelessness strategy.

This winter, the Nunavut Housing Corporation completed its second step in building a coherent and holistic response to the very serious housing challenges facing Nunavut.

The Government of Nunavut Long-term Comprehensive Housing and Homelessness Strategy outlines a complete strategic structure for meeting

Nunavut's housing challenges and identifies the goals and objectives that need to be achieved to fulfill *Tamapta's* vision to build and diversify housing for Nunavummiut while promoting economic development and self-reliance.

Mr. Speaker, this strategy document, together with the framework and the forthcoming action plan, provides the blueprint that will guide and drive the collective effort required to overcome the daunting and complex, but not insurmountable, challenges facing housing in Nunavut.

The final step to complete this government's commitment to the territory's housing needs will be the development of an action plan to implement the strategic direction laid out in the framework and set in the strategy. The Nunavut Housing Corporation, in collaboration with Government of Nunavut departments and agencies and other stakeholders, is committed to leading the development of an achievable and multi-sectoral action plan that I expect will be brought to cabinet by the end of the summer.

Mr. Speaker, working to resolve the housing crisis in Nunavut will require cooperation, long-term commitment, and significant investment, and I look forward to the outcomes that this collective effort will bring. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Minister responsible for the Department of Culture and Heritage, Minister Arreak.

**Minister's Statement 290 – 3(3):
Nunavut to Host Ministers of
Culture and Heritage**

Hon. James Arreak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to take this opportunity to announce that Nunavut has agreed to host the next annual meeting of culture and heritage ministers. The meeting is planned for August 13 and 14 in Iqaluit. I shall be co-chairing the agenda with the federal Minister for Canadian Heritage and Official Languages. Nunavut's hosting is also on the occasion of the 20th anniversary year of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement.

The meetings are an opportunity for ministers and deputy ministers of jurisdictions to take advantage of our collective experiences and to advance our shared mandate and policies; and, Mr. Speaker, in our arctic milieu.

The program is based on the structure developed by previous ministerial meetings and will include presentations by ministers speaking to three strategic themes: Growing and Sustaining Culture; Community Engagement in Culture and Heritage; and Strengthening Heritage Conservation. The meeting will conclude with a news release on its accomplishments.

Mr. Speaker, the federal, provincial, and territorial meeting is an opportunity for Nunavut to showcase Nunavummiut culture through our presentations, highlighting of our Inuktitut language and Inuit cultural values in our public service. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Arreak. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Moving on in our orders of the day. Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Baker Lake, Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Item 3: Members' Statements

**Member's Statement 486 – 3(3):
Baker Lake Super Soccer Team**

Mr. Aupaluktuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As my fellow Baker Lake residents as well as Rankin Inlet residents are undergoing a difficult situation at this time, I want them to know that they are in our thoughts.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak about our youth who wish to further themselves or to live healthy or are looking at a healing process, which are all related to having a healthy lifestyle. I am very grateful and I want to express my thanks to Sport Nunavut along with the staff at the Jonah Amitnaaq School who coach the Baker Lake Blizzards in various sports.

Mr. Speaker, I take great pride in these youth and wish to recognize the junior men who played at the Super Soccer event in Yellowknife. I want to recognize the parents, chaperones, and coaches, as I feel they deserve this acknowledgement of their dedication and effort to grow the abilities of the youth in our community.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to recognize the following people:

Robert Iqqaat
Amiq Nateela
Eli Nateela
Glen Stewart Ulliyot
Maumau Mautiritnaak

Darren Jamal Osuaq
 Joshua Piryuaq
 Tyler Aksawnee
 Howard Quinangnaq
 Vince Kubloitok
 Dean Itkilik, and their coach
 Glen Patrick Ullyot.

I ask my colleagues and Nunavummiut to join me in recognizing these people. Thank you very much.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Rumbolt.

**Member's Statement 487 – 3(3):
 Sanikiluaq Marathoners**

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to congratulate a group of runners from the Sanikiluaq Running Club on their recent success at the Toronto Marathon.

Mr. Speaker, five runners and two chaperones travelled to Toronto to participate in two different races at the Toronto Marathon. Three runners and one of the chaperones participated in the half marathon, which is close to 21 kilometres, with two runners participating in the five-kilometre run.

Mr. Speaker, Noah Emikotailak had Sanikiluaq's best result in the half marathon, followed by Paddy Aqiatasuk, and then Willie Iqaluk.

In the five-kilometre run, Aullajuuk Ippak and Janie Audla finished together in a well-run race.

Mr. Speaker, the chaperones for this trip were Terri Skinner and Brad Wutke.

Mr. Speaker, it is always inspiring to see groups and individuals work hard together for their goals. Their dedication and self-discipline can be a positive influence in all aspects of their lives. When athletes compete in tournaments or races such as the Toronto Marathon, we can all be proud of their efforts as they represent their home community and territory.

I ask my fellow members to join me in congratulating the Sanikiluaq Running Club on their successful event. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Congratulations to them. Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. Elliott.

**Member's Statement 488 – 3(3):
 Search and Rescue**

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to again raise the issue of search and rescue in Nunavut and the north.

Mr. Speaker, a recent release of the Auditor General's report on federal search and rescue activities has helped to focus attention on the needs of the north in this area.

Mr. Speaker, during our proceedings of last week, the Minister of Community and Government Services spoke about the importance of emergency preparedness.

Mr. Speaker, the efforts of the Government of Nunavut to undertake such initiatives as distributing SPOT locator devices to all communities are excellent.

In the High Arctic, I am pleased to say that our HTOs have been working in partnership with appropriate authorities to train hunters and others in the use of the devices.

I am also pleased to note that innovative approaches have been used to connect these devices with Internet-based social media applications to help ensure that families of hunters are kept up to date on their location when they are out on the land.

Mr. Speaker, I see this as a good example of our territorial government working in partnership with communities and local organizations.

Mr. Speaker, important questions have been raised in this House concerning the need for enhanced coordination between the federal, provincial, and territorial governments in the area of search and rescue. The recent Auditor General's report noted this issue, as well as the need to address such longstanding issues as the age and condition of search and rescue aircraft.

Mr. Speaker, I again want to express my firm support for permanent stationing of modern search and rescue assets in Nunavut. I also want to again speak about the opportunities that exist in the High Arctic for strengthening search and rescue.

Mr. Speaker, as you are aware, the Government of Canada has been

undertaking a number of important arctic sovereignty initiatives in recent years, including the development of new infrastructure.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to again encourage the Department of National Defence to look closely at what we already have in the High Arctic. Mr. Speaker, as you know, Resolute Bay is the home to the Polar Continental Shelf Project. This community is a logical choice for situating new search and rescue assets and infrastructure.

Mr. Speaker, in response to questions asked on this issue last week, the Minister of Community and Government Services indicated that he will be working closely with his federal, provincial, and territorial counterparts on the issue of search and rescue in Nunavut.

I ask all members to join me in expressing support for measures to enhance search and rescue in the north and to protect the lives of our residents. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 489 – 3(3):
Grand Opening of the Repulse Bay
Health Centre**

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On Saturday, May 11, we went to Repulse Bay for the opening of the new health centre.

I would like to thank my colleagues, Ms. Ugyuk, Hon. Minister Kusugak, the Minister of Health, Minister Peterson, the mayor of Repulse Bay, the elders and residents of Repulse Bay, and the nurse-in-charge. She was able to give us a tour of the new health centre and we were looked after well. It was early in the morning. We were able to leave here along with the elected MLAs. They were able to show up at the airport early in the morning and I thank them.

During spring, Inuit like to go fishing or go out on the land. Because this is an important health centre for Repulse Bay, they were able to wait for us for the opening. I thank the Government of Nunavut, the federal government, and the previous MLAs who have been working on the present health centre and the former hamlet members. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 490 – 3(3):
Engage North Program in
Pangnirtung**

Mr. Oshutapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon to my fellow residents of Pangnirtung. It is unfortunate that I am unable to be home, but you are in my thoughts on this day and I am trying to think of you as if I was there in person.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to inform the Legislative Assembly about Pangnirtung's participation in the Engage North program.

Mr. Speaker, Engage North is a University of Alberta organization that "builds connections between university students from across Canada and indigenous communities in Canada's North. These connections include supporting awareness and educational events in the southern provinces as well as arranging for students to live and work in northern communities as Engage North Fellows."

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to report that the program's first three Engage North Fellows, who are engineering students, will be working in Pangnirtung this summer in close cooperation with the hamlet.

Mr. Speaker, the hamlet has identified two projects for the program this summer. The first project is to work with the hamlet to develop a comprehensive drainage plan for the community. The second project is to work with the hamlet to conduct a comprehensive energy conservation audit of the municipality's operations.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to express my appreciation to the University of Alberta for funding this program and I would like to pay tribute to the Hamlet of Pangnirtung for participating in this innovative program. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 491 – 3(3): Pond Inlet Participants of this Year's Nunavut Quest

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, residents of Pond Inlet and my fellow Nunavummiut. Mr. Speaker, I wish to extend a warm welcome to a person returning to our home community, although I know that this event won't transpire for a few more days.

However, last week or the week prior, we heard on the news about the Nunavut Quest dog race that occurs every spring. This spring, the race was from Arctic Bay to Igloolik. We heard that for the next segment of this race next year, the route will be from Igloolik to Pond Inlet. I want to extend a warm welcome a year in advance to Nunavummiut.

I would like to express my pride of two participants from Pond Inlet who partook in this race, Lee Inuaraq and Michael Inuaraq. Michael is quite a young person, perhaps not even 16, and I want my colleagues to share my pride in this young man, who is a fellow resident of our community.

