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**DAY 32**

**Monday, February 27, 2012**

**Pages 1751 – 1811**

**Iqaluit**

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

## Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

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(Iqaluit Centre)

**Hon. Eva Aariak**

(Iqaluit East)

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

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(Tununiq)

*Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole*

**Allan Rumbolt**

(Hudson Bay)

**Hon. Fred Schell**

(South Baffin)

*Minister of Human Resources;  
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(Uqqummiut)

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(Akulliq)

**Johnny Ningeongan**

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Committee of the Whole*

**Hon. Daniel Shewchuk**

(Arviat)

*Minister of Justice; Minister  
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College*

**Moses Aupaluktuq**

(Baker Lake)

**Hezakiah Oshutapik**

(Pangnirtung)

**Louis Tapardjuk**

(Amittuq)

*Deputy Chair, Committee of the  
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**Tagak Curley**

(Rankin Inlet North)

**Hon. Keith Peterson**

(Cambridge Bay)

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

**Hon. Peter Taptuna**

(Kugluktuk)

*Deputy Premier; Minister of  
Economic Development and  
Transportation; Minister of Energy*

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(Quttiktuq)

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**Iqaluit, Nunavut**  
**Monday, February 27, 2012**

**Members Present:**

Honourable Eva Aariak, Honourable James Arreak, Mr. Moses Aupaluktuq, Mr. Tagak Curley, Ms. Monica Ell, Mr. Ron Elliott, Mr. Joe Enook, Honourable Lorne Kusugak, Mr. John Ningark, Mr. Johnny Ningeongan, Mr. Hezakiah Oshutapik, Honourable Keith Peterson, Mr. Allan Rumbolt, Honourable Fred Schell, Honourable Daniel Shewchuk, Mr. Louis Tapardjuk, Honourable Peter Taptuna, Honourable Hunter Tootoo, Ms. Jeannie Ugyuk.

>>House commenced at 13:30

**Item 1: Opening Prayer**

**Speaker** (Hon. Hunter Tootoo):  
*Qujannamiik*, Sergeant-at-Arms. Before we get started, I would like to ask Ms. Ugyuk if she could lead us off with a prayer, please.

>>Prayer

**Speaker:** Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. Welcome back, everybody. Moving on in our orders of the day. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Madam Premier.

**Item 2: Ministers' Statements****Minister's Statement 119 – 3(3):  
Creekside Village Fire**

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation):  
Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, I would like to welcome our colleagues, John Ningark and Jeannie Ugyuk. We have full membership and I'm very glad that you were able to make it here.

Mr. Speaker, last night, a devastating fire engulfed the 300 block of townhouses of Creekside Village, known as white row, here in Iqaluit. More than 300 individuals were evacuated due to this fire. Our hearts go out to those families who have lost their homes and relatives.

The fire started just before 10:00 p.m. Firefighters tried to control the blaze, but it quickly spread to other units. Twenty-two units were lost, of which 21 were occupied by Nunavut Arctic College students and their families.

Mr. Speaker, victims of the fire are temporarily staying at Nunavut Arctic College's Ukiivik residence and the Frobisher Inn. Among the displaced residents are many children. Nunavut Arctic College will continue to meet with students to ensure their needs are met. The victims of this fire have access to interim accommodations until permanent residences can be established.

Mr. Speaker, in Iqaluit, donations can be dropped off at the Nunavut Research Institute, which is building 959A. The most needed items include: personal hygiene items, baby formula and diapers, clothing, bedding, towels, and non-perishable food items. Mr. Speaker, it is important that all donated items that are not brand new should be in working condition, recently laundered, and/or washed as families will need to use these items immediately.

Mr. Speaker, we sincerely appreciate the tremendous commitment and dedication that the firefighters, emergency personnel, and City of Iqaluit workers continue to demonstrate as they battle this fire in these freezing temperatures.

Their efforts are greatly appreciated today and always. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Thank you, Madam Premier. I'm sure all of our hearts and thoughts go out to those individuals who lost everything in that tragic fire. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Minister Taptuna.

**Minister's Statement 120 – 3(3):  
Nunavut Shines at Northern  
Lights**

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, colleagues, Kuglukturmiut, and Nunavummiut. Mr. Speaker, earlier this month, Nunavut, Labrador, and Nunavik hosted the Northern Lights Conference and Trade Show in Ottawa to promote eastern arctic businesses and investment opportunities in the north to southern Canadian markets and to facilitate north-to-north partnerships.

Showcasing Nunavut's arts and culture gave the south a window into the north. Canadians of all backgrounds stopped to hear Michael Kusugak recall stories of his childhood. Young musician Nelson Tagoona drew crowds with his throat-boxing, and of course, Mr. Speaker, long-time favourite Simeonie Keenainak got the trade show floor square dancing. Mr. Speaker, Nunavut's sealskin fashions brought awareness of our right to subsistence harvest.

Northern Lights brought representation from every province and territory in

Canada, with the exception of one Atlantic province.

In 2008, Northern Lights was attended by 400 delegates and in 2010, by 900 people. This year, almost 1,300 delegates and visitors attended Northern Lights.

>> *Applause*

Mr. Speaker, over 460 companies and organizations were represented.

The conference sessions had excellent presenters and were very well attended. The premiers of Newfoundland and Labrador, Quebec, and Nunavut all provided keynote addresses. Minister Leona Aglukkaq, Minister Peter Penashue of Labrador, Fisheries and Oceans Minister Keith Ashfield, and Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami President Mary Simon, among others, met with our artists, businesses, and organizations.

Mr. Speaker, the Northern Lights Trade Show demonstrates the growth and potential of business in the north. I would like to express my thanks to the Baffin Regional Chamber of Commerce for its vital role in delivering an outstanding event.

Mr. Speaker, we are rather disappointed to hear that Hal Timar, Executive Director of the Baffin Regional Chamber of Commerce for seven years, has resigned and is relocating to Montreal. Mr. Timar has made a great contribution to revitalizing the Baffin Regional Chamber of Commerce and we give him our sincere thanks for his role in making Northern Lights such a tremendous success.



It is venues such as Northern Lights that allow us to showcase Nunavut to our neighbours down south and globally. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Minister's Statement 121 – 3(3):  
Celebrating the Queen's Diamond  
Jubilee**

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. February 6 marked the 60th anniversary of Queen Elizabeth II's accession to the Throne. To mark the beginning of this yearlong recognition, all provincial and territorial legislatures, including our own, raised the Queen's personal Canadian flag from sunrise to sunset on that day.

Mr. Speaker, in celebration of this event, a commemorative medal has also been created by the Government of Canada to honour 60,000 deserving Canadians of all ages and from all walks of life. The Diamond Jubilee Medal is just one of the ways Canada will be celebrating this event throughout the year.

Approximately 140 Nunavummiut are expected to receive this honour.

The Commissioner of Nunavut, Edna Elias, the Government of Nunavut, Member of Parliament for Nunavut, and the Senator of Nunavut have all been given a number of Diamond Jubilee Medals for presentation and are inviting Nunavummiut to nominate residents by contacting any of these offices for more information.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce that I, on behalf of our government, am accepting nominations to be awarded to deserving Nunavummiut. I have also invited all of my fellow MLAs to nominate individuals.

To nominate someone for a GN Diamond Jubilee Medal or for more information, Nunavummiut can visit our website at [www.gov.nu.ca](http://www.gov.nu.ca) or call the government offices. The deadline for nominations for medals to be presented by the GN is March 30, 2012.

Mr. Speaker, there will be Diamond Jubilee events, including the presentation of the medals, throughout the year and information will be made available as plans unfold. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Thank you, Madam Premier. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Minister responsible for Community and Government Services, Minister Kusugak.

**Minister's Statement 122 – 3(3): CGS-  
University of Manitoba MOU**

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Good day, Mr. Speaker and the people of Rankin Inlet and Whale Cove.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure today to advise the Members of this Assembly that last year, the Department of Community and Government Services signed an MOU with the University of Manitoba, School of Engineering, that will allow CGS to use higher year engineering students for summer employment as well as through

the university's student employment co-op program. Mr. Speaker, I would like to emphasize that this agreement has a number of benefits for the signatories and the students.

