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**Wednesday, September 11, 2013**

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**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)

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

**Hon. James Arreak**

(Uqqummiut)

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

**Moses Aupaluktuq**

(Baker Lake)

**Tagak Curley**

(Rankin Inlet North)

**Hon. Monica Ell**

(Iqaluit West)

*Minister of Family Services; Minister  
responsible for Homelessness; Minister  
responsible for the Qulliq Energy  
Corporation; Minister responsible for  
the Status of Women*

**Ron Elliott**

(Quttiktuq)

**Joe Enook**

(Tununiq)

*Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole*

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak**

(Rankin Inlet South – Whale Cove)

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

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(Akullik)

**Johnny Ningeongan**

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

**Hezakiah Oshutapik**

(Pangnirtung)

**Hon. Keith Peterson**

(Cambridge Bay)

*Minister of Finance, Chair of the  
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of Health*

**Allan Rumbolt**

(Hudson Bay)

**Fred Schell**

(South Baffin)

**Hon. Daniel Shewchuk**

(Arviat)

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

**Louis Tapardjuk**

(Amittuq)

*Deputy Chair, Committee of the  
Whole*

**Hon. Peter Taptuna**

(Kugluktuk)

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

**Jeannie Ugyuk**

(Nattilik)

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## Table of Contents

Opening Prayer.....	4857
Ministers' Statements .....	4857
Members' Statements .....	4862
Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery.....	4865
Oral Questions.....	4866
Tabling of Documents .....	4881
Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters .....	4882
Point of Order.....	4899
Report of the Committee of the Whole .....	4906
Third Reading of Bills.....	4907
Orders of the Day .....	4907

**A.**

**Daily References**

Wednesday, September 11, 2013 .....4857

**B.**

**Ministers' Statements**

319 – 3(3): Long-term Sustainable Planning for Community Infrastructure (Kusugak) .....4857

320 – 3(3): Congratulations to Peesee Pitseolak-Stephens: 36 Years of Service (Shewchuk)...4858

321 – 3(3): Be Safe! And RespectED Resources (Aariak).....4858

322 – 3(3): Baffin Island Caribou Workshop and Management Planning (Arreak) .....4859

323 – 3(3): Remembering Doctor Eric Prosh (Taptuna) .....4860

324 – 3(3): 2013 Laura Ulluriaq Gauthier Scholarship (Ell).....4861

325 – 3(3): New Application Forms for Career Development Programs (Ell) .....4861

**C.**

**Members' Statements**

551 – 3(3): Caring for the Animals in our Communities (Aupaluktuq) .....4862

552 – 3(3): Strengthening Public Confidence in the Health Care System (Ningark).....4863

553 – 3(3): Unresolved Issue for Compensation of Hall Beach Elders (Tapardjuk).....4863

554 – 3(3): Tunnganangniq and Elders (Curley).....4864

**D.**

**Oral Questions**

722 – 3(3): RCMP Services in Nunavut (Aupaluktuq) .....4866

723 – 3(3): Dental Services in Pond Inlet (Enook) .....4867

724 – 3(3): Homelessness in Nunavut (Ugyuk) .....4869

725 – 3(3): Office of Patient Relations (Ningark).....4870

726 – 3(3): Dental Services and Contracts (Curley).....	4871
727 – 3(3): Baffin Island Caribou Survey (Oshutapik) .....	4873
728 – 3(3): Diagnostic Services in Nunavut (Elliott) .....	4874
729 – 3(3): Update on Pond Inlet Arena and Baseball Diamond (Enook) .....	4876
730 – 3(3): Federal-Territorial Relations (Ugyuk) .....	4877
731 – 3(3): Dental Services and Contracts (Curley).....	4879
732 – 3(3): NNI Policy and Procurement Practices Review Status (Elliott) .....	4880

**E.**

**Tabling of Documents**

402 – 3(3): Nunavut Planning Commission Workshop in Cambridge Bay (Tapardjuk) .....	4881
403 – 3(3): Nunavut Film Development Corporation Annual Report 2009-2010 (Taptuna).....	4882
404 – 3(3): Nunavut Film Development Corporation Annual Report 2010-2011 (Taptuna).....	4882
405 – 3(3): Nunavut Film Development Corporation Annual Report 2011-2012 (Taptuna).....	4882

**F.**

**Bills**

Bill 69 – Supplementary Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, No. 2, 2013-2014 – Consideration in Committee .....	4882
Bill 32 – An Act to Amend the Legal Services Act – Consideration in Committee .....	4887
Bill 40 – Representative for Children and Youth Act – Consideration in Committee .....	4891
Bill 69 – Supplementary Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, No. 2, 2013-2014 – Third Reading .....	4907
Bill 32 – An Act to Amend the Legal Services Act – Third Reading .....	4907

**Iqaluit, Nunavut****Wednesday, September 11, 2013****Members Present:**

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

>>*House commenced at 13:31*

**Item 1: Opening Prayer**

**Speaker** (Hon. Hunter Tootoo): *Qujannamiik*, Sergeant-at-Arms. Before we continue with today's session, I would like to ask my good friend, Mr. Ningark, to lead us off in a prayer, please.

>>*Prayer*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningark. (interpretation ends) Moving on in our orders of the day. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Community and Government Services, Minister Kusugak.

**Item 2: Ministers' Statements**

**Minister's Statement 319 – 3(3):  
Long-term Sustainable Planning  
for Community Infrastructure**

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Good day and thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say "hello" to Whale Cove and Rankin Inlet residents. I'm glad to be back here today.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I am pleased today to advise the Members of this House of the official launch of the [buildingnunavut.com](http://buildingnunavut.com) website. This website houses all Nunavut integrated community sustainability plans, which you may also know as ICSPs.

Mr. Speaker, ICSPs are community-specific infrastructure plans, meaning that no two ICSPs are the same. They reflect community goals and priorities as identified by hamlet councils. They also include cultural, social, economic, and environmental values associated with each community infrastructure priority.

The ICSP project began in 2009 to identify each community's current infrastructure situation as well as its future needs. This was a specific requirement in order to ensure continued access to gas tax funding.

Mr. Speaker, this project could not have moved forward without funding from the federal Gas Tax Fund through Infrastructure Canada. The Government of Nunavut has taken this a step further by creating the [buildingnunavut.com](http://buildingnunavut.com) website to ensure that each ICSP is updated on an annual basis and remains a current and accurate depiction of Nunavut's community infrastructure.

This website has two functions. It makes each community's ICSP publicly available and it also serves as a valuable planning tool for each community when identifying their future infrastructure priorities.

Mr. Speaker, all Nunavut communities have participated in an in-depth training session providing them with the knowledge required to access and update

their ICSPs online. The creation of this planning tool is built around the idea of *Qanuqtuurniq*, being innovative and resourceful. It also helps foster community self reliance, which is a key *Tamapta* priority. The Government of Nunavut has created this planning tool in order to help the communities maintain and update their infrastructure plans for years to come. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College, Minister Shewchuk.

**Minister's Statement 320 – 3(3):  
Congratulations to Peesee  
Pitseolak-Stephens: 36 Years of  
Service**

**Hon. Daniel Shewchuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On behalf of Nunavut Arctic College and the Government of Nunavut, I rise in the House today to acknowledge the tremendous accomplishments of the Nunatta Campus Dean, Ms. Peesee Pitseolak-Stephens.

Originally from Kimmirut, Peesee has been working for the Government of the Northwest Territories and the Government of Nunavut for more than 36 years.

Mr. Speaker, Peesee was recently presented with a long-term service award recognizing her many years of service as an educator to the Government of Nunavut, Inuit, and Nunavutmiut. Peesee has been working for Nunavut Arctic College for the last 14 years and has worked in various

government departments, but always in the field of education.

Mr. Speaker, Peesee Pitseolak-Stephens has always demonstrated a commitment to the belief in lifelong learning. As a graduate of our Eastern Arctic Teacher Education Program, she has served in a number of capacities: teacher, adult educator, campus dean, and principal of our Nunavut Teacher Education Program. Peesee was also one of the first graduates of the Master of Education Leadership Degree from the University of Prince Edward Island in 2009.

Mr. Speaker, Peesee has always been a strong and passionate advocate for incorporating *Inuit Qaujimagajatuqangit* in the workplace.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in expressing our sincere thanks and congratulations to Ms. Peesee Pitseolak-Stephens for her decades of service and lasting contributions to our college, students, community, and all of Nunavut. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Education, Minister Aariak.

**Minister's Statement 321 – 3(3): Be  
Safe! And Respected Resources**

**Hon. Eva Aariak:** Good afternoon, Mr. Speaker. I would like to inform my colleagues that the Department of Education has partnered with the Canadian Red Cross and the Embrace

Life Council to improve the health and well-being of Nunavut's young people.

Mr. Speaker, we will be bringing to our schools the Canadian Red Cross Be Safe! kit. This is a personal safety program for children aged 5 to 9, with a focus on child sexual abuse prevention. For older children aged 11 to 18, we will be introducing the RespectED workshops. These explore issues of abuse and neglect, bullying, and healthy and unhealthy relationships. Both kits are delivered in a positive, child-friendly, and non-threatening way.

Mr. Speaker, these programs are designed to be delivered in schools and other learning environments. Parents, caregivers, and educators will also receive training and information to support the use of the kit with children.

As part of the Nunavut Suicide Prevention Strategy, the Embrace Life Council is undertaking a community pilot of the Red Cross RespectEd Program in three communities: Baker Lake, Cape Dorset, and Clyde River.

Mr. Speaker, keeping children safe is a responsibility shared by parents, educators, and communities. In order to do this, we must equip our children with the skills they need to understand their rights, stay safe, and protect themselves. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

### **Minister's Statement 322 – 3(3): Baffin Island Caribou Workshop and Management Planning**

**Hon. James Arreak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon to the residents of Qikiqtarjuaq and Clyde River. I say "hello" to Jimmy. Mr. Speaker, my department, along with wildlife co-management partners from across Baffin, met on July 23 and 24, 2013 in Iqaluit for a two-day workshop to develop proposed management actions to address the need for caribou conservation on Baffin Island.

Both Inuit knowledge and scientific information suggest that the number of caribou on Baffin Island is very low. Results from a recent aerial survey indicate that there are fewer than 5,000 caribou in the South Baffin area. These results are consistent with social science research and community consultation conducted in all 10 Baffin Island communities. Harvesters, elders, and community members have told us that caribou are becoming increasingly difficult to find and have also expressed concern about the negative impact of a variety of factors, including land use and climate change.

A community-based approach that supports Inuit systems of wildlife management was identified as the preferred system for caribou conservation on Baffin Island. Under this system, local hunters and trappers organizations (HTOs) will work with community members and co-management partners, including the Government of Nunavut, to establish community-based regulations and management actions.

This winter, community consultations on the information shared in the workshop will be presented to each community and HTO for further discussion and input, with the intent of developing a comprehensive Baffin Island caribou management plan. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Minister's Statement 323 – 3(3):  
Remembering Doctor Eric Prosh**

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** *Unnusakkut*, colleagues. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to remember Dr. Eric Prosh, Director of Minerals and Petroleum Resources with the Department of Economic Development and Transportation, who passed away suddenly on Tuesday, September 3.

Dr. Prosh was a geologist by training and a scientist and researcher to his core. Having been briefed by him and having spoken to him privately on many occasions, I can attest that he was highly knowledgeable and enthusiastic about his field.

From the beginnings of his career, Nunavut's geology figured predominantly in his work. He completed his PhD thesis working with the Geological Survey of Canada on the geology of arctic islands. His work with industry and academia took him around the world before he signed on with the Department of Economic Development and Transportation in 2006.

Mr. Speaker, he made many important contributions to our territory in his seven years of public service and his leadership and expertise influence our approach to mine training, the evaluation of carving stone deposits, and prospector training. He also worked diligently on the Government of Nunavut submissions to the review of proposed mining projects.

Dr. Eric Prosh worked towards Nunavut's future prosperity through the development of our mineral resources, but he was also strongly committed to building geological knowledge for Nunavut's own sake. As recently as this summer, he was engaged in fieldwork on Southampton Island. He was passionate about geological mapping and committed to his work and efforts with the Canada-Nunavut Geoscience Office, Nunavut's geological survey.

