



Nunavut Canada

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NUNAVUT

3rd Session

3rd Assembly

HANSARD

Official Report

DAY 72

Wednesday, March 13, 2013

Pages 3964 – 4049

Iqaluit

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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Speaker

Hon. Hunter Tootoo

(Iqaluit Centre)

Hon. Eva Aariak

(Iqaluit East)

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

Hon. James Arreak

(Uqummiut)

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

Moses Aupaluktuq

(Baker Lake)

Tagak Curley

(Rankin Inlet North)

Hon. Monica Ell

(Iqaluit West)

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

Ron Elliott

(Quttiktuq)

Joe Enook

(Tununiq)

Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole

Hon. Lorne Kusugak

(Rankin Inlet South – Whale Cove)

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

John Ningark

(Akulliq)

Johnny Ningeongan

(Nanulik)

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

Hezakiah Oshutapik

(Pangnirtung)

Hon. Keith Peterson

(Cambridge Bay)

*Minister of Finance, Chair of the
Financial Management Board; Minister
of Health and Social Services*

Allan Rumbolt

(Hudson Bay)

Fred Schell

(South Baffin)

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk

(Arviat)

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

Louis Tapardjuk

(Amittuq)

*Deputy Chair, Committee of the
Whole*

Hon. Peter Taptuna

(Kugluktuk)

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

Jeannie Ugyuk

(Nattilik)

Officers

Clerk

John Quirke

Deputy Clerk

Nancy Tupik

Clerk Assistant

Stephen Innuksuk

Law Clerk

Michael Chandler

Sergeant-at-Arms

Simanek Kilabuk

Hansard Production

Innirvik Support Services

Box 1200

Iqaluit, Nunavut, X0A 0H0

Tel (867) 975-5000 Fax (867) 975-5190 Toll-Free (877) 334-7266

Website: www.assembly.nu.ca

Table of Contents

Opening Prayer.....	3964
Ministers' Statements	3964
Members' Statements	3966
Oral Questions.....	3972
Returns to Written Questions	3989
Petitions	3989
Tabling of Documents.....	3990
Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills	3991
First Reading of Bills	3992
Second Reading of Bills	3992
Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters	3993
Report of the Committee of the Whole	4048
Orders of the Day	4048

A.

Daily References

Wednesday, March 13, 20133964

B.

Ministers' Statements

258 – 3(3): Update, Nunavut Carving Stone Deposit Evaluation Program (Taptuna)3964

259 – 3(3): GN Partnership with Nunavut Tunngavik (Aariak).....3965

260 – 3(3): Baffinland Iron Mine Corporation's Mary River Project Update (Taptuna)3966

C.

Members' Statements

431 – 3(3): Baker Lake Interagency Group (Aupaluktuq)3966

432 – 3(3): Incorporation of Inuit Societal Values into Institutional Structures (Tapardjuk)3967

433 – 3(3): Support for Small Business (Ningark).....3969

434 – 3(3): Red Pedersen – Kugluktuk Recipient of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal
(Taptuna).....3970

435 – 3(3): Application Process for Social Insurance Numbers (Elliott).....3971

436 – 3(3): Dr. Leia Cunningham Wins Business on the Rise – 2012 Frozen Globe Awards
(Aariak)3972

D.

Oral Questions

559 – 3(3): Probation Services in Nunavut (Rumbolt).....3972

560 – 3(3): Crime Prevention in Nunavut (Aupaluktuq).....3974

561 – 3(3): Process for Incorporation of Inuit Societal Values in Government of Nunavut
Decision-Making (Tapardjuk)3976

562 – 3(3): Search and Rescue in Nunavut (Oshutapik)	3978
563 – 3(3): Support for Small Business (Ningark).....	3980
564 – 3(3): Cape Dorset Health Centre Replacement (Schell).....	3982
565 – 3(3): Article 24 of NLCA Binding on QEC (Curley).....	3984
566 – 3(3): Environmental Protection in the High Arctic (Elliott).....	3985
567 – 3(3): Standardized Inuit Language Terminology for Names of Departments (Tapardjuk)	3987

E.

Returns to Written Questions

Return to Written Question 026 – 3(3): Government of Nunavut Responses to Resolutions	
Adopted at the 2012 Annual General Meeting of the Nunavut Association of Municipalities (Aariak)	3989
Return to Written Question 023 – 3(3): Annual Fuel Purchases by the Government of Nunavut	
(Kusugak).....	3989

F.

Petitions

004 – 3(3): Public Housing Rent Scale (Ningeongan)	3989
--	------

G.

Tabling of Documents

327 – 3(3): Report on Symposium in Northern and Remote Canada, September 19-20, 2012 in Whitehorse, Yukon (Shewchuk)	3990
328 – 3(3): Correspondence from the Honourable Leona Aglukkaq Concerning Social Insurance Numbers (Elliott)	3990
329 – 3(3): Photographs of Jet A-1 Fuel Drums in Grise Fiord (Elliott)	3990

330 – 3(3): Public Service Annual Report for 2011-2012 (Ell)	3990
331 – 3(3): Towards a Representative Public Service Statistics as of September 30, 2012 (Ell)	3990
332 – 3(3): Précis of Proceedings of the Inuit Elders’ Summit on Arctic Sovereignty (Curley)	3991
333 – 3(3): Speech for the 16th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (Curley)	3991
334 – 3(3): Office of the Fire Marshal’s 2012 Annual Report (Kusugak)	3991
335 – 3(3): Government of Nunavut’s Response to the 2011-2012 Annual Report of the Information and Privacy Commissioner (Aariak).....	3991

H.

Bills

Bill 50 – An Act to Amend the Nunavut Elections Act – Notice.....	3991
Bill 50 – An Act to Amend the Nunavut Elections Act – First Reading.....	3992
Bill 50 – An Act to Amend the Nunavut Elections Act – Second Reading	3992
Bill 49 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2013-2014 – Finance – Consideration in Committee.....	3993
Bill 49 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2013-2014 – Economic Development and Transportation – Consideration in Committee	4021

**Iqaluit, Nunavut
Wednesday, March 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. Allan Rumbolt, Mr. Fred Schell, Honourable Daniel Shewchuk, Mr. Louis Tapardjuk, Honourable Peter Taptuna, Honourable Hunter Tootoo, Ms. Jeannie Ugyuk.

>>*House commenced at 13:30*

Item 1: Opening Prayer

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

>>*Prayer*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. (interpretation ends) We will move on in our orders of the day. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Minister responsible for Economic Development and Transportation, Minister Taptuna.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

**Minister's Statement 258 – 3(3):
Update, Nunavut Carving Stone
Deposit Evaluation Program**

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, colleagues, Nunavummiut, and Kuglukturmiut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about the

Nunavut Carving Stone Deposit Evaluation Program and to provide some highlights from the first three years of this four-year project.

Mr. Speaker, carving stone is culturally and economically important for Nunavut's arts sector, and this work is crucial to ensuring a reliable supply of this resource.

Our government geologists have worked in cooperation with Nunavut carvers to identify and evaluate carving stone occurrences brought forward by local carvers or that were revealed in past geological studies. These sites are evaluated for their accessibility and for the quantity and quality of the stone.

As of December, all 25 communities in Nunavut have been consulted. Field visits have been conducted in the Kivalliq and the Qikiqtaaluk regions. The five communities of the Kitikmeot plus Sanikiluaq will have field evaluation programs next summer.

To date, the program has identified significant carving stone resources in the Kivalliq region near Baker Lake, Coral Harbour, Rankin Inlet, and Repulse Bay. In the Qikiqtaaluk region, new resources are accessible to Arctic Bay, Cape Dorset, Clyde River, Hall Beach, Igloolik, Kimmirut, Pangnirtung, and Pond Inlet.

A previously unknown major deposit on the Hall Peninsula was discovered through the Canada-Nunavut Geoscience Office mapping work and will be further evaluated this summer. This deposit is close to Iqaluit and could prove to be an important source of stone for the local carving community.

Since the program began, the number of significant deposits of carving stone resources has doubled to 18 major exploitable sites. Knowing where the deposits lie is just the beginning. We will work with our partners in the regions to find ways to make these resources available to everyone who earns their livelihood by carving. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Minister responsible for Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, Madam Premier.

**Minister's Statement 259 – 3(3): GN
Partnership with Nunavut
Tunngavik**

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Good afternoon, Mr. Speaker. 2013 will mark the 20th anniversary of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement. It is a time to celebrate our achievements as well as the important relationship between the Government of Nunavut and Nunavut Tunngavik in building a better future for our people.

From the time Nunavut was created, we have worked in partnership with NTI, most recently through the *Aajiqatigiinni* agreement. I look forward to continuing my collaboration with Cathy Towtongie on the priorities we share and would like to congratulate her on her re-election.

NTI promotes building Inuit values into a stronger education system. In the latest *Report on the State of Inuit Culture and Society*, NTI offers new ideas that will

inform debate on our Nunavut *Education Act* (interpretation ends) if and when the Legislative Assembly directs the statutory review of the provisions and operation of the Act.

(interpretation) Nunavut Tunngavik is also our partner in building Nunavut and reclaiming our self-reliance. The signing of our land claims in 1993 and the creation of the territory and its government in 1999 marked the first and second stages of this effort. A third chapter is only just beginning as Nunavut Tunngavik joins us at the table in negotiating devolution.

At the same time, in the implementation of Article 32 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement, (interpretation ends) we are looking for NTI to participate in the development of social and cultural policies and programs. On matters such as housing, for instance, we agree with NTI that creative solutions are needed to end Nunavut's housing shortage.

Mr. Speaker, as we look forward to the next 20 years, the partnership between government and NTI will be as important as ever as we face the challenges of building our economy to meet the needs of a growing population. It is through our collaboration that the dream of Nunavut will be fulfilled. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Minister's Statement 260 – 3(3):
Baffinland Iron Mine
Corporation's Mary River Project
Update**

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to provide members with an update on the status of the Baffinland Iron Mines Corporation's Mary River Iron Ore Project.

Since 2009, the Government of Nunavut has been actively working with the Nunavut Impact Review Board, Baffinland, our communities, and other stakeholders to develop a Mary River project that will provide economic opportunities while, at the same time, minimizing negative impacts on the environment.

As we all know, the project has been given the green light. The Nunavut Impact Review Board has issued a project certificate that reflects many of the recommendations made by the Government of Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, more recently, Baffinland requested to amend the project certificate to allow for a phased-in approach which would mean deferring a railway and a port at Steensby Inlet and implementing, and I quote, "early revenue phase," which would see iron ore hauled to Milne Inlet by road and shipped out in the open-water season. This will mean amending the project's final environmental impact statement and returning to the environmental review process.

The Government of Nunavut understands that mining companies operate in a complex and often unpredictable economic environment. At

the same time, we believe that the stability of this project will contribute to sustained economic growth in our territory. We fully commit to participation in the next steps of the Mary River project and we will continue to provide our expertise throughout the review process. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Baker Lake, Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Item 3: Members' Statements

**Member's Statement 431 – 3(3):
Baker Lake Interagency Group**

Mr. Aupaluktuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to speak about the important work that is being done by Baker Lake's Interagency Group.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, the Baker Lake Interagency Group held its first meeting of the year in early January.

The Baker Lake Interagency Group brings together frontline workers and representatives of many organizations that are active in making the community a better place for all of its residents.

Social workers, educators, RCMP officers, community justice staff, mental health workers, municipal representatives, and others participate in this group.

Mr. Speaker, the Baker Lake Interagency Group is working hard to fulfill its mission statement, objective,

and goals. These include promoting the wellbeing of Baker Lake, achieving awareness of issues facing the community and promoting healthy families.

Mr. Speaker, the Baker Lake Interagency Group is taking a holistic approach to its work and I look forward to seeing its membership expand over the months to come.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in congratulating the Baker Lake Interagency Group for an excellent start to 2013. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 432 – 3(3):
Incorporation of Inuit Societal
Values into Institutional
Structures**

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Good afternoon to the residents of Igloolik and Hall Beach. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to again reflect on the philosophical and practical challenges of incorporating Inuit societal values and *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* into institutional decision-making.

Mr. Speaker, when Nunavut came into existence on April 1, 1999, it is fair to say that there were great expectations for change. As the Premier mentioned, after almost two decades of difficult negotiations and decisions, Inuit were hopeful that the settlement of their land claim and the establishment of a new political jurisdiction would foster an

institutional and political environment in which the path to greater self-determination could be followed.

Mr. Speaker, we are fast approaching Nunavut's fifteenth anniversary. I believe that it is also fair to say that many Inuit, especially elders, feel a growing sense of frustration, given that they see few of their values reflected in the government's policies and services.

Mr. Speaker, the erosion of our culture and language is a phenomenon that we face every day.

Although, for example, we need to realize as Inuit we are included in the global village, but we cannot sit idly by and allow our distinctiveness to disappear.

Mr. Speaker, I am seeking unanimous consent to conclude my statement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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 my fellow MLAs for allowing me to continue.

Mr. Speaker, the magnitude of the challenge of how to effectively incorporate Inuit societal values and *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* into institutional decision making is one that cannot be underestimated

To a significant extent Inuit, Inuit societal values and *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* are intuitive concepts

that do not lend themselves to the style of decision making that characterize Euro-Canadian organizational structures and bureaucratic cultures.

Mr. Speaker, the part of the Inuit societal values and *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* are simply another set of largely meaningless acronyms just to ensure that the government is doing a good job.

When they shorten the IQ and ISV they become meaningless. The fact that the terms “ISV” and “IQ” appear in government documents does not mean that their essence is actually reflected in which way Inuit interact with the state.

Mr. Speaker, we cannot risk allowing Inuit societal values and *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* to become assimilative constructs that are used to disguise the fact that many Inuit are not seeing themselves reflected in their own government. Even though they are referring to IQ values and yet it is not being followed.

For example, as Inuit that was not our expectation and the fact that the government is using it as a disguise. Inuit are not seeing themselves reflected in their own government through government documents.

Mr. Speaker, as we all know I have sat on both sides of the House as a Member of Cabinet and as an ordinary member. I believe I have some insight 99 which Inuit societal values are being integrated into government values.

I believe that as we elected legislatures we should give clear direction to the institutions of public administration as to how it would be a better way to operate

the government, and we also are partly to blame as well.

Mr. Speaker, it should be apparent that there are some areas of government activity that lend themselves more readily to the application of Inuit Societal Values and *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* than others.

For example, the policies, laws, programs and services that directly impact families must be developed with Inuit Societal Values and *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* as their foundation.

On the other hand, for example, the process by which the government applies accounting rules in the calculation of amortization of capital assets is a different matter altogether.

Mr. Speaker, the issues of language and justice can be especially challenging. When it comes to preserving, protecting, and strengthening the Inuit language, we must carefully consider whether the best approach is a focus on translating the vast amount of documentation produced by government, or whether to work more on ensuring that services are delivered in the language of our constituents and enhancing the presence of the language in our schools.

Traditional concepts and ways of administering justice are not always in harmony with today's system. In addressing this gap, we must take into account the nature of our federal state, and the different spheres of jurisdiction of each level of government.

Mr. Speaker, we know that the government has established “IQ Committees” and has hired “IQ

Coordinators.” In some respects, this is a very bureaucratic approach.

Later today, at the appropriate time, I will have some questions concerning how the government is utilizing such entities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Tapardjuk. Item 3. Members’ Statements. Member for Akulliq, Mr. Ningark.

**Member’s Statement 433 – 3(3):
Support for Small Business**

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday I rose in this House to address the issue of help for homeowners.

Today, I rise to address the importance of support for small business. Mr. Speaker, I believe that a key element of our economic development strategy must include effective support for Nunavummiut who want to start small businesses.

Mr. Speaker, a number of my constituents have told me that they are interested in starting small businesses. Sometimes, they do not get assistance.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud the energy and entrepreneurial spirit of such people.

Mr. Speaker, our government’s Department of Economic Development and Transportation does provide a number of programs and services to help businesses get off the ground.

(interpretation ends) These programs include the Small Business

Opportunities Fund, the Entrepreneur Development Fund and the Sustainable Livelihood Fund.

The department also provides support for prospectors and outfitters.

Mr. Speaker, I recognize that there is a significant amount of written information available from the government concerning its programs.

If there is one thing that we do not have a shortage of, Mr. Speaker, is paper.

I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

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

Mr. Ningark: Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleagues.

I believe that it’s important for the government to work closely with local community economic development officers to ensure that people in smaller communities have someone with whom they can talk face-to-face in order to obtain information and find answers to their questions.

I think that we can also look at how our new GLOs can play a role in providing information concerning these kinds of programs.

Mr. Speaker, every successful business that is started in Nunavut means one more person who is providing for their family and community.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly encourage the government to ensure that its good programs are well understood and accessible to all of our residents. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Kugluktuk, Mr. Taptuna.

Member's Statement 434 – 3(3): Red Pedersen – Kugluktuk Recipient of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, Kuglukturmiut. I rise today to give tribute to a man who has recently been awarded the Diamond Jubilee Medal.

Red Pedersen first arrived in Kugluktuk in 1953 as a fur trade apprentice for the Hudson Bay Company. He served for eight years before moving on to Cape Dorset to work with the late James Houston and also with Terry Ryan at the West Baffin Co-Op to set up the retail store.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Pedersen then travelled and was posted in various communities and the Northwest Territories for a number of years working as a government employee, and was responsible for setting up the first education, health and recreation committees in the Kitikmeot region. He also set up the first resident's association, which was the forerunner of local governments.

Mr. Speaker, Red Pedersen served in the first elected Kugluktuk Settlement

Council in 1970, and served on that council for many years, including in the role of mayor. He was also active in the area of Canadian Rangers, of which he served for over 35 years. He was also awarded the Boy Scout Leader Medal for good service and was instrumental in getting the community of Kugluktuk an arena and a curling rink that is used by the community today.

Mr. Speaker, Red Pedersen helped this community moved to the hamlet status from a settlement/village status, and in 1983, Mr. Pedersen was elected into the Northwest Territories Legislature for Kitikmeot West and served in that capacity for two terms, serving the legislature both as a cabinet minister and as Speaker of the House.

As you can see, over the years Mr. Pedersen has been busy helping the people of the Kitikmeot and the residents of Kugluktuk, and has earned the respect of people that live there.

So when the diamond mines began the construction and production phase, the Kitikmeot Inuit Association appointed him to represent them on an independent environmental monitoring agency board, in which the board immediately elected him as the chairperson, and he served in that capacity for eight years.

Mr. Speaker, he was made an honorary member of the Kitikmeot Inuit Association, and is the first and only non-beneficiary to be so honoured.

Mr. Pedersen has four children, 25 grandchildren, and 31 great-grandchildren, and still lives in Kugluktuk full time.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank him for his dedication and the help he has provided to the residents of Kugluktuk and the Kitikmeot people. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 435 – 3(3):
Application Process for Social
Insurance Numbers**

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to again address the issue of the application process for social insurance numbers.

Mr. Speaker, earlier today, our ever-vigilant local news media published a copy of correspondence that was sent yesterday by our Member of Parliament to all Members of the Legislative Assembly. I have now received this letter in both Inuktitut and English, and I will be tabling copies of it at the appropriate time.

Mr. Speaker, I will also ensure that it is distributed throughout the three communities of the High Arctic that I represent.

Mr. Speaker, as you know, concerns were originally brought to my attention by constituents regarding the process by which Nunavummiut are required to apply for social insurance numbers.

I would note that this issue was also recently raised in both the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories and the House of Commons. I would

also express my appreciation to the Premier for having written directly to Ottawa on this matter.

