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**Monday, October 31, 2011**

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**Iqaluit**

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

## Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

### *Speaker*

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(Iqaluit Centre)

**Hon. Eva Aariak**

(Iqaluit East)

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

**Hon. James Arreak**

(Uqummiut)

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

**Moses Aupaluktuq**

(Baker Lake)

**Hon. Tagak Curley**

(Rankin Inlet North)

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Minister responsible for the Nunavut  
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**Ron Elliott**

(Quttiktuq)

**Joe Enook**

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**Hon. Keith Peterson**

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*Minister of Finance, Chair of the  
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of Justice*

**Allan Rumbolt**

(Hudson Bay)

**Hon. Fred Schell**

(South Baffin)

*Minister of Human Resources*

**Hon. Daniel Shewchuk**

(Arviat)

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

**Louis Tapardjuk**

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## Table of Contents

Opening Prayer.....	1486
Ministers' Statements .....	1486
Members' Statements .....	1490
Returns to Oral Questions .....	1492
Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery.....	1493
Oral Questions.....	1493
Written Questions.....	1508
Revert to Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery .....	1509
Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters.....	1509
Tabling of Documents .....	1511
Notices of Motions .....	1513
Motions.....	1513
Revert to Item 3: Members' Statements.....	1517
Revert to Item 14: Notices of Motions .....	1518
Revert to Item 16: Motions.....	1518
Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters .....	1520
Report of the Committee of the Whole .....	1540
Revert to Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery .....	1540
Third Reading of Bills .....	1541
Assent to Bills .....	1542
Orders of the Day .....	1543

**A.**

**Daily References**

Monday, October 31, 2011 .....1486

**B.**

**Ministers' Statements**

100 – 3(3): High Arctic Transportation Study (Taptuna).....1486  
101 – 3(3): Update on Iqaluit's 25 Kilovolt Upgrade (Kusugak).....1487  
102 – 3(3): Early Childhood Education Funding (Aariak).....1487  
103 – 3(3): Medevac Services - Kitikmeot (Curley) .....1488  
104 – 3(3): Nunavut's Commercial Fishery Results for 2011 (Shewchuk) .....1488  
105 – 3(3): Qikiqtarjuaq Air Terminal Building Opening (Taptuna).....1489

**C.**

**Members' Statements**

145 – 3(3): Addressing Family Violence (Ugyuk) .....1490  
146 – 3(3): Northern Youth Abroad (Elliott) .....1490  
147 – 3(3): High School Graduates of Clyde River (Arreak).....1491  
148 – 3(3): Apology for Conduct (Schell) .....1517

**D.**

**Returns to Oral Questions**

Return to Oral Question 182 – 3(3): School Attendance Tracking System (Aariak) .....1492  
Return to Oral Question 193 – 3(3): Preparing Grade 12 Students for Post Secondary (Aariak)  
.....1492

**E.**

**Oral Questions**

215 – 3(3): Nunavut’s New Food Guide (Elliott).....	1493
216 – 3(3): Inuit Language Employment Criteria (Enook) .....	1496
217 – 3(3): Nunavut Emergency Management (Ugyuk) .....	1498
218 – 3(3): Complaints Process for Medical Misconduct (Tapardjuk) .....	1500
219 – 3(3): Number of Active Cases of TB in Nunavut (Elliott) .....	1502
220 – 3(3): Translation Bureau Independent of GN (Tapardjuk).....	1503
221 – 3(3): Inuktitut Not a Requirement for High School (Elliott).....	1505
222 – 3(3): Update on GLO Positions (Elliott) .....	1506

**F.**

**Written Questions**

009 – 3(3): Enforcement of the Environmental Protection Act (Aupaluktuq) .....	1508
--	------

**G.**

**Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters**

Committee Report 007 – 3(3): Bill 16, Annual Reporting Validation (Liquor Licensing Board) Act (Ningeongan).....	1509
Committee Report 008 – 3(3): Bill 17, Write-off of Debts Act, 2011-2012 (Ningeongan).....	1510
Committee Report 009 – 3(3): Bill 18, An Act to Amend Several Acts for Constitutional Validity (Spousal Benefits and Obligations) (Ningeongan) .....	1510
Committee Report 010 – 3(3): Bill 20, An Act to Amend the Judicature Act (Court Rules) (Ningeongan) .....	1510
Committee Report 011 – 3(3): Bill 23, An Act to Amend the Public Colleges Act (Ningeongan) .....	1511

## H.

### Tabling of Documents

129 – 3(3): Procurement Activity Report for the Fiscal Year 2010-2011 (Kusugak) .....	1511
130 – 3(3): Contract Activity Report for the Fiscal Year 2010-2011 (Kusugak).....	1511
131 – 3(3): Lease Activity Report for the Fiscal Year 2010-2011 (Kusugak) .....	1511
132 – 3(3): 2010-2011 Qulliq Energy Corporation’s 10th Annual Report (Kusugak).....	1511
133 – 3(3): Career Development Strategy from 2009 (Aariak).....	1511
134 – 3(3): F/P/T Report on the Western Premiers’ Conference in Yellowknife, NWT June 20 to 22, 2011 (Aariak).....	1511
135 – 3(3): F/P/T Report on the Northern Premiers’ Forum in Yellowknife, April 27 to 28, 2011 (Aariak).....	1511
136 – 3(3): F/P/T Report on the Canadian Council of Ministers of Environment Meeting in Yellowknife June 28, 2011 (Shewchuk).....	1512
137 – 3(3): F/P/T Report on the Canadian Council of Fisheries and Aquaculture Meetings held in Iqaluit, August 31 to September 2, 2011 (Shewchuk) .....	1512
138 – 3(3): Photographs of Pond Inlet Marine Conditions (Enook) .....	1512
139 – 3(3): Article from the Vancouver Sun: Medical Records of 430 Vancouver Patients May Have Been Compromised (Elliott).....	1512

## I.

### Motions

018 – 3(3): Extended Adjournment – Notice (Tapardjuk) .....	1513
019 – 3(3): Rejection of the Report of the Integrity Commissioner Concerning the Member of the Legislative Assembly for South Baffin – Notice (Elliott) .....	1513
018 – 3(3): Extended Adjournment (Tapardjuk).....	1513

019 – 3(3): Rejection of the Report of the Integrity Commissioner Concerning the Member of the Legislative Assembly for South Baffin (Elliott) .....	1514
020 – 3(3): Censure of the Member of the Legislative Assembly for South Baffin – Notice ....	1518
020 – 3(3): Censure of the Member of the Legislative Assembly for South Baffin (Elliott) .....	1518

**J.**

**Bills**

Bill 16 – Annual Reporting Validation (Liquor Licensing Board) Act – Consideration in Committee.....	1520
Bill 17 – Write-off of Debts Act, 2011-2012 – Consideration in Committee .....	1522
Bill 18 – An Act to Amend Several Acts for Constitutional Validity (Spousal Benefits and Obligations) Consideration in Committee .....	1526
Bill 20 – An Act to Amend the Judicature Act (Court Rules) – Consideration in Committee...	1529
Bill 23 – An Act to Amend the Public Colleges Act – Consideration in Committee.....	1532
Bill 16 – Annual Reporting Validation (Liquor Licensing Board) Act – Third Reading.....	1541
Bill 17 – Write-off of Debts Act, 2011-2012 – Third Reading .....	1541
Bill 18 – An Act to Amend Several Acts for Constitutional Validity (Spousal Benefits and Obligations) – Third Reading .....	1541
Bill 20 – An Act to Amend the Judicature Act (Court Rules) – Third Reading.....	1541
Bill 23 – An Act to Amend the Public Colleges Act – Third Reading.....	1542
Bill 13 – Supplementary Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, No. 2, 2011-2012 – Assent.....	1542
Bill 14 – Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 2, 2011-2012 – Assent .....	1542
Bill 15 – Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2012-2013 – Assent .....	1542
Bill 16 – Annual Reporting Validation (Liquor Licensing Board) Act – Assent.....	1542
Bill 17 – Write-off of Debts Act, 2011-2012 – Assent .....	1542

Bill 18 – An Act to Amend Several Acts for Constitutional Validity (Spousal Benefits and Obligations) – Assent.....	1542
Bill 20 – An Act to Amend the Judicature Act (Court Rules) – Assent.....	1542
Bill 22 – An Act Respecting the Constituencies of Nunavut – Assent .....	1542
Bill 23 – An Act to Amend the Public Colleges Act – Assent.....	1542



**Iqaluit, Nunavut**  
**Monday, October 31, 2011**

**Members Present:**

Honourable Eva Aariak, Honourable James Arreak, Mr. Moses Aupaluktuq, Honourable Tagak Curley, Ms. Monica Ell, Mr. Ron Elliott, Mr. Joe Enook, Honourable Lorne Kusugak, Mr. Johnny Ningeongan, Mr. Hezakiah Oshutapik, Honourable Keith Peterson, Mr. Allan Rumbolt, Honourable 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): *Qujannamiik*, Sergeant-at-Arms. Before we get started, I would like to ask Mr. Curley if he could lead us off with a prayer, please. Mr. Curley.

>>Prayer

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. (interpretation ends) Moving on in the *Orders of the Day*, Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Minister Taptuna.

**Item 2: Ministers' Statements****Minister's Statement 100 – 3(3): High Arctic Transportation Study**

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, colleagues and Nunavummiut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to update the Members of this Assembly on a study on the high cost of travel in the High Arctic my department has been undertaking over the last two years.

High Arctic communities endure even higher costs of transportation than the rest of us in Nunavut. Airfare and freight costs are out of reach for normal residents; there is a lack of connectivity to other communities in Nunavut and to the rest of Canada; and in our most northerly community, Grise Fiord, the frequency of services is inadequate for a properly functioning community. This results in extreme isolation for residents and a very high cost of goods.

Mr. Speaker, our study has also shown that governments of other circumpolar countries facing similar challenges support their remote communities through various forms of assistance. A survey conducted in conjunction with the study indicated that any relief from the high costs of transportation, either in freight or in travel, would be most welcome.

Mr. Speaker, I do not believe our government is in a position to provide a subsidy to transportation services in our territory. However, recognizing the situation in our northernmost communities, it is clear that even a small improvement could make a positive impact in the quality of people's lives in the High Arctic.

As we conclude the study, we will have recommendations to this government and to bring forward to the federal government. I look forward to sharing those recommendations with this Assembly once they are complete. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Minister

responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation, Minister Kusugak.

**Minister's Statement 101 – 3(3):  
Update on Iqaluit's 25 Kilovolt Upgrade**

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) Good afternoon, my fellow Nunavummiut. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I would like to update my colleagues on the progress which occurred over the summer in upgrading Iqaluit's power distribution system.

Upgrading from 5 kilovolts to 25 kilovolts will reduce overall operating cost, reduce line losses, and help lower greenhouse gas emissions. Customers will experience improved power quality with greater control and shorter downtime during planned and unplanned outages.

This summer, QEC completed the construction of its 25 kilovolt distribution substation, which is located next to the Iqaluit power plant. In addition, crews were able to complete the upgrading of the distribution line to roughly 40 percent of Iqaluit.

Mr. Speaker, the rest of the distribution upgrade will be completed next summer. Next year's work will be scheduled to start sooner as the equipment and trucks required to complete the upgrade are already here in Iqaluit. Once the upgrade is complete, the distribution system will meet Iqaluit's projected growth well into the next 30 years. The upgraded distribution system is expected to reduce Iqaluit's diesel fuel consumption by 550,000 litres annually.

On behalf of the Qulliq Energy Corporation, I would like to extend our gratitude to our customers for their patience during the numerous planned outages that were required to complete the work on the distribution upgrade. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Minister responsible for Education, Madam Minister Aariak.

**Minister's Statement 102 – 3(3): Early Childhood Education Funding**

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Good afternoon and thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to take this opportunity to speak to my colleagues about funding that is being provided to all district education authorities to promote Inuit language and culture.

The Department of Education is working with district education authorities to implement section 17 of the *Education Act*, the requirement to provide early childhood education programs that promote Inuit language and culture. We are providing \$1.6 million annually to district education authorities for early childhood programming that focuses on increased Inuit language and culture activities. The funds are allocated based on project applications from the district education authorities.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, we have conducted a survey of all early childhood education programs, including licensed daycares, parent and tot programs, and literacy programs in Nunavut to determine what current Inuit

language and culture activities and resources are available and what is needed. In March 2011, the first ever Nunavut-wide early childhood educators' conference was held focusing on promoting Inuit language and culture in programs.

Two new staff have been hired to help the district education authorities develop programs that encourage elder involvement, engage parents, and use local resources. Support is also being provided to community groups and families wanting to develop language and culture activities. To date, we have received 15 proposals from district education authorities with more to come.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, by working together, we can give our youngest learners the support they need by providing early childhood education programs that will give preschoolers a strong foundation based on Inuit language, cultural values and beliefs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister Aariak. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Minister responsible for Health and Social Services, Minister Curley.

**Minister's Statement 103 – 3(3):  
Medevac Services - Kitikmeot**

**Hon. Tagak Curley** (interpretation): I say "good afternoon" to the people of Rankin Inlet. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, the provision of medevac services to Nunavutmiut is an important part of the health care that the Department of Health and Social Services provides in the territory.

