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**Friday, June 3, 2011**

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**Iqaluit**

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

## Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

### *Speaker*

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(Iqaluit Centre)

**Hon. Eva Aariak**

(Iqaluit East)

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

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(Quttiktuq)

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Minister of Energy; Minister  
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Corporation*

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(Arviat)

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College*

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(Uqqummiut)

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Languages; Minister responsible  
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**Johnny Ningeongan**

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**Louis Tapardjuk**

(Amittuq)

*Deputy Chair, Committee of the  
Whole*

**Hon. Peter Taptuna**

(Kugluktuk)

*Deputy Premier; Minister of  
Economic Development and  
Transportation*

**Moses Aupaluktuq**

(Baker Lake)

**Hon. Keith Peterson**

(Cambridge Bay)

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of Justice*

**Jeannie Ugyuk**

(Nattilik)

**Hon. Tagak Curley**

(Rankin Inlet North)

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responsible for the Workers' Safety  
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**Iqaluit, Nunavut  
Friday, June 3, 2011**

**Members Present:**

Honourable Eva Aariak, Honourable James Arreak, Mr. Moses Aupaluktuq, Honourable Tagak Curley, Mr. Ron Elliott, Mr. John Ningark, Mr. Johnny Ningeongan, 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. Hunter Tootoo) (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) *Ullaakut*, everybody. Maybe before we get started, I would like to ask Mr. Shewchuk if he could lead us off with a prayer, please.

>>Prayer

**Speaker:** Good morning, everybody. We're going to start off on the *Orders of the Day*, Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Health and Social Services, Mr. Curley.

**Item 2: Ministers' Statements**

**Minister's Statement 035 – 3(3):  
Curbing Childhood Obesity -  
Champion**

**Hon. Tagak Curley** (interpretation): Mr. Speaker, childhood obesity is a national problem that has been getting national attention and support through the development of a new childhood obesity framework and strategy.

Governments at the federal, territorial, and provincial levels are working

together to help obese and overweight children get back to a healthy weight through a strategy aimed at helping people lead a lifestyle that incorporates healthy eating and exercise.

Last week, my department met with youth in Iqaluit to talk about childhood obesity. The information gathered during this discussion will be shared at an upcoming national summit on childhood obesity later this fall.

As the Minister of Health and Social Services, it is important to me to be the Nunavut champion of this national move to curb childhood obesity before they enter the schools.

Rates of childhood obesity have been steadily increasing, and being overweight in early childhood and adolescence increases the chance of being overweight in adulthood. Years of carrying excess weight raises the risk of developing chronic illnesses, all of which require expensive health care treatment.

Mr. Speaker, the national strategy on curbing childhood obesity is welcome and complements a number of my department's existing strategies and programs. These include but are not limited to:

- School Breakfast Program
- Maternal and Newborn Health Strategy
- Public Health Strategy (2008-2013)
- Nunavut Food Guide, which is often discussed nationally.

Taking action today to help young Nunavutmiut plan their path to

maintaining a healthy weight is critical to their future and for Nunavutmiut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** We will move on. Ministers' Statements. Madam Premier, Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs.

**Minister's Statement 036 – 3(3):  
National Hunger Awareness Day**

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Good morning, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) First of all, Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you to your new role, and although we will miss your contribution to the cabinet, I am sure you will excel in your position.

(interpretation) First of all, I am going to be reading this in English, Mr. Speaker. I know that our Inuktitut interpreters will be able to interpret it properly.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, National Hunger Awareness Day was this week and it is another reminder that too many Nunavummiut go to bed hungry every evening.

For 10 years, the Niqinik Nuatsivik Nunavut Food Bank has been fighting community hunger one person at a time here in Iqaluit. I would like to thank the volunteers and everyone who has volunteered with food banks across our territory. Your services have helped so many, and sadly, the demand continues.

*Uqaqtittijii*, our government is committed to ensuring that the basic needs of all Nunavummiut are met and

to reducing poverty and its effects. However, we recognize that poverty is a complex problem that cannot be addressed effectively by government alone or by any one organization. That is why we are collaborating with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, municipal governments, non-profit groups, and our business community. Together we have supported community dialogues on poverty reduction, focus groups with elders and with youth, and currently, regional round tables on our policy options for poverty reduction. Food security has been central to these discussions.

Mr. Speaker, through public engagement, our government and our partners will arrive at solutions together, each taking responsibility for its own part in poverty reduction. These responsibilities will be detailed in a joint Nunavut Poverty Reduction Action Plan to be decided at a poverty summit scheduled for Iqaluit November 28 to 30, 2011. While Minister Taptuna will be speaking about this in more detail next week, I did not want to let the World Hunger Awareness Day pass without proper recognition.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to take a moment tonight to consider what it might feel like to go to bed hungry. Hunger is one of the few cravings that cannot be appeased with another solution. Hunger should not be an option for anyone. I encourage all Nunavummiut to work together for a solution. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Ministers' Statements.  
Minister of Environment, Minister  
Shewchuk.

**Minister's Statement 037 – 3(3):  
Environment Week 2011**

**Hon. Daniel Shewchuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. June 5 to 11 marks Canadian Environment Week, which is dedicated to raising environmental awareness and appreciation across the country. I would like to take this opportunity to share with you public education and awareness initiatives my department is undertaking during this week.

This year, for the second annual Environment Week Challenge, we are asking Nunavutmiut to share with us what environmental stewardship means to them. All participants will receive an eco-friendly prize and the best entries will be published and shared throughout the territory. The goal of this campaign is to inspire people to reflect and take pride in both the environment and the age-old traditions that continue to help people live in harmony with the land.

In addition to the Environment Week Challenge, my department is continuing its work on a territory-wide anti-littering campaign. Accordingly, we have once again partnered with organizations and other government departments to organize community cleanup events throughout Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, I truly believe that education and awareness are essential to Nunavut's continued dedication to environmental stewardships. Through its demonstrated commitment to engaging and educating the public, my department

is taking great strides toward environmental sustainability in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. Ministers' Statements.  
Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Minister Taptuna.

**Minister's Statement 038 – 3(3):  
Update on the Nunavut Business  
Credit Corporation**

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning to my colleagues here and good morning to my constituency of Kugluktuk and Nunavummiut.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to provide the Members of this House with an update on the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation and the audit of its 2009-2010 fiscal year, as promised during the October session.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce that the corporation has finally emerged from a history of denied opinions by the Auditor General of Canada. In April, Madam Fraser provided an audit opinion on the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation's 2009-2010 financial statements that, apart from its failure to meet its statutory deadline, was overall positive. In her role as Auditor General, Madam Fraser even expressed surprise over all that has been accomplished since her last visit and acknowledged the improvements that have occurred to address the serious concerns and deficiencies she raised in her 2007 report to the Legislative Assembly.



This is a significant accomplishment for which the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation's board, its management and staff deserve much recognition, along with the Department of Economic Development and Transportation and the Public Agencies Council. This highlights what can be achieved through a commitment toward improvement, shared focus on key priorities, and dedication of appropriate resources.

Mr. Speaker, the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation can now take a more proactive role in fulfilling its mandate to foster economic development and create employment for all Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Nunavut Arctic College, Minister Shewchuk.

**Minister's Statement 039 – 3(3):  
Thank you to the National School  
of Dental Therapy**

**Hon. Daniel Shewchuk:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. The National School of Dental Therapy at First Nations University prepares students to provide basic dental care, which includes dental cleanings, routine fillings and extractions. Students learn how to teach the prevention of dental disease and apply the latest techniques in dental care. They become familiar with aboriginal culture and values and, in their second year, have the opportunity to work and live in First Nations and Inuit communities for an eight-week period.

Earlier this spring, Mr. Speaker, students from the program operated a free eight-week dental therapy clinic at the Nunavut Research Institute's laboratory in Cambridge Bay. In all, the students performed almost \$95,000 of free dental therapy services to more than 200 Cambridge Bay residents. The students gained valuable knowledge and hands-on experience that will help them in their future careers, while giving the gift of a healthier smile to those in need.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in expressing our sincere thanks to the National School of Dental Therapy for their generous contributions and service to the residents of Cambridge Bay. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. Orders of the day. Ministers' Statements. Moving on in the *Orders of the Day*, Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for South Baffin, Mr. Schell.

**Item 3: Members' Statements**

**Member's Statement 059 – 3(3):  
Training Opportunities on  
Nunavut's Research Vessel**

**Mr. Schell:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to recognize one of my constituents, Tapau Qatsiya, and all of the hard work he has done and the ongoing work he is doing to build Nunavut's new research vessel in Newfoundland.

Mr. Speaker, Tapau Qatsiya is the only Inuk to complete his training on the research vessel and will also continue further with the vessel in an additional

training position. Mr. Speaker, I would also like to acknowledge his work as a ranger and all of his experience in the shrimp fishing industry.

Mr. Speaker, Tapau Qatsiya will take part in the new research vessel's maiden voyage. I understand that it's scheduled to arrive in Iqaluit by Nunavut Day.

Mr. Speaker, I believe Tapau Qatsiya is a great example for other Nunavummiut who wish to pursue new training opportunities and shows how hard work and perseverance truly pays off. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Schell. Members' Statements. Member for Baker Lake, Mr. Aupaluktuq.