The U of M has agreed to actively promote post-secondary education to students in Nunavut in order to attract students to pursue a career in the field of engineering. At the same time, the Government of Nunavut will be able to fill vacancies for critical project work while providing students with much needed hands-on work experience.

Mr. Speaker, last spring, the U of M visited schools in Arviat, Baker Lake, and Rankin Inlet to promote their Engineering Access program (ENGAP). I am very pleased to report to the Assembly that as a result of that trip, a student from Nunavut did enrol.

R.J. Oolooyuk of Rankin Inlet has been enrolled in the Engineering Access program since September. He has been very successful with his studies and is ranked the top student in the program by the U of M Engineering faculty. We are very proud of R.J. and his performance, and we congratulate him and encourage him to keep up the hard work.

Mr. Speaker, from January 23 to 27 of this year, University of Manitoba staff travelled to the Baffin region and conducted Engineering Access program presentations to high school students in Iqaluit and Cape Dorset. We are optimistic that those presentations will result in more Nunavut students enrolling in engineering studies this coming September and into the future.

Mr. Speaker, the Department of Community and Government Services is committed to increasing the levels of employment in technical fields for beneficiaries and Nunavummiut, and I look forward to being able to report back to this Assembly with success stories like that of R.J. Oolooyuk. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Good luck and keep up the good work, R.J. Ministers' Statements. Minister responsible for the Department of Environment, Minister Arreak.

**Minister's Statement 123 – 3(3):  
Departmental Report on EU Seal  
Ban Impacts to Nunavut**

**Hon. James Arreak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon to the residents of Clyde River and Qikiqtarjuaq. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to my colleagues' attention a report that was recently compiled by the Department of Environment summarizing the impacts of the European Union seal ban on Nunavut ringed sealskin sales and revenues.

The report was submitted to a hearing hosted February 7 by the European Bureau for Conservation and Development, during which Greenlandic officials met with Members of the European Parliament to discuss the impacts of the ban on the Greenlandic sealing industry. We will be publishing the report on our website in the near future and sharing it with other sealing jurisdictions and stakeholders to raise awareness of the negative impacts this

regulation has had on the market for Nunavut sealskins.

The non-functioning Inuit exemption to the EU ban is one of the topics discussed in our report. Due to Greenland's close European connections, it is widely believed that they may stand the greatest opportunity at working through the logistics of the exemption. We will be closely monitoring any developments that may result from Greenland's efforts and we remain hopeful that the legal challenge of the EU ban led by ITK and the Fur Institute of Canada will be successful in annulling the harmful EU ban regulation.

The department's Sealskin Purchase Program continues to buy ringed sealskins from Nunavut hunters for almost double market price. This is in recognition of the importance of this income to hunters who, in turn, provide large quantities of fresh, nutritious food to our communities. The department remains active in the promotion of Nunavut's seal and fur industry on the global market.

This year, we partnered with Fur Harvesters Auction to advertise at events in Beijing, Istanbul, and Montreal. We have also made significant progress in making dressed sealskins available to Nunavut residents.

Mr. Speaker, we will continue to work to support and promote the Nunavut sealing sector. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister Arreak. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Item 3.

Members' Statements. Member for Akulliq, Mr. Ningark.

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

#### **Member's Statement 167 – 3(3): Appreciation to Medical Staff in Yellowknife, Edmonton, and to Mr. Quirke**

**Mr. Ningark** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In representing Repulse Bay and Kugaaruk, I would like to inform the unfortunate people who experienced the loss of their housing last night that they are in our prayers and their plight is in our hearts.

Mr. Speaker, I have a statement stemming from my heartfelt gratitude to many people, to whom I have to express public appreciation. I thank the hospital and staff in Edmonton as well as in Yellowknife, particularly the doctors and nurses who assisted me and who were able to help my family.

I apologize to the residents of Repulse Bay and Kugaaruk for not being able to represent them here in this House during a sitting and at standing committee meetings. Furthermore, I want to thank my colleagues for their hospitality and welcoming spirit as I return to this House, Mr. Speaker.

Additionally, the Clerk, Mr. Quirke, is another person whom I wish to thank as I was of the mind to attend to the sitting and meetings, but he as well as my doctors advised me to first return to good health prior to returning to my official duties and I am very thankful for that. I was advised further by my friend and wife, Celine, to first return to good health before thinking of returning and

to listen to the advice of the doctors. So I want to express my immense gratitude to Mr. Quirke, my wife, Celine, and the good doctors who looked after my health.

In particular, I wish to thank my constituents in Repulse Bay and Kugaaruk for understanding the situation causing my absence in representing them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Ningark. We are very pleased to have you back with us. Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Nattilik, Ms. Ugyuk.

**Member's Statement 168 – 3(3):  
Recent Murder-Suicide in  
Taloyoak**

**Ms. Ugyuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On the night of February 2, a fire enveloped a house in Taloyoak in which a mother and her children had resided with no survivors. We now hear of various stories, including the suspicion that the mother set the fire to commit suicide and murder her children. The residents of Taloyoak deeply regret this incident. We don't want anyone to even consider such actions in Nunavut because, as a mother, it has a tremendous impact on your heart to see this loss.

The residents of Taloyoak are very appreciative and thankful to the school principal, Gina Pizzo, because she has been a pillar of strength, providing counselling to the students and teachers.

We also thank the RCMP for conducting their investigation because we now

know of the situation and what occurred, and they have kept providing the information as it becomes available to the residents.

Additionally, I thank the SAO of the hamlet, who has kept the focus on the healing process and everyone requiring assistance, whether it is for psychological or mental health issues. They have provided the services and we appreciate their dedication.

The people want to thank the firefighters of Taloyoak profusely for their skills and abilities. Even though many firefighters in our community are quite young, they were able to put out the fire in the four-plex, limiting the damage to the one unit where it started. These young firefighters, while being very young, in my opinion, are very skilled as they were able to put out the fire, even though it took quite a while.

We are also very thankful for the assistance provided by the Anglican Church as they usually task a reverend to travel to our community. We are cognizant of the effect of prayers as residents of Taloyoak feel the grace sent from Nunavummiut. The Baker Lake reverend, Moses Kalirraq, as well as Paul William's wife, Naujaq, travelled to our community.

Further, we are very grateful to the people who volunteer for the Aijuaq group as they have provided foodstuffs and cooked meals to the affected families in our community, as well as spending time in their homes.

We also want to thank our local housing association for their tremendous support. With the fire affecting the four-plex,

they had to search for alternative units for the tenants.

We also want to thank the Department of Health and Social Services for providing counselling services through their mental health division that was sent to Taloyoak.

We are currently grieving over this loss. However, we want to move forward to initiate healing in our community of Taloyoak and we are very grateful to all of the assistance we have been provided. On behalf of our families, I thank you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Rankin Inlet North, Mr. Curley.

**Member's Statement 169 – 3(3): Loss of Elder in Rankin Inlet – Bernadette Evaluajuk Saumik**

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to wish a good afternoon to the residents of Rankin Inlet. I rise today to remark on the fact that we have lost an elder in Rankin Inlet and I wanted to inform my colleagues and Nunavutmiut on the public record. Our beloved elder, Bernadette Evaluarjuk Saumik, recently passed on.

Bernadette was originally from Repulse Bay and she resided in Rankin Inlet for many years when she was an elder. She was one of the most sympathetic persons I knew. Whenever a person was undergoing difficulties or stress, she would always drop by and assist, and provide counselling to grieving people. She would wait a few days until she felt

they were open to advice, and then she would go and visit them until they were able to cope with their issues. Only then would she move on. She had many relatives.

In particular, one aspect that I want known is that way back when I was a young person in Repulse Bay, she used to carve. Her carvings were amongst the most popular pieces and sold quite fast when available. She did precise artwork and a lot of her pieces were made from ivory.

I know for a fact that the residents of Rankin Inlet have lost a tremendous resource. To her family in Rankin Inlet, her daughters who are quite numerous, as well as her sons and adopted children, on behalf of all residents of Rankin Inlet, you are in our thoughts and prayers. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Curley. Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Nanulik, Mr. Ningeongan.