Today the NNI Contracting Appeals Board issued its decision to dismiss the appeal by Adlair Aviation (1983) Ltd. with respect to the RFP for the provision of air ambulance services in the Kitikmeot. The GN respects the decision of the NNI Contracting Appeals Board.

The department acknowledges the fine service provided over the years by Adlair. Adlair is a good corporate citizen through its contributions and community service to Kitikmeot communities.

Mr. Speaker, the department will work closely with the new provider, Aqsaqniq Airways Ltd., to ensure that there is a smooth transition of services. Mr. Speaker, the department would like to reassure residents of the Kitikmeot that this change in providers is not expected to change the level and quality of service provided. (interpretation) Thank you.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister Curley. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Environment, Minister Shewchuk.

**Minister's Statement 104 – 3(3):  
Nunavut's Commercial Fishery  
Results for 2011**

**Hon. Daniel Shewchuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am very pleased to inform my fellow members that Nunavut's commercial fishery continues to grow and provide positive results for Nunavut economic development while, at the same time, ensuring a sustainable resource.

The commercial fishery in Nunavut consists of three species: turbot, coldwater shrimp, and arctic char. The

offshore fishery for turbot and shrimp takes place off the coast of Baffin Island. Nunavut holds more than 9,350 tonnes of turbot quotas in these adjacent waters, which will be fully harvested in 2011, providing income and jobs for Nunavutmiut.

In addition, an inshore quota for turbot of 500 tonnes is available to local fishers in Cumberland Sound for the winter ice fishery and developing summer hook and line fishery. This quota would deliver returns benefiting Nunavut through employment and income.

For our coldwater shrimp, although Nunavut holds in excess of 10,600 tonnes of quota in adjacent waters, until recently, little effort has been expended to develop this fishery. Last year, over 3,000 tonnes were harvested and it is anticipated that this will increase to around 4,000 tonnes in 2011. Such significant returns will continue to benefit Nunavut and the fishing industry.

The strong demand for our other commercial species, arctic char, has been spurred by robust market demands inside and outside Nunavut, and the successful implementation of the Char Marketing Strategy. Fish plants have been looking to find new sources of supply from other communities, close to doubling our commercial production to over 200,000 pounds. These plants are continuing to seek out additional sources of supply, providing new opportunities for economic development throughout Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, for my department, 2011 has been an exciting year in the commercial fishing industry, as well with the accomplishment achieved when

the department took delivery of the new research vessel, the MV Nuliajuk, and its successful completion of its first season of research in Cumberland Sound and in areas near Clyde River and Qikiqtarjuaq. We will continue to support this work and ensure the strong sustainable fisheries industry continues to grow in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Minister responsible for Economic Development and Transportation, Minister Taptuna.

**Minister's Statement 105 – 3(3):  
Qikiqtarjuaq Air Terminal  
Building Opening**

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank you for this opportunity to rise today before the Members of this House to speak about the completion of the Qikiqtarjuaq Air Terminal Building project.

In the case of the Qikiqtarjuaq Air Terminal Building, we were fortunate to leverage federal funds under the Building Canada Plan. This plan has greatly assisted us in delivering priority projects, and I would like to thank my federal counterparts for the flexibility they designed into the program.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the individuals, departments, and companies that were involved in completing this worthwhile project. Most of all, I would like to thank the people of Qikiqtarjuaq for their patience throughout this whole process and I would like to congratulate them on

the opening of their new air terminal building.

Mr. Speaker, the grand opening ceremony will take place on November 22 and I am very much looking forward to attending this event. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Natilik, Ms. Ugyuk.

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

#### **Member's Statement 145 – 3(3): Addressing Family Violence**

**Ms. Ugyuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I rise today to urge the government to move forward and address the issue of family violence now and without further delay.

Mr. Speaker, last Friday I asked questions in this House on the level of support provided to women's shelters. I was shocked when the answers that I received laid the blame for the delay in action on the previous government.

Mr. Speaker, pointing the finger at previous governments, former employees, or past presidents contributes nothing towards addressing an issue. It is a waste of time. It did not bring back the millions of dollars that were overspent under the Nunavut Housing Trust. Mr. Speaker, we must move on from the past. We must pick up where our predecessors left off and continue on. If we constantly stop to look back, we will

never get up enough momentum to move forward and make a difference.

Mr. Speaker, the reality of today is that women continue to be beaten down to the ground and very little is being done to address it, much less acknowledge it as a problem. Mr. Speaker, Inuit values are slowly being lost from our daily lives. According to those values, we would never let an animal suffer.

Instead, society today ignores it when women are being beaten black and blue in front of their children and in their homes.

Mr. Speaker, where is our integrity? Mr. Speaker, what will it take for the leaders of Nunavut to take responsibility for addressing this issue and act upon it? Mr. Speaker, I urge the government to move forward on addressing family violence now. Give the women and children of Nunavut some hope that their bruises will be seen and steps will be taken to stop the violence which causes so much pain and suffering.

Mr. Speaker, it is not acceptable to simply point the finger at what someone else didn't do. The right course of action would be to step up and do what needs to be done. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

#### **Member's Statement 146 – 3(3): Northern Youth Abroad**

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to promote the good work and

success of the Northern Youth Abroad Program.

Mr. Speaker, two of my constituents, Ooleesie Akeegok from Grise Fiord and Jaypiti Olayuk from Arctic Bay, took part in this year's Northern Youth Abroad Program. I know that their experience in this program will prepare them for the future.

Mr. Speaker, this year was a very successful one for the Northern Youth Abroad Program. Forty-two participants successfully completed the program. That will bring the total to 275 alumni since this program began.

Mr. Speaker, the Northern Youth Abroad Program is open to youth from across Nunavut and the Northwest Territories. The program helps participants develop professional skills while getting hands-on work experience. They earn high school credits through a cross-cultural learning experience in southern Canada or abroad.

Mr. Speaker, the Northern Youth Abroad Program has a number of objectives: building knowledge, cross-cultural awareness, completion of high school, global education, job training, community development, leadership development, international citizenship, and improved self-confidence. Any one of these is incredibly worthwhile to the youth in our society.

Mr. Speaker, times are tight for many entities and organizations in the current fiscal climate. I would like to acknowledge the past support provided by the Department of Education to this very worthwhile program. I strongly urge the minister and her officials to

continue providing support to this program and even to consider increasing funding and resources to enable it to continue providing such wonderful opportunities to our youth to develop and grow.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating all of this year's successful participants in the Northern Youth Abroad Program. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Uqqummiut, Mr. Arreak.

#### **Member's Statement 147 – 3(3): High School Graduates of Clyde River**

**Hon. James Arreak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to express a good afternoon wish to Clyde River and Qikiqtarjuaq residents.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share celebrations with my colleagues in this House and in particular, to celebrate the graduation of students from our local high school. We are very vocal in our support of graduates who complete grade 12 in their home communities and whenever anyone from Nunavut graduates, we share in their joy for passing grade 12. They become part of the role models we can espouse to our younger generations. So once you graduate, it's a new start to your life and the result of your perseverance.

I would like to invite colleagues to come on November 7 to celebrate the graduation ceremony in our community of Clyde River. The graduates are

Morrey Palluq, Todd Hainnu, Helen Enuaraq, Annie Mary Angutikjuak, Thomasie Oqqallak, Gina Paniloo, and Joey Paneak. We are very proud of these graduates who will celebrate their graduation this fall. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Arreak. Item 3. Members' Statements. Moving on in the *Orders of the Day*, Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Minister of Education, Madam Minister Aariak.

#### **Item 4: Returns to Oral Questions**

#### **Return to Oral Question 182 – 3(3): School Attendance Tracking System**

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will respond to these questions that were raised previously in English. (interpretation ends) School attendance tracking system. "Having a specific and regular report on how many students are attending school on a day-by-day, week-by-week, or even month-by-month basis could be an excellent tool to encourage more parents to send their students to school. Will the minister commit to providing these reports to all communities across Nunavut at the earliest possible opportunity and to continue providing them on a regular basis?"

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, attendance reports for each of Nunavut's schools are included in the principal's monthly report. Principals are required under the *Education Act* to submit the report to the district education authority. All the

monthly reports are available to the public and DEAs are required under the *Education Act* to provide attendance information to their community.

(interpretation ends) The Department of Education has annual attendance reports which have been tabled in this House, including October 2010. In the year of 2012-13, the new student information system will be implemented. Once implemented, the Department of Education will be able to track and report attendance statistics on a consistent basis. Attendance rates will be included in the minister's annual report. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Madam Minister. Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Minister of Education, Madam Minister Aariak.

#### **Return to Oral Question 193 – 3(3): Preparing Grade 12 Students for Post Secondary**

**Hon. Eva Aariak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The question is: "Departmental officials interviewed in the media have indicated that there will be an in-service for teachers on the career planning process for students and parents. Although the minister touched up on this issue, I would like to ask the minister: can the minister describe to this House what kind of career planning support is currently made available to high school students across Nunavut?" That was the question.

(interpretation) For the response, (interpretation ends) in grades 9, 10, 11, and 12, each student should be receiving assistance from school personnel to develop a career and program plan. This

year, grades 7 to 12 teachers in Nunavut schools will receive an in-service on the high school planning process and high school course selection.

The career and program plan is a collaborative project that involves the student, parents or guardians, and school personnel, such as a teacher, school community counsellor, school support teacher, or administrator. The career and program plan will construct a path through school for the students and will include both:

- the graduation requirements which will enable the students to receive the Nunavut Secondary School Diploma, and
- an outline of courses most appropriate to the student's interests, abilities, and future life goals.

Guidance and career materials to support CPP implementation were provided to all schools several years ago.

Initiatives, such as career fairs, job shadowing, work experience, and community service, broaden students' knowledge about the options available to them.

Career development officers from the regional offices of the Department of Education may also be available to support schools by making school visits and providing informational career materials. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Madam Minister. Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Natilik, Ms. Ugyuk.

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

**Ms. Ugyuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like this person acknowledged as he is someone I recognize on a daily basis, my beloved husband, Naujaaq Ugyuk, who is from Taloyoak. I dearly love him and am attached to him, so I would like to have him acknowledged in the House. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. Did you have some more to continue? Please finish.

**Ms. Ugyuk** (interpretation): Yes, I want to recognize another person in the Gallery, Arnaoyok Alookey from Taloyoak. She is a member of the elders' committee, has worked previously at the local shelter, and is active in social issues. I also am very thankful to have a fellow Taloyoak resident, Arnaoyok Alookey, present today. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. Welcome to the Gallery. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. Elliott.

### **Item 6: Oral Questions**

#### **Question 215 – 3(3): Nunavut's New Food Guide**

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Health and Social Services, the Hon. Tagak Curley. The other day he did a



Minister's Statement about Nunavut's new food guide and spoke about how the guides were expected to arrive in communities coming soon. I was just wondering: will those guides be going specifically to the health centres or will they be going to the schools? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation):** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Whenever government publishes information about public health centres and the Nunavut Food Guide, they're sent out to as many organizations as possible, including stores, schools, health centres, and the general public.

I know that we can provide this information through all possible avenues. This includes the Internet and other media. This will be a living document to be used for a number of years and we want to ensure people use this guide. As I stated earlier, our staff will require assistance from the communities on available food items locally as there are variations among the communities, such as in the Kivalliq region. This is why we will use the most widely available method to try and deal with this issue.

Furthermore, community health committees will be helping the public health and government to ensure that the information is disseminated as widely as possible. It is going to be a living document, so every community will require that they work with the department and this information will be

slowly disseminated. Thank you, Mr. Speaker

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The minister's department has committed to strengthening community health committees within our communities across the territory. This was reflected in the business plan or the main estimates of this year. I'm just wondering: with this amazing initiative that his department has announced, what specific role does the community health committee play in this initiative? 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. His question is not part of the first question.

What I can say is that community health workers are very important. As I have said during the previous winter or spring session, we wanted to give them more authority, more roles and responsibilities in regard to public health, besides the medical team. Also, we want to get their support. For that reason, we had increased the funding that's allocated to these committees. For many years, the amount has never been changed and they were allocated \$5,000 for a very long time. We have increased that to \$10,000.

I don't have the details right in front of me, but we need to discuss this matter with the committees. I can tell you that we will give them a greater role. The transformation within our department's

social and child services is completed and we will not be required to establish another entity. That is one example in my response to the question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I apologize if I didn't make the question clear. It's great that the health committees are receiving an increase in the amount of funding that they will be receiving.

My specific question was around this particular initiative that the minister announced in the House the other day about Nunavut's new food guide. I was just curious to find out, once the materials come to the communities, how the health committees within those communities will be dealing with the information. Will they be the ones participating in the food sampling? Will they be the ones participating in setting up activities in the Northern stores, I believe, and with some of the retailers? I don't want to favour one retailer or another, but there was supposed to be food sampling in different retail stores and whatnot.

I'm just wondering: will the health committees be playing a role in that or will it be the community health representative who will actually be implementing this initiative that he announced in the communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Tagak Curley:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In terms of providing the publicity of that, we certainly welcome any help that we can get, including the community health representatives, but I think the member will know that when I made the statement, it was specifically geared towards the younger generation who have departed from actually benefiting from traditional Inuit food and so on.

In terms of the details of exactly who in the community will be the lead spokesperson on that, I will have to get back to that, but in some communities, we do have community health workers and they will play quite a large role in that aspect, but schools certainly will as well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, I realize that a lot of the health committee members will be older people in the community and, at times, elders providing support in terms of health issues. To me, that's one of the things I always hear in all three of my communities, that elders are looking for ways to connect with the youth. If this particular program is geared towards the younger generation, then this is a perfect opportunity to have our elders working with our young people.

