



**Nunavut Canada**

**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NUNAVUT**

**3rd Session**

**3rd Assembly**

**HANSARD**

Official Report

**DAY 14**

**Monday, June 6, 2011**

**Pages 795 – 849**

**Iqaluit**

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

## Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

### *Speaker*

**Hon. Hunter Tootoo**

(Iqaluit Centre)

**Hon. Eva Aariak**

(Iqaluit East)

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

**Ron Elliott**

(Quttiktuq)

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak**

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

**Fred Schell**

(South Baffin)

*Deputy Chair, Committee of the  
Whole*

**Hon. Daniel Shewchuk**

(Arviat)

*Minister of Environment; Minister  
of Human Resources; Minister  
responsible for Nunavut Arctic  
College*

**Hon. James Arreak**

(Uqqummiut)

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

**John Ningark**

(Akulliq)

**Johnny Ningeongan**

(Nanulik)

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

**Louis Tapardjuk**

(Amittuq)

*Deputy Chair, Committee of the  
Whole*

**Hon. Peter Taptuna**

(Kugluktuk)

*Deputy Premier; Minister of  
Economic Development and  
Transportation*

**Moses Aupaluktuq**

(Baker Lake)

**Hon. Keith Peterson**

(Cambridge Bay)

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

**Jeannie Ugyuk**

(Nattilik)

**Hon. Tagak Curley**

(Rankin Inlet North)

*Minister of Health and Social  
Services; Minister responsible for  
the Nunavut Housing  
Corporation; Minister responsible  
for Homelessness; Minister  
responsible for the Workers' Safety  
and Compensation Commission*

**Allan Rumbolt**

(Hudson Bay)

### *Officers*

Clerk

John Quirke

Deputy Clerk

Nancy Tupik

Clerk Assistant

Stephen Innuksuk

Law Clerk

Michael Chandler

Sergeant-at-Arms

Simanek Kilabuk

Hansard Production

Innirvik Support Services

**Box 1200**

**Iqaluit, Nunavut, X0A 0H0**

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

**Website: [www.assembly.nu.ca](http://www.assembly.nu.ca)**

## Table of Contents

Opening Prayer.....	795
Ministers' Statements .....	795
Members' Statements .....	798
Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery.....	802
Oral Questions.....	803
Written Questions.....	820
Tabling of Documents.....	822
Notices of Motions .....	823
Motions.....	824
Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters .....	824
Report of the Committee of the Whole .....	848
Orders of the Day .....	848

**A.**

**Daily References**

Monday, June 6, 2011 ..... 795

**B.**

**Ministers' Statements**

040 – 3(3): Passing of Monique Giroux (Taptuna) ..... 795

041 – 3(3): Congratulations to Lanny Arnakallak (Kusugak) ..... 795

042 – 3(3): Excellence in Nursing Awards (Curley) ..... 796

043 – 3(3): Nunavut Sealskin and Fur Designers Catalogue Launched (Shewchuk) ..... 797

044 – 3(3): Inquest Recommendations Reviewed and Supported (Curley) ..... 797

**C.**

**Members' Statements**

070 – 3(3): Congratulations to Billy Arragutainaq (Rumbolt) ..... 798

071 – 3(3): Providing Support for Elders (Elliott) ..... 798

072 – 3(3): Summer Student Employment Program (Ningark) ..... 799

073 – 3(3): School Non-attenders (Ugyuk) ..... 800

074 – 3(3): Back to Work in Iqaluit (Kusugak) ..... 801

075 – 3(3): 2011 Graduates of Inuksuk High School (Aariak) ..... 801

**D.**

**Oral Questions**

100 – 3(3): Status of Request for a Comprehensive Performance Audit of the Qulliq Energy Corporation (Schell) ..... 803

101 – 3(3): Tabling of Suicide Prevention Strategy Action Plan (Elliott) ..... 804

102 – 3(3): Summer Student Employment Opportunities in Smaller Communities (Ningark) .. 806

103 – 3(3): Update on Social Worker Vacancies in Nunavut (Ningeongan) .....	808
104 – 3(3): School Non-attenders (Ugyuk) .....	809
105 – 3(3): Homeowner Fuel Rebate Program (Rumbolt) .....	811
106 – 3(3): Request for a New Health Centre in Baker Lake (Aupaluktuq) .....	812
107 – 3(3): Health Insurance Coverage for Nunavut Residents (Elliott) .....	814
108 – 3(3): Medical Referrals (Schell).....	816
109 – 3(3): Realistic Dates for Devolution (Elliott).....	818

**E.**

**Written Questions**

005 – 3(3): Cancer Screening and Prevention (Ugyuk) .....	820
006 – 3(3): Update on New Taloyoak Health Centre (Ugyuk) .....	821

**F.**

**Tabling of Documents**

048 – 3(3): Article from Nunavut News/North – Peter Pitseolak School Corrects its Mural (Schell).....	822
049 – 3(3): Photographs of Qulliq Energy Corporation Activities (Schell).....	822
050 – 3(3): List of Documents Available from the Department of Aboriginal and Northern Affairs Canada Concerning the Food Mail and Nutrition North Canada Programs (Elliott).....	822
051 – 3(3): Nunavut Emergency Measures Annual Report 2009 (Kusugak).....	823
052 – 3(3): F/P/T Mines and Energy Ministers’ Meeting in Montreal, Quebec September 17, 2010 (Taptuna).....	823
053 – 3(3): Nunavut Designers Catalogue 2011 (Shewchuk) .....	823
054 – 3(3): Member’s Request for Access to Information to the Department of Community and Government Services (Aupaluktuq) .....	823

**G.**

**Motions**

008 – 3(3): Appointments to the Striking Committee – Notice (Rumbolt)..... 823  
008 – 3(3): Appointments to the Striking Committee (Rumbolt)..... 824

**H.**

**Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters**

Tabled Document 248 – 3(2): Government of Nunavut Contract Activity Report Fiscal Year  
2009-2010 – Consideration in Committee..... 825

Tabled Document 249 – 3(2): Lease Activity Report 2009-2010 – Consideration in Committee  
..... 825

Tabled Document 251 – 3(2): 2009-2010 Procurement Activity Report – Consideration in  
Committee..... 825

**Iqaluit, Nunavut**  
**Monday, June 6, 2011**

**Members Present:**

Honourable Eva Aariak, Honourable James Arreak, Mr. Moses Aupaluktuq, Honourable Tagak Curley, Mr. Ron Elliott, Honourable Lorne Kusugak, 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): Thank you, Sergeant-at-Arms. Before we get started, I would like to ask Minister Curley if he could lead us off with a prayer, please.

>>*Prayer*

**Speaker:** Good afternoon, everybody. I hope that everyone had a good weekend. Moving on in the *Orders of the Day*, Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Minister Taptuna.

**Item 2: Ministers' Statements****Minister's Statement 040 – 3(3):  
Passing of Monique Giroux**

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to offer my condolences to the family and loved ones of Monique Giroux, who passed away on May 21.

Since 2007, Monique served as manager of Kitikmeot Foods in Cambridge Bay. Monique was a fantastic person and her accomplishments at Kitikmeot Foods were many. From the beginning, she

embraced the challenge of operating a federally certified meat and processing facility, planning the harvests, and marketing the many primary and value-added products. Most recently, she organized the 2011 muskox harvest which wrapped up last March.

Mr. Speaker, Monique deeply respected the work of the harvesters and plant employees that she worked with, and the rapport they developed made for a friendly and productive work environment. I am sure that I speak for the staff and boards of Kitikmeot Foods and the Nunavut Development Corporation when I say that she will be greatly missed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Ministers' Statements. Minister Kusugak.

**Minister's Statement 041 – 3(3):  
Congratulations to Lanny  
Arnakallak**

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say "good afternoon" to my colleagues and I am very pleased to be able to be here today.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share with the members an educational success story in reference to one of our Qulliq Energy employees.

Earlier this year, Lanny Arnakallak, an employee with QEC since 2006, completed all of the bookwork, practical applications and examinations required over a long four-year period to become a journeyman carpenter.

Lanny also received his Red Seal certification. The Red Seal is the interprovincial standard for trades across Canada and will allow Lanny to work in any territory or province without having to pass another examination. The Red Seal is known to be the standard of excellence for the trades industries. Of course, we would prefer that Lanny stay with us to help pass on his knowledge and determination.

Mr. Speaker, Qulliq Energy is proud of employees who have completed their apprenticeship. Not only does it give the corporation a skilled and certified tradesperson, it also speaks volumes about QEC's apprenticeship program, mentoring, and support that the staff give to each one of the apprentices as well as to those employees working towards a higher education.

I would also like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the important role that the Department of Education plays in the success of apprenticeship programs in Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that all members join me in congratulating Lanny Arnakallak on his achievement, and I wish him continued success throughout his career with Qulliq Energy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Congratulations, Lanny. Ministers' Statements. Minister Curley.

**Minister's Statement 042 – 3(3):  
Excellence in Nursing Awards**

**Hon. Tagak Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to recognize the contributions that our nurses make to the health and well-being of Nunavutmiut. May 12 was International Nursing Day and my department celebrated the dedication and commitment of nurses across the territory.

Mr. Speaker, nurses working in northern communities in particular gain skills that make them some of the best trained nurses across the country. A community nurse is quite often the first point of contact for individuals seeking medical attention. As such, a key priority of my department is to ensure nursing staff have adequate training and resources to provide effective and efficient health care.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, during National Nursing Week, we announced the excellence in nursing awards to three extraordinary nurses in Nunavut.

It gives me great pleasure to acknowledge Bertha Byrne as the winner of the Award of Excellence for Lifetime Achievement. Madam Byrne has been nursing for 35 years, including 14 in Nunavut. She loves working with the people of Nunavut and welcomes the demands of delivering quality care.

Further, Mr. Speaker, Jacqueline Ramnath is the recipient of the Award of Excellence for Nursing Leadership. Jacquie (Jackie) has established herself as a nursing leader among the staff and residents of the continuing care centre in Gjoa Haven.

Tracy Lickers is a recipient of the Award of Excellence for Nursing Practice.



Tracy is the nursing educator in Cambridge Bay. She is instrumental in training and mentoring new nurses and she has worked in Nunavut for seven years.

Mr. Speaker, the awards will be presented to the recipients during community visits to the Kitikmeot region.

I would appreciate all of you to join me in congratulating the award winners and nurses across Nunavut for their ongoing commitment to providing quality care to Nunavutmiut. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister Curley. Ministers' Statements. Minister Shewchuk.

**Minister's Statement 043 – 3(3):  
Nunavut Sealskin and Fur  
Designers Catalogue Launched**

**Hon. Daniel Shewchuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am very pleased to inform members of the new "Nunavut Designers" catalogue, which was launched at the North American Fur and Fashion Exposition in Montreal (NAFFEM) Fur Fair in Montreal earlier this month. The catalogue is a high-quality promotional tool which features the work of 11 Nunavut designers who work with sealskin and fur. Production of this catalogue was a collaborative effort between the Department of Economic Development and Transportation, the Nunavut Arts and Crafts Association, and the Department of the Environment.

At the recent NAFFEM Fur Fair in Montreal on May 1 to 3, our department once again presented a booth in partnership with Fur Harvesters Auction and the Government of the NWT to market sealskins and fur to a wide array of fur industry retailers, wholesalers, and manufacturers. The new high-quality catalogue and a selection of sealskin products by Nunavut designers were featured prominently in the booth, attracting a significant amount of interest. Several of our designers were also present to promote themselves and discuss their creations with potential buyers.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud of our talented designers and encouraged by the current vitality of Nunavut's sealskin and fur sector. We will continue to provide support to this important cultural industry.

Mr. Speaker, I will table this catalogue at the appropriate time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Minister's Statement 044 – 3(3):  
Inquest Recommendations  
Reviewed and Supported**

**Hon. Tagak Curley:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When Elisapee Michael died on August 13, 2009, our government did not know at that time a coroner's inquest would be called in 2011 to review her death. As the Minister of Health and Social Services, I fully supported the

decision to proceed with the coroner's inquest.

The jury of the coroner's inquest recently issued its conclusion, which included several recommendations for the RCMP, the City of Iqaluit, the Government of Nunavut, and the Qikiqtani General Hospital. My department and the Qikiqtani General Hospital accept and agree with the jury's recommendations.

Mr. Speaker, long before the inquest was undertaken, my department and hospital staff reviewed its own policies and operations and made changes to improve patient care and staff training. Later today, my department will publicly release a more detailed response to the recommendations; if not today, then during this session.

Mr. Speaker, I want to assure Nunavutmiut that my department will continue to work closely with the RCMP and the City of Iqaluit to improve communication and standards to provide quality medical care and a safe environment for everyone. *Qujannamiik*, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister Curley. Orders of the day. Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Rumbolt.