I want to encourage my fellow Nunavummiut to participate in these types of events, particularly our traditional activities or cultural practices.

Mr. Speaker, the course for next year's Nunavut Quest will be originating from Igloolik to Pond Inlet, perhaps around April 2014. Please plan ahead and make your preparations. We will extend our hospitality upon your arrival to Pond Inlet. As a matter of fact, we welcome everyone ahead of time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Enook. Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Nanulik, Mr. Ningeongan.

Member's Statement 492 – 3(3): Congratulations to Wrestler Judai McKitrick

Mr. Ningeongan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, I would like to say "good afternoon" to Coral Harbourmiut and Igluligaarjummiut and Nunavut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Judai McKitrick, who is originally from Coral Harbour, on his recent success at the Canadian National Juvenile Wrestling Championships.

Mr. Speaker, Judai won the bronze medal in the 58-kilogram division of the Greco division. While he is not the first Coral Harbour wrestler to compete at the national level, he is the latest to have earned a medal at that level. I am very proud that our community can produce such successful athletes in this sport.

Mr. Speaker, Judai currently attends Saint Ignatius High School and is living in Thunder Bay, Ontario. He returns with his family to Coral Harbour in the summers.

Judai trains hard at his sport every day with long wrestling sport seasons going from fall to spring. He plans to attend Lakehead University this coming year and will continue his wrestling career. He may even begin training with the university team this summer.

Mr. Speaker, Judai's efforts and dedication to his sport will bring him success in many areas, not just on the

mat. He has learned how to set goals for himself, how to accept situations that do not always end up in his favour, and to prepare himself physically and mentally for the challenges that lie ahead.

Mr. Speaker, the residents of Coral Harbour, including myself, are very proud of Judai and what he has achieved. We all cheer for him and wish him even greater success at his next tournament. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. Hopefully in the next tournament, he gets them all on the mat.

>> *Laughter*

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. Ms. Ugyuk.

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to recognize relatives from my own nuclear family. My mother and my father's youngest child, my dear younger sister, Ellen Ittunga, is a teacher at the Taloyoak elementary school. I am quite pleased that she was able to travel to Iqaluit and I love her very much. She provides a lot of support to her fellow residents and I am thankful for her work. Please welcome her to the Gallery. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. You're well aware that I don't get to recognize visitors in the Gallery too often during the sitting of the House.

Mr. Speaker, this is a special day for one of the staffers, so I want to recognize all the hard work that the staffers do here to make things work smoothly. They work hard behind the scenes there to make our sessions look rather professional. I want to congratulate and recognize Mr. Stephen Innuksuk on his special day today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Happy birthday, Mr. Innuksuk.

>> *Laughter*

You still have a few more years to go to catch my record at being 19.

>> *Laughter*

Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery.

Members, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize a group of visitors who are here with us in the Gallery today.

Joining us today is a group of parliamentary interns from the House of Commons. These young Canadians from across the country are participants in the national Parliamentary Internship Program. They are in Iqaluit this week for their annual study tour of Nunavut.

Please join me in welcoming:

- Melissa Bonga
- Claire Boychuk
- Gavin Charles
- Vincent Hardy
- Kathryn Martin
- Iman Mohamed
- Melissa Moor
- Sean Pierce
- Morgan Ring
- Lauren Walsh-Greene

I had the pleasure of having dinner with them last night and I would like to thank our director of research for organizing that, Mr. Alex Baldwin. Also, it was a pleasure to have Mr. Elliott and our Law Clerk join us at supper.

As I indicated to you guys last night at supper, now you're on the permanent record here in *Hansard* in Nunavut. Welcome to the Gallery.

>>*Applause*

Item 5. 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 632 – 3(3): Capital Planning Process

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Community and Government Services, the Hon. Lorne Kusugak.

Mr. Speaker, I have been a strong advocate for strategic infrastructure

investments in Baker Lake throughout my term of office.

Mr. Speaker, the residents of the community are looking forward to the completion of a number of projects that are on the capital plan, including Baker Lake's new middle school.

Mr. Speaker, the government's 2013-14 capital estimates were approved by the Legislative Assembly in the fall of last year. Can the minister update the House today on the status of the government's development of the 2014-15 capital estimates? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. Minister responsible for the Department of Community and Government Services, Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, my colleague, for the question. As the member is aware, we haven't approved the 2014-15 budget yet and it will probably be the next government that deals with that at that time, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Much appreciated as well because there are some planning strategies being implemented at the municipal level for requesting some assistance to bridge services.

Mr. Speaker, over the years, the government has established such entities as the Nunavut Community Infrastructure Advisory Committee to

provide a forum for local input into the government's capital planning process.

Can the minister indicate how the government is currently consulting with the NCIAC, the Nunavut Association of Municipalities, and individual communities to identify priority projects for next year's capital estimates? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I have often said in the House, Community and Government Services works very closely with those entities my friend spoke about. We work with the Nunavut Association of Municipalities, the Nunavut Association of Municipal Administrators, and the Nunavut [Community] Infrastructure Advisory Committee. We work with all of those entities. It's through the Nunavut [Community] Infrastructure Advisory Committee that priorities of the municipalities are put into order, and then worked through our department and other affected departments to set those priorities, Mr. Speaker. Thank you very much.

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

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Very much appreciated that the hon. minister was able to put that on the record as well. I'm sure that the people and residents of Baker Lake are in tune with this and anticipate a lot more progress in bridging services.

Mr. Speaker, one of the responsibilities of the Capital Planning Branch of the Department of Community and Government Services is the "successful implementation, management and reporting required under the Gas Tax Fund, the Building Canada Fund, and other [federal] infrastructure programs."

Can the minister indicate whether the recent federal budget included any new infrastructure funds for Nunavut in addition to the money that was announced for new housing? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As my colleague knows, we work very closely within the different departments within our government. I'll communicate with our Minister of Finance and give our colleague from Baker Lake the details he's requesting. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 633 – 3(3): Status of Qikiqtani General Hospital Renovations

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Health.

On Wednesday of last week, the Legislative Assembly considered a capital supplementary bill that contained just over \$20.2 million in carryover

funding for renovations to the Qikiqtani General Hospital, which is Nunavut's largest medical facility.

Late last week, CBC news reported that the contractor for the project has abandoned the project and defaulted on the contract. Can the minister confirm if these news reports are accurate and, if they are not, can he clarify the situation? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister responsible for the Department of Health, Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Elliott for the questions. I was assuming that some MLA would pick up on the media report.

Yes, it's true the contractor, one of the partners, Dowland Contracting, has some financial hardships. I'm not privy to the internal discussions, but I'm assured that my officials, through the Department of Health and through Community and Government Services, are meeting with the bonding company to ensure that project will proceed without too much delay. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I noted earlier, the government included over \$20 million in capital carryover funding in the supplementary appropriation that was introduced in the Legislative Assembly last week. What will be the impact of these developments in terms of the cost and timeline for the project? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Elliott for the question. Mr. Speaker, this development only recently occurred and it's too early to determine the impact on the carryovers. It's our full intention that we meet with the bonding company and our legal counsel who are involved and that we proceed as quickly as possible to try and maintain the timelines.

Again, it's too early. I don't have a report on the discussions and the decisions that will be made, but I want to assure the members that our officials are on top of this matter and it's very important because it's a priority project for this government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister indicate if any other capital projects for the Department of Health are at risk of encountering a similar situation to the one which has developed at the Qikiqtani General Hospital? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister responsible for the Department of Health, Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I again thank Mr. Elliott for his question. Mr. Speaker, I'm not aware of any other similar situations with any other health project across Nunavut at this time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 634 – 3(3): Northern Employee Benefits Services Pension Plan

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Community and Government Services.

Mr. Speaker, as the minister will recall from our sitting of October 23, 2012, I asked him questions concerning the Northern Employee Benefits Services Pension Plan and the status of his efforts to work with the Government of the Northwest Territories to introduce new legislation that would make participation in the NEBS pension plan mandatory for municipal employees in Nunavut. Can the minister update the House today on the status of this issue? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Minister responsible for the Department of Community and Government Services, Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleague for the question and keeping the discussion on NEBS out there. As of now, the Government of Nunavut, along with the Government of the Northwest Territories, has struck a joint committee to deal with the intent of having a NEBS bill drafted by the fall of 2013. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On November 5, 2012, the minister tabled a copy of the memorandum of understanding that the GN and the GNWT have entered into concerning the Northern Employee Benefits Services Pension Plan. This document indicated that both governments planned to finalize a legislative proposal by March 31 of 2013. Can the minister confirm if this work has been completed and can he indicate when a copy of the proposal will be made available to MLAs and municipalities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleague for the question. Yes, I will make the copies of the draft agreement available when I can. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The memorandum of understanding also indicated that an actual bill concerning the Northern Employee Benefits Services Pension Plan will be drafted by the fall of 2013. As the minister knows, our general election will be held in October of this year. Can the minister indicate whether this bill may be ready for introduction in our Legislative Assembly during the final sitting before the House dissolves? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Minister responsible for Community and

Government Services, Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleague for the question. In terms of the bill and the legislation, there are some discrepancies that are trying to be ironed out by this joint committee tasked with drafting the bill, such as GNWT is more favourable into a voluntary plan and, as you understand, this government is seeking more of a mandatory participation in the plan. Hopefully those issues will be ironed out. I don't anticipate that we will be able to introduce the bill during the life of this government. I anticipate that it would be something that would be brought forward hopefully shortly after the forming of the next government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 635 – 3(3): Polar Bear Management Planning

Ms. Ugyuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my questions to the Minister of Environment.