Mr. Speaker, as you will recall, information on Service Canada's website has indicated that applications "must be processed in person at a Service Canada Centre." Given that there are only three Service Canada Centres in Nunavut, this was, understandably, a cause for concern to the residents of Nunavut's twenty-two other communities.

Mr. Speaker, Minister Aglukkaq's letter indicates that "special measures are in place to accommodate clients who cannot go in person to a Service Canada Centre. These measures include submitting applications via Service Canada Outreach services, requesting a third party to submit the application on their behalf, and sending the application via mail to a local Service Canada Centre."

Mr. Speaker, this is excellent news. I very much encourage Service Canada to update its website to provide clear information for Nunavummiut who cannot access Service Canada's facilities in person, and I encourage Service Canada's headquarters to ensure that their hard-working local staff in Iqaluit, Rankin Inlet, and Cambridge Bay receive updated information that they can provide to residents.

Mr. Speaker, I want to conclude by stating that this experience shows what we can achieve by working together. In this case, many of us heard legitimate concerns from our constituents which needed to be brought to light. Decision-makers in Iqaluit and Ottawa took action to address the situation, which is exactly

why we are here. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Member's Statement 436 – 3(3): Dr. Leia Cunningham Wins Business on the Rise – 2012 Frozen Globe Awards

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to talk about education and an example of students who have completed their secondary education.

I want to lavishly praise and congratulate Dr. Leia Cunningham, a doctor in the veterinary field. During the Yellowknife Frozen Globe Award ceremonies, she was recognized for her business creation, specifically the "Business on the Rise" award during the 2012 awards ceremony.

I am quite pleased to congratulate my constituent for winning the award for up-and-coming businesses. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

I would like to ask members to join me in wishing one of our interpreters, Mikle Langenhan... . It's her birthday today. I

think she's hiding in the booth back there.

>> *Laughter*

>> *Applause*

I'm sure Wayne wishes he was over here with you today. Happy birthday, Mikle.

Moving on in our orders of the day. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Rumbolt.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 559 – 3(3): Probation Services in Nunavut

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

I want to follow up today on the issue of probation services. Yesterday, the minister informed the Legislative Assembly that there are approximately 1,700 residents of the territory on probation. Testimony provided to the Committee of the Whole also indicated that the Department of Justice fully assumed responsibility for delivering probation services as of February 1, 2013.

However, it's my understanding that there are at least a dozen Nunavut communities, including Sanikiluaq, with no resident community corrections officer. In these communities, probation services are delivered, and I quote, "remotely." Can the minister clarify how the department delivers probation services in this manner? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Rumbolt for the question. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Rumbolt is absolutely right that there are 13 communities that have corrections officers working in the communities. We do have eight vacant positions or eight positions that we are trying to fill in other priority communities and we are attempting to do this.

He is also correct in saying that where there are no corrections services or probation officer services in communities, they are served remotely. When a client has gone through the court system, they are given contact information to the remote access to probation officers. Where there's such a case in Sanikiluaq, Rankin Inlet is where the probation officer would come out from. Also, the probation officers attend the communities when needed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my understanding that supervising community corrections officers will periodically fly into remotely serviced communities to provide face-to-face probation services. Can the minister indicate approximately how many times per year such visits are supposed to occur? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thanks for the question, Mr. Rumbolt. Mr. Speaker, there is no set schedule for probation officers to attend and go into the communities. It's done on an as-needed basis. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. Your second supplementary, Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister indicate what plans his department has over the next few years to hire new community corrections officers for those communities that do not currently have resident staff? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The intention is to have probation services offered in every community. We will assess what communities are prioritized on a workload basis that there is right now, but the intention long term is to have services and probation officers in every community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understand that issues related to shortages of office space and housing are impacting the department's ability to place community corrections officers in each community to deliver probation services. As the minister may be aware, I had previously contacted both the

Department of Justice and the Department of Community and Government Services to facilitate communication with the municipal SAO in order to identify options for office space in the community of Sanikiluaq. Can the minister indicate if his department followed up on this? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The member is absolutely right. One of the challenges of filling positions in communities that don't have corrections officers that are working there right now is the availability of staff, housing, and office space. In the community of Sanikiluaq right now, we are persistently working with Community and Government Services and the community to try and fill that position. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 560 – 3(3): Crime Prevention in Nunavut

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Justice as well, the Hon. Dan Shewchuk.

In January of this year, the Nunavut Court of Justice released a special report titled, "*Ingirranivut – Our Journey: A Statistical and Comparative Review of Crime and Court Operations in Nunavut.*" The report provided comprehensive information on crime

rates and other matters for a 12-year period from the year 2000 to the year 2012. Can the Minister of Justice advise the House if he has reviewed this important report? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have reviewed this report and it is quite an informational report. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In my Member's Statement today, I spoke about the good work being undertaken by the Baker Lake Interagency Group, which includes representatives from the Community Justice Committee and the RCMP. Can the minister advise the House what his department's current priorities are with respect to supporting the work of community justice committees? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Aupaluktuq for the question. Mr. Speaker, we are fully committed to community justice committees in all communities. They do wonderful work. We would be in dire straits without them. We do know that they require more resources, both personnel and monetary, to continually

support their communities and increase the responsibilities that they have and do better work as they move forward. So we are very supportive of them and continue to do so. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The *Tamapta* Action Plan states that the Government of Nunavut “will develop a comprehensive Crime Prevention Strategy based on Inuit societal values and involving Nunavummiut in efforts to reduce the need for intervention by the justice system.” Can the minister advise the House as to what specific work his department has undertaken to prepare this strategy? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. Minister of Justice, Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank again Mr. Aupaluktuq for the question. As I stated yesterday in our Committee of the Whole, it’s a very important initiative to develop this Crime Prevention Strategy and there are three major areas that we’re targeting in the long term, medium term, and short term. In the short term, our concentration will target community-specific interventions in communities which involve the RCMP, the Wellness Committee, the Health Committee, the Community Justice Committee, and the committee that the member is speaking to, that he’s talking about that’s operating in his community. I have the same type of committee in my community of Arviat and they seem to be working very well together. The basis

of a working group like that all working together is to intervene in interactions and people who are having problems as soon as you can. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I’m glad he pointed out and indicated the short- and long-term goals. No doubt, the judicial justice systems as well as the local legal services and also interagency groups are eager and keen in participating and contributing as well.

Mr. Speaker, with respects to the Nunavut Court of Justice, the special report of the Nunavut Court of Justice concluded with a number of troubling observations from the Senior Judge, who wrote that “The accelerating rate of violent crime, and the rate of young lives taken by suicide in Nunavut, is telling us something about ourselves and our society. There is a message in these dark statistics for all of us, for any who would care to look.” Can the minister indicate what message his department has taken from the court’s report? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It’s a very concerning report and the Department of Justice and the RCMP all share the same concern and, that is, violent crime that is happening in all of our communities. There is way too much of it and we need to all work together to decrease this and

work on crime prevention programs that will help to that regard. What we're seeing happening is very disturbing. We take the court report that the justice of the court has produced and we will work with them to try and address some of the issues outlined in that report. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 561 – 3(3): Process for Incorporation of Inuit Societal Values in Government of Nunavut Decision-Making

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My *Annuraaqatik* finally walked into the chambers, so I wish to warmly welcome him. Welcome, Minister of Environment, I had suspected that perhaps mosquitoes had drained you of your lifeblood.

>> *Laughter*

'Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the Premier.

I want to revisit the issue of exactly how the Government of Nunavut incorporates Inuit societal values into its formal decision-making process, so I will start at the top.

Can the Premier explain what specific criteria the government uses to determine whether or not a given policy, budget, or legislative proposal adequately incorporates Inuit societal values? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Tapardjuk. Minister responsible for Executive and

Intergovernmental Affairs, Madam Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The various policies we implement all have different purposes related to government operations under the different departments. With respect to the policy's applicability, there are remarks listed within the briefing notes outlining the potential impacts on Inuit culture or societal values and whether the policy can be amended to reflect them

There are templates used for this. There are usually questions related to these issues within the different departments' draft policies when it is submitted for executive approval at the Cabinet level. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Earlier this month, the government announced the appointment of members of its *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Katimajit*. The announcement indicated that "all policies and practices [of the Government of Nunavut] must be consistent with Inuit beliefs, customs, values and language." Can the Premier explain what role this committee plays in relation to the government's formal decision-making process? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank my colleague for that question. When dealing with these issues, we maintain that position as our colleague stated which was truthful that this government has to incorporate Inuit values into its operations. Ever since the Nunavut territory was established back in 1999, this position has been maintained to date. We continue to maintain that position.

We use a variety of sources to meet this need, including the *Inuit Qaujimaqatuqangit Katimajit*, which is under my department. They are our expert resource related to government operations or business plans of the department, as they are involved in these processes. There are many factors related to implementing Inuit beliefs, customs, values and languages.

The Inuit Language Authority is indispensable in these areas as they are continually creating Inuit words for items that don't have an equivalent Inuktitut word. The Inuktitut language has been largely completed, with no additional terms, however with the advent of new technology which don't have Inuit words, they are illustrating their role and expertise.

Furthermore, we now have Inuit elders certified in specific areas of Inuit traditional knowledge and they are allowed to teach these subjects related to teaching Inuit culture and traditional values. Additionally, we have the Tuttarviit body, which is also working on Inuit customs and practices.

Regarding our colleagues' statements, I concurred with his assessment that the

regular members and the Executive together comprise this government and we have to work together. When our colleague made that statement, he spoke the truth regarding this issue. He said "perhaps if we tried to implement it in this manner, it would be more beneficial."

That is a strong statement our colleague made, and as a government, we do have to undertake that type of collaboration, and have debates about these issues with the MLAs when they find that this government has to make improvements in order to fully implement Inuit cultural values. We want to hear that type of recommendation from the members. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Madam Premier. Your second supplementary, Mr. Tapardjuk.

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the Premier for that. Again, that brings up another question. Can the Premier indicate how often the *Inuit Qaujimaqatuqangit Katimajit* meets with the cabinet? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The *Inuit Qaujimaqatuqangit Katimajit* work with the departments as advisors on these issues, but they don't participate in actual meetings of the cabinet. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the Premier indicate if the *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Katimajit* has the authority to recommend the rejection of a proposal before it goes to cabinet for a decision? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the cabinet, we meet to review policies that either requires approval or amendment for various departments. The documents are first vetted to include recommendations on any Inuit traditional values, if any, prior to these documents being reviewed by the cabinet. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Madam Premier. Oral Questions. Member for Pangnirtung, Mr. Oshutapik.

Question 562 – 3(3): Search and Rescue in Nunavut

Mr. Oshutapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish my constituents a good afternoon in our community, and eventually I hope to see them in person as opposed to being seen on television.

Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the Minister of Community and Government Services.

Earlier this week, the minister informed the Legislative Assembly that his

department is “working closely with the RCMP to develop a new policy on search and rescue that clarifies and strengthens the roles of government, communities, and our partners in search and rescue activities.” Can the minister indicate when he expects this new policy to be finalized? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The departmental officials will undertake this consultation process to discuss and collaborate with our search and rescue societies throughout Nunavut. However, the consultation process has to be completed first, although I understand the urgency behind wanting the legislation to this effect. I get the urgency; however, we don’t want to present anything that isn’t comprehensive and accurate. Unfortunately, I can put a time period as to the completion of the legislation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Oshutapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for his response. Since we’re on the same subject, again, earlier this week, the minister informed the Legislative Assembly that his department is “working with Environment Canada to have 1-800 numbers available for communities to call for weather updates.” When does the minister expect

this service to begin? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member once again for asking that question. Upon completion of the work, we will have a toll-free 1-800 number available. Once it has been completed, the Minister of Languages and I will have to work together on this file. Once the work has been completed in our official languages, albeit the Inuktitut language version will be modified due to the various dialects in Inuktitut or Inuinnaqtun and once these issues have been identified then we can start the process. I certainly hope it doesn't take a whole year since our people will be soon starting to spread out on the land based on the warming weather. We regard this as an urgent implementation requirement and hope to have it completed as soon as possible.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Oshutapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for his response. Again, earlier this week, for my second supplementary, the minister informed the Legislative Assembly that his department has supplied 500 SPOT devices to communities throughout Nunavut. SPOT devices use GPS technology and the Globalstar satellite system. (interpretation ends) Can the minister

indicate how the government determines the number of SPOT devices to provide to each community? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Based on the information provided to me, every community was allocated twenty SPOT devices. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Oshutapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to see those SPOT devices used because when we conduct searches, sometimes it's difficult to determine where they are.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, the Canadian Space Agency plans to launch a new generation of RADARSAT satellites later this decade. These are intended to improve satellite coverage of the Arctic. Can the minister indicate if his department's Emergency Management Organization works with federal authorities to identify areas of improvement with respect to satellite coverage of the Arctic? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Our officials in

the department are always working to improve communications, and they work non-stop to try to find solutions to enhance our communications system to improve the satellite connections. I know it will continue to be spoken to, and whenever we have the chance to inform the House of improving our satellite connections here in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 563 – 3(3): Support for Small Business

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation.

My constituency consists of two communities that are both decentralized and smaller communities, namely, Repulse Bay and Kugaaruk. The larger communities have more businesses operating and to see that makes one envious, but it is also good to see that since many businesses provide benefits wherever they may operate.

Additionally within our smaller communities, Mr. Speaker, the lack of job opportunities can be easily seen, with no vacancies and furthermore, most of the employees don't move to other jobs opening up positions. That is fine as well.

Nonetheless, in our smaller communities, although our residents may be interested in creating a business, they find the process daunting. Can the minister consider, based on my question

here, offering economic development meetings, in English (interpretation ends) economic development workshops?

(Interpretation) Or alternatively host business creation workshop? Has his department provided these types of workshop or has he at least considered this option especially in our smaller communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. Mr. Speaker, I know that in the past, there have been workshops held in certain communities, but as the department, we do provide funding for EDOs in the smaller communities to help out the community residents who want to get into small business, the small entrepreneurs in these smaller communities.

Mr. Speaker, at this time, I don't have the information in front of me about upcoming workshops or the recent workshops that may have been held last year or the year before. I do not have that information, but I will provide to the member once I get it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As business owners can attest, operating a private business isn't a simple matter, but a complex

maze especially if you want to hire employees in your business.

There is also the associated administrative work, such as income tax deductions, CPP and other deductions based on the legal requirements. These take work, and then there is the financial side of operating a business. You need accounting software to operate a business.

Yes, I understand and thank the minister for his response that he will provide an update down the road about possible workshops in my riding. These smaller communities really need a leg up in enhancing business opportunities and jobs created by the private sector.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister also provide an update if these types of workshops aren't available? Can he provide a directive to his regional staff to prioritize smaller communities such as Repulse Bay and Kugaaruk, not to mention all smaller communities for these types of initiatives? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Member for Akulliq for that question. Mr. Speaker, in October of last year, this government, through my department, had partnered in with the small business and tourism minister, Maxime Bernier, to provide a service. We all know that permitting and licensing is a burden on small businesses. So in partnership, with the formation of BizPaL, we use that

through interactive licensing, education, and permitting.

Mr. Speaker, at the end of this month, through the Internet process that we call BizPaL, it will be translated into all four official languages so that unilinguals can access that information either on Internet or through their EDOs within the smaller communities. It will help them access the information required. We know that there's a lot of paperwork involved in setting up a small business.

So education, right off the bat, is a good tool to use. Knowing what type of business you're going to be setting up, the required licensing, and permits you would require for certain types of business would be all listed under there so that you do not have to go through a whole series of looking for what type of businesses or licences or permits that you do need to start a small entrepreneurship in these smaller communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Ningark: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have with me here some information from the minister's office. One that I have is, "Does your business need a financial boost?" The answer would be, "Of course, it does," in a small community. Mr. Speaker, other information I have here is "Small Business Development: Let's Get Started." Yes, we want our communities to get started now. Another one I have here is the Nunavut Prospectors Program.

Can the minister tell me, this House, and the people in my community that this information is provided to the local community economic development officers so that small business would be able to access this much needed information to get started? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I understand the difficulties at times for these small entrepreneurs in these smaller communities in setting up shop and their businesses. Mr. Speaker, we provide funds to the hamlets to hire an economic development officer whom the community resident can go to for any kind of assistance. There are all sorts of funding, grants, and agencies out there; it's not just with the Nunavut government. There are a lot with the federal government and we instruct our EDOs to educate and get this information out to the folks who want to start a small business or otherwise, bigger businesses. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Ningark: Final supplementary. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the minister ensure that these programs and services are made available to small communities, remote communities, through the local economic development officers, to Repulse Bay and Kugaaruk? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Absolutely, yes, not just to Kugaaruk and Repulse Bay, but we do work with all of the communities in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 564 – 3(3): Cape Dorset Health Centre Replacement

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Health and Social Services.

Mr. Speaker, the Cape Dorset Health Centre was constructed in 1983. At 30 years old, it is one of the oldest health centres in Nunavut and has faced some serious issues in recent years. A replacement health centre project for Cape Dorset was identified in the government's 2010-15 capital plan with work scheduled to begin in 2013-14. In October of 2010, during Committee of the Whole deliberations on the 2011-12 capital budget, the Minister of Health and Social Services at the time indicated that the department remains committed to replacing the health centre in Cape Dorset.

We are now in 2013 and the Cape Dorset Replacement Health Centre Project no longer appears on the capital plan. Can the minister explain why the government has abandoned its commitment to replace Cape Dorset's health centre? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Schell.
Minister responsible for the Department of Health and Social Services, Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Schell for that question. Mr. Speaker, the government has not abandoned its plan to replace the Cape Dorset Health Centre. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Information provided in the 2010-11 capital plan and again in the 2011-12 capital plan indicated that there four priority health centre replacement projects across Nunavut. These projects were for the communities of Arctic Bay, Repulse Bay, Taloyoak, and Cape Dorset. All of these projects have remained on the ladder capital plans, with the exception of the one for Cape Dorset. Can the minister explain why the Cape Dorset project was singled out to be dropped from the capital plan? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Schell.
Minister responsible for the Department of Health and Social Services, Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Schell for the question. Mr. Speaker, as all Members of this House are aware, we have to get into more detailed planning on all of our infrastructure demands across Nunavut, including health centres. There's more detailed planning going into all of these infrastructure projects and bringing them forward on the capital plan so that we

have a better idea of what the costs are when we do submit it to the standing committees and this House for approval. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the minister is aware, the Cape Dorset Health Centre building is facing some serious issues due to aging, especially with respect to code upgrades, ventilation problems, overcrowding of programs, and also from previous fuel leaks in the crawlspace. Can the minister indicate what kind of structural or mechanical evaluations and assessments have been conducted on the Cape Dorset Health Centre in recent years? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Schell.
Minister responsible for the Department of Health and Social Services, Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Schell for the concern for his constituents and the community of Cape Dorset. Mr. Speaker, the Department of Health and Social Services and the Department of Community and Government Services are well aware of the issues concerning the existing Cape Dorset Health Centre. So we're well aware of the concerns and that's why we remain committed to a new health centre in Cape Dorset. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.
I'm confident that the minister's review

of the evaluations and assessments of the Cape Dorset Health Centre will clearly demonstrate the need for a new health centre in the community. Will the minister commit to putting this project back on the capital plan at the earliest opportunity and, if not, why not? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Schell. Minister responsible for Health and Social Services, Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will assure Mr. Schell that the functional review of a new health centre for Cape Dorset will continue to be a priority for my department. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 565 – 3(3): Article 24 of NLCA Binding on QEC

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Yes, a good afternoon greeting to the people of Rankin Inlet. The question I want to ask, Mr. Speaker, is directed to the department responsible for the implementation of the land claim, that is (interpretation ends) Implementation.

