



Nunavut Canada

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NUNAVUT

3rd Session

3rd Assembly

HANSARD

Official Report

DAY 8

Wednesday, March 9, 2011

Pages 432 – 495

Iqaluit

Speaker: The Honourable Paul Okalik, M.L.A.

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Speaker

Hon. Paul Okalik

(Iqaluit West)

Hon. Eva Aariak

(Iqaluit East)

Premier; Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs; Minister responsible for Aboriginal Affairs; Minister responsible for Immigration; Minister responsible for the Status of Women

Adamee Komoartok

(Pangnirtung)

Hon. Lorne Kusugak

(Rankin Inlet South – Whale Cove)
Government House Leader; Minister of Community and Government Services; Minister of Energy; Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation

Fred Schell

(South Baffin)

Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk

(Arviat)

Minister of Environment; Minister responsible for the Nunavut Arctic College

Hon. James Arreak

(Uqqummiut)

Minister of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth; Minister of Languages; Minister responsible for the Utility Rates Review Council

John Ningark

(Akulliq)

Johnny Ningeongan

(Nanulik)

Deputy Speaker and Chair of the Committee of the Whole

Louis Tapardjuk

(Amittuq)

Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole

Hon. Peter Taptuna

(Kugluktuk)

Deputy Premier; Minister of Economic Development and Transportation

James Arvaluk

(Tununiq)

Moses Aupaluktuq

(Baker Lake)

Hon. Keith Peterson

(Cambridge Bay)

Minister of Finance, Chair of the Financial Management Board; Minister of Justice

Hon. Hunter Tootoo

(Iqaluit Centre)

Minister of Education; Minister of Human Resources; Minister responsible for the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission

Hon. Tagak Curley

(Rankin Inlet North)

Minister of Health and Social Services; Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation; Minister responsible for Homelessness

Allan Rumbolt

(Hudson Bay)

Jeannie Ugyuk

(Nattilik)

Ron Elliott

(Quttiktuq)

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.....	432
Ministers' Statements	432
Members' Statements	435
Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery.....	437
Oral Questions	438
Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters.....	440
Tabling of Documents	440
Motions.....	442
Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters	442
Report of the Committee of the Whole	494
Orders of the Day	495

A.

Daily References

Wednesday, March 9, 2011 432

B.

Ministers' Statements

026 – 3(3): NHC Governance (Curley) 432
027 – 3(3): Upcoming 14th Nunavut Mining Symposium (Taptuna) 433
028 – 3(3): Comprehensive Implementation Plan (Arreak) 433
029 – 3(3): Multiple Options (Tootoo)..... 434

C.

Members' Statements

040 – 3(3): Pangagujjiniq Nunavut Quest 2011 (Tapardjuk) 435
041 – 3(3): Nutrition North Canada Program (Elliott) 435
042 – 3(3): Clean Water for Arviarmiut (Shewchuk)..... 436
043 – 3(3): Medical Travel Concerns (Ningark) 437

D.

Oral Questions

073 – 3(3): RFP for Medical Travel (Ningark) 438
074 – 3(3): Small Craft Harbours (Ningeongan)..... 438

E.

Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters

Committee Report 002 – 3(3): Bill 3, An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act (Ningeongan) 440

F.

Tabling of Documents

027 – 3(3): 2010 Annual Report from the Office of the Fire Marshal (Kusugak) 440

028 – 3(3): Nunavut Business Credit Corporation Business Plan 2010-2013 (Taptuna)..... 441

029 – 3(3): Nunavut Business Credit Corporation Business Plan 2011-2014 (Taptuna)..... 441

030 – 3(3): Canadian Council of Fisheries and Aquaculture (CCFAM) and the Atlantic Council of Fisheries and Aquaculture (Shewchuk) 441

031 – 3(3): Merit-based Salary Increases and One-time Performance-based Bonus Payments to Senior Managers 2007-2010 (Aariak)..... 441

032 – 3(3): Shared Directional Statement 2010-2011 (Peterson)..... 441

033 – 3(3): Nunavut Housing Corporation Contracting Report for the Year Ended March 31, 2010 (Curley) 441

G.

Motions

002 – 3(3): Referral of Tabled Documents 248 – 3(2), 249 – 3(2), 251 – 3(2), 274 – 3(2), 275 – 3(2) (Elliott) 442

H.

Bills

Bill 01 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2011-2012 – Consideration in Committee – Culture, Language, Elders and Youth 443

Bill 01 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2011-2012 – Consideration in Committee – Nunavut Arctic College..... 465

Bill 01 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2011-2012 – Consideration in Committee – Human Resources..... 473

Bill 01 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2011-2012 – Consideration in
Committee – Environment 482

Iqaluit, Nunavut**Wednesday, March 9, 2011****Members Present:**

Honourable Eva Aariak, Honourable James Arreak, Honourable Tagak Curley, Mr. Ron Elliott, Honourable Lorne Kusugak, Mr. John Ningark, Mr. Johnny Ningeongan, Honourable Paul Okalik, Honourable Keith Peterson, Mr. Allan Rumbolt, Mr. Fred Schell, Honourable Daniel Shewchuk, Mr. Louis Tapardjuk, Honourable Peter Taptuna, Honourable Hunter Tootoo, Ms. Jeannie Ugyuk.

Item 1: Opening Prayer

Speaker (Hon. Paul Okalik) (interpretation): Thank you, Sergeant-at-Arms. I would like to ask Mr. Ningark to say the opening prayer.

>> *Prayer*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Good afternoon. The first item is Ministers' Statements. Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements**Minister's Statement 026 – 3(3): NHC Governance**

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I spoke recently of the Nunavut Housing Corporation's determination to do the right thing and to work hard to restore the trust of Nunavutmiut.

Mr. Speaker, today I will speak about cabinet's recent decision to amend the Nunavut Housing Corporation's legislation for the creation of a board of directors. This decision represents a

fundamental change to the structure of the Nunavut Housing Corporation which will strengthen its governance and oversight. Mr. Speaker, this process is well underway.

Mr. Speaker, as highlighted by the Auditor General in her 2008 report on the Nunavut Housing Corporation, a board of directors will strengthen oversight over the corporation's risk management capacity and its overall performance and ensure a more comprehensive approach to the corporation's strategic direction.

In addition to creating a new board of directors, we are also restructuring the housing corporation's senior management to ensure a more focused administration of the Nunavut Housing Corporation's operations. The reorganization of the Nunavut Housing Corporation's senior management will ensure the president has the proper structure and support to effectively run the organization. This will allow the president to better concentrate on accessing additional investments to address Nunavut's housing needs.

Mr. Speaker, both the creation of a board of directors and the restructuring of the Nunavut Housing Corporation's senior management demonstrate the Nunavut Housing Corporation's and this government's commitment to transparency and accountability.

Mr. Speaker, I trust I have successfully conveyed a clear message to my colleagues in the House. This government and the Nunavut Housing Corporation are prepared to do the work and continue to keep the real target in sight. We will continue to tackle the

staggering housing challenges faced by Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation.

**Minister's Statement 027 – 3(3):
Upcoming 14th Nunavut Mining
Symposium**

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, colleagues and Nunavummiut. Mr. Speaker, I would like to remind my colleagues and interested members of the public that the next Nunavut Mining Symposium will be held in Iqaluit this coming April 5 to 7. The mining symposium is the largest and now one of the longest running annual events in Nunavut, with some 400 to 500 delegates expected to attend. Delegates represent all of the major companies, Nunavut organizations, agencies, non-governmental organizations, service providers, and many hamlets from across the territory, including companies from around the country and around the world.

The symposium will follow a now established and successful format, with a full slate of talks on the Tuesday and Thursday of the symposium and a trade show on the Wednesday. The 2011 symposium has as its theme, "Going Global," in recognition of the growing trend of major international mining companies now investing in Nunavut. Our own governmental mandate, *Tamapta*, highlights the importance of "enhancing our recognition in Canada and the world." Nunavut may not be well known in many of the capitals of

the world, but in the mining industry capitals like Toronto, Vancouver, Denver, London, and Johannesburg, Nunavut is definitely on the map.

Mr. Speaker, both my department and INAC are founding and annual sponsors of the Nunavut Mining Symposium. We regard support of the symposium as money well spent in building the key event for operators and stakeholders to come together, share information, do business, or come to an understanding. The mining symposium is run by an independent society, by professionals drawn from industry, government, and Nunavut organizations like NTI. The symposium has achieved a professional status rivalling that of any provincial or state meeting and has become a "must go" date on the calendar for anyone working with the Nunavut mineral industry.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage all persons interested in any aspect of the industry to attend the next symposium, a genuinely made-in-Nunavut event. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. (interpretation ends) I look forward to attending. (interpretation) Minister of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth.

**Minister's Statement 028 – 3(3):
Comprehensive Implementation
Plan**

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon to the people of Clyde River. Qikiqtarjuaq residents still cannot watch

the proceedings on television, so I do not say “good day” to them.

>>*Laughter*

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, our language legislation is complex, so will be its implementation. Under the leadership of my predecessor, the former Minister of Languages, Mr. Louis Tapardjuk, a remarkable advocate for the Inuit language and culture, Nunavummiut have been consulted on a number of occasions.

Departments of the Government of Nunavut and public agencies have also developed language plans to identify programs and services to ensure compliance with the language legislation – *Official Language Act* and *Inuit Language Protection Act*.

I am pleased to inform my colleagues that we are now in the final development stage of the government’s comprehensive implementation plan. A draft version of the plan will tabled for MLA and stakeholder review in the spring of 2011. This will ensure that we keep in line with our legal obligations to involve Inuit in the setting of priorities and consult with other language stakeholders.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, it is my intention to meet with leaders of Inuit organizations to discuss the government’s comprehensive implementation plan, as well as to present the plan to the French language community, business community, and municipalities. I have extended my invitation to the federal government to participate in this review process.

After considering all feedback relevant to the plan and subject to any additional changes, a final version of the comprehensive implementation plan will be submitted to cabinet for review and approval. I anticipate the tabling of the final comprehensive implementation plan to occur in the fall of 2011. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Education.

Minister’s Statement 029 – 3(3): Multiple Options

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to inform my colleagues about an exciting development in the Department of Education’s work in expanding the multiple options program in Nunavut schools.

In January, officials from cultural and heritage organizations across Nunavut met in Iqaluit to finalize plans for a history, heritage and culture graduation option to broaden students’ learning opportunities. Inuit Heritage Trust has been a major partner in this initiative and their work in helping to determine course expectations, career pathways, and locate learning resources has been invaluable.

There are six planned multiple options streams, each with their own advisory group – introduction to trades and engineering, community caregiving and family studies, fine arts and crafts, information technology, entrepreneurship and small business studies, and history, heritage and culture.

Schools and district education authorities will work with communities to determine the most appropriate options to offer in their schools based on local employment opportunities and students' interests. The Department of Education is working with Nunavut Arctic College to ensure links from secondary option courses to post-secondary programs in the territory.

Mr. Speaker, multiple options will provide a grade 12 graduation opportunity for every student based on an area of specialization and interest. Providing greater opportunity and enhancing prospects for our high school learners is a priority for the Government of Nunavut. The multiple options program will certainly open doors for our students and their bright futures. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Ministers' Statements. There being none. Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Amittuq.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 040 – 3(3): Pangaggujjiniq Nunavut Quest 2011

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): A very good afternoon to you, Mr. Speaker, along with my esteemed colleagues. Every spring in the Amittuq and the High Arctic region... Personally I believe that the High Arctic communities should be termed *Tiksittuq*. When an airplane is flying, we term it "*Quttiktuq*", but when one is talking

about the land, we should not call them *Quttiktuq*. I'll call them *Tiksittuq*.

The Pangaggujjiniq group has, every year since 1999 when Nunavut was created, celebrated the Nunavut Quest with dog teams coming from Arctic Bay, Pond Inlet, Clyde River, Igloolik, Hall Beach, and Repulse Bay. Mr. Speaker, this celebration is exactly the same age as the Territory of Nunavut, celebrating the traditional Inuit customs and culture, as well as our traditional transportation means. They don't just celebrate their customs and culture, but they try to retain these traditional skills.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to notify that the Pangaggujjiniq group will be setting off from Repulse Bay on April 6 and are scheduled to arrive in Hall Beach on April 13. Again, Mr. Speaker, it will be interesting to see who the lead team is. There are three main dog team owners from Igloolik who are preparing for the trip to Repulse Bay. They are Joanasi Sarpinak, Lukie Airut, and Samuelie Amaaq. They have made the preparations to go to Repulse Bay as they want to partake. I would like to remind the representatives from Repulse Bay, Arctic Bay, Pond Inlet, and Clyde River to watch out for Igloolik because they may win this Nunavut Quest again. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Member. Member for Quttiktuq.

Member's Statement 041 – 3(3): Nutrition North Canada Program

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to express my support for the

Government of Canada's decision to make adjustments to the Nutrition North Canada Program.

Mr. Speaker, I was in attendance at this morning's news conference that was held in Iqaluit. As members may be aware, the federal government has announced that it has "expanded the list of foods eligible for subsidy from the Government of Canada to include all food, as well as most non-food items until October 2012." The government has also stated that it is "continuing to explore additional options to assist retailers and suppliers in adjusting to the new program and will be announcing those shortly."

Mr. Speaker, as you know, one of the issues that many of my colleagues have focused on is the importance of recognizing that many essential non-food items are exactly that, essential. These include such products as diapers and dental care items, all of which are necessary components of healthy lifestyles.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank our Member of Parliament and the Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs for having listened and acted. I think that this is an excellent example of what we can achieve when we all work together and I want to again note the work of all Members of this House in raising awareness of the concerns of our constituents. I also want to thank all of my constituents in Grise Fiord, Resolute Bay, and Arctic Bay who have been talking with me in recent months about their concerns.

I think that today's news shows all of our constituents across the territory that

it is important to speak up, ask questions, and stay positive. We can make a difference. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Member for Arviat.

Member's Statement 042 – 3(3): Clean Water for Arviarmiut

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, I would like to say "hello" to all of my constituents in Arviat.

Mr. Speaker, I want to assure all of my constituents that I'm fully aware of the water situation in Arviat. I'm in constant communication with the mayor and the council on a daily basis to stay informed about the situation. I also want to assure residents that the water being delivered is safe. I also want to inform all that I'm working closely with the hamlet council. With the assistance of my colleague and the Department of CG&S, we will continue to deal with the situation to ensure that Arviarmiut are supplied with a clean, safe water source for utilization. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you. I appreciate the member in heeding my advice about wearing better attire for our Assembly and hopefully in the future, he will continue to practice my advice because I noticed his team didn't fare very well when he wore that tie.

(interpretation) Member for Akulliq.