Mr. Speaker, during last week's sitting, the minister delivered a statement concerning polar bear management planning.

Mr. Speaker, the minister indicated that comprehensive community consultations will be conducted this fall. For the benefit of the listening public, can the minister provide details on the schedule for these community consultations, and will he commit to ensuring all communities are provided the schedule

information well in advance to ensure full community participation? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. Minister responsible for the Department of Environment, Minister Arreak.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for her question. The MOU has ended currently, as the Department of Environment is working on a Nunavut-wide management plan. All communities will be informed starting this fall. We will send information to all the communities and we look forward to collaborating with all of the local HTOs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Can the minister indicate if it will be his departmental officials who will be conducting these community consultations or if his department will be issuing a request for proposals for a company to conduct the consultations? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. Minister responsible for the Department of Environment, Minister Arreak.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Currently, our staff from the Department of the Environment will collaborate with the HTO boards in every community. We have been able to work with the HTO boards. It is only after an agreement is reached with the local HTO that we can move forward on these issues. We will

keep them informed as that date approaches and ensure lines of communication are open.

It is clear that we will be collaborating with the regional wildlife organizations as well, including the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board and Nunavut Tunngavik. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Ugyuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the minister is aware, a moratorium was placed on the McClintock Channel polar bear population. During the minister's appearance before the Committee of the Whole's consideration of the 2013-14 main estimates, he indicated that the community of Gjoa Haven "can get some assistance if they want to go to the Gulf of Boothia, and it is called the community hunt." He also indicated that he would get back to me with information concerning how many polar bear tags are issued for the Gulf of Boothia. Can the minister provide me with this information? If not, will he commit to providing me with this information before the end of this current sitting? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. Minister responsible for the Department of Environment, Minister Arreak.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If I don't answer all the particulars of my colleague's question, I can meet with her at a later date to discuss these matters.

The population study for the McClintock Channel was supposed to have been initiated in 2015, but it has

been moved up to start in 2014. Our officials have met with representatives from Gjoa Haven, Taloyoak, and Cambridge Bay. We're also working with their local HTO boards on this issue and we have come to an agreement as to how this initiative will be undertaken.

I will be able to provide information on the other matters for my colleague prior to her departure from this session. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Arreak. Oral Questions. Member for Pangnirtung, Mr. Oshutapik.

Question 636 – 3(3): Status of Relocation of Pangnirtung Airport

Mr. Oshutapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, the government's 2012-13 capital estimates included \$1.5 million in capital funding for the airport relocation project in Pangnirtung. \$421,000 of this funding was subsequently carried over in a supplementary appropriation. Can the minister update me today on the status of the airport relocation project for Pangnirtung? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. Mr. Speaker, everybody in Nunavut is aware that the Pangnirtung Airport airstrip is undersized for the

capacity of the community and we have been working on doing some preliminary data and this includes weather data. We should be receiving the weather data that we have been waiting for soon. As soon as I get that, I'll make that available to the Member for Pangnirtung. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Oshutapik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, minister, for your response. Mr. Speaker, the government did not include any new funding for this project in its 2013-14 capital estimates. Can the minister indicate if his department is looking at including new funding for the airport relocation project in next year's capital estimates? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. Mr. Speaker, we continue to do the design and preliminary work, the scope of work, and just to get an idea of the cost of constructing a new airport on the plateau. The member is well aware that there is no construction money available for the project. We do have to acquire that through the federal government. Mr. Speaker, the construction cost is phenomenal. It's well over \$40 million at the lower end of the estimates. Once the design and scope of work is done, I'll surely let the member know. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Oshutapik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Although the community has been waiting for many years for the airport to be relocated to a more suitable location, we recognize that this project is a significant undertaking. Can the minister indicate what the most current cost estimates are for new airport relocation in Pangnirtung? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. I'm well aware that the project has been ongoing for many years and Pangnirtung has waited for many years.

The existing location of the airport is one that the geology restricts any kind of expansion of the airport. As you know, Mr. Speaker, the airstrip cuts right through the community of Pangnirtung along either side of the mountains and on the outside of the ocean, so it's very difficult to expand in any direction. So we have been looking at having a look at some of the data that's needed to move the project forward.

Again, the estimate that I have quoted of well over \$40 million is a figure from 2004. Mr. Speaker, as things move along, I'm sure the estimate is going to be looked at. One of the things that we try and do as a government is to try and come up with class "A" estimates. Mr. Speaker, to get to the construction point,

we do have to find funding for that, which, as I have indicated, is going to be over \$40 million, that's an old estimate, and come up with a real plan to submit to our working partners. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 637 – 3(3): Internal Transfer Agreements

Mr. Enook: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions will be directed to the Minister of Human Resources.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, my question is in regard to staff relocation from one department to another. I would like to ask the Minister of Human Resources: when do the employees have internal transfers from one department to another? What is the reason for internal transfer of staff? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Enook. Just for the record, we don't have a Minister responsible for Human Resources. It falls under the realm of the Department of Finance, so I'll direct the question to the Minister of Finance, Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Enook for the question. I have only been the Minister responsible for Human Resources for five or six weeks, so it will take me a little bit of time to wrap my mind around all the human resource issues.

Some of the reasons for internal transfer arrangements or agreements between

departments would be to temporarily fill positions in another department, to facilitate an employee in getting some experience, or they have some skills that the other department requires on a short-term basis, or you might want to fill a position on a short-term basis when someone is on maternity leave for, I believe, six months up to a year, and also to build capacity within our government to help people with their career development and gain experience, and make them better employees going forward. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for his response. Even though he has had that portfolio for a short time, I will be asking another question. Whenever there's an internal transfer from one department to another, the position that was held before is now vacant. For instance, if it's an internal transfer from Social Services, the position is now vacant. Is that the case? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Enook for the question. Mr. Speaker, every internal transfer arrangement or agreement is different. There are different lengths or periods of time. It could be as long as three years or as short as a few months. Typically, if it's a longer term of transfer, the original department where they come from is authorized to do what they call a backfill on a term

employment up to the expiry date on the transfer arrangement. So if an employee decides to come back, then that person on term would be let go and then the employee would have their job back.

That's the way I understand it, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Mr. Enook: *Qujannamiik*, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) What about the community that the employee was transferred to? If a person is transferred under the agreement to Pond Inlet, then maybe they're in their position for six months, a year, or two years. Once they complete that time, the position becomes vacant. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Mr. Speaker, although I have been Minister responsible for Human Resources for a short while, I have instructed my human resource officials in the Department of Finance to review the Internal Transfer Policy to ensure that there's rigour and consistency with the policy and to ensure that departments are following the policy.

I want to assure Mr. Enook, all MLAs, and all ministers that it's very important that we do have this policy so that we can build capacity and so we can fill key positions that need immediate staffing. We don't want a department to leave a position vacant for a long period of time while a person is on an internal transfer arrangement.

So we are reviewing the policy to ensure that it is meeting the goals of the Government of Nunavut and at the same time, helping the departments and employees deliver programs and services for the government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 638 – 3(3): Update on Funding for Patient Wait Times

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Health.

Two years ago, the Government of Nunavut received funding from the federal government to improve the patient wait time at our health care facilities. Can the minister update the House today on the status of this funding? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister responsible for the Department of Health, Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Boy, Mr. Elliott's really challenging my memory, but I believe there's \$4.5 million that we received from the federal government under the Patient Wait Times Guarantee program. We are purchasing a CT scanner and some diagnostic equipment with that funding.

I believe I mentioned in either the fall or winter sitting just past that the CT scanner will be purchased and flown into Iqaluit for the Qikiqtani General Hospital this year. I believe the

diagnostic imaging equipment has been purchased and is being distributed to the health centres across Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The minister is correct because last year, we did approve \$4.5 million in supplemental funding and earlier this sitting, which was last week, we approved \$4.5 million in capital carryover funding to purchase new diagnostic and mobile equipment. Can the minister update the House today on how much of that funding has actually been spent, especially if we carried over the same amount that he just quoted? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister responsible for the Department of Health, Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't have that detailed information in front of me, but as Mr. Elliott will recall, the capital carryover process is there to... . If there are contracts or contractual obligations in place, we can carry over the funds to meet our obligations and approvals in the House. If there's a contract out of place, but we intend to spend the money within the first 90 days, we would also carry over the funds.

I want to assure Mr. Elliott that it is still the intention of the Department of Health to purchase this equipment and bring it to Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. During the winter sitting, he did give us the update that he talked about earlier in terms of an RFP that was let out last summer, there were submissions received, and a proposal was accepted for the CT scanner. As well, he did update the House on the fact that it would be flown up. The thing that he didn't update in terms of a timeline was he did mention that it was supposed to be operational by September of this year. Could the minister confirm if the timeline is still on track? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister responsible for the Department of Health, Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Elliott for the... . I should get my briefing notes from Mr. Elliott.

>>*Laughter*

He can be pretty detailed.

Mr. Speaker, I can't say for sure if it's going to be installed and operational by September 22, 2013 or something like that, but what I want to say is that we hope it will be operational within this current fiscal year. We know we're experiencing some problems right now and Mr. Elliott... .

Oops, there it goes.