**Member's Statement 060 – 3(3): In Support of Social Justice**

**Mr. Aupaluktuq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today as a proud Canadian and most of all, as a proud Nunavummiuq, and I know for a fact that Mr. Shewchuk is quite aware that there are a lot of Canadians on the Boston Bruins team, but go Canucks.

>> *Laughter*

>> *Applause*

As a proud Canadian, I think we have to exercise our fundamental freedoms and it's one of the things that I have shared with my colleagues on numerous occasions.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to add my voice in support of a charter of social

rights for all Canadians, Inuit and non-Inuit, aboriginals and non-aboriginals, all Canadians as equal Canadian citizens.

Mr. Speaker, I was very pleased to hear Ms. Mary Simon, President of Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami, speak out in favour of social justice for all. Mr. Speaker, it is very gratifying to hear the leader of a national organization push for something that I, too, have tried to raise in the conscience of my fellow legislators.

Mr. Speaker, it has long been my contention that Inuit, as a people, do not exercise their rights in the manner that many of their fellow Canadians take for granted. Mr. Speaker, the standard of living, the quality of services, and the basic necessities of life that are available to Nunavut residents are well below the Canadian par. Basic rights, such as adequate health care, food security, decent housing, and a quality education, are still things that we, as representatives of the people who elected us, continue to fight for and demand on a daily basis.

Mr. Speaker, the Charter of Rights and Freedoms is an important Canadian institution, but to date, it has been less than effective in ensuring that all Canadians have equal measures of social justice. In Nunavut, there are still many battles to be fought for what should be guaranteed equally to all Canadian residents.

Mr. Speaker, I support all efforts to strengthen Inuit voices in the demand for equal rights and equal opportunities. As a legislator, I have been elected to represent the people of my constituency and to articulate their needs and aspirations. A charter of social rights

would help to entrench their right to have those needs and aspirations met.

Mr. Speaker, the unique characteristics of the territory of Nunavut have led to some unique challenges and circumstances. As legislators, we can use the powers entrusted in us... .

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

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

**Mr. Aupaluktuq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also want to thank my colleagues for allowing me to continue. I would like to restate this last statement here.

Mr. Speaker, the unique characteristics of the territory of Nunavut have led to some unique challenges and circumstances. As legislators, we can use the powers entrusted in us to address some of those challenges. I urge my colleagues to work together towards ensuring social justice for all of Nunavut's residents. In strengthening Nunavut, we in turn will strengthen Canada, the nation.

I think it's imperative that we, as Nunavummiut, exercise continually social rights and as Canadians, we have been trying to exercise these rights as well, most particularly in the north. We want equality. We want acknowledgement. We also want access to better finances in order to ensure that

we provide the necessary services for professional and personal services for all Nunavummiut.

With this, I would like to congratulate ITK and the President, Ms. Mary Simon, for addressing the needs at a national level. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. Members' Statements. Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Rumbolt.

**Member's Statement 061 – 3(3):  
Sanikiluaq's Teamathlon  
Participants**

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning to all of the residents of Nunavut and to the good people of Sanikiluaq.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Sanikiluaq's teamathlon participants on their recent success at the Teamathlon Games in Nunavik. Mr. Speaker, 16 teams took part in this event, with 15 teams from Nunavik and Sanikiluaq being the only team representing Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, the teamathlon team consisted of 13 players and three coaches. They play a number of different sports, both team sports and individual. The Sanikiluaq team won the gold in volleyball, placed fourth in soccer, fifth in basketball, and seventh in indoor hockey. Team member Mina Mannuk came in third place in the three-kilometre run, while Linda Kowcharlie came in second place in the four-kilometre run.

Mr. Speaker, the other team members were:

Melissa Oqaituk,  
Sandra Sala,  
Lucy Ann Kittosuk,  
Malaya Kavik,  
Raymond Appaqaq,  
Stephan Kudluarok,  
Alec Inuktaluk,  
Moses Audla,  
Joseph Sala,  
Eric Kittosuk, and  
Andre Kavik.

Their volunteer coach was Elijassie Sala and the volunteer assistant coaches were Alice Kavik and Joshua Sala. The efforts of our volunteers make opportunities like this possible for our youth.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Sanikiluaq Teamathlon Team on their success. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Members' Statements. Member for Nattilik, Ms. Ugyuk.

**Member's Statement 062 – 3(3):  
Passing of Louis Anakanerk**

**Ms. Ugyuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to say "good morning" to Nattilingmiut.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge Lorne Kusugak's request to speak about a person who recently passed away from Gjoa Haven. Louis Anakanerk was the station manager for Qulliq Energy in Gjoa Haven. Louis worked for almost 20 years as a manager starting in 1992. He worked until this winter, when he became ill and was unable to work.

Louis took his job very seriously and went to work every day until he was unable to do so. Anakanerk was very committed to his job and he worked tirelessly. He continued to work even during bad weather and provided an essential service to the residents. He continued to work even when others were unable to.

Mr. Speaker, Louis will be remembered for the tremendous commitment and service that he provided the community. He always completed his work and he also provided reports to the community about very vital information. I'm sure that his fellow workers and the people of Gjoa Haven will remember him greatly.

The late Mr. Anakanerk was active in the community and he had expected to retire... .

**Speaker:** Ms. Ugyuk, your time is up. Would you like to request unanimous consent to conclude your statement?

**Ms. Ugyuk** (interpretation): I'm sorry, Mr. Speaker. I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement. Thank you.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. The member from Nattilik is seeking unanimous consent to conclude her statement. Are there any nays? There being none, please go ahead.

**Ms. Ugyuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Louis had expected to retire and be commemorated, but unfortunately that didn't occur. Louis Anakanerk passed away on April 7 in Gjoa Haven.

Mr. Speaker, I was asked to inform the people of Gjoa Haven that a ceremony will be held. However, it was not possible, so a plaque will be placed by the Qulliq Energy Corporation in memory of Louis this month and the plaque will be placed at the power corporation office in Gjoa Haven.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to invite my colleagues to observe a moment of silence for Louis Anakanerk. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Moment of silence*

**Speaker:** Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. Moving on to Members' Statements. Member for Amittuq, Mr. Tapardjuk.

**Member's Statement 063 – 3(3):  
Truth and Reconciliation  
Commission**

**Mr. Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Good morning, Mr. Speaker. I also say "good morning" to my constituents in Igloolik and Hall Beach.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today for two reasons. First, with respect to my colleague, the Member for Rankin Inlet North, Mr. Tagak Curley, who made a reply to the Opening Address, I wanted to state that my constituents expressed their support of his comments as they felt them to be true. Furthermore, Mr. Speaker, in his reply, he states that the angst or undermining, paranoia, and belittling needs to stop.

Additionally, Mr. Speaker, as per his statement, we now have to consider using Inuit societal values in order to survive and to resolve any difficulties in life. We need to get back to those ways

because even when life seems impossible, the Inuit societal values are geared towards these challenges, even when they run into opposition. We can provide more support to those people who are vulnerable so that we can encourage them to not give up if we can show them the value of these principles.

Mr. Speaker, the minister's reply was well accepted and I personally have faith in these values. Due to these reasons, many Nunavummiut have had to overcome unpleasant residential school experiences. They were apprehended as children from their parents, even though it caused many parents to suffer from worry.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to state that on March 23 and March 24, our community experienced some hardship when the Truth and Reconciliation Commission came to Igloolik to hear the stories about people's experiences in those days. In those two days... .

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

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Tapardjuk. The Member for Amittuq is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Are there any nays? There being none. Please proceed.

**Mr. Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I would like to share my thoughts of the hearing we had in Igloolik with the TRC there. It is also quite obvious that, of the residential school students, Igloolik residents represented the largest number of students, especially at the Chesterfield

Inlet Residential School and other schools. The children sent out from Igloolik constituted the largest number of students in the residential school era.

One thing that I would like to share, Mr. Speaker, is the majority of survivors had the opportunity to express their feelings and to talk about their experience, some of whom suppressed these experiences deep inside, but they were able to open up about them. They thanked the TRC panel for coming to town and providing them the opportunity to speak their piece. The healing process is still ongoing and we will continue to work on collecting these stories and we will continue to walk along the path towards healing.

Many people came to the community to provide support during this difficult time, not just past students at the Chesterfield Inlet Residential School but also the victims of sexual and other abuses by the Catholic hierarchy as well as others in this residential school period. The wish to overcome these problems and working towards healing is becoming our focus so that we can alleviate our problems in Nunavut that are a result of these past abuses. That is the only way we can ensure that future generations do not suffer from this so that they can be stronger.

Mr. Speaker, I want to express a heartfelt thank you to the following people: Commissioner Justice Murray Sinclair, Commissioner Marie Wilson, Commissioner Chief Wilton Littlechild, and their staff, Jennifer Hunt-Poitras and Robert Watt. They comprised the commission and they travelled to Igloolik. I also would like to thank people from many communities,

including Coral Harbour, where a healer arrived to provide support to the survivors in Igloolik.

Mr. Speaker, there will be another meeting in Inuvik from June 28 to July 1. The TRC will be there to hold the hearing and I expect that survivors of residential schools in that region will start to prepare themselves. Disclosure is the first step towards the road to recovery and healing in their future.

