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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Speaker

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(Iqaluit Centre)

Hon. Eva Aariak

(Iqaluit East)

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

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(Uqqummiut)

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

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(Baker Lake)

Tagak Curley

(Rankin Inlet North)

Hon. Monica Ell

(Iqaluit West)

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

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(Quttiktuq)

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(Tununiq)

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Hon. Lorne Kusugak

(Rankin Inlet South – Whale Cove)

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

John Ningark

(Akulliq)

Johnny Ningeongan

(Nanulik)

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

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(Pangnirtung)

Hon. Keith Peterson

(Cambridge Bay)

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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*

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Iqaluit, Nunavut
Friday, September 13, 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 9:01*

Item 1: Opening Prayer

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

>>*Prayer*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Taptuna. (interpretation ends) We will move on with our orders of the day. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Education, Minister Aariak.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements**Minister's Statement 331 – 3(3):
Arviat Anti-bullying Plays**

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning, my colleagues, Iqalummiut, and my constituents. I wish you an enjoyable weekend.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to inform my colleagues about an important event that

took place in Arviat just before the end of the school year. Drama students from John Arnalukjuaq High School in Arviat presented six short plays on anti-bullying to their community.

Mr. Speaker, computer technology has changed the nature of bullying. In many cases, it happens online, not just at school or on the streets of our communities. It is important that our young people, who are very connected to information technology and the Internet, have the knowledge and skills to combat this problem on their own terms.

The Arviat drama students worked closely with Teacher Gord Billard for five months to produce these plays. The students helped four community performances to demonstrate that bullying is a complex issue, that it can happen in many different settings, and that it takes all of us to break the cycle.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend the students for their initiative, hard work, and dedication to build a better understanding of bullying and inspire others in their community to take action. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, Madam Minister. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Justice, Minister Shewchuk.

**Minister's Statement 332 – 3(3):
Bessie Sitatak from the Kugluktuk
Ilavut Centre**

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As Minister of Justice, it gives me great pleasure to recognize Ms.

Bessie Sitatak of Kugluktuk, who has retired from public service.

Ms. Sitatak has been with the Corrections Division of the Department of Justice for the past nine years and was one of the original staff hired when the Kugluktuk Ilavut Centre first opened. During Bessie's time at the Ilavut Centre, she has held a variety of positions and was ultimately promoted to operation and programs supervisor.

Ms. Sitatak's extensive knowledge of local Inuit traditional culture and her leadership have been instrumental in the success of the centre and the rehabilitation of many inmates at the Ilavut Centre. Ms. Sitatak has provided guidance and support for all staff and residents at the Ilavut Centre and she will be greatly missed.

I and the staff of the Department of Justice wish Ms. Sitatak all the best in her retirement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Minister's Statement 333 – 3(3):
Proposed 1,500-tonne Increase in
NAFO Area 0A Turbot Quota**

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning to the people of Clyde River. I send my condolences to the people of Clyde River and they are in my thoughts.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to provide my colleagues with an update on turbot quota levels in Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO) fishing area 0A in Baffin Bay.

Nunavut currently holds 100 percent of the 6,500-tonne turbot quota in 0A. This area is fished by Baffin communities in the inshore zone and offshore by four Nunavut companies, who fished their entire quota in 2012.

The Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization Scientific Council recently recommended that the 2014 total allowable catch for turbot in Division 0A and 1AB be increased from 13,000 to 16,000 tonnes. As this stock is shared between Canada and Greenland, this would likely result in a 1,500-tonne increase for Canada and Nunavut, a significant boost for our developing industry.

The Department of Environment believes that the low exploitation rate combined with the high level of management in the 0A turbot fishery warrants this increased quota. NAFO's recommendation is further supported by industry catch data and the results of ongoing turbot stock surveys that were conducted by Fisheries and Oceans Canada with support and investment from Nunavut stakeholders.

Mr. Speaker, the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board will be considering this possible increase in 0A quota at their upcoming September meeting, and we look forward to a positive response. We will continue to work closely with our co-management partners and industry to further develop this

multimillion-dollar fishery, which provides employment and income for Nunavut residents and communities in a sustainable manner. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Minister's Statement 334 – 3(3):
Retirement of Ainiak Korgak**

Hon. Keith Peterson: Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Ainiak Korgak on his retirement after more than 35 years of dedicated service to the Government of the Northwest Territories and the Government of Nunavut.

Ainiak's career in public service began in 1978. He was one of the first graduates of the Government of Northwest Territories' Management Development Program.

He recently told me, during the early days of working in the public service, the fax machine was considered high-tech and the Teletype was still in use. He also mentioned that an ashtray on every desk was standard government use.

>> *Laughter*

Mr. Speaker, everyone who has had the pleasure of working with or knowing Ainiak knows just how vibrant, outgoing, and positive he is. He has rightly earned a high level of respect from his colleagues, government partners, and all Nunavummiut. He is the type of person who welcomes new staff

with open arms and fosters their growth and development while sharing stories about his culture.

These past 35 years are a testament to Ainiak's dedication, commitment, and the tremendous value he has brought to our government, its programs and services.

Ainiak leaves us as a manager within our population health portfolio, which he has guided and shaped for many years. He has led the tobacco reduction team and has been directly involved with developing and promoting the "Tobacco Has No Place Here" campaign. Having been a former smoker, Ainiak feels strongly about reducing the rates of tobacco use and associated preventable diseases. His passion and loyalty to this multi-year project are instrumental to its success.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the government, I want to thank Ainiak for his many years of service and valuable contribution to our government. We know that Ainiak will be busy devoting his free time to what he loves: his wife, Martha, and family and of course, getting out on the land ice fishing and boating. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Minister's Statement 335 – 3(3): NHC
Progress on Implementation of
\$100 Million Federal Funding for
New Social Housing**

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. *Ullaakkut*, colleagues, Kuglukturmiut, and Nunavummiut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to give my colleagues in the House an update on the Nunavut Housing Corporation's progress with its implementation plan for the \$100 million for additional public housing in Nunavut announced by the federal government this past March.

Mr. Speaker, I am happy to announce that next week, the Nunavut Housing Corporation will be signing the first of two agreements with the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation to secure the first \$30 million. Another agreement for the remaining \$70 million is currently in the works.

Without revisiting it in too much detail, you will recall, when I introduced the implementation plan for the \$100 million federal funding reviewed and approved by the Nunavut Housing Corporation's board of directors, that this plan was based on prudent project management principles and incorporated the major lessons learned from the Nunavut Housing Trust.

As such, I am pleased to report that the first step of the implementation plan is well underway. Over 40 lots have been acquired and prepared, including alternate locations selected for allocation under the Nunavut Housing Corporation's newly established allocation methodology.

Further, as anticipated, an initial round of supply, ship, and erect tenders for 115 units are drafted and ready for posting. The tenders for the remaining units will be ready for January 2014. These tenders will be posted with enough time to review bids and determine alternate courses of action should they not meet established budgets.

Staff will ensure the procurement process is appropriately followed with better tracking of change orders and other logistical issues which could impact the construction timelines and budgets.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the staff and the board of directors of the Nunavut Housing Corporation for producing a plan that maximizes the number of units while also balancing the major risk factors of undertaking construction projects in the north. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Minister responsible for the Status of Women, Minister Ell.

**Minister's Statement 336 – 3(3):
Orange Day**

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Department of Family Services supports the Qullit Nunavut Status of Women Council in developing public awareness of issues affecting the status of women in Nunavut.

Recently, the council held their annual general meeting in Baker Lake, where it

was announced that the council would be launching a campaign called “Orange Day,” which was initiated by the United Nations in 2012 to end violence against women and girls, highlighting the fact that violence against women and girls is a violation of human rights and calls for its eradication.

Mr. Speaker, the 25th of each month will be marked as “Orange Day.” On this day, the Qullit Nunavut Status of Women Council encourages Nunavummiut to wear orange and support the end of violence in our territory.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to offer my sincere congratulations to the Qullit Nunavut Status of Women Council on the launch of the Orange Day campaign and wish them success in their work under this new initiative. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Minister’s Statement 337 – 3(3): Parks Canada CEO Award of Excellence for Douglas Stenton

Hon. James Arreak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to take this opportunity to announce that on June 10 last, the Director of Heritage, Douglas Stenton, was honoured by the Chief Executive Officer of Parks Canada, Alan Latourelle, with the Award of Excellence as an engaging partner through his work on the Finding Franklin Project.

Since 2005, Douglas Stenton has worked with Parks Canada and the Canadian Coast Guard on the archaeological study and search for the ships of the 1845 Sir John Franklin Expedition, the H.M. ships *Erubus* and *Terror*. His involvement demonstrated the Government of Nunavut’s position as the responsible authority over matters of archaeology in the region.

Furthermore, new information about the condition of Franklin sites in the vicinity of King William Island, including artefacts he discovered in 2012, has increased the public’s understanding of the local history connected to Franklin, all of which is important to the government’s responsibilities for archaeological resource management.

Mr. Speaker, Douglas Stenton’s honour came on National Public Service Week. Dr. Stenton is also to be commended for his 20 years of service for the Government of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Arreak. Item 2. Ministers’ Statements. We will move on in our orders of the day. Item 3. Members’ Statements. Member for Akulliq, Mr. Ningark.