>>*Laughter*

At the [Qikiqtani] General Hospital, we're under renovations. There are some issues up there right now, but it is still the intention... Do you want another pen to flip up? It's still the intention to get this equipment. There's a vendor demonstration, I believe, at the end of May to demonstrate the CT scanner. We are moving along. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Laughter*

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Peterson. I don't know if it's a good thing that things are slipping through the fingers of the Minister of Health and the Minister of Finance.

Oral Questions. Member for Nattilik, Ms. Ugyuk.

Question 639 – 3(3): Fur Production and Design Program

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College.

Prior to my question, I want to welcome Susan Hillier. She is a teacher for Gjoa Haven for 22 years and is a resident of Gjoa Haven. Bernadette O'Brien has been a teacher for eight years in Gjoa Haven. I want to welcome them to the House. They always support the residents of Gjoa Haven.

My question is for the Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College.

The minister informed me that there are women's sewing groups that are involved in fur production and that they have a training program here in Iqaluit.

A lot of people are interested, but not enough positions are available. Will there be a training program in the Kivalliq and Kitikmeot regions? When will the Fur Production and Design Program be available in those regions and people are able to showcase their products? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College, Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleague for that question. Of course, she brings a very important subject up, that is, the Fur Production and Design Program. It has been very successful where we have promoted it and instructed it across the territory. I don't have the specific numbers on how many courses we have done, but I know we have done courses in Iqaluit and other outlying communities. In the Kivalliq, I know it was offered in Arviat a couple of years ago.

How we recognize where and promote where to have these courses is through community input, when we do assessments every spring what the community would like to see offered for programming through Arctic College in the communities. So if it is a priority for the community, we would surely take a look at this and try and offer that program where we can. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for his

response. (interpretation ends) Fur production and design is offered here in Iqaluit and it's more contemporary than the ones that are held at the community request. My question is: are we going to see the same program that is delivered here in Iqaluit in the two other regions? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College, Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The member brings up a very good point. When we do provide these programs in communities and in the regions, as I say, if communities are interested, we will seriously look at providing these programs to them. It would definitely be with, hopefully, local seamstresses and be relevant to the tradition and culture in the community. So we would organize and implement the curriculum with that information involved. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Ugyuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My community of Taloyoak has a local sewing shop and I would like it to be seriously considered for a fur production and design course. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Filter it.

Speaker: Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. It's more of a comment, but if you would like to respond, Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member again. I assure that my officials are watching and

we understand it's a priority in your community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. Elliott.

Question 640 – 3(3): Update on the Study of Peary Caribou

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Environment.

Mr. Speaker, as everyone is aware, the High Arctic is a very fragile ecosystem. The communities have been very vocal about preservation of the land and the wildlife. To that end, a lot of participants have been involved in different activities, whether it's the Lancaster Sound Marine Sanctuary or some of the other activities that are going on, through work with the HTOs, the hunters, and other community organizations.

In the department's most recent business plan, it talks about doing a study on the Peary caribou. I was wondering if the minister could update the House on this activity. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister responsible for the Department of Environment, Minister Arreak.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. A study has been undertaken on the Peary caribou. Right now, they're going to conduct another assessment this fall. That will be determined when the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board has their next

meeting in the winter of 2013. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. One of the processes in place to ensure that very fragile areas are preserved is the establishment of territorial parks. Currently, the Government of Nunavut has been working with the communities of the High Arctic on the Napaaqtulik Territorial Park. I was wondering if the minister could give the House an update as to what's happening with the movement on the establishment of that as a territorial park. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister of Environment, Minister Arreak.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have been working in partnership with Parks Canada officials. We have consulted with the residents of Resolute Bay and Grise Fiord. We also consult with the public related to the preservation of this area called Napaaqtulik. Negotiations have commenced with the communities in the High Arctic and we will continue our discussions with the communities as we work towards establishing this territorial park. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For my final question, I want to continue on with my theme of preserving the pristine land and wildlife of the High Arctic. For my last question, the minister

is well aware that last week, I tabled correspondence from both Grise Fiord and Canada Coal in regard to coal exploration in Axel Heiberg.

In terms of that letter, there are leases that are being held in the value of \$60,000 for Axel Heiberg, so the exploration could not go on. The community has actually been asked by Canada Coal whether they should give up those leases. If the community agrees to have Canada Coal give up those leases, is it possible to have the Department of Environment work towards establishing another territorial park on Axel Heiberg to support this? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: You're cutting it pretty close there, Mr. Elliott. Minister of Environment, Minister Arreak.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The correspondence tabled by Mr. Elliott has been reviewed and read. Further, we reviewed the assessment of the situation. As per our past statements, we continue to work with the communities and we will continue to work with them towards this goal.

If we are also tasked to undertake the establishment of this new territorial park, then we would have to initiate negotiations with other organizations and we would be open to further discussions. However, they would have to conduct baseline studies prior to the establishment of the park, especially for economic development opportunities, either natural resources, petroleum or mineral occurrences. This is called a MERA assessment. This is a mineral and energy resource assessment process. It is

only after this type of assessment is completed that a territorial park could be established.

At the present time, I can't state whether or not the Department of Environment would proceed with this establishment on its own. However, we have to conduct deliberations with impacted people in the High Arctic, in Nunavut, the federal government, and the communities of the High Arctic in particular. We would have to negotiate with these parties. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Question 641 – 3(3): Application
Process for Courses in Smaller
Communities**

Mr. Enook: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) My question is directed to the Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College.

As most members are fully aware, every spring, the school year starts to close down, especially in the smaller communities. This winding down can occur even in the month of May. The students, especially those who are on the verge of completing grade 12, initiate their planning for the upcoming fall and whether this includes further courses or classes elsewhere. This includes consideration of funding assistance should they take that route, such as FANS.

At the current time, smaller communities experience problems related to this issue. It is only in June or thereabouts that

Nunavut Arctic College releases their planned fall courses for the local centres, although the main facility in Iqaluit releases their planned courses in the wintertime for the upcoming fall season.

Mr. Speaker, I want to ask my first question on this issue. Why aren't the planned fall courses for the local centres released earlier before spring arrives? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Enook. Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College, Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know there has been some difficulty in administrating FANS through the Arctic College system and beyond too.

As the member knows, the FANS system is under the jurisdiction of the Department of Education. We've had discussions on how we can streamline FANS availability to provide students with lead time so that they can apply for FANS funding and be accepted into receiving it and go to the proper programs that they want to go to in the fall time. I know this system needs to be looked at further. However, it's very difficult to plan what programs are going to be taking place in smaller communities until the assessment is done with the community to see what they want offered in those communities.

The majority of the FANS funding is provided to students that we have courses that are set in place, mostly in the regional campuses, and that's where they're set up and structured that they make that FANS money available. I do know that there are difficulties in

providing FANS funding in smaller communities with programs that are unknown that are going to take place in the fall. We will ensure to look into the matter further and see what we can do. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If my question wasn't clear enough, I apologize since your response wasn't really relevant to my question. Perhaps I should reword my question to clarify, Mr. Speaker.

The FANS program is not the cause of my concern. The program seems to be running much better compared to last year. We haven't been privy to as many complaints about the program. What I am more concerned about is this issue which I tried to raise. The potential graduates currently in grade 12 are preparing for their futures, especially those students who wish to pursue further education. Right now, the students would have to leave the community in order to plan for their fall classes if they wish to further their education because Nunavut Arctic College has yet to release their fall courses in the communities.

What I'm trying to point out is this fact: prior to the advent of the spring season, the college should release the fall courses in the community at an earlier date in the event that students wishing to take further courses in their community can remain in the community and take their chosen courses. At this current time, there isn't enough leeway for them to do this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Enook. Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College, Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In many of the programs, the curriculum is available and the schedules are available on the Nunavut Arctic College website. There are programs that are developed later in the springtime that are offered in communities that are not always available on the website when those dates are going to take place.

I do understand your concern and I do know what you are saying, that it would be nice to have the curriculum set so that they can apply early for FANS funding. So I will take your comments, Mr. Enook, and speak to my officials and see how we can deal with this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 642 – 3(3): Funding Request from Gjoa Haven Community Freezer

Ms. Ugyuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of ED&T. (interpretation) I say "good day" to the residents of Taloyoak and Gjoa Haven.

(interpretation ends) The question I have for ED&T is the community of Gjoa Haven has applied for a community freezer program fund. Can the minister give me an update on where the application stands for the community of Gjoa Haven? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. Minister responsible for Economic Development and Transportation, Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At this time, I do not have the information available in front of me, but I will surely get back to the member with the request that she has put forth here. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Your first supplementary, Ms. Ugyuk. Oh, you're finished? Okay. Item 6. Oral Questions. We will move on in our orders of the day. Item 7. Written Questions. Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Item 10. Petitions. Item 11. Responses to Petitions. Item 12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters. Mr. Ningeongan.

Item 12: Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters*

Committee Report 030 – 3(3): Bill 44, An Act to Amend the Justices of the Peace Act

Mr. Ningeongan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to report that Bill 44, *An Act to Amend the Justices of the Peace Act*, has been reviewed by the Standing Committee on Legislation and that the bill, as amended and reprinted, is ready for consideration in Committee of the Whole.

Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to waive Rule 68(6) and have Bill 44 immediately moved into the Committee of the Whole. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. There is a request for unanimous consent to waive Rule 68(6) so that Bill 44, as amended and reprinted, can be immediately referred to the Committee of the Whole. Are there any nays? There are none. Bill 44, as amended and reprinted, is immediately referred to the Committee of the Whole.

Item 12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters. Mr. Ningeongan.

Committee Report 031 – 3(3): Bill 57, Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act, 2013

Mr. Ningeongan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, members. I wish to report that Bill 57, *Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act, 2013*, has been reviewed by the Standing Committee on Legislation and that the bill is ready for consideration in Committee of the Whole.

Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to waive Rule 68(6) and have Bill 57 immediately moved into the Committee of the Whole. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. There is a request for unanimous consent to waive Rule 68(6) so that Bill 57 can be immediately referred to the Committee of the Whole. Are there any nays? There being none. Therefore, Bill 57 is immediately referred to the Committee of the Whole.

*See Appendix for full text of Committee Report 33 – 3(3) filed with the Clerk.

Item 12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters.
Mr. Ningeongan.

**Committee Report 032 – 3(3): Bill 60,
An Act Respecting the Nunavut
Law Foundation**

Mr. Ningeongan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, members, once again. I wish to report that Bill 60, *An Act Respecting the Nunavut Law Foundation*, has been reviewed by the Standing Committee on Legislation and that the bill, as amended and reprinted, is ready for consideration in Committee of the Whole.

Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to waive Rule 68(6) and have Bill 60 immediately moved into the Committee of the Whole. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. There is request for unanimous consent to waive Rule 68(6) so that Bill 60 can be referred immediately to the Committee of the Whole. Are there any nays? There is none. Therefore, Bill 60, as amended and reprinted, is immediately referred to the Committee of the Whole.

Item 12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters.
Mr. Elliott.

**Committee Report 033 – 3(3): Report
on the Review of the 2011-2012
Annual Report of the Languages
Commissioner of Nunavut**

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present the report of the Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public

Accounts on its review of the 2011-12 Annual Report of the Languages Commissioner of Nunavut.

As you will recall, Mr. Speaker, the Languages Commissioner's annual report for 2011-12 was tabled in this House on October 26, 2012.

Mr. Speaker, Ms. Sandra Inutiq is the new Languages Commissioner for Nunavut. She assumed her duties as Languages Commissioner on January 14, 2013, and is at the very beginning of her term.

The standing committee recognized that the Languages Commissioner's annual report described activities conducted in 2011 and 2012 under the tenure of her predecessor.

Committee members appreciated Ms. Inutiq's willingness to update the committee on the status of many of the office's activities over this period as well to discuss her own plans for the future.

The standing committee held its hearings on the Languages Commissioner's 2011-12 annual report from April 16 to 17, 2013. The hearings were open to the public and news media to observe and were broadcast on local cable television. The standing committee's report provides a number of observations on issues that emerged during its hearings on the Languages Commissioner's 2011-12 annual report and makes five formal recommendations.

Mr. Speaker, in its earlier report on the review of the Languages Commissioner's 2010-11 annual report, the standing committee made several recommendations with respect to the

presentation and analysis of information included in the report. While the standing committee notes that the latest annual report has made significant improvements in this area, members were of the view that further work could be done in the area of performance measurement.

The standing committee's first recommendation is that the Languages Commissioner work to improve the benchmark criteria for the specific objectives listed in her annual report's work plan for the following year.

Mr. Speaker, as you know, the Languages Commissioner's duties are established under Nunavut's language legislation. The standing committee has raised the concern that the development of various guidelines, policies, and parameters for implementing the law falls to the Languages Commissioner. Committee members were of the view that the Government of Nunavut should bear some responsibility for establishing the necessary criteria by which to implement aspects of Nunavut's language legislation.

The standing committee's second recommendation was that the Languages Commissioner work with representatives from the Government of Nunavut, and specifically with the Minister of Languages, to develop and establish the necessary guidelines and policies by which her office can most effectively monitor the implementation of Nunavut's language legislation.

Mr. Speaker, throughout the course of our hearings, members raised a number of questions regarding the obligations of federal agencies with respect to

Nunavut's language legislation. The standing committee remains somewhat unsure of the Languages Commissioner's position on this issue and recommends that she be more fully prepared to substantively address issues relating to the delivery of services in the territory's official languages by federal and federally-regulated entities and federally-affiliated organizations.

Mr. Speaker, language plays a very important role in the history, culture, and identity of Nunavut and its residents. While the standing committee fully recognizes that the responsibility for many aspects of language promotion and use across Nunavut does not fall under the mandate of the Languages Commissioner, members are of the view that the success of her office will be very much affected by developments in these areas.

The standing committee therefore recommends that the Languages Commissioner work closely with entities such as the *Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit* (the Inuit Language Authority), the Minister of Languages, Nunavut Arctic College, and affected government departments to address those areas which will most directly affect how legislated language service obligations are met.

Mr. Speaker, the standing committee applauds the Languages Commissioner's enthusiasm and determination to address the issue of language learning in early childhood and further appreciated the Languages Commissioner's recognition of the specific needs and concerns of elders with respect to language rights and issues across Nunavut. The standing committee's final recommendation is

that the Languages Commissioner collaborate with territorial, municipal, and regional entities to address language issues which directly affect target groups, such as young children, youth, and elders.

Mr. Speaker, language can be an emotional and sensitive topic. I would like to thank my colleagues for their informative interventions and thoughtful questions during the standing committee's hearings.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to take this opportunity to encourage Ms. Inutiq in her role as Nunavut's Languages Commissioner over the course of her term.

With that, I move that the report be received by the House and that it be entered into the record as read. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Do members agree that pursuant to Rule 91(2) that the report of the standing committee be received by the House and entered into the record as read?

Some Members: Agreed.

Speaker: There is agreement and as such, the report has been received and will be entered into the record as read.

Item 12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters. Moving on in our orders of the day. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Ms. Ugyuk.

Item 13: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 360 – 3(3): Copy of the Memorandum of Understanding Concerning the M'Clintock Channel Polar Bear Population

Ms. Ugyuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table today a copy of the 2003 Memorandum of Understanding Concerning the M'Clintock Channel Polar Bear Population. This memorandum of understanding was between the hunters and trappers organizations for the communities of Cambridge Bay, Gjoa Haven, and Taloyoak, the Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board, and the Department of Sustainable Development, which is now the Department of Environment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Minister of Environment, Minister Arreak.

Tabled Document 361 – 3(3): A Homeowner's Guide to Permafrost in Nunavut: Keep your House on Solid Ground

Hon. James Arreak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table A Homeowner's Guide to Permafrost in Nunavut titled "Keep your House on Solid Ground." Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Arreak. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Mr. Ningeongan.

Tabled Document 362 – 3(3): Excerpt from the House of Commons Hansard of May 10, 2013

Mr. Ningeongan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am very pleased to table today

an excerpt from the House of Commons *Hansard* of May 10, 2013. Members will note that a petition signed by Nunavummiut and other Canadians was presented in the House of Commons last Friday calling on the European Union's application for observer status of the Arctic Council to be rejected until such time as the seal product ban is lifted. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Minister Taptuna.

Tabled Document 363 – 3(3): The GN Long-term Comprehensive Housing and Homelessness Strategy

Tabled Document 364 – 3(3): Igluliuqatigiilauqta “Let’s build a Home together”

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

I am pleased to table the Government of Nunavut's Long-term Comprehensive Housing and Homelessness Strategy: *Igluliuqatigiilauqta, Let's build a Home together*.

Another document is the Framework of the Government of Nunavut's Long-term Comprehensive Housing and Homelessness Strategy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Tabled Document 365 – 3(3): Correspondence of May 7, 2013 from the Mittimatalik Hunters and Trappers Organization to the National Energy Board

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table today a copy of the May 7, 2013 correspondence from the Mittimatalik Hunters and Trappers Organization to the National Energy Board concerning the issue of proposed seismic testing in Baffin Bay. I encourage all members to review this correspondence with care. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Enook. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Mr. Elliott.

Tabled Document 366 – 3(3): Article from May/June 2013 Edition of Above and Beyond Magazine: Focus on Food Security

Tabled Document 367 – 3(3): Student Essay on Youth Facilities

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have two separate documents to table today.

I am pleased to table a copy of an article from the current edition of *Above and Beyond* magazine titled “Focus on Food Security.” The article was written by a young resident of Nunavut and I encourage all members to review it with care.

The second is a student essay on youth facilities across the territory. It was written by Inuujaq School student Cherita Kalluk of Arctic Bay. Mr. Speaker, I believe this young lady has a future as minister with the Government

of Nunavut. Her essay was written on “What would be your biggest priority if you were a Member of the Legislative Assembly and why?”

Mr. Speaker, I just want to read a small portion of her essay. She writes, “...it’s time to start the ‘Kids’ Centre’ where they can do whatever it takes to keep them out of trouble. I would want this for all communities so it would need a lot of funding because it would be all of Nunavut. Companies that are interested can fund it. Government departments like CLEY and Inuit organizations like QIA and other supportive companies that are interested can help fund it. The territorial government would be involved in this kind of thing because the ‘Kids’ Centre’ would be for all of Nunavut. I don’t really know how much exactly it would cost, but there would have to be investigations to be done.”

Mr. Speaker, if that doesn’t sound like a minister, I don’t know what does.

>> *Laughter*

I trust that all members will eagerly read this essay. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Item 14. Notices of Motions. Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Minister of Finance, Minister Peterson.

Item 15: Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills

Bill 64 – An Act to Amend the Liquor Act – Notice

Hon. Keith Peterson: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Wednesday, May 15, that Bill 64, *An Act to Amend the Liquor Act*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Peterson. Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 16. Motions. Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Minister of Justice, Minister Shewchuk.