On behalf of my colleagues here, I would like to thank the Truth and Reconciliation Commission for their invaluable work. Mr. Speaker, I want to share my gratitude to the TRC with my colleagues here. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Tapardjuk. Members' Statements. Member from Nanulik, Mr. Ningeongan.

### **Member's Statement 064 – 3(3): Mine Training Success Stories**

**Mr. Ningeongan:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) I say "good morning" to the people of Coral Harbour and Chesterfield Inlet, as well as Nunavummiut. I hope you enjoy the spring.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share some good news with my colleagues about mine training in the Kivalliq.

Mr. Speaker, as you know, I have been a strong advocate for providing meaningful training opportunities to my constituents and other residents of the

Kivalliq. The residents of the communities that I represent in the Legislative Assembly are eager to work. In order to help them be ready to work, I have pushed for partnerships between government and industry to provide the necessary training and skills.

Mr. Speaker, four residents of the Kivalliq, including three of my constituents, began their training at mine sites in Quebec on March 1 of this year. In cooperation with the Mine Training Society, they are on a path that we hope will ultimately see them take on positions of increasing responsibility in mine operations here at home.

Mr. Speaker, I want to express my encouragement to Mark Pootoolik, Roland Nakoolak, Ray Pudlat, and Raymond Mercer. I know that it's not always easy to leave your community in order to pursue opportunities, but we are behind you all.

Mr. Speaker, there are other exciting projects going on right now in the Kivalliq. I want to thank those companies that are making real efforts to provide meaningful training and employment opportunities for our residents and I want to again state for the record my firm support for initiatives that are building a better future for our people.

I would also like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation to everyone who is working hard to make these opportunities a reality. Richard Connelly, who many of my colleagues know very well, is one such individual and I thank him for keeping me informed about initiatives in our region. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. Members' Statements. Member for Kugluktuk, Mr. Taptuna.

**Member's Statement 065 – 3(3):  
Congratulations to Ian Taptuna  
and Other Graduates of  
Kugluktuk School**

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to congratulate the students who are graduating in my constituency of Kugluktuk this month.

First off, I would like to recognize my son Ian Taptuna as part of the graduating class. His mother, Joanne, and I are very proud of him and we like to wish Ian the very best for his education and career plan.

Mr. Speaker, Ian did not graduate alone. Five other students are graduating this year and they are as follows: Jonathan Manok Taipana, Mila Algiak, Lalena Inualuak, Andrew Atatahak, and Gradon Anaviluk. Mr. Speaker, I would like to extend my sincere congratulations to all of the students and I hope that they decide to continue on their education as part of their future plans.

Mr. Speaker, we need to see more students wanting and staying interested in graduating from high school and hopefully continue on into college and university. A good education goes a long way to ensure that our youth are ready to face the challenges of tomorrow and the years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate the parents and the guardians who made sure that these students were fed and brought

to school. As usual, the guardians and the parents do not get enough recognition for the students who are graduating and the students who are staying in school. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 066 – 3(3):  
Tribute to Retired Leaders**

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to pay tribute to three leaders whose distinguished careers have had an important impact on Nunavut and Nunavummiut. Mr. Speaker, the three individuals about whom I will speak today are no strangers to you or my other colleagues in this House.

Mr. Speaker, when I was honoured to be entrusted with the responsibility of representing the good people of Grise Fiord, Resolute Bay, and Arctic Bay in this Legislative Assembly, one of the first telephone calls that I received was from Paul Okalik. I appreciated that call and, over the last two years, I appreciated the working relationship that we had. As members know, we didn't necessarily agree on every issue, but we found ways of working together on a number of important matters.

I learned a lot of things from Paul during our time together in this House and I would say that two of the things that stand out for me are the importance of being vocal on the issues about which one cares and the importance of growing

a very thick skin. Mr. Speaker, I think my hide may be getting there.

Mr. Speaker, Paul's contributions to Nunavut during its formative years as our first Premier are too numerous to list in my time today, but it is safe to say that his place in Canadian history is assured. I wish him every success in the next stage of his career.

Mr. Speaker, our colleague from Pond Inlet, James Arvaluk, recently announced his retirement from public office. Before my election, I was an adult educator at Nunavut Arctic College. As you know, the college has published an important series of books on northern leaders, including one on James. I remember reading this book before my election and hoping that I would have the opportunity to serve alongside James.

Mr. Speaker, when I reflect on the time that James and I served together, the word that comes to mind about him is persistence. As you know, James fought each and every day for Pond Inlet and I want to take this opportunity to put on the public record the fact that many residents of his community, as well as many people in my own constituency, have been contacting me in recent weeks to express their support for James.

Mr. Speaker, when it came to such issues as getting a new community hall or small craft harbour for Pond Inlet, James was absolutely focused on speaking up for Pond Inlet.

Mr. Speaker, at this time, I would like to seek unanimous consent to continue with my Member's Statement today. Thank you.



**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Elliott. The Member for Quttiktuq is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Are there any nays? There being none. Please proceed, Mr. Elliott.

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

If he didn't get the answer he was looking for one day, he would try again the next and the day after that, if necessary. Mr. Speaker, when it comes to speaking for the High Arctic, I can only try to be as persistent as James.

Mr. Speaker, the third leader to whom I wish to pay tribute is former Auditor General Sheila Fraser, who retired from office earlier this week.

Mr. Speaker, as we noted during Ms. Fraser's appearance last month before our standing committee, she took the time during her decade of service to travel on many occasions to Nunavut. I had the honour of hosting her in the High Arctic and I know that her time in our smaller communities was of tremendous benefit to her reporting responsibilities.

Mr. Speaker, the Auditor General's reports to our legislature have made important observations and recommendations on programs and services that are vital to the constituents whom we serve. Sheila Fraser was not afraid to speak truth to power and, as a legislator who has the duty to provide oversight of the government's spending and actions, I have been proud to have had the opportunity to do my part in acting on her important reports.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in paying tribute to the three

distinguished leaders about whom I have spoken today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Members' Statements. Member for Akulliq, Mr. Ningark.

**Member's Statement 067 – 3(3):  
Arctic Co-operatives New  
Recycling Program**

**Mr. Ningark:** Good morning and thank you, Mr. Speaker. With the rain this morning, I have noticed that Vancouver weather has shifted this way and I don't expect my friend from Arviat to throw a Boston Tea Party any time soon.

>> *Laughter*

Thank you. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to applaud the Arctic Co-operative Limited for establishing a new recycling program in Nunavut. This new recycling program will begin shortly and is planned to have 23 communities participating.

Mr. Speaker, this program will not only contribute to reducing the amount of waste going into our landfills, but it will also provide an additional means of fundraising for community groups, such as sports teams or school groups.

Mr. Speaker, this new recycling program will be in partnership with Co-operators Group Limited, Nunavut Sealink and Supply Incorporated, Arctic Beverages, Canadian North Airlines, and the Government of Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage Nunavummiut to take advantage of this program and I look forward to its progress in reducing

waste in our communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Members' Statements. Member for Cambridge Bay, Mr. Peterson.

**Member's Statement 068 – 3(3):  
Congratulations to Cambridge  
Bay Graduates**

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to rise today to recognize the graduating class of 2011 at the Kiilnik High School in Cambridge Bay.

Mr. Speaker, on May 21, these young men and ladies attended their graduation ceremony while their parents, families, teachers, and friends were all in attendance. It was like coming to the Academy Awards; they all came out dressed very nicely in their suits and gowns. It was a very proud moment.

I would like to recognize these individuals by announcing their names:

Victoria Akhok  
Janine Angohiatok  
Azalea Atienza  
Ian Chenier  
Colin Crockatt  
Cassel Kapolak  
Chelsea Klengenberg

And recognition ceremony participants as well:

Puglik Agligoetok  
Tyson Crockatt  
Mallory Ehaloak  
Kalene Epsilon

Brent Evetalegak  
Talia Maksagak, and  
Perry Nakashook.

Mr. Speaker, we all know, as my colleague from Kugluktuk said, there's a lot of hard work involved in graduating from grade 12. It's very important that you stay in school and get an education. We all know that people can take a lot away from you but they can't take away a good, sound, and solid education that is attributed to the hard work of the students, their parents, and their teachers. We have to pay recognition to all of those folks.

I would like the House to join me today in wishing all of these grade 12 students and the recognition ceremony students future success in their journeys in life. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Peterson. I would also like to mention that I would like to congratulate and wish all of the graduates from Inuksuk High School that are graduating this weekend all the best in their future careers too.

Members' Statements. Member for Rankin Inlet North, Mr. Curley.

**Member's Statement 069 – 3(3):  
Review of Nutrition North Canada  
Program**

**Hon. Tagak Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to speak to a matter. Firstly, I want to state that quite a number of Rankin Inlet residents worried about a couple that were lost out on the land briefly, but they were found yesterday. We thank the

search and rescue team who were successful.

Mr. Speaker, in the last two days, we have been quite busy in our review in the Committee of the Whole for the good of all Nunavutmiut. We held a hearing with witnesses appearing before the committee to answer our questions. We heard from Michael McMullen, Vice-President of the North West Company, Mr. Andy Morrison from Arctic Co-operatives Limited of Nunavut, along with Mr. Kenn Harper, who owns a small retail store here in Iqaluit. We sought the views of these individuals on whether the new Nutrition North Canada Program offered by the federal government is sufficient and adequate.