Item 3: Members’ Statements

Member’s Statement 559 – 3(3): Tundra Fire Preparedness in Nunavut

Mr. Ningark: Thank you and good afternoon, Mr. Speaker. I say “good morning” to my family back home. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to make a short

statement about the need to be prepared to fight fires.

Mr. Speaker, in this case, I am referring to incidents such as the one that occurred recently near the community of Chesterfield Inlet. According to news reports, the fire was ignited by a lightning storm.

Mr. Speaker, the Department of Community and Government Services works well with municipalities and I would like to underline that observation and perception. I appreciate the minister and his department. Again, the Department of Community and Government Services works well with municipalities to ensure that our volunteer firefighters are ready to fight fires in our communities.

The recent tundra fire that occurred near Chesterfield Inlet reminds us of the importance of being prepared to respond to these kinds of incidents, whether it's about global warming recycle, but the threats are serious.

Mr. Speaker, I will have questions on this issue at the appropriate time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Member's Statement 560 – 3(3): Gjoa Haven Bowhead Whale Hunt

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To my constituents, I would like to send good morning greetings in both Gjoa Haven and Taloyoak. A number of Gjoa Haven residents have travelled to Taloyoak on

their way to hunt a bowhead whale in the [Gulf of Boothia].

Yesterday morning, the hunting party gathered with the residents of Taloyoak to conduct a prayer for a successful hunt. They also expressed their gratitude for the tremendous assistance of Taloyoak residents as they prepare to travel overland, through lakes and rivers. In some places, they will have to portage their boats with trailers as that is the only way to reach the waters where they will conduct their bowhead whale hunt.

The hunting party will have to travel through lakes and rivers, which is hard work. With that in mind, I wish them every success in their bowhead whale hunt with the assistance of Taloyoak residents, their Hondas or ATVs and boats, as well as by hunters familiar with the overland route to the [Gulf of Boothia]. I wish the whaling crew well and I hope they succeed in their hunt.

The Gjoa Haven whaling crew is comprised of young hunters and I am unsure if an elder is involved in this particular hunt. That is what they are attempting at any rate and I hope they have a safe, successful hunt and that they return home safely to Gjoa Haven. If they are unable to harvest a whale or lose one or if their hunt is successful, I just wish them well in their bowhead whale hunt in the [Gulf of Boothia]. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 561 – 3(3):
Congratulations to Davidee
Arnakak**

Mr. Oshutapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say “good morning” to my constituents who are now able to watch the proceedings of this House, which I am very pleased about.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my formal congratulations to Davidee Arnakak for being awarded the Order of Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, please allow me to also offer my thanks to you and Her Honour, the Commissioner of Nunavut, for the wonderful ceremony that you held last evening in this Chamber to recognize this year's recipients of the Order of Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, I have known Davidee Arnakak all of my life. He is also a former mayor of Pangnirtung.

As the official citation for his award noted, Davidee Arnakak was the founding chair of the Nunavut Disabilities Makinnasuaqtiit Society.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, the entire community of Pangnirtung has been extremely proud of Davidee. His life and work have been an inspiration to all of us in all of Nunavut.

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 562 – 3(3):
Whale Cove High School
Graduates**

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning, people of Nunavut, Whale Cove, and Rankin Inlet.

Mr. Speaker, this past summer, we had many graduates throughout Nunavut. Whale Cove, being one of the smallest communities, still managed to produce a fair number of graduates. I am extremely proud of their accomplishment. Even though it is a small community, the residents are very adept.

I wish to share with my colleagues and all of Nunavut in congratulating the following:

Barbara Ulurksit
Molly Okalik
George Okalik Jr.
Gordon Okalik Jr.
Megan Angootealuk
Samson Taipanak
Wayne Putulik, and
Ethan Kendrew.

We congratulate the students from Whale Cove who have just graduated this year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 563 – 3(3):
Appreciation to Qikiqtaalungmiut**

Mr. Ningeongan (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As we are heading

towards the end of the session, while I still have an opportunity now, I would like to express my sincere thanks to Iqalummiut along with the residents of Baffin Island.

Throughout my trips here over four years, the hospitality and welcoming spirit of the residents here has been tremendous although I am not from this region. I am from the Kivalliq region, but I am treated just like one of their own here both as an Inuk and a fellow Nunavummiuq. I really felt humbled by this hospitality.

As a matter of fact, people I have never met who were watching the televised proceedings would offer their support. This show of support raised my spirit and energy to deal with difficult issues and hardship. This show of support is tangible and I want to express my gratitude to the people who offered me their support.

On a personal note, even though I am a visitor here, as I have to leave my hometown to attend to these sittings, the stress of being away from home was alleviated by people who provided support and advice. The residents of Baffin Island are very hospitable.

I will be expressing further acknowledgements next week to my constituents who elected me to represent them, both the residents of Coral Harbour and Chesterfield Inlet, when I have an opportunity next week.

However, the hospitality and welcoming spirit of Baffin Island residents has touched my heart. The people here have treated me very well throughout my tenure as a MLA up to this point where

we are almost done with this mandate. I sincerely thank each and every one who welcomed me during this time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 564 – 3(3):
Transparency and Accountability**

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to speak to two issues in particular.

With respect to the statements made just now by the Member for Nanulik, I completely concur with his opinion, as the people of Iqaluit are very hospitable wherever we may go in this city while we're here for our sessions here in the Legislative Assembly. The people of Iqaluit are very warm to us. I also thank the public service working with us here.

Mr. Speaker, the fight for the Nunavut territory didn't end with the creation of Nunavut. Nunavutmiut have to work harder to accomplish more, even without the assistance of this government. Many people are capable of succeeding without any support from the government and they continue to stand on their own, supporting their families by using the Inuit traditional value of being independent.

Mr. Speaker, I am becoming more concerned about this issue ever since Nunavut was created, which is our right to speak our mind on various issues, particularly the right to negotiate with the public, the business sector, large

businesses, the federal government, or with the ministers, as well as the department heads. Nunavutmiut have to be able to discuss issues without feeling threatened.

Additionally, another matter which we, the elected representatives, must face is that we cannot just agree with the position of this government and to ensure we don't just rubberstamp their initiatives. If we travel down this path, I don't think it is an appropriate one to take. We have to offer up possible solutions or alternatives by suggesting changes and amendments through (interpretation ends) debate.

Free debate (interpretation) is a very useful tool. If we aren't using debates and are just rubberstamping the proposed legislation brought forward by this government, would it be better if there was no Nunavut territory? That's the next question that I have. Although it's not coming from our territory, I was quite concerned when I heard about the Charter of Rights in the Quebec government and with banning the religious icons. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Member's Statement 565 – 3(3): Inuit Societal Values

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning to my constituents of Igloolik and Hall Beach. I send my condolences to the people of Clyde River. We have again lost an individual. I thank Minister Arreak for giving me that information this morning.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to once again bring into the House an issue that I brought up on numerous occasions. In 1999, when Nunavut was created, the Inuit were informed that they now have self government. We had high hopes and were very happy about it. Yes, we are happy because there were many Inuit who worked hard to make sure that we got our own agreement and our own government. A lot of these individuals have passed on to date. We thought that we would have an Inuit-friendly government.

Especially in the communities, the government services are still being run in a European fashion, which has created a lot of problems at the community level. The Inuit have had to take on a different culture. We had a vision to have a strong future. From 1999 on, I am very proud to say that this government has worked hard to make sure that *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit* is integrated.

I would like unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

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

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the members for giving me unanimous consent.

We had high hopes that the Nunavut government would have *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit* as its main foundation. We've had to use foreign culture and way of doing things. Again, it brings back the people who worked hard to create the Nunavut government.

We wanted to make sure that the programs are Nunavut-friendly, but then again, with barely any changes, it hasn't helped us much.

Since Inuit societal values were going to be our basic foundation and with the hopes that we have planned to see, what does this mean about the government and its present system and procedures? What kind of Inuit societal values are going to be integrated into the government?

The people of Nunavut, as everyone is well aware, look at how they can make improvements in the system of this government to integrate Inuit societal values within its programs and services. The *Qallunaaq* system says that this is what you are going to be doing because this is the best for you, so you should use it. That's where we have problems. Inuit put together what they know, and then *Qallunaat* put together what they know into their system. Because of the different cultures, we can't come to an agreement.

We have to again ask the question of why we created Nunavut in the first place. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Tapardjuk. Member for Arviat, Mr. Shewchuk.

Member's Statement 566 – 3(3): Not running in the Next Election

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is with a heavy heart that I rise today to inform my constituents in Arviat that I will not be running as a candidate in the upcoming territorial election.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank all of my constituents for giving me the honour and privilege of representing them and the community of Arviat in our legislature for the past five years. Most of my constituents know I have worked very hard to help them and our community.

Mr. Speaker, I leave knowing that we have made progress addressing some of the infrastructure needs with the construction of a new hamlet office, new arena upgrades, and the construction of 50 much needed new housing units of the next two years.