Item 18: Second Reading of Bills

Bill 63 – An Act Consequential to the Government Reorganization of 2013 – Second Reading

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet South and Whale Cove, that Bill 63, *An Act Consequential to the Government Reorganization of 2013*, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this Act amends several Acts and regulations to accord with the government reorganization on April 1, 2013. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. The motion is order. To the principle of the bill. Question has been called. All those in favour. Any opposed? The motion is carried and Bill 63... . Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Pursuant to Rule 67(2), I request unanimous consent to order Bill 63 into the Committee of the Whole for consideration. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. The minister is requesting unanimous consent to order Bill 63 directly into the Committee of the Whole. Are there any nays? There are none and as such, Bill 63 is referred directly and immediately to the Committee of the Whole.

Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Item 19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bills 44, 57, 60, and 63 with Mr. Enook in the Chair.

Before we proceed with the Committee of the Whole, we will take a 22-minute break.

>> *Laughter*

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>> *House recessed at 15:14 and Committee resumed at 15:40*

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

Chairman (Mr. Enook)(interpretation): Good afternoon, Nunavummiut watching our televised proceedings or listening to the radio broadcast. Welcome. At this time, prior to commencing our committee meeting, I wish to welcome this person to Nunavummiut as well as this House, Ms. Sheila MacPherson. Welcome to the Chambers. She will be fulfilling the role of the Law Clerk for our proceedings this week.

At this time, I would like to call the committee meeting to order. In Committee of the Whole, we have the following items to deal with: Bills 44,

60, 57, and 63. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We wish to commence with the review of the following bills: Bill 44, Bill 60, Bill 57, and Bill 63. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Are we in agreement to first deal with Bill 44?

Some Members: Agreed.

Bill 44 – An Act to Amend the Justices of the Peace Act – Consideration in Committee

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. I would like to ask the Minister of Justice, Minister Shewchuk, to go to the witness table to make his opening remarks. Minister Shewchuk, welcome and you may begin your opening remarks whenever you're ready. Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I am here today to discuss *An Act to Amend the Justices of the Peace Act*.

This bill establishes a committee to make recommendations on appointments and remuneration for justices of the peace. It also amends the complaints process.

We are committed to maintaining and strengthening the independence of Nunavut's judiciary. This amendment will provide for an independent committee to recruit and hire justices of the peace.

JPs provide invaluable community services, and ensuring they are hired and compensated appropriately is in the interest of all Nunavutmiut.

The complaints process found within the *Justices of the Peace Act* is also to be amended to better identify rights and responsibilities of justices of the peace within the judicial system.

Mr. Chairman, I thank you and I would be very happy to answer any questions that you or the committee might have. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. (interpretation) Do you have any witnesses that you would like to bring to the table? Minister Shewchuk.

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

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Does the committee agree to bring in the witnesses?

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Thank you. Minister Shewchuk, for the record, please introduce your witnesses. Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. To my right, I have Dwayne Twerdin, who is the Acting Director of Court Services, and to my left, I have Philip Grassie, who is Legislative Counsel for the Department of Justice. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. Welcome. At this time, I would like to ask the chair of the standing committee if he has any opening comments. Mr. Ningeongan. (interpretation ends) Please.

Mr. Ningeongan: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As Chair of the Standing Committee on Legislation, I am pleased to make some opening comments as we begin consideration of Bill 44, *An Act to Amend the Justices of the Peace Act*.

Mr. Chairman, as you will recall, Bill 44 received second reading on October 26, 2012 and was subsequently referred to the standing committee for consideration.

The standing committee is very mindful of the important role that justices of the peace play in our territory's justice system and communities. This importance was well-articulated in a past annual report of the Nunavut Court of Justice, which noted that the individuals who are appointed as justices of the peace must be "...prepared to accept the onerous tasks required of a Justice of the Peace, including swearing-in municipal officials, conducting marriages, swearing court charges with police or by-law officers, and conducting bail and sentencing hearings...Justices of the Peace are the connection between the travelling court and the communities."

Over the past several months, the standing committee has engaged in a productive dialogue with the sponsoring minister concerning Bill 44 and matters related to the administration of the Justices of the Peace Program.

During the minister's recent appearance before the standing committee on the occasion of its clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 44, a number of amendments were passed to the bill. These included provisions to ensure that an individual must be a resident of the territory for at least 12 months prior to being eligible for appointment as a justice of the peace. This is consistent with residency requirements for voting in territorial elections. Other amendments established a residency requirement for appointment to the Justices of the Peace Appointment and Remuneration Committee in addition to amendments clarifying the appointment process for the territory's senior justice of the peace.

Mr. Chairman, given the importance of the Justices of the Peace Program, the standing committee looks forward to future annual reports of the Nunavut Court of Justice accounting in detail for the program's operations, including the activities of the Justices of the Peace Review Council and the new Justices of the Peace Appointment and Remuneration Committee.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening comments. The standing committee recommends the passage of Bill 44 to all members. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. (interpretation) Before we go to the general comments, I would like to remind all members, because it has been a very long weekend, that according to Rule 77(1), you have 10 minutes to speak, and according to Rule 77(2), subject to the discretion of the Chair, a member may speak more than

once to a matter under discussion but not until every member wishing to speak has spoken. Are there any general comments? Mr. Ningark.

Mr. Ningark: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the opening comments of the hon. minister, third paragraph, and I read, "We are committed to maintaining and strengthening the independence..." I would like to underline that term "independence." "...of Nunavut's judiciary. The amendments will provide for an independent committee." Again I would like to underline the term "independent." "... independent committee to recruit and hire justices of the peace."

Now, prior to this bill which we will amend, and I will be supporting the amendments, how did we recruit or hire justices of the peace in Nunavut? Are we following the inherited *Justices of the Peace Act* or statutes from the NWT? Again the question is: how did we recruit and hire prior to this bill, when we were hiring and recruiting justices of the peace in Nunavut before the committee was struck, I believe? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Ningark for the very important question. At present, you're right, we're adopting the NWT system of recruiting justices of the peace and that is based on recommendations from the community or hamlet and the council and the community all involved. With this amendment, what we are planning to do here is it will strengthen and give structure to the way that we

recruit justices of the peace. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. General comments. Mr. Ningark.

Mr. Ningark: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No disrespect or offence to the hamlet, but when you live in a small community, it's very hard to be unbiased. I believe this is in order that we at least have an independent committee to ensure that we hire and recruit justices of the peace no matter where you live, a small community or a larger community, where the real meaning of the justices of the peace for the community is there. It's only a comment, but I think this bill is a long time coming, especially for the smaller communities across Nunavut. Again, no disrespect or without prejudice, I say that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningark. General comments. If there are no more general comments, we will now review Bill 44. I will just follow the English version. (interpretation ends) Bill 44. Reprint. *An Act to Amend the Justices of the Peace Act*. Clause 1. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Turn the page. Page 3. Clause 4.1. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 6.1. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 8. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 9. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 10. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 11.
Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 12.
Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 13.
Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you.
Are we in agreement that Bill 44, as
amended and reprinted, is now ready for
third reading?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you.
Minister Shewchuk, the bill can now be
read for the third time. Do you have any
closing comments? Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you
very much, Mr. Chairman. I thank you
and your committee for reviewing this
very important bill. I would really like to
thank you and your committee for the
input that you had and the dialogue that
we had since last fall in regard to this
bill and enhancing it to ensure that it
serves Nunavutmiut and the citizens of
Nunavut as best it can.

I would like to thank my staff very much
for all of their hard work that went into
this bill too and we look forward to the
continued support of our justices in
Nunavut. Thank you very much, Mr.
Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister.
(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms... I
apologize, Sergeant-at-Arms. I would
first of all like to ask the minister: as we
are going to be dealing with Bill 60 and
that's under your portfolio, will you
have the same witnesses with you?
Minister Shewchuk.

Bill 60 – An Act Respecting the Nunavut Law Foundation – Consideration in Committee

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you,
Mr. Chairman. I will be switching one of
them. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you,
Minister. One of them will be staying at
the table and one is going to be
switching. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you.
Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort one of
the witnesses out and bring in another
witness for the minister. Thank you.

Minister Shewchuk, for the record,
please introduce your witnesses.
Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you,
Mr. Chairman. To my right, I have my
new witness, Deputy Minister Norman
Tarnow with the Department of Justice,
and to my left, I have Philip Grassie,
again, the Legislative Counsel for the
Department of Justice. Thank you, Mr.
Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you.
Welcome. Minister Shewchuk, you may
now proceed with your opening

comments on this bill. Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am here today to discuss *An Act Respecting the Nunavut Law Foundation*.

The Nunavut Law Foundation is established by the *Legal Professions Act*. The foundation's mandate is to use the interest that accumulates in lawyers' trust accounts to support access to justice and education projects.

This bill forgives the tabling requirement for the annual reports of the foundation for the years 2003, 2004, and 2005. It also amends the *Legal Professions Act* to expand the objects of the foundation and provides protection from liability for the board of the foundation for actions done in good faith.

These changes will give the foundation greater flexibility to more effectively use its funds to advance access to justice in Nunavut.

This bill will also allow the Nunavut Law Foundation to come up to date in its annual reporting requirements.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would be happy to answer any questions that you or your committee might have. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. Does the chair of the standing committee have any opening comments? Mr. Ningeongan.

Mr. Ningeongan: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As Chair of the Standing Committee on Legislation, I am pleased

to make some very brief opening comments as we begin consideration of Bill 60, *An Act Respecting the Nunavut Law Foundation*.

The standing committee recognizes that Bill 60 makes a number of non-contentious amendments to the *Legal Professions Act*. For example, Bill 60 expands the objects of the Nunavut Law Foundation that are provided for in section 51 of the legislation to include such matters as the awarding of bursaries and scholarships for the study of law.

