



Nunavut Canada

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NUNAVUT

3rd Session

3rd Assembly

HANSARD

Official Report

DAY 84

Thursday, May 16, 2013

Pages 4621 – 4662

Iqaluit

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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Speaker

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(Iqaluit Centre)

Hon. Eva Aariak

(Iqaluit East)

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

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(Uqqummiut)

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

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(Baker Lake)

Tagak Curley

(Rankin Inlet North)

Hon. Monica Ell

(Iqaluit West)

*Minister of Family Services; Minister
responsible for Homelessness; Minister
responsible for the Qulliq Energy
Corporation; Minister responsible for
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Joe Enook

(Tununiq)

Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole

Hon. Lorne Kusugak

(Rankin Inlet South – Whale Cove)

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Committee of the Whole*

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(Pangnirtung)

Hon. Keith Peterson

(Cambridge Bay)

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Financial Management Board; Minister
of Health*

Allan Rumbolt

(Hudson Bay)

Hon. Fred Schell

(South Baffin)

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk

(Arviat)

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

Louis Tapardjuk

(Amittuq)

*Deputy Chair, Committee of the
Whole*

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(Kugluktuk)

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Transportation; Minister of
Energy; Minister responsible for the
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Iqaluit, Nunavut
Thursday, May 16, 2013

Members Present:

Honourable Eva Aariak, 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, Mr. Louis Tapardjuk, Honourable Peter Taptuna, Honourable Hunter Tootoo, Ms. Jeannie Ugyuk.

>>House commenced at 13:30

Item 1: Opening Prayer

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

>>Prayer

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Elliott. (interpretation ends) Before we continue with the orders of the day, Mr. Clerk, can you ascertain if the Commissioner of Nunavut is prepared to enter the Chamber and give assent to bills?

Assent to Bills

Commissioner Edna Elias (interpretation): Members of the Legislative Assembly, please be seated. Even though the meeting was short, you have completed the items on your agenda. As Commissioner of Nunavut, I am honoured to give assent to the following bills:

- (interpretation ends) Bill [44], *An Act to Amend the Justices of the Peace Act*;
- Bill 51, *An Act to Amend the Child and Family Services Act*;
- Bill 52, *An Act to Amend the Nunavut Teachers Association Act*;
- Bill 57, *Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act, 2013*;
- Bill 59, *Collaboration for Poverty Reduction Act*;
- Bill 60, *An Act Respecting the Nunavut Law Foundation*;
- Bill 61, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 2, 2013-2014*;
- Bill 62, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 1, 2013-2014*;
- Bill 63, *An Act Consequential to the Government Reorganization of 2013*;
- Bill 65, *An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act*; and
- Bill 67, *An Act to Amend the Integrity Act*.

Although winter's snow is slowly melting away, some of the yards are flooding, as I noticed. The warmth and light of summer is approaching us. I saw my first flock of geese yesterday. It just brings extra life to the community and everybody is out on the land. My heart is at home with my family and I am glad to say that I'm joining them this weekend.

On a sad note, I am sad to say that this is the last assent ceremony that my ADC Captain Fergusson is accompanying me. He is being transferred to Yellowknife in July to work with the Canadian Ranger Patrol Group. So I would like to take this time to thank you very much for your professionalism and dedication to the honorary role of ADC.

>>Applause

However, with one loss, I gain more. I am pleased to announce that an ADC orientation and training will be happening on June 15. Four new recruits will participate, two of whom have joined us today in the Gallery today.

I am happy to introduce Corporal Yvonne Niego of the RCMP “V” Division and Captain Raymond Rioux of Joint Task Force North, who will be replacing Captain Fergusson.

>>Applause

The two others who couldn't be here with us today will be Staff Sergeant Monty LeComte and Corporal David Aglukark, both with the RCMP “V” Division.

Thanks to the longest-serving ADC, Adam Chubbs, who is also the Commanding Officer of the 795 Air Cadet Squadron here in Iqaluit, for ensuring that an orientation and training package is being formalized and developed.

On that note, as we conclude our work here, I'm sure many of you are going to enjoy the brief but longer summer break, and perhaps some of you will be sitting over a fishing hole or snow goose blind

with your shotgun at hand. Many of you may be pondering whether you are going to seek re-election or the future at hand, but all in all, I wish you all a safe and happy recess and summer break. (interpretation) Thank you.

>>Applause

Speaker: Good afternoon again, members. 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 300 – 3(3): Minister Absent from House

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Good day, Nunavummiut. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I would like to advise my colleagues that Mr. Shewchuk, Minister of Nunavut Arctic College, is currently attending the graduation ceremonies and he will be in the House as soon as the ceremonies are complete. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Minister's Statement 301 – 3(3): NHC's Use of Supply, Ship, and Erect Tenders

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, colleagues, Kuglukturmiut, and Nunavummiut. Mr. Speaker, in keeping with the lessons learned from the Nunavut Housing Trust, the Nunavut Housing Corporation has changed its contracting methods to

maximize the amount of housing it can deliver and to focus on meeting the needs of Nunavummiut. To this end, the Nunavut Housing Corporation is concentrating on multi-unit construction rather than single family detached houses, and on supply, ship, and erect tenders rather than separating material and labour components.

The Nunavut Housing Corporation will be using these supply, ship, and erect contracts for all new construction in the territory, including construction coming from the recently announced \$100 million federal funding. Mr. Speaker, this method is standard for most public sector construction, and I am pleased to say that it will result in significant cost savings, as well as more efficient and faster construction of public housing units to benefit Nunavummiut.

Based on Nunavut Housing Corporation experience, the carrying costs by contractors are not seen to be onerous. The method of paying for material only as it is incorporated into the work is standard industry practice to mitigate risk and has been estimated to not add significantly to the costs of construction. In fact, calculated maximum carrying costs are far less than the Nunavut Housing Corporation has experienced in resupplying material due to damages and other loss.

Mr. Speaker, I am confident that employing this method of contracting for Nunavut Housing Corporation construction contracts will have a positive impact for all Nunavummiut and will allow the Nunavut Housing Corporation to efficiently and effectively increase the public housing stock that

this territory so greatly needs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Minister responsible for the Department of Education, Minister Aariak.

Minister's Statement 302 – 3(3): Mining Matters

Hon. Eva Aariak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to inform my colleagues about an exciting new curricular resource for use in all Nunavut schools. *Mining Matters* provides learning opportunities that will encourage Nunavut youth to pursue skilled trades and professional careers in the mining industry.

Mr. Speaker, this resource is a result of the Government of Nunavut-Agnico-Eagle Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation that was signed in April 2012. This cooperation supports resource sharing and expertise in the development and delivery of mines and trades-related curriculum and career development activities. Most importantly, it has helped our two organizations enhance hands-on, trades-related learning opportunities for students in the Kivalliq region. The shared goal is to increase the number of students in the Kivalliq region who will be able to successfully transition from high school to trades and mining-related careers.

The Department of Education's partnership with Agnico-Eagle has brought stimulating learning and outreach opportunities to students in the

Kivalliq region and excellent curriculum resource materials to their teachers.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to providing *Mining Matters* to all our schools, giving our students outstanding learning material on earth sciences and helping them stimulate their interest in careers in the mining industry. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Minister's Statement 303 – 3(3):
Baffin Island Caribou**

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon to the people of Nunavut. Mr. Speaker, Inuit knowledge and recent scientific information indicate that the number of caribou on Baffin Island is very low. Results from a 2012 aerial survey indicate that there are between 1,000 and 2,000 caribou in the South Baffin area, which represents a decline of 95 percent since the 1990s.

These scientific results are consistent with social science research and community consultations conducted in all 10 Baffin Island communities. Harvesters, elders, and community members have told us that caribou are becoming increasingly difficult to find. They have also expressed concerns about the negative impacts of land use and other factors on caribou and their habitat.

Mr. Speaker, caribou are an extremely valuable resource to Nunavummiut and an important part of the regional ecosystem. My department is committed to working with all co-management partners to promote the recovery of caribou on Baffin Island. The Department of Environment, the Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board, and NTI are currently planning a workshop scheduled for this summer to engage HTO representatives, elders, and wildlife co-management representatives in brainstorming both short- and long-term solutions to the conservation concern.

Through this workshop, we will take lessons learned from other areas, along with science and Inuit knowledge about managing wildlife in times of scarcity, to find a positive way forward. In the meantime, I urge HTO representatives to work with their communities to share knowledge and take any immediate action that may be appropriate to ensure the future sustainability of Baffin Island caribou. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Minister's Statement 304 – 3(3):
Tungasaiji: A Tourism Strategy
for Nunavut**

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The tourism industry is an essential pillar in the development of our territorial economy. It has the potential to be a valuable source of employment and training for Nunavummiut. Tourism

also offers us a way to celebrate our rich cultural heritage and share it with the world.

Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time, I will table *Tunngasaiji: A Tourism Strategy for Nunavummiut*. This strategy is the result of years of stakeholder and community consultations. It is a partnership between the Government of Nunavut, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, Nunavut Tourism, and other important stakeholders.

A thriving tourism sector can only be achieved through commitment by all stakeholders to long-term mutual support, participation, and collaboration. Mr. Speaker, the strategy uses a five-year action plan to outline what each organization will do to ensure Nunavut's tourism industry grows.

Mr. Speaker, I'm excited about the future of tourism in Nunavut, but I also understand the challenges tourism businesses face. Our vision is for a successful tourism sector built on a foundation of quality products and services, supported by training and education, resources for marketing and promotion, and a supportive, effective framework of legislation and regulation.