**Member's Statement 170 – 3(3): Forward Momentum on Sports**

**Mr. Ningeongan:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Before I make my Member's Statement, please allow me to express my deepest sympathies to the residents of Iqaluit on yesterday's tragic incident.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my strong support for the announcement that was made in last week's Budget Address concerning the transfer of responsibility for sport and recreation to the Department of Community and Government Services.

Mr. Speaker, as you know, I have been one of the members who has been urging the government to review this issue. Mr. Speaker, I can say today that the government has clearly listened to these concerns and I applaud the responsible ministers for taking this action.

Mr. Speaker, I am confident that bringing sport and recreation back home to the Department of CGS will be a positive step forward. Over the coming months, I encourage the minister and his department to also review the other issues that have been raised in this House concerning sport, including such matters as team selection processes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 171 – 3(3):  
Baffin Mayors' Meeting in Iqaluit**

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to welcome all the mayors from across the Baffin to the Baffin mayors' meeting being held here in Iqaluit this week. It is our mayors that do a valuable service to their communities by providing local leadership. Mr. Speaker, at times, much like our jobs, it's definitely a thankless job.

I know my three mayors are very dedicated to their responsibility of being a mayor and I would like to personally thank them. In Iqaluit from Quttiktuq are Meeka Kiguktak from Grise Fiord, Tabitha Mullin from Resolute Bay, and our Deputy Mayor, Geela Arnauyumayuq from Arctic Bay, as His

Worship Frank May was unable to attend.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in welcoming all of the mayors from across the Baffin. I know their meetings will be very productive. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Item 3. Members' Statements. Moving on in our orders of the day. Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Item 6. Oral Questions. Before we proceed with oral question period, I wish to make a brief statement.

Having reviewed Friday's *Hansard*, I am satisfied that the oral questions posed by the Member for Baker Lake to the Minister of Community and Government Services were in order.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind members that your supplementary questions should flow logically with your main question. In some cases, members' questions are extremely specific; in other cases, the subject matter is broader. However, all four of your questions should be thematically consistent.

Your Chair will continue to manage our proceedings accordingly, and I also remind all members that ministers are always at liberty to decline to answer any questions that is asked of them at any time.

We will now proceed with Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Rankin Inlet North, Mr. Curley.

**Item 6: Oral Questions****Question 258 – 3(3): Protocol for  
Emergency Measures**

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to raise a question with respect to fire response, particularly services provided by emergency measures.

Many of us witnessed the horrific event last night when the townhouses were completely engulfed by fire, burning it down completely. These units are amongst the oldest units in the city. There were over 20 families affected by this tragic event, as per the Premier's statement earlier. Based on the coroner's office report, I regret the fact that we have been informed there may be several victims as a result. Last night, as one read the news, there was a statement that the fire department and RCMP were still investigating whether or not all occupants were able to escape from this conflagration and they were marking off names from the list.

However, if you read the *Nunatsiaq News* story online, when the general manager was being interviewed about this fire, Don Chenier stated that all occupants had been able to escape the fire. Perhaps it may be better for the minister to enact a policy that while any incident is under investigation, affected people, even the owners, have to defer their comments via an investigation protocol. I wonder if the minister can put forward a protocol to resolve this as some of us were led to believe that there were no injuries based on these stories. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you for the question, Mr. Curley. Like you, as we read the online news, one wanted to hear the updates on the event, especially to see how we could provide assistance to those affected when an incident occurs of this magnitude. I will look into this matter to see if the Emergency Measures Organization has an existing protocol they apply to incidents such as this.

As we all know, news media reporters tend to go to the public to ask their opinion or to request comments on the event. All they want is a response, irrespective of the context or connection to the story they are following so that they can submit their audio clip or article about the event. The media has to be professional enough to do some research, both on the stories they submit and any communication protocol that may be in place for specific events. Even if we are not notified immediately of the situation, it is usually fine as we can get more details in the report.

Mr. Curley, what I can state to you is that I will look into this matter to see what kind of protocol is in place for communication and first response line of command structure so that we know who has to be informed of what details at what time. If the system needs revision, I will ensure that it is revised for any future events. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that response. In my opinion, it is not just the protocol that needs review but also the enforcement aspect of it. This is due to the statement made by the Nunastar manager that all of the occupants escaped.

The question here is: where did this information come from? The statement was made while the fire was still being fought and the fire marshal's office still had not made their report neither had the RCMP released their assessment. This was not appropriate in my estimation.

I believe that there needs to be an investigation as to why the manager made that statement to the public about the occupants escaping. As further news was released; it caused dismay because we found out that there were victims contrary to that statement. The information released that night turned out to be incorrect. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank you for providing more details in your supplementary question. Yes, the entire incident will be reviewed and that is obvious. At this time, the fire department is still dealing with the incident with the fire investigation still ongoing. By the end of the day, after the investigation is completed, it is clear that recommendations will be forthcoming with respect to the circumstances leading to the fire.

We are reviewing all of the operations to ensure that this does not happen again and we will work to try to correct the system. That much is clear. I will task my officials to look into this event. I will ask the people who usually conduct these investigations to find out how this type of statement was made prior to confirming all the facts and how we can correct this down the road.

With respect to the manager's statement, he made that statement on his own and I don't know whether we can look into that matter as he stated that based on his information. However, we will endeavour to review all of the pertinent information related to this incident and figure out who dealt with this release and when and who gave that information to the manager. We will look into these matters. Thank you.

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

**Question 259 – 3(3): Establishment of Total Allowable Take of the Southern Hudson Bay Polar Bear Subpopulation**

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

Mr. Speaker, I recently saw a public hearing notice in the *Nunatsiaq News* concerning the establishment of the total allowable take of the southern Hudson Bay polar bear subpopulation, which was issued by the Nunavik Marine Region Wildlife Board. Does the Government of Nunavut have a representative on this board and will he



or she be attending these public hearings? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. James Arreak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Member for Hudson Bay for his question. At this time, I'm going to take the question as notice. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister Arreak. The question has been taken as notice. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Nanulik... . Oh, sorry. Member for Akulliq, Mr. Ningark.

#### **Question 260 – 3(3): Employment Payment from Contractor**

**Mr. Ningark** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to first apologize to the Member for Nanulik as I am not the member for that riding.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The question I have in mind is going to be directed to the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation. I don't recall if I have asked the newest minister any questions since he was appointed to his position.

When people first start employment, their housing rents are immediately reassessed and adjusted in the communities. Furthermore, we have contractors currently arriving into the communities to work on the units and the people working with them have their rents raised immediately.

Mr. Speaker, even though the rents for these seasonal workers are immediately raised to reflect their income, when the contractors run out of the funding for the units they are constructing, as per a constituent's observations from one of my communities relayed to my attention, perhaps they ran out of funds since the workers in one of the communities were not paid for the work they did in these units.

I believe that we have legislation in Canada specific to labour and wages. If you are hired and work for a number of hours or weeks in a month, you are to be paid for that work. This brings me to my question to the minister. What is going to happen to those workers who were not paid for their work in construction projects because the contractor refused to pay them? Is there any legislation applicable or any rule that the Nunavut Housing Corporation has that can be used to resolve this? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Fred Schell:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for asking that question. First of all, I need clarification if that was through the LHO or a contractor. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Schell. Mr. Ningark, could you clarify for the minister, please.

**Mr. Ningark** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister. The workers were not paid by a contractor who was flown into the community, not by the LHO. I suppose

that the contractor ran out of funds.  
Thank you.

**Speaker:** Thank you for the clarification, Mr. Ningark. Minister Schell.

**Hon. Fred Schell:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, if the employee hasn't been paid by the contractor, they can go directly to the housing corporation and complain about it, and we can investigate it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Ningark:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Would the hon. minister clarify what the last answer was? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Fred Schell:** Sorry I missed the question. The other option, of course, also is to go to the Labour Standards Board, which is responsible for all employees in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Question 261 – 3(3): The Makimaniq Plan - Community Freezers**

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation.