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

#### **Member's Statement 070 – 3(3): Congratulations to Billy Arragutainaq**

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to extend my congratulations to Billy Arragutainaq, who just

completed his Red Seal oil burner mechanics course through the apprenticeship program.

Mr. Speaker, we are all aware how important it is to have qualified tradespeople in our communities.

I would like to acknowledge the support of the Qammaq Housing Association for supporting Bill through this program. He continues to work at the housing association in this very important occupation.

Mr. Speaker, it is a significant accomplishment to have successfully completed an apprenticeship and earn a journeyman's ticket. Bill had to travel out of the territory for some of his training and all of his exams. By all accounts, he was one of the top of his class and should be commended for his achievement. He is a fine example and role model for the youth of the community of Sanikiluaq.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to wish Bill the best of luck in the future, and I ask my fellow members to join me in congratulating him on his achievement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

**Speaker:** Congratulations, Bill. Members' Statements. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. Elliott.

#### **Member's Statement 071 – 3(3): Providing Support for Elders**

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to address what I see as an urgent need to re-evaluate and recalculate what level of support should

be provided to our seniors and elders in Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, I am not simply addressing the issue of poverty, although we know full well that many of our elders do face poverty on a daily basis. I am referring to the bare minimum that is provided to our elders through such programs as the federal government's Old Age Security and Canada Pension Plan.

Mr. Speaker, I have had a number of elders and seniors in my constituency approach me saying that it is harder and harder for them to make ends meet with what little financial support they receive. They say that with the increase in the cost of food, health care, heat, and power, times are tough.

Mr. Speaker, I recognize that the Government of Nunavut also offers a number of programs designed to provide additional support to seniors. These include the Seniors Benefit and other income support programs, the Senior Home Heating Subsidy, the Seniors Property Tax Relief program, Supplementary Health Benefits, and so on.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to call upon the Government of Nunavut to review the levels of financial support that are available to seniors and compare those levels with the varying costs of living across Nunavut's communities. In determining what resources are necessarily to enable a person, a senior, to live comfortably and securely, there is no one-size-fits-all solution.

Mr. Speaker, our government recognizes the disparity in the cost of living between different communities by

providing to its employees northern allowance subsidies scaled to the cost of living where one lives. The same should be applied to support payments for seniors.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage the Government of Nunavut to bring forward to the federal government the need to adjust federal program funding to take into account these same criteria. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 072 – 3(3):  
Summer Student Employment  
Program**

**Mr. Ningark** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, share in the joy and pride expressed by Mr. Kusugak, Mr. Curley, and Mr. Rumbolt in their constituencies for those who have completed their training and they are moving forward.

Mr. Speaker, at this time, the school year is over and spring has sprung and the students will enjoy a summer break. I am very pleased to see them take a summer break. I imagine that some students will be going hunting out on the land, along with their friends, family, and parents. Some students will get summer jobs if there are any available, Mr. Speaker. I keep alluding to this program because some students want to get summer jobs where they learn skills that can assist them when they go back to school.

At the appropriate time, I will be asking questions to the (interpretation ends) Minister for Human Resources, Hon. Minister Shewchuk. As a courtesy, Mr. Speaker, I would like to inform the Minister of Human Resources that I will be asking about summer student employment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningark. (interpretation ends) Members' Statements. Member for Natilik, Ms. Ugyuk.

**Member's Statement 073 – 3(3):  
School Non-attenders**

**Ms. Ugyuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to once again stress the urgent need to address the high rates of non-attendance in our schools.

Mr. Speaker, as you will recall, in March, I posed a written question on the number of Nunavut children and youth who are school "non-attenders." I recently received the answer to my question and I would like to thank the minister and her departmental officials for providing this information.

Mr. Speaker, I have had a chance to look closely through the information details. In comparing the numbers from the 2009-2010 school year to the numbers from the 2010-11 school year, I am concerned to see that in the Kitikmeot region, the number of "non-attenders" appears to be going up.

Mr. Speaker, I believed, like many others, that when we got more Inuit teachers in our schools, this would keep more of our students in school as well, but it doesn't seem to be working out that way.

Mr. Speaker, I understand that many of the district education authorities, in cooperation with the DEA Coalition and the Department of Education, are working on attendance policies for their communities, but things seem to be taking a very long time to be finalized and implemented. In the meantime, children are falling through the cracks.

Mr. Speaker, in looking at the numbers, it seems quite clear that it is our teenagers... .

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

**Speaker:** Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. The member seeking unanimous consent to conclude her Member's Statement. Are there any nays? There being none, please proceed.

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

In looking at the numbers, it seems quite clear that it is our teenagers and young adults who are not attending school. What happens between the earlier grades and the later grades that are causing them to lose their interest and commitment?

Mr. Speaker, I believe that we need to be doing more work in this area and we need to be doing it now before another generation loses the potential to become productive adults and future leaders.

At the appropriate time, I will have questions for the Minister of Education on this issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. Orders of the day. Members' Statements. Member for Rankin Inlet South and Whale Cove, Mr. Kusugak.

**Member's Statement 074 – 3(3): Back to Work in Iqaluit**

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Firstly, I want to thank my colleagues and I regret that I was unable to attend last week. I am pleased to be back in the House for the remainder of the session.

I wanted to inform my constituents that I'm back in the House. If you wish to contact me, I am again available via my office contact numbers. I wanted to let Whale Cove and Rankin Inlet residents know that I am back in the House by way of this statement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Kusugak. Members' Statements. Member for Iqaluit East, Madam Aariak.

**Member's Statement 075 – 3(3): 2011 Graduates of Inuksuk High School**

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish a good afternoon to Iqalummiut and in particular, my constituents in Iqaluit East.

I rise today to speak to certain educational milestones. Last Saturday at Inuksuk High School, they held a grade 12 graduation ceremony. There were a large number of students who graduated. Sixty students graduated from grade 12 at the Inuksuk High School in Iqaluit. We were so proud to see them obtain their diplomas. We were told that this

year has seen the highest number of grade 12 graduates and we are very pleased to see that.

>> *Applause*

We have always treated education with great importance and when we see people pass these educational milestones, we tend to celebrate these occasions.

I also want to mention another person who completed her courses. I wish to congratulate Dr. Mary Leia Sowdluapik Cunningham from Iqaluit. She has received a doctoral degree in veterinary medicine and I am very proud of her accomplishment. She grew up in Apex and we look forward to seeing her open a practice in the near future.

Another individual who was recognized this past year as a doctor was Paleah Black (interpretation ends) in toxicology at the University of Ottawa (interpretation) last year. She studied the toxicological and critical links between the environment and human health.

Mary Leia Sowdluapik Cunningham attended (interpretation ends) the Western College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Saskatchewan.

(interpretation) I am very pleased to congratulate these two individuals and that is why I have mentioned their accomplishments. They are excellent role models for Iqalummiut as well as Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Thank you, Madam Premier. Congratulations to all of the graduates

from Inuksuk High School and all of the other high schools across Nunavut.

Item 3. Members' Statements. Moving on to the orders of the day. Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. There being none. We will move on to Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery.

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

Before we start, I would like to take this opportunity to welcome and recognize one of the independent officers of the Legislative Assembly who is in the House today. That's our Integrity Commissioner, Mr. Norm Pickell. Welcome to the Gallery. Also sitting beside him is his cousin, Ron Wakeling. Welcome to Iqaluit and welcome to the Gallery.

>>Applause

Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Schell.

**Mr. Schell:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize behind me here, Chris Cousins, and his wife, Maanasi Cousins. Chris is an ex-employee of Qulliq Energy and had worked for Qulliq Energy for 16 years. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Schell. Welcome to the Gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Baker Lake, Mr. Aupaluktuq.

**Mr. Aupaluktuq:** Hello to everybody in Baker Lake.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It gives me great pleasure to acknowledge someone here today. I'm sure all of my colleagues would attest as well that we all encourage education and professional development. I am very proud to acknowledge a Baker Lake resident here in the Chambers today who is also an Arctic Winter Games veteran in the sport of soccer, a high school graduate, a Nunavut Sivuniksavut year one graduate, a Nunavut Sivuniksavut year two graduate, also presently a Carleton University student, my niece, Kiah Aqattuaq Hachey. (interpretation) Welcome to the Gallery. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. Welcome to the Gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Elliott.

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to recognize one of the pages, who is originally from Arctic Bay, but is down here in Iqaluit going to school as her father is working for the Government of Nunavut. It's Amy Kalluk over there. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Welcome to the Assembly. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. We will move on in the *Orders of the Day*, Item 6. Oral Questions.

Before we proceed, I would just like to remind all members and ministers to keep your preambles brief and keep your responses short, to the point, and brief. We have limited time for question period and to have respect for all members so

that they have an opportunity to ask their questions.

With that, we can now start the clock and move on to question period.  
Member for South Baffin, Mr. Schell.

### Item 6: Oral Questions

#### Question 100 – 3(3): Status of Request for a Comprehensive Performance Audit of the Qulliq Energy Corporation

**Mr. Schell:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Premier in her capacity as Chairperson of the Executive Council.

On March 22, 2010, the Legislative Assembly unanimously passed a motion that called on the government to advise the Commissioner of Nunavut to request that the Auditor General of Canada conduct a comprehensive performance audit of the financial, billing, contracting, procurement, leasing, and human resources management practices of the Qulliq Energy Corporation.

On October 28 of last year, the Minister of Energy informed the Legislative Assembly that, and I quote, “a formal request will be submitted in the near future.” On February 24 of this year, the minister informed the Legislative Assembly, and I quote “I believe that that process has begun. At an appropriate time, we will be able to table that necessary document...”

Mr. Speaker, my question is this: has the Premier signed a formal letter to the Commissioner advising her to make this request, yes or no? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Schell.  
Madam Premier.

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Yes. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Schell:** Thank you. Can she commit to tabling this letter this week and, if not, why not? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Schell.  
Madam Premier.

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Prior to any document being tabled in the legislature, we have to submit them for cabinet approval and once approved, they can be tabled. If that occurs, I will inform the members at that time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Schell:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I guess my next question is: why has the government not respected the will of the House? It has been a year and a half now and they still haven't got it there. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Schell.  
Madam Premier.

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Perhaps if I clarify and further explain what I just alluded to. I have enquired about these matters that require cabinet approval

prior to the documents being tabled in the House. However, I want to state that the request for a review was submitted and sent quite a while ago, but I have yet to receive a response as to what the status is. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Schell:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was hoping that at least this audit could have been done before the 19 percent increase happened, but I guess that's not going to happen until later. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** That was just a comment. Madam Premier, if you wish to respond to it, it's up to you.

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the member for his line of questioning. Whenever we request an audit from the Auditor General, it is not always possible to get a response forthwith. However, it is at the discretion of the Auditor General to conduct their audit and we cannot initiate an audit on our own. We can only request the audit to be conducted. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Madam Premier. Oral Questions. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. Elliott.

**Question 101 – 3(3): Tabling of  
Suicide Prevention Strategy Action  
Plan**

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are directed to the Minister of Health and Social Services, Minister Tagak Curley, and are based around suicide prevention within the territory.

Mr. Speaker, is the minister going to table the Suicide Prevention Strategy Action Plan during this sitting, yes or no? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Tagak Curley:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. An appropriate and important question. I know that the work plan has been circulated between all three or four parties involved in that. Until I have a clear acceptance of the action plan proposal that we have submitted, along with our partners and until they have all concurred with the work plan as recommended from our department, I cannot commit to whether or not I'll be able to table that today.

If I'm informed today that they have all signed onto the action plan, I'll be pleased to table it, but I cannot assure him now whether or not they have. The indication I have is that they are on stream now, but I will have to check with my officials whether or not all of the documents have been completed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Curley. Your first supplementary question, Mr. Elliott.

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would just like to remind Mr. Curley that during the winter session, he had committed to tabling the action plan during the spring sitting. So could the minister explain what is delaying the tabling of this action plan? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.



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

**Hon. Tagak Curley:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I had committed to tabling the document and I'm just trying to assure that proper protocols are being followed.

The parties all have to be on side. The department has recommended this winter that the action plan is now ready from the department's side. If all parties can bank onto the document, the sooner the better that we continue with carrying on the work needed urgently. My department is constantly working, contacting all parties, including NTI, the Embrace Life Council, and to some extent the RCMP, that is normally given the courtesy of being consulted. All indications are that they have.

It's just a standard thing that I've just got to be assured by way of a proper briefing that they are ready to do so. If they are ready, I might be able to table a document towards the end of this session. It's just that I don't want to preclude anything from getting in the way, if there are any, so I'm a bit more cautious than I should be. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. According to the sessional work plan, we probably have about four more days of sitting. I'm just wondering: is the minister confident that he will receive the appropriate briefing or have a meeting of all of the parties within those

four days to be able to table that document? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Tagak Curley:** Mr. Speaker, I think the member and this Assembly should know that we're not restricted in continuing to carry on the work of the prevention and to continue to address the issues that are related to that very important subject if we don't table any work plan to the House.