I know there is much more needed and I know that our two new MLAs will work towards these needs. Mr. Speaker, I wish all the candidates who run in Arviat all the best in their campaigns and to serve their community the best they can.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to thank all of my colleagues in this House for electing me and supporting me as a member of the Executive Council. It has been an absolute privilege and an honour to serve this wonderful territory. I really enjoyed and learned from my responsibilities with the departments of Environment, Human Resources, and Justice and Nunavut Arctic College for the past five years. I believe all Members of this House know the effort and dedication that I have put into my responsibilities as minister and Member of this House.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to thank all of my fellow ministers for their guidance and support over the past five years. I wish them all well in their future endeavours. It has been an absolute pleasure to work with you all.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to acknowledge and thank all of my federal, provincial, and territorial counterparts whom I worked with over the years and many of whom I formed friendships with which helped me carry out my duties as a minister in Nunavut. I encourage future ministers to build upon these relationships to further advance initiatives in Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to thank all the hard-working government employees and officials who help advance this territory, especially all the employees from my departments who kept me up-to-date and informed on so many issues.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to give special thanks to my Constituency Assistant, Mary Pameolik, and to my executive staff, Susie Alainga and Teresa Hughes.

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

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

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Mr. Speaker, I would also like to thank my executive staff, Susie Alainga and Teresa Hughes, who have provided me with daily support and guidance and information needed to better serve this territory.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank all the people of Nunavut for their support and once again let them know that it has truly been an honour to serve

this wonderful territory of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Shewchuk. Item 3. Members' Statements. Moving on in our orders of the day. Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Minister responsible for the Department of Family Services, Minister Ell.

Item 4: Returns to Oral Questions

Return to Oral Question 696 – 3(3): Implementing IQ in Child and Family Services Act

Hon. Monica Ell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) Good morning. (interpretation ends) This is a return to Oral Question No. 696 – 3(3) asked by Mr. Tapardjuk, MLA for Igloolik and Hall Beach, on Friday, September 6, 2013.

The amendment in question is an important new addition to the *Child and Family Services Act* (CFSA). The amendment explicitly states that the Act will be administered and interpreted in accordance with specific Inuit societal values. Recognizing the need for an amendment of this nature resulted from input gathered from elders and communities throughout Nunavut during an extensive consultation process, which included the 2009 Knowledge Sharing Forum and the 2011 social services review. In addition, the amendment was informed by findings from the 2011 report of the Auditor General of Canada on children, youth, and family programs and services in Nunavut.

To ensure Inuit societal values are given full consideration in the administration of the *Child and Family Services Act*, my department is considering ways in which current social work practice can incorporate kinship service models and collaborative planning in which family, elders, and community play a central role.

My department is considering ways in which Inuit elders can be engaged to provide counsel to the director of child and family services. We are also exploring how communities can play a key role in the development of local family services and supports.

We plan to invest in expanding our staff's knowledge and understanding of Inuit culture, history, and societal values through training that will take place by the end of this fiscal year. This training will include a focus on their responsibilities under amendment 2.1 to have Inuit societal values inform their practice.

Moving forward, my department will continuously seek out and explore new ways to administer the *Child and Family Services Act* in a manner that aligns with the Inuit societal values specified in the Act. We will remain open to ideas and welcome any constructive input that helps us to do so. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Ell. Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Minister responsible for the Department of Environment, Minister Arreak.

Return to Oral Question 698 – 3(3): HTO Compensation for Taloyoak

Hon. James Arreak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This question was asked by Jeannie Ugyuk, MLA for Nattilik, No. 698 – 3(3) on September 6.

Thank you for your question. It is my understanding that the Government of Nunavut has followed through on commitments related to the moratorium on the harvest of McClintock Channel polar bears, as detailed in my response to Written Question No. 28 – 3(3) that you posted in May.

As you are referring to a situation from more than a decade ago, I would ask you to provide me with any documentation you have available relating to your question. At that time, I would be pleased to review it with my staff and respond as appropriate. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Arreak. Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Moving on in our orders of the day. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Minister of Health, Minister Peterson.

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It gives me great pleasure to recognize in the Gallery today Ainiak Korgak and his family. As I mentioned earlier in my Minister's Statement, Ainiak is retiring after 35 years of public service to our territory and to the Northwest Territories.

Mr. Speaker, I recognize Ainiak Korgak, sitting right behind me, his wife, Martha

Korgak, daughter Sarah Korgak, daughter Linda Korgak, granddaughter Aimo Korgak, granddaughter Alookie Korgak, and granddaughter Jenna Korgak.

Mr. Speaker, obviously Ainiak has a lot of ladies supporting him in his retirement. He has a lot of time to spend with his grandchildren. I wish Ainiak a great retirement.

I think he might be the only individual in Nunavut today who is actually hoping for winter. He told me last night that he really wants to go ice fishing every day. Welcome to the Gallery.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Peterson. Welcome to the Gallery. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Natilik, Ms. Ugyuk.

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I wish to recognize this person in the Gallery, my dear husband, Nauyaq Ugyuk. In my estimation, he is the most handsome man in Nunavut. He is also one of the best persons in the whole of Nunavut. My dear husband is a tremendous support and I am very grateful for his support. I love him dearly and I am also quite attached to him.

He also gets a lot of assistance from family members in Taloyoak, so I take this opportunity to thank them for their support.

I would like to welcome my husband to the House and I don't want to just recognize him in this House, which is

why I spoke about him at length. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. Welcome to the Gallery. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Moving on in our orders of the day. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Akulliq, Mr. Ningark.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 743 – 3(3): Tundra Fire Preparedness in Nunavut

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This issue that is presently happening near the proximity of Chesterfield Inlet was the discovery of a fire on the tundra. I am not representing Chesterfield Inlet as they already have a representative, so I am stating this fact.

Earlier in my statement, I spoke about the fire on the tundra near Chesterfield Inlet. I had originally thought to direct this question to the Minister of CG&S, but I believe it is more appropriate to direct it to the Minister of Environment.

Can the minister describe how his department is working with the Department of Community and Government Services and municipalities to be prepared for such incidents as tundra fires or brushfires? How are you collaborating with the Department of CG&S and the hamlets to prepare for and develop emergency plans for this type of event? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank Mr. Ningark for the question. When the tundra fire was first discovered, we were kept apprised of the situation with regular updates, and communications went back and forth between our department responsible for environment and CG&S.

We also had lines of communications with the Hamlet of Chesterfield Inlet that provided regular updates, especially to know if the fire was approaching the community. It was quite a ways from the community, however, and the report was that it was adjacent to a lake which couldn't be reached by ground transportation. They just kept an eye on the tundra fire, without any attempts to fight the fire.

We are working closely with the Department of CG&S in case an emergency erupted in the community, including the immediate environment near the tundra fire. We have initiated a plan to deal with these types of events from the Department of Environment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the minister for his response. Now we are informed as Nunavummiut. Again, to the Minister of Environment, do you know how many tundra fires have occurred and how many brushfires have

occurred in a 12-month period in any season? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can't foresee what will happen in the future, but I can only make reference to what has happened. We have heard that there have been two tundra fires. We are kept informed about that, not only tundra fires, but also other incidents happening within our environment. During those times, we work closely together with the community and with the departments. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the minister. I just wanted him to be prepared for such incidents. Can the minister make an annual report that will be tabled in the House with regard to such incidents? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes. Thank you.

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

**Question 744 – 3(3): Funding
Agreements with the Government
of Canada**

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning, Nunavummiut. Yesterday, I asked questions to the Minister of Transportation and he thought that it would be better if I directed my questions to the Minister of Finance. I am ready for it today.

As I noted yesterday, the Government of Canada has announced that “As part of the Building Canada Plan, Nunavut will receive at least \$400 million for roads, bridges and other public infrastructure over the next ten years.” Can the minister confirm if this funding is eligible to be used for new marine infrastructure in our communities in Nunavut, including Pond Inlet? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Enook for the question. Mr. Speaker, I can't confirm that. I believe the government officials are in dialogue with each other, hammering out the details. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Nunavut is not necessarily building a lot of new roads and bridges, but we have desperate needs for other types of infrastructure in our communities. Can the minister clarify

what kinds of public infrastructure qualify for federal funding and what kinds do not? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Enook for the question. Mr. Enook raises a very real issue.

Last year, in Cambridge Bay, the Premier and I met with the Prime Minister and MP when they came to visit our community. I put out a figure for the Government of Nunavut. Nunavut needs \$6 billion over 20 years for all sorts of infrastructure. I then met with Minister Flaherty in December in Meech Lake and I presented him with a proposal for \$500 million, which \$300 million was for housing and \$200 million was for power needs in Nunavut.

It is no secret in Ottawa that we need a lot of investment from Ottawa for all of our communities, but as I indicated in my previous answer, our officials are in dialogue with federal officials. We don't have any details yet that we can share with Mr. Enook. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the minister commit to working with his colleague, the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, to access part of this \$400 million federal funding for the purpose of constructing essential new marine infrastructure in Nunavut

communities, particularly in Pond Inlet?
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr.
Speaker. I thank Mr. Enook for the
question. Mr. Speaker, the Government
of Nunavut has a capital planning
process that we work through. I assure
Mr. Enook that through that process, the
government and all MLAs in this House
will have an opportunity to review and
approve capital estimates in future years.
I'm sure that third party funding through
federal government programs will be an
important component of all that
infrastructure planning and the
approvals. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Question 745 – 3(3): Toolkit to
Address Homelessness Funding**

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you,
Mr. Speaker. Firstly, I wish to mention
Annie and Don Magaknak, who are my
main points of contact whenever I travel
to Gjoa Haven. They are always
hospitable and I thank them immensely
for that. As there is no housing there, I
usually billet at their home. They let me
have the run of the house and they even
cook my meals while I am billeting
there. Due to their hospitality, I feel very
welcome. I am extremely thankful for
their support.