This strategy marks the beginning of a new era for tourism in Nunavut. We are a world-class tourism destination and, guided by the document, *A Tourism Strategy for Nunavummiut*, we will realize our potential to the greatest possible benefit of our land and our people. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Minister's Statement 305 – 3(3): Iqaluit Smart Grid Project

Hon. Monica Ell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to update Nunavummiut on a new initiative by the Qulliq Energy Corporation (QEC) in Iqaluit.

Last year, QEC applied for funding from NRCan under the ecoEnergy Innovation Initiative, a program created to invest in new clean energy technologies that will create jobs, generate economic opportunities, and help protect the environment. I'm pleased to acknowledge the recent announcement from the federal Government of Canada investing \$1,662,154 to build the first smart grid system in the Arctic here in Iqaluit.

Mr. Speaker, not only will this project improve the reliability by reducing the frequency of power outages, the duration of power outages, and the number of customers experiencing power outages; it will assist in improving the efficiency of diesel generation by 1 to 2 percent. Another benefit is this will enable automatic meter reading of QEC customers in Iqaluit, which is 27 percent of the total customers in Nunavut. This project is scheduled to be completed in 2015.

Mr. Speaker, the city of Iqaluit is constantly experiencing increases in population, particularly with youth migrating from other communities for education and employment prospects.

Technological advancement is necessary for the reliability of electricity supply and to inspire the youth for education in those areas. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Ell. Item 2. Ministers Statements. We will move on in our orders of the day. Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Rumbolt.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 511 – 3(3): Disappointment with Proposed Community Allocation of New Public Housing Units

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to express my deep disappointment with the government's proposed community allocation for new public housing units.

Mr. Speaker, yesterday's announcement by the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation that 13 of the 25 communities will not see any new public housing units constructed from the \$100 million in recently announced federal funding was both shocking and disappointing.

Mr. Speaker, I want to make it very clear that I fully recognize that the 12 communities which will receive new public housing units certainly need support. I don't begrudge any community new housing. However, Mr. Speaker, the 13 communities that are not receiving new public housing units are being left out and the government has not provided a clear explanation for this decision.

Mr. Speaker, we all recognize that there is an urgent need for new public housing units in all of our communities. One thing that I do agree with in the minister of housing's statement of yesterday is that Nunavut is facing a housing crisis. Mr. Speaker, Sanikiluaq is also facing a housing crisis. So is Pond Inlet. So is Arctic Bay. So is Cape Dorset. I could name all the communities in Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, although the delivery of the Nunavut Housing Trust was far from perfect, the fact that every community received some assistance, even if it was just a few new units, demonstrated to the public that the cabinet was committed to the well-being of all communities.

Mr. Speaker, the Minister's Statement of yesterday did indicate that the proposed community list is just a "preliminary" list. Mr. Speaker, there is still time for the government to take a second look at this list [with] a view to giving hope to all of our communities. However, this may be difficult now that the minister stated where the units will be placed.

Mr. Speaker, I am absolutely confident that there will be more than a few questions for the minister today on this issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Member's Statement 512 – 3(3): Not running in the Next Territorial Election

Mr. Ningark: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It seems like only yesterday when we were getting sworn in to this House. Today, we are getting ready for the final

sitting of the Third Assembly. I have the privilege of knowing every member and their family from this House.

Before the last territorial election, someone asked to me, “We thought you weren’t running again.” This time when someone asks me that same question, I’ll say, “My wife has endorsed my decision not to run.” That’s a big difference, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I have been a member of the major league for many good years. I don’t mean the Boston Bruins or the Montreal Canadiens, but I mean the MLA Sharks. It has been a privilege.

Mr. Speaker, I am stepping aside in the fall for someone younger and a more energetic individual to run in the territorial election. Like I said before, I had good many years doing that.

Perhaps, after the election, Mr. Speaker, I’m not just going to lie down and go to sleep and never wake up again. That’s not my plan. What I plan to do is that I’ll still be prowling out there looking for a good meal, perhaps in a more sympathetic nature. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Best of luck. I’m sure you will have no problems in whatever you look at doing instead of napping after next fall.

Item 3. Members’ Statements. Member for Cambridge Bay, Mr. Peterson.

Member’s Statement 513 – 3(3): 12 Cambridge Bay Elders Receive Teaching Certificates

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to acknowledge a very special group of elders in Cambridge Bay.

Mr. Speaker, in a recent ceremony hosted by the Ikaluktutiak District Education Authority, 12 elders received their certificates as master teachers and will be considered as members of the school education staff. Each elder is now certified as experts in their specific areas to assist in the instruction in the education program.

Mr. Speaker, the elders are:

Annie Atighioyak
Mary Avalak
Amy Kamooyak
Lena Kamooyak
Mary Kaniak
Mary Kilaodluk
Noah Kuptana
Mabel Etegik
Margaret Okhina
Susie Koaha
Susie Maniyogina, and
Matthew Nakashook.

Mr. Speaker, each elder has a different set of skills, knowledge, and abilities relating to Inuit culture and traditions. Mr. Speaker, some of their areas of expertise are:

- Traditional games and celebrations, storytelling, and oral traditions
- Assistance with biology by advising on traditional and medicinal uses of plants, environment issues, and weather

- Art, tool-making, throat singing, and drum dancing
- Fishing, hunting, weir building, and igloo building
- Traditional parenting and governance, and
- Providing assistance and counselling to students

Mr. Speaker, at the ceremony, the elders were very proud to receive their certificates in front of their families and members of the community. I was very privileged and honoured to be invited to participate in their special evening.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all Members of the House to join me in congratulating the elders on receiving their master teacher certificates and wishing them well in the years ahead when they work in the schools with our young people. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Peterson. I congratulate the elders as well.

Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. Elliott.

**Member's Statement 514 – 3(3):
Happy Long Weekend to
Constituents**

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With this, our final sitting day of the spring sitting, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of my constituents for their continued support.

It is hard to believe that it has been over four years that we have been working in this House towards realizing the *Tamapta* Mandate.

Mr. Speaker, I wish all of my constituents a very safe and happy long weekend as each of the three High Arctic communities head out on the land to participate in fishing derbies.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to heading home to visit with everyone. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Natilik, Ms. Ugyuk.

**Member's Statement 515 – 3(3):
Appreciation for New Public
Housing Funding**

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say "good day" to the people of Natilik. Firstly, I wish to congratulate the high school graduates who will be graduating tonight at a ceremony in Taloyoak.

However, I rise today to speak to the issue of housing because we may be focusing it. I want to speak about housing briefly and thank our federal government for providing the Nunavut government with \$100 million specifically for housing for Nunavummiut. Yes, I do understand that a process was followed with the identified communities, but not all communities were included and only the communities that were allocated units will be happy. That is what Natilik people would comment about this issue.

When I first became a Member of the Legislative Assembly in 2010, we were informed that the Nunavut Housing Corporation was in deficit with a \$15

million shortfall and cuts would have to be made. Also, during last fall's session, I recall hearing that we would be looking at a similar amount that would have to be cut back.

I am homesick. I want to state that I am quite unhappy and to complain that it is very depressing to have to make such a large cutback in government funding. I actually felt like hiding and wondered how I could deal with this when deliberating about these cutbacks. However, when we run in elections for MLA positions, we agree to represent our people, even if the going is rough or during more pleasant times, and to be involved with the process.

I really wanted to voice my gratitude to the federal government for this funding allocated to our government and for including Taloyoak. I can also relay a story of an actual example. When the housing units being constructed in Taloyoak were completed just prior to Christmas, the new tenants were able to move into these units who were mainly young people. When they were on the radio to express their appreciation, apparently one tenant stated that they had actually cried when they were told that they had been allocated a unit.

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

Speaker: Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. The member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude her statement. Are there any nays? There being none. Please proceed, Ms. Ugyuk.

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): As per my earlier statement, this young person who

had been waiting for many years on the waiting list is no longer quite so young now. However, when this person was informed about their selection, they started to cry, overwhelmed by gratefulness for finally receiving housing. That is how much Nunavummiut suffer due to the extreme housing shortages in our communities.

Taloyoak was named as one of the communities allocated ten units when the housing minister made the announcement last week. Taloyoak residents are now eagerly anticipating these new units. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Member's Statement 516 – 3(3):
Support for Canadian Guide Dog
Program**

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I send my regards to the residents of Iqaluit West. I wish to congratulate the graduates at Arctic College, particularly the graduates of the fur production program. I am especially proud of the instructor of the program, Meeka Kilabuk.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to share an important event that will be taking place on May 26 here in Iqaluit. The Nunavummi Disabilities Makinnasuaqtiit Society and the Iqaluit Humane Society are hosting an event to help support the Canadian Guide Dogs for the Blind.

As you may have heard not too long ago, Noah Papatsie from Iqaluit is probably

the first Nunavummiuq to receive a guide dog. Noah's dog, as you know, has helped him gain his independence and mobility. Noah is a board member of the Nunavummi Disabilities Makinnasuaqtiit Society.

Teamed up with the humane society, they are inviting everyone to join the Walk, Wag & Roll and celebrate Access Awareness Week. This event starts at one o'clock on May 26 at the Francophone Centre and we will walk, wag, and roll through Iqaluit to raise awareness of issues that face people with disabilities.

I urge everyone to please join us and show your support to this inspiring and important cause, and I will be walking with my dog Bernie. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, Ms. Ell. Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Rankin Inlet South and Whale Cove, Mr. Kusugak.