He was a colourful character who never hesitated to share his opinion, and anyone who knew him will tell you that he cared deeply about people. In the words of one of his many friends, "Eric has such a lively presence, and such vitality, boldness and zest."

Nunavut was lucky to have him and he will be greatly missed. Please join me in offering my condolences to Eric's friends, family, and colleagues. 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 324 – 3(3): 2013  
Laura Ulluriaq Gauthier  
Scholarship**

**Hon. Monica Ell** (interpretation): Good evening, Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At this time, I would like to congratulate this year's recipient of the \$5,000 Laura Ulluriaq Gauthier Scholarship. This scholarship is in memory to an outstanding contributor to the creation of a made-in-Nunavut electrical utility and is awarded annually to an exceptional Nunavummiuq pursuing their post-secondary studies.

Mr. Speaker, choosing the recipient this year was more challenging for the selection committee than last year. The level of desire and commitment to success shown by all the applicants is exceptional and I am very proud of every one of them.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, this year, the selection committee has selected Ronald (R.J.) Oolooyuk of Rankin Inlet. R.J. is currently attending the University of Manitoba as the first Inuk enrolled in the Engineering Access Program (ENGAP). He is a great example to all for persevering through some challenges and to be doing very well academically in a tough program.

Mr. Speaker, R.J. could have chosen to quit and follow other paths, but as he stated in his application, "My goal is to continue on my path and show other Nunavut students that if I can do it, they can too, and to never give up," he said. So not only has he chosen to do better for himself; he is also committed to helping other Nunavut youth achieve their dreams.

Mr. Speaker, this young man is proving to be a great example to all in his home community of Rankin Inlet and a positive example for youth across our great territory. We all wish him continued success. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister Ell. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Minister responsible for the Department of Family Services, Minister Ell.

**Minister's Statement 325 – 3(3): New  
Application Forms for Career  
Development Programs**

**Hon. Monica Ell:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As Members of this House are aware, the new Department of Family Services is now responsible for the delivery of funding for post-secondary education and training. This includes the FANS program as well as the labour market programs, such as Adult Learning and Training Supports, also known as ALTS, and the training-on-the-job wage subsidy.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to report to the House that since taking over these programs, Family Services staff has created new application forms for all career development programs that could now also be filled in online. These new forms will make it easier for Nunavummiut to apply for the programs and will cut down on administrative time and errors.

The new applications are already in use and both applicants and staff have commented on how they have improved

and are less complicated. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister Ell. We will move on in our orders of the day. Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Baker Lake, Mr. Aupaluktuq.

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

#### **Member's Statement 551 – 3(3): Caring for the Animals in our Communities**

**Mr. Aupaluktuq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to follow up on a project that is very close to my heart, the Buddy Fund in Baker Lake, which supports a number of activities in caring for the family animals and pets in our community.

The annual Buddy Fund will provide veterinarian services beginning Friday, September 13, in Baker Lake.

Mr. Speaker, the Buddy Fund supports the Canadian Animal Assistance Team in bringing veterinarians into the community for clinics, vaccinations, spays, and neutering. One of the objectives of the Canadian Animal Assistance Team is also to support local mushers in keeping dog sledding and good sled dog lines alive.

As all Members of this House will be aware, the Qimiq, Canadian Inuit Dog, is the territorial animal of Nunavut, as chosen by our predecessors in the First Assembly of Nunavut's legislature. Qimiq has long been part of our northern culture and dog sledding is an ongoing cultural activity. This breed is facing

some serious threat to its survival with the lack of access to vaccines to prevent common canine diseases like distemper and parvovirus, as well as interbreeding with non-sled dog breeds.

With so many dogs tethered together in large communities and stray dogs roaming in the area, the spread of disease is hard to control.

Mr. Speaker, while I certainly appreciate our government's involvement in providing rabies vaccines to sled dogs across the territory as a public health initiative on behalf of our human population, I believe more could and should be done.

As an example of what more could be done, the Quebec government recently sponsored veterinary clinics across Nunavik's Hudson Bay communities providing free vaccinations for all dogs and cats to prevent the spread of distemper, hepatitis, and parvovirus.

Mr. Speaker, I was very pleased to note in the media that in the Minister of Health's constituency, the Cambridge Bay "Diamonds in the Ruff" program recently hosted a very successful vet clinic in their community.

It is very gratifying to see the spirit of community activism for the health and well-being of our pets and animal friends across Nunavut. It is my hope that the minister will consider the importance of our government also supporting an expansion of animal vaccination programs across Nunavut's communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Member's Statement 552 – 3(3):  
Strengthening Public Confidence  
in the Health Care System**

**Mr. Ningark:** Thank you kindly, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to address the importance of strengthening public confidence in the health care system.

Mr. Speaker, as you will appreciate, some of the most difficult times that we face as human beings is when a serious illness strikes us or our loved ones.

Although we are grateful, I would like to underline that term, for the care and attention that we receive from our health care professionals, no system is perfect. I would also like to underline that. It is part of the understanding here. From time to time, people are not fully satisfied with their experience in the health care system. They may have questions that they feel were not adequately answered and they may feel that they have not received the services to which they are entitled.

Mr. Speaker, the issue of how to deal with public concerns about the health care system is extremely challenging. I would also like to underline that. As legislators, it is not our role to second-guess the medical decisions of health care professionals. However, we are frequently asked by our constituents to help with such matters as escorts and boarding home services.

Mr. Speaker, two months ago, the Hon. Minister of Health announced the establishment of a new Office of Patient

Relations. This is a good step forward, and I will have questions for the hon. minister on this new office at the appropriate time today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Member's Statement 553 – 3(3):  
Unresolved Issue for  
Compensation of Hall Beach  
Elders**

**Mr. Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A good afternoon greeting since I was informed that the community of Igloodik now has the audio feed, as they could only view the proceedings. I wish a good afternoon to my constituents in Igloodik and Hall Beach.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about our esteemed elders. Nunavut is losing many of our elders who lived and intimately knew Inuit traditional customs and laws. Mr. Speaker, in this calendar year, we have lost many wise elders in Igloodik and Hall Beach, as elders continue to pass away.

Mr. Speaker, I want to return to this issue to provide more background on it as we have discussed this matter ever since the Nunavut legislature was first created. The Inuit of Hall Beach were mistreated by federal government representatives, especially the elders who were directed to dig graves and move them to another site.

Mr. Speaker, back when we had the Assembly in Yellowknife and the late Mark Evaluardjuk was our MLA, and

then when we got the Nunavut Assembly, our MLA at the time, Enoki Irqittuq, and now reaching to my term as the MLA, we have continued to raise this matter. It is, indeed, unfortunate that this government has no feelings or empathy for the tremendous difficulties Inuit endured during the colonial days, when they would be tasked to do unpleasant things and they could only acquiesce. It is becoming obvious that we will have to continue to raise this issue.

Mr. Speaker, the last person who was in that cemetery relocation group finally left us this summer. Mr. Simeonie Qaunaq passed away. His immediate family is still regretful over the lack of resolution of this matter, as they had expected this completed prior to their father's passing. I, too, regret immensely that I was unable to resolve this matter while the man was still alive.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to share in acknowledging the relatives left behind who have been mistreated by our governments to ensure they empathize with the relatives. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 554 – 3(3):  
Tunnganangniq and Elders**

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Good afternoon, Rankin Inlet residents, Kivallirmiut, and my colleagues. I would like to state that we are proud of our elders. The government employees have to feel the same way and be more caring.

I am thankful that the government has a policy. Even though I have not read all of it yet, I have seen the title. The government employees have to be more welcoming to the elders, but I could say that there are too many elders who, when they become ill, are scared to go to or call the nursing station. They get too scared to call. They are not supposed to be in that situation. Who else is going to help them? I don't think that we should just forget about them.

I think the government could do something more to make the elders feel more welcome. I was talking with a widow, an elder who is over 80 years old. She called to tell me that the medical professionals don't believe her and that they tell her that she is fine when she is not. The government has to honour its obligation to welcome the elders.

If our elders were not here, we would not be here. For that reason, I would like to work towards getting more support given to the elders so that they won't be scared or fear going to the nursing stations or to see a doctor. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

>>Applause

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

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

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I would like to take this opportunity to welcome visitors from the United States Consulate Office in Quebec City. Here in the Gallery behind me are, if you may stand up as I call your name, Stuart Wilson, US Consul; Franca Ricci, American Citizens Services Specialist; Dominique Nadeau, Political and Economic Affairs; and Kyle Johnson, Information Resource Center Director with the US Embassy in Ottawa.

The Quebec City Consular District consists of parts of the province of Quebec as well as Nunavut. They are visiting Pangnirtung, Iqaluit, and Rankin Inlet. We hope you find your visit to Nunavut a welcoming and informative one. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Thank you, Madam Premier. Welcome to the Gallery and to Nunavut. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Ningeongan.

**Mr. Ningeongan** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't usually stand up to recognize individuals from my community of Coral Harbour, but there is somebody in the Gallery today. Loretta Nakoolak-Pee from Coral Harbour is here and I would like to thank her for being here.

Loretta works with disabled adults and she also helps out in the church group in my community. Her husband is a councillor at the hamlet council and is a

skilful hunter. I respect Loretta and her husband because they have given themselves to assist the people of my community.

At this time, I would like to recognize Loretta and for everyone to welcome her. Thank you.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. Welcome to the Gallery. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to recognize an individual from Rankin Inlet. Let's welcome Thomas Suvisak to the Gallery. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Kusugak. Welcome to the Gallery. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Ms. Ell.

**Hon. Monica Ell** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Unfortunately, I hadn't bothered to look immediately behind me earlier and the person I wanted to recognize, Ms. Peesee, while the Hon. Daniel Shewchuk was recognizing her accomplishments, has left. For now, I will recognize a constituent, Letia Obed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Thank you, Ms. Ell. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Ningark.

**Mr. Ningark** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This individual was recognized already. Thomas Suvisak has lived in Repulse Bay and has lived in Kugaaruk. We are the same age, but he has fewer grey hairs. I would like to recognize and welcome Thomas Suvisak.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Welcome to the Gallery. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. I would like to recognize an individual in the Gallery. Her late mother used to be a neighbour of mine; she was a wonderful lady. It's Letia Obed. Welcome to the Gallery.

>>Applause

Moving on in our orders of the day. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Baker Lake, Mr. Aupaluktuq.

### Item 6: Oral Questions

#### Question 722 – 3(3): RCMP Services in Nunavut

**Mr. Aupaluktuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) My questions are for the Minister of Justice, the Hon. Daniel Shewchuk.

Under the terms of our territorial policing agreement with Public Safety Canada, the Government of Nunavut spends over \$34 million on an annual basis for the provision of RCMP policing services in Nunavut's 25 communities. Can the minister indicate whether or not any of this budget is used for the construction of new RCMP

facilities or detachments? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Daniel Shewchuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Aupaluktuq for the question. He's absolutely right with our agreement that we have with the RCMP and our cost sharing of 70-30 percent for delivering our policing services in the territory of Nunavut. As far as money is in the agreement for new construction, to my understanding, it is not included in there. That's a separate and above capital spending, but what is included in there is maintenance dollars for upkeeping the RCMP offices. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Aupaluktuq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The municipality and community of Baker Lake have expressed the need for an expanded RCMP detachment. The current facility is cramped and no longer adequate to the workload faced by the detachment. Will the minister commit to raising this issue with the commanding officer of the RCMP "V" Division during their next meeting? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Daniel Shewchuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I absolutely will commit to that. I do meet with the commanding officer of the "V" division on a regular

basis in Iqaluit here. I would also welcome the MLA from Baker Lake and the community of Baker Lake to write letters to the RCMP with their requests and their concerns about the RCMP office in Baker Lake. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Aupaluktuq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate that invitation as well. No doubt as well, the hon. minister will recall that there was a period in time when I did table a document from a request of the Municipality of Baker Lake. One of the lines that they requested for infrastructure addressing was an expanded RCMP detachment.

From time to time, communities may express the need for a greater police presence. Can the minister outline how his department works with the RCMP to determine the number of officers who will be assigned to each community and can he clarify the process by which municipalities can request an expansion to the size of their detachment? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Daniel Shewchuk:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Aupaluktuq for the question. Yes, absolutely, there is a process that is in place that the RCMP assesses detachments and then assigns appropriate staff and regular members to those units. The basis of the process is on demand and amount of caseload in

communities and the amount of work that the RCMP is dealing with on a daily basis.