Again, if the minister was able to maybe clarify a little bit more in terms of how the community health committees are being more active and how his department is encouraging them to participate in this program to have people across Nunavut eating more healthy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Tagak Curley:** I think it's important, Mr. Speaker, to recognize the fact that there are families out there in Nunavut who encourage healthy food. I know certainly my family does. Members of my peers and other family members in my region play a very large role and many of them are hunters. They do distribute that food when they get it so that it stays fresh and that it's taken advantage of. Inuit are doing that, Inuit communities are doing that, and many of our communities are doing that.

The Nunavut Food Guide is a supplement to all that is being done and that will continue, but we as a government, we are happy to have a statement that what our families have been depending on for thousands of years is going to continue and it's going to benefit those who may have had second thoughts about continuing to have traditional Inuit food. However we can maximize the awareness needed, whether it would be radio, whether it would be through the health committees, and certainly our health representatives will be there to help distribute and play a part in disseminating the information. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister Curley.  
Oral Questions. Member for Tununiq,  
Mr. Enook.

### **Question 216 – 3(3): Inuit Language Employment Criteria**

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon to the residents of Pond Inlet and my fellow

Nunavummiut. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth, Minister Arreak.

Mr. Speaker, certain jobs within the Government of Nunavut require, as part of the qualifications for employment, a level of Inuit language proficiency. The Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth, with its inherent responsibilities towards the preservation and promotion of the Inuit language, has a significant number of positions where this qualification is necessary.

Can the minister confirm that all positions within his department which require a level of Inuit language proficiency are indeed filled with individuals who are able to speak in the Inuit language? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Enook.  
Minister responsible for Culture,  
Language, Elders and Youth, Minister  
Arreak.

**Hon. James Arreak** (interpretation):  
Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With respect to the Department of CLEY positions, which I suppose he is asking about, I'm not exactly sure which are required to be bilingual.

Mr. Speaker, yes, Inuktitut language specialists, the interpreters, and those who translate documents are all working in the Department of CLEY. Furthermore, these employees all have to be fluent in Inuktitut as part of their positions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Enook:** *Qujannamiik*, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) Certain jobs within the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth not only require Inuit language proficiency but include responsibilities relating to Inuit culture and *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit*. Can the minister update this House on what steps are taken to ensure that individuals employed in these types of positions have the appropriate knowledge and understanding of *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit*? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Enook. Minister responsible for Culture, Language, Elders and Youth, Minister Arreak.

**Hon. James Arreak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. All positions that are advertised spell out the required qualifications. You must have the ability to carry out certain tasks and that includes being able to work in Inuktitut.

Perhaps if the member identified a specific position that he seems to be concerned about, I could provide more information and details. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was trying to raise this question. Perhaps I'll rephrase it in this manner. Mr. Speaker, throughout my life, I have had the opportunity to study alongside *Qallunaat*, work with *Qallunaat*, and enjoy the company and traditions of *Qallunaat*. Even so, I could never claim to be an expert in *Qallunaat Qaujimajatuqangit* because I did not

grow up in that culture, but I can say I know a bit of the culture. Would the minister agree that jobs in the field of *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* must be filled by individuals who have been raised within that tradition? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Enook. Minister responsible for Culture, Language, Elders and Youth, Minister Arreak.

**Hon. James Arreak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I stated, whenever a position is advertised where being fluent in Inuktitut is a requirement, it is incorporated into the job description. Currently our employees are all Inuit who are working within *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit*. Overall, Inuit employment at CLEY is at about 70 percent. Those employees who require an intimate knowledge of the culture and language, especially under the *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* Committee, are all bilingual. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister confirm that the individuals who are in positions within the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth which require knowledge of *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit*, such as the director of *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* or the director of Piquisilirivvik, do indeed have the necessary qualifications and background in the area of Inuit culture and tradition? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Enook. Minister responsible for Culture,

Language, Elders and Youth, Minister Arreak.

**Hon. James Arreak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are quite satisfied with our current employees. When they require more expertise, they try to gather information from people who are better qualified in *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit*. The *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* Committee also provides advice as to what is required and what needs to be undertaken. The committee will be holding another meeting this week to review the next steps required in their mandate. They're also waiting for ideas.

Even outside of this session or House, we would be happy to hear about these issues, both myself and my departmental staff. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister Arreak. Oral Questions. Member for Natilik, Ms. Ugyuk.

### **Question 217 – 3(3): Nunavut Emergency Management**

**Ms. Ugyuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of CGS.

Mr. Speaker, the hamlets in Nunavut are responsible for carrying out emergency plans for use in emergencies. I wish to know who in each community has to partake when the community is undertaking emergency planning. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. Minister responsible for Community and Government Services, Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I didn't understand part of her question because of dialectal difference. Perhaps the member can elaborate further on what she means by "Illuaqhaiqattarniq." It is not a word we use in our dialect in Rankin Inlet. Once I know the meaning of the word, I will be able to provide you with a response. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Ms. Ugyuk, could you clarify your question, please. Ms. Ugyuk.

**Ms. Ugyuk** (interpretation): When we use the term "Illuaqhai," it means the planning for the community. Hopefully that clarifies the term. Thank you.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. Minister of Community and Government Services, Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you for that clarification. Emergency management planning is in place in all communities. I think that you're talking about the community emergency management committee that deals with local emergencies. If this is indeed the topic you brought up, the hamlet councils work with the Department of Community and Government Services on the emergency planning measures with the Emergency Measures Organization.

Most communities are completing their emergency plans and these plans mainly outline what the community will undertake in emergencies. The details would include a building identified as a facility in case of a community power outage and it should be heated. These

plans identify places where residents can gather during emergency situations and all communities have to identify them. All the communities are being assisted to complete these plans. Most of the communities are in the final stages of their emergency plans.

The hamlets are required to complete their emergency planning. We are working with the municipalities to identify these facilities in each community. They identify places for emergencies, what kind of communication system will be used to inform their residents, and so on, if that is what the member asked about. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Ugyuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the minister for his response. My question is: who exactly is requested to attend for emergency planning processes and which body coordinates it? Who is involved in the emergency committee if a community experiences an emergency? I understand that they need to have an emergency plan, but who is invited to partake in these meetings? This is what my constituents would like to hear about and that's why I'm asking the question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. Minister responsible for Community and Government Services, Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Invited participants are generally asked to attend the meeting, such as the hamlet, a

representative from the health centre, a representative from the RCMP, and there has to be an employee who deals with emergencies in their hamlet.

Based on what I can recall, when I used to meet with those groups, there were also representatives from the schools, including the search and rescue committee, either the chairperson or a representative of that organization. There are generally other representatives, such as ambulance services. They would send a representative, as well as the firefighters group, and there would be a social services worker.

Generally, the leadership of the community from various organizations would be a part of that working group and this includes the private sector. Where the private sector has a business bureau, whichever organization that may have an impact or could provide assistance, they are usually included in those types of emergency planning for their communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Ugyuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for his answers. In Taloyoak, is the housing association included in the emergency planning meetings? They are also responsible for many units in their communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. Minister responsible for Community and Government Services, Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't believe there's any organization stipulated that have to take part or ones that are not included, but whichever organization is in the community that can contribute or where an individual has expertise in a particular area, they're invited to attend these meetings.

Whoever is preparing the emergency plans for their community, I imagine they would be very grateful for any kind of assistance, but even if people didn't get requested, I don't think that would stop the committee from inviting them in the future. So if they want to be involved, they are welcome. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Question 218 – 3(3): Complaints Process for Medical Misconduct**

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

Mr. Speaker, we're all aware that those of us who live in the north depend very heavily on the nurses and medical personnel and they are our foundation whenever we have health issues.

Mr. Speaker, the question I want to raise is: if many people are not satisfied with a nurse, what options do they have to resolve the issue? Is there a place where they can register their complaints? In what manner or how can they deal with that?

I believe you understand my question. Maybe if I get a response from the Minister of Health, I'll be able to ask another question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Tapardjuk. Minister responsible for the Department of Health and Social Services, Minister Curley.

**Hon. Tagak Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I believe I understood your question regarding complaints about a practitioner. I don't think there's an actual formal process. However, with respect to the rules and procedures and the human resources policies, if there's any kind of complaint, you have to launch it with their supervisor.

In the Baffin region, if we were to say the regional director for health is located in Pangnirtung, they should be the first to get these complaints. If that's impossible, they can pass that information along to our office or write a letter outlining the complaint. Some of these issues require investigation to determine the cause of the complaint. Furthermore, we have to follow the human resources policies and people have to ensure that these processes are undertaken.

So the first place you go to would be the regional director and each local health centre generally has a supervisor, so those are the two top positions that they should approach. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister. If somebody assumes a teacher had abused a student, there is generally a body that identifies a place where you lodge that complaint.

If anyone has any kind of suspicion or feeling that a nurse mistreated a person, then who can you complain to? The health professionals are supposed to be professional in their conduct. Sometimes if a person passes away or if a person who otherwise would not have become ill due to being prescribed the wrong medicine, they would start blaming that health practitioner. I think that's a mistake and I think there should be a place or an actual identified body to which people can lodge their complaints. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Tagak Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When you're speaking in Inuktitut, the terminology varies slightly.

I believe you're referring to medical misconduct. Yes, there's a body within the government and they investigate complaints. First of all, you can call the regional office. Once the complaint has been lodged, it will not be swept under the rug. If there is any kind of medical misconduct, then they have to look into it.

If there's a complaint about a specific health professional, you have to be very careful and follow the proper process. This information has to be treated as confidential. In government, we have to

follow standards, especially in the health care system. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With respect to my previous line of questioning to the minister about the hamlet's committees and health committee, can the minister provide more information or clarification on how communities can deal with complaints? Can the minister agree that these committees, namely, health committees, are trained to deal with those issues?

I believe the minister knows that as a Member of the Legislative Assembly, a lot of your constituents come and approach you about issues and sometimes you're not exactly sure about the appropriate process, especially with health professionals. Can the minister commit to that, Mr. Speaker?

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

**Hon. Tagak Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I can agree to that but with this caveat: some of these matters may be outside of our mandate, such as medical malpractice, if that was the term you used, where an employee is not properly fulfilling their duties.

First of all, I would state that if you feel this is indeed the case or if a community wants information on a certain matter, it would be best if the local council formally writes a request. Depending on



the nature of their request, they would receive information or the officials could visit the community. At least that is how I would like to see it, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, that would be a very good suggestion. I believe this is one issue about health centres and medical personnel that many people have the greatest difficulty understanding because they're very unhappy with the service that they receive and they often don't know who to turn to.

What I can tell the minister, Mr. Speaker, is that I don't think they would just send you a letter; it might be better if they would actually invite you to pay a visit. That would make my constituents in Igloodik much more satisfied. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Tapardjuk. I think that was just a comment. Minister Curley, if you wish to respond, you can go ahead.

**Hon. Tagak Curley:** Thank you. (interpretation) If a complaint is going to be made or if you feel an employee has not fulfilled their duties, you need to have a real reason. You cannot just base that complaint on hearsay.

If I was asked to visit any community, I am available, but I would need more detailed information. If you wish to be provided more information about this process, I imagine that the government has that information, but it may not be

available from my department if you are talking about this issue.

It just seems to be fear mongering, at least based on the comments, which is why I prefer a written request that our department could undertake. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Question 219 – 3(3): Number of Active Cases of TB in Nunavut**

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Health and Social Services and are based around a return to an oral question. It was Question No. 179 – 3(3). It was a question that I asked the minister regarding tuberculosis in Nunavut.

In the reply, the minister informed the House that as of October 25, 2011, there were 62 cases of tuberculosis diagnosed in Nunavut since January 1, 2011, and that 98 percent of the cases diagnosed this year have been in the Baffin region.

The response actually answers part of my question in terms of my understanding of the answer. He gave us the number of cases that were diagnosed from January 1 until October 25. So my question again is: can the minister provide an update on how many cases of active tuberculosis we have in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Tagak Curley:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will take that question as notice; it would require a detailed response. Thank you.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister Curley. Your question has been taken as notice. Oral Questions. Member for Amittuq, Mr. Tapardjuk.

**Question 220 – 3(3): Translation  
Bureau Independent of GN**

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

The minister tabled a report on June 9, 2011 titled “Uqausivut,” which is a proposed strategy for 2011-14. I would like to ask the minister this question which is highlighted in this report. It speaks about interpreter/translators providing services. It states here that they may have to hire an independent translation bureau. Now, is this translation bureau a separate entity in their planning? That’s my question, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Tapardjuk. Minister responsible for Culture, Language, Elders and Youth, Minister Arreak.

**Hon. James Arreak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my *Annuraaqatik*. This is a very difficult issue when we’re trying to deal with the Inuit language and when you look at all of the official languages recognized in Nunavut.

The report that I tabled in June was the first draft of the strategy. Since it’s the very first draft, we haven’t implemented

it yet. We’re still waiting for feedback from the general public. I believe we’ve had a little over 30 submissions and there are quite a number of organizations that have asked for a delay in the consultation.