**Member's Statement 517 – 3(3):
Commissioner's Awards in Rankin
Inlet**

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day to all the residents of Rankin Inlet. I am extremely pleased to be returning home tomorrow after our session ends today.

Firstly, I want to express my thanks to the wonderful people of Iqaluit, as they are always hospitable to us, and as ministers, we reside in Iqaluit for the entire winter. We are shown great

hospitality as a family, so I thank Iqalummiut. I say "hello" to Ipkanerk.

Mr. Speaker, the people of Rankin Inlet are in my thoughts as they are currently searching for several people. There is a search party for a person from Whale Cove, an elder from Baker Lake, and now a person from Rankin Inlet. They are in our thoughts and we wish them success.

In Rankin Inlet, the Commissioner held a recognition awards ceremony that I wanted to speak to. On May 7, there were several residents honoured in Rankin Inlet and I would like to report on these people and their stories.

(interpretation ends) Mary-Lou Angidlik has won the Commissioner's Award for Youth Achievement in Rankin Inlet on May 7. She has competed in the Canada-wide science fair twice so far and she was recognized for her efforts in learning science. Her projects on medical plans and diabetes were very well researched and thorough. She is a very good example for youth that learning never ends and that putting efforts into your studies or work is very rewarding.

(interpretation) While we are speaking of celebratory matters, there were also bravery awards given to Joseph Jr. Kaludjak, Tiriganiaq's son. The year prior during Christmas season, Linda Misheralak was walking her dog on the sea ice and she didn't notice a bear approaching her. When she started to run away from the bear, Joseph Jr. Kaludjak ensured her safety by barring the bear and offering himself instead. We are very grateful to him for that and he has now been recognized for his actions.

There were also several other people. Kyra Nokkitok and Darlene Nilaulak were also recognized.

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

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, my colleagues, for your approval.

As I was stating, Kyra Nokkitok and Darlene Nilaulak were also recognized for their bravery. In July 2010, there was a dinghy that flipped over holding four men and these two ladies were able to bring them to shore. They were recognized for their efforts.

Further, Marvin Dion and Pelagie Nokkitok came across a person who couldn't breathe in Rankin Inlet, in May 2012, where they resuscitated the person before the ambulance arrived. These two individuals were recognized for their efforts.

Finally, another person who was recognized but has since passed on was Charles Schweder. His granddaughter Nina Schweder received the award on behalf of the family. Charles Schweder was instrumental in assisting many families in the 1950s, the Ahiarmiut clan members, when they were undergoing a famine episode.

These people were recognized for their efforts to assist their fellow citizens. I

would like to congratulate them and I want my colleagues to share in congratulating them. There are still many people in our territory that will be recognized for their efforts to assist their fellow citizens and it is gratifying to know they are around. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Kusugak. Item 3. Members' Statements. Member Baker Lake, Mr. Aupaluktuq.

**Member's Statement 518 – 3(3):
Appreciation to Constituents of
Baker Lake**

Mr. Aupaluktuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to send my regards to the residents of Baker Lake. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as we conclude our session and we will be returning home in time for spring. I am very happy that I will be able to go home soon.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to thank my fellow residents of Baker Lake, those who write, call, or visit me asking for assistance or who provide direction on an issue. As Members of this Legislative Assembly, we are representing Nunavummiut. I want to express to my fellow Baker Lake residents that I sometimes need direction by and the organizations in Baker Lake. This is my foundation and I tried to identify the needs that they have referred to my attention.

Mr. Speaker, our job is to represent our constituents. I have learned a great deal on how to properly represent my constituents and what I still need to

learn. To my Constituency Assistant, Michael Mautaritnaaq, I am indebted and thank him profusely for identifying the issues and the places I need to be at, and when I had been invited to attend to meetings. They usually just call Michael and he is very sociable to our residents, especially to the youth and students who are graduating. They have also learned how to utilize the Legislative Assembly in our community. They remind us of who we represent as they watch the daily proceedings.

I thank the elders very much for advising me on issues. Quite a few elders have visited and called our office. They are very helpful in their advice.

I thank all Baker Lake residents for their assistance. Have a great spring. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Member's Statement 519 – 3(3):
Congratulations to Two
Constituents**

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We're going to take a summer break. I would like to thank my Constituency Assistant, Adamie Itorcheak, who works very hard. I wish my constituents a really great spring, especially to get a nice rest for those who are employed, as we will be resuming again in the fall.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize two of my constituents.

Many will know Johnny Issaluk as an athlete and expert in traditional Inuit games, who has competed, performed, and taught Inuit games across the country.

Mr. Speaker, Johnny Issaluk can now add author to his long list of accomplishments. Johnny has written a book which was recently published by Inhabit Media called "Games of Survival: Traditional Inuit Games for Elementary Students." With clear written instructions and beautiful photos taken by Nunavut's Ed Maruyama, it will help children and youth to test their physical fitness and, at the same time, learn and appreciate Nunavut's unique culture.

Mr. Speaker, the second constituent I would like to recognize is this year's Honorary Toonik, Laakkuluk Williamson-Bathory. The tradition of choosing an Honorary Toonik dates way back to 1965 and has included former Prime Ministers, Governor Generals, Commissioners, elders, and many of our members of the community. The honour goes to an individual who is considered to be an outstanding volunteer, who demonstrates exceptional community spirit.

Laakkuluk is no stranger to Iqaluit. She is known for her Greenlandic mask dancing, her love of the arts, and an active community member. She also chaired the Qaggiavuut Society for a while for Nunavut Performing Arts.

Mr. Speaker, I invite all the members to join me in congratulating both Johnny Issaluk and Laakkuluk Williamson-Bathory. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, Ms. Aariak. Item 3. Members' Statements. We will move on in our orders of the day. Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Minister Aariak.

Item 4: Returns to Oral Questions

Return to Oral Question 626 – 3(3): Status of Pond Inlet Resource Centre

Hon. Eva Aariak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) I have a Return to Oral Question 626 – 3(3), asked by the Member for Tununiq on May 10, 2013, concerning the status of the Pond Inlet Resource Centre.

Mr. Speaker, the return is quite detailed, so I ask that it be entered into the record as read.

Question 1:

Can the minister provide a clear update on the status of the Media and Inuktitut Resource Centre in Pond Inlet?

Response:

Media and Inuktitut resource services continue to be a valuable resource for the Department of Education. Many books in the Inuit languages in Nunavut schools and libraries today are the result of the work of these centres.

As for the staffing, two positions in the resource centre in Pond Inlet are currently vacant. An unsuccessful competition for similar jobs in Iqaluit and Arviat was held in early 2012. Lack of suitable candidates for this competition indicated the need to make

some changes in the kind of work the positions do.

The new scope of work of this section has required a change to current job descriptions that will result in new competitions for all vacant positions, including the ones in Pond Inlet, in the fall of 2013. The organizational structure is also being updated to ensure positions better reflect the skills, knowledge, and abilities needed to fulfill the increased scope of work and meet expanded departmental objectives.

Question 2:

Are you ensuring that the resource centre will not be closed down in Pond Inlet?

Response:

There are no plans to close down the resource centre and every effort will be taken to ensure that it continues to be a success.

Originally established between 1985 and 1989 in the eastern Arctic by Inuit teachers to develop storybooks and readers in the Inuit language, the mandate and scope of work has evolved considerably from its original function.

The media and Inuktitut resource services section has primary responsibility for the design, publication, and distribution of all divisional documents, such as handbooks and foundation documents, curriculum, teaching resources, and student learning materials to support teaching and learning in Nunavut schools from kindergarten through to grade 12, in the Inuit language and English. As a result of this broad scope of work, the need for qualified media coordinators in the Inuit language continues to be a high priority.

While job descriptions for vacant positions will be rewritten, the two positions will remain in Pond Inlet.

Question 3:

I thank the minister for indicating that she is unaware of any learning centres that will be closing down. For that reason, when do you plan to fill the jobs that have been vacant for a very long time?

Response:

It is anticipated that job descriptions will be ready for evaluation at the end of June 2013. Once this process is complete, positions will go out for competition (likely early fall 2013). The priority is to staff positions in Pond Inlet, Kugluktuk, and Arviat, depending on availability of housing in each community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Madam Premier. The return to oral question will be entered into the record.

Moving on in our orders of the day. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Minister Taptuna.

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's not too often that I get to do this. I have been here for almost five years and I still can count them on one hand. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker, later on this afternoon, I'm going to be tabling *Tunngasaiji*, Nunavut's Tourism Strategy. I want to recognize the folks behind me who did a lot of work. There are some folks from NTI who aren't here, but I want to

recognize the folks who put a lot of effort, time, meetings, and collaboration to get the strategy ready for Nunavummiut. Behind me are:

Colleen Dupuis
Cheri Kemp-Long
David Monteith, and
Karen Kabloona.

I want to thank these folks for all their hard work and effort into making the document that Nunavummiut desperately need when it comes to tourism. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Congratulations and welcome to the Gallery. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Schell.

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to welcome our Senator, Dennis Patterson, in the Gallery here. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Schell. Welcome to the Gallery, Mr. Patterson. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. We will move on in our orders of the day. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Tununiq, Mr. Enook.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 666 – 3(3): New Public Housing Construction

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, people of Pond Inlet. My thoughts are with the family members who have just been left

behind by a loved one. You are in our thoughts.