However, the concerns raised by the members on behalf of all Nunavutmiut were excellent and we need to follow through on them. The Nutrition North Program was developed as an alternative to the Food Mail Program by the federal government without consulting Nunavutmiut or requesting their feedback. Individuals who were able to order from their own suppliers from the south under the old subsidy program can no longer do that under the new program as the subsidy has been shifted to the airline companies and the large retail outlets. It seems that direct consumers have been abandoned.

The program is still being reviewed. Please provide letters of your concerns to your MLAs and inform your MLAs with your recommendations and suggestions to the federal government to improve this program. I want to thank the people from Nunavut and I also urge Nunavutmiut to continue expressing

their concerns to their representatives. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Curley. Orders of the day. Members' Statements. Moving on in the *Orders of the Day*, Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for South Baffin, Mr. Schell.

### Item 6: Oral Questions

#### Question 093 – 3(3): Contracting Practices

**Mr. Schell:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Housing.

In last week's paper, there was an article on the front page that says, "Nunavut housing fiasco leaves contractors facing bankruptcy."

The last couple days we have been dealing with Nutrition North and the federal government, and we have come to the conclusion that the federal government is favouring large corporations rather than these little mom-and-pop convenience stores in the communities.

I'm starting to think that the Nunavut Housing Corporation is working in the same way. They seem to be favouring the large corporation that are getting these jobs nowadays and forgetting about the little mom-and-pop contractor that's in the community.

The reason I say that is according to the NNI Policy, large corporations or any

corporation that's an Inuit corporation needs 51 percent Inuit ownership. What these large corporations do is they get an Inuk over there to put in their corporation that has 51 percent, but has no say as to what's happening, does not manage the money, and simply receives a salary. Mr. Speaker, that is not fair.

The other problem is with these small contractors is the housing corporation, for instance, is making sure that when it comes to release of the holdbacks, they have to wait five to six months. Also, they are not large enough to be able to get bonding, so they have to put a cash amount upfront. They don't get that back for a year. That is enough to bankrupt any small company.

Also, the contractor, in a lot of these cases, is on the hook for missing material, even though the housing corporation is scattered all over the town and they weren't there when the material arrived. Also, most of these contractors are afraid to complain to the housing corporation because they figure that they will be further penalized by the power corporation.

I'll give you an example of what happened with a contractor in Cape Dorset, which I brought to the minister's attention twice but nothing was done. It was a unit that this contractor tendered on. It was a five-plex townhouse. It was the only bid on it, and when the housing corporation received the bid, the housing corporation brought him to the office and asked him, "Is there any chance you can take \$100,000 off your bid?"

This was the response of the contractor because this was the highest amount that they ever had to have in Cape Dorset for

Inuit content. It was 60 percent. Since then, it has gone down to 20 to 25 percent and the contractor said, "The reason I bid this way is because there are two other major jobs on the go. I don't think I'm going to meet my 60 percent content." Basically the housing manager said, "Well, do not worry about it. Have you ever been penalized for not meeting your Inuit content?"

Guess what? Not only did he drop it down by \$100,000, he got penalized \$100,000 for not meeting his 60 percent. So my question to the housing corporation is: what are they going to do about this? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Tagak Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the member for providing the information to the House. I wish to state that I don't read the newspaper articles, so I have no idea what he is referring to. They are not assisting us either with the housing corporation's finances, especially in providing the best financial management.

We heard from the Auditor General through an independent review, along with cabinet recommendations on improving our financial management at the Nunavut Housing Corporation. Many of the recommendations were incorporated and they have been implemented.

The one issue I fully know, Mr. Speaker, is this: the NNI Policy has never bankrupted a single company in Nunavut. The information that you have

gathered can also be reversed, especially when you talk about Inuit owned companies. For example, if my friend stated that he wanted to start a company as a partnership, even without an office, we can create a company without any investment and we can agree that my friend would own 51 percent and I would hold the 49 percent. That is the only requirement and we don't need to show proof or evidence of that ownership. The only thing that the 49 percent shareholders want is to be granted huge contracts and they aren't inclined to check what the 51 percent owner contribution will be.

Let me reiterate that not one single company has been bankrupted by the NNI Policy. If my colleague read the NNI Policy guidelines, there are compliance requirements. One of the requirements includes financial statements to prove that they had staff on their payroll records and we were told by the Auditor General not to approve those claims without that information. We need to have the proper backup records.

Only one company was impacted because the contractors didn't comply with the requirements and the contractors were paid without any information. The only organization that suffered by dint of this mismanagement was the Nunavut Housing Corporation. This was in another year under a different administration, which started back in 1999, and they were proceeding without the proper records. This mismanagement is what brought down the Nunavut Housing Corporation. Thank you.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister Curley. Your first supplementary, Mr. Schell. I'll

just remind members to try and keep your preamble brief. Mr. Schell.

**Mr. Schell:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This will be a lot shorter.

The latest contractor that received the contract for finishing off the SIP units... . According to the NNI Policy, my understanding is that all of the business has to be done in the north for an Inuit company. Their office has to be in the north. The communications has to be in the north, but it's interesting that if you go on the website and look at the company, their phone number is in Rankin Inlet, but their fax number is in Nova Scotia. So my question is: is this a legitimate Inuit company? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Tagak Curley:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the point that the member raised. All I can say is that the member's opinion about whether or not it actually qualifies as an Inuit owned company proves exactly what I said in my response to you earlier.

I know that Article 24 is quite simple in stipulating exactly what constitutes an Inuit owned company, but it's up to all parties, including the Inuit companies that are joint venturing with southern companies, to prove that they are legitimate. How the criteria are used to actually stamp that it's now legitimate, which is done by NTI, I can't speak for them because they have their own guidelines as to who qualifies as an Inuit owned company.

So I would suggest to the member that it may be best that he speak directly with NTI because they are the ones who pass on those records to the Nunavut Housing Corporation and CGS or for a matter of fact, to the whole government these are the Inuit owned companies. How they arrive at it, what the discretionary evaluation criteria are, I can't speak for that. You will have to contact them directly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister Curley. Mr. Schell, your second supplementary.

**Mr. Schell:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With these large contractors doing these jobs in all of the communities, the local contractor is not getting any work. I realize that you are in a large deficit there and you're trying to get the cheapest price.

What happened for many years is there were no contractors in these communities and the housing corporation negotiated with a lot of people trying to get companies set up. They got these companies set up and the only job these small companies can bid on is a housing job. They can't bid on a large school or whatever.

So my question to the minister is: what is he doing with these small contractors? After they supported them for a while, all of a sudden they throw them out to wolves. They don't seem to care if they go bankrupt and a lot of them, I'm telling you right now, are on the verge of going bankrupt because they haven't got any work.

So my question to the minister is: what's going to happen when all of a sudden there's very little work with the housing

corporation? These large contractors are not going to do that work. What's going to happen then? The prices are going to go up. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Tagak Curley:** I appreciate the member's concern. I think we all share the concern that our economic groups, not just the small contractors for construction companies, were facing an economic downturn for the last three years. Particularly in Nunavut, I know very well that challenges for economic prosperity and opportunity is much greater than those companies south of 60.

It is not specifically up to one department or agency or Crown corporation like the housing corporation to ensure that companies do survive in Nunavut. It's really up to the small companies to actually find a way to market their products and businesses, and how best to shape and be able to be a successful contractor. That is up to the owners as well as the shareholders. So in my view, they need more information. If they need more information from us prior to the contract being issued, that's something that the housing corporation, in its part, can possibly do. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister Curley. Before I ask Mr. Schell for his final supplementary, I'll just remind all members that questions are not to be hypothetical. Please go ahead, Mr. Schell.

**Mr. Schell:** Not a problem. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is not just in one community; there are a few communities where the housing manager had basically told the contractor not to worry about the NNI Policy because they haven't been penalized previously. My question to the minister is: does that not mean anything when the housing manager makes that statement or it doesn't really matter? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Tagak Curley:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can't respond to that particular hypothesis because I haven't seen the detailed complaints about that particular stuff. It really means that it's his word against the officials, maybe. That's the way it looks like. Mr. Speaker, I think we have been fair to Nunavutmiut. Any company that bids and gets a contract on the strengths of the NNI Policy in the first place, it's not normally a better bid in terms of the value, the cost. It is actually significantly higher than the other company's bidding.

With a bid adjustment, you can actually lower it down by given percentages that are stipulated and what qualifies to discount that original high bid. Therefore, if they're awarded, they begin to implement the contract and do so. It is also very clear in the NNI Policy that if you don't meet the labour percentage you said you would get when it's evaluated at the end of the term of the contract, they are subject to penalties because they did not honour the compliance requirements of that contract. Likewise, if they exceeded that

labour provision more than they said what the minimum Inuit local labour would be, then they are eligible for bonus provisions. So it works both ways.

In both cases, Mr. Speaker, what's fair is this, and the housing corporation is implementing that, you have to prove that you actually hired that many people. The only way we can find out, and we are required by the Auditor General, is to have backup proof. The best proof of that issue would be to prove the record of employment. A payroll record for that particular term of the contract is required before they're either penalized or awarded a bonus. I think it is fair, Mr. Speaker, both ways. Thank you.