Based on the number of submissions and the updating of the draft strategy, the strategy would be undertaken once the cabinet has approved it. At the current time, it’s still just a draft and it hasn’t been implemented yet. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the *Inuit Language Protection Act*, it states that the government has to develop a strategy. The minister just stated that the strategy has not been approved by cabinet to date. Mr. Speaker, can the minister provide an update as to when we can expect this strategy to be tabled in the House? When can we expect this strategy to be completed and tabled in this House? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Tapardjuk. Minister of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth, Minister Arreak.

**Hon. James Arreak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can’t give him an exact date because we are collecting the responses. After we’ve had an opportunity to communicate with the regional Inuit associations, gathered everything, and made updates to this strategy, I would be able to make a response as to where the process is. At this current time, I can’t even give you a

date of when we could expect this strategy to be completed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Act clearly identifies action items and once legislation has been undertaken, these action items are laid out along with their timeframe.

Mr. Speaker, I think we're aware that the implementation of the legislation is behind in producing the strategy. We would want to see a clearly defined timeframe because we will have another session this winter. So my question is, Mr. Speaker: will the minister be able to provide this strategy at our winter session? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Tapardjuk. Minister of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth, Minister Arreak.

**Hon. James Arreak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Some of the provisions of the *Inuit Language Protection Act* came into force on September 18, 2008 and the minister's authority has taken effect. We also want to make sure that we have a proper plan and not rush anything.

I can't commit to the member about tabling the strategy in the winter session, but we're going to keep working on the strategy and to ensure that we hear from those we want to consult as we haven't received input from them as yet. We want to make sure the strategy is complete. I cannot commit to the

member about having that strategy ready for the winter session, but it will be tabled once it is completed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. You tabled "Uqausivut" on June 9, 2011 and the government stated that the new *Official Languages Act* has not been implemented yet. In the *Uqausivut* report, it states (interpretation ends) "is not currently in force." (interpretation) This is published by the government. Mr. Speaker, can the minister inform me of when this legislation will actually be implemented? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Tapardjuk. Minister of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth, Minister Arreak.

**Hon. James Arreak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My colleague is correct. The *Official Languages Act* was grandfathered from the NWT *Official Languages Act* in 1988 and it is still in force. The Government of Nunavut is obliged to comply with that legislation and we will have to put together a Nunavut-made strategy. It's going to be one of the priorities of our government. We will have to make sure that the French language is included because it's one of the official languages and it deserves the same rights as Inuktitut and English. Once that is all done and once it's approved by the cabinet, we will table it in the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Question 221 – 3(3): Inuktitut Not a Requirement for High School**

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

On Wednesday, October 26, the minister in reply to questions from Mr. Ningeongan, there were questions around what courses were required for graduation, and the minister listed a list of core credits that were needed to graduate. One of the things that sort of jumped out at me: with the Language Act and the *Inuit Language Protection Act*, why is Inuktitut not a mandatory credit for successful graduation of our grade 12 graduates? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister of Education, Madam Minister Aariak.

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the member for asking that question. Under the *Education Act*, once bilingual education is implemented and you reach grade 12, you would have to be proficient in both Inuktitut and English. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In terms of the answer, it means that it's in the process of being developed and will be happening. Is there a date as to when this will occur? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister responsible for Education, Madam Minister Aariak.

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Based on the *Education Act*, it has been undertaken for two years now. Once it goes up to grade 12 in 2019, graduating students would have to be proficient in both Inuktitut and English. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just for clarification, in terms of meeting that goal of proficiency in both languages, how many core Inuktitut courses to graduate? In the list, how many Inuktitut classes will a Nunavut student need to take? Thank you.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister responsible for Education, Madam Minister Aariak.

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm sure that parents would like to get that information. We definitely have to implement bilingual education as it is in the legislation. We are currently implementing it from kindergarten to grade 5. I don't know how this will be gradually implemented as it is being worked on. Once that is clear, I will be pleased to talk about the level of proficiency in Inuktitut that will be required for the higher grades. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I guess I'm a little confused because I would have thought that since we're moving backwards... We have the Language Act, we have the *Inuit Language Protection Act*, and then we have the *Education Act*. You would think we would know those things before we actually start moving forward on it.

Again, I'm still a little confused in terms of core subjects for our grade 12 graduates. In 2019, how many Inuktitut credits will they need to take to actually attain their grade 12 certificate? As was stated on the 26th, as of today, they do not have to have a single Inuktitut credit to graduate from grade 12.

I'm just curious when that's going to be changed to reflect what some of the other members have been talking about and the whole idea and principle behind the Language Act and the *Inuit Language Protection Act*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister responsible for Education, Madam Minister Aariak.

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I stated earlier, we haven't completed everything that is required, but we're approximately halfway through curriculum development. Once that has been completed and all the details are worked out, that will be crystal clear. As I indicated, everything would be implemented by 2019. We have to work with a lot of other affected parties and we have a lot to cover on curriculum development. It is something that is very important and we have to make sure that

it's planned properly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Madam Minister. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. Elliott.

### **Question 222 – 3(3): Update on GLO Positions**

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs.

Mr. Speaker, for the last two years, we have set aside money to hire government liaison officers in all of our communities. The first year it was \$2 million and from the \$2 million, it allowed us to hire one individual, and then now this year we have set aside \$4 million. I'm just wondering if the minister could give us an update as to what's happening with the government liaison officers. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have no doubt that this information will want to be heard and I thank my colleague for asking that question. To date, we're trying to fill government liaison officer positions in the non-decentralized communities. We have filled 9 positions out of the 14 so far in the non-decentralized communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think another issue that came up in terms of the hiring process was office space in the communities. I know, in speaking with other MLAs, the idea of and the limited office space in our communities, has that been a problem in terms of hiring the other GLOs that need to be hired? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, that was one of the problems in getting office space. Some communities were able to provide office space right away and EIA was able to negotiate with the hamlet councils about leasing office space. In Cambridge Bay, Pond Inlet, Hall Beach, Sanikiluaq, and Baker Lake, there is adequate office space now. We are still working on finding office space in other communities.

In Arctic Bay, Qikiqtarjuaq, Repulse Bay, Chesterfield Inlet, Kugaaruk, and Taloyoak, we have completed work. (interpretation ends) The leases with the hamlets have been concluded in those communities and office furniture, computer equipment, and office supplies are being delivered as these offices are being leased. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, I think one of the successes of this program was going to be training for the GLOs that they were going to be

given. To me, that makes a lot of sense because then you would have a standard way of thinking across the territory in terms of what the roles and responsibilities are for a government liaison officer. Could you give us an update in terms of what your department has been doing and when that training will be provided to the government liaison officers? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There is no question that the training of the GLOs was very important. We have set up a committee that is dealing with the training program for the GLOs. In November 2011, the GLOs will be coming down for training, (interpretation ends) training conference in November 2011. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for that answer. One of the arguments for the need for government liaison officers was better communication between residents and the Government of Nunavut. I'm just wondering: what does the minister's department have in place for reviewing this to see if the goal of more communication between the residents and the government is achieved? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Every time we introduce any new initiative, we monitor to ensure the initiative is progressing smoothly. We will continue to monitor its effectiveness.

During a review of *Qanukkanniq*, one of the priorities identified were these GLO positions in the communities that would provide updates on government initiatives to the public and, conversely, government information that the public wants primarily as a liaison position.

It seems quite obvious that you, as elected representatives, will also make use of these positions as your constituents will provide comments and concerns about the position, whether it has provided benefits, and what else is needed to ensure that all of these different information requirements can be dealt with.

Once we have the GLO positions filled in all communities, there will be a review process on the implementation as this is a very important and significant position that can benefit the communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Madam Premier. Members will note that the allotted time for question period has expired. We will move in the *Orders of the Day*, Item 7. Written Questions. Member for Baker Lake, Mr. Aupaluktuq.

#### Item 7: Written Questions

#### Written Question 009 – 3(3): Enforcement of the Environmental Protection Act

**Mr. Aupaluktuq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a written question today for the Minister of Environment concerning the enforcement of the territorial *Environmental Protection Act*. The questions are detailed, so I ask that they be entered into the record as read.

1. Within the meaning of section 12 of the *Environmental Protection Act*, how many charges were laid between April 1, 1999 and October 31, 2011 for alleged contraventions of the Act?
2. What were the circumstances of each alleged contravention?
3. What was the final disposition of each incident?
4. Between April 1, 1999 and October 31, 2011, how many fines were imposed for contraventions of the Act and what were the amounts and circumstances in each case where a fine was imposed?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. The member is asking that the written question be written into the record as read. Do members agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Speaker:** Item 7. Written Questions. Mr. Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I request unanimous consent to

go back to Item 5 in the *Orders of the Day*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Peterson. The member is seeking unanimous consent to go back to Item 5. Are there any nays? There are none. Please proceed, Mr. Peterson.

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

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleagues for granting me permission to go back to Item 5.

Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to welcome two staff to the Gallery today from the Department of Justice sitting just over here.

The first individual is Christine Ootova. Christine was an intern with the Legislative Division during the last few years as part of her Inuktitut studies, interpreter/translator training program, which is a very difficult program. She graduated in the spring of 2011 and now she is working in our Legislative Division as a legal translator in Inuktitut. That's Christine.

The second individual is Mr. Phillip Grassie. He was recently hired as our legislative counsel for Nunavut. He previously worked for the civil policy and programs branch in the Ontario Ministry of the Attorney General. He is a graduate of the University of Western Ontario, Faculty of Law.

So I would like to welcome them to the Gallery. I'm sure they learned a lot today by their presence and seeing us debate questions. Welcome.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Welcome to the Gallery. Hopefully it has been very educational for you. Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Item 10. Petitions. Item 11. Responses to Petitions. Item 12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters. Mr. Ningeongan.

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

#### **Committee Report 007 – 3(3): Bill 16, Annual Reporting Validation (Liquor Licensing Board) Act**

**Mr. Ningeongan:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to report that Bill 16, *Annual Reporting Validation (Liquor Licensing Board) Act*, has been reviewed by the Standing Committee on Legislation and that the bill is ready for consideration in Committee of the Whole.

Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to waive Rule 68(6) and have Bill 16 immediately moved into Committee of the Whole. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. The member is seeking unanimous consent to waive Rule 68(6) and have Bill 16 immediately moved into Committee of the Whole. Are there any nays? There are none. Bill 16 is referred to the Committee of the Whole.

Item 12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters. Mr. Ningeongan.



**Committee Report 008 – 3(3): Bill 17,  
Write-off of Debts Act, 2011-2012**

**Mr. Ningeongan:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to report that Bill 17, *Write-off of Debts Act, 2011-2012*, has been reviewed by the Standing Committee on Legislation and that the bill is ready for consideration in Committee of the Whole.

Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to waive Rule 68(6) and have Bill 17 immediately moved into Committee of the Whole. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. The member is seeking unanimous consent to waive Rule 68(6) and have Bill 17 immediately moved into Committee of the Whole. Are there any nays? There are none. Bill 17 is referred to the Committee of the Whole.

Item 12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters.  
Mr. Ningeongan.

**Committee Report 009 – 3(3): Bill 18,  
An Act to Amend Several Acts for  
Constitutional Validity (Spousal  
Benefits and Obligations)**

**Mr. Ningeongan:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to report that Bill 18, *An Act to Amend Several Acts for Constitutional Validity (Spousal Benefits and Obligations)*, has been reviewed by the Standing Committee on Legislation and that the bill is ready for consideration in Committee of the Whole.

Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to waive Rule 68(6) and have Bill 18

immediately moved into Committee of the Whole. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. The member is seeking unanimous consent to waive Rule 68(6) and have Bill 18 immediately moved into Committee of the Whole. Are there any nays? There being none. Bill 18 is referred to the Committee of the Whole.

Item 12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters.  
Mr. Ningeongan.

**Committee Report 010 – 3(3): Bill 20,  
An Act to Amend the Judicature  
Act (Court Rules)**

**Mr. Ningeongan:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to report that Bill 20, *An Act to Amend the Judicature Act*, has been reviewed by the Standing Committee on Legislation and that the bill is ready for consideration in Committee of the Whole.

Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to waive Rule 68(6) and have Bill 20 immediately moved into Committee of the Whole. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. The member is seeking unanimous consent to waive Rule 68(6) and have Bill 20 immediately moved into Committee of the Whole. Are there any nays? There being none. Bill 20 is referred to the Committee of the Whole.

Item 12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters.  
Mr. Ningeongan.

**Committee Report 011 – 3(3): Bill 23,  
An Act to Amend the Public  
Colleges Act**

**Mr. Ningeongan:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to report that Bill 23, *An Act to Amend the Public Colleges Act*, has been reviewed by the Standing Committee on Legislation and that the bill is ready for consideration in Committee of the Whole.

Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to waive Rule 68(6) and have Bill 23 immediately moved into Committee of the Whole. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. The member is seeking unanimous consent to waive Rule 68(6) and have Bill 23 immediately moved into Committee of the Whole. Are there any nays? There being none. Bill 23 is referred to the Committee of the Whole.

Item 12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters.  
Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Minister of Community and Government Services, Minister Kusugak.

**Item 13: Tabling of Documents**

**Tabled Document 129 – 3(3):  
Procurement Activity Report for  
the Fiscal Year 2010-2011**

**Tabled Document 130 – 3(3): Contract  
Activity Report for the Fiscal Year  
2010-2011**

**Tabled Document 131 – 3(3): Lease  
Activity Report for the Fiscal Year  
2010-2011**

**Tabled Document 132 – 3(3): 2010-  
2011 Qulliq Energy Corporation's  
10th Annual Report**

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table four documents, Mr. Speaker. The first document I am pleased to table is the Procurement Activity Report for the fiscal year 2010-11.