**Member's Statement 043 – 3(3):
Medical Travel Concerns**

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I expect, along with the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, the changes that he alluded to in his statement.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to follow up on an issue raised by my colleague from Nanulik, which are the difficult travelling conditions faced by our elders and our disabled and chronically ill medical clients.

Mr. Speaker, despite the fact that there are direct flights to some of our smaller communities from the larger centres, our medical travel clients are often placed on flights that stop in every community along the way. It can be a very long and uncomfortable trip, especially for those who have mobility problems or less stamina.

Mr. Speaker, I recognize that the Department of Health and Social Services has initiated an RFP process for new medical travel contracts across all three regions, namely, the Baffin, the Kivalliq, and the Kitikmeot. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask that the minister and his officials give some consideration to including conditions in the new contracts which would improve the situation, especially for elders and those who are chronically ill or disabled.

Mr. Speaker, I am not asking that these individuals be given first class tickets every time they travel for medical care.

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

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. The member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Are there any nays? There are none. You may proceed.

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleagues for that.

However, I am simply suggesting that better options should be given to our elders and others, like cancer patients for example, who tire quickly or get sick easily. We now have flights almost every day and many of them are direct. I feel that greater efforts could be made to ensuring that our elders, our disabled, and our chronically ill get home more quickly and more comfortably than they do now.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage the minister and his officials to give careful consideration to addressing this need during the upcoming round of contract negotiations for medical travel. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. There are no more hands up. Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Nanulik.

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Mr. Ningeongan (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to acknowledge an individual from Coral Harbour. Mr. Willie Nakoolak has been very instrumental in working with the HTO in Coral Harbour and he is also a member of the Nunavut Wildlife

Management Board. In particular, he has been very instrumental with the men's group in Coral Harbour. I ask that we acknowledge Mr. Willie Nakoolak from Coral Harbour. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome to the Gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. I thank the member for wearing a beautiful looking tie today. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Akulliq.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 073 – 3(3): RFP for Medical Travel

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you. I have tried to make my tie acceptable to you, Mr. Speaker, because you can be quite fearful when you are talking about attire. Thank you.

I would like to direct my question to my friend, the (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister for Health and Social Services.

(interpretation) When you are working out the details of this RFP for the renewal of the medical travel contract for air ambulances and I believe for other flights, will you ensure that the focus will be the comfort of those elderly patients who suffer the most? The focus should be on those who suffer from real illnesses, such as people stricken with cancer. Can you ensure that health prevention is at the top of that list so that the planes are more comfortable? In some areas, the flights have a number of stopovers while others have more direct flights. Will you keep

those in mind when you are negotiating the contract? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Health.

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I totally understand where the member is coming from. We want to ensure that comfort is one of the key criteria for the RFP and I'm working with the experts in the Department of CG&S. We have looked at the areas that need improvement and we will keep the concern of the member in mind. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Member for Nanulik.

Question 074 – 3(3): Small Craft Harbours

Mr. Ningeongan (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation.

Just prior to asking my question, I would like to ask the Member for Arviat to look this way. I am wondering why he is not wearing his Boston tie today.

>> *Laughter*

(interpretation ends) As the minister is aware, the 2006 study that was jointly completed by the GN and the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans identified seven communities where small craft harbours should be constructed, including Chesterfield Inlet.

During yesterday's proceedings of the Committee of the Whole, members were advised by the minister's officials that

the GN is currently lobbying the federal government for the necessary funding to construct small craft harbours in our communities. The community of Qikiqtarjuaq was specifically identified during the testimony that we heard. Can the minister provide further clarification on why this specific community appears to be the department's current focus? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Transportation.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. In Nunavut, we have consistently said that the responsibility of small craft harbours is under DFO. DFO does have that jurisdiction, but we jointly prepared with DFO a small craft harbours report which was completed a few years ago and it mainly was on fishing. We still consistently say that the responsibility is, of course, with DFO.

The other matter of fact is that we do deal with some of these landing harbours for resupplying into these communities; we do include these as priorities for community resupply.

Of course, talking about the report, we have some of the designing and planning completed for at least seven communities for the marine projects. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Your supplementary, Member for Nanulik.

Mr. Ningeongan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I imagine that the minister would very much enjoy being able to make a statement in this House in which

he announced that the federal government had given him a cheque with which to construct all of the small craft harbours that were recommended in the report. Can the minister indicate whether he has personally had discussions with his federal counterpart on this issue? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Transportation.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Not since December. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Your second supplementary, Member for Nanulik.

Mr. Ningeongan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For the past several years, the Legislative Assembly has approved an annual budget for his department to go towards the construction of small craft harbours. I know that this amount has been used to demonstrate to Ottawa that we are prepared to contribute our share. Can the minister give us a realistic sense today of whether the current federal government will be providing the necessary funding to construct small craft harbours in all of the communities that were originally identified in the joint report that the GN and DFO prepared? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Transportation.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. With a small amount of funds set aside annually for small craft harbours, it's usually a small amount

that we can't really build anything on when we talk about small craft harbours.

As an example, just for the Iqaluit Marine Facility, it's estimated to cost around \$90 million. For Qikiqtarjuaq, it's anywhere between \$15 million and \$20 million. For Clyde River, a small craft harbour is estimated to be between \$15 million and \$20 million, and the list goes on; Pond Inlet, \$30 million, and these are just estimates.

So with a small annual budget of \$500,000, we're hoping that we can use that budget to actually get some work done on the designing of these small craft harbours within these communities and initiate that work so that the federal government and DFO can actually jump in there and help us out with infrastructure that's sorely needed in our Nunavut communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Oral Questions. There are no more hands up. (interpretation ends) Item 7. (interpretation) Written Questions. (interpretation ends) Item 8. (interpretation) Returns to Written Questions. (interpretation ends) Item 9. (interpretation) Replies to Opening Address. (interpretation ends) Item 10. (interpretation) Replies to Budget Address. (interpretation ends) Item 11. (interpretation) Petitions. (interpretation ends) Item 12. (interpretation) Responses to Petitions. (interpretation ends) Item 13. (interpretation) Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters. Member for Nanulik.

Item 13: Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters

Committee Report 002 – 3(3): Bill 3, An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act

Mr. Ningeongan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to report that Bill 3, *An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act*, has been reviewed by the Standing Committee on Legislation and that the bill is ready for consideration in Committee of the Whole.

Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to waive Rule 68(6) and have Bill 3 immediately moved into the Committee of the Whole. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Member. The member is asking for unanimous consent to waive Rule 68(6) and have Bill 3 immediately moved into the Committee of the Whole. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Bill 3 will be immediately moved into the Committee of the Whole.

(interpretation ends) Item 13. (interpretation) Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters. (interpretation ends) Item 14. (interpretation) Tabling of Documents. Minister of Community and Government Services.

Item 14: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 027 – 3(3): 2010 Annual Report from the Office of the Fire Marshal

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table

the 2010 Annual Report from the Office of the Fire Marshal. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation.

Tabled Document 028 – 3(3): Nunavut Business Credit Corporation Business Plan 2010-2013

Tabled Document 029 – 3(3): Nunavut Business Credit Corporation Business Plan 2011-2014

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation's business plans for 2010-13 and 2011-14. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Minister of Environment.

Tabled Document 030 – 3(3): Canadian Council of Fisheries and Aquaculture (CCFAM) and the Atlantic Council of Fisheries and Aquaculture

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table the Canadian Council of Fisheries and Aquaculture (CCFAM) and the Atlantic Council of Fisheries and Aquaculture meeting in St. John's, Newfoundland, November 2010. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Tabling of Documents. Madam Premier.

Tabled Document 031 – 3(3): Merit-based Salary Increases and One-time Performance-based Bonus Payments to Senior Managers 2007-2010

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I am pleased to table the summaries of merit-based salary increases and one-time performance-based bonus payments awarded to senior managers for each of the three fiscal years from 2007 to 2010. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister of Finance.

Tabled Document 032 – 3(3): Shared Directional Statement 2010-2011

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table the Shared Directional Statement 2010-2011 between the Nunavut Minister of Justice and the Nunavut RCMP Commanding Officer. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister of Health.

Tabled Document 033 – 3(3): Nunavut Housing Corporation Contracting Report for the Year Ended March 31, 2010

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise as the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation to table the contracting report for the year ended March 31, 2010. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Tabling of Documents.

(interpretation ends) Item 15.
 (interpretation) Notices of Motions.
 (interpretation ends) Item 16.
 (interpretation) Notices of Motions for
 First Reading of Bills. (interpretation
 ends) Item 17. (interpretation) Motions.
 Member for Quttiktuq.

Item 17: Motions

Motion 002 – 3(3): Referral of Tabled Documents 248 – 3(2), 249 – 3(2), 251 – 3(2), 274 – 3(2), 275 – 3(2)

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

WHEREAS the Government of Nunavut's most recent annual reports on its procurement, contracting and leasing activities have been tabled in the Legislative Assembly;

AND WHEREAS similar information concerning the Qulliq Energy Corporation's activities has also been tabled in the Legislative Assembly;

AND WHEREAS Members of the Legislative Assembly have raised a number of concerns and questions with respect to these activities;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the Hon. Member for South Baffin, that Tabled Document 248 – 3(2), *Government of Nunavut 2009-2010 Contract Activity Report*; Tabled Document 249 – 3(2), *Government of Nunavut 2009-2010 Lease Activity Report*; Tabled Document 251 – 3(2), *Government of Nunavut 2009-2010 Procurement Activity Report*; Tabled Document 274 – 3(2), *Qulliq Energy Corporation 2008-2009 Lease, Contract and Procurement Activity Report*; and Tabled Document 275 – 3(2), *Qulliq*

Energy Corporation 2009-2010 Lease, Contract and Procurement Activity Report be referred to the Committee of the Whole for concurrent consideration.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Member. The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour. Opposed. Abstained. The motion is carried.

(interpretation ends) Item 17.
 (interpretation) Motions. (interpretation ends) Item 18. (interpretation) First Reading of Bills. (interpretation ends) Item 19. (interpretation) Second Reading of Bills. Item 20. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bills 1, 3, 4, and 5, and Tabled Documents 248 – 3(2), 249 – 3(2), 251 – 3(2), 274 – 3(2), and 275 – 3(2) with the Member for Nanulik in the Chair.

In accordance with the authority provided to me by Motion 1 – 3(3), the Committee of the Whole will stay in session until it reports itself out. We will immediately proceed to Committee of the Whole, and you can take a break when you please. Thank you.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

Item 20: Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters

Chairman (Mr. Ningeongan) (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) I would like to call the committee meeting to order. In Committee of the Whole, we have the following items to deal with: Bills 1, 3,

4, and 5, and Tabled Documents 248 – 3(2), 249 – 3(2), 251 – 3(2), 274 – 3(2), and 275 – 3(2). What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We wish to continue with the review of Bill 1 and commence with the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth, followed by the Nunavut Arctic College. We will then continue with the following departments: the Department of Human Resources, the Department of Environment, the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, and if time permits, the Legislative Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Are we in agreement that we first deal with Bill 1 and the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth?

Some Members: Agreed.

Bill 01 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2011-2012 – Consideration in Committee – Culture, Language, Elders and Youth

Chairman: Thank you. I would now like to ask the Minister of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth, Mr. Arreak, to make his opening remarks.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. A very good afternoon, Mr. Chairman and my colleagues, as well as our audience.

Mr. Chairman, this is my first appearance before the Committee of the Whole as the newest member of the cabinet, although I'm not the youngest. I

am honoured to appear before the Committee of the Whole.

In preparation of the business plan and the main estimates, my officials relied on a number of government priorities and strategic directions, including *Tamapta* and *Qanukkanniq* Report Card, and legal obligations as mandated by the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut.

The Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth (Iliqqusilirijikkut) holds the leadership role within the Government of Nunavut for the preservation, development, and enhancement of Nunavut's culture, heritage, languages, and healthy living opportunities for Nunavummiut.

This year's budget remains much the same as last year's with two exceptions; there have been increases to the budgets for Piquusilirivvik and sport and recreation. The total budget increase for sport and recreation is \$800,000. This increase is for the Arctic Winter Games one-time funding for 2011-12. The total budget increase for Piquusilirivvik is \$2,520,000. This increase is for 13 new positions and for the operation of the cultural learning facility, which is scheduled to open this spring. We are planning to have an opening ceremony in the spring.

I would also like to take this opportunity to clarify the timeline of one of the department's most significant initiatives. During 2010-11, we have done considerable work on the development of the comprehensive implementation plan for the Language Acts. Work continues in this area. I will be tabling a draft comprehensive implementation plan during the upcoming spring session

to provide a progress report to the Members of this House and the public. We will then present the draft plan to stakeholders for their additional input. The stakeholders will include:

- Representatives of Inuit organizations, including Nunavut Tunngavik and the regional Inuit associations
- Representatives of francophones
- Representatives of businesses and municipalities
- Nunavut's Languages Commissioner
- Federal Department of Canadian Heritage

I anticipate being able to submit the final plan to my cabinet colleagues for approval by early fall, which will allow for the tabling of the final comprehensive plan during the fall session.

I would be pleased to answer any questions that you might have. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arreak. (interpretation ends) Do you have witnesses that you would like to bring to the table?

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I do.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Arreak. Does the committee agree to bring in the witnesses?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Sergeant-at-Arms, can you please escort the minister and his officials to the witness table.

Thank you and welcome. For the record, Minister Arreak, please introduce your witnesses.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my right is Deputy Minister Simon Awa and to my left is Director of Corporate Services Nikki Nweze. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Arreak. Welcome and thank you for being here. (interpretation ends) Does the Chair of the Standing Committee on Social Wellness have comments? Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to deliver the standing committee's opening comments as we begin consideration of the 2011-12 main estimates and business plan of the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth.

The Standing Committee on Social Wellness notes that the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth is proposing to increase its budget for 2011-12 to \$27,892,000, which is \$4 million more than the department's approved budget for the 2010-11 fiscal year.

The standing committee has noted that the amount of funding proposed for the department's Language Bureau Division has increased significantly since the minister's appearance before the committee to discuss his department's draft main estimates for 2011-12. Members fully support the addition of more positions to this division as the government begins to fully implement the requirements of the *Inuit Language*

Protection Act and the Official Languages Act. The standing committee looks forward to when the minister, in his capacity as Minister of Languages, will table the comprehensive implementation plan for the languages legislation in the Legislative Assembly.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to take this opportunity to pay sincere tribute to the fine work of interpreters and translators across all government departments and agencies. In particular, Mr. Chairman, I would like to commend our own Legislative Assembly interpreters for the highly professional work that they do in this House.

>> *Applause*

Not only do they have to be proficient in parliamentary terminology and procedure, but, as we all know, the subjects with which they must be familiar can be extremely diverse.

Mr. Chairman, the standing committee strongly encourages the minister to work closely with his colleague, the Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College, to ensure that resources are made available for the training and certification of interpreter/translators with specialization in such areas as parliamentary, medical and legal terminology.