Also, Mr. Speaker, I can tell you at this time that the present commanding officer of the “V” division has made it a priority that to deliver services more so on the ground level, through reorganization reviews provided, I believe that approximately eight more officers on-the-ground level. I do believe Baker Lake is going to benefit out of this reorganization. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Question 723 – 3(3): Dental Services in Pond Inlet**

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, people of Pond Inlet and Nunavut. Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Health.

Mr. Speaker, as the minister is well aware, I have raised a number of concerns about the limited access to specialist services provided to the community of Pond Inlet. In February, I raised concern about the eye team visits where the team wasn't in the community long enough to see everyone who needed to be seen. More recently, we experienced inadequate dental services where a dental team was supposed to provide four days of service in the community but only provided two.

Can the minister provide a detailed update on what contracted dental services are currently in place for the Baffin region and specifically for the

community of Pond Inlet? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Enook for the question. Mr. Speaker, I'm not aware of these concerns that Mr. Enook has raised. If he has concerns and if he can give me that information and particular details, we can check with the contractors to see if there are any issues with the length of stay in communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Enook (interpretation):** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It has come to my attention that a new contract was recently issued for dental services in the Baffin region with a new service provider. However, it seems that the services are not being provided as contracted. Can the minister describe the kinds of problems that are affecting the contractor's ability to provide dental services in the Baffin region and what his department is doing about it? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Enook again for raising the concern. Mr. Speaker, I'm unaware of any issues that Mr. Enook is referring to. If he has any details that he can share with me, I would be more than happy to look into them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Enook (interpretation):** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm so sorry that the minister is not informed by his staff of the problems that we are facing in the Baffin region.

It is no secret that many children in Nunavut, especially in the Baffin region, are in desperate need of paediatric dental services. The services that we receive should be a high level of service and everything has to be in place in regard to dental services in our communities.

I know that you responded to me that you did not know anything about this problem. Is there any way that you can rectify this problem that we have in a timely manner? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate again Mr. Enook's concern. The contract was recently awarded. It's in the early stages. I'm unaware of any concerns. If there are any issues, I'm sure that our health officials are looking into them. If I can get some information, I'll share it with Mr. Enook for the benefit of his constituents. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Question 724 – 3(3): Homelessness in Nunavut**

**Ms. Ugyuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my questions to the Minister responsible for Homelessness.

Mr. Speaker, as we all know, the majority of communities in Nunavut are experiencing overwhelming housing shortages.

On May 13 of this year, the government tabled *Igluliuqatigiilauqta*, the framework for the GN comprehensive housing and homelessness strategy in the House.

Can the minister explain what her department has done to reduce homelessness in Nunavut? Thank you.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. Minister with the responsibility for Homelessness, Minister Ell.

**Hon. Monica Ell:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Under the homelessness shelter, there's a policy. It's called Tunngasugvik, a policy that governs territorial homelessness. Under this program, the Homeless Shelter Policy was created to ensure the GN's limited financial resources dedicated to homeless are equitably applied across the territory.

What needs to happen under the policy is that the community needs to be together. The hamlet, the community has to make their first initiative and it's a collaborative effort with the community. They need to make a case. Once approved, the community has to have a plan. Once we hear from that, we would

start a working relationship to address homelessness. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Ugyuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Sometimes I forget the people of Gjoa Haven and Taloyoak. I say "good day" to them. Sometimes I work so hard that I forget. I say "good day" to my mother.

(interpretation ends) The GN created the Tunngasugvik Homeless Shelter Policy in 2011, (interpretation) which she mentioned. (interpretation ends) This policy enables the Nunavut Housing Corporation to use a public housing unit to serve as a shelter for the homeless.

Can the minister indicate if there has been any public housing units converted into homeless shelters? If not, why not? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. Minister with the responsibility for Homelessness, Minister Ell.

**Hon. Monica Ell:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk, for the question. I say "good afternoon" to the people of Nunavut.

The Nunavut Housing Corporation can be asked to provide a public house as long as the community agrees. With the collaboration of the community, they can provide them with public housing and to work with my department. Today, we have not heard from any community that they would like to do that sort of work. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Ugyuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I understand her responses. Thank you, Minister Ell. (interpretation ends) On March 18, of this year, a federal government issued a news release titled “Harper Government helps prevent homelessness in Nunavut.” It indicated that the Hamlet of Kugaaruk had received \$94,000 in funding for new emergency housing under the federal government’s Homelessness Partnering Strategy.

Can the minister indicate if her department assisted the Hamlet of Kugaaruk to access this funding? If so, how can other communities receive funding under this program? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. Minister with the responsibility for Homelessness, Minister Ell.

**Hon. Monica Ell** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That funding came from the federal government and it did not come from the Government of Nunavut, but we’re very grateful to Leona Aglukkaq, who worked with her constituents and was able to provide that funding. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Question 725 – 3(3): Office of Patient Relations**

**Mr. Ningark:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Hon. Minister of Health, my colleague from the

Kitikmeot region. The person, I would like to say, I can call a gentleman, a statesman.

The question I’m about to ask for, he informed me of a new office about a month ago and I appreciate that courtesy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

As the minister is aware, many Members of the Legislative Assembly have raised the issue of how Nunavummiut can raise concerns about the health care system.

Two months ago, on July 8 of this year, the minister announced the establishment of a new Office of Patient Relations. Can the hon. minister update the House on how this new office is functioning? 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 my colleague from the Kitikmeot for those kind words. I have known Mr. Ningark for probably close to 40 years. We have worked in the Kitikmeot together.

Mr. Speaker, it’s a little early to tell. The patient relations office has just gotten underway in the last six to eight weeks. My own hands-on evidence is that complaints to me have dropped. In my own riding, I have encouraged people to contact patient relations if they have any issues. I have got some feedback from my constituents that they have and they get follow-up or that they get a letter.

Early on, it seems to be working, but I don’t have any hard data to provide the House. The plan is that within ten days

of month-end, we would gather information and be able to track how the office is doing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Ningark:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have many complaints in our constituencies across Nunavut. Whether the new initiative is early, new, and what have you, can the hon. minister at least inform me through this House, through you, Mr. Speaker, at least under this new initiative, have there been any complaints at all forwarded to the minister's office up to this date? 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 the question. Mr. Speaker, the objective of the program is that when people have concerns, we encourage them to talk to the nurse or the health centre manager at the point of care. If it's not resolved there, then you talk to the regional director, and then go to patient relations.

Of course, people are always free to go to their MLAs or their mayors or contact me. As I have mentioned in the House previously a number of times, if they go to the minister, it could take time because then you've got to work your way back down to where the issue originated. If people can start at the beginning with their health practitioner, it would resolve the issue more quickly.

If someone has a concern, we will get back to them within 48 hours to talk to

them about their concern. Patient relations will work to track the issue, contact the people themselves, and within a reasonable amount of time, will endeavour to get back to the individual with an answer, whether it's what they want to hear or they don't want to hear.

Our objective is to improve communications with our patients across Nunavut and the clients. As we have probably experienced in our various capacities as individuals, MLAs, and ministers, it's never a pleasant feeling to have to wait for an answer or feel that you are being ignored or neglected.

This is our effort to improve our communications and relations with our patients and clients. Of course, health care is very important to us and the Government of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister Peterson. Oral Questions. Member Ranking Inlet North, Mr. Curley.

### **Question 726 – 3(3): Dental Services and Contracts**

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to ask my question to the Minister of Health.

In May of this year, I asked the minister questions concerning the government's award of the contract for dental services in the Baffin region.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I understand that this contract was awarded to a company called "Nunavut Innovative Health Solutions," which is actually based in British Columbia.

Can the minister confirm today whether or not this same company has now been awarded the contract for providing dental services in the Kivalliq region?  
Thank you.

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

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Curley for the interest he has shown in this dental contract. Mr. Speaker, as I have answered in questions by Mr. Curley, there's a competitive RFP process. Ministers don't get involved in the evaluation of the design of RFPs or evaluation and awarding of tenders.

We have a GN procurement process which is open, fair, and transparent. It's unfortunate that if there is more than one bidder in a competitive bidding process, there are going to be some companies that will be unhappy with the award. We recognize that, but we can't award five contracts when there is only one available.

Mr. Speaker, to confirm Mr. Curley's question, yes, Nunavut Innovative Health Solutions was awarded the Kivalliq contract. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister Peterson. Before I go back to you, Mr. Curley, I would just like to remind all members that the rules prohibit the use of BlackBerrys during question period.

Your first supplementary, Mr. Curley.

**Mr. Curley:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is an important, essential service.

It's not just a beautification job; it involves surgeries that are required by the clients in Nunavut, and so on.

My supplementary is this: concerns have been raised that the British Columbia-based company is not meeting the terms and conditions of its contract for dental services in the Baffin. Will the minister commit to having an independent audit or investigation into whether the company is meeting the terms and conditions of its contract? Thank you.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Minister of Health, Minister Peterson. Did I say that wrong? Sorry about that, Mr. Curley. Thank you. Minister of Health, Minister Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I again thank Mr. Curley for the question. Mr. Speaker, by my recollection, it was only less than three or four months ago that we discussed this issue. I'm not going to commit to any independent investigation or evaluation, as I indicated to Mr. Enook.

If there are concerns, I would like to know what the concerns are and who they have heard them from, and then we will have our officials follow up. There is contract management oversight of various contracts that the government has. If there are concerns, we would like to know about them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Curley:** I think the minister is well aware that if the public funds that are being committed are not being administered properly or awarded or the

contractor is not providing services, it is up to the government to find out exactly what is going on.

In light of the concerns that have been raised concerning this matter, the contract involving Nunavut Innovative Services, will the minister commit to issuing a new request for proposals for dental services in the Kivalliq and Baffin regions, yes or no and, if not, why not?

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Curley.  
Minister of Health, Minister Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again I thank Mr. Curley for his question. No. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Question 727 – 3(3): Baffin Island Caribou Survey**

**Mr. Oshutapik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon to the people of Pangnirtung and Nunavut. Mr. Speaker, my question today is directed to the Minister of Environment.

We know and as the minister indicated earlier in his Minister's Statement, my question is coming from there. The minister was saying that the number of caribou in the Baffin region is below 5,000. I would like to ask the minister when that study is going to be completed regarding the Baffin Island caribou.  
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. James Arreak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Mr. Oshutapik, for that question. Last year, we had a study done on the southern part of Baffin Island, starting from about the middle of Baffin Island. We didn't have a study conducted this summer, but we've had discussions with the communities. We've had studies done with all communities in the Baffin region and they all indicated that they are seeing smaller populations of caribou.

At the Baffin Island caribou workshop and management planning, they indicated that they would like to see a study conducted as soon as possible. They wanted to find out whether they should set up a management system or a quota system to be used in the Baffin area. The HTOs are going to be working together. Again, the study is going to be concluded by next year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Oshutapik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the minister for his response. We've had an adequate number of caribou in our area for a long time and this is the first time that we have seen a very small population. There are times when we don't even see any and if you want to get some caribou, you have to go quite far from your community. Are the minister and his department making plans to get some caribou harvested from other communities and bring them to the Baffin region? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. James Arreak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We don't have any plans right now. We haven't made any plans to order any caribou from any of the outlying communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Oshutapik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for that indication. After the study is completed, are you going to start making plans on Baffin Island caribou management or setting up some kind of a system to increase the population and, if so, when would those plans be implemented? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. James Arreak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank Mr. Oshutapik. We are going to work with the Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Organization, which includes ten communities. There is also a Baffin-wide organization that we will also be working with. Any Baffin Islander is welcome to work with us. We are looking to have the research and community consultations done prior to the end of 2014. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Question 728 – 3(3): Diagnostic Services in Nunavut**

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

In 2011, one of the main recommendations of a coroner's inquest into the death of a woman who had suffered head injuries from a fall in Iqaluit was that the Government purchase a CT scanner for Nunavut. Although it was a long time coming, the minister has indicated that the department would be purchasing a machine this year.

Can the minister provide an update on the status of Nunavut's new CT scanner? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Elliott for the question. Mr. Speaker, I believe the purchase of the CT scanner is in progress. There have been various meetings. I believe that there were meetings in late August. The officials who will be visiting the hospital are coming up this month to view the possible site of the CT scanner. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Implementing any new technology and delivering new services often poses a bit of a learning curve. Can the minister describe what kinds of challenges his

department has faced to date and expects to face in the future with respect to providing CT scanning service in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm not an IT guy and I have never claimed to be an IT guy. I can barely operate my computer.