On Friday, the minister released The Makimaniq Plan, which outlines how the

government will work to tackle poverty in our territory. One such way of reducing poverty was to have better access to affordable food and, in particular, country food. This was to be accomplished through improving the community freezers in our communities.

A year ago in the 2011 winter sitting, we approved funding to his department for community freezers. Could the minister provide an update on this initiative? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member from Quttiktuq for that very important question. Mr. Speaker, although we set aside some funds for community freezers and advertised to the communities in Nunavut of available funds for potentially building community freezers or renovations, the response has been very slow, the uptake has been very slow, and one of the main reasons is the communities are unsure of the ownership of the infrastructure when it comes to building a community freezer. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In terms of ownership, is that ownership with the community or individuals or is this ownership within different departments? I'm assuming you're talking about operations and maintenance and who would cover costs like that. Maybe if the minister could

expand on ownership. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again I thank the member for that question. Absolutely, the ownership has been, at times, a stumbling block for these communities. We spoke to the regional wildlife organizations, HTOs, and other departments. Although it has been an ongoing issue, we have nine communities that had applied or showed interest in trying to renovate or even build new community freezers for community infrastructure for their communities, but again, as I say, the uncertainty has slowed the process right down. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, to me, this is a very important program, as the minister has stated. When does he think some of these hurdles will be taken care of and dealt with to be able to start getting the funding directed to the communities, and then having the community freezers put in the communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again I thank the member for that question. We're working with

economic development officers of the communities, including the wildlife organizations and the community HTOs, to try and determine the best ways to alleviate some of these concerns.

Mr. Speaker, we do have assistance from the federal government, NRCan. We're working in conjunction with them to try and determine an alternative power source, whether it's solar or wind energy. We haven't come to the determination of whether it's going to be a benefit for the communities, so this is still ongoing.

One of the things that we want to do too is encourage inter-settlement trade of country foods. That's one of the things that we're trying to encourage and have the communities discuss and figure out a way or talk about coming up with an alternative to dealing with country foods rather than just building community freezers and just distribution to the local community. We're talking about inter-settlement trade here. That's somewhat of a thing that we see that's feasible for these communities to do. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With one month left in this fiscal year and if no community has received a new community freezer, what is the minister going to do with the funding that was allocated to this initiative? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the member from Quttiktuq is well aware, we do usually carry it over to the next fiscal year.

This is a new initiative that the communities are rather apprehensive about and we want to continue to support them in their initiatives in making sure that there's country food distribution. This fits into our Makimaniq Plan, reducing poverty in Nunavut, and food security has been the one important factor that has been identified in the six themes. So we're going to hopefully continue to try and push this forward with community participation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Natilik, Ms. Ugyuk.

**Question 262 – 3(3): Air Ambulance Services - Learjet**

**Ms. Ugyuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Health and Social Services. This question is with respect to the air ambulance services since the contract was redone this winter just prior to the Christmas holidays.

People have informed us about certain situations where elders who are scheduled to go on the medical flights have had to wait long periods. When the contract was let, quite a few residents had the assumption that we would have to wait longer periods prior to the flight arriving.

The government has contracted out the medical travel services. However, the new company does not have the jet

available immediately. I would like to know when the company will be acquiring a Learjet for the flights. In the past, the previous contractor had a Learjet they used for medical emergencies. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. Minister responsible for Health and Social Services, Minister Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Ms. Ugyuk for the question. Mr. Speaker, I have been following this air ambulance contract with great interest myself since it's in the Kitikmeot and I have constituents who are also very concerned.

Mr. Speaker, my latest information is that a Learjet, as part of the contract, is in Ontario awaiting a paint job and at some point, it will be repositioned in Cambridge Bay. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Ugyuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that answer. Many people feel that this is causing delays in service since there is no jet available. We became spoiled by the previous jet service provided by the past contractor.

However, we were informed that the contractor is required to have two planes available for this service. Based on the information, there is only one plane available and their hangar only has enough space for one plane, at least based on the simple assessment by people.

Can the minister provide more information as to whether the contractor will have a hangar that can house two planes or do we have to wait longer for this service if the other plane is not available? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. Minister responsible for Health and Social Services, Minister Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Ms. Ugyuk for the question. Mr. Speaker, as I recall, the RFP that was issued last year called for or the proposal that Aqsaqniq Airways put in is a Learjet positioned in Cambridge Bay with a hangar and two backup King Airs in Yellowknife. Again, because I'm quite concerned about air ambulance in the Kitikmeot, I have asked my officials to ask the air ambulance contractors if there's a possibility to position a second aircraft in Cambridge Bay. I don't know how those discussions are going. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Ugyuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This air ambulance service caused problems with quite a few medical patients this winter when it first began being offered. The people of Kitikmeot want to move forward and we would like to be kept informed of the service provision. We look forward to the availability of the Learjet that will provide the services and the residents of Kitikmeot would like to be notified in that event. We are always interested in any updates to our services because we want to have the same level of service as other residents. So we would be

appreciative of being kept up to date on this matter. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. I think it was just a statement; there was no question there. You can respond if you like, Minister Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Ms. Ugyuk. I'm sure, Mr. Speaker, when the Learjet is repositioned to the Kitikmeot, the officials in the Department Health at the Kitikmeot offices will notify all communities that the Learjet is there. If there are any concerns about the services, I encourage communities to let the regional office know and they will investigate. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Question 263 – 3(3): Scheduled Medical Travel and Air Ambulance Services**

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, would like to ask a question to the Minister of Health and Social Services.

Last week, we heard the perspective of the Department of Community and Government Services on the government's contracting procedures for air ambulance services. Today, I believe that it is important that Nunavutmiut hear from the Department of Health and Social Services.

Can the minister clearly outline the most important criteria that the Department of Health and Social Services looks for when it develops the terms of reference

for selecting air ambulance and scheduled medical travel service providers? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I find it very interesting that the former Minister of Health is asking the new Minister of Health about the most important criteria. Mr. Speaker, the RFP that was developed last year was developed by the Department of Health working with Community and Government Services and another agency. I think it was in January 2011. I believe it stipulated all the safety requirements that all the proponents had to abide by. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Curley:** Thank you. Mr. Speaker, the simple reason that I'm asking a question is that right now, I'm not responsible for implementing any policy or if there are any changes to the policy, I'm not aware of any right now.

My first supplementary, Mr. Speaker, is: can the minister inform the House what the position of the Department of Health and Social Services is with respect to requiring potential service providers with whom the government intends to sign its formal contracts to hold a valid air operator certificate from Transport Canada?

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

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, Mr. Speaker, the RFP was issued last year and three proponents responded. The RFP was reviewed by a panel of five evaluators, four from the Department of Health, four experts, I presume, and the panel recommended the successful proponent. Mr. Speaker, I would take it that safety was a high priority when they evaluated those proposals. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Curley:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Precisely, that's what I'm also interested in. Can the minister clearly explain exactly why he supports the current approach, the current practice, to contracting criteria for selecting air ambulance and scheduled medical travel service providers who currently don't hold operator certificates? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have been the Minister of Health for, I think, 98 days. I have a clock ticking here, but Mr. Curley was the former Minister of Health when that air ambulance contract was awarded. I have asked the department officials that I want a full review of the RFP process to ensure and reassure myself that everything that we take to be important in future contracts, future RFPs, when those contracts come up for renewal in two or three or five years, as the case may be, that all the safety requirements

are taken into consideration. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Curley:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think that's a very important response. Nunavutmiut are concerned for the consistence and also the fact that safety issues are important and they should be regulated by federal Transport Canada.

Will the minister commit to reviewing these practices currently right now, the current practice being that no licences are required from Transport Canada in order to submit a bid for the requirements that Health and Social Services submitted, and will he commit to reviewing the criteria so that the public can have faith in this government for safety issues? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This government does take the safety, health, and well-being of all Nunavummiut very seriously. I assure Nunavummiut out there that the RFP that went out, from what I have been briefed, contain all the important safety criteria to provide air ambulance service in the Kitikmeot. Of course, the RFP was based on RFPs that went out in the Baffin and the Kivalliq regions. So we do take it very seriously. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Question 264 – 3(3): Bill C-10 and its Costs to Nunavummiut**

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I lost my train of thought there for a second.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Justice. My questions are regarding the proposed new federal legislation on crime, Bill C-10.