Mr. Speaker, yesterday, the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation made an announcement during his Minister's Statement about the public housing units to be constructed in the future. Within his statement, Mr. Speaker, he alluded to the numerous factors that are needed to be considered when they are looking to allocate public housing units, such as the need for extra capacity in power generation, fuel tanks, water reservoirs, lot availability, and so on, obviously.

Mr. Speaker, the announcement from the Nunavut Housing Corporation included details on how many people wanted housing and the people on the housing waiting list, so I perused the figures. In Pond Inlet, the figures are higher than quite a few other communities. As of yesterday, there were 61 people on the housing waiting list, yet Pond Inlet won't receive even a single unit. With these 61 people currently on the waiting list, these numbers are higher than several other community waiting lists.

Mr. Speaker, I want to ask this question. Some of the factors included for the decision on the communities are limited water reservoir capacity or resources and lacking housing lots. Which of these factors caused the community of Pond Inlet to miss out on this new allocation? Further, Mr. Speaker, how many other communities were also not allocated the housing units due to their limitations in these areas? I'm referring to the communities that are not on that list. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If I understand the question correctly, I know of one community that wasn't allocated any units due to the lack of power generating capacity. That's one community, I understand, in the Baffin region.

Again, the allocation method used was approved by the Nunavut Housing Corporation board. As you will recall, Mr. Speaker, in the past, with all the difficulties that the Nunavut Housing Corporation had in over-expenditures, this House had requested that a board be formed for the Nunavut Housing Corporation. That's exactly what has happened in the past. They developed a methodology there for allocating units.

One of the practices, of course, that are constant is that if the community is not capable of any more infrastructures, even for housing, due to the lack of power generating capacity, that's a problem that we all face in Nunavut. If a community is maxed out in their power generating capacity, there's no way any infrastructure or units can go into a certain community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Also contained within the Minister's Statement yesterday was his announcement that there were 210 units that would be constructed in 12 communities. When these communities were being picked, who made the

decision on which community would get housing, including the number of units that each community would receive?

Was it solely the decision of the Nunavut Housing Corporation board and was this decision final? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Nunavut Housing Corporation was tasked to find a methodology that was the fairest, transparent, and fairest to all communities in Nunavut, and that's the method that was used. They did make a draft allocation list that went to the cabinet that explained to my colleagues in cabinet that this draft list of allocation was done based on needs, no political interference or anything else otherwise. It was strictly based on needs.

If there is more funding from the federal government, absolutely, we will look into getting more units for the communities. Mr. Speaker, we've got to understand that this money, \$100 million, does not include Government of Nunavut money. It is all federal money. The agreement is going to be done up from the federal government through the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation to this government.

As members can recall, on March 31, the \$100 million was announced for public units to be constructed in Nunavut. Along with the announcement, the federal government indicated 250 units. We're not going to get to that amount, but we're going to do our best to get to that number. We have to find a way to

maximize the amount of units for Nunavummiut as much as possible. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Enook: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. *Qujannamiik*, hon. member. (interpretation) Again, in the Minister's Statement of yesterday and as he just indicated again, the Nunavut Housing Corporation made the preliminary list. My question is: were these recommendations that came from the Nunavut Housing Corporation changed by the cabinet or were they changed by the Financial Management Board? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Nunavut Housing Corporation board found the methodology, the fairest, most transparent, accountable method of allocating units. That method was used; they devised that method. It went to the housing corporation and then to cabinet. I got cabinet meetings and FMB meetings that are confidential, but I've got to say that when I showed the list initially to my cabinet colleagues, they agreed with it without hesitation. There was no political interference.

It's all based on needs. The way we're going to allocate the units is in the fairest, transparent, and open way possible because we've got to maximize the number of total units that are going out there to benefit Nunavummiut who

desperately need housing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 667 – 3(3): New Public Housing Construction

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are also for the minister of the housing corporation.

The Minister's Statement yesterday indicated that the recently announced federal funding will be used to construct new public housing units in 12 Nunavut communities. This means that 13 Nunavut communities will not receive new public housing units. What message does the government have for the residents of those communities that will not receive any new public housing units? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that excellent question. Mr. Speaker, again I've got to say that this money comes directly from the federal government and we do have to abide by the agreement that they're going to be putting through the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation. We intend to maximize the number of units built in Nunavut.

We're not going to go through the fiasco that was started in 2006. I'm not even going to go there and talk about it. We do have to be accountable to the funders and they want the most impact for the

investment that they're making to our government and Nunavummiut. That's exactly why we intend to do that. We want to maximize the number of units going into Nunavut, the number of units that are being constructed for Nunavummiut families. I've got to say that if we do not do that, the message to our funders and investors is not going to be very good.

This government does not want to risk waiting two, three, four, or five extra years to get extra funding to build more units in Nunavut that Nunavummiut desperately need. So we do have to weigh the options of how, down the line, we're going to procure more money from the feds to build more housing for Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for his response. Also, the Minister's Statement of yesterday described the community allocation of new public housing units as a "preliminary" list that is "subject to change." Can the minister clearly indicate what factors the Nunavut Housing Corporation will take into account when deciding whether or not to make changes to the list? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. Mr. Speaker, doing construction work up in the north is always a challenge. We do have to work

with other departments and the Qulliq Energy Corporation to make sure that all the infrastructure, power lines, and power poles are in place before construction starts.

We've got to make sure that the land is available at these locations that we have selected, although preliminary discussions have indicated that these are in preparation now to make sure that the second fiscal year of the \$70 million is going to be strictly construction for the vast majority of the units that are going to be built.

As the member is well aware, disregarding any other things that may happen out there, there is the shipping time, shipping season, and mobilizing contractors throughout the vast territory is always a challenge. It may come to a point where, if there's a real need to change the allocation, that's going to be done on a dedicated basis, once the alternatives are found that there is no other alternative to construct where the houses are allocated. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm wondering: when will a final decision be taken on the community allocation of new public housing units? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are hoping that this is the final allocation for the units going into

the communities. Like I said, Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the member's concern. The units are going to the communities they are most needed.

As I indicated, in the methodology, if we use the waiting list alone that's provided by LHOs, most of the units are going to go into Iqaluit and the bigger centres, such as Arviat, where it's needed the most. Even if the amount of units that are going into Iqaluit... Just using Iqaluit and Arviat for example, the need is still going to be 45 percent, even if 30 units go into Iqaluit, compared to 7 to 12 percent in the other communities that I had mentioned earlier on. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 668 – 3(3): Resolute Bay Utilidor System Tender

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

One of the huge combined federal and territorial projects happening in Resolute Bay, valued at \$32 million through the Building Canada Fund, is the repair and replacement of the community's utilidor system. A tender was recently put out for that work. Could the minister update the House on this project? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. 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. He is correct, Mr. Speaker. We did close the tender for Resolute Bay, I believe, around April 24. We received two bids and the lower bid of the two was 30 percent over the estimated cost or close to \$20 million over the estimated cost of doing the work, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last week, this House appropriated \$4.5 million in capital carryover funds that were allocated to this project. What is the plan to utilize these funds this fiscal year? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At this time, our department is taking a look at the process. We're reviewing what to do next or what next steps we need to take to see if that project can go ahead. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Originally, the repairs and replacement of the utilidor system was on a five-year timetable. I was wondering if that timetable has now been revised and if the minister could update the House on what the new timeline is. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Unfortunately, the tenders came in way over, you know, close to \$20 million over what was anticipated. Our department has cancelled the tender because of the significant difference.

Right now, our department is going over the whole issue in Resolute Bay. We're trying to find the best solution at this time and that will take time to do, to try to figure out what it is we could do in the community of Resolute Bay, what the best options are, and how we could continue on with this. At that time, we will have a better picture of if there are going to be any changes into the five-year plan in the community. I assure my colleague that we will work with the community to keep them posted if there are any changes to the timelines. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 669 – 3(3): New Public Housing Construction

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

My two communities of Cape Dorset and Kimmirut did not receive any new public housing units. Can the minister clearly explain what specific factors led to the NHC deciding that no new public housing units will be constructed in these two communities with the new

federal funding? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. Mr. Speaker, as I indicated, the allocation was based on a methodology that was based on a needs analysis. Of course, that's the waiting list combined with the 2010 housing needs survey and a mathematical formula that is used to make everything fair percentage-wise. Kimmirut did not fall into that category; they were further down the list. As I indicated in my Minister's Statement, the power generation capacity in Cape Dorset is maxed right out and they just don't have the capacity for any more infrastructures there. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the minister is probably aware, we are going to be receiving a new power plan in Cape Dorset. I'm assuming that by the time these housing units are built, we will have the capacity for the power. Also, the current waiting list for Cape Dorset is 96 tenants. Can the minister explain again why Cape Dorset didn't get any units? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll try and make that clear for the member. Mr. Speaker, the power

generating capacity in Cape Dorset is maxed out. They don't have the capability of providing power to any more infrastructures there, including housing units. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the housing minister commit to using the current information, not outdated information, on the waiting list for the communities that are going to be receiving housing units? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At the Nunavut Housing Corporation, we make every attempt to use updated information. The wait list used was ending January 31 of this year. Some of these communities are fairly small and the numbers do change from time to time, month to month. At the time, the wait list used was from as recent as the end of January this year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 670 – 3(3): Status of the GN's Public Housing Strategy

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Health.

Mr. Speaker, on November 6, 2007, the government of the day tabled a document called “Developing Healthy Communities, A Public Health Strategy for Nunavut.” That document contained no less than 21 specific objectives and strategies focusing on improving the health of newborns, preschoolers, and young children. All of those objectives were to have been met by the year 2013.