I would like to direct my question to the
minister who is responsible for
homelessness.

Homeless people have a tough road to
take. (interpretation ends) Does the GN
have a toolkit for communities on how
to apply for funds on homeless shelters?
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk.
Minister with responsibility of
Homelessness, Minister Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): Thank
you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning and
thank you for the question, my
colleague.

The policy called the (interpretation
ends) Tunngasugvik Homeless Shelter
Policy (interpretation) is publicly
available as a written document via the
Internet and through other means. We
have debated this issue in this House.
However, as I stated earlier in one of my
Ministers' Statements, they have to work
together. As I stated, it has to be a
community-based initiative, with
negotiations on the contents, including a
plan of action to access the funds. All
the documentation is publicly available.
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you,
Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for her
response. You stated that it's an
initiative from the communities because
the individuals in the communities know
that they have no houses, with no units
available to date. What would the
community do when they find out that
there are people who are homeless in
each community? Thank you, Mr.
Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. Minister with responsibility of Homelessness, Minister Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the member for asking her questions. Perhaps I will cite the example of how it is structured here in Iqaluit, as there is currently an existing homeless shelter being operated here, although they are continually low on funds. However, it has continued to operate and it has been in existence for over 20 years.

The Oqota Men's Shelter is for homeless men and it can be visited with appointments. The funding they raise isn't just from government funding, but it includes funds from the city, with a committee set up. This is a voluntary committee. The title of this committee is Niksik. The Niksik Committee is operating as a non-profit society, as per the regulations, and they are responsible for running that program.

Therefore, if this type of organizational structure is followed, then the community would have to form a non-profit society and start negotiating with government, be that the local government, territorial, or otherwise, to get the initiative going. It has to be community-based, and they would then be able to requisition a building from the government or the local housing association. That is how we would work together to create this type of initiative. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

response. I have a little clearer understanding. Has the government given funding to other communities besides Iqaluit? We know what Iqaluit is doing, but for the smaller communities, what funding can be obtained for those purposes? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am only familiar with these two homeless shelters that exist currently in Iqaluit. There may be one other community working towards completion of the process, but I don't want to make a mistaken assumption by saying that it is happening in such-and-such community, so I can't state which one currently.

The funds made available for this initiative include plans for community shelters, similar to the women's shelter for mothers and children. They also fundraise large amounts of money and they qualify via that for other funds. There isn't one dedicated fund specific to this initiative, as their funds are received from various funding agencies. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Ell. Oral Questions. Member for Amittuq, Mr. Tapardjuk.

Question 746 – 3(3): Foxe Basin Polar Bear Subpopulation

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my questions to the Minister of Environment, my *Annuraaqatik*.

Mr. Speaker, earlier this week, the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board held public hearings to consider proposed modifications to the total allowable harvest for the Foxe Basin polar bear subpopulation. Various organizations made submissions during these hearings, including the Department of Environment. Can the minister provide details on what recommendations his officials made on this issue? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Foxe Basin polar bear population underwent a population study recently in 2012 and the population estimates for that area is approximately 2,500 bears.

The affected HTOs in that management zone have made a request for more tags and to see how they can harvest more bears from the Foxe Basin population. Currently, the population estimate report outlines the approximate numbers and the fact that a few additional tags shouldn't impact the population.

The population has increased since the results of an earlier population study. Based on this most current estimate, the population has increased or remained static with the current number of polar bear tags. However, what I can state is that their request for more tags is currently under review.

I can't make a statement that the tags will be increased since we haven't received any correspondence recommending approval. I can't tell my

Annuraaqatik any more than that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Minister of Environment for that response. A recent news story reported that a three-year ban has been imposed on the communities of Hall Beach and Igloolik from harvesting any polar bears in the Foxe Basin subpopulation. Is the minister aware of this situation and, if so, can the minister provide information on how his department is dealing with this issue, Mr. Speaker? Thank you.

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

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Foxe Basin management zone has quite a few communities within it that harvest polar bears from this zone. It actually includes part of the Northern Quebec harvesting quotas. The Foxe Basin communities that harvest from this zone don't always fill their tags. When this occurs, other communities can request those tags. This is where negotiations commence between the communities in one polar bear management zone. They can share some tags.

Currently, two of the communities that the member quoted are the subject of review to see how we can work with them to accommodate their requests. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The people of Igloodik and Hall Beach seem to be banned from harvesting polar bears because they have harvested too many. They said that the polar bear population was higher. This cannot be understood by those communities.

The Department of Environment also submitted the results of 2009-2010 aerial surveys of the Foxe Basin polar bear population to the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board. His department recommended additional research to examine the movement patterns, range, size, and habitat use of the Foxe Basin polar bear is underway. Can the minister indicate when this research will be completed and how they will use the results? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, it can be disconcerting to hear that the tags for the communities are unavailable due to consequences such as harvesting too many females with the ratio affecting future allocations for the next season.

At this current time, the MOU is still in force, which was an agreement between the communities, the department, and NWMB. That MOU will be reviewed this fall, but prior to the new MOU, the communities have to abide by the current rules. The communities will have the ability to negotiate into the MOU

their priorities when managers arrive to work on them.

Currently, as it stands, the ratio is one female for every two male bears harvested in each zone. Based on the most recent population study, the population hasn't changed much, although it has increased slightly, and this hasn't changed at this time.

I will be able to provide an update after the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board renders their decision and submits it to our offices. That is the only time we will be able to provide a full report. I can't specify the date at this time and I apologize for that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 747 – 3(3): Elders' Difficulties Visiting Health Centres

Mr. Curley: Thank you, *Uqaqtii*. (interpretation) My question is directed to the Minister of Health.

This week, I mentioned that Nunavut elders sometimes are not comfortable and apprehensive to go to the health centres because they're saying that they're not comfortable going to the nursing stations.

Can the minister tell the elders in the communities exactly what he is doing with respect to the elders not wanting to go to the health centres? They're not comfortable when they have an illness. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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 raising that concern on behalf of the elders. Mr. Speaker, I have not heard of that issue from my officials. I know that in Cambridge Bay, the elders have home care visits. They go to the health centre. I believe there are translator/interpreter services available.

If Mr. Curley is aware of any specific instances where elders are having difficulties with health centres, I would like to know about them. We do work very closely with health centres. I believe there are health committees in every community that works with health centres on behalf of the people in the community that could bring their concerns to the nurses in charge. If there are any concerns, I would like to know about them and we can address them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Curley: Mr. Speaker, in my Member's Statement the other day, I did indicate that there was an elder whom I'm speaking with who was so uncomfortable that she cried on the telephone. That's one. I'm trying to find a way of how we can restore respect to the elders. It's a condition. It's a systemic condition.

(interpretation) We now have elders and we may know a few cases where the elder has to first sign prior to receiving treatment or an appointment. Due to this reason, when the patient is going for a

checkup, why do they first have to sign the document? Is our priority to have the elder sign off the document before they can be seen? 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 question. Mr. Speaker, I wish Mr. Curley would provide me with a bit more detail about the document that he says that individuals must sign. It is a health centre. There could be any number of documents that a patient must sign, but I would encourage Mr. Curley to provide me with more details to help answer the question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The documents are at the files of medical practitioners in each community. (interpretation) The elders are made to feel alienated and unwelcome. We have to ensure they are made to feel welcome and, in my opinion, the government has to ensure this. I believe that there is a document outlining the need for hospitality and a welcoming attitude. When will this guideline ever be followed by the Department of Health personnel?

Also, there was an elder last week who called and spoke to me. In my dialect of the Kivalliq region, the word she used denoted that she was extremely short of breath. In the Baffin region, they use the word "Ipiniarniq." This elder stated she was extremely short of breath. This

condition doesn't just denote shortness of breath.

I believe the proper term in English is "dyspnea." This is a medical condition she is suffering from. Although she has this condition, the nurses refused to see her until she signed the document. Why? Why are our elders who are already suffering medical conditions being forced to sign documents and not receiving the proper medical care? 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 sharing that information. Mr. Speaker, it is unfortunate that the elder had a bad experience. Of course, we want all of our patients and clients who deal with health centres in the communities to have a good experience. Health care is a top priority in our department. Of course, they have to have the comfort level with the nurses, doctors, and other health officials in the centre.

In that particular case, I can't explain and I have no details, but if Mr. Curley can provide us with some details, we can look into it on behalf of his constituent and find out what the problem is. I again encourage all Nunavummiut who are feeling ill or need to see a doctor or nurse to not feel unwelcome or afraid to report to the health centres. We have very dedicated health practitioners in all our communities working very hard 24 hours a day, seven days a week to help out Nunavummiut.

If there's a particular case, please visit me privately and I can assist you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 748 – 3(3): Anti-bootlegging Enforcement Initiatives

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Justice.