Mr. Speaker, as you are aware, on Friday, a number of my colleagues travelled to the Baffin Correctional Centre for a tour of the facility. It was noted that the new legislation will have a significant impact on the number of individuals who will be required to spend time incarcerated. Can the minister advise the House what steps he and his officials have taken to analyze the financial impact this new piece of legislation may have on the cost of providing correctional services in Nunavut and add to the already overcrowding which we witnessed on Friday? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Elliott. And it's only Monday. Minister of Justice, Minister Shewchuk.

**Hon. Daniel Shewchuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. As everybody is aware in the House here, Bill C-10 is a very important issue for Nunavut and could have very heavy consequences on us. I thank the members who came on the tour of BCC the other day. There is no question that it is going to have an impact on Nunavut, our correctional facilities, our court services, and our communities. I will make the member

aware that we are reviewing this right now. As for our final cost implication, we are unsure, but it's being under review right now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for that commitment. Could the minister also commit that, once the number crunching is done, the analysis is done on it, and the business case is created, he would provide that information to us? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Daniel Shewchuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again I would just say that Bill C-10 is very important and will have consequences on us as well as other jurisdictions across this country. Everyone is reviewing how Bill C-10 will affect them and once that is done, I will commit to the member of giving him information that I have. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Nunavut's correctional system also includes such programs as on-the-land camps. Can the minister update the House on how the proposed new federal legislation will impact the delivery of an important program such as on-the-land camps? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Daniel Shewchuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question again. Currently, I believe there were three on-the-land camps that were operating in the Baffin region. Again, Mr. Speaker, that will be part of the whole review of Bill C-10 and on-the-land camps and on how they were working previously and how we could move forward with them working into the future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the new men's healing facility in Rankin Inlet offset the demand caused by this new bill? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Daniel Shewchuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member again. The answer is no. The answer is that the new healing facility in Rankin Inlet will just handle the overcrowding issues and the number of inmates we have in BCC at present. It will not address the issues that are raised by Bill C-10. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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



**Question 265 – 3(3): EU Ban on Seal Products**

**Mr. Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister responsible for Environment, my *Annuraaqatik*, as I call him in our language.

I would like to refer back to the Minister's Statement just announced earlier with respect to the sealskin issue. The European Union, as it is readily apparent and which has been expected for quite a while, enacted a seal ban whereupon they made a statement that Inuit and the by-products of their subsistence harvests, namely, sealskin sales, would not be impacted.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to know whether or not the minister can clarify part of his earlier statement as it relates to the EU insinuation that Inuit would not be impacted deleteriously by this sealskin ban and to be able to sell their sealskins. I would like to get further clarification on this matter, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. James Arreak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Tapardjuk for his question. Indeed, Inuit have been severely impacted by this EU sealskin ban, irrespective of the statement of the exemption. Here in Nunavut, we don't harvest our seals inhumanely as we don't want our meat too damaged or to have the seals suffer.

However, I doubt that the European Union can tell the difference between the types of seals harvested here in Canada.

In their perception, a seal is a seal, without any distinction between species. With respect to this issue, we have kept trying to apprise the European Union that Inuit harvest different species of seals than those species listed in their ban. However, we have been impacted because of this lack of distinction between species.

We will continue to relay our concerns and try to keep informing the European Union of the types of seals harvested here in Nunavut. As per my earlier statement, we will utilize the EU seal ban report as well as other data and information to delineate the differences between seals harvested by Inuit and to represent the Inuit in trying to clarify this matter. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Minister of Environment for his answer. In that same Minister's Statement, it also states that the Department of Environment will continue to buy the sealskins from our residents at what is stated as being double the current market price.

Should the market for sealskins continue to slide, especially in the European Union and other markets, when will this government decide to stop buying sealskins from their residents due to decreases in sealskin prices? When, where, and how will this government make a decision on this matter? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. James Arreak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Our colleague who is raising these questions is spot on with his assessment. We purchase sealskins at an average price of about \$50 per pelt and we are selling them for about \$22 per pelt at the market auction for furs. This assistance is geared specifically towards full-time harvesters as seal meat is very nutritious and the harvested carcasses are generally shared in the community amongst its residents.

At this current time, we haven't even set a date as to when we would stop buying sealskins. In my Minister's Statement, I stated that we will also be offering tanned sealskins for resale in Nunavut. This is another assistance program to allow for secondary processing of these skins for sale. The market seems to be growing at this time, with more seamstresses requesting furs. So at this time, I cannot inform my colleague when this government will stop buying sealskins from our residents. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We often hear of initiatives where Canadians try to market sealskin products outside of Canada, such as in Europe and China. It was also announced that the Prime Minister, along with our MP and Senator, was promoting seal products while they were in Ottawa, even offering a seal dish in the House of Commons.

Mr. Speaker, we all know that not just sealskins are good by-products of seals; the meat is extremely nutritious and the blubber can also be manufactured into other products. Is the Government of Nunavut looking at alternative markets we can access or are they preparing a strategy in case sealskins are not saleable and whether we can promote the usage of seal meat and blubber by-products to provide more economic opportunities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. James Arreak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That is a good idea which has been considered in the recent past. However, it's hard to forecast whether that would be a good initiative here in Nunavut or elsewhere.

This government is currently only purchasing sealskins, but we are looking at alternatives to see how we could also sell other products. It hasn't gone anywhere at this time. Several barriers exist, such as the high freight costs associated with transportation, based on the studies done to date. Seal by-products are hard to market and we aren't sure whether we could sell them. This is part of our overall review, but we will not stop trying to see if we can develop further markets for seal products. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the announcement, it seems that the Greenlandic

government is very active in fighting the sealskin ban by being in the forefront in marketing their sealskin products especially. Mr. Speaker, my final question is this: is our Nunavut government collaborating closely with the Home Rule Government and, if so, what type of initiatives are they working on to market sealskin products? Can the minister provide some details? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. James Arreak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are working with all of our allies involved in the sealskin marketing trade, not just the Home Rule Government in Greenland. We are working with people in Newfoundland and Labrador. As per my earlier statement, we have worked with ITK and various parties when they took the EU to court to fight the ban. We have kept up our correspondence with the federal departments of Environment and Foreign Affairs, as well as the EU institutions considering the sealskin ban on the issue. We are not just working with the Greenland government, but with as many partners involved to cooperate on this sealskin ban issue. Thank you.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister Arreak. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Akulliq, Mr. Ningark.

### **Question 266 – 3(3): Seal Meat Products**

**Mr. Ningark** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With respect to Mr. Tapardjuk's questions, I have what I

believe will be one supplementary question related to the sealskin issue.

We are quite aware and I hope the whole outside world knows that sealskins are not the only product. As a matter of fact, Inuit here in Nunavut and the north are aware that seal liver is one of the most nutritious, healthy, and delicious of all the marine mammals, perhaps even including terrestrial animals.

We are also aware, at least those of us who have travelled outside, why most people don't consider seal meat palatable outside of Nunavut. We have heard that it is due to the gamey, strong taste of the seal meat. Perhaps if we were to look for local ingredients here in Nunavut to spice it up or even to add garlic to it to make it more palatable.

I wonder if the Department of Environment has ever considered how we can benefit further from these by-products. Japan, from what we have heard in the past, used to be quite interested in seal products. Will the minister look into creative initiatives to see how we can further market the seal meat?