Mr. Chairman, there is also a significant increase in funding for one of the department's key initiatives for 2011-12, which is the opening of Piqusilirivvik, the new Inuit cultural school in Clyde River. Members encourage the minister and his officials to ensure that the Piqusilirivvik is staffed as soon as possible so that there are no delays in

accepting students and delivering the courses.

During the minister's appearance before the standing committee, members were pleased to learn of the number of language and culture related initiatives that have been undertaken by the department. Committee members encourage the minister to ensure that all three regions across Nunavut have equal opportunities to participate in and contribute to these initiatives.

The committee has noted that one of the department's priorities for the 2011-12 fiscal year is to establish the Inuit Uqausinginnik Taigusiliuqtiit (Inuit Language Authority) as an independent public agency that is at arm's length from the Government of Nunavut. Committee members are somewhat concerned that the necessary planning decisions may not all be made in time for the projected September 2011 deadline.

Mr. Chairman, the standing committee recognizes that the department has a number of programs, initiatives, and services to support Nunavut elders. Members applaud the department's efforts to collect and pass on traditional knowledge to our youth. Committee members would appreciate receiving further detail on the elders' hotline operated by the department. The standing committee recommends that the type and nature of calls to the hotline be analyzed in order to determine the kinds of programming and support that elders are requesting and to direct funding accordingly.

Committee members note the ongoing work towards supporting Nunavut

heritage programs. A number of Nunavut artefacts are still being stored in the Northwest Territories. Members still look forward to any news regarding the repatriation of these exhibits.

Mr. Chairman, during the minister's most recent appearance before the standing committee, members were pleased to note that the department was working on a report that will provide information and detail on the results of projects which have been funded through the department's grant and contribution funding process. Members look forward to this report being tabled in the House.

As members are aware, the responsibility for sport and recreation continues to fall under the department's mandate. Members were pleased to note an increase in funding for travel and transportation, which will support Nunavut's athletes in participating in such events as the Arctic Winter Games. Members were interested to note that the organization "Sport Nunavut" is no longer an independent organization and that all programs are now coordinated from within the department's Sport and Recreation Division. Members continue to look forward to updates on the possibility of transferring this division to the Department of Community and Government Services.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my opening comments. Other members may have their own comments and concerns as we proceed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. I suggest to members that wherever possible you ask your detailed questions

during the page-by-page review of the departmental estimates. I would like to ask if any members have any general comments. Mr. Tapardjuk.

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to welcome the Minister of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth. He is my *Annuraaqatik*. It's a kinship name that we have, but the clothes I bought are too loose because I lost weight, but that was why we called each other *Annuraaqatik*. I welcome your deputy, whom I term *Tuqqarviuqatik*. I also worked with the deputy on Inuit *Qaujimajatuqangit*. There was an elder, Mary Ekho, who asked me to call her *Tuqqavik*, so I termed her that in reverence of her age. While we are reviewing the department, I won't use the kinship name today.

I was quite happy to hear the report presented that outlines the plans being undertaken and one of their stated purposes is to use *Tamapta* priorities and strategic directions and the *Qanukkanniq* Report Card. But due to the fact that they have the lead role with respect to Inuit customs and practices that are to be incorporated into government operations, how exactly will they accomplish it? Is there a committee of government departmental representatives? I didn't see any reference to these items.

How will you, playing the lead role, institute more Inuit friendly practices within the government operations? Obviously the priority is to fulfill government duties and I know that for a fact. Another matter that I want to understand is whether they have a committee of interdepartmental representatives that will support these

initiatives. How exactly are they compassionate about the problems faced by our people, especially for patients who have to travel down south for medical purposes?

When patients are sent down south, it's culturally and traditionally alien in its operations. When you are an Inuk who grew up traditionally, you can't comprehend the bureaucratic culture and how it operates as an entity. Due to this reason, practices and operations have to become more Inuit-centric and less alien to Inuit. I would like to find out what the goal is within this context as I would like to get more information during the general questions for this review.

However, with respect to the future operations, I'm somewhat concerned by the funding levels. For example, the Inuit Language Authority will have over \$2 million in their budget and it seems that their funding allocations have been increased, but we have also been informed that the Inuit Language Authority will eventually become an independent body some time in October, as it states in the report. Now, for the Piqqusilirivvik centre, which is currently under the department, do they have the same goal for the eventual independence of the centre? These are the types of issues that I would like to be informed about.

Furthermore, I have a concern about this matter. If we were to look a decade down the line, will there still be a need for a culture, language, elders and youth department in light of the stated goal of relinquishing certain aspects of the departmental mandate? For example, language would be separate, cultural events and recreation may also become

irrelevant during that time, although currently we expend a large portion of the budget to fund these events.

How committed is the government to the goals with the current departmental mandates? Is the government feeling that these are just a nuisance? For example, when your stated goal is to relinquish these bodies down the line and once they are independent, culture and language would no longer have government monitoring it.

These are my concerns with respect to the report. I will use my time later on to ask questions, but I wanted to make my comments about what concerns may crop up if this is the desired approach. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tapardjuk. There was no question in there, but I would like to ask Minister Arreak if he would like to respond to the comments.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. He said that he would ask questions later on, but with respect to the mandate of the Department of CLEY, I do not believe that it will become worrisome even if we relinquish the authority to make them independent, insofar as they are able to become independent.

With respect to the other matters he mentioned, we will continue to work on the priorities as stated in the report. The member also asked whether or not there was a committee established that would lead the process. We already have a committee in the GN that works on Inuit terminology and language matters. We also have an IQ committee that oversees

the compilation of the *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit* data, and this committee also deals with linguistic matters as they are our experts and our committee members.

I believe that this committee has existed for three years now, at least the committee members are appointed for three years to serve on this IQ committee. And further, there is also separate committee that advises the GN on Inuit cultural issues and these members are also acknowledged experts.

We also have the Inuit Language Authority, which is set to become an independent body in September. Although concern was expressed with respect to the completion of the preparations towards this goal based on the opening comments, we continue to move ahead with our plans to make the Inuit Language Authority an arms length body and independent from the department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth. Even when they become independent, it seems obvious to me that our department will continue to work with them on all matters related to their legislated authority.

At this point in time, the first priority of the Inuit Language Authority is to develop a medical terminology reference book for patients who need to understand what the medical terms used by nurses and doctors are. Further, this will also help list medicines that are used in the health system. That is the first priority of the Inuit Language Authority.

When we reach the general questions section of this review, I will be glad to answer questions from the committee

members. That concludes my response. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you Minister Arreak. I have no more names on my list for general comments at this time. We will move on to the page-by-page review. We will go to page F-4. (interpretation ends) Culture, Language, Elders and Youth. Branch Summary. Directorate. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$3,038,000. Mr. Tapardjuk.

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In your 2011-14 business plan, it indicates that your department will produce an annual report that will include statistics, pictures, and descriptions of successful projects that have been funded and delivered through your department's grants and contributions program.

My question is: what kinds of reporting requirements are currently requested of groups receiving funding from your department? I imagine there are groups that get funded via contribution agreements. So when the funding has been expended and the department requires some accounting of the funds, what types of reporting requirements are included? Can you provide some information on the current reporting or accounting requirements that you impose on the groups that you fund? What are your current requirements with respect to reporting on funds? That is what I would like to understand, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also wish to

thank my previous *Annuraaqatik* for his question. I also enjoy his appreciation for the idea of an annual report to include pictures of our successes. We expect that this annual report will be a successful endeavour and instead of tedious reports only, it can show projects and the successful ideas that produced results. Pictures can provide a better medium for those who prefer to see pictures. We are checking to see if this can become a successful initiative to highlight successful projects.

With respect to the member's question on the grants and contribution program and reporting requirements; we require a report for all contribution agreements funded by our department. We also request financial reports at six months and also at year-end. The reporting requirement is for funding provided via contributions and for groups that receive grants, we do not request any detailed reports on the use of the funds. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Arreak. Mr. Tapardjuk, I believe that you have lost the title, *Annuraaqatik*, but you may proceed.

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Indeed, I am sorry to hear I have lost the endearment term. I will try to recoup that term, especially after we have completed this session and I want to let you know that.

In the 2009-2010 fiscal year, your department spent close to \$7 million on grants and contributions. Was it given to the appropriate groups that require assistance? Was it spent on largely on superficial things? I would like to know how you determine the success of this

funding to these groups. I would like to get clarification.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Tapardjuk. Minister Arreak.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, the government funding for grants and contributions is to fund groups and we need to account for these public funds.

I can state that yes, the \$7 million was used productively throughout the territory. As the members know, we receive funding requests from all over. This year, there were 715 applicants and we provided funding to 486 applicants through the contribution funding program. Yes, these funds have been used quite properly. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you. Within your budget estimates, it speaks to computer related actions in the plan. It states that your departmental website will include a schedule or calendar of events available via computer. With respect to this website information with the calendar of events, will this provide a service to people who wish to learn about the upcoming events, Mr. Chairman?

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

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am uncertain as to exactly what the member is referring to. We can try to provide more details once the member clarifies

the item. Can the member clarify his question as to which website he is referring to? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Arreak. Mr. Tapardjuk, if you can rephrase your question.

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Your business plan notes that your updated departmental website will include a calendar of public events and deadlines, that is, the Department of CLEY's website. It states that your department will be updating the website throughout the year and it will include details specific to each month and events, meetings and the like would be listed on this website. I imagine that this website already exists.

Does the website provide any assistance to the public? I wanted to know if this website has provided results. I hope that this clarifies my question, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank you for the clarification, my colleague, as it is now understandable. This project has been completed and the new website is in place right now. Indeed, people are now starting to utilize the website, and people can search for information on future events. The website also includes information on programs and services, as well as a calendar of events that is updated frequently.

The website is running and it is currently up to date. If you were to visit the website, it is a very nice website and you

will be able to notice that it is up to date. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Arreak. I have no more names on my list. We are on page F-4. (interpretation ends) Culture, Language, Elders and Youth. Branch Summary. Directorate. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$3,038,000. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Go to page F-5. (interpretation ends) Branch Summary. Culture, Language, Elders and Youth. Official Languages. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$4,234,000. Mr. Tapardjuk.

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In your business plan, it seems that the funding will be decreased by \$110,000, especially after the *Official Languages Act* was enacted. I would like to raise this question. In your business plan, with respect to official languages, it states that the language services are funded through an agreement between Nunavut and Canada for French language services and to assist the Inuit language services.

The amount that we receive from the federal government to provide language services seems to be decreasing. I want to know if the funds have indeed decreased for 2011-12 fiscal year. Can you explain how this decrease is justified, especially as we require more funding to provide language services and in light of our future negotiations? Will the federal government be providing more funding assistance for these language services that the Department of

CLEY has to offer in both French and Inuktitut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's not decreasing; it seems to have decreased because it was utilized last year when they held a conference of experts to talk about official languages.

They ended up using \$110,000 for that meeting which was a one time meeting, so it's not going to occur again. That is why there was a decrease. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Yes, my other question is the *Official Languages Act* has been enacted and is being implemented. What is the position of the federal government that provides funding for official language services? Do you believe they will increase the funding for the official languages services, especially in relation to Inuktitut language services?

We know that it's going to be expensive to implement the *Official Languages Act*, especially incorporating Inuktitut into government operations. This will require a lot of funds to properly implement this legislation. How can the federal government assist our government to fund these language services? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In my Minister's Statement, I spoke to our approach on this matter. As I stated, I will be providing an interim report soon and a full report hopefully in the fall session on this issue.

I believe that the federal government will be able to provide more assistance in this area. Once we start negotiating with the government to implement the *Official Language Act* language services, we will be discussing the funding. At this time, I believe it is only set at \$2.55 million.

This fund is provided by the federal government for both French and Inuktitut language services. This fund is shared by these two language services and to fund certain positions related to providing these services. Yes, we will renegotiate with the federal government to try and make the funding more appropriate to our larger responsibilities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you for the clarification. We expect to see that funding increased in the future. Perhaps we can envision ways to strengthen the Inuit language, especially when we talk about using Inuktitut in the government bureaucracy.

Further, your plan states that you will be looking at establishing committees in the communities. For example, let's use Igloodik for this scenario. You state that committees will be established to deal with languages in every community.

What is the status of this initiative, Mr. Chairman?

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

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are still planning on establishing these language committees, and we have gone to one community in Mr. Rumbolt's riding. It is still in the planning stages. The language committees will be established under the municipality system.

Alternatively, if the hamlet is unable to establish one immediately, we would want to work with them on the preparations to establish these language committees. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the minister. Obviously, it looks like the initiative is ongoing and as it progresses; I know that the communities will be kept apprised.

In my constituency, in particular in the community of Hall Beach, they are clamouring for a languages committee, especially since they had a prior committee that reported on these issues in the community. We will await the progression of this initiative.

You also mentioned in your plan with respect to official languages, there will be classes offered for employees. What type of language proficiency tools does the department use in cases where GN employees wish to learn to speak Inuktitut and they enrol in language

classes? How do you determine their fluency?

I believe it was during this winter when I noted a CBC News reference to non-Inuit GN employees taking these Inuit language classes. That is very commendable and good to hear on the news. I was quite proud of the individuals who want to learn Inuktitut, as only a small portion of the *Qallunaat* who move here ever bother trying to learn the language. How can you determine the language proficiency of these employees?

Yes, the person is now adept at the language and has become eligible for the bilingual bonus since they can speak Inuktitut. How do you determine their level of fluency? As an example, when taking courses, generally a test to determine the grade in the particular subject is done. However, we don't have the assessment tools to state that this *Qallunaaq* has reached a specific Inuit grade level. I hope that my question is understandable.

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

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With respect to the member's earlier reference to the wishes of Hall Beach to establish a language committee, our department was able to present our plans to the mayors during the mayors' summit. We informed them of these committees, at least the mayors and representatives who were able to arrive for the meeting.

Furthermore, with regard to GN employees who wish to learn Inuktitut, most of the classes are by the GN

employees who live in that community and operated locally. However, we don't have a grading system to determine proficiency in Inuktitut, but work is progressing on that front. We hope to eventually have assessment tools to determine proficiency and their level of fluency in Inuktitut. It's still under development at this time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you. I know that my colleagues have questions to this department, so I would like to ask this last question, Mr. Chairman.

As you referred to in your opening comments with respect to interpreters and translators are that, especially here in the Legislative Assembly, these positions are critical, especially when members don't speak the same languages. We sometimes don't understand each other, but we all have the right to speak in one of the official languages here in the Legislative Assembly. When we speak in our official languages, it's quite an honour and I'm very proud to be able to speak in my language.

Nonetheless, Mr. Chairman, our most experienced interpreters and translators are aging and many of them are reaching middle age and beyond, including the members here. Furthermore, it is obvious that during the life of this legislature, we will have to replace interpreters and translators many times. At this time, I believe that we don't have any interpreters being trained or a program in place. Some of the

interpreters and translators are quite skilled and experienced in this field.