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

#### **Question 094 – 3(3): Cancer Screening and Prevention in Nunavut**

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

Mr. Speaker, more and more Nunavummiut are being diagnosed with cancer, but it seems that in many cases, the diagnosis is coming too late for them to get the proper treatment. Can the minister inform this House whether or not his department keeps track of the number of cancer diagnoses there are across Nunavut and at what stage the cancer is at when it is finally diagnosed? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. Minister of Health and Social Services, Minister Curley.

**Hon. Tagak Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understand the gist of your question, that many people are worried about these late diagnoses. In some cases, people have been diagnosed too late, not just in our jurisdiction here in Nunavut, but some patients pass away due to this in other places.

Your question is not asking about treatment we offer these sick patients, but your question is too complex to answer as it involves the whole system. I cannot state that this is the case in all of these situations, but we can say that the people who work as nurses and doctors at Health and Social Services work extremely hard in trying to provide the best health care in the communities.

When someone is ill, they have to be tested earlier and as soon as possible. This is also an onus on individuals. If we feel unwell or feel that we are suffering from an illness, we have to take the initiative. As we stated earlier, even though it can be very difficult for a person, as my colleague stated, even though it is a heavy matter, we have to push for more testing and ensure we list all of the symptoms to the health care providers.

Sometimes people are reluctant to disclose their symptoms and the doctor or nurse can misunderstand. I know this from a personal perspective, as I had a heart problem for many years but I thought I was healthy. I had difficulty breathing and even had to rest when I would walk around.

In many cases, people assume that they don't have a health problem and this is especially the case with men who don't

like to go the health centres. We have to encourage our relatives to be in touch with their own bodies and not depend entirely on the health system diagnostic tools to determine whether or not they are really sick. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Ugyuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. You didn't answer all of my questions. I asked if they keep track of the number of cancer diagnoses there are across Nunavut.

(interpretation ends) My question is: according to the government's Public Health Strategy document which was tabled in the House on November 1, 2010, the breast cancer mortality rate in Nunavut is the lowest in Canada. Women can conduct self-examinations for the beginning signs of breast cancer. The strategy also shows that Nunavut's rates for colorectal cancer mortality are four times higher than the national average. Can the minister advise this House whether there are procedures that men can follow by themselves to look for the beginning signs of cancer? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. Minister of Health and Social Services, Mr. Curley.

**Hon. Tagak Curley:** Mr. Speaker, certainly I, as the minister, can't provide exact statistics or whatnot as these statistics are actually, probably in some cases, dealing with ongoing medical treatment or whatnot, but our officials at the Public Health Division, including our chief medical health officer, probably have some numbers in regard to that. As



well, we do publish the various annual reports required under the legislation, which we publish. Until this information is available, I can't really take time or request my officials to give [information on] a specific area.

But we do know that, in terms of the breast procedures that we have in every community, well woman clinics are scheduled every month and whatnot. It's up to our clients in communities to ensure that they do participate in that because they are normally in the first stage of trying to get information or whatnot and it's up to an individual to take advantage of that and we urge that information.

I know our nursing staff in every village normally publicizes those in communities to ensure that people who have some concerns with their health take part in those clinics that are scheduled practically every few months, from what I know. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister Curley. Your second supplementary, Ms. Ugyuk.

**Ms. Ugyuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I had referred to men in my previous question, but you didn't respond to it.

However, my other question is: (interpretation ends) the Canadian Partnership Against Cancer is a federally funded program that works with provinces, territories, and other groups, such as aboriginal communities, to help reduce and prevent cancer amongst Canadians. Can the minister confirm whether or not his department works with this organization to address cancer

issues across Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. Minister of Health and Social Services, Minister Curley.

**Hon. Tagak Curley:** Mr. Speaker, we're very much part of implementing public health strategies, which means all levels and areas of particular public health issues that are of concern for Canadians, including cancer and minimizing cancer. In many ways, we work particularly with the Public Health Agency of Canada. They have a number of initiatives and strategies in place. These discussions are ongoing.

I mentioned earlier this morning in my statement as well that obesity is becoming an issue which could lead to a number of sicknesses in life. I didn't say it specifically in that regard, but it could have some consequences.

We are part of the national strategies. Our officials, through our deputy minister and staff, including our chief medical health officer, are very much in contact with all national strategies that are taking place. To be honest with you, there will be a series of meetings that are going on and these discussions are partnering with all various, not just the Crown agencies of the federal government but also private major health care providers in some respects, that are concerned with the health of Canadians. These are very active groups throughout. Our department officials are very much part of that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Ugyuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) In looking through the department's 2011-14 business plan, there doesn't appear to be any cancer specific programs in Nunavut, even though it is one of the leading causes of death across the territory. Can the minister clearly describe what cancer screening and prevention measures are available to all Nunavummiut on a regular basis and especially for men? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. Minister of Health and Social Services, Minister Curley.

**Hon. Tagak Curley:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate that. I think what I want to say is the information that's available for treatment, including men or whatnot, the department doesn't specifically address which generic or whatnot or the status of individuals who require treatment to be treated more specifically than the others. Sure, I think we want to treat all. Individuals who may wish to be evaluated further have an opportunity. That's the commitment that the department is committed to, regardless of the sex of an individual.

We will continue to monitor and work towards making information available to all, including working with our partners in communities, community health committees, which we continue to evaluate the fact that they could be doing more to provide public information. Public health is an important category and it applies to all levels of our clients and members of Nunavut. We will continue to try and improve where we have weaknesses and we're committed to that. We will not leave anyone

marginalized because one simple report or briefing document doesn't say it.

Public health is a huge obligation of the government, a mandate that we will continue to work towards ensuring that Nunavutmiut have the services they need or at least get an opportunity to be evaluated when they need it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister Curley. Moving on to Oral Questions. Member for Amittuq, Mr. Tapardjuk.

### **Question 095 – 3(3): Environment Week 2011**

**Mr. Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Environment.

This morning in your Minister's Statement, you stated that June 5 to June 11 marks Canadian Environment Week. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the minister to provide further clarification about the Environment Week Challenge he referred to. You stated, "... we are asking Nunavummiut to share their views on what environmental stewardship means to them. All participants will receive an eco-friendly prize and the best entries will be published and shared throughout the territory."

Mr. Speaker, what I wanted to understand is "The goal of this campaign is to inspire people to reflect and take pride in both the environment and the age-old traditions that continue to help people live in harmony with the land." I don't understand what you mean by "the environment and the age-old traditions." Perhaps he can clarify that part. Does

that mean individuals who have taught others to live in harmony with the land? Mr. Speaker, I would like clarification firstly what he meant by age-old traditions in his statement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Tapardjuk. Minister of Environment, Minister Shewchuk.

**Hon. Daniel Shewchuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question on what age-old tradition means. First of all, I think it's a very important week. The Environment Week is in response, education, and a forefront to make sure the environment is a healthy environment and that it sustains proper management of wildlife and is there for the people to use.

The "age-old" statement means, I think to my mind, that when we go out in the environment, we left that environment how we found it. So the point is when you go out there and you take litter with you or any other things with you, you bring that stuff back home with you when you go home. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Indeed, I think it will be quite interesting to read his response in the *Blues*. The reason why I asked that question was because the idea of literary awards has its place and the telling of stories helps literacy.

In May, on the celebration of Queen Elizabeth's great-grandmother's birthday, Victoria Day is a national

holiday and a lot of people went out on fishing derbies. It seems obvious to me that many hundreds of pounds of garbage were left behind by some participants, including camp stove fuel cans and other debris.

Mr. Speaker, I want to ask if the Department of Environment has identified any funding for cleaning up lands after a community has held an event. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Tapardjuk. Minister of Environment, Minister Shewchuk.

**Hon. Daniel Shewchuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. No, there are no funds identified in the department to clean up such instances as fish or litter that is left on the land after a fishing derby or an event like that that reflects on the environment. I think all of us as individuals in Nunavut and communities the responsibility is put on all of us to take care of the land. If we take that out there and we leave things on the land, it is our responsibility to clean that up. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Participants are generally advised prior to the fishing derby that they should bring back their garbage. This message is repeated continually.

However, Mr. Speaker, there are old archaeological sites, old spring camp sites, as well as other sites that have been littered with garbage, not just from

recent activities, as many Inuit utilize these sites. Has the Department of Environment discussed or worked with the local HTOs in determining how to best clean up these old camp sites or other sites that are littered with garbage? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Tapardjuk. Minister of Environment, Minister Shewchuk.

**Hon. Daniel Shewchuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At previous mayors' meetings and mayors' forums, this question has been brought up. I have invited all mayors of communities as well as HTOs of communities, if they know where such sites are, that they inform us and inform the hamlet councils. We will ensure we work together with them and make sure the responsible people for cleaning up those sites clean them up. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. You final supplementary, Mr. Tapardjuk.

**Mr. Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am unsure if the minister understood what I stated. I wondered if you have held discussions with the hamlets or HTOs on the sites that would be the priority. Mr. Speaker, I wonder if he was saying that they have funds in the Department of Environment to clean up such garbage in old sites. Did I understand that that is what he is saying? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Tapardjuk. Minister Shewchuk.