Mr. Speaker, we will be working on the CT scanner. It will be positioned in the Qikiqtani General Hospital. We're investigating an arrangement with the Ottawa hospital. We will be using them for support.

One of the issues, of course, and it's no secret in Nunavut, is if there's bandwidth for sending large files. We will be exploring that with our IT guys within the Department of Health and with Community and Government Services IT folks. Until we get more bandwidth, we will always be limited by what we can do with technology.

Last year, I had an opportunity to meet with a Dalhousie University doctor, Dr. Ivar Mendez, about remote access technology in terms of providing remote technology in our health centres and our hospital. Of course, he indicated to us that we need 3G technology, which we don't have currently. Hopefully, over the years, we will get it and we will be able to provide a higher level of technology in all of our health centres and hospital to help our health practitioners deliver services to our residents. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again thank you for the update. I am a little confused. I just remember the conversation we had in June where I was asking questions to the minister and he had said that the CT scanner would be flown up over the summer. It wasn't being brought up on sealift. It was actually being flown up.

Training was ongoing already. Once the CT scanner arrived, they wanted to be able to have it set up and it would be good to go because they would have people trained. It would be September when CT scans would actually be able to be happening in the territory here in Nunavut.

Now it sounds like he's saying that it won't actually be happening until we get 3G technology here. I don't know. I'm a little confused. Maybe the minister could let us know when the CT scanner will be operational so that scans can actually happen in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Elliott for the question. I apologize to Mr. Elliott if I went into a longer explanation about the potential of technology in Nunavut. 3G, of course, not being here now, but I assure Mr. Elliott that the technology to operate the CT scanner is available now. As I said, our officials are working with the people to get the CT scanner here and positioned in the hospital.

As I said earlier, though, the issue in running it at 100 percent efficiency will always be bandwidth. So even though we have the equipment here, it will be limited by the bandwidth. There would be slower transmission of diagnostic imaging to health professionals who can look at the X-rays and offer diagnoses to our health practitioners in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Question 729 – 3(3): Update on Pond Inlet Arena and Baseball Diamond**

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Government House Leader, Hon. Lorne Kusugak.

First of all, I would like to thank the minister for making it up to Pond Inlet, where you can actually see what kind of problems and challenges we have in our communities.

Mr. Speaker, in the spring and summer, especially in the smaller communities, people tend to go out on the land and leave the daily meetings and daily community life behind.

Ever since I became a Member of the Legislative Assembly, I have indicated at times what our problems and challenges are. We had to close down our arena earlier this spring. At that time, when we welcomed Minister Kusugak to our community, I wanted to skate with him at our arena. It is unfortunate that we had to close it early before he arrived. Our radio in Pond Inlet was down at that time and I am

unaware if the hamlet has reported on the minister's visit. So that we, the people of Pond Inlet, can be informed and since he is aware of our predicament, I would like to hear what the plans his department has to rectify the problems we had this spring with the arena and when he expects it to be fixed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am nowhere near skating right now. I would have to skate on one leg.

>> *Laughter*

Mr. Speaker, I was invited to Pond Inlet this summer and I enjoyed it very much. We had a meeting with the hamlet council. We are also working on the baseball diamond at the same time. I also saw youngsters playing basketball in not very good conditions. I am glad that the government is able to help in a little way in order to get recreational facilities up there.

We visited the arena. It was clear that the concrete that was laid out was all cracked and getting upheaved, I'm sure from the permafrost under the concrete. There were some dips and cracks in the concrete. Our employees are aware of the problem and I can assure my colleague that they are going to be putting in a covering, fixing up the cracks, and levelling out the concrete.

In the spring, we will find out if there will have to be further repairs done on

the concrete flooring. If there are such problems or repairs needed, then we will do it right away. So that is the plan we have at this time. We are going to be covering up the whole concrete flooring. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for your response. I do regret that we won't be able to skate. Possibly this spring, we can join in the baseball game.

Again, another problem that we have is with the baseball diamond. You kind of indicated that there will be some kind of agreement to make sure that the baseball diamond is fixed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we have been working on the baseball diamond for a number of years. There is the old diamond and the new location Pond Inlet would like to move it to. We talked about it at the hamlet council meeting and they are going to collaborate and put in the baseball diamond. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Question 730 – 3(3): Federal-Territorial Relations**

**Ms. Ugyuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like wish my grandfather, Alookie, in Taloyoak a good day and I love him dearly. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Premier.

The Premier recently hosted the Prime Minister of Canada on the occasion of his annual northern tour.

As we know from our recent discussions in Committee of the Whole, Nunavut needs over 3,000 new public housing units and at least \$1.5 billion to meet this need. Although we are grateful for the additional federal funds that we have received, it's simply not enough.

Can the Premier confirm whether or not she directly asked the Prime Minister for the full amount of funding that we actually require? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. Minister responsible for Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, Madam Premier.

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleague for her question. Every time I have a meeting with the Prime Minister of Canada, I always bring up the subject of the shortage of housing because we are in a sad state of affairs with the shortage. We have been given additional funds to build more houses.

Even though that's the case, we heard from the minister responsible for the

housing corporation that we need approximately 3,500 new public housing units in order to meet the needs of Nunavut. On top of that, every year, we have to build additional 90 houses in order to keep up with the needs of the people.

I'm sure that the price tag is staggering. I believe that it was stated that it's in the billions. We know that the federal government cannot give us that large amount of money in one lump sum, but we will keep lobbying the federal government. Again, we have to look at other sources of funds, as well as the private sector and Inuit organizations. We have a definite need for additional housing in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Madam Premier. Your first supplementary, Ms. Ugyuk.

**Ms. Ugyuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I asked the minister if she could ask for at least \$1.5 billion.

(interpretation ends) Can the Premier indicate what the federal response has been to Nunavut's requests for additional housing funding from Ottawa? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. Minister responsible for Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, Madam Premier.

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I appreciate very much that we were able to get additional funds from the federal government. As I indicated earlier, again, we need additional funds and housing. We, as a government, have to

keep lobbying the federal government to make sure that we keep getting monies. As I indicated earlier, we need approximately 3,500 new public housing units.

(interpretation ends) We need 3,500 homes and, actually, 90 units per year in order to close the gap for many years to come. The enormity of the need of housing is very big. This is something that we must keep working together with the federal government, Inuit organizations, and the private sector and come up with innovative ways that I am sure the Nunavut Housing Corporation is working on, on an ongoing basis.

I have to be realistic. If I ask for a total amount of money to cover off the 3,500 units, I don't think the federal government is going to give us the money to build 3,500 units. We have to be realistic in terms of our dialogue on that topic. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Madam Premier. Your final supplementary, Ms. Ugyuk.

**Ms. Ugyuk** (interpretation): I would like to thank the Premier for her response. (interpretation ends) Can the Premier indicate whether or not she is fully satisfied with the current level of federal commitment to addressing the housing crisis in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. Minister responsible for Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, Madam Premier.

**Hon. Eva Aariak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I indicated, our need is

enormous. In fact, our young territory's needs in terms of infrastructure are enormous. I am not fully satisfied with the level of assistance we are getting in terms of infrastructure, but again, we have to do our part and work together in trying to attain and get what Nunavummiut need. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Question 731 – 3(3): Dental Services and Contracts**

**Mr. Curley:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a follow-up to my questions earlier to the Minister of Health concerning dental services for the Kivalliq and Baffin regions. The minister is well aware that the RFPs that were issued for both regions in 2012 had been awarded to a company based in British Columbia.

The Minister of Health clearly indicated to the House earlier that he will not be reissuing the RFP for dental service requirements despite the number of problems that have been indicated. Now, my question is: now that the minister clearly is in favour of this contract, will the minister indicate to the House that if the current court appeal is successful for both contracts, will he continue to support Nunavut Innovation Services for dental services for both Baffin and Kivalliq? Thank you.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Curley. Mr. Curley, you used the word "if." You can't do that. Would you like to rephrase your question? Mr. Curley.

**Mr. Curley:** Yes. Thank you. Mr. Speaker, my question to the minister is the minister knows that the appeal has been put forward for both contracts. Now, while the contract is being appealed, the RFP, I will rephrase my question. Who is exactly doing the work at this moment? Thank you.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister of Health, Minister Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Curley for expressing a great interest in this particular contract.

As I indicated earlier, ministers don't get involved in the RFP process. He knows that. He was a minister in this government at one time. We have committed to be open and fully transparent in this government. There is a procurement process.

As Mr. Curley has indicated, this matter is before the courts. I really don't want to get into any detail about the contracts until the matter is resolved. Until such time, it is business as usual. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Curley:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The minister did get involved. He clearly indicated to the House and Nunavutmiut that he will not reissue the RFP. Can the minister explain why?

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

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As Mr. Curley seems to be very well versed on this particular contract, he must be aware that at least two companies have submitted legal documents before the courts. I respect the court system and until such time as a decision is made, as I said, it's business as usual. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Curley:** Mr. Speaker, my final question to the minister is this: it is possible that the appeal may be successful. Now, the dental requirements are critical in Nunavut. If the appeal process is successful, when will the minister reissue the RFP? Thank you.

**Speaker:** Can you guys hear me?

Thank you for your patience, members. Again, Mr. Curley, you used the word "if." That's like asking a hypothetical question. You said that if the appeal is successful, would the minister reissue the RFP. That is something that you can't ask. Would you like to rephrase your question? Thank you.

**Mr. Curley:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is possible that the appeal process will evaluate pros and cons, including the cost difference between the two. It is important that Nunavutmiut are fully aware. If the appeal is successful, will the minister, then, reissue the tender or will he be in favour of the current contractor? Thank you.

**Speaker:** Mr. Curley, I would have to rule that question out of order. You said "if" again. You know that the rules

prohibit hypothetical questions.

Moving on. Oral Questions. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. Elliott.

### **Question 732 – 3(3): NNI Policy and Procurement Practices Review Status**

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

On March 1, 2012, the Premier announced that the government would be launching a comprehensive review of the NNI Policy in cooperation with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated. Can the Premier update us today on the status of this review, and can she indicate if a revised NNI Policy will be tabled in the House prior to the dissolution of the Third Legislative Assembly? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister responsible for Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, Madam Premier.

**Hon. Eva Aariak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. No. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Madam Premier. Your first supplementary, Mr. Elliott.

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Premier's announcement of last March also indicated that the government would be conducting a comprehensive internal review of its procurement practices.

As the Premier will recall, one of the recommendations that came forward from the Standing Committee on [Oversight of] Government Operations

and Public Accounts following our review of the Auditor General's report on procurement and contracting was that the government needs to develop a more clear appeals process for unsuccessful bidders.

Can the Premier update us today on the status of this review? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister responsible for Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, Madam Premier.

**Hon. Eva Aariak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This question is more geared towards the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, but I'll try my best to answer for him.

If the member is talking about the review of the NNI document, as I understand it, the review is being tabled. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Madam Premier. Your final supplementary, Mr. Elliott.

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the Premier will also recall, another one of the recommendations that came forward from the Standing Committee on [Oversight of] Government Operations and Public Accounts following our review of the Auditor General's report on procurement was that the government needs to clarify whether or not the NNI Policy applies to the procurement and contracting activities of the Qulliq Energy Corporation.

In its official response to the standing committee report, the government

indicated that it would be reviewing this issue. Can the Premier inform the House what decision the government has made on this issue? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister responsible for Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, Madam Premier.

**Hon. Eva Aariak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The portfolio is under a different ministry than mine, so I cannot answer that at this point. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Madam Premier. Members will note that the allotted time for question period has expired. As a result, we will move on in our orders of the day. Item 7. Written Questions. Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Item 10. Petitions. Item 11. Responses to Petitions. Item 12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Mr. Tapardjuk.