Will this be reviewed? I would like to see this considered as soon as possible. Has the department considered plans for replacing our current interpreters/translators here in the Legislative Assembly? If you use the office of the Speaker, perhaps you can collaborate with Nunavut Arctic College to provide a program towards these future replacements. Can you work on such a program? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For a second there, I was not too appreciative of my *Annuraaqatik* for implying that we are all getting old.

>> *Laughter*

Yes, with respect to this idea, we would have to work with Nunavut Arctic College to develop a specific program. We would want to work closely with the college on the terminology as well as the curriculum, specific to the Legislative Assembly. We will always require this service in my opinion. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Arreak. Mr. Tapardjuk, are you finished? I have no more names on my list. We're on F-5. (interpretation ends) Branch Summary. Culture, Language, Elders and Youth. Official Languages. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$4,234,000. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. We will go to page F-6. (interpretation ends) Culture, Language, Elders and Youth. Branch Summary. Taiguusiliuqtiit. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$2,048,000. Mr. Tapardjuk.

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you. As I alluded to in my general comments, the language authority is scheduled to become an independent body by 2011.

How could I ask this question? How will you accomplish this separation? Will they become totally independent or will the umbilical cord still be attached to the government placenta? I hope I am being understandable, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, the date for separation is September 18, 2011. Even when they become an independent body, the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth will still provide financial support to the Inuit Language Authority, so it's not an entire separation in that regard.

Additionally, if they need office space, the Department of EIA would provide them with office space. Even though the language authority becomes an independent entity, they will not entirely be at arm's length from the government. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, with this plan to make it an independent agency and with no direct connection to the government department, it would mean the public would be less fearful and perhaps that is the reason.

The Inuit Language Authority, Mr. Chairman, as we have heard through the CBC media, has made some people are unhappy and others seem satisfied, especially when we talk about the standardization of the Inuit language. Which dialect will we, as a government, expect to use to start implementing the standardized terms? What exactly are they standardizing? If the minister can elaborate further so that the listening public can understand. Is it true that the Inuktitut language will be standardized in all of Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Firstly, to try to respond to the member's question, when the language authority becomes their own entity, we will still cooperate with them until they are able to operate on their own. At that time, we will not abandon the agency until they are capable of operating on their own, perhaps in a couple of years.

With respect to the language authority issue of standardizing Inuktitut terminology, I believe that the public misunderstood that we will be using one dialect. As an example, Nunavummiut will not be speaking in the Clyde River dialect, but they will be developing terms for words that have been created

or that have different meanings and standardize the terms for all of Nunavut. For example, we wanted to develop some of our identified priorities, especially the medical terminology, including the names for pharmaceutical medicines.

We are not trying to create one standardized language and we are not trying to create one standardized way of the writing system. We are just trying to strengthen the roman orthography, which is used by the western Arctic and we are looking at strengthening the use of new orthography. We are not trying to get the public to speak in one dialect, such as the Clyde River dialect. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you. So we won't call this paper anymore and call it *Aliilajuuq*, which is a word in a different dialect. Is that true? Is that what standardizing terminology means? We call it *Paippaa* (paper) in the Baffin region and if we are going to talk about paper, then call it that and in Inuktitut, we could standardize it into *Aliilajuuq*. I imagine that these types of details will be debated.

It was mentioned that there is going to be an Inuit Language Authority. I suppose that the authority has its own board, but I didn't see any mention of that in your report. With an independent Taiguusiliuqtiit agency, with respect to the issue of a board of directors, will they continue with that corporate structure or will they review other styles of corporate administration? As an example, the Minister responsible for the

Housing Corporation stated that the NHC will now have a board of directors. That is what I would like to understand at this point, as my colleagues will most likely have other questions to ask. Thank you.

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

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Whether it's *Paippaa* or *Aliilajuuq*, Inuit can still understand each other's dialects, so those types of words are not the issue. However, any recent terms adopted into our language with no actual translation like the word "respect" or other words that have to be explained in order to be understood. We will have to work on the approved terminology of such words. An example is a computer, called a *Qarasaujaq*, which means "functions like a brain," something like that to choose the adoption of new words.

Yes, Taiguusiliuqtiit has its own committee which we are not planning to dissolve and we foresee the need for this committee in the future. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Arreak. I don't have any more names on my list. We're on F-6. (interpretation ends) Culture, Language, Elders and Youth. Branch Summary. Taiguusiliuqtiit. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$2,040,000. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. My colleagues, we will take a 20-minute

break and we will let you know when come back. We will take a short break.

>>*Committee recessed at 15:04 and resumed at 15:36*

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. We can now resume our meeting. We were done with F-6, so we will now proceed to F-7. (interpretation ends) Branch Summary. Culture, Language, Elders and Youth. Culture and Heritage. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$4,494,000. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With regard to public libraries, I know there are quite a few communities that have standalone public libraries and then some communities have a joint public library within their schools. I'm wondering if the minister can comment on whether the new school in Sanikiluaq is going to be a public library or if it's going to be a joint school/public library. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Minister Arreak.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt, for your very good question. At the present time, the local DEA is responsible for the library. It's up to the local DEA whether it should be a public library or a joint school/public library. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Arreak. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In that case, I would like to direct my next question to the Minister

of Education, if I could, please. Is it the school's intention or the Department of Education's intention to have this library as just a school library or will it be a joint public school library? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Minister Tootoo.

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Rumbolt for that question. It's my understanding, as it is right now, it's just part of the school, but I also understand that the DEA and the school and some individuals in the community are looking at forming a board and a society to establish it as a public library in the near future. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Tootoo. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In regard to it becoming a public library, will the local DEA have to submit some kind of... ? You mentioned that they have to become a society. Is that going to have to be the DEA's initiative or will the Department of Education be working with the local DEA and ensure it gets done? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Minister Tootoo.

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't know the intricate details of what it would take, but I'm sure that if the district education authority had decided that they wanted to move it from just being a school library to a public library, officials within the department would assist them

and point them in the right direction to ensure that whatever they need to do to make that happen, that that information would be available to them. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Tootoo. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So at the present time, it's going to be classed as a school library. My next question is: what is your department doing to ensure that it is stocked with adequate and up-to-date books? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Minister Tootoo.

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's my understanding that the staff at the school in Sanikiluaq is in the process of developing a list of necessary resources, including materials for the library, and I believe there is about \$20,000 that has been identified within the project budget for those costs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Tootoo. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Will any of the books from the old junior high school be moved over to the new high school? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Minister Tootoo.

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's my understanding that existing resources that are currently located in the one school for the high

school students and staff will be transferred to the new school. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Tootoo. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have been in the library in the elementary school many times and all of the books seem to be outdated and getting very old. Are there any programs in place to have the books replaced in these libraries? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Minister Tootoo.

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At this point in time, I don't have that information, but I would be more than happy to follow up with the member and provide him with that information. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Tootoo. I have Mr. Tapardjuk.

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In your business plan or at least in past business plans, it described such initiatives as the archaeology field school. There are some archaeologists who do some fieldwork.

We keep hearing about climate change and how global warming is having an impact on the land with the melting permafrost. Now, with respect to historical sites, such as old camp sites or sod huts here in Nunavut, will climate change not impact these sites? How much of a priority is this potential impact, Mr. Chairman? If this is indeed a concern to the department, what will his

department do to meet this challenge? Will CLEY be offering any archaeological related programs in the coming years to protect old camp sites and old artefacts before more erosion damages these sites? I would like him to clarify that, please. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are aware that climate change might have an impact on historical sites. As my *Annuraaqatik* noted as a concern about the protection of these areas, we will keep monitoring these historic sites or archaeological related issues. Artefacts are very important to us and whatever we are required to do to protect the sites, we will continue to try to maintain our protection. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): In the past, we had students in archaeological fieldwork camps that were assisting the archaeologists during the summer break. There were some students who were trained to do archaeological work while earning credits and this program has stopped. I'm wondering if this stoppage has resulted in no more funding or if there are other initiatives being undertaken by his department. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Tapardjuk. Mr. Awa.

Mr. Awa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The question by the

member was with respect to students earning credits by assisting the archaeologists in their fieldwork. The accreditation program for summer break activities is ongoing. However, the complexity of determining the program, the planning, and the logistics for determining a site in Nunavut, given its large size, are what causes the time lag that makes it seem slow. However, it is still running. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Awa. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With regard to archaeology sites, they say that Mother Nature is interfering with a lot of them, but there are also cases where modern day technology is interfering with them too. I'll use Sanikiluaq as an example. There are some archaeology sites near the community and there's also a gravel pit in close proximity. I'm just wondering if anything is being done to preserve these sites to keep them from being destroyed in the future. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Minister Arreak.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, with respect to any artefacts or old archaeological sites, if you're aware of any construction projects that may impact these old sites or if people are taking artefacts from these sites, the work is supposed to be immediately stopped so that it can be appraised.

I'll ask Deputy Minister Simon Awa to supplement my response. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Arreak. Mr. Awa.

Mr. Awa: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In addition to the minister's response, if there is to be a quarry or any kind of exploration, the department, as a process, will be involved to see if there are any archaeological sites that might be around that area. If there would be a quarry which may be close to some of those areas, a permitting process will be taken so that those areas would not be disturbed while the other activities or quarrying is going on. So there is a process in place for most of the land use activities in Nunavut, including exploration. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Awa. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The actual sites themselves aren't being damaged or being tampered with that I can see. It's just that there's a gravel pit in close proximity of the site and that's the reason I'm asking that question, but then again, the process was explained to me, so that's fine. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. I take that as a statement. Mr. Ningark.

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker... Mr. Chairman. I apologize. I thank the minister for being available. We're on page F-7. In Kugaaruk, we have a very old church constructed of local stone on the exterior, with the interior including wooden beams and panelling. It's not worrisome at this point, but it's a historical site and due to its age, it is deteriorating. Since it's an

archaeological site or a historical building, I'm wondering if funding to preserve the building can be provided under the Culture and Heritage category, maybe from Heritage Canada or your department. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As we have mentioned before, anyone can make a proposal for funding from our department in relation to our programs. An organization in your community or group or individual or the hamlet can propose funding from our department for these types of programs. If you can find someone to make a proposal, we can look at it.

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

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to talk about this other issue when we have to do search and rescue. Let me start off by clarifying that in Inuktitut, *Pinginnaqtuq* is "worrisome" for humans who are on the land and who are overdue, but *Attarnaqtuq* is the term for objects that are becoming worrisome. This is just an example of differences in Inuktitut, although there may be dialectal ones as well. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is not related to the topic, but thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Ningark. I have no more names on my list. (interpretation ends) Branch Summary. Culture, Language, Elders and Youth. Culture and Heritage. Total Operations and Maintenance.

\$4,494,000. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. We will go to F-8. (interpretation ends) Culture, Language, Elders and Youth. Branch Summary. Elders and Youth. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$2,279,000. (interpretation) Do you agree? Mr. Ningark.

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under this item, the communities generally have elder and youth groups and committees. I'm wondering, if the (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister Arreak, (interpretation) while he is responsible for the portfolio, will be informing these groups about the different programs that are available from the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth.

These groups or committees generally don't have enough information about the programs, so they don't apply even when they have good ideas for projects for their groups. So I certainly hope that information is made available to elder and youth groups about the programs available to them from your department, either through the hamlets or directly to these groups. I'm asking this question as well as commenting on this. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Minister Arreak.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We try to keep all communities informed about our available programs and services, and we also have a website that we keep

updated. Furthermore, pamphlets and brochures are produced a number of times per year on the different types of programs available from the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth. Additionally, we send information on any new funding that becomes available to the groups in the communities from CLEY. We try to utilize all available mediums that the public can access. We would like suggestions on where we need to make improvements. We will continue to use our current communication strategy. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Perhaps the brochures and pamphlets that you mentioned could be distributed to the communities, particularly elders and youth groups. For example, in Repulse Bay and Kugaaruk, they don't have that type of information. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I mentioned previously, we try to disseminate the information to the communities, and yes, I commit to continuing the practice of keeping communities informed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to follow along with some of the

questions that Mr. Ningark was asking because I remember asking questions about this last year. We have heard different members' statements and also different concerns about elders being able to write the proposals and different organizational skills. Has there been any thought given to having almost like a board of directors that the Nunavut Housing Corporation is setting up, a board of directors for all of Nunavut to be able to have elders representing all across the territory on there to help them organize themselves a bit better, and then filter down to the communities? Has there been any thought given to that idea? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister Arreak.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Many elders are unable to write proposals and I believe an excellent place for them to get assistance is from the hamlet offices or Inuit organizations or individual Inuit in writing proposals. We also have various experts who serve on the IQ committee and who attend meetings to speak to these issues, and they are available as well. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Could he tell me the name of that elders' council that he's talking about that represents elders from across the territory? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister Arreak.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, they are the *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit* Committee, IQK. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Arreak. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that. In terms of some of the comments made in the opening comments about the 1-800 number for the hotline, I was wondering if the minister could explain if there are any possible changes to that. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister Arreak.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Awa can clarify that issue. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Arreak. Mr. Awa.

Mr. Awa: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are 1-800 numbers operated by the department; one is for the elders' hotline that is currently operating or responded to out of Iqaluit on a part-time basis because the person who is responsible for that 1-800 elders' hotline is working on a part-time basis only. That concern was brought up, of course, because it's part time. So we are considering moving that 1-800 number to another location or assign it to a full-time person so that the service will be for longer periods, not only for half time that it is currently available now. That is being considered right now, to move that responsibility to another division within the department. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Awa. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that answer, that's good to hear. When concerns come up, it's not trying to fit them into a certain time period. I'm sure the elders want to talk about a concern they have right away.

The other question I had was the idea of... . In terms of tracking the types of phone calls that are received, are you planning on monitoring those? Again, in the opening comments, I think the idea was to sort of shape... . If you can find out what types of phone calls you are actually receiving, then that could help with designing specific programs for elders to help with any concerns and issues that they have. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister Arreak.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is already occurring. We are keeping track of the callers, where they are calling from, and the subject of their concerns. We are continually trying to keep it updated. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a question on the business plan. It states that a conference of elders and youth was going to be organized. I believe they recently held that conference last week. However, an elder relayed their concerns to me about what occurred during that conference. They were sent to the conference and partook in the meeting.