**Hon. Daniel Shewchuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. No, that's not what I am saying. We do not have money to clean up old sites. What I am saying, though, is the Department of Environment is willing to work with hamlets and HTOs in identifying these sites and assisting them in finding out who is responsible for having the garbage or those sites in place for how they are, where they are, and we will assist and try to get the responsible parties to clean up those sites. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Question 096 – 3(3): Polar Bear Co-Management Issues in Hudson Bay**

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my questions to the Minister of Environment also.

Mr. Speaker, recent news media stories indicate that environment officials from Quebec, Ontario, and Nunavut will be meeting to discuss the co-management of the southern Hudson Bay polar bear population. Can the minister indicate when this meeting is scheduled and what the minister expects to accomplish from this meeting? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Minister of Environment, Minister Shewchuk.

**Hon. Daniel Shewchuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the member for a very important question. As we all know, it has been highlighted in the media recently and also through recent NWMB hearings on the Davis

Strait polar bear population. It has been identified that there's a lack of polar bear management initiatives by other jurisdictions that we share polar bear populations with. So because of this, there is a meeting scheduled at the end of June happening in Montreal with all interested parties that are concerned with the southern Hudson Bay polar populations, that being Nunavut, Ontario, Environment Canada, Quebec, the government, agencies of those organizations, and also the Inuit and aboriginal interests, and leaders of those jurisdictions will be involved.

I would like to say at this time that obviously a problem has been identified in polar bear management systems by other jurisdictions. However, in Nunavut, we are absolutely the lead. We're very proud of the system that we have in place and other jurisdictions are recognizing this. Through this meeting, we will come up with a co-management system that they hopefully will adopt from our system that will be the best management system for all southern Hudson Bay polar bears. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for his response. Mr. Speaker, as the minister is aware, any discussions or decisions made at these co-management meetings will directly affect the residents of Sanikiluaq. What role will the people of Sanikiluaq play in any decisions or discussions on the co-management of the Hudson Bay polar bear populations? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Minister Shewchuk.

**Hon. Daniel Shewchuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At this initial meeting, as I said, the government will be heavily involved, and also NTI will be involved. However, this is just an initial meeting. I have been instructed and given information that absolutely, the community of Sanikiluaq will be involved when this proceeds further into the management system, that the HTO and the community of Sanikiluaq will be heavily involved. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In a recent news article dated April 6 in CBC, it was stated that "it could be a long process to work out a shared polar bear management agreement in southern Hudson Bay, depending on what attitudes each party brings to the table..."

As we all are aware, a ban on the export of polar bear products is in place for the Baffin Bay population. If the southern Hudson Bay polar bear population is not dealt with quickly and correctly, a similar situation may occur. Can the minister explain how his officials will ensure that this does not happen? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Minister of Environment, Minister Shewchuk.

**Hon. Daniel Shewchuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The member brings up a

very good point. We will work at the table with our partners and with other jurisdictions to try and ensure this happens. I think he stated a very important thing that we absolutely hope and work with them together to put a management system in place as soon as we can.

He does bring up a possibility that people would look at this population as being mismanaged. However, our point and our view in Nunavut is we manage it very well and that we would oppose any listing of export bans in the southern Hudson Bay. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. Moving on to Oral Questions. Member for Akulliq, Mr. Ningark.

### **Question 097 – 3(3): Bedbugs in Boarding Homes**

**Mr. Ningark** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Health and Social Services, my friend. I also appreciate his work.

Last year, the Member for Hudson Bay spoke about the issue of bedbugs. I have recently been made aware that bedbugs are once again making their presence felt in these medical boarding homes. To make matters worse, it seems that these bugs are now being linked to resistance to antibiotics which are used to fight infection.

Additionally, as we have no choice here in Nunavut, patients will continue to be sent out to hospitals. In the case of my region, Mr. Speaker, in the Kitikmeot, we go to the hospitals in the Northwest

Territories for medical treatment and diagnosis.

Can the Minister of Health inform this House as to whether he is aware of the latest threat of bedbugs? We first heard of this last year and based on what people are telling us, they seem to be coming back now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Minister of Health and Social Services, Minister Curley.

**Hon. Tagak Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know of the issue the member just raised and he is entirely correct about that. The Member for Hudson Bay expressed his concerns about the bedbugs infesting the boarding home in Winnipeg. When they started to notice the bugs, the contractors of the boarding home resolved that problem in compliance with the Manitoba provincial health regulations and policies.

I was made aware that the infestation was dealt with, but I cannot ascertain whether or not the problem is spreading or if it is under control. I haven't had a recent update on this matter and I don't have that information handy. I will check into this matter with the officials in our department. Further, in reading the national newspaper articles about health issues in Canada, all of the provincial governments will be working with the federal government on a strategy to combat this problem.

Some of your comments are truthful; bedbugs have become resistant to the application used to get rid of them. Once I have received more information, I will be able to submit a report to the House.

To date, I haven't received any updates on this matter. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Ningark:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish I could recognize if there is an exterminator in this House, but, Mr. Speaker, I thank the hon. minister for his response to my question.

My supplementary question, Mr. Speaker, is with the amount of travel between Nunavut and other jurisdictions, it is only a matter of time before a bedbug or two catches a free ride north. Can the minister describe what kinds of pest control measures are currently in place to deal with any such migration and infestation? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Minister Curley.

**Hon. Tagak Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can say first of all that in Nunavut, we haven't developed any strategies in regard to this. The bedbug infestations we hear of didn't occur in Nunavut, but more so in Manitoba. I imagine that patient boarding homes in other provinces have bedbugs and we do hear of hotels having bedbugs in the south and in the United States, but we haven't heard any reports of bedbug infestations in Nunavut.

When Nunavut residents go out of the territory, they see bedbugs, but we've had no reports of bedbugs in Nunavut as of yet. When we work towards the strategy, we will keep that in consideration. We don't have a strategy geared just for Nunavut. As I stated

earlier, the Canadian government and the provinces will have to work on their strategy on this issue when they meet again. As health ministers, we also meet and this item will most likely be put up for discussion, but it would depend on the problem.

I'm sure that the bedbugs have made it to Nunavut, but we currently don't have any information about communities that may be experiencing this problem and I don't have any information to indicate otherwise. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister Curley. Mr. Ningark, your second supplementary question.

**Mr. Ningark:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On the second supplementary, (interpretation) with that being the case where we still don't have concrete information on this issue, I believe we have to inform the people who travel outside of Nunavut. For the benefit of the listening public, Mr. Speaker, if any infestations were discovered in any public facility or hotels used by people, who can these people contact? What can they do when they discover these bedbugs, especially in places where people have to sleep? When they return to Nunavut, who do they report to if they have seen any bedbugs? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Minister Curley.

**Hon. Tagak Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Wherever anyone discovers an infestation here in Nunavut, I would prefer that they inform health department officials. They can contact you or my offices directly. I

would need to speak with public health officials and the chief medical health officer if we discovered a bedbug infestation. We also need to be informed if more bedbugs are seen at the patient boarding homes.

We informed our former Deputy Minister, Alex Campbell, when he was the Deputy Minister of Health, that this is a major issue in the Kivalliq, but we followed the provincial regulations and policies in cleaning up and treating bedbugs. We also had to check what kind of regulations we had to follow. We had to consider these factors.

However, if patients discover more infestations, I can look into that and write a letter to the health minister at the provincial level. I would be able to work with them at that level. We have to work together and strategize because the patients that are going out of the territory for medical services, especially in Manitoba, have been reporting bedbug infestations.

I can state that perhaps by way of correspondence with my provincial colleagues, I can discover how they deal with this problem in their jurisdictions. Once I get further information, I will provide that to the House at that time. Thank you.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Curley. Mr. Ningark, your third and final supplementary.

**Mr. Ningark:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Final supplementary, (interpretation) I thank the minister for stating that he will discuss this matter with his provincial counterparts outside of Nunavut on this

matter, perhaps via correspondence. We thank you for that.

The medical boarding homes where patients stay are contracted out to private companies by the Nunavut government. Can the minister also contact them about this bedbug issue? The bugs are repulsive and can cause potential health problems with all of their parasites. Will the minister commit to following up with these private contractors and ensuring that they are aware of and prepared to eradicate bedbugs in medical boarding homes? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Minister of Health and Social Services, Minister Curley.

**Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation):** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I will commit to trying that. As I stated before, the former Deputy Minister, Alex Campbell, worked to get further information on the bedbugs and we have that information. We will try to finalize that.

We have large hotels and boarding homes. If infestation is becoming a problem, we need to know that and we have to inform the Chief Medical Health Officer, Dr. Osborne. We need a tracking system to deal with bedbugs that may migrate to Nunavut from outside the territory on people's belongings. We need to provide that information to the health minister in the province if infestation becomes an issue and we will try to follow that process. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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



**Question 098 – 3(3): Government Restructuring**

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

In his Budget Address earlier this year, the minister announced that the government will undertake a review of its own structure and that this review will “take a thoughtful look at the number of departments and agencies, their mandates and organizational designs.” As the minister knows, he has received many thoughtful suggestions from a number of my colleagues on this issue. Can the minister update the House today on what work has been accomplished since he made this announcement? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Elliott for asking that question. Mr. Speaker, yes, I made that statement in the Budget Address. We do feel that restructuring or reorganizing the government to some degree is important to find efficiencies and effectiveness in our departments and programs.