Can the minister provide an update on the status of the Public Health Strategy objectives and what specifically has been done to improve the health and well-being of young Nunavummiut under the age of 6? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Ms. Ugyuk for the question. Mr. Speaker, the Department of Health continues to work towards meeting the recommendations in the Public Health Strategy. As you can appreciate, it’s a very daunting challenge given our limited resources and our human resources.

Mr. Speaker, if I understand the question correctly, newborns to age 5, for example, we do have a range of prenatal programs, Well Baby visits, and we have parents and tots programs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understood that the

funding comes from the federal government.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, it seems to me that there is not enough collaboration in offering programs dedicated to the preschool-age target group. Many studies have shown that family issues, such as literacy, poverty, and violence, can have a serious impact on the health and development of a young child. My colleagues have raised concerns about nutrition, dental health, and daycare.

Can the minister clarify how he works with his counterparts in this government to ensure that there are adequate programs for preschoolers across Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last summer, I had the good fortune to host Sir Michael Marmot from the World Health Organization in Cambridge Bay for a day. We discussed at some length the social determinants of health and the three key areas are housing, food security, and early childhood development. By that, we mean within the first few years of life. So it is important that our children get off to a good, healthy start in life. Our department works very hard in that area. We do receive funding from the federal government to assist us through the Canada Prenatal Nutrition Program.

Specifically to preschoolers, we do work with children in ages 4 to 5 who will be starting kindergarten. We have check-ups for dental, hearing, vision, and

developmental screening so that we can assist the Department of Education when the kids enter the K program. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister for his response. (interpretation ends) The government's Public Health Strategy was tabled over five years ago and set a number of objectives specifically to improve the health outcome for Nunavut's youngest residents by 2013. Will the minister commit to tabling the final outcomes of the Public Health Strategy before the end of this Assembly? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Ms. Ugyuk for the question. Mr. Speaker, our staff is working on a document entitled "The Public Health Strategy Progress Report." It's currently underway. As of today, I don't know what the status of that report is, but I will check with my officials. If it's possible, hopefully by the end of the sitting of this government, I could table it. I can't commit to it, but I'll do my best. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 671 – 3(3): Mental Health and Wellness

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

I want to follow up today on the theme of mental health and wellness. The Department of Health's current business plan indicates that it is currently undertaking an internal review of the territorial *Mental Health Act*. Can the minister indicate what specific changes to the legislation are being considered? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Aupaluktuq for the question. Mr. Speaker, I can't give specific information, but it is an internal review. We have looked at other jurisdictions to see what their Mental Health Acts are providing. It is our intention to update the *Mental Health Act* to reflect the current situation in Nunavut. I'll have to get some more information at some point that I can share with the member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I very much appreciate the minister's awareness into the matter that the framework is in place and he just touched on it.

Mr. Speaker, just for the record, I want to clarify that the Department of Health's business plan also indicates that it is working to "Develop an

implementation plan for the Nunavut Addictions and Mental Health Framework.” Can the minister update the House today on the status of this important work? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I again thank Mr. Aupaluktuq for the question. Mr. Speaker, mental health and addictions is a priority for our government.

Last year, the Mental Health Commission of Canada came out with their report that served as a guide for all provinces and territories. It’s going to take time for all provinces and territories to reprofile funding into key areas, such as mental health. We’re very happy that the Arctic Council came out with their announcement that mental health will be a priority area for them and all the circumpolar countries.

Again, as I mentioned to Mr. Aupaluktuq, we’re undertaking a *Mental Health Act* review to update our legislation to reflect Nunavut as it is today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I noted in my Member’s Statement yesterday, mental health is directly linked to the issue of substance abuse. One of the commitments in the government’s *Tamapta* Action Plan is to “open a culturally-relevant substance

abuse treatment facility...” Can the minister update the House today on the status of this commitment? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the member is aware, the government has a lot of priorities across the territory. Even today, we’re talking about housing. There are ice arenas, community halls, schools, and hamlet offices we’ve got. I could go on all afternoon. We’ve got a lot of priorities. We’ve got a lot of demands in all the communities in Nunavut. The mental health and addictions facilities, yes, are needed.

As the member will recall, last year in our business plan, we made a priority to look at a mobile addictions treatment pilot project which we rolled out in Cambridge Bay last November or December. It was six weeks. There were eight folks on it and six graduated. It involved working with elders and working with the community and getting everybody involved at the community level.

As I said, it’s mobile, so we can use what we learned in that program and move it to other communities. Rather than just having a specific facility somewhere in Nunavut, we feel that there’s good potential to have this mobile addictions facility. It’s currently being evaluated for how it can be improved. So we hope that at some point, we can offer it again and offer it continuously in all communities in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 672 – 3(3): Two Additional Nurses for Repulse Bay

Mr. Ningark: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the fall of 2012, the mayor of Repulse Bay and I wrote a letter requesting if the Department of Health could, in fact, review the need for two additional nurses for Repulse Bay, one community health nurse, the other one a mental health worker. As requested, we received a reply from the Hon. Minister for Health and Social Services, which was on January 2, 2013, indicating that yes, the Hamlet of Repulse Bay was not getting additional two nurses after the fiscal year, April 1, 2013.

My question to the hon. minister, through you, Mr. Speaker, is: are the two additional nurses still in place for Repulse Bay? Thank you.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Ningark for his question. Also, I would like to thank Mr. Ningark for participating in the opening of the new Repulse Bay Health Centre last week. I had a very good visit. The community really enjoyed our visit. I had an opportunity to talk to the nurse-in-charge and other health professionals there. It's an absolutely beautiful facility. It's going to serve the needs of the community for many years to come.

Mr. Speaker, in a previous answer to Mr. Ningark, I think I answered that the

community is getting one additional nurse. I'll have to check on it. He said that there's a second nurse, but I'm pretty certain that the community is getting at least one additional nurse. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Ningark: Thank you. Here with me, Mr. Speaker, I have this letter written by the hon. minister dated January 2, 2013, signed by the minister himself. With the privilege of the pages here, I will send a copy to the hon. minister and I hope he will seriously consider retaining the promise he made to me and the mayor of Repulse Bay. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. I think it was just a comment. Moving to Oral Questions. Member for Amittuq, Mr. Tapardjuk.

Question 673 – 3(3): New Public Housing Construction

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon to my constituents in Igloolik and Hall Beach. Mr. Speaker, my question is also directed to the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

In 2006, this government made a decision on the funds the Nunavut Housing Corporation was administering under the Nunavut Housing Trust. Based on that decision, all Nunavummiut were supposed to receive housing based on the funds allocated for housing and not to leave out any communities.

Now, with the new funds we have been allocated, why didn't they decide to allocate even a few units to every

community? This seems to break up the previous agreement in 2006 to ensure that every community would at least get a few units. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm not aware of any 2006 agreement that every community gets a unit or two.

Mr. Speaker, again, there are third party funds that we were given through CMHC to try and maximize, to try to reach this 250 units that's stated in the federal budget, and the method used is to equalize the needs within communities. As I said earlier, I'm thankful that we did receive the \$100 million, but if we try and build in every community, I think the number would go down to 180 units, which is a far cry from the 250 units that we're targeting for. With this allocation, we're looking at 210 units.

If we try and mobilize construction companies throughout all the communities, it's going to be a huge task and a huge cost. With this methodology, we're trying to prove that we're capable of maximizing the federal investment that was made to our territory. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister. However, it may be due to feeling envious, at least for some members, that we are directing all these

questions to him. I am very grateful and happy for the communities that are being allocated new public housing units. However, this matter is something I wanted to ask about.

Based on the information provided, let's say I were to look at the Igloolik figures, it states that there are 61 people are on the waiting list and we are being provided five units. Furthermore, there are several other communities with lower waiting list numbers, with 45 to 53 people on their waiting list, yet they are getting more units.

My colleague's earlier question is similar to what I am asking about. Although there is a larger waiting list compared to these other communities, why is Igloolik only receiving five units? Is this due to the lack of power generation capacity? Is our water reservoir too small? What is lacking here? What is the reason for the lower number of units? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. Mr. Speaker, the methodology developed is for fair allocation of units, even to the smaller communities. If we use the wait list itself, the smaller communities will get nothing because the wait list is so demanding for the bigger communities. This is based on a mathematical formula.

Let me try and get this straight. It's an algebraic formula that I will have to try and get straight in my head there, but the

methodology is the number of people on the waiting list divided by the number of public units within the community. That's the fairest way of allocating units to, not all communities, but to communities that are on the top of the list. Once that formula is ratioed into a percentage, that's how the allocation was done, from the highest percentage on down. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When this government came into power, they identified principles to abide by, such as being transparent and accountable. They stated that this government would be completely transparent and open to Nunavummiut to ensure that they are well informed.

Mr. Speaker, if I were to look at the figures bandied about in the minister's response, for all of Nunavut, 1,465 units are required based on waiting lists. It states here that the Baffin region has 698 people, the Kivalliq region has 516 people, and the Kitikmeot region has 251 people. If we were to follow these figures, why is the Baffin region only being allocated 55 units, even though the people on the waiting list are twice the number of the other regions? 115 units are going to the Kivalliq region and 40 units are going to the Kitikmeot region.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the minister a question. He said that the Nunavut Housing Corporation has looked at this and so did the cabinet. Can the minister provide the Members of this House a list that they have made? I

would like to see it. 62 percent of the houses are given to the minister's communities.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): That leaves the other 38 percent allocated to the rest of the communities. Can we be provided with the list of the methodology that was used? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. Absolutely, you can have that list because a list that did come from the Nunavut Housing Corporation is a list that we have used to allocate the units.