The Inuit of Nunavut already consider seal meat very nutritious and tasty, but there are people who are not familiar with the meat and don't consider it palatable. Will the minister look at ways to make seal meat more palatable for non-Inuit? Additionally, the seal liver is very tasty and nutritious, and we should market its health benefits to the rest of the world for their information. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. James Arreak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That's an excellent idea to consider and we will look into ways to make seal meat more palatable, including spices, as well as the seal liver, and so on. I thank the member for his ideas. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Question 267 – 3(3): Nunavut Coastal Resource Inventory**

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to wish a good afternoon to my fellow residents of Pond Inlet, as well as all Nunavummiut.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct my question to the Minister responsible for the Environment specifically regarding his Minister's Statement of February 23. The statement speaks to population studies and it states that the wildlife studies have proceeded smoothly to date in Foxe Basin and Hudson Bay. Can the minister clarify the usage of the term "proceeded smoothly" with respect to this study? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. James Arreak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The population surveys for wildlife can proceed smoothly when the study is a success and we are able to gather pertinent data that we can then present to our partner

organizations regarding that species. That is what we meant by the usage of that term. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Could the minister elaborate on what he means by a successful study or report? Is there information available that we can use to measure this success? Does this report include references regarding the new means of surveying populations? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. James Arreak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, these reports are usually made available when the survey has been concluded. The data is gathered and presented to the Executive Council for their initial review and approval. The reports are then made available. The reports that have gone through this process of approval are available upon request. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also want to thank the minister for his response. Additionally, the statement refers two different methodologies that the department had to use for various studies. It states that in Lancaster Sound, aerial survey methods are not effective due to the terrain. For that reason, the department had to use a different survey methodology for their

population studies. Can the minister elaborate on why the department has determined that aerial survey methods will not work in Lancaster Sound or off Button Point in Baffin Bay? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. James Arreak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleague for that good question. The Department of Environment has two different methodologies that are utilized for wildlife population studies. We use the serial survey method and now we are utilizing a new method just recently that bases the study via biopsy darting that takes a small sample which our department uses for DNA-based surveys. It is becoming obvious that this method is quite effective in delineating populations of polar bears.

In the Baffin Bay region, the problems we face in conducting an aerial survey are highlands and rough terrain. Furthermore, the offshore ice is generally very rough, which causes problems for our aerial survey crews to complete their wildlife surveys because they can't access the animals readily. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Mr. Minister. As per the response, there are two methods of conducting surveys. One is the traditional aerial survey population study methodology and the other method uses biopsy samples for DNA tracking.

As per the Minister's Statement, this was just recently undertaken as a survey method. It also states that this method will be used in the future. Does this mean that this new method using DNA sampling is the best methodology for conducting these surveys? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. James Arreak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank Mr. Enook. To date, this methodology seems to be the best method as it will allow the department to delineate the individual bears by identifying their DNA and population base. This will allow us to determine its age, size, and home range.

So if a bear were to be re-sampled via this biopsy sampling method, it would identify this bear as being previously sampled. This allows us to sample the different bears based on this DNA sampling, which biologists are stating is the least intrusive method as it doesn't immobilize the bear nor does it cause stress to the bears when compared to the darting methods.

This is the methodology that people in this field are starting to adopt for identifying polar bear populations and I imagine this will be adopted for various other animal population studies. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Question 268 – 3(3): Child Advocate  
Independent of GN**

**Ms. Ugyuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is a question for the Minister of EIA.

Many residents have expectations that an organization would be created to advocate on behalf of children and youth here in Nunavut. This is something Nunavummiut have been promoting to ensure that one is created. When we were still in the old NWT days, the social service workers would request that this type of office be created. We are now in the year 2012 with Nunavut having its own government and territory.

Many incidents of child and youth abuse are disclosed and there is no representative of these age categories. We also hear that many children are taken. One of my priorities is to have an advocacy office created that will represent children and youth. I have spent quite a lot of personal effort to try to understand the status. We have heard that the title of this office is still not determined, but I don't think this is a good enough reason to hold off on the creation of this entity.

My question is: is it going to be independent from the government or part of a government organization or board? I would like to get clarification on whether the status of this body will be independent since most advocacy organizations are usually at arm's length from governments. I would like the minister to elaborate on the plans for this body's creation, as per their vision. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. As I stated earlier last week, the issue has been raised by various parties as to their respective organization's visions of this type of body and how it should be structured.

To date, the officials conducting the study are making preparations on what the body will look like based on their reviews of the provincial models and their operations. The cases they have looked at in the provinces usually involve an independent process outside of government that creates the advocacy body, which itself is independent of government.

The current model is being looked at and it will include the consideration of an independent body as part of this initiative. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Ugyuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for the response and I comprehend fully that the idea is to have it completely independent of the government. That is what I think I understood. If this is indeed the envisioned structure for this body, how long of a timeframe are we looking at prior to its establishment? Many Inuit would like to see this body created and we hope that is the case. As the legislators responsible for our children, we have to have the proper information

to make the right decisions therein.  
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation):  
Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Our  
expectations are that the legislation  
creating this body will be ready for  
review during our upcoming 2012 spring  
session. (interpretation ends) In English,  
the legislation is expected to be in place  
in the spring of 2012. Thank you, Mr.  
Speaker.

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

**Question 269 – 3(3): Legislative  
Agenda for Child and Youth  
Advocate**

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.  
Actually, I had a question for the  
Minister of Environment, but the  
Premier's answer has brought up another  
question. I think she said, in the answer  
to Ms. Ugyuk, the spring of 2012, yet in  
her Minister's Statement, it says, "I will  
introduce a draft bill in the June  
session," which would happen in June of  
this year. Where the confusion comes for  
me is: will this be tabled or will it go  
into the House for first and second  
reading, so then it can be discussed in  
Committee of the Whole? 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. (interpretation  
ends) According to the information that I  
have, the legislation is expected to be  
introduced in the spring of 2012. Thank  
you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.  
Specifically, what I would like to know  
is in terms of the wording of being  
introduced. Will you be introducing it  
for first reading of the bill and second  
reading of the bill? 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 can't forecast  
whether the bill will be read for the first  
or second time and whether it would be  
completed in time for the first or second  
reading. As I don't have the current  
information to confirm this, we will be  
able to determine that during the spring  
session. I will be able to respond once I  
have the information. Thank you, Mr.  
Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Madam Premier.  
Members will note that the allotted time  
for Oral Questions has expired. We will  
move on in the orders of the day. Item 7.  
Written Questions. Item 8. Returns to  
Written Questions. Item 9. Replies to  
Opening Address. Item 10. Replies to  
Budget Address. Item 11. Petitions. Item  
12. Responses to Petitions. Item 13.  
Reports of Standing and Special  
Committees on Bills and Other Matters.

Item 14. Tabling of Documents. Minister of Environment, Minister Arreak.

**Item 14: Tabling of Documents**

**Tabled Document 152 – 3(3): Report on the Impacts of the European Union Seal Ban**

**Hon. James Arreak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table the Report on the Impacts of the European Union Seal Ban. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister Arreak. Tabling of Documents. Minister responsible for the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation, Minister Taptuna.

**Tabled Document 153 – 3(3): Procurement Activity Report for the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation for the Period April 1, 2008-March 31, 2009 and April 1, 2009-March 31, 2010**

**Hon. Peter Taptuna:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table the Procurement Activity Report for the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation for the period April 1, 2008 to March 31, 2009 and April 1, 2009 to March 31, 2010. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Item 14. Tabling of Documents. Item 15. Notices of Motions. Item 16. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Minister Peterson.

**Item 16: Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills**

**Bill 25 – Supplementary Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, No. 6, 2010-2011 – Notice**

**Bill 26 – Supplementary Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, No. 3, 2011-2012 – Notice**

**Bill 27 – Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 1, 2012-2013 – Notice**

**Bill 28 – Write-off of Assets Act, 2011-2012 – Notice**

**Bill 29 – Write-off of Assets Act, No. 1, 2010-2011 – Notice**

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the sponsoring minister, I give notice that on Wednesday, February 29, 2012, I will move that the following bills be read for the first time:

Bill 25, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 6, 2010-2011*;

Bill 26, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 3, 2011-2012*;

Bill 27, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 1, 2012-2013*;

Bill 28, *Write-off of Assets Act, 2011-2012*; and

Bill 29, *Write-off of Assets Act, No. 1, 2010-2011*.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.



**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister Peterson. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Minister Kusugak.