Mr. Speaker, the other document I would like to table is the Contract Activity Report for the fiscal year 2010-11.

Mr. Speaker, I am also pleased to table the Lease Activity Report for the fiscal year 2010-11.

We have been very busy, Mr. Speaker.

The last document that I am pleased to table is the 2010-11 Qulliq Energy Corporation's 10th annual report. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Minister of Education, Madam Minister Aariak.

**Tabled Document 133 – 3(3): Career  
Development Strategy from 2009**

**Tabled Document 134 – 3(3): F/P/T  
Report on the Western Premiers'  
Conference in Yellowknife, NWT  
June 20 to 22, 2011**

**Tabled Document 135 – 3(3): F/P/T  
Report on the Northern Premiers'  
Forum in Yellowknife, April 27 to  
28, 2011**

**Hon. Eva Aariak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table three documents. The first is I am pleased to

table the Career Development Strategy from 2009 in response to Jeannie Ugyuk's request back in the June sitting's Committee of the Whole.

The second is the F/P/T report on the Western Premiers' Conference in Yellowknife, Northwest Territories, June 20 to 22, 2011.

And the third, Mr. Speaker, is the tabling of the F/P/T report on the Northern Premiers' Forum in Yellowknife, April 27 to 28, 2011. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Tabled Document 136 – 3(3): F/P/T Report on the Canadian Council of Ministers of Environment Meeting in Yellowknife June 28, 2011**

**Tabled Document 137 – 3(3): F/P/T Report on the Canadian Council of Fisheries and Aquaculture Meetings held in Iqaluit, August 31 to September 2, 2011**

**Hon. Daniel Shewchuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have two documents to table. Mr. Speaker, the first is the F/P/T report on the Canadian Council of Ministers of Environment Meeting in Yellowknife, June 28, 2011.

And the second, Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to table the F/P/T report on the Canadian Council of Fisheries and Aquaculture and Atlantic Council of Fisheries and Aquaculture meetings held in Iqaluit August 31 to September 2, 2011. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Member for Tununiq, Mr. Enook.

**Tabled Document 138 – 3(3): Photographs of Pond Inlet Marine Conditions**

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to take this opportunity to table a collection of photographs that clearly illustrate the conditions facing my constituents in Pond Inlet with respect to the lack of adequate marine infrastructure in the community. I strongly encourage the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation to review these with care. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Enook. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. Elliott.

**Tabled Document 139 – 3(3): Article from the Vancouver Sun: Medical Records of 430 Vancouver Patients May Have Been Compromised**

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table today an article from the *Vancouver Sun* newspaper titled "Medical records of 430 Vancouver patients may have been compromised." This article addresses issues that I raised last week in the House with the Minister of Health and Social Services, and I encourage the minister to review this item with care. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Item 14. Notices of Motions. Mr. Tapardjuk.

**Item 14: Notices of Motions****Motion 018 – 3(3): Extended  
Adjournment – Notice**

**Mr. Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Wednesday, November 2, 2011, I will move the following motion:

I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet South and Whale Cove, that notwithstanding Rule 4, that when the House concludes its present sitting in Iqaluit, it shall be adjourned until February 21, 2012.

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

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Tapardjuk. Item 14. Notices of Motions. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. Elliott.

**Motion 019 – 3(3): Rejection of the  
Report of the Integrity  
Commissioner Concerning the  
Member of the Legislative  
Assembly for South Baffin –  
Notice**

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Wednesday, November 2, 2011, I will move the following motion:

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the Hon. Member for Hudson Bay, that the Report of the Integrity Commissioner be rejected.

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. Elliott. Item 14. Notices of Motions. Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 16. Motions. Mr. Tapardjuk.

**Item 16: Motions**

**Mr. Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek unanimous consent to deal with my motion today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Motion 018 – 3(3): Extended  
Adjournment**

**Mr. Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet South and Whale Cove, that notwithstanding Rule 4, that when the House concludes its present sitting in Iqaluit, it shall be adjourned until February 21, 2012.

Further, that at any time prior to February 21, 2012, if the Speaker is satisfied, after consultation with the Executive Council and Members of the Legislative Assembly, that the public interest requires that the House should meet at an earlier time during adjournment, the Speaker may give notice and thereupon the House shall meet at the time stated in such notice and shall transact its business as if it had been duly adjourned to that time.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Tapardjuk. The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour. Any opposed? The motion is carried.

Item 16. Motions. Mr. Elliott.

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

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

**Motion 019 – 3(3): Rejection of the Report of the Integrity Commissioner Concerning the Member of the Legislative Assembly for South Baffin**

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

WHEREAS the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly has tabled the October 18, 2011 Report of the Integrity Commissioner of Nunavut concerning Mr. Fred Schell, Member of the Legislative Assembly for South Baffin;

AND WHEREAS the Legislative Assembly wishes to formally express its appreciation to the Integrity Commissioner of Nunavut for his work;

AND WHEREAS section 48 of the *Integrity Act* requires that the Legislative Assembly must either accept all of the Integrity Commissioner's recommendations or reject all of the Integrity Commissioner's recommendations;

AND WHEREAS the most fundamental parliamentary privilege enjoyed by all Members of this House is freedom of speech;

AND WHEREAS one of the specific allegations submitted to the Integrity Commissioner by a senior official of the Government of Nunavut concerned the member's participation in proceedings of the Legislative Assembly, including questions that he posed during its deliberations;

AND WHEREAS this allegation was investigated by the Integrity Commissioner, an action which, in the view of this House, constituted an inadvertent breach of parliamentary privilege;

AND WHEREAS all Members of the Legislative Assembly recognize that the Report of the Integrity Commissioner concluded that the Member for South Baffin was not in breach of the *Integrity Act* in relation to this allegation;

AND WHEREAS all Members of the Legislative Assembly are concerned that acceptance of the Report of the Integrity Commissioner would constitute a waiving of parliamentary privilege and, therefore, an infringement of their freedom of speech in the proceedings of the Legislative Assembly, its committees and caucuses;

AND WHEREAS all Members of the Legislative Assembly are concerned about the implications of such an action with respect to the proper functioning of the Legislative Assembly;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the Hon. Member for Hudson Bay,

that the Report of the Integrity Commissioner be rejected.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Elliott. The motion is in order. To the motion. Mr. Elliott.

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It seems, at times, we get up in the morning and we think we're going in one direction only to find out we're spun in a different direction.

I have accepted the responsibility of speaking on behalf of all Members of this House with respect to this motion before us today. Given the serious nature of this subject, it is important that the listening public be provided with a clear explanation of our decisions and actions. Mr. Speaker, I will take some time to address in detail the points that are in the motion that is before the House.

Earlier in our sitting, the Report of the Integrity Commissioner of Nunavut concerning the Member for South Baffin was tabled in the House. This was done in accordance with the *Integrity Act*, which provides that such reports be laid before the House at the earliest opportunity. Under the *Integrity Act*, Members of the Legislative Assembly must consider such reports within ten sitting days. We are doing so today.

On behalf of all Members of the Legislative Assembly, I wish to formally express our appreciation to the Integrity Commissioner for his work. I do not think that anyone could dispute the observation that his report is fair-minded and comprehensive.

Mr. Speaker, as you know, section 48 of the *Integrity Act* is extremely clear as to what options are open to the Legislative Assembly with respect to its consideration of a report of the Integrity Commissioner that has been submitted under section 36 of the legislation.

Firstly, the Legislative Assembly "may not inquire further into the matter." Once a report has been presented to the House, we have two choices: accept all of the Integrity Commissioner's recommendations or reject all of the Integrity Commissioner's recommendations.

The legislation is deliberately constructed to preclude the Members of the Legislative Assembly from selectively accepting or rejecting different parts of the report. As such, we do not have the option of accepting some of the Integrity Commissioner's findings and recommendations while rejecting others.

With respect to the Legislative Assembly's formal response to the report, it must be dealt with as a whole. We either accept the report or we reject the report. We cannot partially accept it or partially reject it.

Mr. Speaker, the motion that is before us today raises the issue of parliamentary privilege. It is important that we reflect on the nature of this privilege. Without the protection of parliamentary privilege, this House and its members could not function properly. Mr. Speaker, I anticipate no disagreement when I say that the most fundamental of our parliamentary privileges is freedom of speech.

I would like to take a moment to share the observations made by a former Speaker of the House of Commons, who stated that “There are only two kinds of institutions in this land to which this awesome and far-reaching privilege [of freedom of speech] extends - Parliament and the legislatures on the one hand and the courts on the other.

These institutions enjoy the protection of absolute privilege because of the overriding need to ensure that the truth can be told, that any questions can be asked, and that debate can be free and uninhibited... this is necessary in the national interest and has been considered necessary under our democratic system for hundreds of years. It allows our judicial system and our parliamentary system to operate free of hindrance.”

Mr. Speaker, the parliamentary privilege of freedom of speech is enjoyed by all members and it cannot be waived unless we, as a legislature, collectively decide to do so.

Mr. Speaker, this brings us to the central issue that is before us today. As all members are aware, one of the allegations that were made against the Member for South Baffin concerned his participation in the proceedings of the Legislative Assembly. This allegation surrounded questions that he posed to witnesses during its deliberations.

Mr. Speaker, as the motion before us today notes very clearly, the Report of the Integrity Commissioner concluded that the Member for South Baffin was not in breach of the *Integrity Act* in relation to this allegation. However, that is not the issue, and I believe that we would be considering the same motion

today even if the report had concluded that his comments constituted a breach of the Act.

As a Legislative Assembly, we are concerned that the investigation itself of the member’s comments constituted an inadvertent breach of parliamentary privilege. Mr. Speaker, I wish to be absolutely clear that this concern should, in no way, be interpreted as a lack of confidence in our Integrity Commissioner.

It is clear from reading the report that his interpretation of the legislation led him to believe that it gave him jurisdiction to undertake a review of what the member said in this House. However, as a Legislative Assembly, we have concluded that the freedom of speech enjoyed by all members by virtue of their parliamentary privilege is paramount.

As the motion before us today notes very clearly, we are concerned that acceptance of the Report of the Integrity Commissioner would constitute a waiving of parliamentary privilege and, therefore, an infringement of the freedom of speech enjoyed by all members. Mr. Speaker, the implications of doing so are troubling. We are concerned that formal acceptance of the report would inadvertently create a chilling effect on debate in this House.

Mr. Speaker, it is important to note that members fully recognize the complexities of the issues before us. As a Legislative Assembly, we have passed legislation that provides for sanctions to be imposed on members whose actions are incompatible with the principles of the Act. However, we are also

responsible for protecting and safeguarding the privileges and freedoms of all members, including, perhaps most importantly, their freedom of speech, regardless of what those words might be.

The Members of the Legislative Assembly are not condoning the actions of the Member for South Baffin. However, having weighed the options open to us, we have concluded that it is necessary to formally reject the report for the reasons that I have just given. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Elliott. To the motion. I have no more names on my list. All those in favour. Any opposed? Any abstentions? Let the record show that there were two opposed and one abstention. The motion is carried.

Item 16. Motions. Member for South Baffin, Mr. Schell.

**Hon. Fred Schell:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to go back to Item 3 in the *Orders of the Day*. Thank you.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Schell. The member is seeking unanimous consent to go back to Item 3 in the *Orders of the Day*. Are there any nays? There are none. Please proceed, Mr. Schell.

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

#### **Member's Statement 148 – 3(3): Apology for Conduct**

**Hon. Fred Schell:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleagues for allowing me to make this statement today.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to publicly apologize to the Members of this House, my constituents in South Baffin, and all Nunavummiut for my conduct.

Mr. Speaker, although the Legislative Assembly has made a decision regarding its formal treatment of the Report of the Integrity Commissioner of Nunavut, I wish to exercise my right to state today that I personally apologize for my conduct as a Member of the Legislative Assembly. Mr. Speaker, my actions were inconsistent with my responsibility to arrange my private affairs in a manner that promotes public trust and confidence. I apologize for these actions.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to take this opportunity to assure you and my colleagues that I have learned from this experience. As the Member of the Legislative Assembly for South Baffin, I am committed to upholding the trust that my constituents have placed in me. I fully accept that my judgment in this matter was lacking, and I am prepared to accept the consequences of my actions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Schell. Going back to the orders of the day. Mr. Elliott.

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to seek unanimous consent to go back to Item 14 in the *Orders of the Day*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Elliott. The member is seeking unanimous consent to go back to Item 14 in the *Orders of the Day*. Are there any nays? There are none. Please proceed, Mr. Elliott.



**Revert to Item 14: Notices of Motions****Motion 020 – 3(3): Censure of the Member of the Legislative Assembly for South Baffin – Notice**

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Wednesday, November 2, 2011, I will move the following motion:

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the Hon. Member for Hudson Bay, that the Member for South Baffin be censured by this House.

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. Elliott. Back on to the orders of the day. Item 16. Motions. Mr. Elliott.