As the minister will recall, a number of members have urged the government to introduce civil forfeiture legislation to fight bootlegging in our communities. This type of legislation would allow the proceeds of crime, including property, to be seized from bootleggers. Why has the government not introduced civil forfeiture legislation? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank Mr. Schell for that question. He brings a very good point up about the legislation of civil forfeiture. The Department of Justice is working on that type of legislation. At present, research work is being done on, both policy and implementation of how that legislation would work. There's consultation going on with other jurisdictions on how it is working in their jurisdictions, but what needs to happen is there needs to be detailed and very much consultations done with communities in Nunavut to

include their issues on this legislation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have also heard concerns that the Canada Revenue Agency is not doing all that it can to conduct audits of individuals who have no visible means of support, but who have plenty of assets, including houses, trucks, boats, and ski-doo's. In many of these cases, the assets have been purchased through the proceeds of crime, including bootlegging. Will the minister commit to raising this issue with the federal Minister responsible for the Canada Revenue Agency? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for his question again. Mr. Speaker, the member is right. When there is revenue fraud going on, it is the jurisdiction of the Canada Revenue Agency to investigate such a thing. The RCMP is responsible for investigating bootlegging and drug dealing going on in the communities, but I cannot commit to that. What I would commit to is if the member has any detailed information on such activities taking place, I would welcome him to write me a letter with that information. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In order to effectively fight bootlegging, law enforcement authorities need the strong cooperation of individuals and communities. Can the minister indicate how his department is working with the RCMP to encourage residents to provide information to law enforcement authorities about suspected bootlegging operations in their community? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I previously stated, I meet regularly with the commanding officer of the "V" division and this is a subject that is always brought up about enforcement of bootleggers and drug dealers. We continue to have discussions on this topic. We need the communities to be involved and provide us information. The RCMP absolutely needs that information to move forward with any type of enforcement.

These people who are providing alcohol and drugs to our communities and our young people are poison to the community. Anybody who is supporting these people in their operation should not be supporting them as they are very much affecting our communities and what's happening in our communities with young people. We will continue to work with the RCMP and communities. Communities need to assist the RCMP as much as they can in dealing with this problem. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

An Hon. Member: Hear, hear!

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

**Question 749 – 3(3): Medical
Appointments at Health Centres**

Mr. Ningark: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Hon. Minister of Health and Social Services.

From time to time, a constituent will come and talk to me about their appointment to see a health care professional at the local level. On occasion, that person will be referred to another day. “The health care centre is booked for the day. Come back tomorrow or next week.”

What is the root cause or source of the problem when a person who has an ailment, either minor or major, keeps being told to come tomorrow or next week? Is it that we don’t have the capacity, that we don’t have the staff or the capacity of the centre? What is the problem here? Pretty soon, that minor ailment becomes an emergency. What is the problem here, Mr. Chairman? 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. I had an opportunity to visit the health centre in Kugaaruk in May and there very a lot of very good staff there. It was a surprise visit, actually. It was at 8:30 in the morning because we were flying west and gained two hours.

There could be a number of issues. It’s very difficult to staff health centres. There are a minimum number of nurses we require and we’re competing with provinces and territories across Canada for nurses. We have a number of indeterminate nurses, but then we have to fill positions with casual nurses.

As to why an individual in your community couldn’t get an appointment that day, I would have to have more details before I can respond, but I do know that our health centre officials work very hard to try and see all the patients who call them or come to the health centre. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Ningark: Thank you. I had to pull my earpiece here; it makes a sound. Anyway, my first supplementary, Mr. Speaker, I recognize the devoted and dedicated health care professionals we have. I can say that any day anywhere in the world, especially in North America.

This has been an ongoing problem for many years. Why would the minister need more details on this? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The reason I need more details is because Mr. Ningark is raising an example of one individual in his community and maybe there are more, but we have 34,000 Nunavummiut who live in our territory and there are 25 health centres and hospital.

I don't have the exact numbers, but in many of the communities, there are as many as 10,000 to 12,000 visits by patients to the health centre per year. That tells me that the health centres are very busy and they are seeing a lot of patients on a whole number of issues. If he did the math, there are a lot of people going to health centres in Nunavut every year. I could ask my health officials to give me some details, but there are probably over 300,000 to 350,000 visits to health centres and hospital in Nunavut per year.

If Mr. Ningark is raising a concern about a specific incident in Kugaaruk, I would need some details so that I can look into why that individual wasn't able to get an appointment that day or week. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Ningark: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We talk about competence for all of GN. Well, if we talk about details, I don't know. I'm lost.

Mr. Speaker, I have heard, not only in Kugaaruk, but throughout the territory where the person has been referred back to another day and, you know, you have to take Aspirin or Tylenol. Tylenol is no cure. It becomes a chronic ailment later on. The doctor finds out that this becomes a serious illness.

When do we begin to have confidence in our health care system out here? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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 again for raising that question. Earlier this week, Mr. Ningark asked me about the patient relations office, and he has people in his community that have concerns. I encourage them to talk to the health practitioner or the nurse-in-charge. If they can't get their answer there, they can talk to regional directors or they can contact the patient relations officers.

There's a phone number and an email address where they can voice their concern or complaint. As I said the other day, someone will contact them within 48 hours to follow up and, hopefully within five days, we will be able to get an answer to the concern. As I mentioned the other day, we are working very hard to improve our relations with our communities and our patients.

If Mr. Ningark is aware of a specific example, he can bring that concern to me and I will have my officials follow up. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 750 – 3(3): Caribou Management Issues – Food Security

Mr. Oshutapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will be directing my question to the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, the Hon. Peter Taptuna.

Most of us are aware, including many Nunavut residents, that Inuit don't all have access to their traditional country foods. This is particularly true in our

community, where we used to have caribou in close proximity, but they have migrated elsewhere far away. For this reason, I have a question to the minister.

With air freight the only means available to ship country foods, many of my fellow residents can only order caribou meat from other communities that have access to caribou and the only way is to ship it in via airfreight. Further, the majority of communities in the Baffin region have been forced into this practice, not just the residents of Pangnirtung that I am aware of.

The Food Security Program has been brought up from time to time as part of the Poverty Reduction Strategy here in the Nunavut territory. However, our residents who have to order country foods can only do so with the subsidy for country food shipping costs. Unfortunately, the airline freight handlers don't prioritize these packages due to it being subsidized.

The package being under the country food subsidy is usually bumped off while the airlines prioritize the higher rated freight to ship out first in order to increase their profits. That seems to be the message being sent out to Inuit based on actual practices of our airline companies. We have no alternatives, yet airlines are our only means of transportation due to the dearth of a highway system.

Can the minister and his officials review this matter in both the Qikiqtaaluk and Kivalliq regions, with the cooperation of the regional Inuit associations, to see what's happening with this program? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Oshutapik. Minister of ED&T, Minister Taptuna, or is it the Minister of Family Services, Minister Ell, who would respond to that in dealing with food security? I guess it should be directed to Ms. Ell, Mr. Oshutapik. Ms. Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for his question about this matter. Yesterday, I was asked a question with respect to the Nutrition North program related to the Poverty Reduction Strategy. The need for nutritious food continues to surface as a central focal point. As per my statements on this issue, this topic was discussed first in June during the initial consultations. The plan being prepared was recently reviewed with an eye on the possible contents to be included.

Many organizations are included. I am one of the co-chairs of the working group and my co-chair represents Nunavut Tunngavik. They were appointed from the Nunavut Social Development Council. We also have members from other organizations, non-profit groups, as well as local businesses. As an example, NorthMart always sends a representative to these meetings. There are also our colleagues from this House we must thank, particularly Ron Elliott and Jeannie Ugyuk, who were able to attend the June meeting. There were over 70 participants, including elders who participated.

There was a document produced outlining the cost of foodstuffs in various communities. It included a price comparison and the costs of comparable foods. This document was tabled by one of our MLAs to show the price

variations in food costs throughout Nunavut. This highlighted the need in our future to have more information from more communities to ensure that we have a fair comparison of the cost of food.

The issue of country food was also raised and that country food has to be a priority, especially for Inuit. The elder who spoke on this issue also made this assertion. The sale of country food is contrary to Inuit values. Since country foods started being sold, it has devalued the principle of sharing with one's fellow residents. The elder stated that in the past, hunters would share with their elders for free, but they are now more interested in making income. Most conscientious hunters, when they have an abundance of country food, generally give away part of their catch to their fellow Inuit. The elder noted that this is becoming rarer with more hunters selling part of their catches.

However, I'm not sure whether the member's question related to transportation was included in our discussions at that meeting and how to lower the costs. I can't respond to that part, but I can only state that plans are being made and we haven't had the chance to review the report as they are still being drafted up. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Oshutapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I inadvertently made a precedent in this House, as I unintentionally caused confusion due to the question being relevant to two ministers. The purpose of my question

wasn't to ask two ministers simultaneously.

Mr. Speaker, I respect and believe our Inuit values and practices in our communities, as that part of our food sharing still continues to this day. As conscientious hunters, we still offer country food for free as part of our cultural heritage, especially food to those who assist in the expenses. I completely comprehend this practice.

What I'm trying to point out is this new practice which is fairly recent where Inuit are bartering country food with other Inuit, including the sale of country food to other Inuit living elsewhere. The only means of shipping this meat is through air freight to other communities. The issue I was trying to raise wasn't related to the airlines' food freight where foodstuffs are thrown out due to the length of time it takes for the food to arrive into the community.

What I'm trying to raise via this question to the minister is whether the minister can work with the Inuit associations in the Baffin and Kivalliq regions, who are part owners of the airlines, to resolve these challenges our people face on this issue. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Oshutapik. Minister responsible for the Department of Family Services, Minister Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the member for his question about this matter. As per my earlier response outlining the members involved in the round table, as an example, we meet as a group around a table. There are many representatives who participate. Under

this round table, we also have planning committees who meet monthly. They usually have activities to complete, which includes some of the business community members that I referred to earlier, such as NorthMart. The airline companies were requested to have representatives, but as of now, neither airline has sent any representatives.