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

#### **Tabled Document 402 – 3(3): Nunavut Planning Commission Workshop in Cambridge Bay**

**Mr. Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table today a copy of the information for the upcoming Nunavut Planning Commission workshop in Cambridge Bay from September 17 to 19, 2013. The purpose of this workshop is to provide guidance regarding future submissions on the Draft Nunavut Land Use Plan. The Nunavut Planning Commission has invited interested organizations, such as

designated Inuit organizations, the federal and territorial government agencies and departments, and institutions of public government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Tabled Document 403 – 3(3): Nunavut Film Development Corporation Annual Report 2009-2010**

**Tabled Document 404 – 3(3): Nunavut Film Development Corporation Annual Report 2010-2011**

**Tabled Document 405 – 3(3): Nunavut Film Development Corporation Annual Report 2011-2012**

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table following annual reports for the Nunavut Film Development Corporation for the years 2009-2010, 2010-11, and 2011-12. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. We will move 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. Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Item 19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bills 32, 40, and 69 with Mr. Tapardjuk in the Chair.

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

>>*House recessed at 15:12 and Committee resumed at 15:40*

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

**Chairman** (Mr. Tapardjuk) (interpretation): Thank you for coming back to the Committee of the Whole. I would now like call the committee meeting to order. Thank you for being here. In Committee of the Whole, we have the following items to deal with: (interpretation ends) Bills 32, 40, and 69. (interpretation) What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Aupaluktuq.

**Mr. Aupaluktuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We wish to commence our review of Bills 69, 32, and 40. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. We will deal with Bills 69, 40, and 32. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Bill 69 – Supplementary Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, No. 2, 2013-2014 – Consideration in Committee**

**Chairman** (interpretation): We will first deal with Bill 69. Is the committee agreed that Minister Peterson and his officials go to the witness table?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

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

Thank you. For the record, Minister Peterson, please introduce your witnesses. Minister Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my right is Chris D'Arcy, Deputy Minister of Finance, and to my left is Peter Tumilty, Assistant Deputy Minister of Policy and Planning. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson. Welcome, Deputy D'Arcy and Mr. Tumilty. If you have any opening comments, I give you this opportunity to make your opening comments. Minister Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to present Bill 69, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 2, 2013-2014*.

Bill 69 is for operations and maintenance supplementary appropriations for 2013-14 totalling -\$1,592,000. It consists of the following five items:

- A budget reallocation of -\$1,900,000 from Vote 1 to Vote 2 for the Department of the Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs for office renovations and the procurement of office equipment for the Aeroplex building;
- A budget reallocation of -\$184,000 from Vote 1 to Vote 2 for the Department of Finance for the renovations of the Helen Maksagak Building in Cambridge Bay;
- An internal transfer of \$69,000 and one PY from the Department of Health to the Department of Family

Services for the coordination of the Ilagiitsiarniq Family Violence Prevention Framework;

- \$348,000 in additional funding to the Department of Justice for the additional leasing costs for office space in the Inuksugait Plaza phase 4 building from April to December of 2013; and
- \$144,000 for the Department of Community and Government Services for the additional lease costs to house the Department of the Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs staff in one location.

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

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson. Are there general comments to the opening comments? I would like to hear general comments right now, but I have no one on my list. We can proceed to Bill 69. Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) No. 2 2013-14. If you can go to page 4. Government of Nunavut. (interpretation ends) Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. (interpretation) Operations and Maintenance. Directorate. Not Previously Authorized. -\$728,000. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Go to the next item. (interpretation ends) Strategic Planning. (interpretation) Not Previously Authorized. -\$138,000. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Nunavut Cabinet. Operations and Maintenance. Not Previously Authorized. -\$220,000. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Sivumuaqatigiit. Not Previously Authorized. -\$714,000. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Intergovernmental Affairs. Not Previously Authorized. -\$100,000. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Total (interpretation ends) Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. (interpretation) Operations and Maintenance. -\$1,900,000. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Turn to page 5. Finance. Operations and Maintenance. (interpretation ends) Comptrollership. (interpretation) Not Previously Authorized. -\$184,000. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Go to the bottom. Total Department. (interpretation ends) Operations and Maintenance. (interpretation) -\$184,000. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Turn to page 6. Family Services. Operations and Maintenance. Children and Family Services. Not Previously Authorized. \$69,000. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Go to the bottom. Total Department. Children and Family Services. Operations and Maintenance. \$69,000. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Turn to page 7. Justice. Operations and Maintenance. Directorate. Not Previously Authorized. \$348,000. Do you agree? Mr. Enook.

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to get more information on this item. The amount, \$348,000, it says that it's from April 2013 to December 2013. Is this a new lease? What is going to happen beyond December 2013? Are they going to move to another location or is there going to be an agreement for leasing? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Enook for the question. Mr. Chairman, for the first three months of this fiscal year, the Department of CGS covered the lease cost, and then there's a shortfall from April 2013 to December 2013. That's what this \$348,000 will cover. Beyond that, in future years, I think there's a

lease being negotiated or in place to cover lease costs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. I have no more names on my list. (interpretation ends) Justice. Operations and Maintenance. Directorate. \$348,000. (interpretation) Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Go to the bottom of page 7. Total Department. \$348,000. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Turn to page 8. Health. (interpretation ends) Operations and Maintenance. (interpretation) Not Previously Authorized. -\$69,000. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Go to the bottom of page 8. Total Department. -\$69,000. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Turn to page 9. Community and Government Services. Operations and Maintenance. Not Previously Authorized. \$144,000. Mr. Enook.

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just for some more information in regard to the \$144,000, I'm just wondering what it means to have it in one location. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Enook for the question. Mr. Chairman, the EIA staff are currently located in Iqaluit in four locations. With the renovations, the staff from EIA would be housed in one location and that would be in the Aeroplex building. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I could ask for more information, what is this \$144,000 going to be used for within the office? Is it for renovations? What is it going to be used for? Is it so that the staff could be in one location? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Enook for the question. Mr. Chairman, those will be the incremental lease costs to consolidate the EIA staff in one location. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson. (interpretation ends) Community and Government Services. Operations and Maintenance. \$144,000. (interpretation) Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Go to the bottom. Total Department. (interpretation ends) Community and

Government Services. Operations and Maintenance. \$144,000. (interpretation) Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Go back to page 2. (interpretation ends) Summary of Appropriation. Schedule 1. Operations and Maintenance Appropriation. - \$1,592,000. (interpretation) Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Go to Bill 69 (interpretation ends) in your binder. (interpretation) Thank you. I believe you now have the legislative binder containing the bill. Please refer to Bill 69. (interpretation ends) Clause 1. (interpretation) Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

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

**Some Members:** Agreed.

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

**Some Members:** Agreed.

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

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Go to the Schedule on page 3. Page 3. (interpretation ends) Schedule. Vote 1: Operations and Maintenance. (interpretation) Total. -\$1,592,000. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Total Supplementary Appropriation. -\$1,592,000. (interpretation) Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Go back to page 1. (interpretation ends) Clause 5. (interpretation) Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

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

**Some Members:** Agreed.

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

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Do we agree to Bill 69 as a whole?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Do we agree that pursuant to Rule 62(2) that Bill 69 can immediately be placed on orders of the day for third reading?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Ningark.

**Mr. Ningark** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We were under the Schedule and Family Services is listed there. I thought it was -\$69,000. Am I wrong?

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Under Family Services, \$69,000, it was not negative, which is what you approved. Is it clear, Mr. Ningark?

**Mr. Ningark** (interpretation): Yes, I understand it now. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Do we agree that pursuant to Rule 62(2) that Bill 69 can immediately be placed on the orders of the day for third reading?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister, I thank you and your officials. If you want to make some closing comments, I give you this opportunity. Minister Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank you and your committee for the scrutiny and oversight of Bills 68 and 69 the last couple of days.

I would like to thank our legislative drafters who worked on a very short notice to put all of this together. I would like to send out a special thanks to our expenditure management team in the Department of Finance who put these supp bills together over the years and also the capital and main estimates since 2008. I believe this will be my last appearance before the committee talking about supp bills or main estimates or capital estimates. The hard work that our staff do is greatly appreciated to make things work out for our benefit.

I would also like to thank my officials who were with me today to assist me with my appearance. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson. I thank your officials, (interpretation ends) Deputy D'Arcy and Mr. Tumilty. (interpretation) Thank you. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses out. Thank you.

Thank you. The next item on the list is (interpretation ends) Bill 32.

(interpretation) Are we agreed that Minister Shewchuk and his officials go to the witness table?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

### **Bill 32 – An Act to Amend the Legal Services Act – Consideration in Committee**

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

Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. For the record, please introduce your witness. Minister Shewchuk.

**Hon. Daniel Shewchuk:** Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I would like to introduce to my right the Deputy Minister of Justice, Mr. Norman Tarnow.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome, (interpretation ends) Deputy Tarnow. (interpretation) If you have any opening comments, I give you the opportunity at this time. Minister Shewchuk.

**Hon. Daniel Shewchuk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to appear before the committee today for the clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 32, *An Act to Amend the Legal Services Act*.

The bill adds a provision protecting lawyers employed by the Legal Services Board from breach of professional conduct for conflict of interest.

Currently, LSB (Legal Services Board) lawyers have no protection against potential civil or law society penalty for acting in a perceived conflict of interest on a file.

The reality in Nunavut is that the LSB does the vast majority of legal work and has to represent opposing parties. With fewer than 25 lawyers dealing with thousands of cases on an annual basis in criminal, family, and civil law matters, it is impossible for staff lawyers to avoid potential conflicts of interest from arising.

Both Manitoba and Newfoundland have a similar provision in their legal aid legislation. Extending this protection to Nunavut Legal Services Board lawyers will ensure they can continue to provide legal services to Nunavutmiut without fear of unwarranted professional sanction. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. Does the Chair of the Standing Committee on Legislation have comments? Mr. Ningeongan.

**Mr. Ningeongan:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation) Can I proceed?

(interpretation ends) As Chair of the Standing Committee on Legislation, I am pleased to provide opening comments on behalf of my colleagues as we begin consideration of Bill 32, *An Act to Amend the Legal Services Act*.

Mr. Chairman, as you will recall, Bill 32 received second reading on March 1, 2012 and was subsequently referred to the standing committee for consideration.

For the benefit of the permanent public record and Nunavummiut who are following our proceedings today, I wish to take this opportunity to provide an overview of the standing committee's deliberations concerning Bill 32.

Mr. Chairman, the amended and reprinted version of Bill 32 that is before the Committee of the Whole today adds a new provision to the *Legal Services Act* concerning conflicts of interest in relation to the conduct of a lawyer who is employed by the Legal Services Board or a regional legal services committee. The standing committee has no objections to the proposed new provision.

Mr. Chairman, as you will also recall, the introduction version of Bill 32 that was initially referred to the standing committee contained provisions to repeal sections 40 and 41 from the *Legal Services Act*. These provisions of the *Legal Services Act* provide for a choice of legal counsel for accused persons who have been charged with an offence for which the maximum penalty is life imprisonment.

Mr. Chairman, as you will appreciate, the standing committee gave careful consideration to the proposal to remove these provisions from the legislation. Over the past year, the committee undertook an extensive dialogue with the sponsoring minister concerning the rationale for this proposal.

Mr. Chairman, the initial justification that was provided for removing the choice of counsel provisions from the *Legal Services Act* concerned the purported cost of providing legal counsel in section 40 matters. Upon detailed scrutiny, however, this argument could not be adequately substantiated.

Another proposed justification for removing the choice of counsel provisions from the *Legal Services Act* concerned differing interpretations of Madam Justice Browne's judgment in relation to the Bishop case.

Although it has been suggested that section 40 of the *Legal Services Act* provides an accused person with an "unrestrained choice of counsel from anywhere in the country," Justice Browne actually ruled that the Legal Services Board simply has an obligation to provide an accused person with a "solid list containing alternatives and a reasonable number or variety of lawyers who are qualified and prepared to act as senior counsel on murder cases or other cases of a similarly serious nature."

Mr. Chairman, I would also like to take this opportunity to note that the standing committee, in the course of its deliberations on Bill 32, expressed disappointment at the lack of progress made by the Legal Services Board to act on the need to strengthen the private bar in Nunavut, thereby supporting its ability to meet its obligations under the *Legal Services Act* and the Bishop decision. The standing committee would also emphasize that Justice Browne's judgment took formal judicial notice of the shortage of legal professionals in Nunavut.

For example, the standing committee notes that the rate paid to resident lawyers under the Legal Services Regulations has not increased since July 1, 2000. This inaction does not contribute to the goal of expanding a private bar presence in the territory. Indeed, it creates disincentives for legal professionals to establish private practices in the territory. By contrast, the government has recognized that its compensation framework for such professions as teachers, nurses, and physicians cannot remain static for over a decade.