**Bill 30 – Building Code Act – Notice**

**Bill 31 – An Act to Amend the Consumer Protection Act – Notice**

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Wednesday, February 29, 2012, that Bill 30, *Building Code Act*, be read for the first time; and also on the same time, that Bill 31, *An Act to Amend the Consumer Protection Act*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Minister Shewchuk.

**Bill 32 – An Act to Amend the Legal Services Act – Notice**

**Bill 33 – An Act to Amend the Labour Standards Act – Notice**

**Hon. Daniel Shewchuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Wednesday, February 29, 2012, that Bill 32, *An Act to Amend the Legal Services Act*, be read for the first time.

Also, Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Wednesday, February 29, 2012, that Bill 33, *An Act to Amend the Labour Standards Act*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. Those are in order. Item 16. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 17. Motions. Item 18. First Reading of Bills. Item 19. Second Reading of Bills. Item 20. Consideration

in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bill 21, Bill 24, and Bill 34 with Mr. Tapardjuk in the Chair.

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

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House recessed at 15:10 and Committee resumed at 15:37*

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

**Chairman** (Mr. Tapardjuk) (interpretation): Thank you for returning to the Committee of the Whole. I would like to call the committee meeting to order. We left off on page G-10. In Committee of the Whole, we have the following items to deal with: Bill 21, Bill 24, and Bill 34. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Aupaluktuq.

**Mr. Aupaluktuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Today we would like to resume our review of Bill 24 and the Department of Education and, if time permits, we would like to commence our review of the Department of Health and Social Services. Thank you.

**Bill 24 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2012-2013 – Education – Consideration in Committee**

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Before we proceed, I would like to inform Jeannie that we are on page G-10. Thank you. Minister Aariak, you haven't gone to the witness table yet. Do you have witnesses that you would like to bring to the table? Minister Aariak.

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

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

**Some Members:** Agreed.

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

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

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are pleased to be back here. To my left is my Deputy Minister, Kathy Okpik. To my right is Ms. Fanjoy, Controller. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Aariak. Welcome, Deputy Minister Okpik and Ms. Fanjoy. We are under G-10 and according to my list of names, Mr. Enook, if you have any further questions or did you run out of questions? Your name is still listed, so please continue. Mr. Enook.

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank you again for having kept my name written down.

>>*Laughter*

I don't have too many other detailed questions, but I just need clarification on the financial assistance program for Nunavut students. Mr. Chairman, when I use the word "ilinniaqtit," I use it in the context of an adult student taking post-secondary courses. So when I use that

term, I want everyone to understand that I'm talking about those students.

Mr. Chairman, if I can get your concurrence to continue with my line of questioning on problems faced by these students, which can lead to stressful situations, I wanted to raise a question. When the financial assistance program process is undertaken, this leads to a frenzied process of back and forth communications, usually via facsimile, with papers being sent back and forth, which also leads to further delays. Why hasn't this process ever been improved? Is it because this program is written in stone and cannot be changed? Is that why it cannot be improved? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This problem is now known and understood by departmental officials, at least in the Department of Education. That is why the department is trying to computerize the whole application process so that it doesn't lead to further time delays with the back-and-forth faxing of the paperwork. That is why we have tried to computerize it to ensure a faster process. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the minister for her response. I want to refer back to the comment stating that the process would become computerized. Now, while they are completing the digital application process changes, does this

mean that our current students will experience the same time lag issues related to their applications? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Up to now, the Department of Education hasn't received any information about students experiencing issues related to this program, although I suppose there are a few in that category as has been provided to our colleague for Tununiq. Prior to the system becoming entirely computerized, our officials are working hard to try to ensure the program runs smoothly for our current applicants. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for her response. Prior to raising another question, I just cannot understand the response provided by the minister because she has stated on more than one occasion that these problems were not known by the department. In light of the fact that all students experience some problems throughout their courses, I find it hard to believe that the department is unaware of the issues. Do I understand that the department has never heard of any complaints from students about all of the barriers they face under this process? Is this what I understand? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I regret that students faced these problems and that our department was not aware of them. There are different funding programs that students can apply for. There are assistance funds that are available from the Nunavut government as well as other agencies and organizations. Without knowing exactly which program is causing the issues, it is hard to determine which program needs improvement. That is all I can speak to at this time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Madame Premier. Any further questions? Mr. Enook.

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I were to raise questions on matters outside those operated by our government, I would just be wasting time as we cannot make decisions on matters that are not under our mandate. I'm trying to direct my question with respect to this aspect of the government operations as this is a program created by the territorial government to provide financial assistance to Nunavut students. I don't question any other aspect of our government operations.

I want to raise this question. During Friday's question period, the question I raised as a member doesn't seem to have been raised before based on the minister's response. Why? Are her senior advisors omitting issues that require her attention about these pressing problems that the majority of our students face? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will get my deputy to respond to that question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Aariak. Ms. Okpik.

**Ms. Okpik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With respect to issues passed on to the HQ administration, we are informed whenever a complaint or an appeal is submitted to our department. It is generally related to individuals who were refused for funding assistance. I personally haven't heard of actual cases submitted for resolution at our office and if I have been informed of a previous complaint, I would immediately notify my responsible minister. I have received letters from several members representing their communities about any issues related to the educational field. I believe that our administration is open to any recommendations that would improve our service delivery. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the deputy minister for her response. I believe I understand this to mean that the program itself is not problematic. However, this leads me to believe that the employees responsible for approving the funding requests are not communicating with each other. It seems that neither division is working together. In other words, they're working in a vacuum.

To cite this example, the minister stated that this was the first time she was made aware of the issue and that she lacks background information on the matter. Additionally, when the deputy minister stated that she has been made aware of a few cases, it seems to me that the underlings who are receiving these complaints are not passing it to their superiors. Why does it seem as if the departmental officials are not aware of other programs in their department? Is it because communication is an issue? To me, it does not seem so.

I wonder how I can best request further action in representing my fellow Inuit and Nunavummiut. When a concern is brought before the administration, it is an obligation to conduct a review to see if the complaint has any merit, especially when we continually spout our support to our youth in advancing their education. Furthermore, this is true, especially if we want to provide concrete support for our aspiring students. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Education is indeed important. Education is very important to everyone.

In order to determine if the issues raised by the member are appropriate, we will ensure that we carefully scrutinize the matters raised. Not all applicants for the FANS program are approved and this is unfortunate, but it's something we all have to be aware of. If a review is required, we will commit to it, especially since the member raised the issues via his comments. So I concur with the

member that we can conduct a more thorough review of the matter. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for her response. If we were not provided the response, “we will look into it,” it would be much better. I would really prefer that the whole program be comprehensively reviewed. We should stop saying we will conduct a review.

With respect to students who are not approved for funding, are they included in this review? We are all aware of policies and legislation that bars certain individuals from being approved with no means of appeal, although most cases tend to have reasons for non-approval.

I believe that the biggest problem faced by those students approved for funding is that they have to then go through a bureaucratic exercise to obtain their funding. This is the biggest obstacle. Once the student is approved, it just seems more barriers or problems crop up to complete the paperwork. That makes the approval seem trivial as it leads to more work to complete the process. That is the real reason why students are unhappy with the way the funding approval process plays out and I believe it causes the most unhappiness.

The last question I have with respect to this matter is that I’m aware of other agencies that provide funding for students, such as NGO student funding programs. Here in the Baffin region, Kakivak Association is one of these funding bodies. Has the departmental

bureaucracy ever attempted to communicate with these bodies? An example would be departmental representatives conducting best practice surveys to learn how best to operate a funding program that provides the most benefit with such questions as what works best, what causes the most problems, and teamwork. Has the department ever explored multi-agency discussions on this issue? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Enook. We are on G-10. Adult Education and Post-secondary Services. Total Operations and Maintenance. Minister Aariak.

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When I was here in front of the committee last week, I remarked that the funding program was being reviewed, but the process is still ongoing. Once the review has been completed, I will be able to provide a better response and I want that totally understood.

Once the process has been digitized, it will make it much easier to resolve the problems students face today. The program is being reviewed with an emphasis on the funding process, including the work to digitize the application process in order to lessen the problems.