Mr. Speaker, with this funding allocation, we do have deadlines to meet, we do have agreements that we've got to abide by with the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, and we intend to be open, transparent, and deliver according to the agreement that is going to be signed with the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation.

The list is the same list that I read out yesterday, that list did come from the Nunavut Housing Corporation board, and I can make that list available to the members anytime this afternoon. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 674 – 3(3): New Public Housing Construction

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again my questions are for the minister of housing.

In his Minister's Statement yesterday, he stated that where the 210 units that are going to be built will be allocated to is subject to change. However, the minister publicly stated where the units were going. Can the minister explain why or how we would be able to change where they're going now that he has made it public that they're going to specific communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. Absolutely I did make that statement where the allocations are going. That's where they're going to be attempted to be built, unless there are some unforeseen circumstances that we can't control, whether shipments never come in on time or power poles or land availability, just unforeseen circumstances we don't know. As I indicated earlier, there are certain circumstances that we cannot control up here, especially up north. If we do have to make a change, we will make the most efficient, practical changes to allocations if we have to. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The community of Sanikiluaq will not be

receiving any new public housing units. Can the minister clearly explain what specific factors led to the Nunavut Housing Corporation deciding that no new public housing units will be constructed in Sanikiluaq? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I again thank the member for that question. Mr. Speaker, Sanikiluaq and Whale Cove do have almost the same number on the waiting list, but Sanikiluaq represents a 12 percent shortage which, in actual fact, when you do a mathematical formula, is one unit for every ten that they now have. Mr. Speaker, on the other hand, for Whale Cove, Whale Cove represents a 27 percent shortage in housing, where they need close to three units for every ten that they now have. So there is a mathematical formula that's used which is the fairest formula that's used for the allocation of the units.

Mr. Speaker, this type of allocation is transparent and fair to every community, although this may not look like for the communities that are not getting any, but we dare not risk utilizing the \$100 million to maximize and have the most impact for the investment that we did get from the federal government, and I intend to do that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In 2006, the government made a

decision to use the Nunavut Housing Trust Fund to ensure that all Nunavut community received some new public housing units. Why did the government decide against this approach with respect to recently announced new funding? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This government did not make the decisions in 2006. We didn't exist at that time, but the member is well aware of the consequences that followed. Mr. Speaker, there were political decisions made on how the program was going to be delivered. There were all types of things that were included in there for training which shouldn't have been the housing corporation's mandate for the construction of badly needed units for Nunavummiut.

The member is well aware that it took \$110 million to fix and we do not want to get into that process again. We want to make sure that we abide by the rules that are given to us by the agreement and to maximize the \$100 million. That way, we do not risk lessening our funds that may be possible to secure down the future from the federal government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 675 – 3(3): New Public Housing Construction

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

responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

Mr. Speaker, my community of Grise Fiord did not receive any public housing units. Can the minister clearly explain what specific factors led to the Nunavut Housing Corporation deciding that no new public housing units will be constructed in this community with the new federal funding? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Member for Quttiktuq for that question. Mr. Speaker, again, we use the needs assessment analysis. The allocations were based on the needs of the information in the data that we used. Based on needs, Grise Fiord didn't rank on the list for allocation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The second community that I represent, Resolute Bay, did not receive any new public housing units. Can the minister clearly explain what specific factors led to the Nunavut Housing Corporation deciding that no new public housing units will be constructed in this community with the new federal funding? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I again thank the member from Quttiktuq for that question. Again, it's based on what the needs analysis was based on. With the \$100 million, you can't please every community. It would be great if we had \$1 billion, but we don't have that. We've got to try and make do the best we can with the \$100 million that was, thankfully, invested into Nunavut. We all know that some jurisdictions are quite envious of how Nunavut got the \$100 million. The other jurisdictions never got that. I am pleased and happy that we were able to get that \$100 million. If we had \$1 billion, I'm sure we would be able to construct the buildings in every community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Excuse me if I sound like I'm repeating myself. As the only MLA with three communities, I'll have to go back to Quttiktuq and explain to each community why there will be no new housing projects coming this fiscal year.

My final question, Mr. Speaker, is: in the community of Arctic Bay, why did we not receive any public housing units? Can the minister clearly explain what specific factors led to the Nunavut Housing Corporation deciding that no new public housing units will be constructed in this community with the new federal funding? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's the same scenario again: the wait list and the methodology used. I indicated to my colleague there that I am tabling or making available the methods used that can be explained quite easily to your community members.

I've got to say that at the next funding round, I am hoping that we wouldn't have to be doing this because housing is one of the major priorities this government has. We all know that the housing shortage in Nunavut is over 3,500. We're trying to maximize the number units for the \$100 million. That's a step in the right direction. If we keep squandering that, it's going to become more difficult to secure any more funding as time goes on. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 676 – 3(3): New Public Housing Construction

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

Mr. Speaker, it is known that the federal government and the Nunavut government want to be able to find some funding to help the people of Nunavut. In speaking with the Senators and the MLAs, they have really lobbied for this development because they state that Nunavut needs to have economic development. Our government echoes this position.

In Pond Inlet, we are always discussing the Mary River project. Sometimes it seems we are being encouraged to approve this project because it has many benefits for Nunavut and for Canada. We, the residents, try to make our decisions based on the issues and we gave NIRB an opportunity to review this project to undertake their duties.

After this hearing, NIRB issued a project certificate to the Baffinland Iron Mines Corporation. Immediately after this decision was rendered, the people who lobbied for this project approval threw us out, so to speak. Since approval was given, we were no longer an important piece and we no longer got phone calls about this once the certificate was issued.

This item was contained in the Minister's Statement that these factors have to be included when deliberating on housing units, factors such as the population growth of a community, as well economic development in and around the community. Mr. Speaker, there are already people from outlying communities moving to Pond Inlet to try and get employment at the Mary River mine. All of these immigrant people will also require housing. We all know for a fact that Pond Inlet will have a growth spurt with the Mary River project proceeding and this government was very supportive of this project, both the Nunavut government and our federal government.

What then is the usefulness of this statement, which I want to ask the minister about, where it states that these factors have to be included in the assessment, to include economic development when we're talking about

an issue the community is trying to meet? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member from Tununig for that question. Mr. Speaker, there have been a lot of communities and other jurisdictions that are pretty envious of what's happening up there. There is the potential for a lot of economic activity with the production of a mine happening right close by Pond Inlet. I hope Pond Inletmiut and landowners take the opportunities to make sure that they benefit from the economic activity that's happening there.

Of course, with wage employment, there are always opportunities for folks to buy their own homes. I've got to say that if the opportunities are there for Pond Inletmiut, Mittimatalingmiut, to take advantage of, I would like to see that happen. I want to see more economic activity happening not just within the Baffin region but all three regions of Nunavut. With meaningful employment, there's always that better opportunity for our people, especially our younger people, to enter the workforce and start purchasing and buying their own homes, which, in fact, helps their self-esteem, their family, and their community.

I've got to say that there are people out there in the other jurisdictions who are pretty envious of what's happening up in northern Baffin with the potential of a big operating mine coming soon. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Enook: *Qujannamiik*, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) That is the reason why I cited that fact and why I said it had been thrown out. Once the community has any slight opportunity, the government turns around and says, "Try to be self-sufficient. Look after your own citizens and develop your own economic development. Look after your own housing shortage by yourself." However, we haven't even moved one spot away from our previous situation. That was the reason why I referred to that statement.

It is as if the community has been thrown out of the eligibility list. Once a community has the opportunity to try and grow, if they have a small opportunity to create some revenue, the government pulls the rug and states that the community has to try to meet its needs alone and to try to meet these challenges by using only their budgets.

I want to ask the minister this question because he keeps maintaining that these factors are used to make the determination on how the public housing units will be allocated. I believe he stated the methodology. Can the minister completely unearth the details of the entire allocation list for these units to Nunavummiut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I did indicate to our colleague that I will be making the methodology available and it is there. It's the same

methodology that was used by the Nunavut Housing Corporation board. It's the one we looked at. I've got to say again and I assure, through my cabinet colleagues, that there's no hesitation. They accepted it as the fairest, transparent way of allocating units with the amount of money that was given to us. Mr. Speaker, I'll make that formula available and I can see it right here. It's the number of people on the waiting list divided by the number of public housing units in a community.

I've got to say that with the deadlines that are going to be given to us by CMHC, Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, we do have to try and meet, oblige, and be within the agreement that's given to us. There's third party money. It's from government to government, and it's approved through this House or anything. As a government, we are responsible to maximize the impact of that investment that the federal government made and I intend to do that, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My community of Pond Inlet wasn't even allocated a single unit. I want the minister to tell me truthfully what the real reason was that Pond Inlet wasn't even allocated one single unit from this fund that was provided for housing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Member for Tununiq for that question. Mr. Speaker, again, it's a mathematical formula that was used and I repeat that it's the fairest way of allocating units to the communities. I know that some of communities didn't receive anything, but the ones that didn't receive anything are bringing them closer, percentage-wise, to equalize the needs of the territory. It wasn't done by region; the allocations were done community by community. The method used, again, was based on the needs assessments, the wait lists, and the fairest way of allocating units.