The work plan is circulated amongst the members and I think there was a minor situation that did delay it. There were some compliance issues with one of the partners and I believe that they have been resolved. The work is going to continue. We are going to be implementing this strategy once all parties have signed on to the draft. I don't think the signatures are actually required.

I did get a letter, which I quoted partly during my statement in the House the other day, from NTI. They are in full support. So NTI is not at all a question in that regard. It's the other parties that we're working with. I know that my deputy minister had a number of meetings with them and they're ready to go. It's just a matter of time.

The courtesy from my side is that I have committed to tabling the action plan once all parties have discussed it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I agree with Mr. Curley in terms of work continuing on suicide prevention within the territory. I just think that once the action plan is tabled, it will actually solidify and provide more direction as to who is responsible for what and what tangible outcomes will come.

So my final question to the minister is: can the minister provide me with a breakdown per community of where and how many ASIST workshops will be conducted across the territory this fiscal year? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Tagak Curley:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Certainly, once that information is available from my department and the parties have all agreed to the detailed plans for each community, we will be prepared to share that.

Let me say that I appreciate all of the work that continues to be provided by the communities as well because we're not, like I said, doing a one-track thing in trying to establish better communication with the people that we support with respect to suicide prevention in communities.

There are other community members in communities that continue to assist the families, as well as the churches, and so on, other groups. From our part, we're trying to do the best, but we have partners involved with a four-party agreement that is in question right now. I look forward to tabling that once the

information is available to me. Thank you.

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

### **Question 102 – 3(3): Summer Student Employment Opportunities in Smaller Communities**

**Mr. Ningark:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question, through you, Mr. Speaker, to the Hon. Minister of Human Resources.

The Department of Human Resources administers the government's Summer Student Employment Equity Program. Approximately 1,500 students, 75 percent of whom were beneficiaries, have participated in this program since 2001. My question is this, Mr. Speaker: can the minister tell me how many students have been hired under this program in the communities of Kugaaruk and Repulse Bay? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Minister responsible for Human Resources, Minister Shewchuk.

**Hon. Daniel Shewchuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the member for that important and timely question in regard to the summer student program and hiring summer students.

I would just like to comment that he's absolutely right in the numbers that he has in front of him about the number of students who have taken part in this program since 2001. Even just last year, there were 164 students who were hired in 16 communities across the territory

that were sponsored by 12 different departments. We, as HR, encourage all departments to get engaged and involved in the summer student program and to hire students in communities for the summer.

In regard to his two communities that he has asked about, the statistics that I have in front of me for last year's employment under the summer student program show that there were no summer students hired in either one of those communities, Mr. Speaker. I'm not sure of the reasoning. However, I think a lot of it is that the government departments that are there need to be encouraged by their departments to hire summer students for summer work in those communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Ningark:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the hon. minister for his response to my question. Concerns have been expressed that many of Nunavut's smaller communities do not have a significant Government of Nunavut presence, which limits summer student employment opportunities. Earlier this year, MLAs urged the minister to consider such ideas as providing wage subsidies to municipalities and other employers to hire summer students in smaller communities that do not have a large GN presence. Can the hon. minister tell the House what he has done in this regard? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Minister of Human Resources, Minister Shewchuk.

**Hon. Daniel Shewchuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again a very good question by the member. As the member knows, I have been the Minister of HR for a couple of days now. However, I do have some encouraging news in this regard, though, too.

As the member is well aware, we only have so many dollars that are budgeted for the summer student program. However, it is my understanding that new initiatives are being looked at. The federal government is being consulted with through our Department of HR to help coordinate and supplement the summer student program in communities for different means and various means, one being the municipality. So I can advise the member that there is ongoing communication with CanNor in regard to implementing summer student programs throughout more communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Ningark:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again I would like to thank the hon. minister for his positive response. The minister has indicated that the federal government is a partner in job creation for summer students. I'm wondering, and perhaps he has explained that already: what about the small community employers? Is the minister working with the employers to create summer employment opportunities for students in the smaller community across Nunavut? Thank you.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Minister of Human Resources, Minister Shewchuk.

**Hon. Daniel Shewchuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The summer student program is the responsibility of the Department of HR and the GN is to deliver the summer student program through their departments that they have in place. We will try and encourage that with all departments working in all communities that they hire summer students to give the benefit to the summer student the skills and knowledge of moving ahead in the GN workplace.

So I can say that we will encourage all of our departments across the government to get involved in the summer student program and we will also work with other entities, including CanNor, to seek alternative and better ways that we can provide summer students, not only through the government but through municipalities also, that they might be interested in. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. Moving on, Oral Questions. Member for Nanulik, Mr. Ningeongan.

### **Question 103 – 3(3): Update on Social Worker Vacancies in Nunavut**

**Mr. Ningeongan** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are directed to the Minister of Health and Social Services.

Just a short time ago, the members spent two days in this House reviewing the report of the Auditor General on the status of the child, youth, and family services and programs. One of the issues considered the most important factor was to ensure that vacant social worker

positions were filled in all of the communities in Nunavut.

Can the minister inform the House today approximately how many social worker positions across Nunavut have been filled and how many are still vacant? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Tagak Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That is a pertinent question and it has been dealt with by our officials in conjunction with the (interpretation ends) Department of Human Resources. (interpretation) They conduct the interviews and advertise all GN positions out for competition. It's only the registered nurse positions that are administered by our department and none of the others.

At present, there are a total of 38 funded social worker positions in Nunavut. The most recent information I have is the statistics from June 1. For 2011, 18 positions have been filled and the remaining 20 are still vacant within Nunavut. However, as I stated earlier, we worked with the human resources department during the month of January because the positions are prepared for competition for a six-month period and similarly in June for the remaining six months. We haven't completed that preparation as of yet. At present, we have 20 vacant social worker positions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Ningeongan** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the winter session, I raised questions regarding the status of the vacant social worker position in Coral Harbour. It has been vacant for quite a few months. Can the minister update the House on the status of the social worker position in Coral Harbour? Has this position been filled or can we expect a social worker in our community soon? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Tagak Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we still have the vacant position allocated to Coral Harbour and it has not been filled to date. I cannot advise the member as to when this position will be filled since I haven't received any updates on this matter.

Mr. Speaker, whenever I get the information about the change in the status of this position, I will inform the member immediately. I will also table a copy of the information to the Assembly once the report is made available to me. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Question 104 – 3(3): School Non-attenders**

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

Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned in my Member's Statement, I am still

concerned about the high numbers of school "non-attenders" across Nunavut, especially in the Kitikmeot region. I would like to ask the minister to clearly describe what efforts are made by her department to analyze attendance data and information and to determine what factors relate to children and youth not attending school. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. Minister Responsible for Education, Madam Premier.

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Indeed, absenteeism is a very serious issue which needs to be resolved locally. I thank you for your question. We consider this a very important matter and obviously most Nunavummiut are concerned about it as well.

You asked about the review of the attendance data information. We are developing a (interpretation ends) student records system (interpretation) to ensure that there's, if I were to state in English (interpretation ends) consistent data collection. (interpretation) That is what they are reviewing at this time, how to collect the data.

In 2009-2010, absenteeism in schools has decreased by 4 percent from the previous year, which means the total attendance in schools is at 71.6 percent to date. Additionally, we consider this matter a high priority, and the DEA and the department are trying to entice students to attend school and to also improve the school system. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Ugyuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Looking at the numbers in the Kitikmeot, the absenteeism rates were quite high in previous years. (interpretation ends) Can the minister update this House on what specific programs or initiatives are in place to address school non-attendance? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. Minister of Education, Madam Premier.

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, there are a number of initiatives currently under development. As an example, a program currently being developed is entitled *Naamangittuq Upaqattangikkuvit*. In English, (interpretation ends) “It’s not okay to be away.” (interpretation) This program initiative contains the process that our schools within Nunavut can follow to help students overcome their problems and how we can work together as a community to combat the problem of absenteeism.

Additionally, they’re gathering information on the activities students can employ to improve attendance as (interpretation ends) a pilot project in Baker Lake to determine what works to help students stay in school. So it will be interesting to find out after the pilot project is over as to how the outcome of that will be.

Another work in progress is a new program and approaches to new programming in grades 6 to 9, where students sometimes start dropping out. Funding to DEAs to support attendance

initiatives in each community is another initiative; the development of a project to identify ways to help male students find school more interesting and engaging so that they stay in school; and improving attendance requires the combined efforts of schools, DEAs, education, parents, and the whole community.

(interpretation) The statement I just voiced in English attests to the importance of working in conjunction with the local community. We have to make a commitment to work with the DEA, the Department of Education, parents, as well as the entire community to lay groundwork on collaborating towards improving the situation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Ugyuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, as we live in the communities, we know students who have dropped out tend to end up in the justice system and they are generally less well off and this is a priority that I want resolved.

(interpretation ends) Under the *Education Act*, district education authorities are required to establish attendance policies for their communities. Can the minister update this House on how many DEAs have their attendance policies written and what is being done to support and encourage those DEAs that have not yet finalized their community attendance policies? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. Minister of Education, Madam Premier.

**Hon. Eva Aariak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't have that information in front of me, so I'll take that as notice. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you. The question has been taken as notice. We will move on with question period. Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Rumbolt.

### **Question 105 – 3(3): Homeowner Fuel Rebate Program**

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Finance, the Hon. Keith Peterson. My question may not seem appropriate for this time of year, but it's a follow-up question from the winter session.

Mr. Speaker, on March 3 of this year, I asked the minister questions about the Government of Nunavut's Homeowner Fuel Rebate Program, which was not mentioned in his Budget Address. In response to my question, the minister informed the House that he had "gone back to his officials" and that the government would be "looking very closely at the program to see if there's a way that we can consider funding it again this year." Can the minister inform the House today what he has decided to do in response to this program, which both he and I agreed in the House is a very good one for our constituents? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Rumbolt for the question and follow-up. Mr. Speaker, that was a one-time program. We extended it to the second year to help

homeowners when the fuels were very high. Our decision upon closer review is that we would not fund it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Since the minister and I both agree that the Homeowner Fuel Rebate Program is very good, we have to determine whether the government can afford to deliver the program again this year. The minister informed the Legislative Assembly earlier this year that approximately 1,300 Nunavut homeowners took advantage of the program and that it cost the government between \$600,000 and \$700,000 to deliver it.

Given that the government's most recent annual procurement report indicates that the Department of Finance could find \$540,000 to pay the Donna Cona corporation for various consulting services, it seems to me that the government should take a second look at this issue to see if it can spare a few dollars for Nunavut homeowners, especially lower income residents. Will the minister commit to looking into this program again? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Rumbolt for advocating so strongly on behalf of homeowners, of which I am also a homeowner. Certainly we appreciate a little extra money in our back pockets during the periods when the fuel is very high. But, Mr. Speaker, I know that

everybody is aware of the government's financial situation. Just the other day, I announced some work that we're doing to look at trying to save money and streamline and be more efficient.

We reviewed that program very carefully. It was a one-time program. We extended it to the second year. We dealt with applications retroactively for one and then two years, but I'm not going to commit to it the third time. If fuel prices go to \$200 a barrel, we will see, but right now, at \$100 a barrel, that's much lower than when it was first considered. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Since the minister could not commit to looking into this program again, Mr. Speaker, I would like to commit to the minister that I will submit similar questions in the winter sitting when, no doubt, it will be much colder outside and the cost of fuel will probably go up in the fall. That was just a comment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Going to Oral Questions. Member for Baker Lake, Mr. Aupaluktuq.

**Question 106 – 3(3): Request for a New Health Centre in Baker Lake**

**Mr. Aupaluktuq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are directed to the Hon. Minister of Health and Social Services, the Hon. Minister Curley.

Mr. Speaker, I have stated to my colleague's staff and the House that the

Baker Lake Health Centre is outdated and doesn't meet the needs of our growing population as well as development, especially in the areas of increased development in Baker Lake. Our population is growing naturally with the residents of Baker Lake and those coming to work.

Mr. Speaker, with that, I want to state that there is an increase strain and demands of staff and resources at the health centre in Baker Lake. As I have stated before, it is outdated, too small, lacks space, and I have mentioned before that the health centre is too high for the elderly as well as those with disabilities.

My question, Mr. Speaker, was: can the minister confirm whether or not his department officials have received and considered the request for a new and larger health centre and a dental clinic for the community of Baker Lake? 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. As to whom or from which organization made that request, I haven't heard any requests from the hamlet for replacing the health centre. Some of the health centres that are past their operational life are assessed by our officials. This assessment is to determine the overall condition of the facility. The Department of Community and Government Services conducts those assessments.