We’ve had several discussions at the cabinet level and at FMB, and our deputy ministers and the Central Accountability Committee have also talked about some of the ways to restructure or reorganize. We have received many good suggestions from many people, ministers, MLAs, and people out in the communities. We are proceeding.

In fact, in the last couple days, a decision has been made to engage an individual who can help us as a government and as the Department of Finance to proceed. I’m sure that over the next few months, ministers, deputy ministers, and MLAs will be receiving some contact from people to talk about some of the ideas that MLAs have suggested to us. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When does your department expect to have the final report from this? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Elliott for that question again. The timeline that we have set is hopefully to have at least an interim report and recommendations by early October. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I’m just wondering in terms of the report is done in October. When will the actual restructuring occur? I guess I’m thinking more towards October would be when we sit down to do capital funding. Will it interrupt those committee meetings that will be happening? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Elliott for that

question. Mr. Speaker, the intention is to receive the report. We will discuss that at FMB and cabinet. The intention is not to destabilize government. We don't want to make a lot of wide-sweeping changes that will do that. The intention is to receive the report, make some thoughtful, common sense decisions, and we will likely be discussing them with our colleagues. The intention for the following fiscal year would be, if there are any changes, to try and implement it in 2012-13. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was wondering if the minister could tell us who is doing the work for the Government of Nunavut. Thank you.

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

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Elliott for the question. Mr. Speaker, we have talked to two firms and gave them an outline of what we would like to do. We received two very good proposals. The individual we selected, who has had vast experience as a deputy minister of the Government of the Northwest Territories and has done a lot of work for the Government of Nunavut in the past, since 1998, the individual is Ken Lovely. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Question 099 – 3(3): Dental Care Issues**

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

Mr. Speaker, I have been recently called upon by my constituents to help resolve an issue relating to access to health services, specifically in the area of dental care. Neither they nor I have been able to get an answer from regional health authorities as to why urgently needed dental services are not being approved.

Can the minister clearly describe what level of authority and accountability should be expected from the regional headquarters of his department? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. Minister of Health and Social Services, Minister Curley.

**Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation):** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With respect to the question raised, this is a concern shared by most Nunavutmiut. It seems fairly straightforward and if we were the only department involved, it would be much easier to handle.

However, the schedules of the dental professionals are set not just by our Nunavut government but in conjunction with the federal government. The federal government is also involved as to how many times the dentists are to arrive to a community. For that reason, the funding for dental services has to be covered by the Non-Insured Health Benefits and because of this funding, those schedules are already set.

The federal government determines how often dentists travel to Nunavut. Also, NTI made a four-year schedule agreement and complaints are handled by the committee, which include all of our partners. Our government is involved, along with NTI. Therefore, I can't elaborate as to who is the primary authority in this situation.

We administer the funding that is transferred to our department and we utilize it for the Non-Insured Health Benefits program, which has certain requirements for accountability for expenditures that we have to follow. That is one of the reasons why this process is not easy to try and improve. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Aupaluktuq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the past, I have also acknowledged the department is restrained in terms of finances and being able to deliver the best quality service, and we have shown empathy and sympathy for the department.

The lack of responsiveness from the Department of Health and Social Services regional headquarters does not only affect clients, Mr. Speaker, it also affects those providing the care. Can the minister update this House on where health centre and social services staff can turn to with questions regarding pay and benefits that are not being addressed by the regional office? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. Minister Curley.

**Hon. Tagak Curley:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm not sure exactly whether or not my advice to the Assembly would be helpful or not. If it's in regard to pay and benefits packages, each employee normally has a way of contacting... . Did I understand you to say pay and benefits, or what?

I would think, in my reply, each employer or worker has the ability to contact the finance department anywhere to do the groundwork to get any grievances, if that is the case, or if any factual information is missing. Most of the departments, including Health, have resource officers that would do the groundwork. Personally I don't get involved in these kinds of things because these are standard, administrative, routine practices. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Aupaluktuq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I recognize that capital planning requests take a long time to filter through the planning process. It is my understanding that individual health centres forward their capital planning needs to the regional offices, who then submit them to headquarters.

Again, it seems as though requests from my constituency of Baker Lake have fallen on deaf ears. Can the minister confirm whether or not his department officials have received and considered the request for a new and larger health centre for the community of Baker Lake? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. Mr. Aupaluktuq, I would just like to ask you if you can clarify if you're tying this in to... . Your first question was on dental care and this is on a capital health centre replacement, so if you can clarify whether you're tying this in to dental care. Mr. Aupaluktuq.

**Mr. Aupaluktuq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for clarifying that. It is very sensitive and I am tying into all of those in terms of overall service delivery, Mr. Speaker, and these are in regard to accountability from requests from constituent as well as health care providers. So these are tied in together as the same question, Mr. Speaker. If I may, the question was: can the minister confirm whether department officials have received and considered the request for a new and larger health centre for the community of Baker Lake? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. I believe you're asking if the new health centre will include dental services or space in there. Minister Curley, if you wish to answer that, you can. I'll leave that up to you. Minister Curley.

**Hon. Tagak Curley:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's important that we stick with the Rules of the House. Questions should be related to the first question if they qualify for second or third supplementary. So, in my opinion, the question is out of order. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Curley. Mr. Curley, you can't rule on a question, I can but that's why I left it to your discretion if you wish to answer it or not.

Based on your response, you wish not to answer and that's fine with me.

Members will notice that question period is over. We will move on to the orders of the day. Item 7. Mr. Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I request unanimous consent to go back to Item 5 in the *Orders of the Day*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Mr. Peterson is requesting to go back to Item 5 in the *Orders of the Day*, Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Are there any nays? There are none. Please proceed, Mr. Peterson.

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

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleagues for not "naying" me.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize a friend and constituent from Cambridge Bay. She came to the Gallery a few minutes ago and her name is Brenda Jancke. She is the director of the education department in Cambridge Bay.

Mr. Speaker, Ms. Jancke is also a former hamlet councillor and deputy mayor. Among the other things she does in Cambridge Bay, she's soon to be a first-time grandmother. I don't know if she wants anyone to know that, but she's here. Welcome to the Gallery.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Welcome to the Gallery. Moving on to Item 7. Written Questions. Item 8. Returns to Written Questions.

Item 9. Replies to Opening Address.  
Item 10. Petitions. Item 11. Responses to Petitions. Item 12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills and Other Matters. Mr. Ningeongan.

**Item 12: Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters**

**Committee Report 003 – 3(3): Bill 2, An Act to Amend the Scientists Act**

**Mr. Ningeongan:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to report that the Standing Committee on Legislation has reviewed Bill 2, *An Act to Amend the Scientists Act*. I would like to inform the House 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 2 immediately moved into Committee of the Whole. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. The member is seeking unanimous consent to waive Rule 68(6) and have Bill 2 immediately moved into Committee of the Whole. Are there any nays? There being none and Bill 2 is referred to the Committee of the Whole.

Item 12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills and Other Matters. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Minister Taptuna.

**Item 13: Tabling of Documents**

**Tabled Document 045 – 3(3): Nunavut Business Credit Corporation Annual Report 2009-2010**

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table the annual report of the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation for the year 2009-2010. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Madam Premier.

**Tabled Document 046 – 3(3): Correspondence from Sheila Fraser on the Audit of the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation ending March 31, 2010**

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am very pleased to table the letter that I received from Sheila Fraser, the Auditor General of Canada, on the completion of her audit on the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation for the year ending March 31, 2010. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Tabled Document 047 – 3(3): Canadian Council of Ministers of Environment Meeting, October 21, 2010**

**Hon. Daniel Shewchuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table the Canadian Council of Ministers of Environment Meeting, October 21, 2010. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Item 14. Notices of Motions. Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 16. Motions. Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Item 19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bills 2, 6, 7, and 8, and Tabled Documents 248 – 3(2), 249 – 3(2), 251 – 3(2), 274 – 3(2), and 275 – 3(2) with Mr. Tapardjuk in the Chair.

Before we go into Committee of the Whole, we will take a 10-minute break. Thank you.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House recessed at 10:59 and Committee resumed at 11:20*

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

**Chairman** (Mr. Tapardjuk) (interpretation): Good morning. Thank you for coming back. I would like to call the committee meeting to order. In Committee of the Whole, we have the following items to deal with: Bills 2, 6, 7, and 8, 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. Aupaluktuq.

**Mr. Aupaluktuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We wish to commence the review of Bill 2 and when we have concluded the review, we will report progress. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. Are we in agreement that we will now deal with Bill 2?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Bill 02 – An Act to Amend the Scientists Act – Consideration in Committee**

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Before we start with the review, does Minister Shewchuk, responsible for Arctic College, have opening comments?

**Hon. Daniel Shewchuk:** Yes, I do. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Please proceed with your opening comments.

**Hon. Daniel Shewchuk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to be here today to present and discuss *An Act to Amend the Scientists Act*. The *Scientists Act* is broad in scope. Licences issued under the Act are required for a wide variety of scientific studies in the health, social and natural science disciplines across the entire Nunavut settlement area, excluding only scientific research on wildlife and archaeology.