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

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

**Revert to Item 16: Motions****Motion 020 – 3(3): Censure of the Member of the Legislative Assembly for South Baffin**

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

WHEREAS the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly has tabled the

October 18, 2011 Report of the Integrity Commissioner of Nunavut regarding Mr. Fred Schell, Member of the Legislative Assembly for South Baffin;

AND WHEREAS the Legislative Assembly has, within the meaning of section 48 of the *Integrity Act*, deemed it necessary to formally reject the report as a consequence of concerns related to protecting the parliamentary privileges of this House, including members' freedom of speech;

AND WHEREAS the Member for South Baffin has, nonetheless, publicly apologized for his conduct;

AND WHEREAS the Legislative Assembly has taken note of the member's apology;

AND WHEREAS the Legislative Assembly has the prerogative to discipline its members;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the Hon. Member for Hudson Bay, that the Member for South Baffin be censured by this House;

AND FURTHER I MOVE that the Member for South Baffin be ordered to pay a \$1,000 fine.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Elliott. The motion is in order. To the motion. Mr. Elliott.

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I once again have accepted the responsibility of speaking on behalf of all Members of this House with respect to the motion before us today. Given the

serious nature of this subject, it is again important that the listening public be provided with a clear explanation of our decisions and actions, and I will again take some time to address in detail the points that are in the motion that is before the House.

Mr. Speaker, the motion notes that the Legislative Assembly has, within the meaning of section 48 of the *Integrity Act*, deemed it necessary to formally reject the Report of the Integrity Commissioner concerning the Member for South Baffin as a consequence of concerns related to protecting the parliamentary privileges of this House, including members' freedom of speech. I will not repeat what has already been said today on this subject.

Mr. Speaker, the motion that is now before us notes that the Member for South Baffin has, nonetheless, formally apologized in this House for his conduct. I believe that he has done the right thing in this matter.

Mr. Speaker, the first motion that was considered and passed today by the Legislative Assembly addressed the issue of parliamentary privilege in relation to the freedoms enjoyed by members. This motion addresses parliamentary privilege in relation to the powers of this House to discipline its own members when they fail to live up to their solemn responsibilities.

Mr. Speaker, as has already been stated, the Members of the Legislative Assembly do not condone the actions of the Member for South Baffin. The Member for South Baffin has formally apologized and stated that he is prepared to accept the consequences of his

conduct. Members will note that the penalties that are proposed to be imposed on the member are meaningful: a formal censure and a significant fine.

Mr. Speaker, I will conclude by saying that it is important for all Members of this House to reflect carefully on this matter and to ensure that we endeavour at all times to maintain the trust and confidence of our constituents for they have placed this responsibility upon us. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Any more comments to the motion? Question has been called. All those in favour. Any opposed? Any abstentions? Let the record note that there was one opposed and two abstentions. The motion is carried.

Item 16. Motions. Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Item 19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bills 16, 17, 18, 20, and 23.

In accordance with the authority provided to me by Motion 15 – 3(3), the Committee of the Whole will stay in session until it reports itself out, with Mr. Tapardjuk in the Chair.

Before we proceed any further, we will take a 20-minute break.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House recessed at 15:38 and  
Committee resumed at 16:03*

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

**Chairman** (Mr. Tapardjuk) (interpretation): Thank you for coming back. I would like to call the committee meeting to order. In Committee of the Whole, we have the following items to deal with: Bills 16, 17, 18, 20, and 23. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Aupaluktuq.

**Mr. Aupaluktuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We wish to deal with Bills 16, 17, 18, 20, and 23. I forgot to shut my cellphone off and I apologize. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. I would like to remind members that if you have cellphones, please turn them off.

Does the committee agree to deal with Bills 16, 17, 18, 20, and 23?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Bill 16 – Annual Reporting Validation (Liquor Licensing Board) Act – Consideration in Committee**

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. If the minister has opening comments to Bill 16, he can now proceed. Minister Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good afternoon. I am here to present Bill 16, *Annual Reporting Validation (Liquor Licensing Board) Act*.

In 1999, the Department of Finance determined that the activities of the

Nunavut Liquor Commission and Liquor Licensing Board were best managed through a contracting agreement with the Government of the Northwest Territories. That agreement remained until November 2004.

The annual reports for the board for the period April 1, 1999 to March 31, 2004 remain outstanding. After an exhaustive search in the Government of the Northwest Territories, Rankin Inlet, and Iqaluit, the historical records for the board cannot be located. Without them, it will be impossible to recreate the activities of the board. In situations like this, there is a legislative solution: an act of validation. Without this legislation, these reports would likely remain outstanding forever.

Mr. Chairman, we are not pleased with events that led to this. We cannot explain why the administration of the day made certain decisions or possibly misplaced these files. However, we believe that we need to pass this legislation and finally put this matter to rest.

I would be pleased to take questions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Yes, I do, Mr. Chairman.

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

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

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

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome, Deputy Minister Janet Slaughter and Mr. Chris D'Arcy. Does the Chair of the Standing Committee on Legislation have any opening comments? Mr. Ningeongan.

**Mr. Ningeongan:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As Chair of the Standing Committee on Legislation, I wish to make some brief opening comments as we begin consideration of Bill 16, *Annual Reporting Validation (Liquor Licensing Board) Act*.

Mr. Chairman, the standing committee accepts the government's rationale for this proposed legislation. I would like to take this opportunity to note with approval the contents of the preamble to Bill 16, which affirms the importance of public agencies preparing and tabling annual reports in a timely manner.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening comments. The standing committee recommends the passage of Bill 16 to all members. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. Are there any general comments? Mr. Enook.

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want further clarification on what I understood. I understand that this agency is supposed to report regularly and that report has never been made or that it will never be found. Is that all it is saying here? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Enook for the question. Mr. Chairman, the period in question that we're seeking approval for is 1999-2004. After those years, there have been annual reports filed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, I was going to ask some of the questions that Mr. Enook was asking and the minister replied by saying that reports have been coming, but in what the Speaker of the House tabled for statutory tabling requirements, it's been 2008-09 since his department has put in under the *Liquor Act*. I'm just curious if he could confirm that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Elliott for the question. That is correct, but we're waiting for an audit; it's not because the documents are missing. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. I have no more names on my list. (interpretation ends) In your white binder, (interpretation) under the white tab, please refer to Bill 16. In English, it's the (interpretation ends) *Annual Reporting Validation (Liquor Licensing Board) Act*. (interpretation) Please refer to that bill. (interpretation ends) Clause 1. (interpretation) Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Are we agreed to Bill 16 as a whole?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Pursuant to Rule 62(2), are we in agreement that Bill 16 can immediately be placed on the orders of the day for third reading?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Bill 16 is now ready for third reading. Perhaps Minister Peterson has closing remarks.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Yes, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank yourself and the committee for your understanding and approval of that Act. This will certainly help us clean up our outstanding paperwork and tabling documents. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson. We will now deal with Bill 17. Minister Peterson, do you have any opening comments?

### **Bill 17 – Write-off of Debts Act, 2011-2012 – Consideration in Committee**

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am here to discuss the *Write-off of Debts Act, 2011-2012*. Mr. Chairman, this Act is necessary to write off \$199,903 of debt that the Kivalliq Partners in Development (KPID) owes to Nunavut Arctic College.

Members will note that this write off is in accordance with section 82 of the *Financial Administration Act*. A debt written off under this section of the Act does not mean that it is forgiven. This Act allows the college to stop reporting the debt in the accounts receivable section of their financial statements. However, it remains a debt owed to the government unless forgiven through a separate act of forgiveness.

Mr. Chairman, this debt arose through courses the college delivered on behalf of Kivalliq Partners in Development, which had received funding from Service Canada for these courses. The course costs were incurred up to August 2006. Although the courses were delivered, the college encountered difficulty in properly documenting course costs and the subsequent invoicing to and collection from Kivalliq Partners in Development. Finally, in October of 2009, the college was informed that the funds had to be returned to Service Canada. Although the college has held further discussions with Service Canada, it is not possible to regain access to the lapsed funds.

Mr. Chairman, the Auditor General noted that the debt is still recorded on the books of the college and that, for

administrative, financial reporting, and audit performance purposes, it would make sense to write off the Kivalliq Partners in Development debt given its relative age and the likelihood of collection.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will be pleased to take questions.

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

**Mr. Ningeongan**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As Chair of the Standing Committee on Legislation, I wish to make some brief opening comments as we begin consideration of Bill 17, *Write-off of Debts Act, 2011-2012*.

During the minister's recent appearance before the standing committee on the occasion of its clause-by-clause consideration of the bill, members took the opportunity to pose a number of questions to the minister concerning the government's practices with respect to the write-off and forgiveness of debts. While noting the importance of making best efforts to collect outstanding debts, the standing committee accepts the government's rationale for this proposed legislation.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening comments. The standing committee recommends the passage of Bill 17 to all members. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Ningeongan. The floor is now open for general comments. Mr. Enook.

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In order for us to be on the same page, it is not being left behind, but it will be temporarily set aside out there somewhere. How exactly can we state that this debt could be returned or be put back on the books and who would make that decision to say they can now pay it off? Who will try to collect that debt? It stated that it's not off the books. So who will try to collect that debt, Mr. Chairman? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Keith Peterson**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. A very good question by Mr. Enook. The college could collect the money in the future if they knew that Kivalliq Partners in Development had the money. It would be recorded as extra revenue to the college. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When we talk about Nunavut Arctic College trying to collect that debt, who at Nunavut Arctic College would find out they now have the money or that they're now able to pay their debt? How do they make that determination? Would it be the debtors announcing that they suddenly have the means to pay it back? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Keith Peterson**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Enook for the question. Mr. Chairman, I believe it

would be recorded in Nunavut Arctic College's financial statements and we would see it there as being repaid. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Perhaps my question wasn't very clear because he didn't respond accordingly. Let me rephrase it. How will the staff at Nunavut Arctic College find out that such debtors as KPID are now able to make a payment on their debt? How would they find that out? Is the onus on the organizations that owe money to tell Nunavut Arctic College or will Nunavut Arctic College always be scrutinizing KPID's books? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Keith Peterson**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Enook for the question. Mr. Chairman, Nunavut Arctic College would have to continue to monitor the situation with respect to whether Kivalliq Partners in Development does receive additional funds from some source. So I don't believe it would be monthly statements, but there certainly would have to be some ongoing monitoring of the debt. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Ms. Ell** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It seems that my question is: when did they acquire this debt? What efforts did they make to collect that debt

before it was written off? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Keith Peterson**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Ms. Ell for the question. Mr. Chairman, this particular debt goes all the way back to the year 2006. My understanding of how it evolved is that Kivalliq Partners in Development sourced the funding from Service Canada, then they commissioned Nunavut Arctic College to deliver a number of programs and courses at the college, then Nunavut Arctic College failed to collect the money from Kivalliq Partners in Development, and then eventually the Service Canada folks, because they didn't get their accountings, requested the money back from Kivalliq Partners in Development. Ultimately, when Nunavut Arctic College was seeking the funds, Kivalliq Partners in Development didn't have the funds to pay. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Ms. Ell** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This will be my last question. From then on, I'm sure that Service Canada has been requesting for funds. Did that influence the funds that they have to access or has the cash flow been acceptable on the funds that are requested? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Keith Peterson**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Ms. Ell for the question. If I understand it correctly,

there still remains a good working relationship between the organizations. I don't think there has been any impact on the ability of organizations to access funds from Service Canada. I know that Nunavut Arctic College is more vigilant in collecting third party funds when they're commissioned to deliver courses. That's the best I can offer in terms of an answer to Ms. Ell. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm not sure if the Minister of Finance would be able to answer my question, but I noticed the Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College is here. Nunavut Arctic College relies on third party funding such as this to operate a lot of the different training programs that are provided across the north. I'm just wondering: are you aware of any other funding that is owed to Nunavut Arctic College that may have to be written off at this time? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Elliott for the good question. At this time, we are not aware of any other monies owed to Nunavut Arctic College. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Oshutapik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to raise this question: when would the forgiveness of debt take effect? When

you speak about that issue, you generally take it off the books. When does the forgiveness of the debt occur exactly? I would like to know that. Thank you.

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

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Oshutapik. I always call him Hezakiah. Mr. Chairman, to clarify a previous answer, we're not aware of any other funds owed to Nunavut Arctic College from Service Canada, but they may be owed money from other organizations.

With respect to the question, it's likely that the funds would be forgiven if and when that other organization was to wind up their affairs and if there's no other possibility of collecting the money. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson. I have no more names on my list. Go to (interpretation ends) your white binder. Bill 17, (interpretation) *Write-off of Debts Act, 2011-2012*. It's in your (interpretation ends) white binders. Bill 17. Clause 1. (interpretation) Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Schedule on page 2. (interpretation) Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Does the committee agree to Bill 17 as a whole?

**Some Members:** Agreed.



**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Pursuant to Rule 62(2), are you agreed that Bill 17 can immediately be placed on the orders of the day for third reading?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson, if you have any closing comments, you have the opportunity at this time. Minister Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again I would like to thank yourself and the committee for good questions. It's important that we discuss accountability in our organizations throughout Nunavut and in particular, our public agencies.

I know that, in speaking with the Minister of Nunavut Arctic College, he is working very hard to strengthen financial accountability in the college. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson. At this time, we will deal with Bill 18. Minister Peterson, do you have any opening comments to the bill?

**Bill 18 – An Act to Amend Several Acts for Constitutional Validity (Spousal Benefits and Obligations) Consideration in Committee**

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am here today to discuss Bill 18, *An Act to Amend Several Acts for Constitutional Validity* regarding spousal supports and obligations.