I can also state that when I was first appointed as a minister in April 2013 to the new Department of Family Services, this issue of food security was part of the Poverty Reduction Strategy. When the regional associations held their meetings, I went to make a presentation on the mandate. The representatives were able to ask questions about this mandate and our plan of action. Further, if we are invited, we can make ourselves available at any time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Oshutapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. From this round table, can you get in touch with the airlines to correct this problem? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Oshutapik. Minister responsible for the Department of Family Services, Minister Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. During our spring session, we introduced legislation which was moved by Ron Elliott and seconded by me. This was the *Donation of Food Act* and it's to ensure that no one is held responsible if they donate foodstuffs. Ever since this legislation was introduced, I haven't been informed of

whether this has resulted in an increase in donated items to people in poverty or to the soup kitchens. However, what we did hear once was that there were donations submitted.

With the involvement of NorthMart, they also ship in foodstuffs through the sealift that they offer for sale. Due to their continued participation in this avenue, they were informed about the food price comparisons, including the food comparison sheet outlining the price variations in the communities, as well as many of the foods sold in the Northern stores. This information has been submitted.

I'll return to a motion that was moved by Fred Schell this spring that urged the federal government to review the Nutrition North program. Through this initiative, we were informed that the Auditor General would now be conducting a forensic audit of this program, especially the transportation costs. Through these avenues, once the reports have been completed and debate can begin on this issue, we will be paying particular attention to the transportation costs of shipping foods and how this program has lowered the costs of food. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Ningeongan (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Although the reason for rising today may seem inappropriate, I want to take this opportunity to apologize for my line of questioning to the Minister of CG&S. When I looked into the matter further, I noted that the response the minister provided was

understandable related to the deferment of the project, as per my questions about the matter. I don't have any questions currently and I just want to state that I apologize for my error. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 751 – 3(3): Orientation for Decentralized Employees

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Based on Mr. Oshutapik, my colleague's remark earlier about creating a precedent by having two ministers respond to his question, the question I will be asking may require three ministers to confer and come up with an answer. I am unsure whether or not it applies to either of these ministers. It may be more appropriate to the Minister of Education or perhaps to the Minister of Human Resources.

Mr. Speaker, as a resident of a smaller community, everything is much more obvious. As a resident of these smaller communities, cooperation or the lack thereof is much more noticeable.

I live in the community of Pond Inlet, which is a decentralized community with various departments working out of the GN offices, for which we are very grateful for and proud of. The issue I have always wanted to clearly understand is whether or not public servants who are hired to work in these communities ever even receive compulsory cultural orientation or at the very least, things they have to be aware of and respect.

Again I refer only to public servants hired to work in decentralized communities. This is my question, but I am unsure which minister is responsible for this matter and why I stated that I had no idea whether it falls under one minister, two ministers, or even three of our ministers. Let me use an example for my reasoning.

In the last two years that I have resided in Pond Inlet and returned home, I've had many discussions with residents, both Inuit and non-Inuit. Whenever I happen to be talking with non-Inuit who I am seeing for the first time, which still happens in this day and age, I ask them, "Are you a recent arrival to Pond Inlet?" The answer I hear back is, "No, I have been living in Pond Inlet for over five years," or seven years or whichever number they respond with.

It seems that there is a divide between the public servants in our community and the Inuit residents. Although as Inuit, we try to practise our cultural value of being hospitable and welcoming, this issue keeps jumping to the forefront and I always want to ask about this matter. Is there any type of preparation provided to the public servants that if they are going to work in a smaller decentralized community, part of their consideration has to include respecting the culture of that community? Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Enook. Minister of Finance. That hasn't enveloped human resources. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have been Minister responsible for Human Resources for a

short while. I can only go on my own experience in Cambridge Bay. I believe, when people from other places come to work in my community, the department they come to work for provides them with an orientation.

I know the human resources officials have information available on every community that people are going in to work in and what they should expect. They have an opportunity to ask questions during interviews. If they come for in-person interviews or conference call type interviews, they ask questions about what they can expect in the community.

Within the departments themselves, there is what they call IQ days where departments get together and they go as a department to get to know the area and experience some of the local culture and traditional things that people do in the communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for clarifying this. I'm just wondering if there is an actual policy to give more of an example.

We want to be welcoming to other people and sometimes we feel that these newcomers who are up here to work... . When we have these different holiday gatherings, only a handful show up and I feel that it's maybe because we are not welcoming. A lot of the times, we don't see the people who are living in our community.

Do you actually know that each department has an orientation package, especially for those in the smaller communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Enook for raising the concern. I'll ask my HR people in the finance department to get that information so I can provide a more detailed answer to Mr. Enook. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Mr. Tapardjuk.

Motion 056 – 3(3): Extension of Oral Question Period

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Pursuant to Rule 39(7), I move, seconded by the Member for Baker Lake, Moses Aupaluktuq, that we extend question period. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Tapardjuk. The motion is in order. All those in favour. Please raise your hand high so I can see. All those opposed. The motion is carried. We get 30 more minutes of question period.

Oral Questions. Member for Amittuq, Mr. Tapardjuk.

Question 752 – 3(3): IQ Values in Child and Family Services Act

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleagues. First of all, I would like to thank the Minister of Family Services for the

question that I had posed and she has responded to me. I know that this item will be worked on when they're trying to include *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit* in this.

In part of her response, it states on page 2 that the department is working on how family services and Inuit societal values will be included and used or how the elders and youth can be more involved. I would like to get some clarification from the minister to see if these people would be working for the government or whether there are going to be advisory bodies. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Tapardjuk. Minister responsible for the Department of Family Services, Minister Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for asking again. I have answered part of the question in regard to the director for the *Child and Family Services Act*. According to the policy, which was approved by spring, they have to produce a report. That report was tabled recently in the House. From my understanding, there are some committees in the communities. They have included the elders to do some planning in regard to the title "Tunnganarniq," to be welcoming. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for dealing with this. As it was mentioned, there will be more funding available so that the employees will have more understanding of Inuit societal values or culture. I could ask another question. Are you planning

to have only Qallunaat social workers? Is that why this has to be done? If Inuit were social workers, they wouldn't need all this training because they understand the social issues. I wish that you could make this clearer. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Tapardjuk. Minister responsible for the Department of Family Services, Minister Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, as I stated earlier, in the spring of 2014, the plan is to train the social workers. I would like to state at this time that we have Inuit social workers in our territory, although there are not very many. I am very pleased that I was able to go to your riding in Igloolik to discuss the matter with the hamlet council. We had a phone-in show. With the chair of NTI, Nutrition North, and poverty reduction, I was able to go to the community with my co-chair.

Between the meetings during our visit to the communities, we were able to tour the community. Mr. Speaker, there were two students who were taking social work and we crossed our paths. I was very pleased to meet them. The number of beneficiary social workers is increasing.

In regard to the question that you just posed, although sometimes we may be Inuit, nowadays, we don't know the application of Inuit societal values. If we want to have an opportunity to get further knowledge on Inuit societal values, we have that opportunity now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister because these types of accomplishments are a source of pride when you see committed people taking courses to undertake this type of career.

Mr. Speaker, as we all know, with the passage of the *Education Act*, and the local DEAs have the authority to hire elders as instructors upon completion of an accredited course recognizing them as elder instructors in various categories recognized within Inuit cultural values.

I wonder if the Department of Family Services in their response identified how these categories were arrived at, and how the process to determine accreditation of our elders was determined. I am proud of this process and expect further developments.

Mr. Speaker, my question I have is this: within the mandate of the Family Services department, is there a comparable process to recognize the capabilities of elders who may not have any formal education, but who are recognized local experts in traditional societal values and who can counsel their fellow residents?

Is there any type of comparable accreditation your department can undertake to this effect? Can you take this into consideration that these elders are recognized as counsellors, on par with how our elder instructors in education? Can you look at this possibility as not all elders are able to provide counselling services? There aren't very many elders who are

proficient in this field of Inuit societal values and healthy living counselling so that services are available locally?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Tapardjuk. Minister responsible for the Department of Family Services, Minister Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In my response to his last question, I had stated that anyone is welcome to submit suggestions offering solutions or alternatives, and when this suggestion is submitted such as the member has just made, we can now look at that suggestion and with our departmental officials listening to these proceedings, they can look into this matter and take this suggestion into consideration. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 753 – 3(3): Mould in Public Housing at Kugaaruk

Mr. Ningark: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the previous year and proceeding, I have asked the lead minister for the Nunavut Housing Corporation in regard to homes moulding in Kugaaruk. I understand that the minister has directed his officials and the problem was taken care of. To date, the problem has persisted. I would like to ask him, through you, Mr. Speaker, if the hon. minister will have a second look at the problem. Thank you.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. Mr. Speaker, as I indicated earlier in my responses to the issue of mould in Kugaaruk, there is a process and we encourage the tenant to report any kind of mould, whether it's mildew or mould, to the local housing organizations.