We haven't yet requested the department to conduct assessments since we are focusing mainly on the three health



centres previously identified as needing replacement and these centres are in Repulse Bay, Taloyoak, and Artic Bay. These three communities are currently our focus for this year. The department is aware of these old health centres and we are concerned about their deterioration. However, we cannot access other funds as the capital project funding is chronically inadequate. Nonetheless, I can tell you that the old health centres suffering from dilapidation and old age are prioritized by numbering them, and that is all I can speak to at this time.

In Baker Lake, we haven't received any form of request for the replacement of the local health centre and that is all I can speak to, Mr. Speaker.  
(interpretation ends) Thank you.

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

**Mr. Aupaluktuq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll be sure to follow up with my counterparts in Baker Lake to follow up with some of these questions, and I know for a fact the minister had also addressed the needs of other communities and that's understandable.

I just wanted to ask as well for the record in relation to this as a follow-up, Mr. Speaker: will the minister commit to including a project for a new health centre for Baker Lake on the next capital plan for Nunavut? 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. Health centres continue to be the focus of our concerns in Nunavut and we have prioritized them based on their age and condition. We work closely with the CGS officials to deal with emergency maintenance repairs and where this is required, we collaborate with the department to ensure that the strain on the health centres doesn't incapacitate them and we keep the communities informed.

Currently, I cannot advise the member in this House as to which community health centre will be the next priority as I don't have that information, so I'll leave it at that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Aupaluktuq (interpretation):** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister for his response. It is rather obvious, as per my previous statements in the Legislative Assembly, the Department of Health and Social Services suffers from a chronic lack of funding. This can have an impact on the daily lives of Inuit when the facility is old and the residents are aware of the issues, such as those faced in Baker Lake. I imagine that we are not alone and they face the same situation elsewhere in Nunavut.

I want to express my gratitude to Minister Curley for allowing me to speak to this concern and in replying to my questions. This is not a question; it is more of a comment. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. That was just a comment. We will move on with question period. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. Elliott.

**Question 107 – 3(3): Health Insurance Coverage for Nunavut Residents**

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

Mr. Speaker, the dynamics of Nunavut's population is undergoing a small but significant change. Over the past 50 years or so, more and more non-Inuit who travelled north to work stayed in the north, raising families and making this beautiful land their home. As they enter their retirement years, many non-Inuit are raising questions and concerns, especially as benefits, such as those provided to Inuit through the Non-Insured Health Benefits program, are not available to them.

Can the minister update the House on how his department tracks and measures the changing demographic nature of Nunavut's population and how this information is used to anticipate future needs for health care, services, programs, and the necessary coverage? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Tagak Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, with respect to that matter, as of today we have not yet determined if we are going to identify it as it has not caused any undue concerns.

However, with respect to the federal government's work on demographic information here in Canada related to population studies, we work in conjunction with them on health issues. That information is used to prepare plans to measure the changing dynamics of Canada's population. We try to get the information collected by the census survey of Canada on specific issues as they are very useful for planning cycles. Our department doesn't conduct a separate census survey due to the fact that we're not overly concerned about Inuit overpopulation nor are Inuit receiving more Non-Insured Health Benefits as an aboriginal people than is our due, but it has assisted many people.

If it weren't for Inuit living in Nunavut, there would be no Nunavut government. Due to this reason, if the Inuit population were to increase substantially, we're not overly concerned as we have adequate support programs in place provided by the federal government. The rights of Inuit and the benefits they receive are protected by the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. I cannot even state that we are being short-changed at this time here in the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In late 2000, I raised the issue of health care benefits and insurance coverage for all Nunavut residents. I was very pleased to note that the Department of Health and Social Services' new website provides information on third party health insurance options for Nunavummiut. I would like to commend the minister and his staff for addressing

this important issue. Can the minister clarify for this House and the listening public whether his department has provided any assistance to individuals trying to obtain third party health insurance and, if so, how successful have their efforts been? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Tagak Curley:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Certainly the Department of Health and Social Services is not responsible for negotiating terms and conditions or benefits that are normally included in the collective bargaining process. I believe that all of the major union members particularly have a very good program included in the collective agreement. I don't think the member is alluding to that part, but we probably have one of the best provisions in those union employee related agreements. So in that regard, no problem with that one, but in terms of the others, I don't... .

As I stated in the winter session, we cannot compel private companies to enforce additional health benefits that are not included in the universal health care provisions, but I think it's up to the companies themselves in many respects. If we're talking about the private sector, they should consider allowing for members or their employees to have extra extended health provisions in their insurance coverage.

In terms of whether or not there are any other areas that we need to cover, this department has extended health benefits that do subsidize to a certain amount some provisions and benefits needed

particularly for the elderly as well as other aboriginal individuals who do not qualify for our own Nunavut, what do you call it, that program that we offer to Inuit. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In March of this year, the Legislative Assembly approved an increase in the 2011-12 budget of the department's Extended Health Benefits program. Can the minister clearly explain how this increased funding will be spent and, if it includes an increase to benefits, how will that increase be distributed? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Tagak Curley:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If it has been increased and approved by the Assembly and the appropriate approval processes, then it's in our base.

The only way that I can respond to that further is that it is based on a needs basis. We certainly don't want to compel people to take advantage of it because it's related to people who have a particular health issue. If they qualify, then the department as well as the Non-Insured Health Benefits administrators track those individuals who are qualified for that benefit or don't and as a result of that, they apply to particular programs.

So it's not necessarily based on, in the status of the economic situation, where it should go. It's based on a needs basis, so

it's kind of difficult for me to respond specifically. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The information on the department's website is a very good start. Can the minister describe to this House what other steps will be taken by his department to make sure that all Nunavut residents are made aware of their health insurance coverage options and what steps they must take to ensure they are covered? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Tagak Curley:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Like I said earlier, we don't target a particular economic group or less fortunate individuals or whatnot, who qualifies and doesn't qualify, because our health care system is based on the universality of the programs, that people who require medical treatment will get medical treatment.

As to how and who should pay for some aspects of the health care or medical treatments that are not covered, the department ensures that we do have a program. Therefore, the Extended Health Benefits program somewhat helps individuals who may need that program. Obviously we need to do better program announcements and publicizing it. We will do whatever we can.

That information is probably available at the local nursing stations. If there is not already a publication or pamphlet, we

will make sure that information or that program is available. That I will commit to do so. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Question 108 – 3(3): Medical Referrals**

**Mr. Schell:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I didn't do this on purpose, but it looks like it's the day for the Minister of Health and Social Services. So my question is for the Minister of Health and Social Services.

There was a 27-year-old female who went to the Cape Dorset Health Centre with a lump on her breast. There is a history of breast cancer in her family. A nurse examined her. A week later, an infant went to the health centre with a swelling in the lower body. The same nurse examined this child.

My question for the minister is: who determines when patients are sent out to the hospital? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Tagak Curley:** Mr. Speaker, I can't speak for that particular individual, but I think there's a joint arrangement. If the person has to be sent to the hospital, we cannot compel individuals, whether sick or not, to leave. It has to be a joint arrangement. If a person requires further treatment or examination, the doctor and the local nurses do the primary assessment of an individual. That's all we have with the smaller communities,

the primary assessment and the local nurses do the examination. If they do require more referrals to the larger centres, local nurses make that recommendation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Schell:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In both cases, the nurse at the health centre recommended that both patients be sent out, but the doctor at the hospital refused to have them sent out. In both cases, the family paid for the flight to the hospital. The female had the lump surgically removed and sent to determine if the lump was cancerous. The infant had an ultrasound done and it was determined that it was a hernia.

How many other cases are there in other communities but families can't afford to send them out? The minister keeps on mentioning that he agrees with second opinions. My question for the minister is: if families can't afford to pay for the flights for a second opinion even after the nurse recommends it, are they just supposed to stay at home and die? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Schell. Mr. Schell, I must remind you that you can't seek an opinion of a minister. You may choose to rephrase your question asking the minister about a patient's next steps for them to do. Mr. Schell.

**Mr. Schell:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I'm not asking for the minister's opinion. What I'm asking is: what is the family to do if they can't afford to fly out and the nurse recommends for them to go, but the doctor or the hospital

refuses to pay for the ticket? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you. That's better. Thank you, Mr. Schell. Minister of Health and Social Services, Minister Curley.

**Hon. Tagak Curley:** Mr. Speaker, I'm not sure whether or not I can fairly respond to that kind of case. I know that the health care providers that we have normally do the best they can and it really is not up to a doctor at one end or the other whether or not the person should be referred to a particular institution. If there is any information that the member can provide to me on a side note, I certainly would be happy to look into it.

All I can say is that we are obligated to treat any illness or examine any illness that a person has. If a person needs further examination, they must have that option. That is all I can say, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Schell:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This nurse in particular is not one that just came out of schooling. She has 30 years nursing and 20 years in the north, and I would kind of figure that she would have a pretty good idea of whether a patient should be sent out or not.

So my question is: if she determines that the patient should be sent out, yet the hospital will not pay for it, is there an appeal process or something that the patient go to or should they just sit at

home and wait until things get worse?  
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Tagak Curley:** Mr. Speaker, as I said earlier, we are committed to providing health care services and treat individuals that require treatment. That is our role. We are committed to that and if there is anything that we can do to expedite it, I certainly would be glad to look at that individual case. It is something that I cannot discuss in terms of the details in this particular case.

I don't have the facts and I need the facts in order to resolve any discrepancies with the medical procedures or whatnot, referral procedures. I certainly would be glad to look it up with our officials and respond to the member fairly, but I don't think it's something we can debate here in the House because I always said we cannot afford to politicize the health issues that individuals face in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Question 109 – 3(3): Realistic Dates for Devolution**

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Premier. Mr. Speaker, as MLAs all know, the Government of Nunavut has publicly committed itself to achieving an agreement on devolution. My questions for the Premier are based on the issue of devolution.

In light of the Mayer Report on Nunavut Devolution released in June 2007, the recommendation to adopt a go-slow approach to devolution was made. Can the Premier give us a clear and candid assessment of what dates and goals are realistic for the Government of Nunavut on devolution? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Eva Aariak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. As you have heard me saying many times the fact that Nunavut is ready to carry on with the devolution negotiations, so is NTL, but we do not have the third party negotiator, which is the federal government. Without the three parties discussing, it's very hard to look at the timeline at this point. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Premier for that answer. Mr. Speaker, the Government of Nunavut's Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs has had an entire division dedicated to devolution for at least five and a half years. I wonder if the Premier could give us an update on what the department is doing with respect to moving the devolution file forward in Ottawa. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Eva Aariak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am continuing to discuss the issue of devolution with Ottawa. I just

had a meeting with our Member of Parliament just a few weeks ago and we agreed to discuss the issue on an ongoing basis. Since the new election of the federal government, I will be engaged in discussing this matter further with the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs. There's a new acronym now. So I have to think about that with Minister Duncan, as well as trying to get an appointment to meet with the Prime Minister. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Premier for that answer. I certainly hope that they have been gathering a lot of good information for future negotiations, if they should occur.

Mr. Speaker, in the Mayer report, one of the recommendations stated that if Nunavut's "human resource capacity cannot be satisfactory dealt with, then the right conditions will not be in place to transfer federal responsibilities." It is an interesting quote.

My question for the Premier: to deal with that recommendation, what has the Government of Canada done to help Nunavut to develop programs and training for Inuit to prepare for the technical, scientific, and professional positions that would be devolved when devolution occurs? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Eva Aariak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are a number of training initiatives that the federal government

has provided to Nunavut at various levels, not specific to devolution, but in our devolution protocol agreement, it is stated that the capacity issue will be discussed in parallel with the devolution negotiations. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Premier for that answer. I certainly hope that the federal government is listening and paying attention. They came out with the report, but they don't actually say how they're going to help us.

In May, you wrote a letter to our newly re-elected MP, Leona Aglukkaq. I would like to thank you for sharing that letter with all of the regular members. In your letter, you specifically mentioned moving forward on devolution. You had mentioned that you had conversations with our MP.

I was wondering in terms of one of the reasons that we don't seem to be moving forward on devolution, it has been said that with NTI's current lawsuit for \$1 billion, it seems to be hindering any further negotiations. Was that discussed when you were speaking with her? If you could explain if that is, in fact, one of the reasons why the federal government is moving so slow on this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Eva Aariak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is precisely one of the issues that I sought an opinion and information on from our Department of

Justice whether the lawsuit has any bearing on the lack of movement in providing a negotiator at the federal level and I believe that is not the case. There is no bearing on NTI's lawsuit. In fact, NTI has numerous discussions in regard to land claims issues while the lawsuit of NTI is still on. So it goes to show you that that is not the issue that is stopping the movement forward on that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Madam Premier. Members will note that the time for question period is over. We will move on to the orders of the day. Item 7. Written Questions. Member for Nattilik, Ms. Ugyuk.

#### **Item 7: Written Questions**

##### **Written Question 005 – 3(3): Cancer Screening and Prevention**

**Ms. Ugyuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a written question for the Minister of Health and Social Services asking for an update on the issue of cancer screening and prevention. The question is lengthy, so I would ask that it be entered into the record as read.