Although the standing committee recognizes that the Legal Services Board enjoys an appropriate degree of operational autonomy, it would support strong action on the part of the minister responsible for the board with respect to ensuring that a lack of budgetary resources cannot be used as a justification for not meeting statutory obligations.

Mr. Chairman, another proposed justification for removing the choice of counsel provisions from the *Legal Services Act* concerned the question of whether or not an accused person is capable of making a reasonable decision in such matters.

The standing committee considered, but ultimately rejected, the contention that accused persons are inherently incapable of making reasonable decisions and that these decisions should be made for them by officials.

The standing committee also expressed its support for the position that an accused person who faces a potential life sentence should have a high degree of

trust and confidence in his or her legal counsel. To a significant extent, this trust and confidence depends on the accused person having a meaningful say in the decision as to who will represent them.

Mr. Chairman, as you are aware, the *Legal Services Act* was inherited by Nunavut from the Northwest Territories upon division. It is noteworthy that the territory's recently passed new *Legal Aid Act* maintains an important element of choice of counsel for accused persons facing potential life sentences while providing for measures to ensure that such counsel is fully able to act in such matters.

Mr. Chairman, during the minister's recent appearance before the standing committee on the occasion of its clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 32, two motions were moved, considered, and adopted. These motions amended Bill 32 by deleting the clauses that provided for the repeal of sections 40 and 41 from the *Legal Services Act*.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening comments. The standing committee recommends the passage of Bill 32, as amended and reprinted, to all members. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. I will now open the floor for general comments from the members. There being none. Please go to Bill 32 in your white legislation binder. I think you all have it now. Bill 32, reprint, (interpretation ends) *Legal Services Act*. Clause 1. (interpretation) Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

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

**Some Members:** Agreed.

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

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Do we agree to Bill 32 as a whole?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Do we agree that pursuant to Rule 62(2) that Bill 32 can immediately be placed on the orders of the day for third reading?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, my colleagues. (interpretation ends) Bill 32 (interpretation) will be placed on the orders of the day for third reading. Minister Shewchuk, if you have any closing remarks, you have the floor. Minister Shewchuk.

**Hon. Daniel Shewchuk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think this probably will be my last time in front of you during this Legislative Assembly as Minister of Justice and my last bill that will go through before the next government is formed. I thank you all for all the work that you have done with your committee in reviewing bills that have come forward by Justice.

I want to thank you today for reviewing Bill 32. I think it's very important that we support and we give the tools to our legal services board to provide legal

council to all citizens in Nunavut, and we are doing that here today. I will also support anything that we can do into the future to increase that support. Thank you very much.

I would like to thank my witness, Mr. Tarnow, for being here today, and all the people at Justice that had been working back in forth with you and your committee on this bill. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. Thank you, (interpretation ends) Deputy Tarnow. (interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses out.

Thank you. Following the list of items referred to the Committee of the Whole, we will be dealing with Bill 40. Just before Minister Aariak goes to the witness table, we will take a five-minute break.

>>*Committee recessed at 16:13 and resumed at 16:22*

#### **Bill 40 – Representative for Children and Youth Act – Consideration in Committee**

**Chairman** (Mr. Enook)(interpretation): Welcome. At this time, we will continue with the consideration of Bill 40. Does the committee agree that Madam Minister Aariak and her officials go to the witness table?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

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

Thank you, Sergeant-at-Arms. Just before we continue, Mr. Curley has his hand up. Mr. Curley.

**Mr. Curley:** Thank you. (interpretation) Mr. Chairman, you asked whether the committee agrees for the minister to be escorted to the witness table. I nay'd, just to let you know, (interpretation ends) for the record. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. We will have it recorded. Madam Minister, please welcome. For the record, please introduce your witnesses. Madam Minister.

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On my right is Daniel Vandermeulen, who is my Deputy Minister for Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, and to my left is Anne Macintosh, who is a legal drafter from the Department of Justice. Thank you.

**Chairman:** *Qujannamiik*, Madam Premier. (interpretation ends) Welcome, Mr. Vandermeulen and Ms. Macintosh. Minister Aariak, you can now make your opening comments. Minister Aariak.

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman and committee members. Thank you for this opportunity to address Bill 40, the *Representative for Children and Youth Act*.

I would like the talk about the roles and responsibilities of the representative for children and youth so that we all understand what this position is all about. As MLAs, we all care about the services our children, youth, and their families receive from the Government of

Nunavut. I know that families sometimes feel that they have not been treated fairly by government. This is why we need a representative for children and youth.

The representative will be independent of the government. The representative will be watching how the government fulfills its responsibilities. The representative will help children, youth, and their families deal with the system to get the services they need. And the representative will keep us, as MLAs, informed about what is going on, what programs and services need to be improved so that our government can better serve children and youth.

We all agree that the job of raising and caring for our children and youth belongs to families and communities. They create the foundation that will carry our young people through the rest of their lives. We have created a new Department of Family Services to bring many of these services together, but many other departments – Health, Education, Culture and Heritage – all deliver important services to children and youth.

What could the government do to better serve children, youth, and their families? The representative for children and youth will serve as a watchdog who will make sure our children and youth receive the best services and are heard when decisions are being made about them. This is what the representative for children and youth will be there to do.

I want to be very clear on this. The representative for children and youth will not take over the job of the Department of Family Services or any government department that provides

programs and services to children and youth. The representative for children and youth will not investigate parents, families, or caregivers or tell them what to do.

Children, youth, and their families will be able to come to the representative with their concerns about the services being provided to them by government and the representative will work with them to resolve the problems they are encountering. The representative will assist children, youth, and families in finding government services that will best suit their needs. The representative will be able to talk directly to the senior government officials responsible for those services.

The Yukon and almost all of the provinces have chosen to put in place a representative for children and youth. They have recognized that a representative who is independent of the government and who will advocate on behalf of children and youth is important. They also recognize that elected officials must stay informed and get good advice regarding the well-being of children and youth so that the government better provides services to children and youth.

The representative for children and youth will, in many ways, be much like the Languages Commissioner, who watches over government and acts to protect our languages. The representative for children and youth will be appointed based on the recommendation of MLAs. The representative will report directly to MLAs and produce an annual report to the Legislative Assembly. The representative will be able to make

recommendations to the Legislative Assembly and we, as MLAs, will be able to ask questions and respond to those.

I hope this helps make clear what the roles and responsibilities of this new position will be. The representative for children and youth will be there to support children, youth, and their families.

This bill, as we know, has been the subject of much study by the standing committee and also subject to comprehensive public consultations. You will recall that in addition to the consultations undertaken by the standing committee, the Government of Nunavut developed Bill 40 based on comprehensive consultations conducted in person, by teleconference, and by radio with shareholders throughout Nunavut.

We also established a key working relationship with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated. NTI recently reaffirmed their support for the *Representative for Children and Youth Act* by letter dated August 15, 2013. This letter once again confirms NTI's support first indicated by letter June 1, 2012.

I hope you will also give the representative for children and youth your support. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Ningeongan** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I have opening comments. Can I proceed?

(interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As Chair of the Standing Committee on Legislation, I am pleased to provide opening comments on behalf of my colleagues as we begin consideration of Bill 40, the proposed *Representative for Children and Youth Act*.

(interpretation) Mr. Chairman, as you will recall, Bill 40 received second reading on June 7, 2012 and was subsequently referred to the standing committee for consideration.

For the benefit of the permanent public record and Nunavummiut who are following our proceedings today, I wish to take this opportunity to provide an overview of the standing committee's deliberations and determinations concerning Bill 40.

Mr. Chairman, over the past year, the standing committee has given careful consideration to Bill 40 and has engaged in an extensive dialogue with the sponsoring minister concerning the initiative.

As members will recall, a motion was considered and adopted by the Legislative Assembly during our recent spring sitting to extend the standing committee's review period for Bill 40. The passage of the motion enabled a subcommittee of members to hold public hearings on Bill 40 in three communities during June of this year. I wish to take this opportunity to express my appreciation to my colleagues from Amittuq, Baker Lake, Pangnirtung, and Quttiktuq for participating in these hearings.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Chairman, the amended and reprinted version of Bill 40 that is before the Committee of the Whole today reflects a number of amendments that were made to the bill during the sponsoring minister's recent appearance before the standing committee on the occasion of its clause-by-clause consideration of the bill.

The first amendment concerned the definition of "youth" under the proposed legislation. As members will recall, Bill 51, *An Act to Amend the Child and Family Services Act*, was considered and passed by the Legislative Assembly during our recent spring sitting. Bill 51 amended the *Child and Family Services Act* in part to provide for the extension of support agreements for youth up to age 26. The amendment to Bill 40, the proposed *Representative for Children and Youth Act*, reflects this change.

The second amendment to Bill 40 amended clause 5 to strengthen the provisions concerning the representative for children and youth's obligation to apply a number of principles in the performance of his or her duties and powers, including the principle that "relationships between children and youth and their families must be respected and, wherever possible, supported and strengthened." Clause 5 was also amended to provide for a more flexible and less prescriptive approach to the application of Inuit societal values.

Mr. Chairman, the other amendments to Bill 40 concerned such administrative matters as superannuation for the representative for children and youth and the role of the Management and Services Board in relation to the operations of the

Office of the Representative for Children and Youth.

(interpretation) Mr. Chairman, at the conclusion of the standing committee's clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 40, a motion was adopted to report the bill back to the House as amended.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening comments. I anticipate that individual members will have comments as we proceed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. Just before we begin our deliberations, I just want to remind members that according to Rule 77(1), you have 10 minutes to speak, and according to Rule 77(2), subject to the discretion of the Chair, a member may speak more than once to a matter under discussion but not until every member wishing to speak has spoken.

I suggest to members that wherever possible you ask your detailed questions during the clause-by-clause review of the bill. Are there any general comments? Mr. Tapardjuk.

**Mr. Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome, minister and your officials. With respect to Bill 40, I have some opening comments to make to their opening remarks.

I agree that the children, youth, and their families have to have good service from the government. We would all like to have good service from the government. I'm sure and I have said that this is being done by the social workers. Even up to today, there is no real Inuk social worker employed in the government. The

government has the responsibility to protect children because they cannot protect themselves. They have given us that job because they cannot do their responsibilities.

In May, Mr. Chairman, we made an amendment to the *Child and Family Services Act* with respect to children and youth, and we wanted to be able to have it made in Nunavut. What they did was said, that they would put the Inuit societal values into the Act, but it doesn't say exactly how they're going to do that. The government hasn't said how they're going to do it.

With that amendment, for instance, the government is saying to us that they would like to provide Bill 40 because as a government, we cannot look after or protect the children and youth. It seems like they said, "We cannot do it, so we're going to give you the delegation to give us legislation." It also says in the minister's comments that the representative for children and youth will not take the responsibilities of social workers, and they will not watch the parents and families to see if they're taking care of their children and youth properly.

When we went to the communities, we were told by the people on more than one occasion that the parents have the responsibility to raise their children in the most appropriate way so they can have a good life. Bill 40 states, "Because you cannot look after your children and youth properly as parents, we will look after that." That's not for the non-Inuit; it is for the Inuit.

I cannot really understand that fully because that was the Act that we

amended for family services. I believe it was Bill 51, but I can't recall the exact bill number. Before they made the amendment, they are now providing Bill 40. I cannot understand that they produced this legislation before the amendment was made.

Mr. Chairman, the child and youth representative will "assist children, you, and families in finding government services that will best suit their needs." The government said that they can help the representative the best way that they can protect the children. The families work to raise their children seems to be taken away and will be provided by the representative and children and youth. Maybe the parents will probably just leave their children alone because they know that they will be looked after by the representative. Even though they're parents, they will no longer be concerned. I have a concern with that.

We have voiced our concerns on Bill 40 during our discussions as a committee. I'm not exactly sure how it would become better by providing or having Bill 40 in place. It already states what they're going to do, but they made an amendment to and the government also said that they would be using Inuit societal values, but they have to be able to have the same value as the Inuit people.

Mr. Chairman, the other concern that I have is that the representative will "report directly to MLAs and produce an annual report to the Legislative Assembly." It doesn't seem to make any sense. If there was an emergency that had to be dealt with by the representative having to protect the children and youth, do we have to wait for a year before he

or she reports to the Legislative Assembly? Would we have to wait until they make an annual report?