(interpretation) I want to refer back to the statement made earlier in the day as I was proud to hear the particular announcement that twenty years have passed since the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement Act was enacted by Canada.

Also, yesterday when I was commenting and asking questions related to this issue during Committee of the Whole, I asked the Minister of Justice about this

legislation, in other words (interpretation ends) a legal question.

(interpretation) Further, the government responded to this question about Article 24, when I asked the minister: does his department, the Department of Justice provide legal advice? I asked whether legal advice had been provided as to whether Article 24 was binding and applicable to the Qulliq Energy Corporation.

The deputy minister responded in this manner. He said that the advice provided by the department was that Article 24 had to be adhered to. (interpretation ends) Binding on all departments...

(interpretation) Now I want to raise this question to the Premier, who is also the minister responsible for implementing the land claim. Do you agree with or believe the response I received about legal advice being binding on this government regarding Article 24? (interpretation ends) Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, Madam Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The members' comments I believe are related to yesterday's discussions during the Department of Justice review. After careful review of the issue discussed yesterday, I hope to be able to respond. (interpretation ends) So I will take it as notice. (interpretation) I apologize, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Madam Premier. The question has been taken as notice.

We will move on in Oral Questions.
Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. Elliott.

Question 566 – 3(3): Environmental Protection in the High Arctic

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Environment. Welcome home and congratulations on success in Bangkok.

Mr. Speaker, for a number of years, the Department of Environment has been studying the feasibility of establishing a new territorial park on Axel Heiberg Island which would be known as *Napaaqtulik*. For the benefit of the residents of Grise Fiord who are following our proceedings today, can the minister update the House on the status of this initiative? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the Quttiktuq MLA for his questions. Yes, the work is ongoing towards the establishment of territorial parks here in Nunavut, and the priority has been on non-decentralized communities such as Clyde River, Sanikiluaq and the area the member referred to as *Napaaqtulik*, which I imagine is the local name.

At this current time, the work towards this goal is still ongoing and further, hold on. Indeed the communities in the High Arctic, specifically Resolute Bay and Grise Fiord have been consulted and discussions are underway to work towards the territorial park that may be

called *Napaaqtulik* upon completion of this process. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister indicate how his department is consulting with Grise Fiord's municipality, hunters and trappers organization, and the Community Lands and Resource Committee concerning matters related to environmental protection and initiatives in the High Arctic, including park development? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There have been a number of meetings held with the communities, including consultations ever since the initiative was started. The agreement was reached, based on the previous MLA during the GNWT days, to name the future park: *Napaaqtulik*.

Yes, the organizations the member referred to have been consulted, and negotiations have begun towards attaining that goal, and further meetings have been scheduled for this month, March. Once the meetings have concluded, if there is a report outlining any progress made to date, it would be include these details contained in a report. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the minister is aware, the Municipality

of Grise Fiord, the hunters and trappers organization, and the Community Lands and Resources Committee have made submissions to the Nunavut Impact Review Board concerning Canada Coal's plans to develop coal mining in the High Arctic. The submissions have expressed concerns regarding the need to protect the unique environment of the petrified forests and fossil deposits on Axel Heiberg Island and Ellesmere Island. Can the minister indicate when the Department of Environment will make a formal submission to NIRB concerning Canada Coal's application related to its exploration and exploratory drilling activities in the High Arctic? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Our department is working with these communities, as they are intensely interested in protecting both that area as well as the island. That particular area is said to have abundant wildlife, based on hunters who have gone there, including migratory birds and their nesting sites.

The coal exploration company, Canada Coal wants to conduct more drilling this summer and their current drilling program has been approved, however, if they were to progress to the next step, it would entail numerous environmental baseline studies as well as a NIRB hearing and the communities would have to be consulted on the project.

At this time, this project doesn't enjoy the support of these communities and thereby, based on that, the Department

of Environment wouldn't be able to offer their support unilaterally. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Peary caribou live on Axel Heiberg Island and other areas of the High Arctic. A 2011 report issued by the Department of Environment indicated that "the estimated abundance of Peary caribou inhabiting the Axel Heiberg Island Group in 2007 was 2,291." According to the Nunavut Wild Species 2000 report, the status of Peary caribou is "sensitive." Can the minister indicate what actions his department is taking to ensure that mining activities in the High Arctic do not negatively impact the Peary caribou? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Department of Environment is in continual contact with NIRB, with discussions held on various projects, especially when proposals for development are submitted and especially non-renewable resource development.

Furthermore, the department is involved in drafting up recommendations, including terms and conditions. If NIRB did approve the project proposal to develop the coal deposits in that area, there would be stringent terms and conditions imposed on the company to protect the environment. We are working with NIRB at this point, and we will

ensure that we keep the communities informed of any further developments. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 567 – 3(3): Standardized Inuit Language Terminology for Names of Departments

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And further, I was getting anxious to start raising questions to my newly arrived *Annuraaqatik*, and for that I am quite pleased. Be forewarned as we will be picking on him for a bit.

(the rest is a prepared question) Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Languages.

Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased that Nunavut's very own *Official Languages Act* will soon be in force. Working in tandem with the *Inuit Language Protection Act*, these two pieces of legislation will ensure the provision of government services in the Inuit language. However, we must take the steps to ensure that the government services are appropriately identified before we can access them. To start with, it is critically important that standardized terms for each of our government departments be established.

Can the minister update this House on what steps have been taken to ensure that consistent and standardized Inuit language terminology is used for each and every government department? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Tapardjuk. Minister of Languages, Minister Arreak.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my *Annuraaqatik* for welcoming me with that question.

Yes, as per my previous statements when bringing forth the legislation, and based on his questions, the Department of Culture and Heritage will work with all departments on the need to incorporate Inuktitut in the working environment, as well as to instill Inuktitut as a working language.

We will be the lead department responsible for the operations of the Inuit Language Authority, as the Department of Culture and Heritage has this mandate. Also, the hamlets will also have a separate section to work with. However, with respect to the operations, at least for the government departments will continue to be a work-in-progress and a priority for the Department of Culture and Heritage. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will give you an example. The government has created a new department. In English, it is referred to as the Department of Family Services. However, in Inuktitut, it has already been referred to as *Ilagiinut Pijitsirautauvaktut*, *Ilagiinut Pijitsiraqtikkut*, and *Ilagiinut Pijirautilirijikkut*.

I understand that we can all have slightly different ways of saying the same thing. However, a formal entity should have a formal title. Can the minister confirm whether or not a standardized Inuit language term has been assigned to identify the government's new department? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Tapardjuk. Minister of Languages, Minister Arreak.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Tapardjuk for the question. We have the Inuit Language Authority and they have not been working on the Inuktitut wording for that new department yet. To date, they will be working on the standardization of that new Department of Family Services. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am questioning the minister because on July 1, 2012 press release it was called one thing and then in the Minister of Finance's budget address was called something else.

I fully recognize that the Inuit Language Authority, the *Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit*, has the mandate to standardize terminology across Nunavut. Can the minister indicate whether he has given any direction to the Taiguusiliuqtiit on how to prioritize their efforts? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Tapardjuk. Minister responsible for Languages, Minister Arreak.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To date, the Inuit Language Authority has been working on medical terminology. That is the priority that they have. We will direct them to make sure that the standardization is complete. I could also talk with the Office of the Languages Commissioner to make the standardization of the Department of Family Services. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for his response. In order to properly and effectively deliver government services to the population in the official language of their choice, we must start with ensuring that individuals can be directed to the appropriate department and that the relevant departments are properly identified. Will the Minister commit to ensuring that terminology used to refer to Nunavut's government departments be standardized as an immediate priority? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Tapardjuk. Minister of Languages, Minister Arreak.

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

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Arreak. Members will note that the allotted time for question period has run out according to our clock. We will move on in our orders of the day. Item 7. Written Questions. Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Madam Premier.

Item 8: Returns to Written Questions***Return to Written Question 026 –
3(3): Government of Nunavut
Responses to Resolutions Adopted
at the 2012 Annual General
Meeting of the Nunavut
Association of Municipalities**

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is the response to Mr. Tapardjuk asked on February 13, 2013 in regard to the Department of Community and Government Services, Return to Written Question 24 – 3(3), Government of Nunavut Responses to Resolutions Adopted at the 2012 Annual General Meeting of the Nunavut Association of Municipalities.

The question was:

What was the Government of Nunavut's response to the resolution passed at the NAM 2012 Annual General Meeting?

The response:

We haven't received a copy yet, Mr. Speaker, of the 2012 resolutions at the NAM AGM, however, our officials are conducting some research as to where these resolutions are, and once we have obtained a copy of the resolutions and can provide a written response, we will be able to provide that response. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Madam Premier, for providing us a provisional return to the written question. The House looks forward to the final response. Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Minister Kusugak.

*See Appendix for full text of Return to Written Question 23 – 3(3) filed with the Clerk.

**Return to Written Question 023 –
3(3): Annual Fuel Purchases by
the Government of Nunavut**

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is a return to written question asked by the MLA for Hudson Bay, No. 23 – 3(3). This is in regard to the annual fuel purchases by the Government of Nunavut. I ask that it be entered into the record as read.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Kusugak. The return to written question has been filed with the Clerk.

Item 8. Returns to Written Questions.
Item 9. Replies to Opening Address.
Item 10. Petitions. Mr. Ningeongan.

Item 10: Petitions**Petition 004 – 3(3): Public Housing
Rent Scale**

Mr. Ningeongan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have the honour today of presenting a petition that has been signed by 71 of my constituents in the community of Chesterfield Inlet.

Mr. Speaker, the petitioners are asking the Government of Nunavut to review the public housing rent scale.

Mr. Speaker, I would note that this petition was submitted to my attention on January 14, 2013, prior to the minister's recent announcement on January 24, 2013 concerning changes to the public housing rent scale.

However, as this is the first opportunity that I've had to formally present the petition in the House, I nonetheless anticipate that the government will

welcome the opportunity to formally respond to my constituents' concerns. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. Item 10. Petitions. Item 11. Responses to Petitions. Item 12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills and Other Matters. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Minister of Justice, Minister Shewchuk.

Item 13: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 327 – 3(3): Report on Symposium in Northern and Remote Canada, September 19-20, 2012 in Whitehorse, Yukon

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table the Report on the Symposium at North Remote Canada dated September 19 to 20 in Whitehorse, Yukon. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Tabled Document 328 – 3(3): Correspondence from the Honourable Leona Aglukkaq Concerning Social Insurance Numbers

Tabled Document 329 – 3(3): Photographs of Jet A-1 Fuel Drums in Grise Fiord

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

As I indicated in my Member's Statement, I am very pleased to table a copy of the correspondence that I

received earlier today from the Hon. Leona Aglukkaq concerning the application process for social insurance numbers.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to table today a collection of photographs that depict the location of drums containing Jet A-1 fuel in the community of Grise Fiord. The community has expressed concerns regarding the storage of fuel drums near the wildlife office. I will have detailed questions on this issue for the Minister of Environment at tomorrow's sitting. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Minister responsible for the Department of Human Resources, Minister Ell.

Tabled Document 330 – 3(3): Public Service Annual Report for 2011-2012

Tabled Document 331 – 3(3): Towards a Representative Public Service Statistics as of September 30, 2012

Hon. Monica Ell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table the Public Service Annual Report for 2011-12.

Mr. Speaker, I am also pleased to table the Towards the Representative Public Services Statistics as of September 30, 2012. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Ell. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Mr. Curley.

Tabled Document 332 – 3(3): Précis of Proceedings of the Inuit Elders' Summit on Arctic Sovereignty

Tabled Document 333 – 3(3): Speech for the 16th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On this item, I am pleased to table this document outlining the recent Inuit Elders Summit on Arctic Sovereignty minutes held on February 6 and 7, 2013. This important summit was organized by Senator Charlie Watt, and I encourage all members to peruse this document carefully, and the second document I wish to table, Mr. Speaker relates to our recent visit overseas.

I am pleased to table my speaking notes during the speech I delivered at Bangkok, Thailand during the sixteenth conference of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Curley. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Minister responsible for the Department of Community and Government Services, Minister Kusugak.

Tabled Document 334 – 3(3): Office of the Fire Marshal's 2012 Annual Report

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table our annual report from the Office of the Fire Marshal, 2012. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Minister responsible for Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, Madam Premier.

Tabled Document 335 – 3(3): Government of Nunavut's Response to the 2011-2012 Annual Report of the Information and Privacy Commissioner

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table a document titled Government of Nunavut's report for 2011-12 Annual Report for the Information of the Private Commissioner. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Madam Premier. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Moving on in our orders of the day. Item 14. Notices and Motions. Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Mr. Elliott.

Item 15: Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills

Bill 50 – An Act to Amend the Nunavut Elections Act – Notice

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Friday, March 15, I will move that Bill 50, *An Act to Amend the Nunavut Elections Act*, be read for the first time.

Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time, I will ask for consent to have the bill read for the first and second time today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading

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

Item 17: First Reading of Bills

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Pursuant to Rule 62(2), I request the consent of this House to waive the notice requirement to allow for the first reading of Bill 50, *An Act to Amend the Nunavut Elections Act*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. The member is asking consent of this Assembly to allow for the first reading of Bill 50. Do members agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Speaker: There is consent. Please proceed, Mr. Elliott.

Bill 50 – An Act to Amend the Nunavut Elections Act – First Reading

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and my colleagues. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet South and Whale Cove, that Bill 50, *An Act to Amend the Nunavut Elections Act*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour. Any opposed? None. The motion is carried and Bill 50, as a result of that, has been read for the first time.

Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Mr. Elliott.

Item 18: Second Reading of Bills

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Pursuant to Rule 62(2), I request the consent of this House to waive the notice requirement to allow for the second reading of Bill 50, *An Act to Amend the Nunavut Elections Act*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. The member is asking for consent to allow for the second reading of Bill 50. Do members agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Speaker: There is consent. Please proceed, Mr. Elliott.

Bill 50 – An Act to Amend the Nunavut Elections Act – Second Reading

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and my colleagues. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet South and Whale Cove, that Bill 50, *An Act to Amend the Nunavut Elections Act*, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, Bill 50 amends the *Nunavut Elections Act* to implement the recommendations of the chief electoral officer in her 2011-12 annual report to the Legislative Assembly. A few minor housekeeping amendments to correct references to nominations and typographical errors are also included. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill. Question has been called. All those in favour. Any opposed? The motion is carried and Bill 50 has been read for the second time. As Bill 50 is a

House Bill, it is referred to the Committee of the Whole.

Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Item 19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bills 47, 48, 49, and 50 with Mr. Enook in the Chair.

In accordance with the authority granted to me by Motion 44 – 3(3), the Committee of the Whole will stay in session until it reports itself out.

Before we proceed into the Committee of the Whole, we will take a 20-minute break.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

*>>House recessed at 15:24 and
Committee resumed at 15:51*

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

Chairman (Mr. Enook)(interpretation): Good afternoon, my colleagues. Good afternoon, Nunavummiut. I would now like to call the committee meeting to order. In Committee of the Whole, we have the following items to deal with: Bills 47, 48, 49, and 50. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We wish to continue with the review of the main estimates for the Department of Finance, followed by the review of the following departments: Economic Development and Transportation, Nunavut Arctic College, the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Culture and Heritage, Environment, and

the Legislative Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Are we in agreement to continue with the review of the main estimates for the Department of Finance?

Some Members: Agreed.

**Bill 49 – Appropriation (Operations &
Maintenance) Act, 2013-2014 –
Finance – Consideration in
Committee**

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson, please go to the witness table.

Thank you. Minister Peterson, do you have witnesses that you would like to bring to the table?

Hon. Keith Peterson: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I have two witnesses. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Some Members: Agreed.

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

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my left is Deputy Minister Chris D'Arcy, Department of Finance, and to my right is Deputy Minister Joe

Kunuk, Department of Human Resources. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson. Welcome. Yesterday, the opening comments were made by Minister Peterson and the standing committee chair.

Before we proceed, I would like to remind members that we all have copies and review them all the time since we have been dealing with them. While we are at this department, let me remind you that whenever possible before we move on to the next page, please try to be in attendance so we can progress. Sometimes when we backtrack, it tends to slow down the proceedings. If you feel like you have a question to a certain issue, try to attend the session.

We have already heard the opening remarks. Does anyone have any general comments? Are there any general comments before we go to the page-by-page review? Mr. Ningeongan.

Mr. Ningeongan (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With respect to the minister's opening remarks, specifically page 2, in the second paragraph, I just wanted it noted that ever since I was elected as an MLA, this is the second year where transparency has been attained within the operations of our government in Nunavut.

The minister, his officials, as well as my colleagues here were brusquely awakened by the Auditor General's report, and I wanted to express my commendation to the Department of Finance for their progress. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. General comments. I have no more names. Let us go to page C-4. Let us now move on to this item. Finance. Branch Summary. Directorate. Mr. Tapardjuk.

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also wish to welcome Minister Peterson and his officials. In the 2013-14 business plan, one of the listed priorities is regarding the *Liquor Act*.

Let me provide some background first. My constituents misunderstood the purpose of the legislation in Igloolik. Some residents assumed that the entirety of the *Liquor Act* would be changed and some feared or anticipated their ability to purchase beer or wine at the local level. That was the misunderstanding some of my constituents held regarding this issue.

Can the minister provide some clarity as to exactly how this legislation will come into force? Some people assume that this legislation will be enacted under this current administration. Can the minister provide an update as to how he envisions this legislation being enacted? Will it be now? How exactly will it be implemented? Can he provide us with some further information, Mr. Chairman?

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Tapardjuk for the question. Mr. Chairman, when we undertook to review the *Liquor Act*, we struck the minister's task force on the review of the *Liquor Act*. We made a

commitment that all 25 communities in Nunavut would be visited by the task force. It is only fair that every community be given an opportunity to come out and talk to the task force about their concerns with liquor in their community and within Nunavut.

I took the position at the time that as minister, I would not interfere or influence the work of the task force. I just wanted to be assured that they can go out, meet in the communities, and get the input and feedback from the communities and then report back at the conclusion of the consultations with all the communities. That's what they did. It took a little longer than anticipated because of course, issues with weather; issues with aircraft. In summer, people are unavailable.

The recommendations came back and we received them in September. Our committee has been reviewing the recommendations to see which recommendations could be considered for amendments to the *Liquor Act* or a new *Liquor Act*. I don't believe that the task force said that there was going to be a new *Liquor Act* within the mandate of this government, although I wasn't at the meetings. Certainly, we recognize that there are issues, but as I have indicated in answers to this House already in question period, it is unlikely that there will be a new *Liquor Act* within the mandate of this government. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson. Mr. Tapardjuk, are you done? Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do want to follow up on the

recommendations with respect to the review of the task force on liquor. I think it was quite clear that one of the task force on the *Liquor Act* review recommendations is to have local community vendors for selling alcohol. That was quite clear. The question is: has the minister accepted all of the recommendations or partly? If not, when will he consider approving them all or some of them? Thank you.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Curley for the question. I would just like to again thank the task force for the tremendous work they undertook and the input of close to a thousand Nunavummiut across Nunavut. They made a lot of good recommendations. Some appear quite possible on the surface, but others may be difficult to implement. Our plan is to take a slow, careful, measured approach to reviewing the recommendations and incorporating them into either amendments to the *Liquor Act* or an entirely new *Liquor Act*. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you. Having heard the minister indicate that they will take a careful plan on the review of the recommendations, I believe that quite a significant time has already gone in terms of time. When will the minister likely indicate to the committee or to the House the exact timeframe for concluding the review of the recommendations and actual proposed amendments be tabled in the House or in

the form of legislative proposals, if any? Do you have a timeframe at all as to when you would like to bring them? Will they be done during the mandate of this Assembly? Thank you.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Curley for the question. Mr. Chairman, I believe we're intending, if it's possible, to get a legislative proposal in the spring. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you. If that is the case, would you then push for having these proposals concluded in the fall session? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Curley for the question. As Mr. Curley knows and all of us here know, we have a very challenging legislative process to get anything through the House between now and the fall. Of course, we will put the legislative proposal together. The first step is get it prepared and then we will go from there. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you. I'll move on to the next phase of my questions. It has to do with HR. I think the public is a bit confused on exactly where HR fits in

within the government. There has been a tremendous amount of unsettling kinds of assignments to various ministers.