- 1) By year, for each year since 1999, what was the leading cause of death amongst Nunavummiut?
- 2) How does the Department of Health and Social Services record and track diagnoses of cancer among Nunavut residents?
- 3) How does the Department of Health and Social Services record and track the stage of cancer at which cancer diagnoses are made among Nunavut residents?
- 4) How often does the Department of Health and Social Services publish cancer statistics for the territory of Nunavut?
- 5) What programs are available to teach women across Nunavut self-examination procedures to help them detect the signs of cancer?
- 6) What programs are available to teach men across Nunavut self-examination procedures to help them detect the signs of cancer?
- 7) What diagnostic tools are available at community health centres to help health centre staff detect the signs of cancer in Nunavummiut?
- 8) What specific programs does the Department of Health and Social Services deliver on a regular basis to screen for cancer among Nunavummiut?
- 9) What specific programs does the Department of Health and Social Services deliver on a regular basis to prevent cancer among Nunavummiut?
- 10) The Canadian Partnership Against Cancer is a federally funded organization that works with provinces, territories, and aboriginal communities to help reduce and prevent cancer among Canadians. How does the Government of Nunavut work with the Canadian Partnership Against Cancer to help reduce and prevent cancer among Nunavummiut?
- 11) What specific funding is allocated by the Department of Health and Social



Services for cancer prevention programs for Nunavummiut?

12) What specific funding is allocated by the Department of Health and Social Services for cancer screening programs for Nunavummiut?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. Do the members agree that the written question be entered into the record as read?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Speaker:** Thank you. The written question will be entered into the record as read.

Item 7. Written Questions. Ms. Ugyuk.

**Written Question 006 – 3(3): Update on New Taloyoak Health Centre**

**Ms. Ugyuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again I have a written question for the Minister of Health and Social Services asking for an update on the new Taloyoak Health Centre. The question is lengthy so I ask that it be entered into the record as read.

On May 31, 2011, a letter from the Hamlet of Taloyoak was tabled in the Legislative Assembly (TD 41 – 3(3)). The letter identifies the need for a new health centre in the community of Taloyoak and describes the community's understanding of what has happened to date towards the completion of this project. The letter concludes with a number of questions on the status of the project.

- 1) To date, since April 1, 1999, how much funding has been expended on initiation, planning, design, and material purchase for a new health centre in Taloyoak?
- 2) To date, since April 1, 1999, how many plans and designs for a new health centre for the community of Taloyoak have been produced?
- 3) What rationale exists for the continued expenditure on different designs for the Taloyoak Health Centre?
- 4) What happened to the \$352,000 which was approved in the 2006-07 capital budget for the "Health Centre Renovations / Addition" project in Taloyoak?
- 5) What happened to the \$200,000 which was approved in the 2008-09 capital budget for the "Replace Health Centre" project #500239 in Taloyoak?
- 6) What is the current status of Capital Project #500239 ("Replace Health Centre") in the community of Taloyoak?
- 7) When is construction on the new health centre for the community of Taloyoak scheduled to begin?
- 8) When does the Government of Nunavut anticipate opening the new health centre for Taloyoak?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. Do members agree that the written question be entered into the record as read?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Speaker:** Thank you. The written question will be entered into record as read. Thank you.

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. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Member for South Baffin, Mr. Schell.

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

**Tabled Document 048 – 3(3): Article from Nunavut News/North – Peter Pitseolak School Corrects its Mural**

**Tabled Document 049 – 3(3): Photographs of Qulliq Energy Corporation Activities**

**Mr. Schell:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have two documents to table. The first one is that earlier this year, I had asked questions to the government concerning the new mural at Cape Dorset's Peter Pitseolak School. For the benefit of all members, I am tabling today an article from *Nunavut News/North* which clearly shows how the final design more accurately reflects Cape Dorset's culture. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Earlier this year, I asked a question to the Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation concerning the QEC's policy regarding the use of corporate property and resources. I wish to table today some recent photos of Qulliq Energy Corporation activities at a

residential location in Iqaluit. I will have questions for the minister at tomorrow's sitting of the House concerning these activities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Schell. Please forward those documents to the table, to the front.

Tabling of Documents. Mr. Elliott.

**Tabled Document 050 – 3(3): List of Documents Available from the Department of Aboriginal and Northern Affairs Canada Concerning the Food Mail and Nutrition North Canada Programs**

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table a list of documents that are available from the federal Department of Aboriginal and Northern Affairs Canada concerning the Food Mail and Nutrition North Canada programs.

These documents have been generated in response to requests submitted under the federal *Access to Information Act* and they include such items as records that refer to funding conditions regarding an upgrade of freezer/cooler facilities owned by First Air in Iqaluit and research papers, drafts, and final documents produced for the Food Mail Program review.

I will be requesting copies of relevant information from the federal department after our spring sitting has concluded and I will table these items during our fall sitting for the benefit of all members and the Nunavut public. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Tabling of Documents. Minister of

Community and Government Services,  
Minister Kusugak.

**Tabled Document 051 – 3(3): Nunavut  
Emergency Measures Annual  
Report 2009**

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation):  
Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table  
the Nunavut Emergency Measures  
Annual Report 2009. Thank you, Mr.  
Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister Kusugak.  
Will the pages please bring that  
document to the front.

Tabling of Documents. Minister of  
Economic Development and  
Transportation, Minister Taptuna.

**Tabled Document 052 – 3(3): F/P/T  
Mines and Energy Ministers’  
Meeting in Montreal, Quebec  
September 17, 2010**

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr.  
Speaker. I am pleased to table the  
Federal/Provincial/Territorial Mines and  
Energy Ministers’ Meeting in Montreal,  
Quebec on September 17, 2010. Thank  
you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister Taptuna.  
Tabling of Documents. Minister of  
Environment, Minister Shewchuk.

**Tabled Document 053 – 3(3): Nunavut  
Designers Catalogue 2011**

**Hon. Daniel Shewchuk:** Thank you,  
Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table the  
Nunavut Designers Catalogue 2011.  
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister  
Shewchuk. Tabling of Documents. Mr.  
Aupaluktuq.

**Tabled Document 054 – 3(3):  
Member’s Request for Access to  
Information to the Department of  
Community and Government  
Services**

**Mr. Aupaluktuq:** Thank you, Mr.  
Speaker. During our recent winter  
sitting, I submitted a written question to  
the Minister of Community and  
Government Services in which I asked  
for the contents of the annual financial  
statements for the Municipality of Baker  
Lake that are submitted to the minister  
under territorial law. However, the  
government’s response did not fully  
answer my question, so I will be  
submitting another request for this  
important information under the *Access  
to Information and Protection of Privacy  
Act*. As a courtesy, I am pleased to table  
today a copy of the request so that the  
minister is aware of what I will be  
submitting to his department. Thank  
you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq.  
Tabling of Documents. Are there no  
more? I don’t see any hands, so we will  
move on in the *Orders of the Day*, Item  
14. Notices of Motions. Mr. Rumbolt.

**Item 14: Notices of Motions**

**Motion 008 – 3(3): Appointments to  
the Striking Committee – Notice**

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.  
I give notice that on Wednesday June 8,  
2011, I will move the following motion:

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the Hon. Member for Nanulik, that Ron Elliott, Member for Quttiktuq, and Jeanie Ugyuk, Member for Natilik, be appointed to the striking committee.

Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time, I will seek unanimous consent to deal with my motion today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Notices of Motions. Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 16. Motions. Mr. Rumbolt.

### Item 16: Motions

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek unanimous consent to deal with my motion today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. The Member for Hudson Bay is seeking unanimous consent to deal with his motion today. Are there any nays? There are none. Please proceed, Mr. Rumbolt.

### Motion 008 – 3(3): Appointments to the Striking Committee

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

WHEREAS Rule 83 of the *Rules of the Legislative Assembly* provides for the establishment of a striking committee;

AND WHEREAS there are presently vacancies on the striking committee;

AND WHEREAS the Legislative Assembly is prepared to make appointments;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the Hon. Member of Nanulik, that Ron Elliott, Member for Quttiktuq, and Jeannie Ugyuk, Member for Natilik, be appointed to the striking committee.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. The motion is in order. All those in favour. Any opposed? The motion is carried. Congratulations.

Moving on to the orders of the day. Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Orders of the day. Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Item 19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bills 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. Schell in the Chair.

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

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>House recessed at 15:11 and Committee resumed at 15:47

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

**Chairman** (Mr. Schell): I would like to call the committee meeting to order. In the Committee of the Whole, we have the following items to deal with: Bills 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:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We wish to commence the review of Tabled Documents 248 – 3(2), 249 – 3(2), 251 – 3(2), 274 – 3(2), and 275 – 3(2). We will commence with the Hon. Lorne Kusugak with Government of Nunavut-wide questions on procurement, followed by the Department of Community and Government Services and the Qulliq Energy Corporation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Does the committee agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Tabled Document 248 – 3(2):  
Government of Nunavut Contract  
Activity Report Fiscal Year 2009-  
2010 – Consideration in  
Committee**

**Tabled Document 249 – 3(2): Lease  
Activity Report 2009-2010 –  
Consideration in Committee**

**Tabled Document 251 – 3(2): 2009-  
2010 Procurement Activity Report  
– Consideration in Committee**

**Chairman:** Mr. Kusugak, opening comments, please.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to appear before the Committee of the Whole today to answer any questions the members may have concerning the procurement, contracting and leasing activity reports.

The Department of Community and Government Services compiles the contracting and procurement reports on behalf of all government departments.

Reporting of contract activities is consistent with best practices related to government accountability and transparency.

I am pleased to say that in the 2009-2010 report, it is the seventh annual contracting report tabled by my department, with the 2010-11 report to be tabled during the fall sitting.

Mr. Chairman, the government receives the best value for money when they use public processes to advertise for goods and services, and I am pleased to note that the value and volume of sole source contracts continues to decline.

CGS continues to work collaboratively with departments to assist in the procuring of goods and services. Once contracts are awarded, they are then managed by the individual departments. The leasing activity report contains leasing information for commercial leases for all government departments.

CGS is responsible for managing all commercial leases for the government departments. CGS is committed to ensuring fair and ethical practices through the consolidated policy for leasing of commercial real property.

I am ready to respond to your questions on the overall procurement process, my department's contracts, and the government's commercial lease for 2009-2010. Questions on the specific contracts of other departments should be directed to the applicable minister responsible for that department. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Kusugak. Do you have witnesses that you would like to bring to the table?

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Yes, I do, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Does the committee agree to bring the witnesses to the table?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Sergeant-at-Arms, can you escort the minister and the witnesses in.

Minister Kusugak, for the record, could you please introduce your witnesses.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you for your patience, Mr. Chairman. To my left is Deputy Minister Kathleen Lausman and to my right is Ms. Alma Power, Director of Finance for the department. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. I will now open the floor for general comments. Mr. Elliott.

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to have the opportunity to make general comments on the government's contracting, leasing and procurement activity reports tabled in the Legislative Assembly during the fall 2010 sitting. I would also like to thank my colleague from South Baffin for having seconded the motion for putting the documents into Committee of the Whole.

Mr. Chairman, as you will recall, the Legislative Assembly adopted a similar motion last year to refer these important annual reports to the Committee of the Whole for detailed consideration. As you

will also recall, the time that members spent in Committee of the Whole during last spring's sitting considering these documents was very productive, as was a similar exercise that we undertook last fall with respect to the Nunavut Housing Corporation's annual contracting and procurement reports.

Mr. Chairman, the Government of Nunavut spends tens of millions of dollars per year on procuring goods and services. Many of the services that are provided to our constituents are performed by contractors and a significant amount of the government's own daily work is performed by consultants. Having the opportunity to consider these annual reports in detail provides all Members of the Legislative Assembly with an important opportunity to ensure that the government is getting good value for the money that it spends.

I would also note that this is the first time that all Members of the Legislative Assembly will have the opportunity to consider in detail the contracting reports of the Qulliq Energy Corporation. Given that we do not actually approve the annual spending plans for our Crown corporations in the same way that we consider proposed departmental budgets, this is another excellent opportunity to fulfill our obligation as MLAs to act as guardians of the public purse by considering the QEC's activities in detail.

Mr. Chairman, lots of reports, strategies, etcetera, are very useful and most of the time, they do not get tabled in the House. I find this frustrating. Just as an example, there is a contract in here with a company that would have been very useful last week in our deliberations. It

was contracted to a company called LPS and it was to prepare a position for the Government of Nunavut on food mail. These are the types of documents that I think would have been productive and useful in our discussions last week when we were talking about the new Nutrition North Canada Program.

So with that, Mr. Chairman, I thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Ningark.

**Mr. Ningark:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the hon. minister and his officials for appearing before the Committee of the Whole. My questions and comments will be pertaining to Tabled Document 249 – 3(2). It's to do with the lease activity report.