As such, the specific consultation and review requirements for a specific project must reflect the discipline, scope, and location of the proposed research, taking into consideration factors such as other authorizations a project may require beyond the scientific research licences. It is also important to note that comparable legislation exists only in the other two territories. The provinces do not have comparable legislation.

Research is an important activity in Nunavut. Each summer, Nunavut hosts dozens of researchers. In Nunavut and the other two territories, researchers need to be licensed. If they are doing wildlife research, they need a licence from the Department of Environment. If they're doing archaeological research, they need a licence from the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth. For all else, they come to the Nunavut Research Institute.

NRI licensing is done under the *Scientists Act*. The licensing process ensures that communities know who is coming into their community to conduct research and what, why, and how they will be conducting their research. Notification of a research application is sent to hamlet councils. In the case of research that will impact land and water, notification is also sent to hunters and trappers organizations and the Nunavut Impact Review Board. The councils, HTOs, and NIRB are given an opportunity to respond prior to a licence being issued.

The licensing process also ensures appropriate reporting of the research. An annual research report must be filed in NRI's research library. These reports are open for public scrutiny. Reports are also sent to all project reviewers. If a hamlet council or HTO reviews a research application and responds and if research subsequently receives a licence and is conducted, then they should receive a copy of the annual research report.

The benefit of the licensing process is that communities have an informed opportunity to express their views on research, that research results are kept in

a central, accessible location in Nunavut, NRI's research library, and that Nunavut Arctic College students and staff build research capacity by working with outside researchers.

The *Scientists Act* enables the minister to appoint a science advisor and a science administrator to administer the Act on his behalf. Traditionally the director of the Nunavut Research Institute, a division of the Nunavut Arctic College, has been appointed a science advisor and one of her staff is usually appointed the science administrator. The *Scientists Act* is an old Act having been originally passed in 1988 and not substantially updated since then.

As part of a review of the Act last fall and in response to recent case law, the Department of Justice indicated that there is a lack of authority for the regulations and recommends that certain provisions in the regulations be moved into the Act. In response to the recommendations from Justice, the proposed amendment is to transfer all of the current regulations relating to the Act into the main body of the Act. This will provide the minister clear authority to appoint the science advisor and science administrator who in turn will have clear authority to issue licences for scientific research.

The review of the Act also provides an opportunity to update the Act to replace "Commissioner" with "Minister." The legislative proposal for this amending Act supported purely technical amendments to modernize the Act in wording and authority. The proposal did not address other topics, such as penalties and sureties. These issues will

be addressed in a future legislative proposal when appropriate.

I look forward to your questions, comments, and discussion. There may be questions that we are unable to answer today but we are committed to doing our best. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Ningeongan:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As Chair of the Standing Committee on Legislation, I am pleased to make opening comments as we begin consideration of Bill 2, *An Act to Amend the Scientists Act*.

Mr. Chairman, the standing committee first reviewed Bill 2 in early March of this year. While the standing committee recognized that the main intent of Bill 2 is to update terminology and to strengthen the *Scientists Act* by moving certain provisions that are currently under the regulations directly into the Act, committee members did raise a number of issues with respect to the existing legislation.

One area of concern identified by the standing committee related to the current process for issuing research licences under the *Scientists Act*. Committee members appreciated receiving detailed information from the minister describing the scientific licensing process which is carried out under the authority of this Act for research in the areas of health, social or natural sciences.

Members recognize that the *Scientists Act* does not have authority over research which is conducted in the areas of archaeology, wildlife, or natural resource development, such as oil, mineral and gas exploration, as there are other regulatory processes which govern those types of research activities.

Members also appreciated receiving information and clarification from the minister on the decision-making process which is used to determine whether or not a research proposal would or would not be considered “injurious to or unduly interfere” with Nunavut’s social or natural environment, as provided for under subsection 3(2) of the Act.

The standing committee notes that the Nunavut Research Institute’s decision-making process does not formally identify which entities or stakeholders are generally considered as review agencies during the review process.

The standing committee stresses the importance of informing, advising, and consulting with communities and the general public on research initiatives which are being proposed or undertaken across Nunavut. Community-based communication and consultation should be an essential component of all research, whether it is conducted under the authority of the *Scientists Act* or under other regulatory processes.

Another issue that the standing committee raised as a concern was with regard to penalties, sureties, and bonds to be applied in cases of contravention of the terms of a research licence, to ensure proper clean-up and/or remediation of a site, and for the unexpected costs of emergency evacuations. While members



recognize that the intent of Bill 2 is primarily to streamline the administration of the Act, the committee looks forward to future amendments to the legislation to address the issue of penalties, sureties, and bonds.

As a final comment, the standing committee has noted with interest that the application of Nunavut's legislation to federal agencies, entities, and departments conducting research in Nunavut is not straightforward. As in the context of other legislation, such as Nunavut's official languages legislation, this is a complex and contentious area that will undoubtedly require further scrutiny and determination depending on the circumstances of each case.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening comments. The standing committee is in support of Bill 2 and recommends its passage to all Members of this House. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Daniel Shewchuk:** I do, Mr. Chairman. Thank you very much.

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

**Some Members:** Agreed.

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

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

**Hon. Daniel Shewchuk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my right I have the President of Nunavut Arctic College, Mr. Dan Vandermeulen, and to my left I have Mr. Thomas Druyan, who is Legal Services with the Department of Justice. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome, Mr. Vandermeulen and Mr. Druyan. Welcome to the legislature. Before we proceed with the clause-by-clause review, are there any general comments? Mr. John Ningark.

**Mr. Ningark:** Thank you kindly, Mr. Chairman. When I laid a first glance at Bill 2, *An Act to Amend the Scientists Act*, the one concern that I had was that there was no visibility of the community being notified of the activities going on around the vicinity of the community in question where the scientific activity was taking place. Mr. Chairman, I thank the hon. minister for making opening remarks and he is able to shed light on one concern that I had. Yesterday we met with the lead minister of this bill. Again today he indicated that the communities will be consulted.

Without going into the details, I think section 4 gives a window of opportunity for everyone concerned to meet and discuss what is happening within the communities. My thought was that within the protocol of the government, the community was not part of what is going on. So now that I have the opportunity to... The minister has given me the understanding that, in fact, the communities will be consulted and

that section 4 allows for about a 12-month period for that opportunity of the minister's department, along with the licensees, to talk with the community.

I, too, like the Chairman, Mr. Ningeongan, recommend that this bill be passed and be recommended by my fellow colleagues. That's all of the comments I have for the time being. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningark. I don't have any more names on my list. Are we agreed that we can now begin the clause-by-clause review?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Bill 2, (interpretation) *An Act to Amend the Scientists Act*. (interpretation ends) Clause 1?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 2?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 3?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 4?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 5?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Schedule is on page 3. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Clause 6?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Are we agreed to Bill 2 as a whole?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Pursuant to Rule 62(2), are we agreed that Bill 2 is ready for third reading?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Shewchuk, we would like to know if you have any closing remarks.

**Hon. Daniel Shewchuk:** Very quickly, Mr. Chairman, thank you very much for you and your members' consideration of this bill and approving it. I would like to thank my witnesses. I think this is going to help us streamline this legislation. It's much needed that we needed to have it done. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. In Committee of the Whole, we stated that we wanted to deal with Bill 2 and we have concluded our review. What's the wish of the committee? Mr. Aupaluktuq.

**Mr. Aupaluktuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am very pleased that we just reviewed this bill and we concluded the review, so we would like

to report progress. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. The motion is not debatable. Are we agreed that we can now report progress?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

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

**Speaker:** On the *Orders of the Day*, Item 20. Report of the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Tapardjuk.

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

**Mr. Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Bill 2 and would like to report that Bill 2 is ready for third reading. Mr. Speaker, I move that the Report of the Committee of the Whole be concurred with.

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

Moving on to the orders of the day. Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. Minister Shewchuk.

**Item 21: Third Reading of Bills**

**Bill 02 – An Act to Amend the Scientists Act – Third Reading**

**Hon. Daniel Shewchuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the hon. member from Rankin Inlet North, that Bill 2, *An Act to Amend the*

*Scientists Act*, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. The motion is in order. All those in favour. Any opposed? There being none. The motion is carried and Bill 2 is ready for assent.

Item 22. *Orders of the Day*. Mr. Clerk.

**Item 22: Orders of the Day**

**Clerk** (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A reminder to the regular members of the three meetings scheduled for this afternoon, the first one commencing at 1:30 in the Nanuq Room.

*Orders of the Day* for June 6:

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 >>*Applause*
15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills This House stands adjourned until Monday, June 6, at 1:30 p.m. Have a good weekend.
16. Motions
17. First Reading of Bills Sergeant-at-Arms.
18. Second Reading of Bills >>*House adjourned at 11:43*
19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
- Bill 6
  - Bill 7
  - Bill 8
  - 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.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Before we adjourn for the day, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the pages who have travelled here from out of town, from the riding of Natilik and Cambridge Bay. I hope you all enjoyed yourselves and learned something, and go home and tell your friends what a wonderful experience it was. Maybe we will see you guys sitting here one of these days. Thank you very much for your services.