Their per diems were late in being processed. Why is it that whenever we request elders to attend to these meetings, they are treated like an afterthought? It seems that they are not appreciated even though they are asked to attend. Why aren't their per diems and honoraria processed beforehand? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wonder how that occurred with this elder. The representatives we invited through our department were provided a per diem and remuneration, as per the information I have. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Yes, I wanted to get to the bottom of this since the plan states there would be an elders' conference. The elder who made the complaint stated that although they were away for more than two days, they were just paid \$200. They were informed that no further transportation costs or per diem payment or even honoraria would be paid. I feel that it is not acceptable to take advantage of the elders who were invited. They leave a lot of useful information and knowledge, but they only receive a very small token of appreciation. I wanted to check into this to see if it is indeed the case. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. While the elders were here for the entire time, we were paying them \$150 per day for their per diem, incidentals, and a little bit for honoraria. If we accidentally omitted any representative from their expense claims, we would like that information so that we can make payments to them. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you. I'm just passing on the information I received from an elder. Our elders generally don't misrepresent the truth and I have no reason to suspect that they are lying. I don't have anything else to add. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tapardjuk. I don't have any more names on my list. Another thing to keep in mind is that these programs are for elders and youth and they are designed for people from Nunavut. We have to remember who our audience is, as we have people in the gaps who require education, irrespective of their gender, who are adults but who need training. This is just a comment.

(interpretation ends) Culture, Language, Elders and Youth. Branch Summary. Elders and Youth. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$2,279,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. F-9. (interpretation ends) Branch Summary. Culture, Language, Elders and Youth. Sport and Recreation. Total

Operations and Maintenance. \$6,277,000. Mr. Ningark.

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you. I have one question in regard to this page. In regard to Sport and Recreation, sometimes we're asked by recreation teams or sports teams for financial support. We want to provide funding to the teams for sport and recreation. Can the minister tell us if they provide information to the communities about funding that is available for sport and recreation in the communities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, that's within our mandate and we try to provide this information to the communities. In the page we are reviewing, we identify a program for \$3.6 million for this funding support. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Arreak. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The issue that has been brought up many times by other MLAs in the House during question period was the fact of smaller communities getting their fair share from Sport and Recreation. My question is: what does your department do to ensure that smaller communities get their fair share of money from Sport and Recreation? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Minister Arreak.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are currently working to make improvements and we have made plans to that effect. Every time our departmental officials meet, they discuss these issues. Mr. Awa will supplement my response. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Arreak. Mr. Awa.

Mr. Awa: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, this issue has been brought up a number of times. The Sport and Recreation Division has been consulting with stakeholders and sports organizations at the community level how to streamline or equalize or to be fair with our funding system for different kinds of sports. That work has been in progress for a while; the consultation and input is still being gathered as we speak.

I am very positive that a new agreeable system will be in place next year so that the contributions or grants under Sport and Recreation would be fairer and more equitable for communities that are smaller and further away from major centres. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Awa. I have no more names on my list. (interpretation ends) Branch Summary. Culture, Language, Elders and Youth. Sport and Recreation. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$6,277,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: We will go to page F-10. Culture, Language, Elders and Youth.

Branch Summary. *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit*. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$5,530,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: We will go back to page F-3. Department Summary. Culture, Language, Elders and Youth. Detail of Expenditures. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$27,892,000. Agreed? Mr. Ningark.

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm not sure if this is due to ignorance, but I think the actual expenditures on the last figure are quite low. I wonder whether or not this lack of expenditure is due to the lack of knowledge by the public of this program or whether the programs are not being implemented properly. The 2009-2010 actual expenditures are quite low, which I am citing.

I would like the minister to provide that information to the public so that they could be informed about the grants and contributions. I'm not asking about this lack of knowledge of programs under his department. This is just a comment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Let's try this again. (interpretation ends) Department Summary. Culture, Language, Elders and Youth. Detail of Expenditures. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$27,892,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Are we in agreement that we have

concluded with the (interpretation ends) Department of CLEY?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. I would like to ask Minister Arreak if he has any closing remarks.

Hon. James Arreak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the members for asking questions. We will now be able to resume the planning we are doing.

I also thank my two officials who were with me, as well as other staff who are not here but who worked hard in preparing these plans. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Arreak. I also thank the officials who were appearing with you today. Sergeant-at-Arms, will you please escort the witnesses out. We will move on to another department.

Thank you. We will now proceed with Nunavut Arctic College. (interpretation ends) I would now like to ask the Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College, Mr. Shewchuk, to make his opening remarks.

Bill 01 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2011-2012 – Consideration in Committee – Nunavut Arctic College

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to be here today to present and discuss the 2011-12 main estimates and business plan for Nunavut Arctic College. I look forward to the opportunity to work together in

advancing *Tamapta*, especially as it applies to Nunavut Arctic College.

The *Tamapta* Action Plan sets out two specific goals for Arctic College under the priority of improving education and training outcomes. The first goal states, “Work on the Nunavut Trade School will continue until it is completed in time to allow the delivery of trades training in 2010. Subsequent initiatives will expand training capacity for mining occupations. This will help individuals contribute to poverty reduction in the short term and provide them with tools for greater self-reliance in the long term.”

Trades training capacity in Nunavut significantly increased with the completion of the trades training centre in Rankin Inlet. The new training centre enables Nunavutmiut apprentices to complete training in the initial two levels of housing maintainer, oil burner mechanic, electrician, and plumber. These main estimates include the last allocation of funding associated with the trades training centre.

Arctic College also offers four levels of carpentry and third level housing maintainer in Iqaluit. The old training facility in Rankin Inlet will be used as a transition facility until an equipment training centre is completed some time in the future. That centre will support the training of heavy equipment operators and the initial two levels of heavy duty and auto mechanic.

Planning is underway for the new Kitikmeot campus. The new campus will consolidate several different buildings in Cambridge Bay of varying conditions from poor to good. However, the

community learning centre will remain unchanged. It will provide appropriate space for more programs, such as teaching and nursing. The new campus will include the mine training centre. This will enable Nunavutmiut to take the first two levels of millwright and welder and mine worker programs. The new campus will also include accommodations for single students and a daycare. These are currently in the design stage.

Combined with planning for new community learning centres in Grise Fiord, Whale Cove, and Iqaluit, the growth of Arctic College requires coordination and monitoring. These main estimates include \$100,000 of ongoing funding for the position of coordinator of policy and planning.

The second *Tamapta* goal for Arctic College states, "Through Nunavut Arctic College and its partners, we will increase post-secondary opportunities in all occupational categories, from career training to professional education."

Partnerships are especially important as Arctic College continues to build university capacity in Nunavut. According to the 2006 census, only 4 percent of Inuit Nunavutmiut aged 25 to 64 have some university compared to 28 percent of other Canadians.

Arctic College supports the September 2009 commitment of the territorial premiers "to examine options for the development of a northern university that would contribute to northern, social, economic and cultural development and provide opportunities for more northerners to obtain the education and research skills fundamental in today's

knowledge-based global economy." Subsequently on May 14, 2010, the territorial premiers committed to encourage "continued collaborative efforts to build on existing institutions and programs to develop northern capacity and a strong knowledge sector."

Building more university capacity and more opportunities for professional education requires coordination and promotion. These main estimates include \$100,000 of ongoing funding for the position of coordinator of university studies.

The Vote 1 main estimates account for the base contribution from the Government of Nunavut to Nunavut Arctic College. The increase from the 2010-11 estimates of \$667,000 is due to forced growth funding of \$467,000 for the new trades training centre. It also includes two new initiatives already mentioned: \$100,000 for the coordinator of university studies and \$100,000 for the coordinator of policy and planning.

The Vote 4/5 main estimates include the base contribution and third party revenues. The main estimates are organized on the basis of our headquarters, Nunavut Research Institute, and the regional campuses. Our business plan describes how the main estimates are applied in the college's operation.

Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to be here today to discuss Arctic College's 2011-12 main estimates and business plan. This is a critical government investment in reducing "the gap between unemployed people and job opportunities." I look forward to your questions, comments, and discussion.

There may be questions that we are unable to answer today, but we will be committed to doing our best and to get back to you. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

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

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. Does the committee agree to bring in the witness?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the minister and his official in.

(interpretation ends) Thank you. For the record, Minister Shewchuk, please introduce your witness.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I invite and have sitting beside me Mr. Dan Vandermeulen, the President of Nunavut Arctic College. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. Mr. President, welcome to the committee meeting. Does the Chair of the Standing Committee on Social Wellness have opening comments? Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As the Co-Chair of the Standing Committee on Social Wellness, I am pleased to make opening comments as we begin deliberations on the proposed 2011-12 budget of Nunavut Arctic College.

Mr. Chairman, the college's total budget is made up of a base contribution from the Government of Nunavut, third party funding, and revenue from other sources, such as tuition fees. The GN's proposed contribution of \$24,853,000 to the college for 2011-12 is approximately \$667,000 more than the contribution funding amount approved for 2010-11. The Government of Nunavut's base funding contribution to the college will represent approximately 66 percent of the college's proposed total budget.

During the minister's appearance before the standing committee to discuss the college's proposed budget, members had a number of detailed questions on the delivery of programs. The standing committee appreciated receiving correspondence from the minister providing additional information on staffing as well as program availability and enrolment across Nunavut's communities.

Mr. Chairman, Nunavut Arctic College is one of Nunavut's Crown agencies. The accountability relationship between the college and the government is somewhat different than for line departments. While the minister has legislative responsibility for the college, its board of directors has the overall responsibility for directing program delivery. The importance of the college's role in preparing, training, and qualifying Nunavummiut for our economy, our public service, and our future cannot be understated. It is therefore critical that the Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College work closely with his counterparts in the government to set priorities and give clear direction to the college.

Mr. Chairman, ongoing communication between departments and agencies is important to ensure that all Nunavummiut are supported in their efforts to access opportunities for education and training. The standing committee also encourages the college to work closely with the government to share information and resources and to avoid duplication of effort. For example, committee members noted that the college has developed a series of assessment tools in the areas of language proficiency and competencies and have suggested that these types of tools and resources could be shared with government departments and agencies, such as the Department of Human Resources, the Inuit Language Authority, and the Office of the Languages Commissioner.

As the government begins to fully implement the requirements of the *Inuit Language Protection Act* and the *Official Languages Act*, the need for qualified and certified language specialists will grow. Language professionals in the field of interpreting and translating will be in high demand. The standing committee recommends that the college give consideration to increasing programs for the training and certification of interpreter/translators with specialization in such areas as parliamentary, medical and legal terminology.

The standing committee recognizes that the college delivers a wide range of courses and programs across the territory. Community learning centres play a critical role in the delivery of Nunavut Arctic College programs at the community level, enabling community residents to improve their skills as well

as to prepare for opportunities in education or employment. Committee members have noted, however, that program delivery options vary widely from region to region and encourage the college to work with entities, such as the regional Inuit organizations, to promote and support programs to meet the demand across all of Nunavut's communities.

The standing committee is pleased to note the success to date of the newly opened trades training centre in Rankin Inlet and looks forward to updates on the development of the mine training campus in Cambridge Bay.

At the time of the standing committee's review, members noted that the college has initiated a number of programs to increase qualification opportunities for Nunavut students in such areas as social work and accounting and will coordinate access to university programs in these and other areas. While the committee applauds this initiative, members expressed the concern some students continue to require additional support to meet course requirements and standards or else they risk disappointment and drop out. The standing committee is in full support of the college's "training ladder" concept by which students can gain qualifications for entry-level employment that can be transferred to higher level certification if they wish to continue in their career development.

Mr. Chairman, education is a critical and fundamental determinant of the well-being of Nunavummiut. While members give their full support for the growing use of technology, distance learning opportunities, and participation in such inter-jurisdictional initiatives as the

University of the Arctic network, the standing committee also strongly supports investments in programs directed towards Inuit language and culture.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening remarks. Individual members may also have questions and comments as we proceed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Do members have any general comments? Mr. Ningark.

Mr. Ningark: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On page 2 of the hon. minister's opening comments, fourth paragraph, I read and I quote, "According to the 2006 census, only 4 percent of Inuit Nunavutmiut aged 25 to 64 have some university compared to 28 percent of other Canadians." Yes, of course, I think that most of us can relate to that.

There are times when young people want to further their education, but it is not possible to do that in their community. You have to travel south in some cases, maybe in most cases, and you have to leave your family behind. Mr. Chairman, maybe it's time that we should start focusing on planning a university in Nunavut. Mr. Chairman, my understanding is that the hon. minister talks about \$100,000 for the coordinator of university studies and \$100,000 for the coordinator of policy and planning. Maybe this is the area that the coordinator of policy and planning now has to start focusing on.

Perhaps Nunavummiut who want to study can bring their family with them

because it is hard when you're young and you're not able to bring your family and you're staying away from your hometown and not only your hometown but also from the culture that you are used to since you were knee high. So I think we have to start looking at more friendly, more sensitive to the needs of the students and I think that's one part of it, if we can start to find more graduates from universities and other colleges in Nunavut.

Will the minister perhaps start focusing on...? We know now that we're not graduating or we're not producing as many graduates as we would like to. Maybe it's time to start focusing on bringing education closer to home. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would thank Mr. Ningark for that concern and comment, but I would like to comment on it because I think the issues that he brought up are very important.

You are absolutely right that we need to offer adult learning education to greater and higher levels in Nunavut, and that's what we are trying to do in Nunavut Arctic College. We do have challenges. However, we are very proud of the courses that we do offer in Nunavut Arctic College at present for adult students and we do provide them with family accommodation and daycares, and we're sensitive to the issues and the needs that they have.

In regard to exploring the University of the Arctic, we are actively doing that, to

inform you. The presidents of all of the territorial colleges and the deputy ministers of education are consulting in steps and avenues to work towards a university of the North. We already have Nunavut residents that partake in the University of the Arctic, which is more global.

This year, we initiated our first university course online in Nunavut, a Nunavut Arctic course. The interest was so great that we couldn't handle all of the students, really. We have 26 students from across seven communities who are taking this course.

We understand your point and we are moving forward as best as we can in that regard. The University of the North and a university in Nunavut are very important to us as a government moving forward. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. Mr. Ningark.

Mr. Ningark: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have one more suggestion. Sport North is a very good role model because they are able to bring renowned hockey players to different communities and talk with students. I think this is where we can do likewise and bring university graduates to different communities, high schools, and send them there to talk about their success, and so on. I think this is one area that we should start doing, not only focusing on other things that mean success, but actually bringing the graduates to communities and talk with high school graduates. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Minister Shewchuk, did you want to comment on that?

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again Mr. Ningark brings up a very good point and it's almost like a mentoring program that he's talking about, having graduates come in and talk to students and encourage them. I would just like to add that I agree with your point and we also do that in the sense that we have exchange students from different places come to talk to students, which encourages everybody in the educational system. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. General comments. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On page 2 of your opening comments, at the top first paragraph, you talk about the new Kitikmeot campus and the mine training centre. In terms of tight budgets that we have for capital and finding the dollars needed to construct different buildings involving capital, is there private sector investment that's being put into this or Inuit organizations helping out with that to cover the costs? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The answer is no, there is no private sector investment in the capital building yet. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Could you give us a more detailed update as to how far along the program is in terms of planning and restructuring and the new residence that's there? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is a capital project and a capital question, but I'll answer it. The trade school designed right now, what is designed is the daycare and the accommodations are in the design stage right now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess it is capital and thanks for letting me ask the questions, but it was in your opening comments. Since it was there, I figured I would ask. In terms of being asked to make decisions between health centres and educational institutions, they're hard decisions to make. I'll just leave it at that.