Moving forward, though, could the minister maybe outline clearly again for the committee and Nunavutmiut exactly how HR functions, if any, will continue to move forward on April 1 or which department they would be under or what title they would have? Maybe there might be a change by then. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister Peterson, before you answer, I want to remind you that yesterday, I mentioned that sometimes when you are a minister and going to speak with your officials, please ensure the mic is turned off because we can hear you when you are whispering. Please push the mute button when speaking to your officials. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I didn't realize that the mic was on unless the light was on, so I guess I'll endeavour to press the button in the future.

Mr. Chairman, I thank Mr. Curley for the question. On April 1, it will be business as usual for human resources. There will be a new reporting regime. Certain components of the old human resources department will be within the Department of Finance and other components will be within the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you. Is that as a result of the recommendations from the independent consultant or is the department or the government itself recommending that it be, at least in my view, slashed around and cut and moved into different parts of the departments within the GN departments? Thank you.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Curley for the question. Mr. Chairman, only Training and Development and the Inuit Employment Plan went to EIA. The rest of the Department of HR came to the Department of Finance. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you. The second part of my question was: was that as a result of the recommendations of the independent consultant? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As Mr. Curley knows, the independent consultant worked for the Government of Nunavut. He worked with all the departments, consulted with many individuals, deputies, and some MLAs within the government, and made a number of recommendations. We received an internal working document with a number of recommendations, some of which have already been implemented last year. We're just continuing to implement some of the recommendations.

Some of the recommendations that were in the report were not accepted. We didn't take it as a document that was cast in stone. We made some additional changes that we felt would make the government more efficient and more effective. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you. Mr. Chairman, there was a tremendous amount of public funds spent on that report and to that consultant. When will the minister table the report of the independent consultant concerning the public service functions system to this committee or to the Assembly? Thank you.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Curley for the question. Yes, there were some funds spent on the report, no different than funds just spent on other... We hired other consultants to assist the Government of Nunavut and our agencies. You have to spend money to receive good services and good recommendations. I have no issue with tabling a report, but again, it's an internal working document. At some point, I will table it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you. I appreciate that. I think the minister knows quite well that this government's mandate is to be transparent foremost, as it continues to indicate. We're trying to make you

accountable and stick to your word that you're going to be accountable. Other spending is publicly available through various accountability procedures within the government, but not the consultants. It's at the discretion of the minister.

As a result of that, it's your discretion to table it or not table it. No one else can force you to do that. Therefore, I believe that it's important that Nunavutmiut be given an ability to observe that report and have an opportunity to comment. After all, they are the ones who put us all in this Assembly. I think it's important that the minister commits that he will table the report of the independent consultant. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. (interpretation ends) I believe the question is: will you commit? Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Curley for his comments. As Mr. Curley knows, he has known me for quite a long time, at least three decades. We have been crossing paths here and there. He knows that there is no one who takes accountability, transparency, and openness more seriously than me. As the Minister of Finance, I have endeavoured to do that. In the Second Assembly, as MLA and the Minister of Finance in this Assembly, we have been getting lots of good feedback from MLAs over the years. We are strengthening finance. The Auditor General of Canada is very pleased with the Government of Nunavut because of our openness and transparency in tabling our documents on time, and we strive in that direction.

I have no problem in tabling the document. As I said, I've already had approval to table the document; it's just a timing issue for me. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you. I appreciate that. Is it possible to table it during this sitting, if not, maybe in the spring session? Thank you.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Curley for his question. Mr. Chairman, when we set out on this initiative, one of our top priorities was to document the work that we do. When we were doing the research into this project going back in the history of the Government of Nunavut, we found that it was difficult to find the records of why certain changes were made within the government since we started in 1999. We wanted a document or a series of documents that would document for future governments. Should they choose to restructure the government, they can go back and they can see exactly what we did every step of the way. I believe it's important that we have that record.

As I said, I have no problem in tabling it. I don't know if I can table it in this sitting, but there is a very good chance I could table it in the spring sitting. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate that. In some ways, I understand the minister. I think the minister also has to understand that it's really difficult to make a public comment on the direction the government is taking without actually having seen or read the consultant's report that restructured the departments and government agencies in some way and changes some of the traditional approaches. We haven't seen the report which is guiding the government in some ways. The reason I mention that is this: I would have loved to read the report on human resource provisions, particularly when it relates to hiring and retaining our public service. The public service is the largest employer in Nunavut.

Some provinces and territories have independent commissions that handle all the human resources. Functions are given to the independent commissions so that there's no political interference whatsoever in hiring and maintaining the public service. This government appears to want to have complete control on HR related to government staff. Has that idea at all been entertained by the independent consultant or the ministers in the government, whether we should move towards an independent commission to handle all the hiring and retention of public service personnel? Thank you.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Curley for the question. Mr. Chairman, Nunavut is still a small jurisdiction. Even though we do have over 4,000 Government of Nunavut

employees, it is relatively small. We believe that the restructured process, HR functions in Finance, and HR functions in EIA will continue to strengthen the delivery of our human resources programs in Nunavut. We don't anticipate any difficulties at this time.

We're cognizant that the Office of the Auditor General's recommendations in her report from a couple of years ago made many good recommendations. The human resources department was making some headway on some of those recommendations, but we believe that by restructuring where we are it will strengthen our public service within Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know too that the Yukon government is not a large jurisdiction. Their public service may be slightly larger, I'm not sure, but they do have a public service commission that handles all their public service and HR services.

Not having seen the recommendations, I can't comment on what the minister is alluding to about the recommendations or training functions or whatnot, perhaps even Article 23 provisions. Without having that information in front of me, it's kind of difficult. Is that something in the future that there is at least room that eventually gets political hands or interference out of that?

It wasn't too long ago that we experienced in this Assembly or in the mandate of the government that there was political interference with possibly hiring and reviewing senior officials of

the government. I would say that if there was an independent commission, that would not have happened.

There is always the chance of political interference or in terms of even appointments that the minister can get involved. As a result of that, one approach that is best is to move towards an independent public service commission to handle all the GN personnel. I would like the minister to indicate, yes or no, if that's something could be again considered in the future. Thank you.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Curley for his question. Mr. Chairman, the government is still in its infancy. We have a long ways to go to compare ourselves to the Yukon territorial government. They are many decades ahead of us in terms of developing their public service. At this time, I don't see us going down that road, but it may be something for a future government, whether it's the Fourth or the Tenth Assembly.

It is the nature of government. You're always in a state of change trying to find the right balance to improve the level of services for your constituents and the public. Even in perfect circumstances, there is always the risk or potential for political interference. You can't rule out anything. Anything is possible. We will strive to improve our public service. We feel that what we're doing right now is the right thing to do at this time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you. My last point on this is I always consider our public service and the experience that we have as archaic. It's so outdated that we can't quite move up to the modern approaches to a new system. I know that even in the Yukon, even higher than the deputy minister level, they go through the public service commission. So the hands-off approach is a lot more effective, I think, in terms of whether or not deputy ministers in the government should be advising government or senior officials in the government to hire who they should hire.

Independent commissions are the route to go, I believe. It brings a lot more independence. In my view, I think the relationship with the union definitely would improve. I think that's something that the government needs to consider in the future, despite the fact that we may be near the end of our mandate. I appreciate the minister for giving some hints and preferences that he indicated.

(interpretation) That was just a comment. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. We are under page C-4. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In terms of the *Liquor Act* with questions that I asked in the House, the minister had mentioned that after receiving the liquor task force report and the recommendations, an internal committee was struck and a report was coming forward. Is there any movement as to when that will be coming forward? I

know that he had made a commitment to tabling it in the House. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Elliott for the question. Mr. Chairman, I did receive approval to table the document and I will table it some time during this sitting. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As Mr. Curley was pointing out, without the actual document, it's kind of hard to ask questions around such things as civil forfeiture. Is that something that the report or the committee has recommended that we could do as an amendment before the end of this Assembly? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Elliott for the question. Again, before the life of this Assembly, I can't make any comment or commitment on what will be completed in terms of this legislation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I realize sometimes that yes, the timeline in terms of getting amendments done and legislative drafters completing the documentation and having it come

before our committee, legislation takes quite a while to get through that process.

It's my understanding that under the current *Liquor Act* we're still following, bootlegging seems to be one of the big concerns that came up from the report. = My understanding is that under the current Act, the minister who is responsible for it could actually set limits on how much alcohol can be purchased. If bootlegging is such a problem and we're not going to be able to change the legislation before the end of this Assembly, is that something that you will consider as the minister responsible for doing this? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Mr. Chairman, I thank Mr. Elliott for the question. I'm going to have my deputy minister respond to this question. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Actually, I'm going to allow him to speak. Mr. D'Arcy.

Mr. D'Arcy: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to be able speak in the House.

Under the local option, there is a possibility to restrict quantities that are purchased. It's not quite as simple as the minister just making a decision, as you know. Normally, to affect a change like that in any community would require a plebiscite. That may not be necessarily true in open communities, but today specifically, I would have to review the legislation to see if the minister can unilaterally impose restrictions on there.

Right now, I would say that I believe we can do that through regulation, but I'm not 100 percent sure. I would say that that is something that could be considered in an LP for later on during this mandate, though. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. D'Arcy. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In terms of civil forfeiture and that type of legislation, would that be handled by your department or would that be handled by the Department of Justice? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Elliott for the question. Civil forfeiture would be handled by the Department of Justice. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In numerous questions, I have asked with different departments working together collaboratively. Could you explain how your department is working with the Department of Justice to follow up on this type of legislation? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The deputy ministers under the Quality of Life Committee are reviewing the recommendations and

other legislation. They are working together. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Will we see a legislative proposal for this type of legislation before the end of this Assembly? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If Mr. Elliott could clarify, is he referring to the *Liquor Act* or civil forfeiture? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson. (interpretation ends) Please clarify, Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The minister is getting confused and we will do it twice. Could he confirm first about the *Liquor Act* legislative proposal? It's my understanding from his answers to another member that yes, there will be something coming forward in a legislative proposal before the end of this Assembly. If he would confirm that first, it would be great. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's always a pleasure to give Mr. Elliott an opportunity to ask a question a second or third time.

Mr. Chairman, where it's possible, we can consider minor amendments on the *Liquor Act*. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again Minister Peterson didn't say yes or no whether a legislative proposal would be coming forward before the end of this Assembly in regard to amendments to the *Liquor Act*. So yes or no, a legislative proposal before the end of this Assembly? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister Peterson, yes or no?

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Elliott for the question. Yes or no, I have said this before that there should be another option: maybe. I'm not guaranteeing. I just know that we're very backed up on legislation. As Mr. Elliott knows, we're going to work as hard as we can to try and get something for the spring. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson. He says maybe. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When we're passing O&M budgets, we don't have the option of saying "Maybe we will approve the funding for his department." I know we joke, but maybe it doesn't work for us. We have to come up with a yes or no.

The last part of that question was in terms of what Deputy Minister D'Arcy was saying. The Quality of Life

Committee has been working very closely with the minister's department on civil forfeiture legislation and there is transparency between both departments. So will there be a legislative proposal coming forward on civil forfeiture from the Department of Justice before the end of this Assembly? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. That was a no. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that direct answer, Minister Peterson. On page 20 of the business plan for the 2013-14 fiscal year, one of the priorities for the department is "In partnership with EIA, develop a government-wide Human Resources Strategy." I was wondering if the minister could explain how his department is working with EIA to come up with this plan. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Elliott for the question. It is a priority for 2013-14 and the plan, as we stated as a priority, is we will work with EIA. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In terms of a strategy or as a target to work towards, I know we had discussions about this, I believe, a year or so ago. Will there be a determined target for Inuit employment across the GN? In the opening comments for the committee, we had mentioned for both departments, EIA and the Department of Finance, emphasizing the representativeness and how a target will be met. Is that going to be defined as 85 percent employment or is that going to remain at 52 percent? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Elliott for his question. Mr. Chairman, under the work we do with EIA and the strategy, we will be considering his concern. It's an EIA question, but I think the plan is to continue to strive towards the original stated number of 85 percent. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On page 20, one of the other priorities is to "Implement changes to the *Public Service Act*." I was wondering if the minister could explain that priority in the sense that I thought there was legislation coming through for changes that are coming. Maybe he could emphasize and talk about what will be happening for this priority. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Elliott for the question. It's very interesting to be the minister on the hot seat for human resources considering I haven't had much experience being the Minister of HR.

The plan is to implement changes to the *Public Service Act* during the life of this government. HR will be working on HR manuals, employee handbooks and other resources, and sessions for a wide group of stakeholders. We're working on a general set of Public Service Regulations and Staffing Review and Appeals Regulations, and then there are a number of amendments and additions to the existing recommendations that will be made. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. You can't implement the changes until the changes have actually occurred. I don't believe we have seen a legislative proposal for changes to the *Public Service Act*, but I could be wrong. We have been given lots of documents over the past while. In terms of the *Public Service Act*, it will be dealt with and amendments will be brought forward in the spring sitting. Is that correct? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Elliott for the question. He has that exactly right. The first thing to do before we can make the changes is we have to approve the

amendments to the Act. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The amendments will be coming forward in the spring sitting. Is that correct, Mr. Chairman?

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm going to have Deputy Minister Joe Kunuk respond to the series of questions on this area. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson. (interpretation ends) I am going to allow Mr. Kunuk to respond. Mr. Kunuk.

Mr. Kunuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are working on those for now and they will be brought forward in the spring session. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Kunuk. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There was talk over the last four years about whistle-blower legislation. At one point, we were sort of informed that that might be taken care of in some of the amendments and changes that will be coming through the *Public Service Act*. Is that still the plan for the changes coming through the *Public Service Act*? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Elliott. (interpretation ends) Minister Peterson, mute.

Hon. Keith Peterson: I'm pressing the button.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We will have to get our technicians down here at some point to fix the wiring in this console.

Mr. Chairman, yes, it's being considered in the public service amendments. It's under the area of wrongdoing. I think we're going to have an ethics officer. I think that's the road we're going down. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Also on page 20, just for clarification, I'm not quite sure what the priority encompasses when it says "Develop options for devolving staffing to departments." Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The plan is to eventually allow departments to directly hire and recruit their staff for operations. When we say "devolving," we will have to assess the capacity of the departments to do that. It is likely to occur over a period of 18 to 24 months if everything works out. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson. We are on page C-4. Finance. Branch Summary. Directorate.

Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$2,567,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. We will then move on to page C-5. Branch Summary. Finance. Policy, Planning and Financial Management. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In terms of the 2011-16 Nunavut Tobacco Reduction Framework for Action, the Department of Finance, as the lead, will “determine appropriate taxation rates on tobacco products that support the tobacco reduction framework for action.” I’m just curious if there will be any increases in the tax on tobacco. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are no further tax increases [being] considered in the life of this government. It will be up to the future government. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With it being tax time, a lot of people are working on their personal income tax. I’ve had a couple of concerns raised about the 2 percent Nunavut employment tax. I was wondering if the minister could explain how that works. The way it has been explained was, originally, it was a 1 percent tax on workers all across the territory. It was an incentive to collect taxes from

individuals who left the territory. It has now gone up to 2 percent.

I have recently had concerns brought to me that the 2 percent that is taken off your wage is not necessarily given back. If the federal government or the Government of Nunavut takes, let’s say, \$4,000, or 2 percent tax, off your wages, you don’t necessarily get that full amount back on your tax return. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Elliott for the question. I understand where he’s coming from. It’s always interesting that people are concerned and ask these questions. Mr. Chairman, most people who are earning under \$60,000 effectively don’t pay any payroll tax, and then additional amounts of the payroll tax are rebated depending on your tax bracket. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I realize that, but wouldn’t it be safe to say that the average Government of Nunavut employee makes over \$60,000 a year? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, Mr. Chairman, it would be fair to say that the average Government of Nunavut employee pays

some payroll tax if they are earning over \$60,000. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess one of the other concerns was that and the way that it has been explained to me is that some individuals feel that they are actually paying twice on the tax. Is the 2 percent taken off of the gross or is it taken off of the net? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The 2 percent is taken off the gross. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In my opening comments, I had mentioned a 2 percent tax and how the incentive was for generating revenue for the territory, for migrant workers who come up and work, and then take the money south. There was a suggestion in the opening comments about a table or a chart that could be provided to the committee, outlining how much actually comes and is collected from individuals outside the territory, as well as how much is just taken from our GN employees within the territory. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If Mr. Elliott wants that

information, we are more than pleased to provide it to him. I hope he will be able to use it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I would like to see that type of information just to take a look to see whether it's set up in the means that it's supposed to.

While we're in this department as well, I wanted to ask a question in terms of this is where it's policy, planning, and financial management. I know the minister has talked about prudence and good management, working towards a balanced budget, and whatnot. I think this is the appropriate place to ask this question.

In a few years, I know that the leases on all the GN buildings across the territory will be coming up. At one point, I think there was a \$10 million price tag attached to that that the federal government covers at this point. After the date, it will no longer be covered. I'm wondering: in terms of prudence and fiscal management, what's the GN doing in working towards being able to cover these costs in the future? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Elliott for his question and his concerns about our capital leases. I just want to assure Mr. Elliott that we have been thinking forward several years, as we always must in Finance. I assure Mr. Elliott that

the costs for the leases have been taken into consideration and they are all in under the territorial formula financing agreement. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. According to the Department of Culture and Heritage, the *Inuit Taiguusiliuqtiit Katimajit* is now a public agency. Are they part of the Public Agencies Council? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That group is a statutory body. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So no letters of expectation will be going out to that public agency? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Mr. Chairman, thank you. There are no letters of expectation going to the group nor is there a requirement for a business plan. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson. We are on page C-5. Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under Policy, Planning and Financial Management and the question

of the Northern Residents Deduction, I would like to ask the minister, the department, and his officials that in 2007, the Legislative Assembly passed a motion on the issue of the federal Northern Residents Deduction. The motion called on the Government of Canada to increase the residency portion of the Northern Residents Deduction to ensure that the residency portion be adjusted on an annual basis to an inflation index that reflects the cost of living in Canada's Arctic. The 2008 federal budget announced a 10 percent increase in the residency component of the deduction.

In a joint news release of June 27, 2012, the three territorial premiers formally "called on the federal government to increase the deduction and index it against the cost of living in the territories..." Did you raise this issue with the federal Minister of Finance during the 2012 meeting of federal, provincial, and territorial ministers of finance and, if so, what is the federal minister's current position on the issue of making further improvements to the Northern Residents Deduction? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Aupaluktuq for his question. Mr. Chairman, I did not raise it during my December 2012 FPT meeting with Minister Flaherty. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Are there any plans to have discussions of meetings in between his colleagues in regard to the issue of the Northern Residents Deduction? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Our officials have had several meetings with our colleagues. I've had a conference call. We're now pursuing it at this time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As the minister will recall, in the House, I had previously asked about development partnership agreements. You tabled in 2010-11 an annual report on the administration of the GN's Fuel Tax Rebate Program in the Legislative Assembly on June 7 of last year. When will you table the 2011-12 annual report on the administration of the GN's Fuel Tax Rebate Program? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We will table that report in the spring. We were waiting for the completion of our public accounts. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With respect to increased

employability in the community in regard to access to resources, as well as people expressing genuine concern about environmental impacts and monitoring, however, with investments that are being provided in our region, adding to the GDP from the Nunavut perspective, I wanted to ask formally. In order to be eligible for the fuel tax rebate, mining companies must sign a development partnership agreement with the GN. Agnico-Eagle Mines currently has a DPA with the GN.