**Chairman:** I'm sorry, Mr. Ningark. We are dealing with general comments. We haven't gone to that yet. Thank you.

**Mr. Ningark:** Mr. Chairman, I thank the hon. minister. I guess I went ahead of myself. I will have some questions pertaining to the leasing activities of the government and the inclusion of Article 24 in the land claims agreement. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Just for your information, we are starting off with Tabled Document 248 – 3(2). We're going to do them in order, so it will be Tabled Document 248 – 3(2) first. Any other general comments? If not, we will go on to Tabled Document 248 – 3(2). Any questions? Do you have a question, Mr. Elliott?

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was giving everyone else a fair chance

first. I didn't want to start off if there were other people that were ready to go.

So my first question is: the government's most recent annual report on procurement activities indicates that the Department of Community and Government Services "will continue to work with departments towards reducing the occurrence of [sole sourcing]. In 2009/10 Sole Source contracts, decreased in volume by 5% and decreased in value by 30%. The number of Sole Source contracts are more prevalent in contracts with value under \$100,000." What steps has the government been taking to reduce the use of sole sourcing? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I could have my deputy respond to that question, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Go ahead, Ms. Lausman.

**Ms. Lausman:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are actually a number of efforts that CGS takes to work with departments, including our own, on reducing the likelihood of sole sourcing. One of them is just simply to plan forward for needs. Whatever procurement needs departments have, whether it's goods or services, there is a certain amount of planning that every department needs to undertake to plan that forward.

Another methodology that we use is actually to identify common areas of

work. I will use CGS as an example. If there is maintenance activity that needs to go on, if there is engineering activity that needs to go on, we end up putting together standing offer agreements that allow us to go out for tender to the marketplace and garner interest in doing that work based on unit rates and other criteria, and then we have folks or companies ready to actually do the work that we don't have to sole source. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Elliott.

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again what I would like to know a little bit more about in terms of understanding the process and see how the Department of CGS actually handles sole sourcing... . Let's say the Department of Education realizes that they need something completed... . In some of the sole source contracts where it's involved a couple of my communities in some of the explanations as to why sole sourcing happens, it's usually to meet a need that wasn't foreseen and something to be done quickly. To save time, a sole source contract happens.

I'm just wondering if you could sort of go through the steps, if I was within the Department of Education, where they assess that there's a need for the sole source contract to happen. How many people within your department does it have to go through? Who decides that it is sole sourced or who determines whether there's enough time? Is it one person? Is it a committee? Just maybe provide the information so I can understand how the process works. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Very good question, Mr. Elliott. What you have to realize is if you're talking about a department, in this case, Education, the deputy minister of that department would be the one who deals with the contractor or contracts and dealing with whether the issue is sole sourced. They would have the say in terms of whether it gets sole sourced and by whom. Often our department does not play a role at all in certain situations in terms of sole sourcing. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Elliott.

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So that's actually really good to know. Just to clarify then, if sole sources and sole source contracts happen in terms of departmental responsibility, it would only be within your Department of CGS that you would determine, "Okay, in that case, it would be the deputy minister's choice," or would it be possibility one of the regional directors who is deciding that? In terms of the system, does it have to come from the top down? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In terms of our department, if it's something our department is responsible for, the CGS department, let's say, the deputy minister has to sign off on it and it often may be the case where one or several of our staff that are working on that situation may recommend to our deputy minister. So if the deputy minister takes action, in this



case, she will take recommendations from her senior staff in terms of how to go about dealing with the matter at hand. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Elliott.

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess that was a good description of what happens within your department, but are you aware if this is a common policy that is government-wide? So in terms of Health and Social Services and Education, for sole source contracts, is it the deputy minister who has the authority to sign off on that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the question, Mr. Elliott. Yes, the deputy minister of the said department would have to sign off on the contract. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Elliott.

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the last year, have any employees of the government been disciplined for not complying with the government's policies and guidelines in respect to contracting and procurement? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Mr. Chairman, I can only speak for my department and in our department, the answer would be no, there has had to be no disciplinary action pertaining to his question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Elliott.

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In a case where a departmental or Crown agency employee believes that the senior manager of the department is abusing their discretionary authority in relation to issuing contracts, is there a formal process by which the employee can confidentially report their concerns to your department? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, the sole source contracts on the departments are the responsibility of the department. We're not the overseer of that. So if there is an issue and someone wants to complain about a contract or contracts, it's usually reported to the DM; if that doesn't work, the ADM. It's usually dealt with within the department. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Elliott.

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So there is no formal policy other than talking to the DM, but if the DM is the person who signs off on a sole source contract, what if there is a conflict there? Who would the employee go to? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's hard to talk in a hypothetical situation because it encompasses so many other possibilities out there, so I'm shy of getting into specifics. There are a lot of different

avenues. You can go to your assistant deputy minister. It depends how far up or down in the department's organizational chart you are. There are other avenues to go through. They go through the Central Accountability Committee. So there are different ways to deal with accountability, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Elliott, I just want to remind you that we are actually dealing with the actual document that is tabled here and not a hypothetical question. It has to do with Tabled Document 248. Thank you. Go ahead, Mr. Elliott.

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thought that when we discussed this, we would talk about the overall general procurement of the Government of Nunavut first of all and then go into specific details. Again, to me, I thought we were here for accountability

My point for the question is I'm on the other side where I have people coming to me constantly saying all of the conspiracy theories about the government doing this and the government doing that, and they're giving sole source contracts to company XYZ and that's a friend of so-and-so. I want to be able to go back to my constituents and say, "No, the government is doing it properly and following the proper procedures." So that's why I'm asking the question.

A lot of times, it almost seems like we deal with a lot of hypothetical when you are a regular member and you've got people telling you stories and there's no way of confirming it with the Government of Nunavut until you write

a letter. So again, I'm just hopefully adding to that extra layer of accountability where maybe this is something your department or the Government of Nunavut could think about in terms of discussing ways of...

To me, what I do and will continue to do is bring the issues forward. If it's a CGS issue, I will continue to bring it forward to the minister. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Okay, Mr. Elliott. Yes, we are dealing with the Government of Nunavut's 2009-2010 contract activity report and that's what we're facing now. But go ahead, Mr. Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I didn't see a question in there, but I did note that he said that often a lot of people are telling stories and that's exactly what it is.

A lot of times, there is a lot of misinformation out there. I do hear those same concerns too, I think we all do in this room, and it takes a lot of work to find out exactly what the details are and what the issues really are. When we do research those, if they do come by our offices, more often than not, if not most of the time, it's really a non-issue. It's just a lack of not getting the full information on any said issue.

So I'll leave it at that. I understand his frustration and I think we all share it. It's just that people are out there and they don't have access or they don't have all of the appropriate information on any given issue within the government, and you and I know where that goes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Does anyone else have any questions on the Government of Nunavut's 2009-2010 contract activity report? I'll ask again. This is in regard to the Government of Nunavut's 2009-2010 contracts that have already taken place, the activity report. Any questions for Tabled Document 248? We are still on 248. I guess if there are no more questions here, we have the review work complete for Tabled Document 248 – 3(2). Does the committee agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** We will take a short break because you've got some different witnesses for the next one, Tabled Document 249, that is. Go ahead, Mr. Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Mr. Chairman, are you saying that the whole documents pertaining to CGS are done?

**Chairman:** No, this has to do with the lease activity report instead of the contract. Tabled Document 249. The one we're dealing with is the Government of Nunavut's 2009-2010 contract activity report. Now we're moving on to the Government of Nunavut's 2009-2010 lease activity report. Do you have the same witnesses?

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Yes, I do, Mr. Chairman. Sorry for the misinformation.

**Chairman:** Okay, I guess we can proceed with Tabled Document 249 – 3(2), Government of Nunavut's 2009-2010 lease activity report. Do members have any questions? Mr. Ningark.

**Mr. Ningark:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the hon. minister for appearing before the Committee of the Whole. My question again is for Tabled Document 249 – 3(2). The minister has indicated in his opening comments that he believes in the government's accountability and transparency. My question is going to be on the overall report.

My question is on page 5 and this is under Summary Statistics, under page 5 of the Lease Activity Report 2009-2010, annual value of leases 2009-2010. On the range, the number of leases, I wanted to know how many of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement, Article 24, were awarded lease contracts in the value of \$500,000 to \$999,999. There were four and I wanted to know how many of those were awarded to Article 24 businesses. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** We will just have to go through them here. Bear with us, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman, thank you for your patience. That information, I believe, is on page 12 of this document that you're reading from, they're the bottom five. It doesn't say on this document whether they're Article 24 compliant, but those are the five that are there, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Ningark.

**Mr. Ningark:** Thank you. Speaking of page 12, at the very bottom of the page, there is a contract in excess of \$1 million. Was any of the membership in this business part of the Article 24

agreement beneficiaries? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Mr. Chairman, I'll have to get back to him on the specifics of that. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Ningark.

**Mr. Ningark:** I thank the hon. minister for being forthcoming. I will expect the information from his department.

Mr. Chairman, again under the Summary Statistics on page 5, there are a number of leases from \$50,000 to \$99,999, 25 to be exact. I also would like to know how many of those were awarded to Article 24 land claims beneficiaries whenever the information is available. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. All of that document, I don't mean to be repeating myself, is actually there, I believe, on page 11 or 10. We don't have it broken down by who is a beneficiary corporation or not, but we can try to find that information and make it available to my friend from Nattilik. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Ningark.

**Mr. Ningark:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Correction, Mr. Chairman, I am not the Member for Nattilik. The Nattilik member is in green; I'm wearing a sealskin vest here.

I think it is incumbent upon the government to give information where I

ask for information because on page 2 of the Lease Activity Report 2009-2010, they talk about "The leasing policy incorporates relevant aspects from the following agreements, policies and standards with which the GN must comply..." Under that is item 1, Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (Article 24). So I would expect to get information on the question that I have asked. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. I guess that was just a comment there, Mr. Ningark. Go ahead, Mr. Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I apologize, but I did correct myself. The microphone was turned off before I did correct myself to the Member for Akulliq. Maybe it was because I saw his sealskin vest.

Mr. Chairman, I agree. I think it's important that this be in there. I think that this document we have before us is improving each year. I will assure the member that we are currently working on the next leasing activity report and we will try and to ensure that information, such as the one he is asking for, is included. One thing that we have to keep in mind is there are times when contracts are given out to companies and the ownership may change or what have you. So we have to ensure that the information he is asking for is true at the time the contracts were given out to the appropriate companies.

We will do what we can to ensure that there is a line in here or some way of highlighting the issues that my colleague is asking to be highlighted. We will work to ensure that it is, if it can be,

adjusted in the next document. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. We're going to take a break now. All members are going to meet at the Tuktu Room and we will ring the bells when we're ready to convene. Thank you.

*>>Committee recessed at 16:18 and resumed at 16:32*

**Chairman:** I would like to welcome everybody back. We're going to have general comments here on Tabled Document 248, contract activities, Document 249, lease activities, and Tabled Document 251, procurement activities, anything to do with CG&S. Any questions? Ms. Ugyuk.

**Ms. Ugyuk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The government's most recent annual report on procurement activities indicates that it issued a total of \$6,928,000 worth of consulting service contracts in 2007-08 and in 2008-09, it issued a total of \$17,248,000 in consulting service contracts. In 2009-2010, the government issued a total of \$10,744,000 in consulting service contracts. What accounts for this decrease?

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are a number of factors that are involved in that. Some of them are in terms of long-term contract activities. Maybe I could have my deputy respond to it in more detail. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Lausman.

**Ms. Lausman:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That actually is the case. We do have some variance in the amount of consulting work and that's primarily due to the length of contracts. Not all contracts for consulting services last one year. Some of them go over more than one year, so the value would be recorded in a particular given contract year as opposed to the full duration and term of the contract. So that's primarily just due to different size and different length of contracts. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Ugyuk.

**Ms. Ugyuk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The government's most recent annual report on procurement activities indicates that "The contract details presented in this report reflect information recorded at the time of contract issuance. Information such as the award value represents the upper limit of a contract as established and agreed by the parties." Does your department track the amounts that are ultimately paid to each company or individual?

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe we do. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Ugyuk.

**Ms. Ugyuk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The government's most recent annual report on contract activities indicates that in the 2009-2010 fiscal year, Inuit firms were awarded 584 out of 1,783 contracts issued by the GN. In 2008-09, Inuit firms were awarded 545 out of 1,521 contracts issued by the GN. In

2007-08, Inuit firms were awarded 534 contracts. In 2006-07, Inuit firms were awarded 410 contracts.

However, although a total of 89 consulting services contracts were awarded by the government in 2009-2010, approximately 90 percent of these contracts were awarded to non-Inuit firms or individuals. What accounts for the relatively low number of consulting services contracts being awarded to Inuit firms? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Very good question. It all depends on the contracts and who bids on them. There are times when there are no Inuit consulting firms that do bid on contracts, so that happens too. It all depends on the contracts and who bids on them. So I guess that's the answer, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Ugyuk.