On page 2 as well, they talk about the University of the Arctic. I was wondering if you could give a little bit more explanation of what's happening there. Is it like three territories going together to have one facility? The concern I have is I had a meeting with Senator Patterson a week and a half ago and he sort of mentioned some ideas that the federal government wants to be able to provide federal funding to establish this, but for some reason, it seems like either the college or the Government of Nunavut doesn't want to accept the

money. I can't see that as being true. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First, I'll let the president add to my comments, but I think there needs to be clarification amongst us all between the University of the Arctic and the University of the North, which is something we are exploring. So that needs to be clarified, and I'll let Mr. Vandermeulen explain further. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. Mr. Vandermeulen.

Mr. Vandermeulen: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's important to distinguish between the University of the Arctic and the kind of institution that the territorial premiers envision when they're talking about a northern university. The University of the Arctic is an international network of about 110 organizations. It does not grant degrees; it does help develop programs like circumpolar studies, but it does not grant degrees. The northern university that is being envisioned by many would be an institution serving the three territories that would grant degrees.

As to the member's comment about Senator Patterson and his comments, we don't know where the federal government stands on the contributions to the University of the Arctic, but I expect that we will find out in the federal budget next week. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Vandermeulen. I have no more names.

We will go to the page-by-page review of the departmental estimates. M-3. Department Summary. Nunavut Arctic College. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$24,853,000. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With regard to programs that Arctic College runs, I know that there are community-based programs and then there are regional-based programs where people have to travel to Iqaluit or other regional centres to attend college. Can the minister tell us if there are any fees charged to the students in order to attend these courses? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are tuition fees and those tuition fees are set by the FANS program. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If the fees are set by FANS, it's also my understanding that students can apply to FANS for funding while attending school. Am I correct? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is absolutely correct. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Also, somewhere we talked about distance learning opportunities. I think that the college has programs where people can do programs online. I'm wondering if there are fees associated within the departments. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that question. I think, as Regular Caucus, we talked about before our infrastructure funding that we receive from the federal government to provide more service on online learning, our infrastructure fund. We're getting to that stage.

The only course we offer online right now is the one I spoke to you about earlier, the university degree course that's being offered. There is no tuition fee for that course that is being offered. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. I have no more names on my list. Once again we will get back to M-3. Department Summary. Nunavut Arctic College. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$24,853,000. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Do members that we are concluded with Nunavut Arctic College?

Some Members: Agreed

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) I would like to ask

Minister Shewchuk if he has closing comments.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank all of the members and thank you for the questions that we did take.

Adult learning education is very important to Nunavutmiut and to Nunavut as a whole. As I stated in standing committee, with all of the new development and the growing stages of Nunavut, we're going to require more educated and skilled people, especially in the mining industry trades, and we're struggling to do that. It's going to be a challenge, but we're looking forward towards the challenge.

I would like to thank Mr. Vandermeulen for his hard work in putting all of this information in the business plan and all of the people of Arctic College and for all of our adult educators and staff who work hard in all communities in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. Thank you to Mr. Vandermeulen. (interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms, could you escort the witnesses out, (interpretation ends) escort the witnesses.

(interpretation) I will now pass the seat to my fellow Chairman Louis Tapardjuk. We will now commence the review of the Department of (interpretation ends) Human Resources. (interpretation) Thank you.

Bill 01 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2011-2012 – Consideration in Committee – Human Resources

Chairman (Mr. Tapardjuk) (interpretation): Thank you. In Committee of the Whole, we will begin our review of the Department of Human Resources. Minister Tootoo, if you have any opening comments, you may now proceed.

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm going to coin a phrase that a former colleague of mine used to use all the time and I believe he learned it and attained this saying from a couple of young girls from Jersey. When he was giving a tour here, he used to say "indeed" all the time. It is indeed a pleasure to appear before you and your committee today to present the proposed 2011-12 main estimates and the 2011-14 business plan for the Department of Human Resources.

Mr. Chairman, the Department of Human Resources has been given \$24,120,000, which represents an increase of about 5.7 percent, or \$1,290,000, over last year's main estimates. The additional funding was requested to cover the increased cost of employee relocation benefits.

Two special areas that will impact the department's mandate in 2011-12 are the Auditor General's human resources capacity audit and the completion of the departmental reorganization.

The Directorate Branch is responsible for the overall direction and leadership in the areas of strategic planning, policy development, Inuit employment planning, and financial management. The department's business plan for 2011-12 includes the development of a government-wide human resources strategic plan, a mandatory performance

management policy, continuation of public service renewal, and changes to Inuit employment planning. The reorganization of Human Resources will assist in addressing current challenges, adopt best practices in human resources management from other provinces and territories, contribute to improving Inuit employment strategies, and support the goals of *Tamapta: Building Our Future Together*.

The Recruiting and Staffing Branch manages central recruitment and staffing services for Government of Nunavut departments in Iqaluit. This branch's budget has increased as a result of an increase in employee relocation benefits. In 2011-12, staffing directives and services will be reviewed. I am pleased to let you know that in 2011-12, the department will review the Summer Student Employment Equity Program. The branch has allocated \$950,000 for the Summer Student Employment Equity Program. In 2011-12, the department will audit the staffing practices of Nunavut Arctic College, the Qulliq Energy Corporation, and the Department of Health and Social Services.

The Community Operations Branch provides staffing services through the regional offices to all communities.

The Training and Development Branch provides leadership for training and development. Mr. Chairman, lifelong learning is a foundation for success of our public service. Our department's funding for training and development programs within the public service represents over 77 percent of this branch's total budget. A training evaluation database will continue to monitor the success of GN training

programs. The Training and Development Branch will assist in implementing the Department of Education's career planning framework. The branch will continue to deliver a cultural program, a communications program, and an Inuit language training program.

The Employee Relations and Job Evaluation Branch provides employee relations advice and job evaluation services to the Government of Nunavut's departments and agencies. Together with Government of Nunavut departments and agencies, the branch recognizes that eliminating workplace conflict promptly and successfully is important for the public service. The branch continues to work on the development and implementation of a workplace conflict resolution program. Another important area that will be addressed in the 2011-12 year is a review of job evaluation services.

In conclusion, the 2011-12 main estimates gives the financial resources required for the Department of Human Resources to make itself a leader in excellence for human resources management for our Government of Nunavut public service.

I look forward to the committee's comments and questions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Yes, I do, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Sergeant-at-Arms, if you could escort the officials to the witness table.

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

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my right is Ms. Louise Wasson, Deputy Minister for the Department of Human Resources, and on my left is Ms. Sheila Kolola, Director of Training and Development. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Tootoo. Does the chair of the standing committee have comments? Mr. Schell.

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to provide opening comments on behalf of the Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts on its review of the proposed 2011-12 main estimates and 2011-14 business plan of the Department of Human Resources.

During the minister's recent appearance before the standing committee, members took the opportunity to raise a number of issues and concerns.

The standing committee notes that the department's proposed 2011-12 operations and maintenance budget of \$24,120,000 has increased by approximately 5.7 percent since the introduction of the department's 2010-11 main estimates.

Mr. Chairman, the number of positions in the department remains stable at 104.0 PYs. This is the third consecutive year in

which the department has not increased in size. The standing committee applauds the minister for demonstrating restraint in this area given the tendency of too many other GN departments to increase the number of positions in their organization charts each year, despite their not being able to fill a significant percentage of their existing jobs.

The standing committee notes that the department's organizational structure has changed since the introduction of the 2010-11 main estimates. The number of branches has been reduced from seven to five. The standing committee also notes that the department's proposed 2011-14 business plan indicates that "The departmental reorganization was approved September 2010 and will be implemented by December 31, 2011. An implementation plan has been drafted."

Mr. Chairman, as you will recall from our proceedings of March 2, 2011, I presented the report of this standing committee on its review of the *2010 Report of the Auditor General of Canada to the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut on Human Resource Capacity in the Government of Nunavut*. The standing committee's report made a number of observations and recommendations concerning such issues as the government's hiring process, centralization of the human resources management function, and the government's Article 23 obligations. The standing committee looks forward to the government's formal response to its report.

In my report, I also noted that ongoing evaluation of the government's success in meeting such specific objectives as updating the its Priority Hiring Policy,

developing a new GN-wide Human Resources Strategy, introducing a new *Public Service Act*, developing a legislated system of whistle-blower protection, and bringing forward changes to the government's transfer assignment and direct appointments processes will also occur in the context of the standing committee's annual consideration of the proposed main estimates and business plan of the Department of Human Resources. A number of these issues arose during the minister's recent appearance before the standing committee.

Mr. Chairman, the *Public Service Act* was inherited by Nunavut upon division. The standing committee notes that over the last several years, the department's business plans have repeatedly referred to the need to review the *Public Service Act*. Every business plan produced by the department since the 2003-04 fiscal year has noted this as a priority. Although some business plans in prior fiscal years suggested that work on this initiative was near to completion, a new Act has not yet been introduced in the House. The standing committee looks forward to substantive progress being made on this issue and hopes to see the new legislation introduced in the House during the life of this Assembly.

The standing committee also encourages the minister to consider the idea of providing for binding arbitration in the collective bargaining process, which is an idea that he raised on a number of occasions during the previous Legislative Assembly. The standing committee recognizes that appropriate consultations with the Nunavut Employees Union and the Nunavut

Teachers Association would need to take place regarding this issue.

Mr. Chairman, the issue of bringing forward legislated whistle-blower protection has been an ongoing concern and was raised with the minister during his appearance before the standing committee. The standing committee noted that the department's proposed business plan makes no reference to whistle-blower protection.

Subsequent to the minister's appearance before the standing committee, he provided correspondence which indicated that "the new *Public Service Act* will deal with both the process for the reporting of wrongdoing and the protection of employees who report wrongdoing from reprisal. The new Act will reflect best practices on whistleblowing from other jurisdictions and will address the unique requirements of Nunavut." The standing committee appreciated this clear commitment.

The standing committee also notes that the minister's correspondence indicated that a Code of Values and Ethics for members of the public service has been submitted to the cabinet for approval. Recognizing that Members of the Legislative Assembly are required by law to file disclosure statements that are available to the public, the standing committee recommends that similar requirements be put into place for the senior members of the public service, including the heads of Crown corporations and agencies.

The standing committee stresses the importance of timely tabling in the Legislative Assembly of key departmental documents, including the

government's public service annual report and its quarterly Inuit employment reports. As of March 4, 2011, the 2009-2010 Public Service Annual Report had not yet been tabled in the Legislative Assembly even though the fiscal year ended almost 12 months ago.

Mr. Chairman, the standing committee notes that the GN's Priority Hiring Policy expired in March of 2010. The policy provides that Nunavut Land Claims Agreement beneficiaries who meet the qualifications of a given position have priority over other candidates. The standing committee firmly supports this policy and members look forward to the tabling of a renewed policy.

In addition to this policy, the GN's hiring process provides that current GN employees, as well as Nunavut residents with a minimum of one calendar year residency in the territory, will be considered before applicants from other jurisdictions. Members of the Legislative Assembly have urged the government to consider increasing the residency requirement from one year to five years given the importance of ensuring that only residents who have demonstrated a genuinely long-term commitment to Nunavut benefit from this provision.

Subsequent to the minister's appearance before the standing committee, he provided correspondence which indicated that "departmental officials will consider the recommendation of a revision to the Screening Directive 508 in the Human Resources Manual to change the residency requirement from one to two years in recognition of the contribution of non-beneficiary Northern

residents." The standing committee urges the minister to carefully review this matter.

Mr. Chairman, the standing committee continues to fully support the GN's Summer Student Employment Equity Program, which provides valuable work experience for Nunavut youth. Approximately 1,500 students, 75 percent of whom were beneficiaries, have participated in this program since 2001. In recognition of the fact that many of Nunavut's smaller communities do not have a significant GN presence, the standing committee urges the minister to consider such ideas as providing wage subsidies to municipalities and other employers to hire summer students in smaller communities that do not have a large GN presence.

The standing committee notes that the department's 2006-07 business plan indicated that a draft of a new "Language Incentive Program" had been completed. Although the department's 2010-11 business plan indicated that one of its priorities for the 2011-12 fiscal year would be to "Develop and implement a language incentive policy for the GN," this no longer appears in the department's business plan. Given the importance of complying with the *Inuit Language Protection Act*, the standing committee encourages the department to make progress on this matter.

The standing committee continues to encourage the department to develop objective tests for evaluating language proficiency within the public service. Members note that the Inuit Language Authority that has been established

under the *Inuit Language Protection Act* may soon be ready to assist with this task. Section 17 of the *Inuit Language Protection Act* provides that the Inuit Language Authority “may develop, review, recommend or administer surveys or tests that evaluate Inuit Language proficiency...”

Mr. Chairman, the impact of the availability and affordability of staff housing on the recruitment and retention of employees has been an ongoing concern. In 2008, the GN announced a rollback of staff housing rents to January 2007 levels. The standing committee encourages the department to continue to work with the Nunavut Housing Corporation on this issue.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening comments. Individual members may have their own concerns and comments as we proceed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Fred Schell. Before we start with the review on page D-4, do any committee members have comments to the opening comments? Mr. Ningark.

Mr. Ningark: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On page 1 of the hon. minister’s opening address, bottom paragraph, it talks about the branch has allocated \$950,000 for the Summer Student Employment Equity Program. This is something that was brought to my attention from Repulse Bay high school students about a couple of years ago and we weren’t able to access that money. I’m wondering: where can we access this program, from the regional office of the government or department, or do we apply directly to the

headquarters in order to access this funding? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, John Ningark. Minister Tootoo.

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Ningark for that question. My understanding, as I said, is the government departments determine the student requirements that they have and once the department determines that they require summer students, they submit student casual staffing actions to the Department of Human Resources for processing. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Tootoo. I have no more names on my list. We will go to D-4. (interpretation ends) Directorate. \$3,557,000. Mr. Ningeongan.