Mr. Speaker, I'm not aware of the ongoing occurring problem in the current unit. I'll have to get my staff to take a look into that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Ningark: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister, who has undertaken to try and do something for some homes, but there are more than a few homes back home and we have a number of homes. We appreciate the privilege of having homes in our community. Again I would like to ask: will the minister again review the problem we have back home? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The public housing units are inspected annually by the local housing organizations, including some technical assistance from the regional offices. Once mould or mildew is identified, they work to get the issue resolved. Again I encourage all the public tenants to make sure that they report any kind of mildew or mould that is forming within their units.

Mr. Speaker, I will direct my staff to take a second look into this issue in Kugaaruk. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Ningark: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My second and final supplementary, yes, we have tenants who have talked with the local or regional [level]. When their request falls into deaf ears, then you're not sure if you're going to get help anywhere, either it's local, regional, or territorial. Is the hon. minister stating that because the mould problem is a serious health problem, we want to help our local health care profession and the territory to ensure that we have prevention? Did the hon. minister say that he will direct his officials to come to Kugaaruk and check out the persistent problem? Thank you.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It appears that the persistent problem is from one unit. If we can get a letter to follow up... I'm sure these inspections take place yearly on an annual basis. If the mould problem is a persistent, ongoing issue with a tenant, I would like to get more detailed information from the member and possibly a letter from the tenant to follow up to make sure that these mould issues are taking care of in that unit. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Item 6. Oral Questions. I have no more names on my list. We will move on in our orders of the day. Ms. Ugyuk.

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask for unanimous consent to go back to Item 5 in our *Orders of the Day*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. The member is seeking unanimous consent to return to Item 5 in our *Orders of the Day*, Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Are there any nays? There are none. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Ms. Ugyuk.

Revert to Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I have the honour of recognizing my husband, the greatest-looking man in Nunavut.

I have a second honour to recognize a visitor in the Gallery, one of the greatest leaders in Nunavut, my uncle James Eetoolook from Taloyoak. He was a recipient of the Diamond Jubilee [Medal] last fall in Taloyoak. We are very proud of him in Taloyoak. He has contributed many hours for the benefit of Nunavummiut, the land claims agreement, and so on. At the local level, he has been a voice for leadership in Taloyoak.

Lastly, I would like to say (interpretation) I remember that my later father was assisted by his younger brother. They would go out hunting together and provide support to the wife and always checked on his wife to make sure she was okay while the husband was out hunting. He is my uncle, and I do have compassion for him and gratitude for providing support to the

people of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. Welcome to the Gallery, James. It's always a pleasure to see you over here.

Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery.
Ms. Ell.

Hon. Monica Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize two of my constituents. First of all, I would like to recognize Sammie Peter. Welcome to the Legislative Assembly. Sammie Peter and his wife have been very supportive. They have been very helpful to the people through the Anglican Diocese.

I would also like to welcome Alice Ningeongan. Welcome.

Although this individual was acknowledged, I have worked with this individual in the past and I would like to acknowledge Mr. James Eetoolook. I am very proud of the fact that you are very good at what you do. He is the co-chair of the round-table discussions representing NTI. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to acknowledge James Eetoolook. He has been a member of NTI for a very long time, although he is younger than me. I,

too, would like to welcome Mr. Eetoolook.

>>Applause

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to also take this opportunity to recognize Mr. James Eetoolook. He's a visitor to the Gallery. James was my first boss when I went to work for the Kitikmeot Inuit Association group of companies. In one of our first challenges together, we were actually in a battle with the Government of the Northwest Territories on initiatives. It's kind of ironic now that I'm with the government. Welcome, James, to the Gallery. I appreciate seeing you here today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Ningeongan.

Mr. Ningeongan (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge my only sister, who is very supportive of me, whom I love very much. I, too, would like to acknowledge Alice Ningeongan. Thank you.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. Welcome to the Gallery. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. We will go back to 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. Minister of Education, Minister Aariak.

Item 13: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 411 – 3(3): 2010-2011 and 2011-2012 Education Act Annual Reports

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table the 2010-11 and 2011-12 *Education Act* annual reports. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Tabled Document 412 – 3(3): Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment: Council of Ministers Meeting, October 11, 2012 Lake Louise, Alberta

Tabled Document 413 – 3(3): Canadian Council of Fisheries and Aquaculture (CCFAM) and Atlantic Council of Fisheries and Aquaculture (ACFAM), September 5-6, 2012 – Victoria, British Columbia

Hon. James Arreak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have two items to table.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to the FPT report on the Canadian Council of Ministers of Environment meeting, October 11, 2012, in Lake Louise.

I am also pleased to table the FPT report on the Canadian Council of Ministers of Environment meeting, October 11, 2012 in Lake Louise.

The titles of these two documents may sound the same, but they are two different documents. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Arreak. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Moving on in our orders of the day. Item 14. Notices of Motions. Minister Kusugak.

Item 14: Notices of Motions

Motion 057 – 3(3): Extended Sitting Hours and Days – Notice

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Monday, September 16, 2013, I will move the following motion:

I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Quttiktuq, that the Speaker be authorized to set such sitting days and hours as the Speaker deems fit to assist with the business before the House during this present sitting of the Legislative Assembly.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Kusugak. 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. Bill 40 and Bill 64 with Mr. Enook in the Chair.

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

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House recessed at 11:18 and Committee resumed at 11:29*

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

Chairman (Mr. Enook)(interpretation): Good morning. I would now like to call the committee meeting to order. Welcome to the Committee of the Whole, as well as Nunavummiut who are following the televised and radio broadcasts of the proceedings. In Committee of the Whole, we have the following items to deal with: Bills 40 and 64. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Mr. Aupaluktuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Today, we wish to commence our review of Bill 40. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. Does the committee agree that we first deal with Bill 40?

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Before we proceed with the bill, does the committee agree to bring in the minister's witnesses?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses in. Madam Minister, if you can go to the witness table.

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

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my right is the Deputy Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs and to my left is Anne Macintosh, legislative drafter from the Department of Justice. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Minister. Mr. Vandermeulen, welcome. Ms. Macintosh, welcome. At this time, as we move towards reviewing this bill, let me start off by stating that during our committee meeting yesterday, a point of order was raised by the Member of Rankin Inlet North. I will be making a ruling on this tomorrow, as I have decided to present this ruling at the beginning of the Committee of the Whole.

Oops! I would be all alone trying to present this ruling tomorrow. I meant to state Monday.

>>*Laughter*

If it was tomorrow, I would be all alone. On Monday, I will make my ruling in the Committee of the Whole.

Moving on. We're on general comments for Bill 40. I had some names on my list from yesterday. Mr. Ningark, I now give you the opportunity to speak. Mr. Ningark.

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This bill, Bill 40, entitled "*Representative for Children and Youth Act*," I think we are all aware, at least the majority of members in this House are aware that NTI has been very supportive of this bill.

Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated meets with, works with, and collaborates with the Inuit regional associations, such as the Kitikmeot Inuit Association, including the Kivalliq and Qikiqtaaluk regions. These organizations represent the aboriginal people of Nunavut, namely, the beneficiaries of the land claims agreement, as they are elected people of their communities as Inuit representatives for their region.

As per my earlier comment, there are regional organizations, such as the Kitikmeot Regional Inuit Association, as well as Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, which represent Inuit as aboriginal people through the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement via elections for a fixed period. I recognize their representation of the aboriginal people of Nunavut, the Inuit, and of their mandate and authority.

This includes their support for Bill 40, which I am also in support of. If things were perfect in this world, they would never have to apply this bill. However, this world isn't perfect and it is impossible to be a perfect human being, even if you want to be the best person possible. Some people will always require assistance, whether they are youth or children. As well, I sometimes reflect on certain issues, such as some youth want to speak with adults separately from their parents or family

members. Not all youth are like that, but this occurs occasionally.

This highlights the fact that we are just human and aren't winged angels. Therefore, humans aren't perfect and we don't always spot people requiring assistance or support. I certainly hope that we would apply this legislation only to those people who really require assistance, as that is the purpose of the bill. I certainly hope this legislation never has to be applied in Nunavut. I imagine, however, that it would have to be applied at some point in this day and age as well as in the future.

With that in mind, I wanted to voice my general comments and I have no questions. I want it known that I am in support of this bill. I have no further comments to make, but that I hope this bill will be enacted as legislation applicable to Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningark. I believe this is the last individual to make general comments. I don't have any other names on my list. Mr. Tapardjuk.

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ensure that I am clearly understood. The sole purpose of Bill 40, *Representative for Children and Youth Act*, is to protect. I totally understand that aspect. Furthermore, I know certain children and youth require assistance.

When speaking about Inuit traditions and societal values, as the Minister of Family Services, or the minister now responsible for Bill 51, once this legislation is being implemented, many

of us had expectations of certain conflicts currently in play could possibly be resolved through this amendment, particularly for families.

Spousal assault, family violence, bullying or even guardians who abandon their moral duties are a bane on every communities' reputation and Inuit didn't have these issues so prevalent in our past.

This government's work to develop this is a matter we can all take pride in, especially in light of Bill 51, and the government has to be recognized for their zeal in trying to properly assist and understand what Inuit societal values consists of. There are still many areas that will most certainly cause issues, which is obvious in looking at this legislation. I believe that this government will work hard to implement this legislation properly. If Bill 51 is implemented to resolve the current cultural conflicts with traditional Inuit culture, we will also be informed about possible amendments to enhance it.