Our government is dedicated to upholding and affirming the rights granted to all Canadians under the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms and all of the protections therein. This legislation seeks to further integrate the principles of equality and fairness found in the charter into our laws and to ensure that our legislation reflects the state of law in Canada. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I would be happy to answer questions.

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

**Mr. Ningeongan:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As Chair of the Standing Committee on Legislation, I wish to make some brief opening comments as we begin consideration of Bill 18.

During the minister's recent appearance before the standing committee on the occasion of its clause-by-clause consideration of the bill, members noted the minister's comments in relation to the status of similar initiatives in other Canadian jurisdictions. Members recognize the government's rationale for the legal necessity of this proposed legislation.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening comments. The standing committee recommends the passage of Bill 18 to all members. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wonder if I may seek your permission to bring in another witness. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Do we agree that the minister bring in another witness?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Sergeant-at-Arms, escort the other witness out, please.

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

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to introduce Thomas Druyan. He's a legislative lawyer in the Department of Justice. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson. Welcome, Mr. Druyan. I hope I pronounced his name properly. Are there any general comments on Bill 18? Moses Aupaluktuq.

**Mr. Aupaluktuq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to see the minister introduce this as well in a sense. It's nice to see that the minister mentioned the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms and the protections that we're given under the Canadian Constitution. I believe Nunavummiut have been striving for equality as well as recognition as the rest of Canadians. It's just nice to see that social justice is being embraced and also being enhanced in Nunavut. I think there's a good overall need for social justice and support as

well. That was just a comment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. Ms. Jeannie Ugyuk.

**Ms. Ugyuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased that we are dealing with this bill as it will recognize co-inhabitation because the Inuit way seems to have been undermined. Although they have never been formally married, they become accepted as daughters-in-law through Inuit customs and I also support that. I am very thankful to see that. It will also mean that we're finally in conformity with the general practice in Canada. That was just a comment. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. I have no more names on my list. Go to (interpretation ends) your white binder. Bill 18, (interpretation) *An Act to Amend Several Acts for Constitutional Validity (Spousal Benefits and Obligations)*. We are on (interpretation ends) Bill 18. Clause 1. (interpretation) Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 2. (interpretation) Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 3. (interpretation) Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 4. (interpretation) Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 5. (interpretation) Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 6. (interpretation) Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 7. (interpretation) Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 8. (interpretation) Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 9. (interpretation) Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 10. (interpretation) Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 11. (interpretation) Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 12. (interpretation) Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 13. (interpretation) Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 14. (interpretation) Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 15. (interpretation) Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 16. (interpretation) Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 17. (interpretation) Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 18. (interpretation) Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 19. (interpretation) Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 20. (interpretation) Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Schedule B (interpretation) contains forms. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Go back to (interpretation ends) clause 21. Clause 21. (interpretation) Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 22. (interpretation)  
Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 23. (interpretation)  
Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Do we agree to Bill 18 as a whole?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Pursuant to Rule 62(2), do we agree that Bill 18 can immediately be placed on the orders of the day for third reading?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson, if you have any closing remarks.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again I would like to thank you, Mr. Chairman, and members of the committee for your scrutiny and good questions not just today but the last little while.

With the passage of this bill, it will update our laws with respect to the Supreme Court of Canada and the Government of Canada's decisions in 1999 and 2005. I believe we are the last jurisdiction to do so and it will be a very proud moment for us all when the bill receives assent later today. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson. We will now be

dealing with Bill 20. Minister Peterson, do you have any opening comments?

**Bill 20 – An Act to Amend the  
Judicature Act (Court Rules) –  
Consideration in Committee**

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is the one where I have difficulty with this word. I'm going to try. Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to appear and speak to Bill 20, *An Act to Amend the Judicature Act*.

>> *Laughter*

This amendment will provide added clarity to the *Judicature Act* regarding the process of changing court rules and will ensure consistency between the Nunavut Court of Justice and the Nunavut Court of Appeals. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I look forward to any questions that committee members may have. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Ningeongan:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As Chair of the Standing Committee on Legislation, I wish to make some brief opening comments as we begin consideration of Bill 20.

As members will recall, these proposed amendments, which change the process for the making of the Rules of the Nunavut Court of Justice and the Rules of the Court of Appeal, were originally included in Bill 48, *Miscellaneous*

*Statutes Amendment Act, 2010, No. 3*, which was considered by the Legislative Assembly in 2010. At that time, the standing committee was of the view that the proposed changes warranted being introduced in a standalone piece of proposed legislation, which the government has now introduced in the form of Bill 20.

The standing committee recognizes that the proposed amendments will have a number of effects. Firstly, the proposed amendments remove the requirement for changes to the Rules of the Nunavut Court of Justice to be approved by the Commissioner of Nunavut, acting on the advice of cabinet. The proposed amendments will also allow the Senior Judge of the Nunavut Court of Justice, with the approval of the judges of the Nunavut Court of Justice, to make rules regulating the practice and procedure in the Nunavut Court of Justice. The proposed amendments will also allow the Chief Justice of the Court of Appeal, with the approval of the judges of the court, to make rules regulating the practice and procedure on appeals.

The standing committee recognizes that the government's position is that the authority to make changes to the Rules of the Nunavut Court of Justice and the Rules of the Court of Appeal should rest with the senior judge and the chief justice, respectively, acting with the approval of their colleagues.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening comments. The standing committee recommends the passage of Bill 20 to all members. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. Are there any general comments? Ms. Ell.

**Ms. Ell:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am not a lawyer by any means, but I would like some explanation as to the reasoning behind changing the wording by substituting it to the Senior Judge of the Nunavut Court of Justice from the judges of the Nunavut Court. Could you explain that to me, please, minister? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Ms. Ell for the question. If I understand her question correctly, it would still have to be approved by all the judges. We would have one signature on the document, but all the judges in the Nunavut Court of Justice would have to approve the rule changes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Ms. Ell:** So you're saying that all the judges have to sign a piece of document for changes prior and with this change, only one judge then would have to make the changes but with some sort of an approval from the judges. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Ms. Ell for the question. Yes, Mr. Chairman, that's essentially what we're asking. In the past, it was difficult for all the judges to

get together. So what this will do is it still will require the senior judge to get approval of all the judges, but there will only be one signature required on the document. We believe that being judges, they will respect the laws and their own rules in the Nunavut Court of Justice. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Ms. Ell:** Can you explain to me what difficulties there might have been in the past to deal with their day-to-day business of the practice that they have done in the past? What I'm trying to find out is if there have been a lot of difficulties or if this is just an irritant of the way the current system works and whether there's an actual example that you can provide to satisfy me that the way you're now trying to go forward with this is warranted? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Ms. Ell for the question. Mr. Chairman, the best example I think I could give Ms. Ell is Nunavut is a large territory. Currently there are four judges and they travel quite a bit with the court parties to various communities in Nunavut, so it's very difficult for them all to be in the same place at same time. When the Nunavut Court of Justice adds two additional judges, there will be six. I think that's the plan. It will make it even more difficult to get six judges together to discuss rule changes.

This would facilitate the teleconferences, faxes, and emails to discuss the rule changes, and then the senior judge, acting with the agreement of all judges, would enact the rules. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Ms. Ell:** Has there been a lot of changes being brought forth to cabinet for signatures? Has there been any number that has been in the past or very little that has been brought forward for changes? (interpretation) Thank you.

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

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Ms. Ell for the question. Well, in my almost three years as cabinet minister, I don't recall any rule changes. It is always a distinct possibility. An important thing to remember is judges would be discussing changing rules, not changing laws.

What our cabinet would like to do is just strengthen that arm's-length relationship between the cabinet and the Nunavut Court of Justice. There's always a perception, if the judges have to get permissions or approvals from cabinet, that maybe we have some control and influence over them. We just want to strengthen that arm's-length relationship between our cabinet and the judges. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson. I have no more names on my list. Go to your (interpretation ends) white binder. Bill 20, (interpretation) *An Act to Amend the*

*Judicature Act.* (interpretation ends)  
 Clause 1. (interpretation) Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 2. (interpretation) Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 3. (interpretation) Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Do we agree to Bill 20 as a whole?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Pursuant to Rule 62(2), are we agreed that Bill 20 can immediately be placed on the orders of the day for third reading?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson, do you have any closing remarks?

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I again thank you as the Chairman and I thank the committee for their support of this particular bill and all the other bills earlier. I think this will help the Nunavut Court of Justice with their rules.

I would like to thank my officials, Mr. D'Arcy, who left earlier, and Deputy Minister of Justice Janet Slaughter for appearing before us today.

I would like to take a moment right now to thank Mr. Thomas Druyan for eight and a half long years of working with the Government of Nunavut in our Legislative Division. I might have mentioned to some of you that he's leaving the Government of Nunavut on November 11. He's transferring to the Government of the Northwest Territories to help them with their work over there. It's going to be a great loss to the Department of Justice, but it's going to be a wonderful gain for the Government of the Northwest Territories.

So I would like to wish Mr. Druyan a successful career in the Northwest Territories and thank him for his many years of hard work on behalf of our Legislative Assembly and the people of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>> *Applause*

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson. Thank you, Mr. Druyan. I believe that's how his name is pronounced. We wish you success in the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Minister Peterson and your officials. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses out.

Thank you. We will now deal with (interpretation ends) Bill 23, (interpretation) which is related to education. Does the Minister of Education have any opening comments? Madam Aariak.

### **Bill 23 – An Act to Amend the Public Colleges Act – Consideration in Committee**

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Yes, I do, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Minister Aariak, Minister of Education, you may proceed with your opening comments.

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good afternoon and welcome. (interpretation ends) I am pleased to be here to explain a bit about Bill 23, the proposed amendment of the *Public Colleges Act* (PCA). The proposal to amend the PCA was submitted in partnership with Nunavut Arctic College. This bill is about authorizing Nunavut Arctic College to offer university-level programming and grant degrees.

>>Applause

This bill also includes a number of minor updating changes which help ensure that the legislation is relevant and appropriate for Nunavut.

This bill will authorize Nunavut Arctic College to exercise the same degree-granting authorities as the colleges in the Yukon and Northwest Territories.

This bill will allow Nunavut Arctic College to enter into partnership agreements with universities from other jurisdictions so that it may offer university-level programming and confer degrees.

This bill will allow Nunavut Arctic College to increase its capacity as a university so that it may one day offer university-level programming and confer degrees on its own.

This bill will make it possible for degrees granted by Nunavut Arctic College, be it in partnership with another university or not, to reflect that they are

being granted by Nunavut Arctic College. In other words, Nunavut Arctic College will appear on the degree.

This bill will allow degree recipients to be recorded and reported as receiving the degree in Nunavut rather than in the partnering jurisdiction.

Through the granting of degrees in the name of Nunavut Arctic College and the recording of its graduates, Nunavut Arctic College will increase the recognition it receives for the role it plays in educating Nunavummiut.

This bill is an important step towards meeting the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement objective “to encourage self-reliance and the cultural and social well-being of Inuit.”

The content of this bill have been reviewed and endorsed by Nunavut Arctic College.

Bill 23 signals progress for our education system. It is a small step in the direction of a more complete education system in Nunavut. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Yes.

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

**Some Members:** Agreed.



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

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

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my left is Kathy Okpik, Deputy Minister, and to my right is Bradley Archambault, who is a legislative analyst. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Welcome to the witness table, Mr. Archambault and Ms. Okpik. Does the Chair of the Standing Committee on Legislation have any opening comments? Mr. Ningeongan.

**Mr. Ningeongan**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As Chair of the Standing Committee on Legislation, I wish to make some brief opening comments as we begin consideration of Bill 23.

Mr. Chairman, the standing committee supports the government's initiative to further empower Nunavut Arctic College by giving the college authority to grant university degrees and applied bachelor degrees through this legislation. Members acknowledge the importance of recognizing that graduates have earned their qualification in Nunavut at a Nunavut institution. Other amendments to the *Public Colleges Act* will bring it up to date and more in line with the education system in Nunavut. Committee members look forward to the day when northern skills and traditional knowledge will also be formally recognized under the auspices of Nunavut Arctic College.

Mr. Chairman, during the previous Legislative Assemblies, the Minister of Education was also the Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College. In this Assembly, responsibility for Nunavut Arctic College has been assigned to a minister other than the Minister of Education. It has been the Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College who has undertaken certain duties in accordance with the legislation. For example, it is the Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College who has tabled the college's annual reports in this House in accordance with section 18(5) of the Act. Just last week, it was the Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College who defended the college's proposed 2012-13 capital budget.

Mr. Chairman, it is the Minister of Education who is appearing before us today as the sponsor of this bill. However, it is the understanding of the committee that the Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College will remain accountable for the day-to-day operations of the college. The standing committee emphasizes the importance of ensuring that the lines of accountability are clear with respect to responsibility for the administration of this legislation in order to ensure that decisions and actions concerning the establishment of programs and courses, the implementation of policies and procedures, and the allocation of funds and resources are clear and transparent.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening comments. The standing committee recommends the passage of Bill 23 to all members. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. Are there any general comments on this bill? Mr. Enook.

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want clarification on two things. First, in the opening comments for this bill, it's evident that we're proud of this bill as Nunavummiut and we should be proud of Nunavut Arctic College. It states that the college could confer degrees in the future. Can we envision or has it been considered when this would take place with our own stamp of distinction? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Nunavut Arctic College would be conferring degrees. Just for clarity, the Department of Education is the sponsor of this Act and Nunavut Arctic College is responsible for its day-to-day operations. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Aariak. Mr. Enook.