Mr. Ningeongan: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The issue of whistle-blower protection for the public service has been raised by a number of MLAs during this Legislative Assembly and the previous Assembly. During the previous Legislative Assembly, the standing committee that you chaired recommended that the government consider introducing legislation to protect whistle-blowers. In March of last year, your predecessor told the Legislative Assembly that this would be a priority. Why does your department’s 2011-14 business plan make no reference to the development of whistle-blower protection for members of the public service? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think it's like a déjà vu. I have asked that question a few times over the last number of years, but I want to assure the member that, as I had committed too, the department will be incorporating whistle-blower protection and employees who report wrongdoing and the protection of those employees who report wrongdoing from reprisal will be incorporated into the new *Public Service Act*. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Ningeongan: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The 2008-09 Public Service Annual Report, which was tabled in the Legislative Assembly last October, indicates that "Work is continuing on the development of a Code of Values and Ethics for Nunavut's public service, which will reflect Inuit values." Why does your department's 2011-14 business plan make no reference to this development of this Code of Values and Ethics? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe the department has sent a draft Code of Values over to legal for review and it also will be something that is included in the *Public Service Act* review, so that's why it's not mentioned. It's well in the works already and we are waiting for the review back from legal to be submitted to cabinet to review and approve. Once that is done, it will be in place and it will be incorporated into the *Public Service Act* review as well. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Ningeongan: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Presently I noticed that there was a missing ingredient to those who are in public service, non-unionized positions and I do feel that there is an absolute need to protect the interests of those people who feel that they haven't been treated right in the workplace or in the form of direct appointments, and so forth. At the present time, they absolutely do not have any means to follow up on their complaints or what have you simply due to the fact of fear of losing their jobs. So it is critical and I think it needs to be addressed very soon. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That was just a comment.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. There was no question there, but I'll give you an opportunity to respond, Minister Tootoo.

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Chairman. I'll just say that I would concur with the member's comment. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. We're on (interpretation ends) Directorate. \$3,557,000. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. We will go to Recruiting and Staffing. Human Resources. \$6,989,000. I have no names on my list and there are no hands up. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Community Operations. D-6. \$3,092,000. I don't see any hands up. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Human Resources. Training and Development. \$7,306,000. I don't see anyone raising their hands. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Employee Relations and Job Evaluation. This could probably mean to make sure that the employees have very good relations. \$3,176,000. I don't see any names on my list. Mr. Schell.

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Last year, your department's business plan indicated that one of its priorities for 2011-12 would be to "Develop and implement a language incentive policy for the GN." However, your department's draft 2011-14 business plan no longer indicates this priority. Why has this priority been dropped from your business plan? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Schell. Minister Tootoo.

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Mr. Chairman, with the indulgence of the committee, I would like to bring in another witness to respond to that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. The minister is requesting to bring in another witness. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Thank you. Minister Tootoo, for the record, please introduce your witness. Minister Tootoo.

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to welcome to the witness table and Committee of the Whole Mr. David Kolot, Director of Corporate Services. Mr. Chairman, if I could also ask if the member could repeat the question just to make sure that Mr. Kolot fully understands the question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Tootoo. Mr. Schell, you are asked to repeat your question so that Mr. Kolot fully understands it. Mr. Schell.

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Last year, your department's business plan indicated that one of its priorities for 2011-12 would be to "Develop and implement a language incentive policy for the GN." However, your department's draft 2011-14 business plan no longer includes this priority. Why has this priority been dropped from your business plan? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Schell. Mr. Kolot.

Mr. Kolot: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. This is still a very important policy issue for the Department of Human Resources. We will be collaborating with the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth and other stakeholders as we enter into

discussions in terms of implementation of ILPA for our department. This will be something that will be part of those discussions and we will be involving our partners in terms of gathering information from them to develop a policy. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Kolot. Mr. Schell.

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. According to the government's most recent public service annual report, the number of GN employees receiving a bilingual bonus increased from 670 in 2007-08 to 1,390 in 2008-09. This is an increase of over 107 percent in just one year. What accounts for this increase and how many GN employees currently receive a bilingual bonus? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Schell. Minister Tootoo.

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again I would like to thank the committee for pointing this out to us in the standing committee review of the main estimates. It's my understanding that there was an error made in the reporting of the statistics. Unlike previous year's bilingual bonus positions, this year, it also included the vacant positions that were reported instead of just reporting the number of actual employees who were actually receiving the bonus. The actual revised number is 680. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Tootoo. Mr. Schell.

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Also, the 2008-09 Public Service Annual Report states that "The responsibilities and language requirement described in the job description determine the eligibility of the position for bilingual bonus. To qualify an employee has to demonstrate proficiency in the required languages." My question is: how does the government evaluate language proficiency of employees who are applying to receive a bilingual bonus? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Schell. Ms. Wasson.

Ms. Wasson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At the present time, we're not evaluating; we're setting up evaluations and discussing with the Department of Education how we can actually implement evaluations for bilingual bonuses. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Wasson. Mr. Schell.

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If you're not evaluating, how do you determine if they receive a bilingual bonus then? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Schell. Ms. Wasson.

Ms. Wasson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The department makes the request based on their need and they will determine whether or not the person is bilingually efficient and request the job description and make that part of the individual's job description. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Wasson. I have no more names on my list. We're on page D-8. \$3,176,000. (interpretation ends) Employee Relations and Job Evaluation. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. We will go back to page D-3. Detail of Expenditures. \$24,120,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Are you agreed that the Department of Human Resources is concluded?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Thank you, Minister Tootoo and your officials. Do you have any closing remarks?

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the members and the standing committee for their very detailed review and scrutiny of the Department of Human Resources' budget in standing committee. I will commit to them that we will be reviewing the opening comments that were made by the chair of the standing committee and address any issues that were raised there. I hopefully look forward to improving the way and the timeliness of which positions are staffed. I also look very much forward to providing the standing committee in 113 days our response to the report. So again thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all of my staff who helped me prepare for today. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Tootoo and your officials, for being open to questions. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the officials from the witness table so they may leave.

Thank you for being here. Before we commence our review of the Department of Environment, we will take a 10-minute break.

I believe we will be having our dinner here. In this case, you can now proceed with your opening comments, Minister of Environment. We will take a short break after the chair of the standing committee makes his opening comments. Minister Shewchuk.

Bill 01 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2011-2012 – Consideration in Committee – Environment

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to be here today before the committee to present my department's business plan and main estimates for the 2011-12 fiscal year.

Mr. Chairman, the Department of Environment's proposed budget for 2011-12 is \$22,278,000. This represents a \$985,000 increase to continued delivery of our core programs on environmental protection and wildlife management positions previously funded under terminated federal programs, and a \$250,000 ongoing training initiative for conservation officers, as well as \$403,000 in new funding for operations

and maintenance of the new fisheries vessel.

Mr. Chairman, the Department of Environment works with various organizations and by partnering with these organizations whenever possible, we have continually been successful in maximizing the impacts of our funds. In the 2010-11 fiscal year, we obtained over \$3.6 million from outside sources for various projects and we expect to be equally successful in leveraging funds again in 2011-12.

In order to maximize the benefits of our funding to Nunavutmiut, the Department of Environment's business plan and main estimates are focused on the priorities and goals outlined in *Tamapta* as well as on upholding specific obligations and areas of responsibilities under the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement that relate to the management of natural resources.

Stewardship of Nunavut's environment and wildlife are key areas of the Department of Environment's responsibility. We work in partnership on the co-management of terrestrial wildlife in Nunavut. We also have environmental protection responsibilities, which include inspection and enforcement under the *Environmental Protection Act* and pollution protection. We are the GN lead for land use planning in Nunavut and we provide inputs on the environmental assessment of potential development projects.

Mr. Chairman, finalizing an overarching strategy to provide guidance on the consistent and comprehensive management of Nunavut's most valuable

resource, caribou, is one of our top priorities for 2011-12. We will be working with Greenland through the joint commission to undertake new polar bear population inventories for Baffin Bay and Kane Basin. A full-scale aerial survey of the entire western Hudson Bay area is planned for 2011-12 to provide more up-to-date information on the status of this polar bear subpopulation.

For the past several years, the Department of Environment has been working to help Nunavutmiut adjust to the potential impacts caused by climate change. We have been working with our partners to develop community-specific adaptation plans and this year, we will continue with strategic planning for territory-wide climate change adaptation.

Mr. Chairman, Nunavut's parks contribute to a number of the basic needs identified in *Tamapta*, including stewardship of our environment, healthier community through access to the land for recreation and cultural activities. The Department of Environment supports community-based sustainable economies through parks and the tourism opportunities associated with them, as well as through our support for the development of viable and sustainable fisheries, sealing, and fur sectors.

We will continue to work with our partners for greater access to fisheries quota, increase science research in Nunavut's waters, and more investment in fisheries infrastructure. We will focus on implementing offshore and inshore fisheries research priorities outlined under the Nunavut Fisheries Science and Research Agenda.

We will also continue to work with harvesters and the fur industry to support hunters and value-added producers, develop markets, and actively represent Nunavut's interests. In 2011-12, we plan to complete a strategy for marketing Nunavut seal and long fur.

Mr. Chairman, as you can see, the Department of Environment's 2011-12 main estimates and business plan support the obligations and priorities of the Government of Nunavut and provides real benefit to Nunavutmiut. *Ma'na*, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Yes, I would. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Some Members: Agreed.

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

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

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On my left I have David Akeagok, Deputy Minister of Environment, and on my right I have Camilius Egeni, Director of Corporate Services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Welcome and I am very pleased that you are able to appear before the committee. Does the Chair of the Standing Committee on Community and Economic Development have any opening comments? Mr...

An Hon. Member: Mr. Rumbolt.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Rumbolt, sorry for forgetting your name. I won't forget next time.

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 2011-12 main estimates and 2011-14 business plan of the Department of Environment.

The standing committee notes that the department's proposed 2011-12 operations and maintenance budget of \$22,278,000 has increased by approximately 9.6 percent since the introduction of the department's 2010-11 main estimates. The number of positions in the department is 124.5. This is an increase of 2.0 PYs from its 2010-11 business plan.

During the minister's recent appearance before the standing committee, members took the opportunity to raise a number of important issues and concerns.

The department's proposed 2011-14 business plan indicates that one of its 2011-12 priorities will be to "Engage the DOE Elders Advisory Committee in public education and communication initiatives in order to gain advice on integrating Inuit Societal Values into all

communication and education projects.” The standing committee supports the department’s continuing efforts to integrate Inuit societal values into its programs and looks forward to ongoing updates on these initiatives.

Mr. Chairman, on November 1 of last year, the Government of Nunavut issued a news release concerning the European Union’s ban on seal products. The announcement indicated that “the Government of Nunavut will continue its efforts to support and promote the sealing industry, including market development and support for sealers.”

Members note that on February 11 of this year, the Government of Canada announced that it has taken formal action at the World Trade Organization against the European Union’s ban on trade in Canadian seal products. The news release indicated that federal government will request the establishment of a World Trade Organization dispute settlement panel on this issue.

Nunavut’s *Wildlife Act* was passed by the First Legislative Assembly in 2003. Although *Wildlife Transitional Regulations* were published in Part II of the June 2005 edition of the *Nunavut Gazette*, a comprehensive set of new regulations has not yet been approved. The Nunavut Wildlife Management Board has held a number of hearings since 2003 on proposed new regulations under the Act. The department’s proposed 2011-14 business plan indicates that the “Regulations have been drafted and are expected to be finalized by the end of 2010/2011. Implementation will be ongoing.” During the minister’s recent appearance before the standing committee, members

questioned what the areas of outstanding disagreement are between the GN and NTI. The minister indicated that there are two areas of dispute concerning polar bear management. However, the minister indicated that his department will not let these issues delay the regulations and will take the completed sections to cabinet for approval. The standing committee encourages the department and its partners to work on resolving these issues and looks forward to the *Wildlife Act* regulations moving forward.

Mr. Chairman, on January 13 of this year, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated issued a news release titled “NTI Applies for Judicial Review over the Narwhal Tusk Ban.” The release indicated that NTI filed an application for judicial review in the Federal Court challenging the Department of Fisheries and Oceans decision to ban the export of narwhal tusks and related products from 17 Nunavut communities. On January 25 of this year, the minister sent correspondence to the federal Minister of Fisheries and Oceans on this issue. The standing committee looks forward to ongoing updates on this issue.

The standing committee notes the announcement in October 2009 regarding the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with Greenland and the federal government on the Baffin Bay polar bear population. The department’s proposed 2011-14 business plan indicates that “The joint committee expects to finalize an action plan by the end of the 2010-11 fiscal year. Pilot studies including a feasibility assessment of aerial surveys are expected to be reported on in winter 2010-2011. A new recommended harvest level should be available by early 2012-2013.” The

standing committee looks forward to ongoing updates on this issue.

Mr. Chairman, the department's proposed 2011-14 business plan indicates that "One full scale and two pilot aerial surveys were conducted in 2010. Preliminary results from aerial surveys in the Foxe Basin indicate the method will work for that population. Aerial surveys are planned in 2011-2012 for the Western Hudson and Baffin Bay populations. Research and development of alternative less invasive research methods is ongoing." Members are encouraged to see that the department is incorporating concerns from elders and hunters to use less invasive methods for wildlife research in Nunavut and look forward to the minister providing the results of proposed aerial surveys in the western Hudson Bay and Baffin Bay polar bear populations with members at the earliest opportunity. The department's proposed 2011-14 business plan also indicates that one of its 2011-12 priorities will be to "Initiate planning for the establishment of a polar bear management plan." Members look forward to ongoing updates on this issue.

Section 177 of the *Wildlife Act* requires the minister to table an annual report in the Legislative Assembly on the administration of the Natural Resources Conservation Trust Fund. On June 8, 2010, the minister tabled the 2006-07, the 2007-08, and the 2008-09 annual reports in the Legislative Assembly. The department's 2010-13 business plan indicated that one of its priorities was to "Build the Natural Resources Conservation Trust Fund as a permanent source of funding for promoting awareness and wise use of wildlife and habitat through initiatives such as

education, research and conservation." It indicated that the "Terms of reference have been drafted." The standing committee looks forward to the minister tabling the 2009-2010 annual report under this section of the Act.

Mr. Chairman, the department's proposed 2011-14 business plan provides an update on the status of one of its 2010-11 priorities, which was to "Initiate implementation of the Caribou Management Strategy." The status report indicates that "... the consultations and input from user groups, other GN departments, other governments, and industry will be concluded and a final draft strategy prepared by early 2011. Implementation will begin after the strategy is finalized." Members look forward to the completion of the Caribou Management Strategy and encourage the minister to table it in the Legislative Assembly at the earliest opportunity.

The department's proposed 2011-14 business plan indicates that one of its priorities is to "Review the Fur Price Program and seal marketing programs and initiatives." It also indicates that it will "Continue with the three major initiatives started in 2010-11: the Nunavut Fisheries Science and Research Agenda, the Nunavut Fisheries Branding and Marketing Initiative, and the Nunavut Seal and Long Fur Branding and Marketing Initiative." On January 19 of this year, the minister issued a news release titled "Minister Shewchuk promotes Nunavut products in China." The minister announced that "China demonstrated a significant level of interest in both Nunavut's fur and fish products which could potentially develop into real opportunities for the fishing and sealing industries." The

standing committee was pleased to see that the minister and his officials are promoting Nunavut's seal and fish products internationally and looks forward to ongoing updates on this issue.