Your department's most recent annual report on the Fuel Tax Rebate Program states that the Department of Finance works with the Department of Economic Development and Transportation "to align the value of the incremental benefits resulting from a DPA with the value of the associated fuel tax rebate."

Is the Government of Nunavut currently negotiating any new DPAs with mining companies, such as the Baffinland Iron Mines Corporation? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Aupaluktuq for the question. Mr. Chairman, the Department of Finance itself does not negotiate development partnership agreements. It's another department that does that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To summarize, I wanted to ask and basically, prior year's annual

report on the administration of the GN's Fuel Tax Rebate Program indicated that "in light of changing fuel prices," the Department of Finance "will include the Fuel Tax Rebate Program in its review of energy rebates beginning in 2009-2010." What did this review determine? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Aupaluktuq for the question. If he could clarify or rephrase his question so we can understand it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson. Mr. Aupaluktuq, please clarify your question.

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I indicated in the prior question, there are investments in Nunavut as well in which the resources are being utilized. There are different departments accessing the Fuel Tax Rebate Program.

The question I wanted ask was: when the Fuel Tax Rebate Program had its review beginning in 2009-2010, in this review, what did this review indicate of any concern or basically what did this review determine? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq, for clarifying the question. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Aupaluktuq for the question. Mr. Chairman, we haven't made any changes to the program. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Have there been any formal requests or indicators from partners or the GN departments that would like to see some changes or amendments to ensure that adequate fuel tax rebate programs are in place for those that are investing within Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate Mr. Aupaluktuq's line of questioning. The line of questioning made me want to direct that at another department. As the Department of Finance, we pay the rebate based on recommendations from another department that works very closely with the mines to ensure that they are fulfilling the terms and conditions in the agreements. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Be rest assured that I will definitely direct the question to the appropriate departments in other avenues such as the fact that there would be other interested parties to be able to make sure that we would be able to bridge the services in which the resources that are benefiting and enhancing the Nunavut territory, our contributions are rather very vast. Within the backyards of Baker Lake, for example, it is making a great difference to the enhancement of Nunavut. At the appropriate time, I will be following this question in another

avenue. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's just a comment.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. That was just a comment. To continue, Ms. Ugyuk.

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Your department's draft 2013-16 business plan indicates that the human resource audit of Nunavut Arctic College has been completed. What did the audit determine and what actions are taken by the college in response to the audit? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Ms. Ugyuk for the question. Could she refer us to the page that she is referencing? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson. Ms. Ugyuk, can you clarify which page you are on. Ms. Ugyuk.

Ms. Ugyuk: For the staffing audit. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Ms. Ugyuk, are you looking at the business plan for the Department of Finance? Do you know what page it is on or are you asking something that is not there? Ms. Ugyuk.

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): I am asking the question on the yellows. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. The minister does not have

a copy of those. If you could find where it is in the business plan, you will get a proper answer. Do you understand, Minister Peterson?

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have located it down here. It's on page 19 of the business plan, the second bullet from the bottom. Our Deputy Minister, Chris D'Arcy, indicated that with your permission, he would like to answer that question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson. Mr. D'Arcy.

Mr. D'Arcy: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is part of the ongoing work of our internal audit services group that's now under the Directorate Division and that's where this sits. This is part of a list of part of the ongoing audits that the group does in the course of the year. It was Nunavut Arctic College, the Qulliq Energy Corporation, and Health and Social Services.

The audit that was done for the college has been completed. That's correct, but this isn't an audit like an audit like the Auditor General's audit. These are compliance audits and performance audits that our internal audit services group does to help assist the entity, in this case, Nunavut Arctic College, to see how they can perform better. Those audits are shared with entity itself, let's say Nunavut Arctic College, and we wouldn't normally have them in the public domain nor do we have them here today, Mr. Chairman. We would have to go back and take a look at what they said.

Generally, those audits are protected between ourselves and our internal audit services group and Nunavut Arctic College, so we would have to talk to them about what we would release to the member. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. D'Arcy. Ms. Ugyuk.

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. You just mentioned that they would be confidential. This is probably confidential too. (interpretation ends) The department's draft 2013-16 business plan indicates that one of its priorities for 2013-14 is to "Undertake a human resources audit of the Department of Health including a review of staffing processes." Recognizing that you are also the Minister of Health, what specific issues do you expect this audit to identify? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Ms. Ugyuk for the question. I have talked to both deputy ministers about this whole area and I encourage this. I'm going to have the deputy minister explain exactly what they will be looking at during this internal audit process. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Peterson. Please tell me which deputy minister to recognize.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Sorry, Mr. Chairman. Deputy Minister Chris D'Arcy.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. D'Arcy.

Mr. D'Arcy: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Department of Health has their own hiring regime and they've had it for quite a long time now, so that responsibility has been given to the Deputy Minister of Health.

What we're going to do in 2013-14 is just a regular compliance audit to take a look and ensure that the processes that Health is doing are in line with the regular staffing processes and are appropriate, much like the Office of the Auditor General would do for any of our normal activities and any other line of endeavour. It will look at whether the delegated roles and responsibilities are being carried out properly and whether the employees with the delegated authorities understand what their responsibilities are.

To get a little more specific for a second, Mr. Chairman, as we do have it here, they're going to look for whether they're following the proper procedures with respect to casual hiring, term or indeterminate hiring, relocation, if the signing authorities are correct, personnel and competition file management, generally to ensure that they're doing what we would expect of any proper staffing division. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. D'Arcy. I'll remind you that we are on page C-5. Are there any further questions on this stage? We are on page C-5. Branch Summary. Finance. Policy and Planning. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$7,783,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Turn to page C-6. Finance. Branch Summary. Internal Audit Services. I have a question on this and I cannot ask questions from here, so Mr. Ningeongan will be the Chair while I go to my seat to ask questions.

Chairman (Mr. Ningeongan) (interpretation): Thank you. I recognize Mr. Enook wants to ask a question on C-6. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't have the Inuktitut copy, so I'll just use my own words. My question is in regard to internal audit services. Mr. Chairman, my first question is: can the minister indicate to me how many audits Internal Audit Services completed within a year? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Enook for the question. I hope this is up to date. From April 1, 2012 to January 15, 2013, Internal Audit Services completed 16 assurance engagements, which included 6 compliance audits, 5 operational audits, 2 operational reviews, 1 investigative audit, and 2 financial reviews. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the minister indicate what process the Internal Audit Services

Branch uses to determine what areas to audit? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Enook for the question. Mr. Chairman, Internal Audit Services uses a risk-based approach to determine what to audit. They develop a work plan that sets out the work for the coming year. It incorporates information from different departments. Some departments request the audits. Sometimes there are just areas where the internal audit wants to look at within departments. There is only so much that they can do, but it is based on a work plan. It takes time to complete these audits. We have to be careful about how much work we undertake in that whole area. I assure you that we do take the audit services very seriously. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Minister Peterson. Can the minister or his officials indicate whether any internal audits have been or are planned to be conducted? What is our policy? What can we say to our constituents? Is there a policy regarding department compliance provisions of the GN's financial administration? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm not sure if we're getting

the correct interpretation. If Mr. Enook can clarify, I would appreciate it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are financial administration rules within the government. If any person suspects that the rules are not being followed properly or a government employee feels that these rules are not being followed, what can we do? Who can we go to? Is there any policy to follow to proceed with the complaint? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Enook for clarifying that. Mr. Chairman, I believe that would be considered an investigative audit. If somebody suspects some wrongdoing, they can contact Deputy Minister D'Arcy, and then we will take a look. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the minister indicate whether they have conducted an internal audit to see whether the money is being spent properly for the people who are duty travel? Has there been any investigation on duty travel? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Enook for the question. Mr. Chairman, when we do hear concerns, unless we have specific details, it's very difficult for us to investigate. Managers, directors, and deputies of all departments are held accountable for financial administrative directives and it is their responsibility to ensure that travel directives are adhered to. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If my next question is not on the page, let me know. Can the minister or his officials indicate approximately how much the government spends per year on such duty travel, including costs such as meals and per diems? Are they clearly identified? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Enook. It is in there, so I will let it proceed. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We don't have specific information here to answer that question, but I believe it would be in the public accounts by department. That information will be there, but we can certainly get that information for the standing committee. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the minister or his officials indicate whether the government's Financial Administration

Manual addresses the issue of employees whose positions are located in communities outside Iqaluit who spend extended periods of time working in Iqaluit? Are such employees considered to be on duty travel? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Enook for the question. Mr. Chairman, there is a FAM directive that covers that area. With your permission, I would like to have Deputy Minister D'Arcy speak to that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson. Mr. D'Arcy.

Mr. D'Arcy: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The duty travel directive is in the Financial Administration Manual, which I believe everybody is aware is available on the Department of Finance website. It is FAM 820-1.

With the recent change and recent agreement with the Nunavut Employees Union, the amount of time that a traveller can spend on duty travel with full per diems and full accommodation costs at the lowest normal hotel cost, let's say, is now 25 days, up from 18 prior to the NEU agreement. For anything after 25 days, the per diem allowance for meals drops to \$20 a day from approximately \$130 or \$137 in Nunavut for a traveller.

The traveller and presumably their department are responsible to find the lowest possible method of accommodation for extended stay,

perhaps an apartment lease or some other type of accommodation. For the member's question, any extended travel that is going to be for several months in another community would fall underneath the 25-day rule, and those per diems and accommodation charges would drop dramatically accordingly. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. D'Arcy. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you. Perhaps you went beyond the question that I had asked, but since you answered the question, I will ask in another way.

Firstly, the Minister of Finance continually maintains that we have to watch the public purse strings since the public funds are for the operations of this government. All of us here believe that and if we note any discrepancies, we won't just accept that change to keep it to ourselves.

This issue continues to surface as a noticeable factor, which I am trying to question. The decentralized communities where our civil service is allocated to usually have lots of vacancies, but situations continue to occur where there is a position located in that decentralized community, but where is the employee? They tend to be in Iqaluit for various duties.

Just to cite the capital as an example, sometimes the employee ends up in Iqaluit for several months. Does the employee still get paid for their unit in that community? His position is seemingly vacant as the employee is away and now you have a situation

where the employee also has to have his accommodations.

Let's continue to use the example of Iqaluit. His per diems for duty travel have to be paid. Isn't there a limit to duty travel and its associated costs based on the number of days they have been absent or can this continually be extended further with all the costs associated with duty travel and allowances? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Enook for the question. Mr. Chairman, again the only response I have is there is the FAM directive. All the deputies of all the departments, all the officials who supervise employees and employees themselves should be familiar with the FAM directive and adhere to that directive in the performance of their duties. The FAM directive is 25 days, as Mr. D'Arcy said, and then the lower per diems or meal per diems start to kick in and they should be looking to find cheaper accommodation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you very much for the proper response, Mr. Chairman. In order to get further gratification, I would like my next question to also be responded to. I guess that means it can continue endlessly. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Department of Finance can only ensure that people adhere to the FAM directives. That's why we have the FAM directives to govern the daily and annual operations of our government. As I have said before, it's incumbent upon the deputies and officials in all departments to operate according to the FAM directives. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Perhaps if I asked in this particular manner, it may become clarified with my questioning. Is Minister Peterson conveying the message to me that in order to get answers to that question, I have to ask each and every one of the departments about this particular matter? They all operate their departments individually. Is that correct in terms of my understanding of that response? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What I'm trying to make clear, and I don't know if there are officials listening in out there on their television sets or radios, FAM directives would govern the daily operations of this government and it very clearly sets out in the FAM directives how, in a particular situation, it governs duty travel. Twenty-five days is the maximum for duty travel and then the lower per diems kick in. So if there's a longer term travel, then it's a requirement of the departments to arrange for inexpensive

travel or inexpensive accommodation and the lower per diems. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm not exactly sure how I'm going to be able to ask this question because I figured that it was clear enough.

Let's say that I know someone who is in that situation and he left his position to go to another community or Iqaluit, they are paying for his place in another community while they go to Iqaluit on duty travel. I just wondered how many of them do that. Is that responsible spending of government funds? My question is: is there a limit to how long an individual can be on duty travel? That amount of money keeps on getting spent.

Maybe lastly I will ask the minister: if I know of one individual, are you concerned about how many Government of Nunavut employees are abusing this? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Enook asked some interesting questions. How many are abusing it? I hope no one is abusing it.

Again, FAM directives are out there posted on our website. Corporate services in every department are very familiar with the FAM directives. If an employee is travelling longer than 25 days, then the lower rates kick in. They

will likely be paying their own rent and there will be lower per diems.

If there is an employee in that situation, the deputy minister would be knowledgeable of it and it would be up to them to control the travel and duties of that particular person. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Minister Peterson. What I'm trying to say is I'm not really sure what Minister Peterson is talking about. He said all the departments have to follow the Financial Administration Manual.

I just wondered whether the different departments are using different manuals. Maybe it would be best if I ask all the departments about their manual in regard to duty travel and I can do that because there is a lot of money that is being spent or being abused. The minister stated that after 25 days, the per diem goes lower, but it just seems like the individual can be on duty travel for a long time. I would like the money that the government has spent properly. That's it for now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Enook. I don't think I heard a question. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to assure Mr. Enook that there is only one Financial Administration Manual. All the directives are posted on the Finance website. All departments are expected

adhere to the Financial Administration Manual and the directives.

If anyone is unsure on what the directives are to cover their specific situation, we have officials in the Department of Finance in headquarters here and we have officials in the head offices in Igloolik, Rankin Inlet, and Cambridge Bay who can very clearly explain what the directives mean.

I also want to clarify that we can't overlook the fact that there certain government employees who simply must travel. I can think of one of my constituents, an electrical inspector in Cambridge Bay, who travels considerably around Nunavut. He has to inspect buildings under construction. He is the type of individual who would very likely travel quite a bit. There are boiler inspectors and other inspectors. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson. Are you done, Mr. Enook? Thank you. Go to page C-6. (interpretation ends) Finance. Branch Summary. Internal Audit Services. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$1,622,000. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Branch Summary. Finance. Comptrollership. (interpretation ends) On page C-7. (interpretation ends) Total Operations and Maintenance. (interpretation) Mr. Enook, if you can take the chair as I have some questions.

Chairman (Mr. Enook)(interpretation): We are on page C-7. Mr. Ningeongan.

Mr. Ningeongan (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My question is under page C-7. During our standing committee meeting someone said that students that have summer jobs, I just wanted to get some clarification, and I'd like to get a response. Will the minister see whether the hamlets can get some assistance from the Department of Finance so the summer students can work during the summer? There are not very many government departments in the smaller communities. Can this be considered for this coming summer for the students to have summer jobs in the communities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Ningeongan for the question about summer student employment. Currently, Mr. Chairman, the funding is earmarked for the Government of Nunavut departments. We do not have any plans to fund summer student employment through hamlets. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Ningeongan (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for his response. The reason why I'm asking this question is because in the smaller communities there are not very many government departments. Due to the smaller communities not having many government departments, they don't have any jobs to go to like any other students that get summer jobs in the larger communities. That is what I

wanted the minister to consider. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Ningeongan for the question. We understand Mr. Ningeongan's concern. This past year we were able to fund summer student employment in 17 of the communities. Again, at this time, we are not planning to fund the summer student employment in through hamlets. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Ningeongan (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is just a comment. We are a part of Nunavut communities, but we seem to be left out, and this is not good for our students because they do not have a summer job. It seems like that, not just for the adults, but for the students, they are left behind in the smaller communities. They are just in vein of larger communities that get student summer jobs. Even if you do not go the hamlet or get the hamlets funding for student summer jobs, can you go through other departments to make sure the summer students can get summer employment in smaller communities?

I realized, Mr. Chairman, that there were 17 communities that have jobs for summer students, and there are 25 communities in Nunavut. We should make it equal for each community when it comes to summer student employment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. I did not see a question, just a comment. We are on page C-7. Ms. Ugyuk.

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Your department's draft 2013-16 business plan indicates that one of its priorities for 2013-14 is to finalize changes to the staff housing policy. Has responsibility for the Government of Nunavut staff housing policy been transferred from the Nunavut Housing Corporation, and if so, why? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Ms. Ugyuk. At this time, the responsibility has not been transferred from the Nunavut Housing Corporation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson. Ms. Ugyuk.

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) What specific changes to staff housing policy have been considered? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can I ask you to ask Ms. Ugyuk to repeat her question? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson. Ms. Ugyuk, if you could clarify your question. Ms. Ugyuk.

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are on page 28, (interpretation ends) 2013-14, Finalized Changes to the Staff Housing Policy. What specific changes to the Staff Housing Policy have been considered? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you for clarifying, Ms. Ugyuk. Minister Peterson, can you answer?

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Department of Finance has not seen a report yet. Again, this is a priority for 2013-14, and when we have an opportunity to see the report, we will know what is being considered. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson. We are on page C-7. Branch Summary. Finance. Comptrollership. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$25,166,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Going on to page C-8. Finance. Branch Summary. Centrally Administered Funds. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$45,632,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Going back to page C-3. Department Summary. Department of Finance. Detail of Expenditures. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$82,770,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Do we agree that the Department of Finance is completed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson, if you have any closing remarks, I will give you the opportunity. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank yourself and the committee for your excellent questions this afternoon. I really express my appreciation to the officials in my Department of Finance and the officials when April 1 comes around, people in the Human Resource Department. They have done an excellent job of working together since last year to pull this all together, and employees in both departments are looking forward to going forward on April 1 and improving the Human Resource functions, and also the Finance functions, they are to be combined departments. We are very excited, and I thank the standing committee for your support for the last two years to get to this point. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson. We will just continue with another department. Sergeant-at-Arms, if you can assist the minister and his officials. Thank you. At this time, if we can continue the Department of Economic Development and Transportation. I would like to ask Minister Taptuna to go to the witness table to do his opening remarks. Minister Taptuna. Minister Taptuna, if you are ready, please go ahead.

Bill 49 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2013-2014 – Economic Development and Transportation – Consideration in Committee

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is my pleasure to appear once again before the Committee of the Whole to present the Department of Economic Development and Transportation's budget for the 2013-14 fiscal year.

As the members of the committee are aware, this will be the last budget presented in the Third Legislative Assembly of Nunavut. I am pleased that we will be fulfilling important priorities, including from the *Tamapta* Action Plan, and continuing to build Nunavut's economy and transportation system.

To help answer the committee's detailed questions on program and financial matters, I'll introduce my staff once they are at the witness table.

The budget we are reviewing today is for grants and contributions, compensation and benefits, and other expenses. The total budget I am proposing for the 2013-14 fiscal year is \$61,077,000, which represents an increase of \$2,360,000 over the budget for 2012-13.