Mr. Speaker, again, to maximize the impact of the investment, we did lobby hard with the federal government to have an increase in the amount. We did ask for \$300 million, but we're pleased with the \$100 million that we did get. I've got to say again that most jurisdictions out there are wondering how the Nunavut government did that.

Allocating units is a huge need. We still need over 3,500 units in Nunavut. It's going to be a long haul, a lot of hard work, and hopefully, as elected leaders and MLAs, everybody is going to be writing letters that we try and address the housing shortage that we have in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Members will note that question period allotment time is over.

Before we proceed with our orders of the day, we will take a 22-minute break.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>House recessed at 15:24 and resumed at 15:55

Speaker: *Qujannamiik*, Sergeant-at-Arms. We will move right along with 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. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Mr. Elliott.

**Item 13: Tabling of Documents
Tabled Document 377 – 3(3):
Response Summary, Survey on
Nutrition North Canada Program**

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table a summary of responses to a survey about the federal government's Nutrition North Canada Program that I posted to the Internet this spring.

The survey had 31 questions and close to 400 people responded. I believe that these answers provide a very good overview of public opinion, perception, and experiences related to the Nutrition North Canada Program.

I urge my colleagues and all interested parties to review this document with care. It is very informative. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Tabled Document 378 – 3(3):
Tungasaiji: A Tourism Strategy
for Nunavummiut**

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table the *Tungasaiji: A Tourism Strategy for Nunavummiut*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Tabled Document 379 – 3(3): Nunavut
Law Foundation Annual Report
2007**

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table the Nunavut Law Foundation's annual report for 2007-08. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Minister of Education, Minister Aariak.

**Tabled Document 380 – 3(3): FPT
Report on the 100th Meeting of the
Advisory Committee of Deputy
Ministers of Education and
Council of Ministers of Education
Meeting in Halifax, NS, July 4 to 6,
2012**

Hon. Eva Aariak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table the FPT Report on the 100th Meeting of the Advisory Committee of Deputy Ministers of Education and Council of Ministers of Education Meeting in Halifax, Nova Scotia, July 4 to 6, 2012. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Tabled Document 381 – 3(3):
Community Justice Committee
and Family Abuse Intervention
Act Year-end Report 2010-2011**

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table the Community Justice Committee & *Family Abuse Intervention Act* Year-end Report for 2010-11. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Moving on in our orders of the day. Item 14. Notices of Motions. Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 16. Motions. Mr. Schell.

Item 16: Motions

**Motion 051 – 3(3): Performance Audit
of the Nutrition North Canada
Program**

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

WHEREAS the creation of the federal Nutrition North Canada Program was announced on May 21, 2010;

AND WHEREAS the Nutrition North Canada Program replaced the Food Mail Program;

AND WHEREAS the Nutrition North Canada Program is administered by the federal Department of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development;

AND WHEREAS all residents of Nunavut, the Northwest Territories, and the Yukon are directly impacted by the Nutrition North Canada Program;

AND WHEREAS officials from the federal Department of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development and the Nutrition North Canada Advisory Board met publicly with Caucus in the Chamber of the Legislative Assembly on October 25, 2011;

AND WHEREAS Members of the Legislative Assembly continue to have significant concerns regarding the success of the Nutrition North Canada Program in ensuring that all nutritious food is affordable for all Nunavummiut;

AND WHEREAS these concerns have been expressed in the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories and the Yukon Legislative Assembly;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the Hon. Member of Quttiktuq, that the Legislative Assembly calls on the Auditor General of Canada to undertake a comprehensive performance audit of the Nutrition North Canada Program and to report his office's findings and recommendations to the Parliament of Canada.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Schell. The motion is in order. Before we proceed with debate on the motion, I would just like to remind members of the procedures. Every member has the right to speak once to the motion for a total of 20 minutes. The mover of the motion speaks first and the seconder of the motion speaks second. The mover has

the right to the last reply, which closes debate. To the motion. Mr. Schell.

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the mover of the motion, I am pleased to speak in favour of its passage.

Mr. Speaker, perhaps no federal program has attracted as much attention and scrutiny in this House as the Nutrition North program, not even the wasteful and inefficient long gun registry.

Mr. Speaker, it is not difficult to see why. The cost of food affects every resident of our territory. There's nobody living here who is not directly impacted every single day by the Nutrition North Canada Program. Since announced in 2010, numerous hearings and meetings have been held, including our Full Caucus meeting with officials from the federal Department of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada, representatives of their external advisory board, and major Nunavut retailers.

Mr. Speaker, when Stephen van Dine, the key spokesman for the Nutrition North Canada Program, sat in the House, he discussed the old Food Mail Program and said the following, "For those who understood the program and used the program, it worked well. Regular users, such as vendors and retailers, used the program quite effortlessly." Mr. Speaker, does that sound like the program was a complete failure or even a program that required complete destruction?

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Van Dine also went on to list what they have reviewed as the problems with the old Food Mail Program: problems with the entry point or the lack of; only one in Dorval;

efficiency with the way retailers move goods; the product eligibility list was too long; in some cases, machinery parts were shipped in on the subsidy; escalating costs; sharp rises in fuel and transportation; the program was run through a third party, Canada Post; dollars were leaking out to communities south of 60.

Mr. Speaker, I recognize there are some issues with the old Food Mail Program. However, the logical approach would have been to address them directly. Instead, they created a whole new bureaucracy program which they claimed would be more focused, transparent, accountable, and other bureaucracy buzzwords. Instead, it created more bureaucracy and an additional interdepartmental committee and the Nutrition North External Advisory Board and put the subsidy right in the hands of the retailers.

Mr. Speaker, a family in my constituency told me that they don't feel comfortable raising issues with the advisory board and viewed it as a board full of patronage, appointments including relatives and the wife of the president of the Nunavut Conservative Party Riding Association.

Mr. Speaker, we all know the three amigos got together, but it wasn't Steve Martin, Chevy Chase, and Martin Short; it was the alliance of three major retailers: the North West Company, Arctic Co-operatives Limited, Fédération des coopératives du Nouveau-Québec, often referred to by my constituents as the Axle of Evil.

Mr. Speaker, these three major retailers joined forces to lobby the federal

ministers and their officials, and it certainly appears as though their lobbying was rewarded. In return for their efforts, the old Food Mail Program was blown up and the subsidy was moved directly to their back pockets. This explains why business is booming. They're actually making money off the freight and now North West Company profits are soaring, as they confirmed by their latest year-end report.

Mr. Speaker, there is a reason why the North West Company and Arctic Co-operatives Limited are the biggest defenders and cheerleaders of the program. Their lobbying campaign essentially designed this program to their great benefit.

Mr. Speaker, I agree with previous statements from our federal minister where she stated that decisions by retailers are responsible for the exorbitant grocery prices in Canada's High Arctic. However, we expect our federal Minister of Health, regional ministers, the Minister responsible for the Canadian Economic Development Agency, the Minister for the Arctic Council, and MP for Nunavut to do something to take this program out of the hands of the retailers to ensure that the subsidy we desperately need goes directly to the family and their children.

Mr. Speaker, if we were to ask the majority of Nunavummiut: are you better off today under the new Nutrition North Canada Program? We all know the answer would be a resounding no. We recently discussed how a Winnipeg firm, a North West Company subsidiary, is shipping groceries to Rankin Inlet at minimum freight costs, free in some instances, because they were facing

competition from a small local company. They decided to actually pass on the subsidy to a small group of clients. That example alone shows the lack of transparency and the failure of this program.

Mr. Speaker, under federal legislation, the Auditor General has the authority to obtain and review all documents and information necessary for preparation of his reports. The office's past reporting on the Food Mail Program should give us confidence that his findings and recommendations will be comprehensive, accurate, and fair.

Mr. Speaker, I also anticipate the federal parliamentarians, especially those who represent isolated constituents impacted by the Nutrition North Canada Program, will welcome the findings of the Auditor General. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Schell. To the motion. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the seconder of the motion that is before the House, I am very pleased to speak to it today.

Mr. Speaker, as you will recall from recent years' reports of the Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts, this is certainly not the first time that Members of the Legislative Assembly have suggested that the Auditor General of Canada undertake an examination of the federal Nutrition North Canada Program.

As the mover of the motion clearly stated, the Auditor General's office has the authority and the resources to undertake the type of comprehensive

audit that is clearly necessary with respect to this program.

Mr. Speaker, as you will recall, I worked closely last year with a number of legislators from the Northwest Territories, Yukon, Newfoundland, and Québec to jointly convey our concerns to the federal government about the Nutrition North Canada Program.

I am pleased to note that a similar motion to that which we are considering today is currently on the order paper of the Yukon Legislative Assembly for consideration.

Mr. Speaker, as you will recall from the 2011 meetings at which we invited federal officials and retailers to appear before us to publicly address concerns about the Nutrition North Canada Program, members from both sides of the House participated actively in raising concerns on behalf of their constituents.

Mr. Speaker, I see today's motion in the same light: a clear opportunity for us to speak with one voice about the need to make it perfectly clear that this critical federal program must work for the betterment of the thousands of ordinary Nunavummiut and other Canadians who depend on it to make food affordable for them and their families. I also see today's motion as being another element in our overall approach to addressing food security in Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, over the past couple of years, we have taken a number of important steps together as a legislature and a government towards addressing food security in Nunavut. We have established a formal partnership with NTI to reduce poverty in Nunavut. We

have passed legislation to help ensure public accountability for the government's efforts in this area. We have passed legislation to encourage the donation of food to the needy. We have approved funding for nutrition and wellness programs in our communities.