The provisions concerning the tabling of FANS annual reports of the foundation are similar to those which were contained in Bill 16, which was passed by the Legislative Assembly in 2011 in respect to past annual reports of the Liquor Licensing Board.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening comments. The standing committee recommends the passage of Bill 60 to all members. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. (interpretation) Are there any general comments on the opening comments? Mr. Ningark.

Mr. Ningark: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again I would like to support the passage of this bill.

Many years ago, during the transitional years from the NWT to Nunavut, I remember our dreams and aspirations for this new government to be were to have more independence and jurisdiction in governing our people. That was one of the dreams that we had.

I remember Sheila MacPherson in the NWT legislature. In fact, I worked with her in a similar setting when I was the chairperson of the Committee of the Whole in the NWT and I am proud to be still working with her. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Are there any further general comments? If not, we will go to Bill 60. I believe you now have it in front of you. I have an English version. (interpretation ends) Bill 60. Reprint. *An Act Respecting the Nunavut Law Foundation*. (interpretation) Clause 1. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Does the committee agree that Bill 60, as amended and reprinted, can now be read for the third time?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. We have now dealt with Bill 60. Minister Shewchuk, if you have any closing remarks, I give you the floor. Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Very quickly, Mr. Chairman, I thank you and your committee for reviewing this bill and in providing your support to the important Nunavut Law Foundation that we have in our territory.

Again I thank my witnesses and my staff for preparing this bill. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Shewchuk and your officials. We will continue with the next item on our agenda, which is Bill 57. I believe we all have a copy in front of us. Minister Shewchuk, it is still your department. If you have any opening comments, you may now proceed. Minister Shewchuk.

Bill 57 – Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act, 2013 – Consideration in Committee

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Very briefly, I am here today to discuss the *Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act*.

This bill corrects inconsistencies and errors in certain enactments of Nunavut, corrects references to the Northwest Territories statutes, and repeals provisions that have ceased to have effect.

Mr. Chairman, I thank you and I would be happy to answer any questions that you or your committee might have.

Chairman: Minister Shewchuk, you might have to repeat yourself. I understand that the translation did not come through. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When the translation was being done, it was done in Inuktitut, so they didn't switch over to the English in the booth. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. (interpretation ends) Minister Shewchuk, one more time.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am here today to discuss the *Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act*.

This bill corrects inconsistencies and errors in certain enactments of Nunavut, corrects references to Northwest Territories statutes, and repeals provisions that have ceased to have effect.

Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I would be happy to answer any questions you or your committee may have.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) I think we got all of that. (interpretation) At this time, I would like to ask the chair of the standing committee if he has any opening comments. Mr. Ningeongan.

Mr. Ningeongan: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As we're moving along, we're trying to make our statements shorter and shorter, so I'll try and do the same.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As Chair of the Standing Committee on Legislation, I am pleased to make some very brief opening comments as we begin consideration of Bill 57, *Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act, 2013*.

The standing committee recognizes that Bill 57 is a non-contentious initiative that corrects inconsistencies and errors in a number of Nunavut's existing statutes.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening comments. The standing committee recommends the passage of Bill 57 to all members. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. (interpretation ends) I appreciate it. (interpretation) Thank you. Minister Shewchuk, will you have the same witnesses with you or do you need to bring in other witnesses? Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. They will remain the same. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) And it shall be. (interpretation) Are there any general comments to the opening comments? If not, we will go to the clause-by-clause review. Bill 57. Please note that there are quite a number of pages and we will be going back and forth. Just try and follow me and I will try to lead you. Bill 57. (interpretation ends) Reprint. *Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act, 2013*. (interpretation) Clause 1. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): We will now go to page 19. Page 19. Schedule A. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. We will go back to page 2. Clause 5. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): If you can go to page 22. Schedule B. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Go back. Clause 7. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 8. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 9. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 10. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Turn to page 23. Page 23. Schedule C. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. We will go back to page 4. Clause 11. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 12. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 13. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 14. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 15. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Go to page 7. We will now go to page 24. Schedule D. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Go back to page 7. Clause 16. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Page 25. Schedule E. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Go back. Clause 17. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 18. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): We will now go to page 26. Schedule F. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Clause 19. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 20. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Page 26. Schedule G. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Clause 21. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 22. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 23. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 24. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 25. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Page 27. Schedule H. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Clause 26. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Page 28. Schedule I. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Clause 27. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 28. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 29. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 30. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 31.
Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Page 31.
Schedule J. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you.
Clause 32. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Turn to page
33. Schedule K. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you.
Clause 33. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Page 35.
Schedule L. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you.
Clause 34. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 35.
Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 36.
Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 37.
Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 38.
Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Go to page
36. Schedule M. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you.
Clause 39. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Go to page
38. Schedule N. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you.
Clause 40. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 41.
Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 42.
Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 43.
Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Do members agree that Bill 57, as amended and reprinted, is now ready for third reading?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Shewchuk, now that we are done with Bill 57, do you have any closing remarks? Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I thank you and your committee for reviewing this bill and giving it your approval.

Again I would like to thank my staff with the Department of Justice, especially the legislative counsel. That took a great deal of work. As you know, as we have gone through this bill, I think there are 43 sections, but it does amend 40 Acts and three regulations and statutes in Nunavut. It's always good to see that we are revising and updating our Acts and regulations to be "Nunavutized." I thank them very much.

Again I thank you and your committee, and we will keep pursuing renewing all of our legislation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. We thank your staff. (interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms, you can now escort the witnesses out.

We will now deal with another bill and we need to get the documentation ready. We will take a five-minute break. We will come back at 25 minutes after the hour. Thank you.

>>*Committee recessed at 16:17 and resumed at 16:25*

Bill 63 – An Act Consequential to the Government Reorganization of 2013 – Consideration in Committee

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. We can proceed with our meeting. We will now be dealing with Bill 63. If you have any opening comments, Minister of Justice, you may now proceed. Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to have this opportunity to present *An Act Consequential to the Government Reorganization of 2013*.

With me here today, I will have Daniel Vandermeulen, Deputy Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, and Ann McIntosh, Acting Director of the Legislation Division, Department of Justice.

The Government of Nunavut underwent restructuring, effective April 1, 2013, which involved the transfer of several functions between departments. The reorganization also led to the establishment of the Department of Family Services, with responsibility for a number of programs and legislation previously the responsibility of other departments.

Consequential amendments are required to reflect the changes in new departmental names and to clarify the departments responsible for certain pieces of existing legislation. Many government programs are based on legislative provisions. In most cases, the relevant legislation simply refers to the "Minister responsible" for a particular Act, but a few Acts and regulations

specify which minister or department is responsible for a provision or a program.

The proposed amendments are necessary to correct references where Acts or regulations identify the Minister of Health and Social Services as responsible for those that are now the responsibility of the Minister of Family Services or the Minister of Health as a result of the reorganization. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. As you stated in your opening comments, you will have witnesses with you. Do members agree to bring in the witnesses?

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Thank you, Sergeant-at-Arms. Minister Shewchuk, for the record, please introduce your witnesses. Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my right, I have Daniel Vandermeulen, Deputy Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, and to my left, I have Ann McIntosh, Acting Director of the Legislation Division from the Department of Justice. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Welcome. (interpretation) As we proceed with the review of Bill 63, are there any general comments on the opening comments? We will now proceed with the review of Bill 63,

(interpretation ends) *An Act Consequential to the Government Reorganization of 2013.* (interpretation) Clause 1. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Turn the page. Clause 7. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Does the committee agree that Bill 63 is now ready for third reading?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Bill 63 is completed. Minister Shewchuk, if you have any closing

remarks, you now have the opportunity. Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank you and your committee for reviewing Bill 63.

I would like to thank my witnesses for being here with me today and for providing, clarifying, and supporting the new organization of the Government of Nunavut and the new departments. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Shewchuk and your officials. Thank you. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses out.

Thank you, Sergeant-at-Arms. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Ningeongan.

Mr. Ningeongan: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to move a motion to report progress. Thank you.

Chairman: You're welcome. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. There is a motion on the floor to report progress and the motion is not debatable. All those in favour of the motion, please raise your hand. Opposed. The motion is carried. I will now rise to report progress to the Speaker.

Speaker: *Qujannamiik*, Sergeant-at-Arms. We will move on in our orders of the day. Item 20. Report of the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Enook.

Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Bills 44, 60, 57, and 63 and would like to report that Bills 44, 60, 57, and 63 are ready for third reading. Also, Mr. Speaker, I move that the Report of the Committee of the Whole be concurred with. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Enook. There is a motion on the floor. Is there a seconder? Thank you, Mr. Taptuna. The motion is in order. All those in favour. Any opposed? The motion is carried.

We will move on in our orders of the day. Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. Minister of Justice, Minister Shewchuk.

Item 21: Third Reading of Bills

Bill 44 – An Act to Amend the Justices of the Peace Act – Third Reading

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet South and Whale Cove, that Bill 44, *An Act to Amend the Justices of the Peace Act*, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. The motion is in order. All those in favour. Any opposed? The motion is carried. Bill 44 has been read for the third time and is now ready for assent.

Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. Minister of Justice, Minister Shewchuk.

**Bill 57 – Miscellaneous Statutes
Amendment Act, 2013 – Third
Reading**

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet South and Whale Cove, that Bill 57, *Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act, 2013*, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. The motion is in order. All those in favour. Any opposed? The motion is carried. Bill 57 has been read for the third time and is now ready for assent.

Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. Minister of Justice, Minister Shewchuk.