Because the *Child and Family Act* is not amended properly, this legislation has to be done properly. If this is government legislation and if they don't want any amendments to that Act, then they might not want to make changes to the *Representative for Children and Youth Act*. They can just continue on with the Act that they have. For that reason, Mr. Chairman, I have concerns and I feel that Bill 40 is not a good piece of legislation.

Even before the *Child and Family Services Act* was amended, they provided us with Bill 40. We have to work together, but if we're going to be divided because of the government providing us with legislation, I have a concern. I wanted to make it that this legislation not be produced at this time by the government.

With the people that I went with as MLAs to Igloolik and other communities, such as Pangnirtung, we heard exactly what the Inuit thought about this during the public meeting. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tapardjuk. You have used up all your time. I think you even went over your time by one second. Thank you. Are there any other general comments? Mr. Aupaluktuq.

**Mr. Aupaluktuq** (interpretation): Thank you. I would also like to thank the members. We did have a review of the bill and had a community tour to Igloolik and Pangnirtung. I thank all the

people of those two communities for welcoming us.

The people who attended the meetings had some concerns about the family unit. It was also suggested that there should be an elder's representative if we're going to entertain the idea of having one for children and youth. They are also part of the vulnerable group.

I told the people of Baker Lake that this representative would make an annual report to the Legislative Assembly. As Mr. Tapardjuk indicated, the representative for children and youth would not be taking on the responsibilities that are currently held by the Department of Family Services.

An individual in Baker Lake indicated that they were concerned if there are too many responsibilities given to this individual. They wanted to know what the reporting structure, the responsibilities, and mandate would be of this individual. The people of Baker Lake again did not all agree. There were some pros and cons.

I would like to thank the committee members who participated in the community tour. There were a lot of comments from Baker Lake. They indicated that if there is any other additional support they can give to the children and youth, "please go ahead" was the message that I got. We looked through the bill, and I am sure that the concerns that we have will be answered.

As the representative from Baker Lake, they wanted me to support the passage of this bill. That's a general comment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. General comments. Ms. Ugyuk.

**Ms. Ugyuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We each have our individual thoughts, pros and cons of this bill.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Chairman, I would like to start by stating my support for Bill 40, the *Representative for Children and Youth Act*. I believe that Nunavummiut should support Bill 40.

This legislation is in line with the fact that our elders and those who have passed away were the biggest supporters of self-governance for this territory. They are the main reason behind our presence in this House today. I applaud them and thank them for their support. The elders were concerned for future generations to come. They wish for the language, culture, and well-being for their family members to be in good hands. They believed that the rights and interests of Nunavummiut would be left under good management. I believe that the goal of Bill 40 is completely in agreement of those wishes and beliefs.

Mr. Chairman, the spirit and intent of Bill 40 is to ensure that government services and programs are properly delivered to the children and youth of Nunavut. Children and youth have a right to programs and services under the legislation and under the mandate of the government.

The representative for children and youth should be public office, totally independent from the executive, in other words, working from outside of the system to help protect and promote those

rights. This would include children who are in contact with our care systems, such as that delivered by social services.

Mr. Chairman, the Auditor General of Canada's 2011 Report on Children, Youth, and Family Programs and Services in Nunavut highlighted the fact that sexual abuse was one of the most serious issues faced by children in Nunavut. Some of them were under the age of 10. The report includes statistics showing that rates of sexual violations against children are over ten times higher than all of Canada.

Mr. Chairman, the *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* that was passed on to me from my grandmother states that a child is a child. A young girl is not ready for the issues of womanhood. Our society, Inuit society, must respect the principles of IQ.

On August 2003, the issue of the US Juvenile Justice Bulletin commented on the important role of children's advocacy centres, such as the proposed office of the representative of children and youth, stating that they "play an increasingly significant role in the response to child sexual abuse and other [child] maltreatment."

Mr. Chairman, the representative for children and youth would help to ensure that Nunavut's young people, those who are often the most vulnerable individuals in our society and those who often cannot speak for themselves, are cared for under the good management that our elders hope for.

Mr. Chairman, the thinking that only support for Bill 40 is driven by social workers, RCMP members, teachers, and

nurses is such nonsense. I have even heard criticism that the representative for children and youth will simply be another authority, a “Super Nanny,” another outside force controlling the lives of Nunavummiut. That is not the case at all.

Mr. Chairman, one of my *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit* principles that were passed onto me was that I was no different from my neighbour, whether or not he or she was a different race than me. We all deserve to be treated fairly. We, as MLAs, need to think with an open mind and look beyond the little pity details of what race or culture a person is from. All residents of Nunavut have a right to receive programs and services that are delivered by our government regardless of who they are.

As adults, we have learned to recognize those rights to demand services that we are entitled to and to vote for representatives who will speak on our behalf. Children and youth may not yet have learned their rights. They may not know how to ask for services. They cannot vote. They need a representative to act on their behalf.

Since I started in this position as an MLA for Nattilik, I have listened to my colleagues in this Assembly reading letters from high school students in their constituencies. Some of those letters are pleading for opportunities. Some presented good ideas. A representative for children and youth would be able to support those students. The representative would make recommendations that would allow voices of all youth in Nunavut to be heard.

Mr. Chairman, it is important to keep an open mind and remember that the majority of our population are youth and children. Our future as a territory depends on those children and youth being healthy, educated, safe, and secure so that they can grow to be confident and competent members of Nunavut’s society. Our government has a mandate to ensure that services, such as health care, education, justice, social services, shelter, and the necessities of life, as well as many others, are provided to all those who have the right to them. The representative for children and youth will help to ensure that no one misses out from those rights.

I will be supporting Bill 40 and I ask my colleagues to support it as well. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. General comments. Mr. Elliott.

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank you for the opportunity to speak to the bill in the sense that I know the history of it and some of the concerns that members have brought up so far.

As far back as 2001, there was a letter from NAM, which, to me, is pretty strong when you get a letter from an organization that represents all of the mayors across the territory, which the majority would be some of the concerns about race in terms of being Inuk or non-Inuk. The majority of our mayors are Inuit representation of the population. It is kind of nice to get that kind of support in terms of this type of legislation. Again, it speaks to the need and sometimes how hard it is to get to where

we are today, if it's something as far back as 2001.

We also have different MLAs, the former MLA for the High Arctic, Ms. Rebekah Williams, who spoke to this issue as well. There's Mr. Peterson. He has been a strong advocate. The MLA from Uqummiut, Mr. Arreak, has asked oral questions about it. When we had the Nunavut Leadership Forum, all candidates that were asked questions about the child and youth representative, which was Mr. Okalik and Mr. Curley, and Ms. Aariak, said that they would support legislation for a child and youth representative.

Again, with the second letter from NTI, a portion of it says... . For me being non-Inuk, to me, NTI is an organization that represents the Inuit of Nunavut. They're saying that, as they had previously stated, and this is Cathy Towtoongie's letter, the President of NTI, this legislation is a product of partnership in the truest sense of the term.

To me, a partnership means that both people and both agencies, whether it's the Government of Nunavut or NTI, are at the table, working through the legislation to make sure it fits the territory and the needs of the territory.

Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated recognizes and appreciates the significance of this achievement. This is a fine example of successful partnership between Nunavut Tunngavik and the Government of Nunavut, which demonstrates what can be achieved for the betterment of Inuit, especially the children and youth of Nunavut.

I think, for the remainder of my time, Mr. Chairman... . If I would have received it earlier, I would have probably tabled the document, but at 4:30, I received an email from UNICEF Canada.

**An Hon. Member:** A point of order, Mr. Chairman.

**Mr. Elliott:** Go ahead, Mr. Curley. It's your show.

**Chairman (Mr. Enook):** Actually, Mr. Elliott, it's my show. I'm the Chair. Excuse me, Mr. Elliott. Mr. Curley, your point of order.

#### **Point of Order**

**Mr. Curley:** Thank you. My point of order, Mr. Chairman, and it is also my privilege as a member that personally I have never supported, as attributed and stated by my colleague, that I supported a child representative. I have never stated that. I can sign legal agreements, whatever, or a statement to that effect.

I would ask the member to withdraw any reference to me because he would have to produce a document that I did say it or whatever, if I did, and I have never supported such a venture. So I think he has plenty of individuals to put on this list, but not mine. Thank you.

**Chairman (interpretation):** Thank you, Mr. Curley. I think this is the best route to go because this is important to all of us. I don't know if you had stated your support or not. As Chair, I would like to see the reference. Mr. Elliott indicated three candidates from the Nunavut Leadership Forum. I will look at those

documents and make a ruling today or tomorrow. Thank you.

We will proceed. Mr. Elliott.

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If you want help, Friday, November 14, 2008, page 57 and 58 is where the statements are made.

Again, I was working on a letter from NTI. As I mentioned, UNICEF Canada sent a letter saying, “I understand that Bill 40, [the *Representative for Children and Youth Act*], is scheduled to appear before the Committee of the Whole this week for the Legislative Assembly’s final consideration.

As the world’s leading child-focused humanitarian and development agency and the only organization named in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child as a source of expertise for governments, UNICEF Canada would like to express further support of this Bill for your careful consideration this week.

UNICEF Canada commends your government’s efforts and views Bill 40 as a very impressive piece of work, which reflects much due diligence and a serious effort to comply with international obligations regarding the recognition and protection,” and that’s what it is, “recognition and protection of the rights of all children.

In our view, the legislative framework of the Bill is very solid and well-considered, reflecting a level of comprehensiveness, internal cohesion and rights-based and legal analysis that are often missing from many other statutes of this nature.” In some respects,

it’s quite unique, which a lot of people like to say that Nunavut is very unique. “In many respects, Bill 40 serves as a model for other Canadian jurisdictions.

While there are many positive and noteworthy aspects of the Bill, there are four key points that I would encourage you to consider:

- Bill 40 outlines a broad and comprehensive mandate directed at protecting and promoting the rights of all children and youth in Nunavut.”

Again, we have heard arguments saying that the role of parents is going to be taken away, but really, all we are doing is that we are promoting the rights of the children and youth in Nunavut.

The second point, “The bill includes repeated references to recognizing and applying both Inuit culture and Inuit societal values.”

The third point, “The areas of jurisdiction of the Representative for Children and Youth would include all government departments and additional designated authorities that are prescribed by regulation. The mandate of the Representative is focused on the best interests of children, a shared interest among all parts of government, recognizing the proper duties of government, the Representative, parents and other parts of Nunavut society.”

Again, it was mentioned earlier that the *Child and Family Services Act* was the way to go, but unfortunately, that’s just one department that represents children and youth. We have other departments. With the child and youth representative,

this is a very good point in the sense that it represents all government departments, whether it's ED&T, whether it's funding through the Minister of Culture, Children, and Youth. To me, it exemplifies what's happening.

The other part is No. 4. "There is provision for a periodic review of this new legislation." Again, a review of something is always good because sometimes you don't always hit the mark and you need to make adjustments.

"This Bill reflects a level of comprehensiveness, internal cohesion and integrity that will benefit the children and youth of Nunavut in a sustainable manner as it simultaneously advances universal children's rights and is culturally-sensitive to Inuit societal values."

With that, I think there seems to be a lot of support, whether it's international, national, within the Inuit organizations, in this House, communities, individuals, hamlets, or mayors. So I will be supporting this bill. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Elliott. General comments. Mr. Ningark.

**Mr. Ningark** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As Bill 40 is being discussed, (interpretation ends) *Representative for Children and Youth Act*, (interpretation) I can take part in the discussions. It is a very difficult topic.

Right now, the population in Nunavut is increasing dramatically and our lifestyle and culture is changing along with the

times. We are not using dog teams anymore, but we are using other forms of transportation as our lifestyle and culture is evolving. Looking at the change and looking at the population growing, we see children and youth that need more and more support. We want to help the youth and children because they have their own parents and we would like to get them the help and support from the government, but it is very hard to obtain the type of assistance that they need.

Possibly, if we make legislation like Bill 40, we can ask the government why they are not providing the programs or services and (interpretation ends) make the system accountable for things that we are not able to do for many of our people who fall through the cracks. (interpretation) I know that we, as parents, are falling through the cracks.