Specifically, I am proposing increases in the following five areas:

- The first area is environmental assessment and sustainable development, and we propose additional funding of \$298,000 for this purpose. As my colleagues will appreciate, currently there are a number of proposed mining projects

in different stages of regulatory review and the Government of Nunavut provides input in this process. It is important that the economic development perspective also be represented throughout this process;

- We have also allocated \$350,000 for increases in the operations and maintenance budget for Nunavut's airports. This includes both the Nunavut Airports Division, which operates airports in 24 Nunavut communities, as well as the Iqaluit International Airport Division. This increase is part of our commitment to ensuring adequate funding to support the safe and efficient operation of this critical component of our transportation system;
- Next, we have budgeted an additional \$888,000 for the Country Food Distribution Program. The uptake on this program has increased in the current fiscal year. We have received project proposals from 19 Nunavut communities and to date, we have funded projects in 12 communities. These projects range from buying country food for free distribution in the community to the purchase or repair of cut and wrap equipment and community freezers. Our regional offices continue to work with community organizations to explain this program and to develop project proposals;
- We also propose an additional \$170,000 for the Nunavut Development Corporation to increase staff salaries and benefits, which had been stable for several years; and

- Finally, \$654,000 for departmental salaries as a result of the new collective agreement with the Nunavut Employees Union.

Our business plan for 2013-14 continues to focus on priority areas from the Government of Nunavut's *Tamapta* Action Plan. This includes the continued implementation of the Government of Nunavut's mining and mineral exploration strategy, our transportation strategy, and our strategy for the development of the arts and crafts sector.

In addition, there are some additional priorities which should be mentioned:

1. As I have told my colleagues in my Minister's Statement last week, work on a renewed Nunavut Economic Development Strategy has begun in partnership with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated and the Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency through the Nunavut Economic Forum.
2. Nunavut's Tourism Strategy is nearing completion and I look forward to tabling the strategy in the Legislative Assembly. The strategy has been developed collaboratively with Nunavut Tourism and other stakeholder organizations, and we look forward to beginning implementation of the strategy in 2013-14.
3. The Comprehensive Review of the NNI Policy will be completed and tabled in the Legislative Assembly in 2013-14. Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated has been a full partner in this review and will be closely

involved in the development of an amended policy based on the review.

Mr. Chairman, the department's proposed main estimates and business plan for the 2013-14 fiscal year reflect our ongoing mandate to develop Nunavut's economy and maintain and improve Nunavut's transportation system.

Mr. Chairman, I would now be happy to respond to your questions on the Department of Economic Development and Transportation's main estimates and business plan for 2013-14. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes.

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

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Thank you, Sergeant-at-Arms. For the record, Minister Taptuna, please introduce your witnesses. Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my right is Deputy Minister Bob Long and my left, Director of Finance Tanya Winmill. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Welcome. Does the Chair of the Standing Committee on Community and Economic Development have comments? Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to provide opening comments on behalf of the Standing Committee on Community and Economic Development on its review of the proposed 2013-14 main estimates and 2013-16 business plan of the Department of Economic Development and Transportation.

The standing committee notes that the department's proposed 2013-14 operations and maintenance budget of \$61,077,000 has increased by approximately 4.0 percent since the introduction of the department's 2012-13 main estimates. The number of positions in the department is 142. This is a slight increase from the number of positions funded in the department's 2012-13 main estimates.

During the minister's recent appearance before the standing committee, members took the opportunity to raise a number of issues and concerns.

Mr. Chairman, the Department of Economic Development and Transportation's main estimates and business plan reflect the restructuring of government functions that was originally announced on July 11, 2012. The government's Energy Secretariat has been transferred from the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs to the Department of Economic Development and Transportation. The Anti-Poverty Secretariat has been transferred from the Department of

Economic Development and Transportation to the new Department of Family Services.

The standing committee notes that the department's proposed 2013-16 business plan identifies a lack of capacity within the Energy Secretariat as being the reason for why the government has not yet developed and released an "Alternative and Renewable Energy Strategy."

Mr. Chairman, the Department of Economic Development and Transportation provides approximately \$3.9 million in annual direct funding to the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation and the Nunavut Development Corporation. The 2011-12 Annual Report of the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on October 23 of 2012. The 2011-12 Annual Report of the Nunavut Development Corporation was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on November 2 of 2012. The standing committee encourages the minister to table these annual reports in a timely manner, and to ensure that information concerning the procurement, contracting and leasing activities of both Crown corporations is also tabled in the Legislative Assembly on an annual basis.

Ministerial letters of expectation to the government's five largest Crown corporations and agencies for the 2012-13 fiscal year were tabled in the Legislative Assembly on June 6 of 2012. Responses to the letters of expectation were tabled in the Legislative Assembly on November 5 of 2012.

Mr. Chairman, the department's proposed 2013-16 business plan indicates that one of its priorities is to develop an updated Nunavut Economic Development Strategy. The target date for the release of the strategy is the spring of 2014. Members have also taken note of the minister's recent statement of March 4, 2013 concerning this initiative.

The department's proposed 2013-16 business plan also indicates that work is ongoing in consultation with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated and the private sector to develop a revised NNI Policy. The standing committee notes that the minister tabled the NNI Review Committee's Summary of the 2008-09 Comprehensive Review Report on March 2 of 2011. Members will also recall the Premier's announcement of March 1 of 2012 concerning the government's internal review of its public procurement practices. Members look forward to ongoing updates on these complementary initiatives.

The standing committee notes that the 2008-09 NNI Contracting Appeals Board Annual Report was not tabled in the Legislative Assembly until March 22 of 2010. The standing committee urges the minister to table the 2009-2010, 2010-11, 2011-12, and 2012-13 annual reports of the contracting appeals board in a timely manner.

Mr. Chairman, the standing committee notes that the Nunavut Development Corporation is required by law to "create employment and income for residents of Nunavut, primarily in small communities."

The 2012-13 Ministerial Letter of Expectation to the chairman of the corporation's board of directors outlines a number of priorities for the corporation, including pursuing strategic commercial partnerships with the corporation's subsidiaries in "sectors such as mining or fisheries" and placing "investments totaling \$500,000 into venture capital projects." The standing committee encourages the minister to place emphasis on increasing the economic opportunities for Nunavut's smaller communities and looks forward to ongoing updates on this issue.

The department's proposed 2012-13 main estimates included \$980,000 in funding for the Country Food Distribution Program. The department's proposed 2013-14 main estimates include \$1,868,000 for this program, which constitutes an increase of approximately 90 percent. The department's 2013-16 business plan indicates that one of its priorities for the 2013-14 fiscal year is to "Review the Country Food Distribution Program and delivery of community freezer infrastructure..." Given the attention that has recently been paid in Nunavut to issues concerning food security, members strongly encourage the minister to table an annual report in the Legislative Assembly concerning the department's expenditures and activities under this important program.

Mr. Chairman, the department's proposed 2013-14 main estimates include \$1,050,000 in funding for Nunavut's three business development centres, which are the Baffin Business Development Corporation, the Keewatin Business Development Centre, and Kitikmeot Community Futures

Incorporated. On February 26, 2013, the minister tabled an implementation update on the evaluation of business development centres in the Legislative Assembly. The standing committee looks forward to reviewing this report and encourages the minister to carefully evaluate the results that are achieved by the government's investment in this area.

The department's proposed 2013-14 main estimates include approximately \$2.5 million in funding for the Tourism Development Program, the Nunavut Arts and Crafts Association, tourism and cultural industries, and the Visitors' Centre Program. The department's proposed 2013-16 business plan indicates that "the comprehensive Tourism Strategy with costed implementation plan" is scheduled for completion within the 2012-2013 fiscal year. The commencement of implementation, including development of tourism policies and programs, will carry over to 2013-14. The standing committee looks forward to the tabling of an updated tourism strategy.

The department's proposed 2013-16 business plan indicates that the department plans to "Complete negotiations with Baffinland for the Mary River project" and "Continue Development Partnership Agreement negotiations with Agnico-Eagle Mines for Meliadine" during the 2013-14 fiscal year. It also notes that "Similar discussions are anticipated for AREVA's Kiggavik Project." Given the impact that these major projects will have on neighbouring communities, the standing committee encourages the minister to provide regular updates to the Legislative Assembly on their status.

On June 5 of 2009, the Nunavut Transportation Strategy was tabled in the Legislative Assembly. The department's proposed 2013-16 business plan indicates that it is continuing to work on the implementation plan for the strategy. The department's business plan also indicates that one of its ongoing priorities is to "work with the federal government to advance projects to improve roads, airports and small craft harbours."

Mr. Chairman, an ongoing priority for the department has been to develop new traffic safety legislation. The department's proposed 2013-16 business plan indicates that "A request for public consultation on the proposed legislation will be submitted to cabinet for approval. If approved, public consultations will begin in January 2013."

Mr. Chairman, the department's proposed 2013-14 main estimates include \$22,097,000 in grants and contributions expenditures, which accounts for over one-third of the department's operations and maintenance budget. This amount includes \$500,000 in contribution funding under the department's Community Access Roads Program. The standing committee encourages the minister to report annually to the Legislative Assembly on how the department measures and evaluates the success of its grants and contributions expenditures.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening comments on the proposed 2013-14 main estimates and 2013-16 business plan of the Department of Economic Development and

Transportation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (Mr. Ningeongan) (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Before we go to questions, my colleagues, if you have any general comments on the minister's opening comments, I now give you the opportunity. Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome, Hon. Minister Taptuna, Mr. Long, and Ms. Winmill. As everyone is aware in Nunavut, education is the foundation to all to gain employment. With mining operations offering income and wages, families and private sectors are benefiting to enhance quality of life for them.

There is also conscientious awareness of enhanced and improvement of environmental assessment and sustainable development from the effects of environment and wildlife, as for many Nunavummiuts' vested interest is in the protection and respect of the land and animals. As Bakermiut have indicated, caribou management is essential and our way of life. It is sensitive and culturally relevant as Nunavummiut. Many young and old of various backgrounds have also questioned the process of ensuring that the environmental assessment is adequate.

Basically, I guess I want to state as well with the opening comments that it's encouraging as well to see that the sustainable development aspect of it is also being considered under the umbrella of environmental assessment.

It is also encouraging that the GN is continuing to support the Nunavut

Employees Union by increasing the collective agreement progress as well.

With Nunavut Tourism, all of Nunavut can only benefit. It is good to see the department and the minister are also contributing to that as well. As I have indicated in past sittings, Nunavut is a great place to come and visit. It would be nice to also see enhanced services provided to Nunavut Tourism.

Just as a comment, I'm sure some of my colleagues will also have additional questions or comments in relation to the departmental review. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Welcome, minister, deputy minister, (interpretation) and your finance staff. (interpretation ends) Mr. Chairman, my opening comments will focus on economic opportunities, maybe not so much development because there is really quite a broad range of categories out there that we can focus on. In my opening comments, I do want to focus on the importance of supporting all sectors of economic activity.

I believe the government is somewhat, in my view, limited in providing services and financial assistance to some sectors, but not to others. I'll give you an example. If you are a developer, you have no problem, really, doing business with the government. A major developer or a mining company or an oil company or a huge airline company or if you're a co-op, you have no problem in getting access to government funding and

programs. If you are a Crown agency, somewhat, you could probably qualify for an extra boost from the government in getting your capital requirement to invest into a project. That would, by the way, come through supplementary appropriations or directly through the budget.

So when you look at small businesses and small enterprises out there that are interested in getting government help in terms of even a loan or financial assistance... It is difficult for many small businesses in communities in our constituencies to get access. Unless they have a proven record, it is almost impossible to get a business loan from the banks, with rigorous financial regulations and rules that are quite complex, even if they have been around for a while.

You may be qualified to get some, maybe not, from the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation. You may not qualify to get either bridge financing or line of credit, something most businesses need primarily because many of the activities of the small business entrepreneurs are more active in the summer months. So there's a critical time period before they get some of the contract payments coming in. They need some assistance, but it's really quite terrible.

If you're maybe an arts and crafts producer, you qualify mainly if you belong to the Nunavut Development Corporation or its subsidiaries. So what I'm saying is that if you're a small entrepreneur out there, it's almost impossible to get financial assistance from the government. I'm giving you a broad picture. What I'm trying to get at is that some of the small businesses must

have access to, in my view, the Nunavut Business Development Corporation. They should be able to provide bridge financing or line of credit.

The economic sector is not one that I think, in my view, we should say, "That department is responsible for financing it." There should be a central loan system of financial programs or financial services not to be picked and divided into that minister over there or this one over here. I'll give you an example.

Our hunters may have some involvement in trading some of their products because they are also good artists and they may be selling some of the furs they caught. Some of them are trappers. In order to access the expertise they have on furs and wildlife, their equipment is really quite expensive these days. Most of the time, they need expensive boats because in order to travel, they have to have certain types of boats. They also have to have certain types of snowmobiles. Now, where can they apply to get these services?

Their only vendor in town is probably the Co-op or Northern store. If they buy a product from these vendors and finance it through these vendors, they must be charged 28 percent. Most of the time, the 28 percent probably triples. If they miss one-third of their payments, it keeps getting larger. So they could be paying three times more than they thought they had in the final analysis, yet they don't qualify for government funding.

Is there a way that the government can broaden the expertise within the government and provide backup help for hunters who need some help in order to

survive? To me, that is one of the most critical poverty reduction assistance, giving independence to hunters and trappers, not just the wage earners in government.

That's my opening comments. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. I can tell you are eagerly awaiting the page-by-page review in order to query the minister, so prepare them at your pleasure. I have no further names on my list. We just noted that refreshments are ready and we have been sitting for quite some time. We will now have a 20-minute break while we consume some refreshments. Thank you. We will reconvene after the refreshments.

>>Committee recessed at 18:14 and resumed at 18:35

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Welcome back. (interpretation) I had no more names on my list for general comments on the opening comments. At this time, we will proceed to page K-4. (interpretation ends) Economic Development and Transportation. Branch Summary. Corporate Management. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$13,911,000. Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the opportunity again to follow up in regard to sustainable development. Recently, the Sustainable Development Branch was transferred from the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs to your department.

Sustainable development's previous priority is "to take a comprehensive and strategic approach to promoting sustainable economic development and environmental stewardship coordinated with partners to support efficient and effective land use planning, environmental assessment, and regulatory processes." How will your department approach the issue of balancing economic development goals with environmental concerns? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When it comes to resource development, we are a partner in that economic development through our Minerals Division and there are six other departments that participate in the evaluation of the environmental processes.

As you know, Mr. Chairman, under the land claims, there is an article in there that, through NIRB, the process is run through and the Nunavut government is a full partner led by the Department of Economic Development and Transportation in trying to balance out the economic opportunities. Once a process is started through the NIRB process, there are opportunities in there to evaluate and try and determine what the best benefits would flow into Nunavut. As the member is well aware, we do have a mining strategy that states those principles. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In July 17, 2008, the federal Minister of then Indian and Northern Affairs released “The Road to Improvement,” the report from Neil McCrank. It had to do with the Northern Regulatory Improvement Initiative. They offered several recommendations. Three specific ones were “The federal government should, with the collaboration of the Government of Nunavut, NTI, the Nunavut Impact Review Board and the Nunavut Planning Commission, complete the Nunavut Land Use Planning and Impact Assessment Act”; the second one is “The federal government should make completing Land Use Plans for all of Nunavut a priority”; and the third one is “The duplication of efforts by the Nunavut Impact Review Board and the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency should be addressed.”

Basically what I wanted to ask in regard to that aspect as well is that on June 4, 2007, the GN announced six principles to serve as a framework for the development of a uranium development and mining management plan. As the minister is aware, in October of 2011, I had posed a question to Madam Premier under EIA and then followed up as well on June 6 of 2012 with the hon. minister in which he made a statement about the Uranium Mining Policy.

In regard to the McCrank report, in 2008, the federal Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs, then, released the McCrank report on regulatory systems in the north. The report made three specific recommendations, which are outlined. What is your department’s position on regulatory reform in the north? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that question. I’m reading my mind and brain to try and go back to 2007, but yes, I do recall some of those recommendations.

Mr. Chairman, we participated as a government with NTI and the federal government to make the regulatory process more efficient and timely. That has been done. The federal government had approved NUPA and, at this point, it’s in the Senate. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you for the response. I just want to advise the minister at the adequate time in another forum, I will proceed to ask formal questions in regard to environmental assessment in that regard to further enquire on behalf of the residents of Baker Lake. That’s just a comment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you, *Iksivautaaq*. In order for me to have my question responded to, I’m going to ask in English. I applaud you as the Minister of Economic Development for being here today and your deputy. It’s really quite an important because economic development means in short, to me, that Nunavutmiut will benefit from activities that are occurring in their backyards. We have a large backyard, so it’s pretty tough to survive up here.

Nunavutmiut need to be employed and that should be primarily one of the responsibilities of the department, as far as I'm concerned. It's not just a game of pick and parcel with that minister who probably wasn't informed of this kind of stuff. I don't think we can afford to do that. I think all ministers, even all MLAs, must push for 100 percent employment, whether it be GN contracts, not just NNI-related groups, but all contracts, large and small.

I can tell you that the Qulliq Energy project up here, expanding that project for the last two years, did not have local Inuit employed. There was one Inuk employee and I asked the young man how many local Inuit were working up there. It's a Quebec company. He said, "I am the only one." Isn't that a shame?

To me, the employment labour pool must be transferred to Nunavut. Block the labour pool from Quebec and Newfoundland. Our workers should be from Nunavut. That can exceed the ratio of benefits going to Nunavutmiut in terms of projects and amount of dollars that you're just spending on contractors. Plug the loopholes for having the majority of their workers coming from down south. Many of them are labourers. They're not all carpenters, as far as I'm concerned. We have those up here.

So that's one of my comments. Can the minister commit to helping us out on how to improve and not just concentrate on Article 24, NNI, but push for employment as well? You have influence in working with other ministers. Can the minister respond to my question that you would do all you can to ensure Nunavutmiut are employed? Thank you.

Chairman (Mr. Enook)(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the member's comments and question. Mr. Chairman, I'm not going to respond to the activity that's happening up the hill there. As a department, we go out there and try and train people, try and train the younger folks. We have training programs. We create partnerships with industry, developers, and communities to try and maximize the number of people who train within these smaller communities.

There is going to be economic activity to keep our people working. As the member is well aware, resource development, whether it be mining or oil exploration, is one of the key things that makes our jurisdiction get into a better position to actually create revenue for its jurisdiction. For the most part, it creates a lot more employment and better quality of life for our smaller communities where they can get into wage employment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you. I appreciate the minister. The minister knows and he must understand that our unemployment rate is the highest in the country; it is not even comparable to even those larger unemployment areas within Canada. No one in the government is really speaking about improving the unemployment rate so that Nunavutmiut are really starting to benefit from projects that we have control over, particularly with government contracts. I'm not

specifically asking each department to do their share; I think the government as a whole, particularly the economic development minister is one of the influential ministers.

Unless we concentrate on improving unemployment rates, we are going into uncharted territory. We do not really care about reducing the unemployment rate because the only way we can really control it is within our own, for instance, close to \$100 million worth of contracts. These are significant, but the majority of the government contracts, particularly with the construction and so on, are heading down south. They're not being spent up here.

Again, will the minister at least take into consideration that the unemployment rate is unacceptable and that you will also help in reducing it in your role as the Minister of ED&T? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again I thank the member for the comments and the question. As the economic development minister, we do have data that is collected on a monthly basis and that is posted up on a website for unemployment and employment statistics. We try and use any kind of data that we can gather to try and find ways to improve the unemployment rate. As I have indicated, we're working with other departments, partners, and NTI to find ways to train more people out there so that they can actually get more involved in the economy and wages. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you. I think what you referred to would be beneficial for Nunavutmiut to understand, if it's released frequently, however infrequent it may be, but if it's released, it would be good to have it occasionally. I know that in the United States, they take it deadly serious. It comes out every month. I don't know how often it comes out here in northern Canada and in Canada, quite regularly as well. To publicize it and make a press release on it occasionally would help for us Inuit, those of us in isolated communities, to understand what is happening with the unemployment rate.