**Bill 60 – An Act Respecting the
Nunavut Law Foundation – Third
Reading**

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet South and Whale Cove, that Bill 60, *An Act Respecting the Nunavut Law Foundation*, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. The motion is in order. All those in favour. Any opposed? The motion is carried. Bill 60 has been read for the third time and as a result, it is ready for assent.

Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. Minister of Justice, Minister Shewchuk.

**Bill 63 – An Act Consequential to the
Government Reorganization of
2013 – Third Reading**

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet South and Whale Cove, that Bill 63, *An Act Consequential to the Government Reorganization of 2013*, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. The motion is in order. All those in favour. Any opposed? The motion is carried. As such, Bill 63 has had third reading and is ready for assent.

Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. 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. Just a reminder that the meeting tomorrow of the Standing Committee on Legislation is cancelled.

Orders of the Day for May 14:

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
20. Report of the Committee of the
Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills
22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned until Tuesday, May 14, at 1:30 p.m.

Again, happy birthday, Mr. Innuksuk.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 16:38*

Appendix – May 13, 2013



Reports of Standing and Special Committees

**Standing Committee on
Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts**

*Report on the Review of the
2011-2012 Annual Report of the Languages Commissioner of Nunavut*

**Third Session of the Third Legislative Assembly of Nunavut
May 2013**

**Ron Elliott, MLA
Chair**

**Louis Tapardjuk, MLA
Co-Chair**

**Moses Aupaluktuq, MLA
Tagak Curley, MLA
Joe Enook, MLA
John Ningark, MLA
Johnny Ningeongan, MLA
Hezakiah Oshutapik, MLA
Allan Rumbolt, MLA
Fred Schell, MLA
Jeannie Ugyuk, MLA**

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Mr. Speaker, I have the honour today of presenting the report of the Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts on its review of the 2011-2012 Annual Report of the Languages Commissioner of Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, Ms. Sandra Inutiq is the new Languages Commissioner for Nunavut. She assumed her duties as Languages Commissioner on January 14, 2013, and is at the very beginning of her term.

The Languages Commissioner of Nunavut's duties and responsibilities are established by two pieces of Nunavut legislation: the *Official Languages Act* and the *Inuit Language Protection Act*. Nunavut's new *Official Languages Act* which was passed in this House in 2008 and, with the exception of section 12(7)(c), came into force on April 1 of this year, 2013. The *Inuit Language Protection Act* was also passed in this House in 2008, and has come into force in stages since that time.

Mr. Speaker, the Languages Commissioner has three main areas of responsibility: the investigation and resolution of concerns relating to language rights, providing guidance and support to various bodies and institutions, and the administration of her office.

As you will recall, Mr. Speaker, the Languages Commissioner's Annual Report for 2011-2012 was tabled in this House on October 26, 2012. While the Standing Committee recognized that the Languages Commissioner's Annual Report described activities conducted in 2011 and 2012 under the tenure of her predecessor, Committee Members appreciated Ms. Inutiq's willingness to update the Committee on the status of many of the Office's activities over this period as well to discuss her own plans for the future.

The Standing Committee held its hearings on the Languages Commissioner's 2011-2012 Annual Report from April 16 to 17, 2013. The hearings were open to the public and news media to observe and were broadcast on local cable television.

Mr. Speaker, last year, the Standing Committee's report on its review of the Languages Commissioner's 2010-2011 Annual Report included a number of recommendations with respect to the presentation of information within the report. The Standing Committee maintained the view that in order to gain a greater appreciation of the workload and focus of resources within the Office of the Languages Commissioner as well as the effectiveness of her role, a significantly greater level of detail regarding the activities undertaken by the Languages Commissioner's Office should be included in her annual report.

Members were pleased to note that those recommendations have been followed. The level of detail and analysis in the 2011-2012 Annual Report, specifically regarding concerns received and addressed by the Office of the Languages Commissioner, provides a very comprehensive overview of the Office's activities in this area.

With respect to the 2011-2012 Annual Report's description and analysis of investigations conducted by the Office of the Languages Commissioner, the Standing Committee also appreciated the level of information provided and looks forward to future updates in this area.

Mr. Speaker, in its report on the review of the Languages Commissioner's 2010-2011 Annual Report, the Standing Committee had recommended that the Languages Commissioner and her staff work to create benchmarks for specific objectives and to establish criteria with which to evaluate progress towards meeting those objectives as they support language rights. The Standing Committee had recommended that the Languages Commissioner report on her Office's progress towards those benchmarks in her annual reports.

While the Standing Committee notes that the Office of the Languages Commissioner's Office has made efforts to improve this aspect of the 2011-2012 Annual Report, Members were of the view that further work could be done in this area.

Standing Committee Recommendation #1:

The Standing Committee recommends that the Languages Commissioner work to improve the benchmark criteria for the specific objectives listed in her Annual Report's work plan section by establishing a baseline status for each proposed activity and indicating what measures will be used to evaluate the Office's progress towards meeting each objective in support of the Office's mandate.

Mr. Speaker, as I indicated earlier, the Languages Commissioner's duties are established under Nunavut's language legislation. For some sections of the legislation, Members raised the concern that developing the relevant guidelines, policies and parameters for implementing the law falls to the Office of the Languages Commissioner. For example, under section 3(5) of the *Inuit Language Protection Act*, and in certain circumstances, it would fall to the Languages Commissioner to determine whether or not to relieve a private sector body of the obligation to provide Inuit Language services.

While the Languages Commissioner made it clear during our hearings that her Office had informed private sector bodies which are established for purposes relating primarily to the heritage, expression, strengthening or promotion of a non-Inuit linguistic community, such as the Francophone Association of Nunavut and the French school in Iqaluit, that they could be exempt from providing Inuit Language services under this section of the Act, it appeared that her Office had

yet to establish the necessary guidelines by which to exempt other types of private sector bodies.

Committee Members were of the view that the Government of Nunavut should bear some responsibility for establishing the necessary criteria by which to implement this and other aspects of Nunavut's language legislation.

Mr. Speaker, as I also mentioned earlier, the one section of Nunavut's new *Official Languages Act* that did not come into force on April 1, 2013, was section 12 (7) (c). This section would have placed official language service obligations on third party contractors which deliver communications and services to the public on behalf of the government. At this time, official language service obligations do not apply to third party contractors. As noted by the Languages Commissioner during our hearings, a concern about whether the language rights of Nunavummiut are being respected when they are receiving services, for example, health services delivered by a third party contractor outside of Nunavut, could become quite complex to address.

Standing Committee Recommendation #2:

The Standing Committee recommends that the Languages Commissioner work with representatives from the Government of Nunavut, and specifically with the Minister of Languages, to develop and establish the necessary guidelines and policies by which her Office can most effectively monitor the implementation of Nunavut's language legislation.

Mr. Speaker, throughout the course of our hearings, Members provided a number of examples of federal agencies, federally-regulated agencies or federally-affiliated entities and raised a number of questions regarding the obligations of these entities with respect to Nunavut's language legislation. The Standing Committee remains somewhat unsure of the Languages Commissioner's position on this issue.

Standing Committee Recommendation #3:

The Standing Committee recommends that the Office of the Languages Commissioner be more fully prepared to substantively address issues relating to the delivery of services in the territory's official languages by federal and federally-regulated entities and federally-affiliated organizations.

Mr. Speaker, language plays a very important role in the history, culture, and identity of Nunavut and its residents. The Standing Committee membership itself includes speakers of no less than nine different dialects of the Inuit language, spanning all three regions of the territory. Committee Members had strong but diverse views on the role that Nunavut's language legislation should play with respect to the use of different dialects. The issue of standardization, especially with respect to terminology and orthography, was also addressed in this context.

Mr. Speaker, the Standing Committee firmly supports the protection and promotion of the Inuit language and its use as the working language of the Government of Nunavut. The Committee discussed the importance of training and certifying interpreter-translators, teachers and education specialists as well as ensuring adequate levels of language competency to reach this goal.

While the Standing Committee fully recognizes that the responsibility for many aspects of language promotion and use across Nunavut does not fall under the mandate of the Languages Commissioner, Members are of the view that the success of her Office will be very much affected by developments in these areas. The Standing Committee therefore encourages the Languages Commissioner to continue her review of language legislation in other jurisdictions, such as our neighbouring Greenland which has a much longer history of protecting and reinforcing Inuit language rights. The Committee further encourages the Languages Commissioner to review factors relating to language loss which is a growing concern in some areas of Nunavut.

Standing Committee Recommendation #4:

The Standing Committee recommends that the Languages Commissioner work closely with entities such as the Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit, the Inuit Language Authority, the Minister of Languages, Nunavut Arctic College, and affected government departments to address those areas which will most directly affect how legislated language service obligations are met.

Mr. Speaker, the Standing Committee applauds the Languages Commissioner's enthusiasm and determination to address the issue of language learning in early childhood. While Members agree that the need for action in this area is critical, it was suggested that the Languages Commissioner ensure that her activities fall within her mandate and complement and support those undertaken by entities such as District Education Authorities and the Department of Education.

The Standing Committee further appreciated the Languages Commissioner's recognition of the specific needs and concerns of Elders with respect to language rights and issues across Nunavut.

Standing Committee Recommendation #5:

The Standing Committee recommends that the Languages Commissioner collaborate with territorial, municipal and regional entities to address language issues which directly affect target groups such as young children, youth and Elders.

Mr. Speaker, that concludes the Standing Committee's report. I move that the report of the Standing Committee be received by the House.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.