**Ms. Ugyuk:** In relating to that question, if there are Inuit firms bidding, are they bidding too high? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, it's on a case-by-case basis. In the cases where an Inuk firm bids on it, it may be they're not compliant with part of the contract. It may be because they're too high on the contract. It could be based on their inability to work on the contract. It's really on a case-by-case basis, Mr. Chairman, on whether an Inuit firm gets the contract, should there be an Inuk

firm that bids on the contract and they're compliant. There are different criteria and the evaluation process vets through that, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Ugyuk.

**Ms. Ugyuk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Approximately how many of the government's positions are currently being filled on a contractual basis by consultants who are not actually members of the public service? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That question is better answered by the Department of Human Resources as they are the ones who deal with government employees and those in employment contracts. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Ugyuk.

**Ms. Ugyuk:** During last year's review of the government's annual contracting reports, members raised concerns about the government's dependence on consultants to undertake work that is normally performed by public servants, especially in the areas of policy and legislative development. What has the government done to address these concerns? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't mean to be pushing these off to departments other than myself, but I cannot respond to issues

that are not the responsibility of Community and Government Services specifically on that question, Mr. Chairman. I don't mean to be evading the question, but I think it's better answered by an appropriate department that would deal with hiring employees on a contract basis to fill vacant government positions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Does the Minister of Human Resources want to answer that question? Mr. Shewchuk.

**Hon. Daniel Shewchuk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Could I have Ms. Ugyuk ask that question again.

**Chairman:** Go ahead, Ms. Ugyuk.

**Ms. Ugyuk** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) During last year's review of the government's annual contracting reports, members raised concerns about the government's dependence on consultants to undertake work that is normally performed by public servants, especially in the areas of policy and legislative development. What has the government done to address these concerns? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Shewchuk.

**Hon. Daniel Shewchuk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think it's a very valid question. I think it's not only with developing policies and vacant positions in policy; it's with positions throughout the government service. There are times when it's very difficult to fill specific needs for specific positions. During the long term, you do want to run

competitions and try to fill these positions with the best qualified people that you can. However, I believe, in the interim, contracts need to be awarded, to be done, to carry on and get the work done. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Ugyuk.

**Ms. Ugyuk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. A number of former government employees have been awarded contracts by the government to perform work that would normally be performed by full-time employees. Concerns have been raised that employees have an incentive to leave the government in order to return as consultants who perform the same work for more income. Will you commit to working with the Minister of Human Resources to implement a policy whereby people who leave the government cannot be awarded government contracts or be hired to work as consultants until a certain period of time has passed? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think the government is working to get away from as many contracting as possible. I assure the members that we are working to fill as many positions as possible. Sometimes it's hard to fill technical positions immediately and sometimes the best person for the job had left for other reasons than to try to get a contract from the government.

Mr. Chairman, we are working hard as a government to ensure that these positions, technical or otherwise, be

filled within our territory and be filled as quickly as possible, but that's not always possible on any given situation. I assure members that we are working to alleviate the issue she brings up. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Ugyuk.

**Ms. Ugyuk:** Can the minister answer the last part of my question, "... until a certain period of time has passed." Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** I assured her, yes, we are working towards the goals and means she's asking for and it includes that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In 2007-08, the government awarded \$2,312,000 in contracts to the information technology company Donna Cona. In 2008-09, the government awarded \$1,742,000 in contracts to this company. In 2009-2010, the government awarded over \$4.9 million in contracts to this company. Some of these contracts included \$300,000 for a project manager, \$300,000 for a database administrator, \$250,000 for a data communications engineer, and \$150,000 for a senior web developer.

Why can't the government hire full-time staff to perform these functions and are there any steps that it can take to become less dependent on outside companies to provide information technology services? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On those particular details, I would ask Ms. Lausman to respond. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Lausman.

**Ms. Lausman:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. A couple of answers to that. We actually have a number of standing offers for consultants in the technology field and we tend to rely on them as required. We have been working at implementing our new WAN-LAN-MAN project, so we've had a higher need than usual over the last year or so.

We do have a number of vacancies within our technology area and we have been working over the last 10 months to get staffing actions in place. We're currently staffing some positions. I believe we've got a total of 17 positions or 19 positions out for staffing actions and we have been working at this, as I said, for about 10 months. We're hoping to better the average on staffing that was reported in the OAG's report of 318 days but we continue to work at it.

Some of these skill sets are very hard to find and we've had to change the way we approach the marketplace to find interested individuals in applying for these jobs and we continue to keep trying to staff. It's definitely our desire to have staff rather than continue to have consultants for regular work. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On February 17, 2009, the



federal Competition Bureau publicly announced that criminal charges had been laid against a number of companies “accused of rigging bids to obtain Government of Canada contracts for information technology services.” One of the companies that were charged was Donna Cona. Is the Government of Nunavut aware of the current status of the charges against the company Donna Cona? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I could have Ms. Lausman respond to that, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Lausman.

**Ms. Lausman:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In answer to that question, we are aware of that process right now with the federal government. It was, I believe, in conjunction with a number of federal contracts. So we certainly are staying connected with that process. I believe that it’s not yet concluded and it is separate from our relationship with that company. We have procured their services through a standing offer agreement and went out to competition and that company, along with a couple of others, actually provide services to us. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The issue of ensuring that the Government of Nunavut is not the victim of bid rigging was raised during last year’s consideration of the government’s contracting reports. Over the last year, has the GN introduced any new

measures to ensure that its departments and Crown corporations, including the Nunavut Housing Corporation, are protected against bid rigging? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will ask Ms. Lausman to respond to that.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Lausman.

**Ms. Lausman:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Certainly the pricing in response to tenders and RFP, and so on, is always a concern on actually every type of contract. We haven’t taken any detailed approach to a policy around bid rigging. What we have taken is a very detailed approach to actually how we procure. Most of our RFPs depend on criteria other than price and that would include a number of standing offers.

Also, in dealing with contracts around construction, we meet with the construction association and we meet with the contractors to better understand some of the pricing challenges that we have through contracts we have with them. We are in conversations with the marketplace that we deal with so that we can get a better understanding of what’s driving pricing, what’s driving costs, and what’s driving the capacity in the contracting marketplace that limits the number of folks who bid on our contracts, which all affect the price.

So I would suggest that we’re not as concerned with outright price-fixing or bid rigging. We certainly got a rigorous enough contracting process and

procurement process to ensure that we are very mindful of spotting any of that. Our concern is that we're probably not getting the amount of competition that we want for contracts and that's having an effect on the prices that we end up paying for work. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In 2009-2010, your department awarded approximately \$750,000 in contracts to the company Ant and Bee. These included such items as a \$225,000 contract for a senior database administrator and \$150,000 for a senior helpdesk technician. How is your department ensuring that it receives good value for these expenditures? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Lausman.

**Ms. Lausman:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Those are a couple of more consultants that we've had to bring on stream to handle the new network build that we're doing and some of the work that we are working on to implement our new Exchange 2010. So we've got some upgrades on some of the operating systems that we're using, as well as assisting other departments in the implementation of various software programs.

So all I can say is that we have contracts with each one of these individuals. We work them very hard. We have them meet the deliverables that they have been asked to meet. We have some fairly stringent timelines that we actually need to accomplish this work. So there is very little that goes on in the technical side of

this business that doesn't show up somewhere if it's not happening. We can attest to that with many helpdesk requests that we get to solve issues and so on. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In 2009-2010, your department awarded a \$638,600 sole source contract to Aarluk Consulting to develop integrated community sustainability plans. Why was this contract sole sourced and what is the status of the development of these plans? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just one moment.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think I'll ask Ms. Lausman to respond to that question. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Lausman.

**Ms. Lausman:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The ICSPs are actually a requirement of the gas tax and they're connected to the Nunavut Association of Municipalities and the committee that we have to actually decide on hamlet priorities for various projects under the gas tax.

Given that it was a requirement of the gas tax and we had a certain timeline to accomplish a really large task, we had to work with a consultant who was able to meet those requirements and fulfill this task in a short period of time. This particular consulting company is on a

standing offer list and has all kinds of familiarity with both this type of work and also the communities that the work had to take place in. So that's the justification for actually approaching this company to do this particular task. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Ningark.

**Mr. Ningark:** Thank you. I have a number of questions with your indulgence, Mr. Chairman.

A number of outside consultants at many times, as we do our research, are being hired to do some consulting studies in Nunavut. One is contract C247 and this has to do with the Nunavut water licence. The other one is tangible capital asset reporting and again this is contract No. C1637. The other one is contract C1492 and this has to do with the fire marshal plan reviews. My question is: why are we hiring outside consultants to do these things, to perform the work, where we have people in Nunavut who are just as capable of doing these things? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm just trying find out exactly which ones he is talking about.

Mr. Chairman, I think some of them have gone through a request for proposals. There was a public request for proposals, so those were done through the public tendering process. And did he say "1497," Mr. Chairman?

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Ningark.

**Mr. Ningark:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Request for proposals for sole source contracting is not my problem. The problem is why outside consultants are being hired to perform this work instead of hiring... We have capable people in Nunavut. That's my concern and that's what I would like to see.

If you want me to repeat the contract numbers, I will do so. For your information, C247, this has to do with the Nunavut water licence; C1637, this has to do with tangible capital asset reporting; and finally, the fire marshal plan review, C1492. Why use the consultants from outside? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Mr. Chairman, they were done through a bidding process, going through evaluation criteria, and it was done through an open process, Mr. Chairman. And I believe 247 is a registered Nunavut company. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Ningark.

**Mr. Ningark:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is there a Nunavut consultant living outside the jurisdiction of Nunavut? Perhaps I can get clarification on that. If that is the case, then I have no problem at all. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Just bear with us, Mr. Chairman. I'm just trying to flip through the pages here.

Maybe I'll ask Ms. Lausman to respond to that question, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Lausman.

**Ms. Lausman:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I understood this question correctly, there are a number of companies registered in Nunavut to do business in Nunavut that are also registered in the Northwest Territories, perhaps the Yukon, and perhaps a number of places. I would suggest that's particular to engineering companies, architectural consultants, and planning consultants. They do business, a lot of them, actually, right across Canada and sometimes even into the States. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Ningark.

**Mr. Ningark:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In recent times, we heard that we have different problems with municipal services like water management and other things. In 2009-2010, Mr. Minister, through the Chairman, your department awarded a \$178,740 contract to a company to perform a waste water study and this is contract C128. A number of members have been raising concerns about the issue of water quality and treatment in Nunavut communities. What were the results of this waste water study and will you commit to tabling it in the Legislative Assembly? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I could ask Kathleen to

give a detailed answer on that particular contract. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Lausman.

**Ms. Lausman:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In answer to the question, this specific contract was actually focused on the waste water study in Rankin Inlet.

There has been a fair bit of growth in Rankin Inlet as a community, including an awful lot of new buildings going up and having to extend the water and waste water services out to these new buildings. We typically engage consultants to help plan that and to detail the design of the solutions for extending the utilidor, is actually what it is, and to ensuring that our lagoon has adequate capacity for this additional activity that's going to be on stream once all of the buildings are completed.

In this case, it's the healing facility in Rankin Inlet, the trades centre, and a number of housing units that are still under construction, actually, that will create some more capacity issues in Rankin Inlet itself. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Ugyuk.

**Ms. Ugyuk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In 2009-2010, NTCL received approximately \$17.0 million in fuel resupply contracts. In April of 2004, the Government of Nunavut filed a lawsuit against NTCL for approximately \$7.5 million to recover costs incurred by the government for its "bad gas" compensation program. Without discussing the specifics of this case, when does the government anticipate that it will be finally resolved and is it satisfied that NTCL has successfully

addressed the problems with gasoline quality that led to this lawsuit being filed? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Before I answer that question, Mr. Chairman, I just want to apologize to Mr. Ningark. I believe I said that Dillon Consulting was a Nunavut contractor. I didn't mean to mislead you. I read a wrong line on here, so if I can retract that.

Mr. Chairman, in response to the answer that Ms. Ugyuk is asking me, unfortunately I cannot respond to that only because our department is not the lead on that particular issue. It is better answered by Finance and Justice because they're the lead departments on that, Mr. Chairman. Maybe it could be raised at an appropriate time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. The Minister of Finance can answer that question.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll give it a good shot here. If you could bear with me, the "bad gas" lawsuit has been dragging on for a long time and the parties to the lawsuit are in and out of court. The judge, I believe, in February, ordered the Government of Nunavut to produce certain documents. The lawyers from both parties will review the documents privately and at some point, the judge will set a date for a trial. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Ugyuk.