I'm going to switch over to one of the most common issues that we face, which is the NNI Policy, our favourite topic. I was encouraged yesterday that the Minister of Justice and his officials indicated to us that Article 24 was not optional, whether to abide by it or not. So in my view, specifically I asked the minister whether or not it was legally binding on all departments and all government agencies. I had an affirmative response that a legal opinion has been provided and it was binding on all government agencies.

So having heard that legal opinion that it's not optional and, therefore, constitutional and must be implemented to ensure that NNI is carried out on all contracts so that we don't see another project like Qulliq Energy having one Inuk employee, not because of the NNI, then I would like to ask the minister: how will you now enforce that provision that all agencies must comply with Article 24 and NNI? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that question. As the Minister responsible for Economic Development and Transportation, I'm not going to speak on behalf of another minister responsible for a Crown agency. Mr. Chairman, the housing corporation abides by the NNI Policy and so do the other departments, but I'm not going to speak on behalf of another agency that I'm not responsible for. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you. Are you saying that you don't want to implement Article 24 or the NNI Policy? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm not saying that. Every department strives to abide by Article 24 within the land claims agreement, but I'm not going to speak on behalf of another department that has its own legal opinion on it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you. Well, I think the corporate management clearly indicates here that your department, that division is clearly responsible for that policy. It is clearly mandated to review and make changes. I don't need to interpret what the mandate from the cabinet is to the minister.

If the minister is not sure whether or not he wants to implement it beyond his own department, he may now have to explain to us why he doesn't want to go beyond his own department in making sure that the changes that he's currently conducting will affect all of the departments and Crown agencies, as was stated in a legal opinion which is straightforward. It is that all agencies must comply. How will you communicate that you're not responsible for ensuring that all the departments comply once you have done the review of NNI? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I didn't say that we're going to enforce Article 24 to another agency or department. As the department under economic development and transportation, we do have a secretariat which is under the department. They enforce the government policy, the NNI Policy, and not Article 24. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you. I think the minister either is intentionally trying to confuse us because NNI is related to Article 24. NNI itself couldn't have any teeth into it unless it's bound by significant legislation that affects and mandates it, and that is NNI. So if the minister is not sure exactly what his role is, I think it would be simple that maybe you want to transfer that responsibility to some other minister. Would you do that? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think the member may be confused in Article 24. I'm speaking specifically of the government policy under NNI. If I can, Mr. Chairman, I would like my deputy minister to go into more detail in responding to that question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Taptuna. (interpretation ends) I don't know if you can, but I can. I will allow Mr. Long to make a comment.

Mr. Long: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think, for clarity, the review that we're doing has three parts to it. NTI is responsible for identifying Inuit companies. They are giving some thought to how they might improve that. As a department, we are looking very carefully at how we can improve the implementation of NNI. The procurement departments, the Crown agencies and CGS more specifically, are looking at procurement and how they can improve their system. A large part of that is ensuring that NNI is applied properly and across all departments and agencies. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you. Yes, Mr. Chairman, I may be confused, but I am quite focused. When the sections in Article 24, I believe it is 24.34, mandates the GN to implement the policy. That policy is NNI. So where would Article 24 fit in with the mandate of the minister when dealing with the NNI Policy? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Chairman. I appreciate the question from the committee member. Mr. Chairman, the NNI Secretariat, which is under the Department of Economic Development, monitors and implements the government policy, NNI. NNI is related to, of course, Article 24 within the land claims. Once procurement has taken place, the secretariat is responsible for the implementation and monitoring of the provisions provided under the NNI Policy. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just have a few quick questions based on the minister's opening comments and I do believe they are related to K-4. On page 4 of the ministers opening comments, he talked about an additional \$888,000 going towards the Country Food Distribution Program. He indicated that they have received 19 proposals and that funding has been allocated to 12 communities. Can the minister update us on which communities received funding under this program? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that question. I can certainly name out the communities, of course: Kugluktuk, Taloyoak, Arviat, Chesterfield Inlet, Coral Harbour, Rankin Inlet, Repulse Bay, Whale Cove, Arctic Bay, Cape Dorset, Grise Fiord, Igloolik,

Pangnirtung, Pond Inlet, and Qikiqtarjuaq. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. He said there were 12 communities that received project funding, but he just named out 16 communities. I wonder if he can clarify which communities actually got the funding. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. (interpretation ends) Clarification please, Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The updated community list has improved the number of communities that were approved for funding. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Taptuna, for the clarification. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Of the communities that are not approved, are there reasons they are not approved? Is it the lack of funding or are they just waiting for the process to continue? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The proposals from the communities have exceeded the budget already, the \$1.8 million that we had allocated for this specific program. We have an excess of \$3,375,000 already in proposals. There is a want and a need out there, but with such a small budget

allocated to this program, that is why some of the communities have been left out of the allocation of this funding that has just ran out. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Taptuna. We are on page K-4. Economic Development and Transportation. Branch Summary. Corporate Management. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$13,911,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): I apologize. (interpretation ends) Mr. Elliott, did you have your hand up? Unfortunately, I don't see very well without my glasses, yet I don't read very well with them on. Mr. Elliott, did you have your hand up? I will allow Mr. Elliott. (interpretation) Go ahead.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to ask some questions around the Poverty Reduction Strategy and what the minister's department is doing. During the ministerial appearance of the Minister of EIA, I had asked questions about the Interdepartmental Nutrition North Canada Subsidy Program Monitoring Committee. I guess it had been in operation for close to a year and then now it has been transferred to the Department of ED&T. I was wondering: what has been happening with that committee? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If you will allow me to have

my deputy minister respond to that in detail. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Long.

Mr. Long: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There was a committee formed several years ago and it began collecting food prices in 2011, but the quality of the data they received, the detail was not really good enough to analyze Nutrition North Canada. The members, over a period of time, continued to meet and work on implementation as part of their regular departmental work.

More recently, last fall, our department, the Anti-Poverty Secretariat, in cooperation with the Nunavut Bureau of Statistics, have started developing a pilot food price survey. This survey will gather data on food prices and the cost of living in Nunavut. They will be going out to 10 communities with a food basket style research document. We feel we have the people in place at the community level to ensure that they do get good data, which will be collected and shared. In addition to that, that information will be provided to the committee responsible for monitoring Nutrition North.

So that is an update of where that program is at and what we are doing with it in cooperation with EIA, specifically the stats bureau. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Long. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you of that answer. I don't know why I wouldn't have been able to get

that answer from people from EIA when they were here. You would think that the statistics bureau still exists, so I would have been able to get that information.

In terms of 2011, you had said that the information collected was not quality information. At one point, it was saying that there were 10 communities where there were going to be volunteers. I had made the suggestion of a possibility of having our GLOs do it. Again, I wouldn't want to have another year or two go by and find out that the quality of information collected was not sufficient enough to be able to give the information to Nutrition North Canada as well as the Nutrition North Canada Advisory Board.

I don't know any other way of saying it other than the fact that every year that we take to try and collect to show that a program is not working, that is a federal government program, that is a year wasted where all of our constituents are continuing to pay higher food [prices]. I find it frustrating when I ask questions and I can't get answers because it's frustrating enough already dealing with a program that's being brought on by the federal government and affecting people in all of our communities across the territory.

I will try again with the Department of ED&T. As we are being told, all governments work collaboratively together and they don't work in silos, there are quality of life committees, interagency committees, and DM committees that work together. If this is really happening, is there a possibility of talking to EIA and saying that this is something that our GLOs could work towards?

I'm not saying, "Don't have the 10 communities that were going to be looked at," but if you have 16, as what we were told, there are 16 GLOs out there already who were hired and doing good work in our communities, and then if we add nine more, then we can have all 25 different communities covered.

Each community, and my understanding of three communities in the High Arctic, each one is affected differently by the Nutrition North Canada Program. Arctic Bay has two stores, so you have more choice and more variety. Maybe if food sat in different locations, by the time it gets to the Co-op, it might be fresher than getting it to the Northern Store. There is a unique situation there for Arctic Bay.

Resolute Bay is a smaller community. It only has one store that is serviced by the community. There is not a lot of disposable income to be able to buy a year's worth of food on sealift. So they're bound by the Nutrition North Canada Program as well.

And then you've got Grise Fiord that's at the end of the transportation chain where it's stopping four or five times. You've got your goods stopping four or five times. Depending on weather, like what happened with this blizzard just the other day, I hear people here in Iqaluit saying, "Flights and people moving and freight is going to be backed up for two weeks." That's what people were saying. Each time you go further away from the hub, it gets further and further away and things get delivered.

Just talking to some of the other members over in Arviat and Rankin Inlet, you had access to the Food Mail

Program out of Winnipeg and a lot of the suppliers that were involved in that program. In essence, Nutrition North Canada cut off that option for people in the communities. If you go over to the Kitikmeot, there is a problem as well over there with the Arctic Co-op store in Yellowknife. The Arctic Co-op did not buy into the Nutrition North Canada Program citing paperwork was too onerous, and the same problem happened with SunSpun out of Yellowknife as well. So you have Kugaaruk and the Kitikmeot community of Cambridge Bay being affected as well.

Again, I think if we could get really good data from all 25 communities, then maybe we would have. It seems like, to show the federal government what we're trying to say, sometimes they don't always listen to our words. They want to see the data. They want to see the numbers. This might be a way of actually proving and showing to the federal government that changes need to be made to the Nutrition North Canada Program.

So I guess my question to the minister would be: could he seriously take a look at the suggestion of talking with the Department of EIA and having the GLOs become part of this program? It sounds like, out of Pangnirtung, the Nunavut statistics, which is EIA's department, is already involved. Maybe get everyone together and have one big, happy meeting and come up with hitting all 25 communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With your permission, I'm going to have my deputy minister respond to that in detail. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you for that show of respect. Mr. Long.

Mr. Long: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Your concern, I think, is being addressed. I am happy to say that the head of the statistics bureau in Pangnirtung is a very experienced individual. He came to us from Yellowknife in the Northwest Territories and he did this type of work over there. So he is very experienced in terms of a food basket type of price survey. Our secretariat has a staff person in Pangnirtung working in the same office. She is very experienced in food and food security type of work in her past. So we have two highly qualified individuals who are linking together the secretariat and it's going to go well.

The GLOs are clearly part of the communications at the community level. I mentioned that they are doing 10 communities. That is a pilot project. When they work out the bugs, their intention is to go to all 25 communities. We have been working on this for approximately five months. We're ready to launch the first one before March is over, and it will then continue out from there on a monthly basis. When it's working well, it will expand to the other 15 communities.

I hope that reassures you that it will be done professionally and with true enthusiasm. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Long. (interpretation ends) I see you Mr. Elliott.

>> *Laughter*

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I figured I would help you out.

I guess the other suggestion would be in terms of with all that information being gathered and if you're going to use the Government of Canada's food basket, this is a suggestion towards the new family services, if you could share that information with them because they are reviewing, as far as we have been told in their business plan, income assistance. If we could find out for sure what a family of four survives on in terms of the Government of Canada's food basket, it might actually help us to come up with an accurate figure as to more than an income assistance recipient should receive on a monthly basis. Could the minister commit to speaking with the minister in waiting for family services? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we do the best we can and certainly we will take advice, recommendations, and suggestions, and we are looking at all options. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On page 157 of the business plan, one of the 2012-13 priorities, the third priority up, the bullet said, "Continue working

with partners to integrate renewable energy into Nunavut's energy regime pursuant to *Ikummatiit*." The status was, "While there are no tangible results to report to-date, the Energy Secretariat has continued to seek partners and projects with a view..." If you flip over onto page 158 and if there are no tangible outcomes coming from that report, why are you going to continue to provide leadership and oversight of implementing it? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that question. Of course, as the member has indicated, there are no real tangible things within the Energy Secretariat, but we do have a responsibility of eventually building up capacity and coming up with some strategy to find alternative ways of getting away from the diesel power generation that we use nowadays. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Are there any examples or suggestions of how the department will move forward on this particular priority? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: When the department inherits the Energy Secretariat, there is the *Ikummatiit* Strategy that we will review and try and modify and update to a standard of how

things have changed from the past. We will use that strategy to deal with the jumpstart on developing and coming up with some ways of trying to improve that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is on page 158 of the business plan. One of the priorities for 2013-14 is to "Review the Country Food Distribution Program..." I was wondering if the minister could provide an update as to how successful that program has been to date. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Country food distribution is ongoing. Mr. Chairman, as I indicated earlier, there are some communities that have taken advantage of the program and we are seeking ways to improve it. Therefore, Mr. Chairman, a lot of communities have taken advantage of that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Also on page 158 of the department's business plan, one of the 2013-14 priorities is to "Perform a Nunavut energy end-use demand study and survey." What does that mean? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With your permission, I will have Deputy Minister Long respond to that in detail. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Long.

Mr. Long: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The end use survey is analyzing the home use and business use of power. So we haven't developed the full terms of how we will do this, the process, but this is the goal for the Energy Secretariat to come up with a process for analyzing that. Once we're staffed up in that section, we will have the professional capacity to do that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Taptuna, we already approved K-4 that we're going to leave. Please note that while I am reading, I am using reading glasses. So if you want to be seen, raise your hand. We will go to page K-5. Branch Summary. Economic Development and Transportation. Economic Development. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$22,267,000. Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In reflection on the minister's opening comments in regard to Nunavut Tourism, I would like to ask the minister and his officials as well that your department's draft of the 2013-16 business plan provides an adequate one, one of its 2012-13 priorities, which was and I quote, "Complete the comprehensive Tourism Strategy with costed implementation plan and commence implementation, including development of tourism policies and programs." The status indicates that "The comprehensive Tourism Strategy

with costed implementation plan is scheduled for completion within the 2012-13 fiscal year. The commencement of implementation, including development of tourism policies and programs will carry over to 2013-14." When will the comprehensive Tourism Strategy be completed and what changes are anticipated for tourism policies and programs? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate that question from Mr. Aupaluktuq. Mr. Chairman, the strategy is currently receiving its final review and I am quite confident that we're going to be able to table it in the spring sitting.

Mr. Chairman, if I can have my deputy minister respond to the second part of Mr. Aupaluktuq's question on the exact changes that may be within the new strategy. Thank you Mr. Chairman

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Long.

Mr. Long: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We call the strategy the Tourism Strategy for Nunavut. It is broadly based and involves two departments. It involves several federal government departments like Parks Canada and CanNor. It involves Nunavut Tourism. So it is not just a Government of Nunavut strategy.

Within that strategy, we have looked at a number of priority areas. Because we have worked together collaboratively with an advisory group representing these other agencies, it has an action

plan that includes actions that all of these agencies have committed to become involved in.

Unfortunately, I don't have the strategy in front of me. It is not so much policy changes as a positive direction, working collaboratively, so that the money that everyone has to invest in tourism is used very efficiently and that we're not duplicating effort.

I hope that answers the question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Long. Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the business plan on page 158, under Tourism and Cultural Industries, a line states, "to develop strong and sustainable and cultural sectors throughout Nunavut." On page 159, Mr. Chairman, the first bullet, if I may quote, is, "To provide quality advice and support to the Minister concerning tourism, arts and crafts, film, and performing arts." The second bullet reads, "To develop, lead and coordinate implementation of programs and strategies aimed at developing Nunavut's tourism sector and cultural industries."

Some of the programs that they have identified are the Nunavut Arts and Crafts Association, Nunavut Film, Television, and New Media Program, Tourism Development Program, and Community Tourism & Cultural Industries Program. Then on page 159, it identifies the priorities of 2012-13.

Mr. Chairman, where my question is leading is on page 160. It states

"Develop recommendations for revisions to the *Travel and Tourism Act*." It's considering possible revisions to the *Travel and Tourism Act* after completing the Tourism Strategy. When does the department expect to complete the Tourism Strategy and what revisions do they expect to see or add? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I understand the member's question correctly, I did state that I am hoping to table the Tourism Strategy in the spring sitting. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the response as well. I'm sure the people from Nunavut Tourism as well as all the other businesses, such as the Jessie Oonark Centre, or the other arts programs are looking forward to that.

With respect to that, on page 160, the second bullet indicates that there is an "Update and write new artists biographies" to post as Authentic Nunavut. Can the minister or his officials explain and educate me as well as the listening public as to what this program is? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With your permission, I'll

have my deputy to respond to that in detail. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Long.

Mr. Long: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Some of the biographies project has been done in several communities and actually put into books. One, I believe, is Cape Dorset and another one is Kimmirut and Arctic Bay, I think.

We're also thinking about making the artist biographies a live database that can be accessed by galleries and sales agencies in the south. The people buying high-end art are very interested in knowing something about the artist. This resource would allow the gallery to access this on their computer, print out a copy, and give it to the purchaser at the time of purchase. This strengthens the image of individual artists as they build their career through good art and individual shows.

This is something that, up until, I believe, 1990, was done by INAC, and then they dropped that program and it hasn't really been picked up since, so we feel it is important. We have heard from a number of gallery owners that they would find that very exciting and positive. So that is the purpose. It will enhance the image of individual artists and improve the saleability of their products. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Long. Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again on page 160, the third bullet, on the status, it indicates what my colleagues very respectfully always talk

about, implementing the Inuit language. With the Government of Nunavut's proposed language implementation plan, it "includes increased support for film productions in the Inuit Language." As we are all aware, there's a lot of recognition in the last little while for Inuit-produced movies and northern specific.

If I may, from the same line of the status in the third bullet, there it states that "The department is reviewing the scope of contribution policies to clarify support for Inuit Language publications." Can the minister or his officials clarify what the policies are "to clarify support"? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the question from the committee member. Mr. Chairman, that's why it's one of our priorities, that we want to see what's within the policy that we can change and then to fit into that type of criteria. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I may be jumping ahead, but under the same category on page 160, one of your priorities for 2013-14 is to "Publish a handbook describing support available for the production, publishing and distribution of publications, film and online content." Can the minister update or inform my colleagues and me what the strategy is for this and when they expect to see the results published or

tabled in the House? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With your permission, I would like Deputy Minister Long to respond to that in detail. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Long.

Mr. Long: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The delivery of services to film and art-related type industries is that we have our Tourism and Cultural Industries Division, but the program delivery is essentially done through Nunavut Film. They deliver a number of grants on our behalf. The total budget, I believe, is around \$700,000. We work collaboratively with them. The program has been in place for five or six years. It's time to review and the handbook will be done by Nunavut Film with support from our department and the TCI division. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Long. We're on page K-5. Branch Summary. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wanted to ask some questions. In terms of economic development, I think mining fits under this. There has been a lot of media coverage. The Northwest Territories & Nunavut Chamber of Mines talks about the gross domestic product in Nunavut being one of the highest. Do you have a dollar value of how many millions of dollars have been invested in Nunavut for mining this year? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. It has been a long day and I appreciate our technical crew. Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that question. At this time, I don't have the exact figure in front of me and I don't want to assume a figure, so I'll have to take that question and respond back to the committee member. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know the interpreter/translators are finding the later we go, my words don't come out the same. It must be hard on the other side as well.

If the minister could grab a pen and paper to add to his list of other things that he can get back to us on. From the questions, I was hoping to find out a dollar figure. The second dollar figure I was hoping to find out... . It goes to some of the comments that Mr. Curley made. If it's \$100 million that went to mining exploration in the territory, and I just picked that number out of the sky, so it's not a real number, as the minister indicated, it looks good on paper, saying that there is a lot of money coming to the territory.

My next question would be: how much of that money that is allocated and put towards mining actually stays in the territory? How much goes for wages and actually stays with businesses? I can picture them using airlines and staying in hotels. A lot of times, they show up and they stay out on the land and build camps. They have their own mining

camp where the money doesn't really stay in the territory. To the rest of Canada, it looks like things are going well and lots of money is coming to our territory, yet, in reality, that money is going back to the south to the companies.