This in my belief that Bill 40, *Representative for Children and Youth Act*, is being enacted to the Legislative Assembly and to have an employee to monitor and represent children and youth. The Department of Justice is being asked to create this position through legislation, which will cost approximately \$2 million per annum. This is, in my opinion, a rush job, although I am not particularly offended by it. I believe in the government that once the amendment is fully implemented, our biggest source of conflict with the western idealist agenda would be largely resolved.

I wonder if it has been thought out wisely in attempting to ramrod Bill 40 through the Legislative Assembly without having incorporated the proposed amendments. Is there a hidden agenda inside Bill 40? I wonder what the real purpose of Bill 40 is, as I can't grasp the reasoning behind this bill.

Can't our government first try to implement Bill 51 and once it is being implemented, yes, the members could be faced? The Legislative Assembly is already being asked to approve this legislation, to review this bill prior to any implementation of Bill 51. What is the foundation for this haste? I truly can't understand the reasoning.

I want it clearly understood that we have received written letters of support from NTI and other organizations, but I am also a beneficiary of the land claims agreement. We have a local representative in both Igloolik and Hall Beach to represent the beneficiaries in these two communities. The community support for this legislation has never been referenced in any of NTI's supporting of it.

In reviewing NTI's AGM reports, I have never seen a motion to that effect brought forward explicitly offering beneficiary support for Bill 40. Due to this reason, as we are all of a different mind, perhaps the organizations properly representing their regional communities, such as QIA, with parental bodies, such as NTI, should have been asked as representatives of their regions that their local representatives were in support of Bill 40. However, the support has been given from the top down without debate.

As our local representative stated to me, in their opinion, Bill 40 expropriates parental rights and responsibilities perhaps because we, as parents, are failing in our parental duties. This legislated representative is felt to be too intrusive and confiscating parental duties.

Due to hearing this opinion expressed by Inuit, I believe that one person representing Inuit can't force the entire population they represent to accept their personal recommendation. Due to not having learned of local support via these channels, this is my reasoning and I want it clearly understood that I personally don't oppose this bill, Bill 40. However, without even attempting to implement the amendments laid out in Bill 51, it will smooth the path towards the completion of Bill 40 to eventually reach their stated objective.

When this bill becomes legislation, the members may start accusing the government is bereft and lax in fulfilling the legislated requirements laid out in it and it would lead to more discord, especially since Bill 40 is trying to be rushed into legislation. It is as if Inuit have to again be asked to swallow a sugar-coated legal pill as history, which our colonialists have always subsisted of strange laws being forced upon Inuit without any real Inuit input or crafting particularly legislation that will have a real intrusive effect on our social fabric.

The practice of forced legislation in this day and age of Inuit having their representatives in this Government of Nunavut means that all proposed legislation be seriously debated, negotiated, argued upon, deliberated on, and to explore ideas so that it will be

created to best serve our people in Nunavut.

Given that I have this opportunity to provide my thoughts on the proposed legislation while it is being deliberate upon is something that I am quite grateful for. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tapardjuk. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wanted to make a few additional comments and I will not be long. I want to comment on the opening comments of the Premier with respect to Bill 40.

Firstly, let me start off with this statement: when members are questioning the bill, this government takes that as opposition to a representative of youth and children and their contention that members don't want to see one created based on arguments laid out to date. This is a completely false assumption. Let's all be clear on that.

I have read documents about our youth in many reports as well as many letters from our youth expressing their thoughts on Rankin Inlet's issues they want noted. Increased criminal behaviour is blamed on bored youth who have no activities to do in the community. We hear this often from youth, that if more recreational facilities are built, including youth drop-in centres and the like, then youth will not cause as much trouble with their time devoted to activities.

What has the Legislative Assembly done to meet that need? Nothing! It is as if this government is akin to creating a

(interpretation ends) super nanny, (interpretation) as some derisively call the special representative, but only if it is created and we hear these types of reports spewing from this representative does it finally mean that this government will start taking action on these issues? I don't believe that is the case.

I have said on many occasions that in order to alleviate some of conditions our youth face, we must concentrate on youth-oriented facilities within our communities with specified facilities in every community, as well as (interpretation ends) programs. (interpretation) There are many programs available, with youth having something to do at the local level, with youth working during the summer months to offer these programs, as many graduates can't find employment after they have finished their schooling. Programs are ideas we have to seriously look at, either that or is our priority to wait for the legislated special representative report recommending these changes to begin to take action? I don't believe that is the proper approach.

This is what this government apparently understands, at least by some of our colleagues here: too much of the legislated mandate hasn't originated from the traditional Inuit society or grassroots level. The members of non-Inuit culture have placed too much emphasis on organizational support in trying to ram this legislation through.

Non-Inuit are taking the letters of support from organizations as representing Inuit when bodies, such as NAM, and so on, I am quite sure, have never seen the language of the all-powerful representative intruding into

their daily lives and that it will be drafted by this government without any meaningful consultation of the grassroots level. However, in principle, they have submitted their support. How can they submit their support without consulting their membership? How can an entity offer its support without reading the legal language? The reason why I advocate caution since the day I was elected and the reason why I have advised cautiousness by this government about whether an advocate for youth is required. Do I see the need? Absolutely yes; including MLAs who have to lend their voice on behalf of their youthful constituents and mayors, who have to fight for programs and services, and strengthen the programs geared towards their youth.

This is to enable youth to have employment opportunities, to provide activities to lessen boredom resulting in youth crime and other means. I doubt we need to concentrate on annual reports stemming from this position and to dither while we await these recommendations from the representative. Is the government's view that this is the only option that will break their disbelief in conditions our youth face? Is that the only way they can believe?

I don't think that we should be that obtuse. Who is responsible for youth? Is it the parents? Is it the families who are partially responsible for our youth? In my opinion, absolutely! My wife, Sally, and I deal with many youth issues just in our relatives' circles, both our own, our grandchildren amongst others. I want to see these bonds strengthened instead.

After voicing that, I want to state that we aren't trying to turn the already formed opinions of the Premier or the cabinet or even of our colleagues, the MLAs, on whether Bill 40 should be supported, but rather what we are trying to state is part of our thoughts on this bill and the reality we see in our communities. That is what we are advocating. We are grateful for the opportunity to voice our thoughts within this House, as we have freedom of speech.

Freedom of speech implies that one shall voice one's thoughts without intimidation or niggling concerns about the legislation as proposed as elected representatives in this House. With that as my foundation, I want to state this fact: the government shouldn't expect any legislation introduced by any executive member to automatically be accepted and that the members will automatically (interpretation ends) rubberstamp (interpretation) the drafted legislation.

The message we hear is "Just approve it already!" If that is the mentality of this government, then I reiterate what I stated in my Member's Statement that perhaps if Inuit hadn't bothered with the parliamentary system in creating Nunavut, we may have been in a much better position. If this government thinks that is the way things operate, where only those priorities it feels are important ought to be the only ones passed and that members will be agreeable, in order to resolve some of the critical issues we face which are urgent, we don't have the funding revenue stream to support them all.

For this legislation that authorizes an annual report from this commissioner, it

will cost over \$2 million per annum. We wish that funds were that easy to allocate for our own ideas. That is our biggest concern. I know that the majority of the representatives here support Bill 40 and they have expressed their own thoughts on this matter. I am proud of the fact we don't always agree as we are expressing free speech and one shouldn't always agree with everything stated, but one has to listen to the other side of the coin.

That will form the basis of my final comments that I wanted to voice, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Let me make this clear here in terms of the Chair's role and in using that authority, I have tried to exercise it in fairness and tried to provide every opportunity for members to speak to this bill, to voice their thoughts and opinions during general comments, on more than one occasion in some cases. I have made my decision and provided ample opportunity for every member to voice their thoughts during this general commenting period, so I will no longer be adding any more names to my list. I believe we have exhausted all options as every member has outlined their positions.

With that, we will proceed with the clause-by-clause review of the bill. At this time, following Rule 6(1) and as Chair, Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the explanation that you have been giving. I appreciate the fact that some individuals have had more chances to speak, but I think the Chair is being fair in the way he is allowing everyone to speak. I don't have any

further comments, but I think, generally, when we do our proceedings, regular members do get a chance to speak and then it is, at times, put back to the sponsoring minister to answer to some of the things. We have said many things over the last couple of days regarding the bill and different pieces of information. Is the sponsoring minister going to have a chance to reply to our comments? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. The minister will have an opportunity to reply, but as per my statement, the next process is going clause by clause. Before you interrupted me, Mr. Elliott, (interpretation) I was saying that pursuant to Rule 6(1), I now recognize the clock and I will rise to report progress. Thank you.

Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses out.

Speaker: *Qujannamiik*, Sergeant-at-Arms. Going back to our orders of the day. Item 20. Report of the Committee of the Whole.

Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Bill 40 and would like to report progress. 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, Member from Cambridge Bay, Mr. Peterson. The motion is in order. All those in favour. Any opposed? The motion is carried.

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

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. *Orders of the Day* for September 16:

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
 - Motion 57 – 3(3)
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 58
- 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, Mr. Clerk. Before we adjourn, I would like to take this opportunity to thank our Sergeant-at-Arms, Mr. Jayko Ishulutak from Pangnirtung, for being here this week to assist us. Also, I would like to say “thank you” to our pages, who I believe will be here again next week to help us.

>>*Applause*

This House stands adjourned until Monday, September 16, at 1:30 p.m.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 11:58*