In 1999, when we became a government, we wanted our own government, self-reliance, a government that's run by its people, and a government that's closer to the people.

Mr. Chairman, Bill 40 would be there as a living document, but we might not even need to use it. In cases where we need it, I'm sure it's not going to be very often. We have to wake ourselves up because our culture is unique.

Sometimes there are children and youth who really need help. Sometimes we can't help them and sometimes the government can't help them. With Bill 40, we can start asking the government why they didn't help a child or youth who needed help. We might not have to do that.

The representatives or those who would like to run for MLA, if there's a representative for children and youth, will be getting annual reports from the representative and they will have an opportunity to ask questions to that representative. When Bill 40 is comes into force, I don't think very many people will need to use that piece of legislation. Even I don't know, Mr. Chairman.

(interpretation ends) Like my colleague from Nattilik, I wish there were more women in this forum who speak for children and youth. From the day that I started living with my wife, I spent most of my time away from home, travelling on the land and travelling on business to different parts of Canada for many years. She was always there for our children. She knows more about what goes on and what is needed. She also spends more time at home to observe what is going on in the community. She has seen more than I have where a child or youth may need help. She has told me that and I respect that observation.

I would like to state publicly that I will be supporting Bill 40. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningark. We're still under general comments. Mr. Oshutapik.

**Mr. Oshutapik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would also like to thank the minister. That way, we will be able to make some comments under general comments. I also have some comments to make in regard to Bill 40. I was also involved when we were doing consultation to get response from the

community, even though there were only three communities we visited.

As we toured the communities, it became obvious that an issue we had heard of earlier wasn't quite truthful as we had heard it. When this bill was being introduced, we heard that the communities had been informed about this bill, what it's trying to do, and why it was produced. When we reached the communities, there were some people who attended the meetings. Although these three communities were totally different, we heard the same concerns. The only difference was their dialects. They were saying that this is the first time they had heard about this bill.

If there is going to be a representative for children and youth, what's going to happen with the parents? What are they going to do? These are the things that we heard from different people. They felt that they were thought of as not looking after their children. It was stated that this bill was conveyed to the communities, probably only to the staff, such persons as RCMP, social workers, and other positions dealing with society. These were the only people who heard about this. The public didn't understand this bill. There were many of them when we were starting to introduce this bill, just as the MLAs couldn't understand it at the beginning. The communities all had concerns about this issue.

Additionally, in our communities here in Nunavut, if there is a representative given this mandate who would report back to the Legislative Assembly on their annual activities, this person being an independent agent, with no connection to the government, would only work towards the goal set out in

their mandate. We would only be able to review their activities once a year. If we want a proper representative, we should be able to talk to somebody more than once a year.

According to the bill, we would have to follow these procedures if this was to be approved. We have been working on Bill 40 since it has been introduced. Why doesn't it contain culturally relevant things? We could not get answers on that. We have been saying that we would like made-in-Nunavut materials. We have also heard that all the Canadian provinces have legislation of this kind. We would like to have our own that is made in Nunavut.

I still haven't decided whether I'm going to support Bill 40 or go against it. For instance, if I was told that I have been taking medication that I'm not supposed to be taking, the doctor cannot fix my sickness by writing a letter.

I am sure that there are going to be more comments about this bill, so I'm going to end my comments right now, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Oshutapik. We're still under general comments. I don't have any more names on my list. As this is a very important topic, I would like to recognize Ms. Ugyuk again. Ms. Ugyuk.

**Ms. Ugyuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The MLA from Pangnirtung is trying to say that when they were doing consultations, the Kitikmeot region was not consulted at all. I would like to put that into the record. The only regions that were

consulted were the Kivalliq and Qikiqtaaluk regions.

There are a lot of children who are being looked after by one parent. We keep giving our children to the government, to the school, and if they're sick, we take them to the nursing station. Not all of them are satisfied with that because some children are taken away by social services for long periods of time. Not everything is perfect.

The only way people can understand is by hearing about these things. It will be used if the people understand. It will be used by parents and grandparents. I just wanted to bring that up. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. I only have one more name and I think he is the last person for general comments. Mr. Curley.

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you. I would just like to make a comment. I have to make some comments. I'm not worried about what was said before.

What we have to think about is when we started looking after ourselves. Was it when we were elected in 2008 or is it when Nunavut was established in 1999? No, Inuit have been independent from way back. Our parents, grandparents, and our ancestors looked after their families. Their main priority was keeping the family together. Today, since 1999, maybe it is better that they look like *Qallunaat*. What they do is in the United Nations. Maybe it's better if we act like *Qallunaat*. This is not new, Mr. Chairman.

When the British government arrived to Canada in the 1800s, they signed a treaty that while the sun is able to come up, we will look after you in everything and you will be independent. I think my colleague who is sitting right beside me would be very happy about this.

For us Inuit, I don't think we should try to copy other people about our children. What we have to copy is a good relation connection. My friend, who I was proud of for assisting me, my colleague's older brother, had said, "You teach your children how to become adults." In Inuit culture, a child should be a child. Don't try to get them into adulthood before they grow up. I think I really heard that sentence. Some elders used to say that this is really a child. At one time, I really felt something when my son was becoming 16. Of course, I was concerned about him. I was told that he has never been 16 years old and that's why he is in that state. I was 16 at one point, and I really woke up on that.

According to Inuit culture, what I wanted to say is that there are too many people in regard to dealing with children. The government has a lot of programs for children. They have no one to oversee the programs. Maybe we should strengthen the programs instead for them to become effective.

We gave our children when the religious group came in by the Anglican Church, including residential schools. We all know that we went through hardship and we had to correct those. It seems like the way we raise our children is not enough. Nunavut came into being and we now need a representative to help our children. Our independence should just be strengthened individually by

communities. The reason why I am bringing this up is when we look at the representative, it doesn't state that these things will have to be strengthened out in the communities; only the government responsibilities. If this representative gets a complaint, they can't start an investigation on anything.

Mr. Chairman, a lot of us were expecting that there was going to be an amendment or a stronger *Social Services Act* and to see how we could change the department and change the policies in dealing with the *Child and Family Services Act*. I call the Department of Family Services the department responsible for things other people don't want to do. Social service workers have to be taught and it hasn't even started. They don't even have a program through Arctic College to become a social worker, but the teacher program is very good because they got accredited for it.

When we're giving the responsibility of our children to another person, a lot of parents won't know that there is an investigation or if the programs were not correct, and then they will break up the family.

As one of the MLAs said, over half our population is children or youth. Do I understand that the majority of the young people from 21 to 25 are all criminals? No, they don't all break the law. Majority of them are helping their parents, grandparents, grandfather, grandparents, or their relatives. Some of them are really good people who look after their family and we're proud of them. As we heard earlier, her husband was a good hunter. There are a lot of young people who are good hunters. When we talk about youth, let's stop

thinking that all youth are causing problems. Let's try to lift them up. This representative will only look after the people, children, or youth with problems. They're not going to consider any help for the people who are doing well.

I feel that maybe we should give this to the next Assembly. Let's give it to those who are going to have the time to properly deal with it. I know that the minister is working hard to push this, but I don't agree with the dealings of the youth or what he wants to do for the future of Nunavut. I don't know if it's going to be better for the future.

Yes, it would be better if we strengthen the programs that are directed to the *Child and Family Services Act* through other means to help out the youth and to give them more funding. Even though this person is the only representative, he or she will be using over \$2 million a year. That could have been used for the youth programs.

I will have some questions during the clause-by-clause review, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. We're under general comments. I still have two names on my list. They have already made comments, but this is important to all of us. Using my discretion as the Chair, I will again recognize Mr. Tapardjuk. Mr. Tapardjuk.

**Mr. Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just wanted to reiterate that we have been delaying Bill 40 quite a few times. When we have done our deliberations, we have

extended it again. When we hear that other governments have a bill of this type, we should do the same thing.

I know that in Nunavut, maybe I'll make a mistake with numbers, but I think I estimate that the population is 37,000, below 40,000. Because we envy people with high populations, they have different services and it gets very difficult. Maybe this would help the larger populations. As I had been stating, the low population numbers in Nunavut sometimes causes more issues in trying to get services.

Even without Bill 40, the government has already been provided with recommendations specific to children and youth, to provide more benefits and in particular, the amendment that was recommended in May for the *Child and Family Services Act* that would have a foundation based on Inuit cultural traditions.

As Inuit, we have often been admonished that perhaps our culture is inappropriate when dealing with social services, that we are using the western cultural practices, and that the Inuit culture has to adapt because of its inadequacy to resolve these issues. That is what I perceive because presently, we don't even have one Inuk social worker to provide some background. It is again a return to the old paternalistic days where Inuit are trying to be assimilated by the southern majority by including their legislative foundations.

We were also informed that there were quite a few letters from somewhere with respect to passing Bill 40. These arguments bring back the reasons why Inuit fought for the Nunavut Land

Claims Agreement, so that Inuit could work towards self-sufficiency and to develop our own legislation.

Inuit have always been directed by people of other cultures, specifically since the days of the Hudson's Bay Company, the teachers, the RCMP, and the old Indian and Northern Affairs settlement managers, about how Inuit ought to live their lives to assimilate properly. Inuit have continued to be threatened by outside cultural initiatives that have no basis in our culture.

This issue, I believe, is something we have to very carefully deliberate upon so that it comes from our own culture and people, so that we incorporate the wishes of our constituents into legislation. I believe we need to provide more opportunity to have these recommendations reviewed. What formed the basis of the expectations of our Inuit when we fought for the land claim is that Inuit could start repatriating the services currently run by others.

Due to our being boxed in by a myriad of legislation, we, the members, have to bear the wrath of our constituents on these issues. At least I personally have experienced this complaint that the Legislative Assembly is too focused on legislation and that only legislated mandates are given recognition. This seems as if we, as regular people, no longer can think for ourselves, even when we want to incorporate Inuit customs into legislation, due to the continual threats about running into legislative barriers.

With that being the case, I wanted to voice my concerns about this matter, Mr Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tapardjuk. Mr. Ningeongan.

**Mr. Ningeongan** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) At this time, I move a motion to report progress. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. Members, there's a motion on the floor to report progress and the motion is not debatable. All those in favour of the motion, please raise your hand. All those opposed. Thank you. I will now rise to report progress.

Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses out. We will continue with this bill.

Just before I rise to report progress, I would like to remind you that I, as the Chair, was going to make a ruling on the point of order raised by Mr. Curley. It will be tomorrow or the next day because the Management and Services Board will be meeting. I will probably make my ruling tomorrow. If not, the day after tomorrow. Thank you.

I will now rise to report progress to the Speaker.

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

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

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Bills 32, 40, and 69, and

would like to report that Bills 32 and 69 are immediately ready for third reading. Mr. Speaker, I move that the Report of the Committee of the Whole be concurred with. Thank you.

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

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

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

#### **Bill 69 – Supplementary Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, No. 2, 2013-2014 – Third Reading**

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet South-Whale Cove, that Bill 69, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 2, 2013-2014*, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister Peterson. The motion is in order. All those in favour. Any opposed? The motion is carried. As such, Bill 69 has had third reading and is ready for assent.

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

#### **Bill 32 – An Act to Amend the Legal Services Act – Third Reading**

**Hon. Daniel Shewchuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet South-

Whale Cove, that Bill 32, *An Act to Amend the Legal Services Act*, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. The motion is in order. All those in favour. Any opposed? The motion is carried and Bill 32 has been read for the third time and is ready for assent.

Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. Item 22 in our *Orders of the Day*. *Orders of the Day*. Mr. Clerk.

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

**Clerk (Mr. Quirke):** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just a reminder to members that at nine o'clock, there's a presentation in the Tuktu Boardroom and at half past ten, there's a meeting of the Management and Services Board also in the Tuktu Boardroom.

*Orders of the Day* for September 12:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions
8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to Opening Address
10. Petitions
11. Responses to Petitions

12. Reports of Standing and Special  
Committees on Bills and Other  
Matters
13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motions
15. Notices of Motions for First  
Reading of Bills
16. Motions
17. First Reading of Bills
18. Second Reading of Bills
19. Consideration in Committee of  
the Whole of Bills and Other  
Matters
  - Bill 40
  - Bill 64
20. Report of the Committee of the  
Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills
22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

**Speaker:** Thank you very much, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned until Thursday, September 12, at 1:30 p.m.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned 17:56*