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think I have been in meetings too long that I'm probably not making much sense. So I'll read the document, Mr. Chairman. I haven't seen the Inuktitut copy yet, so I'll be reading it in English. I'm trying to ask this question.

(interpretation ends) "This bill will allow Nunavut Arctic College to increase its capacity as a university so that it may one day offer university-level programming and confer degrees on its

own." (interpretation) Mr. Chairman, my question was: when can we expect to see this come into force? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Once Nunavut Arctic College initiates that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister. I have another question. As I stated earlier, we're proud of Nunavut Arctic College and it's evident that Canadians and the people of the north are also very proud of the college. I don't know if this is going to be a concern, but I would like to ask a question.

Once these degrees are exclusively granted by Nunavut Arctic College, I believe that there will be more interest to attend the college from all over Canada and I'm sure those degrees will be accepted anywhere. I'm sure that this has been considered, but my question is: would there be more interest by Nunavummiut when the college is able to confer degrees? Would Nunavummiut be the priority to attend Nunavut Arctic College and not be displaced by those outside of Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, since

it's very important to increase the number of Nunavummiut attending school and that whoever will be attending Arctic College will be determined fully by the college. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Ms. Ugyuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) One issue that has been raised in this House a number of times is a concern that a grade 12 qualification achieved in Nunavut does not meet the same standard and level of knowledge as a grade 12 qualification from another jurisdiction in Canada.

Currently our schools follow the Alberta curriculum with some modifications, such as the Inuit language requirements and the Aulajaaqtut requirements, and students must earn the appropriate credits in order to graduate with a grade 12 diploma. Many students and parents find that a Nunavut diploma does not represent the level of education they thought it did.

I am concerned that Nunavut Arctic College degrees, whether they are university degrees or applied bachelor degrees, will not represent the same standard of education as degrees granted by other institutions across Canada. Can the minister clearly describe how Nunavut Arctic College degrees will be properly accredited to ensure that they meet nationally accepted standards? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) There is no national accreditation of universities and university programming in Canada. The authority to grant degrees is found in provincial and territorial legislation only. The authorization by the government is meant to be a form of accreditation. Now, this is the one that I cannot pronounce. If an institution is authorized to grant degrees in law, then it is recognized as a degree-granting institution, and the degrees it grants are recognized in Canada. (interpretation) If we change the law and allow the college to grant degrees, it would be recognized nationwide. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Ms. Ugyuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe she answered my question, but I would like to ask another question. (interpretation ends) What is the process for accreditation and what specific institutions or bodies in Canada grant the approval for a degree to be recognized as such across Canada? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Department of Education would do a review through the adult education department. If you didn't understand me, I'll make sure that I rephrase my response. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Aariak. Ms. Ugyuk, anything else? Go ahead.

**Ms. Ugyuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Will degrees granted by Nunavut Arctic College be equal to degrees granted at other institutions across Canada? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Yes, it would be recognized across Canada. For example, at the trades school, accreditations from the school board were given. If I added in English, (interpretation ends) Nunavut Arctic College will continue to offer university-level programming in partnership with universities from other jurisdictions. In some cases, Nunavut Arctic College may always offer programming in partnership. Given this, the partner university will play a key role in ensuring that programming being offered is a high quality, just as they are doing currently. It is unlikely that any university would risk its reputation by partnering with an institution of less than adequate standards.

Without this amendment of the Act, Nunavut Arctic College's role in the delivery of university-level programming will be diminished in comparison to its partner university. To further explain, this amendment will allow Nunavut Arctic College to play a larger role in the programming it offers, and in doing so, will gain capacity as a degree-granting institution.  
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First of all, I would like to ask if it's okay with you that I ask about the response by Minister Aariak regarding the Arctic College minister taking the initiative.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Go ahead. Please proceed with your question, Mr. Enook.

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll direct this question to Minister Shewchuk. Someone mentioned that the conferring of degrees would be at the initiative of Nunavut Arctic College. When would we start seeing these degrees that will come out of Nunavut Arctic College? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Daniel Shewchuk**: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. First of all, I would like to thank all the members for asking these very good questions about the Arctic College and I'm sitting back here shaking my head a little bit. I'm agreeing with the Premier in her answers here because we work very closely together with Education. Education is mandated with the responsibilities of the *Public Colleges Act*. However, I think these changes are going to be very beneficial into the future for all of Nunavut and Nunavutmiut.

As far as the degree-granting process is at present, as you well know, the Premier has indicated that we are in partnership with several universities in the south that grant degree programs to Nunavut students. With this happening with our amendments to this Act, we

will have the ability to do that. Once we do have that ability and legislation, we can start developing and implementing programs where we can offer degrees in specific courses. So this is the start of that whole process. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't know if it's possible to answer my question and, if not, I will understand. I would like to ask as a supplement: when do you anticipate giving out a degree by Nunavut Arctic College, affixed along with their own seal? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Daniel Shewchuk**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wish I could answer that question fully, but I can't and I can't commit to that. We would like to see it done as soon as possible, where we have some programs in place where we can deliver degrees to Nunavut students. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. I have no more names on my list. In your white folder is Bill 23, *An Act to Amend the* (interpretation ends) *Public Colleges Act*. (interpretation) We will now begin the clause-by-clause review. (interpretation ends) Clause 1. (interpretation) Do you agree?

**Some Members**: Agreed.

**Chairman**: Clause 2. (interpretation) Do you agree?

**Some Members**: Agreed.

**Chairman**: Clause 3. (interpretation) Do you agree?

**Some Members**: Agreed.

**Chairman**: Clause 4. (interpretation) Do you agree?

**Some Members**: Agreed.

**Chairman**: Clause 5. (interpretation) Do you agree?

**Some Members**: Agreed.

**Chairman**: Clause 6. (interpretation) Do you agree?

**Some Members**: Agreed.

**Chairman**: Clause 7. (interpretation) Do you agree?

**Some Members**: Agreed.

**Chairman**: Clause 8. (interpretation) Do you agree?

**Some Members**: Agreed.

**Chairman**: Clause 9. (interpretation) Do you agree?

**Some Members**: Agreed.

**Chairman**: Clause 10. (interpretation) Do you agree?

**Some Members**: Agreed.

**Chairman**: Clause 11. (interpretation) Do you agree?

**Some Members**: Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 12. (interpretation)  
Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 13. (interpretation)  
Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 14. (interpretation)  
Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Schedule. (interpretation) If you turn to page 7, the details are on that page. Do you agree to the Schedule?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Go back to page 4. (interpretation ends) Clause 15. (interpretation) Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 16. (interpretation)  
Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 17. (interpretation)  
Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 18. (interpretation)  
Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 19. (interpretation)  
Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 20. (interpretation)  
Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 21. (interpretation)  
Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 22. (interpretation)  
Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Do you agree to Bill 23 as a whole?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Pursuant to Rule 62(2), are you agreed that Bill 23 can immediately be placed on the orders of the day for third reading?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Aariak, do you have any closing remarks?

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First of all, I would like to thank the staff of Nunavut Arctic College and the Department of Education staff, all of whom worked very hard to put this bill together.

In *Tamapta*, we stated that education is very important and this is part of improving the education system. Since we passed this bill to amend the *Public Colleges Act*, we can then start implementing and making the required changes. Thank you very much for your

full support. We can now proceed with the implementation.

I would like to thank Bradley and Kathy. I would also like to thank you for posing excellent questions. If you have any further questions that you think about today, the Arctic College minister and I are open. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Aariak and your officials. Thank you very much. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses out.

Thank you. On my agenda, we have concluded with the bills we wanted to deal with. Mr. Ningeongan.

**Mr. Ningeongan:** *Qujannamiik*, Mr. Chairman. At this time, I would like to make a motion to report progress.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. The motion is not debatable. There is a motion to report progress. All those in favour, raise your hand. Opposed. Thank you. I will now rise to report progress to our Speaker. Thank you.

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

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

**Mr. Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Bills 16, 17, 18, 20, and 23, and would like to report that Bills 16, 17, 18, 20, and 23 are immediately ready for third reading. Mr. Speaker, I move that the Report of the Committee of the Whole be concurred with. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Tapardjuk. There's a motion on the floor. Is there a seconder? Mr. Peterson. The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour. Any opposed? The motion is carried. Mr. Peterson.

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

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Mr. Peterson has indicated this is unusual for him, so for the second time today, the member is seeking unanimous consent to go back to the orders of the day. Are there any nays? There are none. Please proceed, Mr. Peterson.

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

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Being Halloween, strange things are happening in the House today.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues for granting permission. Mr. Speaker, I was remiss earlier. I should have recognized this individual when I was at the witness desk. I would like to welcome Ms. Susan Hardy to the Gallery. Susan Hardy is our Director of the Legislative Division. All the legislation that goes through the House that we review every session, she oversees the development of it. A lot of hard work goes into the legislation that is amended or developed for the Government of Nunavut. So I would like to welcome Susan. She's sitting right over here. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Welcome to the Gallery, Ms. Hardy. I worked with her for a number of years and over the years as well.

Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. Minister of Justice, Minister Peterson.

### **Item 21: Third Reading of Bills**

#### **Bill 16 – Annual Reporting Validation (Liquor Licensing Board) Act – Third Reading**

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet South and Whale Cove, that Bill 16, *Annual Reporting Validation (Liquor Licensing Board) Act*, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister Peterson. The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour. Any opposed? The motion is carried and Bill 16 is ready for assent.

Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. Minister of Finance, Minister Peterson.

#### **Bill 17 – Write-off of Debts Act, 2011-2012 – Third Reading**

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet South and Whale Cove, that Bill 17, *Write-off of Debts Act, 2011-2012*, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister Peterson. The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in

favour. Any opposed? The motion is carried and Bill 17 is ready for assent.

Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. Minister of Justice, Minister Peterson.

#### **Bill 18 – An Act to Amend Several Acts for Constitutional Validity (Spousal Benefits and Obligations) – Third Reading**

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet South and Whale Cove, that Bill 18, *An Act to Amend Several Acts for Constitutional Validity*, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister Peterson. The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour. Any opposed? The motion is carried and Bill 18 is ready for assent.

Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. Minister of Justice, Minister Peterson.

#### **Bill 20 – An Act to Amend the Judicature Act (Court Rules) – Third Reading**

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet South and Whale Cove, that Bill 20, *An Act to Amend the Judicature Act*, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Thank you very much, Minister Peterson. The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour. Any opposed? The motion is carried and Bill 20 is ready for assent.



Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. Minister responsible for Education, Madam Minister Aariak.

**Bill 23 – An Act to Amend the Public Colleges Act – Third Reading**

**Hon. Eva Aariak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the hon. member from Kugluktuk, that Bill 23, *An Act to Amend the Public Colleges Act*, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Madam Minister. The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour. Any opposed? There being none. The motion is carried and Bill 23 is ready for assent.

Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. Before we proceed, I would like to ask the Deputy Clerk if she could please ascertain if the Commissioner of Nunavut is prepared to enter the Chambers to give assent to bills.

**Assent to Bills**

**Bill 13 – Supplementary Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, No. 2, 2011-2012 – Assent**

**Bill 14 – Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 2, 2011-2012 – Assent**

**Bill 15 – Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2012-2013 – Assent**

**Bill 16 – Annual Reporting Validation (Liquor Licensing Board) Act – Assent**

**Bill 17 – Write-off of Debts Act, 2011-2012 – Assent**

**Bill 18 – An Act to Amend Several Acts for Constitutional Validity (Spousal Benefits and Obligations) – Assent**

**Bill 20 – An Act to Amend the Judicature Act (Court Rules) – Assent**

**Bill 22 – An Act Respecting the Constituencies of Nunavut – Assent**

**Bill 23 – An Act to Amend the Public Colleges Act – Assent**

**Commissioner Edna Elias:** Thank you. (interpretation) Members of the Legislative Assembly, please be seated.

As Commissioner of Nunavut, I am honoured to give assent to the following bills:

- (interpretation ends) Bill 13, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 2, 2011-2012;*
- Bill 14, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 2, 2011-2012;*
- Bill 15, *Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2012-2013;*
- Bill 16, *Annual Reporting Validation (Liquor Licensing Board) Act;*
- Bill 17, *Write-off of Debts Act, 2011-2012;*

- Bill 18, *An Act to Amend Several Acts for Constitutional Validity (Spousal Benefits and Obligations)*;
- Bill 20, *An Act to Amend the Judicature Act*;
- Bill 22, *An Act Respecting the Constituencies of Nunavut*; and
- Bill 23, *An Act to Amend the Public Colleges Act*.

(interpretation) As you conclude your work here and prepare to return to your families and communities, I wish you all a safe journey home. You will be out hunting again once you get home. I wish the children a good Halloween tonight. Thank you.

**Speaker:** We will continue on with the orders of the day. Item 22. *Orders of the Day*. Clerk Assistant, Mr. Innuksuk.

### Item 22: Orders of the Day

**Clerk Assistant** (Mr. Innuksuk) (interpretation): Thank you. *Orders of the Day* for February 21, 2012:

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
20. Report of the Committee of the Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills
22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Innuksuk. (interpretation ends) This House stands adjourned until February 21, 2012 at 1:30 p.m. Have a safe and happy Halloween, everybody.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>> *House adjourned at 17:36*