**Ms. Ugyuk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In 2009-2010, your department awarded a \$98,000 contract to the Mariport Group to undertake a sealift open market study (contract C219). You tabled a report on this issue in the Legislative Assembly on June 2, 2010. Can you update us today on the status of the government's plans with respect to sealift? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank my colleague for helping respond to the previous question. Yes, we have gone out to tender on the sealift contracts. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Ugyuk.

**Ms. Ugyuk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In 2009-2010, your department paid \$150,000 to Ayaya Marketing and Communications for weekly tender ads (contract C814). Recently, the government has been posting many of its RFPs and tenders on the Internet. Are you looking at reducing the amount of advertisements that are placed in newspapers in order to save money? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Mr. Chairman, we're not trying to limit any interest out there for contracts, so we're trying to expand it as much as possible. Internet seems to be a new way of communicating and getting information out there, so it's just another tool for us to gain interest in contracts, Mr.

Chairman. It's not going to take away from the current practice of using as much media as we can to get the best value for our dollar. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Ugyuk.

**Ms. Ugyuk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The government publishes many of its tender and RFP advertisements in more than one language. Can you provide a breakdown of the languages in which the government actually receives bids and proposals from companies and individuals? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank her for realizing that we do put out the tender documents in the languages of Nunavummiut. To date, I would not be wrong in saying that all of our responses have been in English, Mr. Chairman. There might be only one that has responded in French but other than that, it's mainly English. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Elliott.

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to go back to Mr. Rumbolt's question in regard to the information technology and the company that's hired to do the work for the Government of Nunavut.

Ms. Lausman was mentioning about the WAN-LAN-MAN. I know the Government of Nunavut spent quite a bit of money on developing those systems. I'm just wondering: in terms of these

contracts that are going out and with the new WAN-LAN MAN systems, once these systems are set up and used within the communities across the territory, do we have the capacity to maintain them ourselves or are we going to have to continue to have to hire people to operate them? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Right now, we do have computer information technology staff that do work with our current computer and Internet programming. We will do what we can to train them to ensure that we can deal with issues that may arise with the new system, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Elliott.

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again in terms of putting up these contracts, I'm trying to ensure that more Nunavummiut are hired in these positions. When they are issuing them, have you put any thought to possibly have like... ? Maybe you guys are already doing this, but do you have mentoring, job shadowing, and training that goes alongside with this? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Yes, Mr. Chairman, we have an IT department and they're very proficient in running the current system and where need be and if required, staff will be trained how to work with the new program. I guess

it's like teaching people who know how to drive a car how to drive a faster car. We will work with them. We will try as much as possible to train our staff and in the years, if we find that we need more staff, we will go about it that way.

The plan is to work with the college where we can in terms appropriate training for our staff to ensure that the WAN-LAN-MAN system runs as smoothly and efficiently as it could for the government. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Elliott.

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that answer. When you were using the analogy of driving a faster car, not being very mechanically inclined, one of the things I find is... . Again, do we have people within the IT department to not necessarily just drive the new vehicle, but do we have people to fix it? That's what I'm worried about. To me, that would be ongoing expenses to make sure it works.

Coming from the community side, when you're sitting in the community, your Internet is down, and you have to put in health records, for example, and the system is not working, you might wait a week to get some technician in there to do it or we might have to contract someone. So that's the concern I have. Are we capable of doing that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are capable; it depends what we are capable of. In those cases

where we're not capable of solving an issue of the day, we will ensure that our staff will get training on it. We will work with the people who specialize in this field and ensure that our staff gets training. You have to realize that there is ongoing training for all staff in all departments, and this being one of them.

I'm sure we will go through a learning curve. We will go through training programs to ensure that the service doesn't break down. If it does, we will ensure that it's up and running as quickly as possible. Most of the time, it will be with our staff. If it's not, we will ensure that our staff is there to learn how to fix it the next time it breaks. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Elliott.

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My next question is in the blue procurement activity book on page 101, contract C1763. The description is a "Fiber Optic Rental" and the contract is for \$554,000. I'm just wondering if the minister could explain exactly what that is for. Is it something that we will eventually be able to purchase, or will it be a continual rental fee for years to come? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you. If I could have Ms. Lausman respond to that. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Lausman.

**Ms. Lausman:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's actually a good question. We currently have a contract

with NorthwesTel that provides our telephony and our data. With our WAN-LAN-MAN build, we are actually transitioning to a new service provider. This is actually an agreement that we currently have with NorthwesTel that we will be transitioning to a new service provider where we own the fibre and we own the connection. So this service will be predicated more on providing bandwidth to allow us to run data down our fibre. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Elliott.

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If you flip the page to 102, I think maybe I'll get the same answer in terms of contract C1778, "Video conferencing charges," and contract C1781, "GN Core Network Charges," both to Ardicom for over \$3 million. NorthwesTel and Ardicom are similar companies in many respects in terms of the way they work and the way they function. One is phone lines and the other one is a data service. I'm just wondering: are we changing service providers for them too or will this continue with ongoing charges? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Yes, Mr. Chairman, we are changing with them too. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Elliott.

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In terms of videoconferencing, I know a lot of it's used through Health and Social Services for telehealth. This will, in no way, affect the services provided for telehealth. Hopefully, will it be

enhancing them? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Mr. Chairman, it shouldn't hinder them. In fact, it should be enhancing them. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Elliott.

**Mr. Elliott:** Flipping back to page 101, going back to some questions that Mr. Rumbolt had on the integrated community sustainability plans, it is contract C1767. I know that the minister had explained about federal government requirements for the gas tax. These plans have been produced and I know that they went out to the communities and communities were asked to review them.

In some respects, it raised a little bit of a concern in Arctic Bay because the consultant had said that there was no work done on the part of the GN for a health centre in Arctic Bay, to which, once they read that, I was called and they said, "Well, Ron, what's going on?" In terms of the Arctic Bay Health Centre, they know that we have been working towards that for a while.

For these reports, who do they belong to? Does a copy go to the hamlet, the GN, and the federal government? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Mr. Chairman, the end result is they become the property of the municipal government,



so they belong to the hamlet. Yes, the federal government gets a copy, Mr. Chairman. They are the property of the municipality. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Elliott.

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To correct that problem in Arctic Bay... I know \$1.2 million has been spent on the planning and design of the health centre in Arctic Bay. To correct that in the document itself, the hamlet would correct it, then do they pass a motion in the hamlet, then send a copy to CGS and then they send it to the Government of Canada? How do we correct problems?

It sounds like we, as communities, send forward our concerns to the Government of Nunavut. The Government of Nunavut then looks at these proposals and says, "Well, the gas tax needs to go to these certain items," but if the item says, "No, nothing's been done," then there has to be a way of communicating up and down. I'm just wondering: what's that process for communicating up and down? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The integrated community sustainability plan is the property of the municipality. It's a living document, so the municipality will make changes to it, hopefully, as years progress and some of the issues that are brought up and they are fixed or not or dropped or added onto, that's the property of the municipality. It's supposed to help the municipality plan for their growth and

plan for how to deal with aging and/or other infrastructure.

So it's the municipalities' to do with what they want and if they want to bring issues up on it, that's their prerogative, Mr. Chairman. It's not up to us to say, "You need to put this in your plan." It is their plan. It is up to them to make changes to their plan. It's not our plan and we're not the ones who decide, "Okay, put this in your plan." It's theirs; it's not ours, Mr. Chairman. Thank you very much.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Elliott.

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that answer. I'm thinking into the future. Again, at some point, the federal government will be looking at these plans and will be saying that there are certain things happening in certain communities. To me, our responsibility within the hamlet is to make sure that the hamlets have them up to date, and then it would be the responsibility of the hamlet to send it to whoever they wish to keep them up to date and informed.

If these are being done in a requirement for gas tax, I'm wondering: how often is that requirement needed? Will the federal government be coming back in two years, five years, or ten years to say, "Show us your integrated community sustainability plans"? Just so I know to tell my hamlets, and I have three of them, when to make sure they are totally up to date so that we get what we need in our communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Mr. Chairman, it's hopeful that the municipalities will use it to keep an inventory of their infrastructure and use it as a lobby tool, if I may use that word, to say, "We have this infrastructure that is aging. We need a new one" or "This is fine. It needs a new coat of paint," and so on and so forth. It's their blueprint for the future of their municipality and they can use it constructively. They can use it as a tool to lobby any other government, including this one, to say, "In our sustainability plan, it shows that we have very aged infrastructure," whatever the infrastructure may be, and use that to lobby their MLA or the government or anybody else out there to improve the infrastructure in their municipality. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Elliott.

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Next on page 47, at the top of the page, contract C130, sewage and water works technical evaluation for Resolute Bay, Trow Associates, \$244,000, I'm just wondering if the minister could explain what that contract was for and how it's being planned out in terms of requirements met for reporting and reports. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good question, Mr. Elliott. That was to create a five-year plan to keep the current water system operational and to avoid a breakdown on the water system until a decision is made on what and how they're going to deal with the water works and sewage issues in Resolute Bay. Until such time that we

start to resolve that issue, this work was done to keep the system running and see what we need to do to keep the system running in a five-year plan. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Elliott.

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, for that report for the five-year plan, has that been completed and given to your department? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, it has been completed. Our department has it and we're going over it right now in detail to ensure that it covers off everything that may have or may not have been overlooked. Mr. Chairman, we're going through it at the moment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Elliott.

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My next question is in terms of reporting back to the community. Could the minister provide a bit of a timeline as to how long he thinks it will take to review the document? It probably has to go to cabinet. I know that there was a committee that was supposed to be set up as well to include hamlet council members and community members in the process of what to do with the five-year plan. If he could provide a bit of a timeline as to when the hamlet will know about what's happening with the five-year plan. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Unfortunately I can't say at this time exactly when we will be going to the municipality to give out detailed information on it as we currently don't know. We're still getting the information and working on the plan. It still has to go through a normal process before we get to that stage. I assure the member that we're keeping in close contact with the municipal government in terms of as much detail as we can give them at this time.

Mr. Chairman, I'm hopeful that in the near future, we will be able to have worked on the issue and get on with the next step. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Elliott.

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Will the minister be able to table that five-year plan before the end of this sitting? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Mr. Chairman, unfortunately I can't, not because I don't want to but because we have to go over that document to make sure it's complete and full. I wouldn't want to table a document that we haven't gone over with a fine-tooth comb to make sure that all of the questions and issues are raised on it. So until such time the issues that are there regarding the utilidor and water works in Resolute Bay are complete and ready to go and that report has answered all of the questions of ourselves and the municipality, I won't be able to table it

at this time because that's going to take more than two days to complete, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Elliott.

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, with the integrated community sustainability plans, will the minister...? I know he had committed at one time to tabling those. Will he be tabling them? I have seen Arctic Bay's and they're huge. I don't know if that's such a good idea, whether it would be tabled on a DVD or a CD. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I was to table those documents, I think I would need three moving trucks to bring them in here in all of the official languages, and so on.

To answer my colleague, they are the property of the municipality and I would have to seek permission from each municipality to be able to table their document. To answer him in short, Mr. Chairman, I believe they will be available on our website and I would be more than happy to share that with him once they are available on the Internet. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Elliott.

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On page 100, there is contract C1740. When I was going through and reviewing the different contracts, what just stuck out in my mind was the "Transportation of Jet A-1 for Coral Harbour." Could the minister explain

what that contract was for? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Mr. Chairman, thank you. They ran low on that fuel, so we had to transport it, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. I have no more names on my list here. Do we agree that we're done with Tabled Documents 248 – 3(2), 249 – 3(2), and 251 – 3(2) for Community and Government Services?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** I'm assuming the minister has different witnesses for the other one here. I don't think your witnesses are here, so maybe we're going to report progress and continue tomorrow. Go ahead, Mr. Rumbolt.

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

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

Will the Sergeant-at-Arms please escort the minister and witnesses out.

**Speaker:** Orders of the day. Item 20. Report of the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Schell.

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

**Mr. Schell:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Tabled Documents 248 – 3(2), 249 – 3(2), 251 – 3(2), 274 – 3(2), and 275 – 3(2), and would like to report progress. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you. Were you making a motion, Mr. Schell? Mr. Schell, please.

**Mr. Schell:** Yes, I was making a motion. Thank you.

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

Moving on to the orders of the day. Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. Item 22. *Orders of the Day*. Mr. Clerk.

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

**Clerk (Mr. Quirke):** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A reminder of a meeting of the Full Caucus tomorrow at ten o'clock in the Nanuq Room.

*Orders of the Day* for June 7:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Oral Questions

7. Written Questions
8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to Opening Address
10. Petitions
11. Responses to Petitions
12. Reports of Standing and Special  
Committees on Bills and Other  
Matters
13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motions
15. Notices of Motions for First  
Reading of Bills
16. Motions
17. First Reading of Bills
18. Second Reading of Bills
19. Consideration in Committee of  
the Whole of Bills and Other  
Matters
  - Bill 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

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned until Tuesday, June 7, at 1:30 p.m.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 17:35*

Thank you.