At the same time, I'm wondering if there would be a figure of Inuit employment in terms of are they following that type. Those were specifically what I was hoping to get. Maybe the minister could report back to us when he has that information.

Specifically for another question on page 163 of the department's business plan, one of the priorities for 2013-14 is to "Complete negotiations with Baffinland for the Mary River project" and "Continue Development Partnership Agreement negotiations..." I would like to concentrate specifically on the Mary River project. It said, "Complete negotiations," which would imply that negotiations have already started with Baffinland for a development partnership agreement. Could we get an update as to what's happening with that in terms of his department? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The specific project that he is talking about, the Baffinland Mary River project, we haven't received a letter of intent to start negotiating on a development partnership agreement. As a government, we intend to wait until after the Inuit Impact and Benefits Agreement has been completed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just as an update, I know the minister had talked about the Mary River project and how it was going, I believe, in his Minister's Statement, about going back to the drawing board for the environmental assessment. I believe that Baffinland was going to provide information to NIRB as of June 25, 2013. Will there be work completed by Baffinland in this fiscal year? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that question. Mr. Chairman, it's up to the proponents to determine how fast they're going to try and complete their revamped EIS. As a government, we do participate in reviews through the regulatory process. From what I understand, yes, they're trying to move forward as quickly as possible for this summer, but that depends on the will of the proponents themselves. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know that in one of the replies to questions I asked, the minister said that before the DPA could be started, the IIBA had to be completed. Is there a tentative date as to when that was going to be completed? I thought it was already signed and completed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We're not privy to that information. It's between the proponent and the regional Inuit association. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In terms of negotiating a development partnership agreement, I'm sure the minister will be able to answer this: who is involved with that thing? If we're specifically talking about Baffinland, there will be representatives from his department and obviously representatives from Baffinland, but will community involvement be there as well? As far as I know, there are six communities that are being affected. Will representatives from each of those communities be involved during those negotiations? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that question. Mr. Chairman, the negotiations are led by Economic Development and Transportation, but there other departments that are involved through the sustainable development advisory group and through the socio-economic monitoring committees that we do have out there within the three regional centres, we do make an effort to make sure that they're included. That way, they have all the information from the communities that are affected. We try

and use all the information as much as possible. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In terms of community involvement, how are communities involved in putting forward their ideas and views as to what should be included in the development partnership agreement? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We do have a development partnership agreement policy within the government and there are five or six principles that are included within the policy. Of course, we try to maintain that all of these principles do have to be met with the proponent. Two or three of those principles, I can say it from the top of my head, of course, are benefits to the community, training, infrastructure development, and so forth. It's one of the criteria to negotiating a development partnership agreement with a proponent. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I understand how there are different parts in terms of education and working towards mine training and heavy equipment operation, but specifically, how are community members consulted on what they feel should be part of it as well? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With the development partnership agreements protocol that we do have within the government policy, we include community meetings to use that as information. We involve the communities that are affected and, of course, I indicated earlier that the socio-economic monitoring committees are also used within the regions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On page 163 in the department's business plan for 2013-14, it talks about "Refine and expand the GN's Environmental Assessment responsibilities, including implementation of a capacity-building initiative." I was wondering if the minister could explain if his department would be involved in that or if this is a combined effort with the Department of Environment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are six departments involved, not just the departments of Economic Development and Transportation and Environment. The justice and health departments are involved throughout the regulatory process and whoever is going through this process on a proponent where official interveners were mandated by legislation to carry out the function of reviewing any kind of development. Of

course, through NIRB, that's mining development.

Mr. Chairman, the member is well aware that during the question period yesterday that there are some increases into the budget to build up our capacity. The member is well aware that there are a lot of projects out there that have to go through the NIRB process to become more efficient. We did include some more positions for building up our capacity to provide an efficient regulatory process when reviewing developments in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So simply put, it is to help GN employees understand and be able to put assessments under the NIRB process to be able to put in meaningful... . The NIRB website is like a monster for websites for databases, so it's actually building up the capacity to be able to respond to these requests. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I indicated that there are more projects that do have to go through the regulatory process and we want more efficient participation on the government's side. We do have six departments that do participate under the sustainable development advisory group. As the member is well aware, we're trying to become more efficient and more proactive throughout the process. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On page 163, one of the department's priorities for 2013-14 is to "Participate in and contribute to federal Strategic Environmental Assessment for Baffin Bay/Davis Strait." With those two large bodies of water, what type of strategic environmental assessment are they doing? Is this for oil exploration or is it for fish and levels of population for turbot or is it encompassing everything? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With your permission, I would like to bring a witness in to respond to that question in detail. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Does the committee agree to bring in another witness?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort a witness out and bring another witness in.

Thank you, Sergeant-at-Arms.
(interpretation ends) Minister Taptuna, for the record, (interpretation) please introduce your witness. Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is Pauloosie Suvega, Associate Deputy Minister for Economic Development and Transportation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Welcome, Mr. Suvega. (interpretation ends) Can I ask Mr. Elliott to ask his question again? Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The question was from page 163 of the department's business plan and it's for one of the priorities for 2013-14. The question was the priority is to "Participate in and contribute to federal Strategic Environmental Assessment for Baffin Bay/Davis Strait." Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll have the associate deputy minister respond to that question in detail. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Suvega.

Mr. Suvega: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Parts of the initiatives that are starting to be undertaken throughout the north include things like seismic testing or proposed seismic testing. Part of the partnerships that we have, such as with the federal government, include trying to look at things like resources that are under the sea, seabed mapping, and also marine or fish type resources as well. So this is in partnership with some of the federal agencies to look at things like undersea resources. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Suvega. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In terms of working with the federal government, how is the department involved in this in terms of what benefit would it be? I thought, in terms of resources, we have land resources or Inuit owned land, which the benefits would go to NTI or one of the regional Inuit associations. Even land resources are federal resources anyway. So what would we benefit from partnering with this type of a project? My understanding is that offshore, if there are mines or oil, we wouldn't have access to that as well. So what does the Government of Nunavut benefit by participating in this? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With your permission, I'll have the associate deputy minister respond to that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Suvega.

Mr. Suvega: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As the number of activities and interest started to increase within the north, specifically in the last few years, on offshore development and activities, a number of concerns started to come forward specifically from communities that are adjacent to these resources. We have become very active participants in these as of late. We played largely liaison roles between the communities and the regional Inuit associations and also with the land claims organizations. So it is partnership and we do try and emphasize that quite a bit to the federal bodies that may not know as much about

the Nunavut landscape as our government departments do. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Suvega. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In terms of reporting back to the Legislative Assembly on how this priority is going to be met or evaluated, how do you plan to report back to the House on this particular priority? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll have Mr. Suvega respond to that question in detail. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Suvega.

Mr. Suvega: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As the number of activities starts to increase and if a formal application starts to be put forward through, say for example, the National Energy Board for things like offshore oil, seismic testing, then we would go through those regulatory processes as active interveners. We would also work very actively with partners like the Inuit organizations and communities at every stage. We do try and educate people who aren't familiar with those processes. Some of them do take a bit of time. Some are measured in years in terms of the regulatory process. We would be able to communicate the statuses of each of those stages, but they do take a bit of time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Suvega. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So what is the Government of Nunavut's Department of Economic Development and Transportation's position on oil and gas exploration or development off of Nunavut's waters? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that question. As a department, we do not necessarily have a position. As a government, we abide by the regulatory processes and the legislated mandate. As a government, we do not necessarily tell the proponents that we're either pro or con for certain types of development. We abide by the legislation that we're under. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think I would like to request to report progress. I think we have reached our limit for today. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Elliott. I believe you moved a motion to report progress. There is a motion on the floor and the motion is not debatable. All those in favour of the motion, please raise your hand. Opposed. The motion is carried. Thank you. I will now once again report progress to the Speaker.

We will continue with the minister and his officials at the witness table tomorrow. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses out.

Speaker: *Qujannamiik*, Sergeant-at-Arms. Moving right along in our orders of the day. Item 20. Report of the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Enook.

Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Bill 49 and would like to report progress. Also, Mr. Speaker, I move that the Report of the Committee of the Whole be agreed to. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Enook. There is a motion on the floor. Is there a seconder? Thank you, Minister Arreak. 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. Just a reminder that the Standing Committee on Legislation meets tomorrow morning at 8:30 in the Tuktu Room.

Orders of the Day for March 14:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions
8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to Opening Address
10. Petitions
11. Responses to Petitions
12. Reports of Standing and Special
Committees on Bills and Other
Matters
13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motions
15. Notices of Motions for First
Reading of Bills
16. Motions
17. First Reading of Bills
18. Second Reading of Bills
19. Consideration in Committee of
the Whole of Bills and Other
Matters
 - Bill 47
 - Bill 48
 - Bill 49
 - Bill 50
20. Report of the Committee of the
Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills
22. Orders of the Day

stands adjourned until Thursday, March
14, at 10:00 a.m.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 20:01*

Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. In
accordance with the authority granted to
me by Motion 44 – 3(3), this House

Appendix – March 13, 2013



Asked by: Alan Rumbolt, MLA (Hudson Bay)

Asked of: Hon. Lorne Kusugak
Minister of Community and Government Services

Number: 023-3(3)

Date: February 28, 2013

Subject: Annual Fuel Purchases by the Government of Nunavut

1. Expressing the data in the same format as that which the Government of Nunavut provided in the Return to Written Question 3-3(2), what quantities of fuel were purchased and delivered in 2012?

**PETROLEUM PRODUCTS DIVISION
FUEL DELIVERY BY COMMUNITY
2012**

COMMUNITY	Diesel	Gasoline	Jet A
BAFFIN			
Arctic Bay	2,195,620	512,381	1,320,959
Cape Dorset	4,235,921	721,139	154,342
Clyde River		434,469	2,992,564
Clyde River- NPC	612,698		
Grise Fiord	1,013,745	124,904	177,672
Hall Beach	1,571,009	293,666	539,091
Igloolik	5,277,164	545,192	1,183,190
Iqaluit	28,947,740	5,971,380	28,211,009
Iqaluit-NPC	8,487,274		
Kimmirut	2,057,899	288,490	
Kugaaruk	1,907,823	613,859	211,252
Pangnirtung	4,909,872	981,843	442,649
Pond Inlet	3,937,373	651,351	968,411
Qikiqtarjuaq	1,899,723	508,752	301,117

Resolute Bay	3,989,159	364,498	1,576,760
TOTAL BAFFIN	71,043,262	12,011,924	38,079,016
KIVALLIQ			
Arviat	4,386,084	992,820	
Arviat-NPC	1,862,175		
Baker Lake	7,771,292	1,469,069	
Chesterfield Inlet	1,655,195	324,070	
Chesterfield Inlet-NPC	133,623		
Coral Harbour	2,878,378	353,948	647,060
Rankin Inlet	10,042,517	2,192,566	10,617,700
Rankin Inlet-NPC	4,818,641		
Repulse Bay	3,869,361	648,873	
Repulse Bay-NPC	135,647		
Sanikiluaq		374,669	3,416,014
Whale Cove	1,164,607	254,064	
TOTAL KIVALLIQ	38,717,520	6,610,079	14,680,774
KITIKMEOT			
Cambridge Bay	4,662,271	1,173,500	2,519,399
Cambridge Bay-NPC	2,633,427		
Bathurst Inlet			
Gjoa Haven	3,929,478	540,348	1,068,122
Kugluktuk	3,603,495	869,596	636,619
Taloyoak	2,073,456	363,986	793,793
Taloyoak-NPC	880,000		
Umingmaktok			
TOTAL KITIKMEOT	17,782,127	2,947,430	5,017,933
TOTAL	127,542,909	21,569,433	57,777,723

Question:

2. As of February 26, 2013, what is the current bulk fuel storage capacity in each of Nunavut's communities?

Response:

Bulk Fuel Storage Capacity by Community – Baffin Region		
<u>Community</u>	<u>Fuel Type</u>	<u>Capacity (litres)</u>
<u>Igloolik</u>		
	Total Diesel	5,482,740.0
	Total Gasoline	1,381,492.0
	Total Jet A-1	1,386,491.6
<u>Hall Beach</u>		
	Total Diesel	4,629,133.0
	Total Gasoline	1,511,168.0
	Total Jet A-1	1,608,470.0
<u>Pond Inlet</u>		
	Total Diesel	6,008,784.0
	Emergency Total	
	Volume	369,105.0
	Total Gasoline	950,658.0

<u>Clyde River</u>	Total Jet A-1	2,008,200.0	
	Total Jet A-1	5,054,756.0	
	Total Diesel	641,028.0	
	Emergency Total		
	Volume	377,640.0	
<u>Arctic Bay</u>	Total Gasoline	1,115,311.0	
	Total Diesel	3,188,704.0	
	Total Gasoline	824,756.0	
	Total Jet A-1	1,376,516.0	
<u>Kimmirut</u>	Total Diesel	2,331,286.0	
	Total Gasoline	419,779.0	
<u>Cape Dorset</u>	Total Diesel	5,099,315.0	
	Emergency Total		
	Volume	334,592.0	
	Total Gasoline	986,890.0	
	Total Jet A-1	498,817.0	
<u>Pangnirtung</u>	Total Diesel	5,392,149.0	
	Total Gasoline	1,231,705.0	
	Total Jet A-1	2,392,735.0	
<u>Qikiqtarjuaq</u>	Total Diesel	4,007,843.0	
	Total Gasoline	1,035,011.0	
	Total Jet A-1	751,433.0	
<u>Iqaluit</u>	Total Diesel	26,979,196.0	
	Total Gasoline	6,128,377	
	Total Jet A-1	44,929,190.0	
<u>Sanikiluaq</u>	Total Diesel	3,058,978	
	Total Gasoline	478,795	
<u>Bulk Fuel Storage Capacity by Community – Kivalliq Region</u>			
<u>Rankin Inlet</u>	<u>Community</u>	<u>Fuel Type</u>	<u>Capacity(litres)</u>
		Total Diesel	17,341,339
		Emergency Total	
		Volume	411,865
		Total Gasoline	2,990,757
		Total Jet A-1	9,033,698

<u>Arviat</u>	Total Diesel	4,527,929
	Emergency Total	
	Volume	551,474
	Total Gasoline	1,345,363
<u>Chesterfield Inlet</u>	Total Diesel	1,749,520
	Total Gasoline	371,051
<u>Baker Lake</u>	Total Diesel	7,816,011
	Total Gasoline	1,626,352
<u>Coral Harbour</u>	Total Diesel	3,013,183
	Total Gasoline	1,348,962
	Emergency Total	
	Volume	205,334
	Total Jet A-1	1,000,109
<u>Repulse Bay</u>	Total Diesel	4,178,896
	Emergency tank	184,622
	Diesel (NPC)	180,802
	Total Gasoline	943,968
<u>Whale Cove</u>	Total Diesel	2,015,560
	Emergency Total	
	Volume	182,654
	Total Gasoline	421,246

Bulk Fuel Storage Capacity by Community – Kitikmeot Region

<u>Community</u>	<u>Fuel Type</u>	<u>Capacity(litres)</u>
<u>Kugluktuk</u>	Total Diesel	4,736,693.0
	Total Gasoline	1,413,663
	Emergency	
	Total Volume	638,394.0
	Total Avgas	27,592.0
	Total Jet A-1	1,604,558.0
<u>Bathurst Inlet</u>	Emergency	
	Total Volume	84,716.0
	Total Diesel	55,954.0
<u>Gjoa Haven</u>	Total Diesel	4,427,926.0
	Total Gasoline	1,759,164.0
	Total Jet A-1	1,796,795.0
<u>Taloyoak</u>		

	Total Diesel	3,549,415.0
	Total Gasoline	691,842.0
	Total Jet A-1	1,367,292.0
<u>Kugaaruk</u>		
	Total Diesel	2,749,738.0
	Total Gasoline	923,082.0
	Total Jet A-1	1,638,196.0
<u>Umingmaktok</u>		
	Total Diesel	131,752.0
	Emergency	
	Total Volume	263,280.0
	Total Gasoline	85,501.0
<u>Grise Fiord</u>		
	Total Diesel	1,289,828.0
	Total Gasoline	274,439.0
	Total Jet A-1	274,275.5
<u>Resolute Bay</u>		
	Total Diesel	13,663,313.0
	Total Gasoline	4,332,584.0
	Total Jet A-1	13,987,634.0
<u>Cambridge Bay</u>		
	Total Diesel	4,955,524.0
n.b.increased	Total Gasoline	1,519,571.0
n.b.decreased	Total Jet A-1	3,076,650.0

Question:

3. From January 1, 2012 to December 31, 2012, which communities in Nunavut received fuel deliveries by airlift?

Response:

**PETROLEUM PRODUCTS DIVISION
AIRLIFTS - 2012
NUNAVUT TERRITORY**

Community	Product	Volume (litres)
Sanikiluaq	Gasoline	112,451
Repulse Bay	Diesel	201,331
Repulse Bay	Gasoline	20,472
Arviat	Diesel	34,054

Question:

4. What policies and/or procedures does the Government of Nunavut follow with respect to the rationing of fuel supplies in communities in circumstances where shortages exist?

Response:

The Government of Nunavut follows the following policies and/or procedures with respect to the rationing of fuel supplies in communities in circumstances where shortages exist:

The GN/PPD reviews the sales and inventory on hand each month, compares it to historical sales and trends to best estimate the sales in future months prior to the actual resupply dates that are expected for a community. By monitoring these trends PPD can determine if the inventory on hand will be sufficient to sustain sales until the resupply arrives and prepare our order volumes required for the upcoming resupply season.

In the exceptional case where trends or sales have increased sharply enough to consume more fuel than normal, and consume the safety stock which is generally on hand then the projections that are done monthly will enable us to plan accordingly. Where there is a potential shortage PPD does the following:

Diesel shortage expected

In a case where there is diesel shortage expected we have three choices depending on the location.

- If we have Jet A-1 fuel in that particular community we are able to sustain heating sales by supplementing Jet A-1 fuel in place of diesel for heating customers.
- Depending on dates for possible run out it is possible to schedule an early arrival for this location to deliver diesel before the normal resupply date for this location.
- If we have NO Jet A-1 fuel for this purpose then we are forced to plan for an airlift as necessary.

Gasoline shortage expected

Generally gas trends are very consistent and don't often spike, however in a case where gasoline inventories where we expect a shortfall we have two choices.

- Depending on run-out date we can schedule a sealift arrival to avoid the shortage.
- If adjustment to sealift is unable to work we would be left with little choice but to coordinate an airlift of gasoline to ensure the community is not left short.

With the volatility of gasoline and the logistics of an airlift we work very diligently to avoid such a shortage.

Jet A-1 shortage expected

In a case where we expect a Jet A-1 fuel shortage we have similar options to a gasoline shortage.

- Either reschedule an early sealift if that is possible for dates and location
- Coordinate an airlift to sustain sales (very difficult with huge volumes).
- We have also had excellent results by working closely with the active airlines in the area to limit their fueling operations to necessary volumes instead of tankering fuel for convenience. Airlines are the first to be affected and are often very willing to limit their fueling to sustain sales instead of a shortage in a community.

Naphtha shortage expected

The most difficult product for PPD to manage is the smallest volume product we deal with. Naphtha is ordered through our CGS Purchasing Division almost a year before it is delivered to the community. This means that our projections are unreliable with the heavy use months far ahead in the projections. The trends of naphtha sales are very inconsistent which only compounds the problem. The only solutions to a Naphtha shortage are to either rely on the Northern Stores or local Co-op stores inventory until resupply, or to arrange an airlift of product to enable sales until the sealift arrives.