Mr. Chairman, the department's proposed 2011-14 business plan indicates that two of its 2011-12 priorities are to "Initiate research project on water bodies to increase char supply for processing in Nunavut" and "Continue science research and complete test fisheries in all regions." The standing committee encourages the minister to table an annual report in the Legislative Assembly on the department's expenditures under its Fisheries Diversification Program, Commercial Fisheries Freight Subsidy Program, and Fisheries Training Consortium Program and looks forward to receiving ongoing updates on these initiatives.

The standing committee was pleased with the federal fisheries minister's announcement on November 9, 2009 of a 1,500-tonne increase in Canada's turbot quota. Members note that on February 23 of this year, the minister delivered a statement in the House detailing the 2010 fishery results. The minister indicated that "High catch rates and good prices helped us land our full 9,350 tonne quota of turbot this past year, which generated nearly \$40 million in revenue." During the minister's recent appearance before the standing committee, members questioned how the minister is working to ensure that Nunavut is able to take full advantage of this increase. The minister indicated that he will continue to lobby the federal government for more facilities, such as fish processing plants and small craft

harbours, which are crucial to increasing Nunavut's ability to take advantage of this turbot increase. The standing committee looks forward to ongoing updates on this important issue.

Mr. Chairman, the department's 2009-2010 business plan indicated that "A lack of modern community waste management infrastructure impacts compliance with the *Environmental Protection Act*." It also indicated that the department will "Complete the development of a hazardous waste management training program for municipal workers" and "It is anticipated that the course will be developed and delivered to the first group of students before the end of February 2011." The standing committee is pleased to see that municipal employees are participating in this very important training and looks forward to ongoing updates on this training.

On February 17, 2009, the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment announced that a number of jurisdictions have endorsed the new *Canada-wide Strategy for the Management of Municipal Wastewater Effluent* and are ready to begin implementation. "The strategy sets out a harmonized framework to manage discharges from more than 3,500 wastewater facilities in Canada, many of which are currently in need of repair and upgrading." The strategy also indicates that "Due to the extreme climatic conditions and remoteness of Canada's Far North, a viable means to improve human and environmental health protection needs to be carefully considered. Therefore, a window of up to five years is provided to undertake research into factors that

affect performance of wastewater facilities in northern conditions.”

Mr. Chairman, on March 27, 2009, the minister tabled a report in the Legislative Assembly concerning this issue. The minister’s report indicated that “Nunavut, Quebec and Newfoundland did not endorse the document.” The report also stated that “Nunavut agrees in-principle with the Strategy but is extremely concerned about costs associated with implementation and the lack of direct funding options. Nunavut will certainly support the Strategy when funding is more definitive.” During a previous appearance before the standing committee, the minister advised members that it would cost the GN approximately \$500 million to implement this national strategy. However, members were also advised the Department of Environment is working with the Department of Community and Government Services on an inventory of all sewage and waste management facilities in Nunavut and is looking into other options, such as incineration, to deal with waste in communities.

The standing committee notes the recent issues relating to the water use inspection licences prepared by the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada in all Nunavut communities. These water use inspection reports clearly illustrated Nunavut’s lack of adequate sewage and waste management facilities.

The standing committee notes that the department’s budget for grants and contributions for harvester support programs has remained largely unchanged for a number of years.

Members encourage the minister to review the adequacy of these funding levels, in particular the funding allocated towards disaster compensation.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening comments on the 2011-12 main estimates and 2011-14 business plan of the Department of Environment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. We will now take a 20-minute break so the previous speaker could take a break. Once the bells start to ring in about 20 minutes, you will know that you are to return to the Chambers. Thank you.

>>Committee recessed at 17:41 and resumed at 18:11

Chairman (Mr. Schell): I welcome everybody back. I suggest to members that wherever possible you ask your detailed questions during the page-by-page review of the departmental estimates. Do members have any general comments? Mr. Ningark.

Mr. Ningark: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for his opening remarks. On page 2 of the minister’s opening remarks, Mr. Minister, you talk about a full-scale aerial survey. So whether we like it or not, if we want to keep harvesting polar bears in Nunavut, we have to prove to the world that we are good managers of polar bear as well.

We have partners in Nunavut, in the North, our circumpolar friends in Alaska, Greenland, and we in Canada. My question subsequently is: who pays for the full-scale aerial survey; do we

Nunavummiut? We are obligated by the whole world for the management of polar bear. In fact, we may be connected to WWF. Who pays for the full-scale survey up here? It may be a detailed question, but it's included in his opening remarks. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that very good question. What I referred to, the full-scale aerial survey that we're going to do in the western Hudson Bay, I assure the member that all interests are involved. Ever since our wildlife symposium that we had in Rankin Inlet to involve all HTOs, regional wildlife boards, NTI in this survey, the planning has been a very in-depth process. All groups are involved.

The Government of Nunavut will burden most of the responsibility of funding for that survey. Environment Canada is contributing some, they are involved too, but the survey is going to be done totally by Nunavut researchers and beneficiaries from all communities in the western Hudson Bay in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Ningark.

Mr. Ningark: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One area that is sometimes controversial to people up here is people think that it's up to the Government of Nunavut to allow the harvest or to reduce the harvest of polar bears, but we do have agreements with the whole world that if we want to harvest, we have to manage. One way of managing is that we have to do the surveys up here.

That's my understanding. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The member thinks correctly. Nunavut manages polar bears and the management system that we have in place is probably the best in the world. We do co-manage populations where we share them, such as western Hudson Bay with Manitoba and other populations across Nunavut, but we're very proud of our management plan in regard to polar bears and we think we do a very good job in involving communities and Inuit in managing polar bears. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Ningark.

Mr. Ningark: My final question to the hon. minister is: do we have a transboundary agreement in the circumpolar region with Alaska and Greenland on the population of polar bears? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the question. Yes, we do have agreements in place with different jurisdictions and we are working on other agreements with different jurisdictions on the management of polar bears. Jurisdictions we don't have agreements with, we are actively working to get agreements in place. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Ningark.

Mr. Ningark: Thank you. The jurisdictions we don't have agreements with, which jurisdictions are we talking about? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I say, we have agreements that we are working on together and we do have co-management relationships with Ontario, somewhat with Manitoba, somewhat with Newfoundland, and Quebec is the province that we are having difficulty with right now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Ningark.

Mr. Ningark: Thank you. Subsequent to that answer, why are we having problems with Quebec? What area? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The three populations that we share with Quebec are the southern Hudson Bay population, which is in Mr. Rumbolt's territory, the Foxe Basin population, and the Davis Strait population. Quebec is somewhat reluctant to get into an agreement because they don't have any active management plan or strategies into place. However, we are working with them and encouraging them and working with the Makivik government under their new structure of their land claims with their wildlife board to ensure that we move in the right direction. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Ningark.

Mr. Ningark: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Do we try to convince that polar bears know no boundary and so on? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I could say that not only with the Canadian jurisdictions but, as the member has stated, with all countries; Alaska and Greenland. There's a polar bear world out there which we are a part of, a polar bear technical committee, and we have discussions about polar bear populations. In those discussions is what the member is referring to. Right now, there are several populations. Are there populations that could be expanded that are genetically the same? Those discussions and research is ongoing. You could see that change in the future, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Shewchuk. I have no more names, so we will go page by page. I'm sorry. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I had a question for your opening comments on page 3. On the fourth paragraph where you're talking about working with partners to access greater fishing quotas, what areas are you talking about? With what the Arctic Fisheries Alliance is doing up in Lancaster Sound, they have been doing some test fisheries to see what's happening with turbot. Are there other locations across the territory as well that you're looking at? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This probably won't make too much sense to the member, but the fisheries that we have going on with turbot are zone 0A and 0B, which is all of the east side of Baffin Island. That's presently where we have turbot fishing going on. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So it's only the turbot in those two areas that you're looking at or are you looking at... ? I know there is shrimp in that area as well and also, I think, from a Minister's Statement, he was talking about arctic char stocks as well. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The member is right in that shrimp is involved in that area too. The area that we have commercial fishing of turbot and shrimp going on right now is in that area, east of Baffin Island. The arctic char is more inland and more westerly in the Arctic. Those are different fisheries altogether where Nunavut is pretty much the sole fishery of those resources. The area I'm talking about is the area between Greenland and Baffin Island. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was just wondering: in terms of the partners that you're working with, are

you working with HTOs in terms of determining that or helping with... ?

I think you had said test fisheries. I was reading a newspaper article that just came out. Out in the western Arctic, they're finding fish stocks that they never saw before and char was showing up where they have never had it before. I know one of the things that we're looking at in the High Arctic as well with the Arctic Fisheries Alliances is checking to see what's there first of all before we start fishing, and then working towards the quota. I'm just wondering if that's exactly what you're talking about in terms of expanding the market. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's exactly right. With the commercial fishing of turbot and shrimp, we're working with the five fishing industries, the Arctic Fisheries Alliance, the Baffin Fisheries Coalition, and the entities that are involved in that. However, when it comes to the arctic char, we're working with individual HTOs and regional wildlife organizations and establishing what the sustainable level could be, and in the future, establishing quotas and moving forward. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On the same paragraph where it talks about fisheries infrastructure, what is actually meant by that? Are you talking about physical structures or are you talking about branding? Again getting back to the Minister's Statement, you

talked about branding, commercializing, probably packaging, and stuff like that. So what does that really mean? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's a combination of both branding and infrastructure. However, what's being referred to there mostly is the drastic need that we need to have ports and harbours to deal with our infrastructure and our own fish plants. Right now, as most people know, all of our turbot and shrimp that are caught in Nunavut are offloaded in Greenland and then marketed from there. So when I meet with the federal minister of DFO, my focus is always on telling her that we would like to see our own fish plants in Nunavut so that we can offload our own fish and deal with our fish here. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. I don't have any more names on my list here, so we will go page by page. I-4. Environment. Branch Summary. Corporate Management. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$4,277,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: We will move on to I-5. Branch Summary. Environment. Program Management. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think it was in January when you travelled to China to promote the seal products and seafood from Nunavut. I'm just wondering: as of today, what work has been done to keep this

initiative moving forward? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, from the China trip, which was a very successful and a very good trip for Nunavut and Canada, we are moving. There's a deputy ministers' committee set up with deputy ministers who are involved in the sealing industry to move forward on how we move forward on the marketing of edible seal meat over to China.

We are in an exploratory stage with the existing fish plant in Pangnirtung to see how we can develop the sealing industry there on a test basis. I believe Newfoundland is working towards having a shipment of seal meat go to China very soon. I think it is going to take time for us to develop in that stage. The one thing that we need to do and assure it's done right is that the quality of edible seal products we ship over to China is very high quality. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. You mentioned Newfoundland. Are you guys working with Newfoundland on this initiative or is Newfoundland doing a separate program altogether? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are absolutely

working, all of us, all of the Atlantic Provinces, on this initiative together. I think Newfoundland has a lot more capability, infrastructure, and expertise in place to deal with the shipment of seals over to China, but we're going to learn from them and we're working together to produce seal meat that we can ship to China some day from Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With this whole process now of being able to ship products to China, what kind of timeline do you see before we can actually start shipping products to China? I know that seal meat is one issue, but what about the skins themselves and the raw furs? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's a very good question. I think the Chinese are going to have something to say about that because they are the ones who are going to be the market and have the demand for this type of product. However, I believe that, looking in the sealing industry in Nunavut, it is going to take time. There is no question that we need to have proper infrastructure, training, and proper produce shipped over there.

What should be stated at this point in time right now too is that we would have a very limited resource to ship over to China right now because seals are mainly utilized by Nunavutmiut themselves right now. We would have to explore at some time in the future would

there be a total allowable harvest on seals. This whole regime would have to be discussed with communities and the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I agree with the minister; it will take time to develop it, especially in the meat department. We know that Newfoundland has probably got more capabilities in that department already. Because they are probably already years ahead of us in that department, I'm just wondering if Newfoundland is going to be scooping up the market and we will kind of miss the boat just in studying and getting ready for everything. I'm wondering if you guys have considered that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think Newfoundland will be the first ones to get into this market because they are advanced to that stage. I don't think at all that we will miss the boat. I think that if we establish a very good market in China, which has 1.4 billion people, if they start eating seal meat and liking seal meat, I don't think there is any country in the world that could supply that much meat over to China. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. I don't have any other names on my list here. Branch Summary. Environment. Program Management. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$18,001,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: We will go back to I-3. Department Summary. Environment. Detail of Expenditures. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$22,278,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Are you agreed that the Department of Environment is concluded?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Does the Minister of Environment have any closing comments?

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: I do. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First of all, Mr. Chairman, I thank you for the opportunity to appear before the Committee of the Whole. I would like to thank the members for the very good questions.

The Department of Environment is a very diverse department and we represent the Government of Nunavut in many ways and deal with everyday issues for all Nunavutmiut and are very proud to do so. I would like to thank you for your input and we will move forward with all of the challenges that we face and hope that we can improve not only our sealing and fishery markets, but work on all of our wildlife strategies and population surveys.

Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I would like to also just quickly thank my staff for being here with me and the hard work they did in putting this information

together and the business plan for 2011-12. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. I also want to thank the minister and his staff for showing up to answer questions in Committee of the Whole. Could the Sergeant-at-Arms please escort the minister and staff out.

Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to make a motion to report progress at this time, please. Thank you.

Chairman: We have a motion on the floor to report progress and the motion is not debatable. All those in favour of the motion. All those opposed. The motion is carried. I will now rise to report progress.

Deputy Speaker (Mr. Ningeongan) (interpretation): Thank you. Item 21. Report of the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Schell.

Item 21: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Bill 1 and the main estimates 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.

Deputy Speaker (interpretation): There is a motion on the floor. Is there a seconder? Mr. Tapardjuk. The motion is in order. All those in favour of the motion. Opposed. The motion is carried. Thank you.

Item 22. Third Reading of Bills. There being none. Thank you. Item 23. *Orders of the Day*. Mr. Clerk.

Item 23: Orders of the Day

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A reminder of meetings for tomorrow morning, at 8:45 a.m., the meeting of the Standing Committee on Social Wellness, followed by a meeting of the Regular Caucus at nine o'clock, both meetings will be in the Tuktu Room, and a meeting at ten o'clock of the Full Caucus in the Nanuq Room.

Orders of the Day for March 10:

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 1
- Bill 3
- Bill 4
- Bill 5
- Tabled Document 248 – 3(2)
- Tabled Document 249 – 3(2)
- Tabled Document 251 – 3(2)
- Tabled Document 274 – 3(2)
- Tabled Document 275 – 3(2)

20. Report of the Committee of the Whole

21. Third Reading of Bills

22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

Deputy Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. This House stands adjourned until Thursday, March 10, at 1:30 p.m.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 18:39*