Mr. Speaker, as the Member of the Legislative Assembly representing the three communities of the High Arctic, I have also been addressing other issues that directly relate to the high cost of living in the High Arctic. These include the development of the High Arctic Transportation Strategy, as well as the need to enhance such federal programs as the Northern Residents Deduction and Old Age Security.

Mr. Speaker, today's motion directly addresses the need to improve the federal Nutrition North Canada Program.

Mr. Speaker, as my colleague from South Baffin noted, there are a number of aspects of the Nutrition North Canada Program that need to be carefully examined.

Mr. Speaker, my own concerns and questions relayed to me by my constituents about the program are well known. I'll review them in brief today.

Is Nutrition North actually making food more affordable for our constituents or is it simply making it a little less expensive than it would otherwise be without the subsidy?

Is Nutrition North actually investing more resources into reducing the cost of food than was previously taking place with the old Food Mail Program?

Is Nutrition North functioning as a subsidy for consumers or a subsidy for business?

Is Nutrition North enhancing the transparency of retail pricing?

Is Nutrition North stimulating competition and consumer choice or is it actually doing the exact opposite?

Are the tax dollars that are going into the program to reduce the price of food for Canadians living in isolated and remote regions being fully passed on to the intended recipients or not?

Is the Nutrition North Canada Advisory Board fulfilling its terms of reference?

Mr. Speaker, I think that you get my point because these points have been made on many occasions.

Mr. Speaker, as I'm sure my friend from Cambridge Bay would be quick to remind you, I don't have all of the answers. However, I do believe that we have been asking the right questions and raising the right issues in this House.

Mr. Speaker, the volume of conflicting testimony that we have heard in recent years about the Nutrition North Canada Program is amazing. Former officials who administered the Food Mail Program have gone on the public record to state that the new program's underlying model is fundamentally flawed. Retailers that initially raised concerns about the program have changed their perspective.

Mr. Speaker, when the Nutrition North Canada Program was originally announced, my constituents had high

hopes that they would see a real difference in their daily lives. Since that time, however, we have seen the emergence of such grassroots organizations as Feeding My Family Nunavut in direct reaction to the high cost of living in the north.

Mr. Speaker, there is, perhaps, no federal institution that is more trusted than the Office of the Auditor General. We can be assured that the findings from this office's work will be accurate and unbiased. Mr. Speaker, the findings from such an audit will be of use not only to us in Nunavut and not only to federal Parliamentarians, but also to our fellow Canadians in the Northwest Territories, Yukon, Manitoba, Newfoundland, Saskatchewan, and Québec who live in regions that are impacted by the Nutrition North Canada Program.

Mr. Speaker, I join with the mover of the motion in urging all members to rise together in support. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. To the motion. Mr. Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank our colleague for moving the motion.

Mr. Speaker, as people of Nunavut, everything is very expensive. When you go to the stores anywhere, we buy products that are very expensive. The federal government set up this program. It took off in the right direction, but then again, we didn't see a reduction in the prices of the food that we buy. The biggest retailers are given money to subsidize the food when it's landed in

the community. The only reduction that we see is for operations. So we, as Inuit, are wondering because this subsidy is not reaching the customer. It's not making a reduction in the cost of food.

I support the idea of the Auditor General doing a performance audit. Maybe they're doing an excellent job. Maybe we're just thinking about it wrong. I would urge the Auditor General to do a performance audit so that we will know whether or not this program is being administered the way it should because we should see a subsidy on the food.

I support the motion because I know that even though they want to buy food from a retail outlet, my constituents can't buy it since it is too expensive, even if it is said to be subsidized. I urge my colleagues to support this motion. The only way we will find the true answer is if we have the Auditor General do a performance audit to determine what is running properly and what requires improvement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Kusugak. Are there any more speakers to the motion? I wish to inform the House that I have no more names on my list. The mover, Mr. Schell, would you like to make any comments for a last reply? Mr. Schell.

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I really have nothing else to add to it, but I would like to request a recorded vote. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Schell. That closes debate on the motion. A recorded vote has been requested. I'll ask all members who are in favour of the motion to please rise and sit down when I call your name. All in favour.

Mr. Schell.

Item 16. Motions. Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Arreak.

Item 17: First Reading of Bills

Mr. Shewchuk.

Bill 66 – Plebiscites Act – First Reading

Mr. Taptuna.

Madam Premier.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet South and Whale Cove, that Bill 66, *Plebiscites Act*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Madam Ell.

Mr. Kusugak.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. The motion is in order. All those in favour. Any opposed? The motion is carried and the bill has been read for the first time.

Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Ningeongan.

Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Minister Peterson.

Mr. Ningark.

Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Item 18: Second Reading of Bills

Mr. Rumbolt.

Bill 64 – An Act to Amend the Liquor Act – Second Reading

Mr. Tapardjuk.

Madam Ugyuk.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet South and Whale Cove, that Bill 64, *An Act to Amend the Liquor Act*, be read for the second time.

Mr. Oshutapik.

Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Enook.

Let the record show that the motion passed 17 to 0, so it was passed unanimously and the motion is carried.

>>Applause

I advise the Members of this House that as the Speaker, I will send the appropriate correspondence to the Auditor General as a result of the passage of this motion.

Mr. Speaker, this Act amends the *Liquor Act* to allow for funding social responsibility campaigns from the Liquor Revolving Fund and for opening beer and wine stores in Nunavut, to increase the amount of liquor that a person may personally import without a permit, and to increase fines for contraventions of the Act. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Peterson. The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill. Mr. Tapardjuk.

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am quite happy to be able to speak to this issue. When the government began its term, they established the *Tamapta* Mandate. Part of the work was to conduct a comprehensive review of the *Liquor Act*. There was a review, as well as a community tour, but the entirety of the legislation wasn't amended.

There are many other sections contained within this legislation. This motion is primarily to make an amendment on a very few sections within the legislation, particularly the accessibility of liquor to communities and to have a store locally. For instance, this is making it too accessible, at least in my estimation.

Without the complete review of the entire legislation and not just some sections, I won't be able to support this motion as it stands, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Tapardjuk. To the principle of the bill. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When the task force was chosen to review the *Liquor Act*, it was anticipated that a full review of the Act would be done based on the task force's findings. Mr. Speaker, the task force went through great lengths to gather information, opinions, and suggestions on the use of liquor in Nunavut, and I commend them for the work they have completed.

However, Mr. Speaker, Bill 64 only reflects a few changes to the current Act.

So I will be voting against Bill 64 today in hopes that the next government will conduct a full review early in their mandate. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. To the principle of the bill. Mr. Ningark.

Mr. Ningark: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It was an honour and privilege to have travelled with the liquor task force. We visited communities that we were able to visit. People came. We held community radio talk shows. We attended public meetings. Elders came, rain or sun. People came; women's groups; young people.

It cost money, Mr. Speaker, to have this task force travel in Nunavut to the communities that we were able to visit. Although I was not able to be there with every trip, I did my part, so did the public. Therefore, I will be supporting the motion because I was there. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Ningark. The record will show that you were there.

>> *Laughter*

To the principle of the bill. Mr. Tapardjuk.

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): I apologize. I wanted to ask you, Mr. Speaker, that we have a recorded vote.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Tapardjuk. Are there any more comments to the principle of the bill? To the principle of the bill. Mr. Ningeongan.

Mr. Ningeongan (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As was stated earlier,

this is an Act that will only amend the *Liquor Act*.

The communities that I represent had hopes that the whole bill would be reviewed thoroughly. We're not going to be doing that. We are making minor amendments to the bill. We're not meeting the hopes of the people in my riding.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I will not be supporting this motion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. Are there any more comments to the principle of the bill? Question has been called. A recorded vote has been requested. I ask all members in favour of the motion to please rise and sit down once I call your name.

I'll flip to another page here. Two recorded votes in one day.

Minister Peterson.

Mr. Ningark, in favour of the motion, yes.

Mr. Ningark.

Ms. Ugyuk.

Mr. Elliott.

Minister Arreak.

Minister Shewchuk.

Minister Taptuna.

Madam Premier.

Minister Ell.

Minister Kusugak.

All those opposed to the motion, please rise and sit down when I call your name.

Mr. Ningeongan.

Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Tapardjuk.

Any abstentions?

Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Mr. Oshutapik.

Mr. Enook.

Mr. Schell.

The results of the vote: ten for the motion, three against, and four abstaining. The motion is carried and as such, Bill 64 has been read for the second time and is referred to the Standing Committee on Legislation.

Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Item 19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. There are no items to consider. Item 20. Report of the Committee of the Whole. No consideration, no report. 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. *Orders of the Day* for September 5:

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
 - Bill 66
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.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you very much, Mr. Clerk. This concludes our spring sitting.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank very much our pages who are here. From Iqaluit is Malaya Kakkee, thank you very much. A very special thank you to two young ladies from Sanikiluaq who have done a great job for us here, Suvvaki Novalinga and Akinisi Kavik. I thank all three of you very much. You have done a great job here.

>>Applause

I would also like to thank our technical people and the interpreters. I'm sorry you guys have had to listen to me like this over the last three days. It has probably been hard to figure out what I'm saying.

Also, I apologize to the people doing the transcribing for the *Hansard* too, having fun trying to figure out my voice.

I would like to thank the staff of the Legislative Assembly. Another great job done as usual.

I wish all members a very safe trip home, a good long weekend, and an enjoyable summer.

With that, this House stands adjourned until Thursday, September 5, at 1:30 p.m.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>House adjourned at 16:30