There is also a committee comprised of various representatives from different organizations, such as the federal representative from HRDC, including the Inuit organizations that provide funding and meet to resolve problems. They debate these issues when they

review issues. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I totally understand my colleague's questions, including the questions he raised on Friday.

A matter which is quite disconcerting to me is the minister's insistence that she hasn't heard of these issues previously. This is kind of shocking to hear because it seems to indicate an employee is not fulfilling their responsibilities. It seems that the overriding mentality of those involved is that this program is being reviewed, so why should they fix it. I wonder why this is the case with this minister. I believe that she is not being provided with the proper briefing notes since ministers must always be made aware of problems, sometimes on a daily basis.

The reasoning here is this: in Nunavut, students taking post-secondary courses, whether it's NTEP, the Nursing Program, or the Environmental Technology Program, or non-trades courses, generally tend to have families and children. Sometimes these students experience a lot of hardship just trying to attend to their classes. Many students expect approval to programs that are meant to assist them, particularly this program. It would be better if the students at least can get this funding because it would help.

Madam Minister, why aren't your officials keeping you apprised of these problems that cause difficulties? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am holding the portfolio temporarily for the Department of Education. However, I can state unequivocally that my deputy minister always keeps me informed of priority issues that a minister requires.

With respect to the review of the student assistance program that is ongoing at this time, the review was undertaken since the officials themselves identified the need for a review to resolve the problems that exist within the program. These areas that require improvement will be assessed. Once all problems are identified, such as "due to this requirement, the students experience these problems," they can brainstorm to resolve the barriers in order to expedite the process. This is currently what is occurring. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you. During our representation here on behalf of Nunavutmiut, we can state that the government should never state that a minister is only holding a portfolio temporarily. The minister is still responsible, even if it's short term. If the person believes it's only temporary or even if they want it short term, they are still responsible as a minister.

Due to this reason, I want a bit more detail about this professed departmental review. What kind of mandate does it have? When was this authorized? Furthermore, who do they report their findings to? I don't quite grasp who or

what is to be reviewed in the FANS program, if I am correct. Perhaps it would be prudent to clarify these details to the House. Thank you.

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

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the member for the question, which is good to hear. I thank him for raising that. As a minister, you continually have to review the pressing issues within your portfolio and all ministers are faced with the need to review matters. In that same vein, I appreciate your various lines of questioning regarding the services and programs the members feel need improvement. You have identified issues you want clarified and I thank you for that.

For a more detailed response, I will have my deputy minister respond as this is an operational matter within the daily operations. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Aariak. Deputy Minister Okpik.

**Ms. Okpik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have collaborated on this issue as a departmental committee. This committee includes personnel from Arviat, our HQ offices here in Iqaluit, my ADM, as well as the director of policy and planning. Additionally, the elders' coordinators are also involved in the work. This is an ongoing process, especially in how we will define the policy application. We've had an initial meeting with representatives from outside the GN, such as Nunavut Arctic College and NTI, whom we have to consult with further on this issue. That is

how we are implementing this review. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Okpik. Mr. Curley.

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you. Yes, another question I wish to ask is with respect to the FANS program application process.

When funding is requested, we heard that some students are not eligible. We understood from the remarks on Friday that students also face funding barriers when they apply as all of their prior year's income has to be included. It doesn't matter if they held a job, whether it was a part-time position, or if their spouse was working full time or part time, as this will affect their funding levels.

Does it mean that all their annual income or benefits from the various scholarship funds have to be included in this prior level of income? If the annual household income was above the threshold, does this mean they are not eligible? What is the maximum amount that can qualify? What is the minimum and maximum amount listed there?

In this case, I refer to the maximum because students above a certain income level are not eligible and that is obvious. What is the cap on their earnings before they can qualify for the financial assistance program? I would like clarification on that first. Thank you.

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

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll have my

deputy respond to that question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Deputy Minister Okpik.

**Ms. Okpik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As far as potential student options, there are three main organizations where they can get financial assistance. The first one they can apply for is this FANS program we are discussing. For those students taking Arctic College courses, they can apply to FANS, which has various categories for funding levels.

If the student is single or if they have dependants or a spouse, or if their spouse is working or not, then the levels correspond to the number of dependants that student is responsible for. For example, anyone attending Nunavut Arctic College with a spouse and four children would receive \$1,719 monthly. If they are married or they are with a spouse who is not working and they have four dependants, they would receive \$2,600 per month. Alternatively, any student who is a single parent with four dependants would receive \$2,350 monthly. To add to this, this number can apply to a student with a spouse and three children as the spouse would be counted as a dependant.

Everything is categorized and when they fill out the form, they have to state whether their spouse is working or not. If a spouse is working part time or on a casual basis, I haven't heard about that issue, but I will have to ask our departmental officials about the details. However, if the spouse happens to find employment partway through the school

year, they would still have to report it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Okpik. Mr. Curley.

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask another question on this matter. On Friday, it became obvious that the officials were not really paying attention when our colleague was asking questions with respect to the students who are already approved. Based on the comments, apparently, it takes an interminable time prior to the approved students receiving their funding.

Perhaps it would be easier if the schools would publicize the time periods required for the approval process prior to the start dates. I imagine they have to apply by a certain month or week in order to get funding. Does the department have a schedule or outline of the time periods for this approval process that a student can review prior to applying for a course?

Can we get a bit more information on this, details such as application start dates, the length of the approval process, and the deadline? I imagine there is one. Are the students given this information prior to applying? This is based on the previous questions raised on this matter. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

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

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The FANS application form clearly identifies these dates. July 15 is when the application forms need to be sent in for the fall



semester. November 15 is the deadline for the winter semester. The corresponding spring semester deadline is March 1. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When you responded last week, I understood the statement that the minister made. Once a student's application form has been approved for funding, the process usually takes five days to get the cheque or deposit completed. Is this indeed the case?

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

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I stated, the process takes five days, after which it is sent out, and that is the way it used to be. I would like to have my deputy minister respond as this is an operational issue within the day-to-day operations of the department. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Aariak. Deputy Minister Okpik.

**Ms. Okpik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We try really hard to conclude the applications within this five-day period after the application has been approved. It usually takes two weeks for electronic PAL transfer deposits to a banking institution. When a student doesn't have the same banking institution as the GN's bank, it usually takes a bit longer for the transfer to get deposited into their account, which people have to be aware of.

The GN's bank is the Royal Bank. So when students have an account with a different bank, it takes a bit longer for the transfer to go through. It is also much faster if the student has an RBC account, especially in the same branch. However, with respect to the time period between the department transfer to the student and the inter-bank transfer, that is outside of our control as that is a banking matter between banks.

Within our offices, we complete the actual paperwork within this five-day period to initiate the payment process. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Okpik. Mr. Curley.

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you. The reason I raised the question was because several students confided about issues they faced. Many students are currently in Rankin Inlet for NAC programs and most go home for Christmas. Students relay their concerns when they travel home and see me at the airport.

A student related how he spent the whole summer trying to access FANS funding that was previously approved. After all the work, he still hadn't received his funding, so he called the offices. The excuse he heard and which became a departmental response was, "The worker is on vacation." We cannot stop a program from being accessed even if the personnel are taking their holidays. Is FANS such a special program that they cannot function when someone is taking a vacation?

From my recollection as a minister, even when ministers were going to take

annual leave, they had to task a fellow executive member to undertake their responsibilities while they were off. We had to announce who was the replacement. Is that not the case with this program? Aren't your managers within the FANS program subject to the same protocol? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When they're dealing with the FANS application forms, as I stated earlier last week, my deputy minister notifies the responsible personnel with a directive stating that all applications for FANS funding are to be processed before the Christmas break. It usually makes a statement about the need to complete all the work.

If we need to use the postal service, the delivery would be longer, so we have to look at various options as each has different times. These types of operational issues are going to be part of the review to ensure that all approved funding is disbursed as efficiently as possible.

Let me state that when I requested information regarding this matter to the department, I was notified that not very many students report the problems they have encountered, at least in the recent past, such as this fall. Perhaps some students don't inform the department about the problems that they encounter. So I encourage everyone to immediately inform the department when they encounter any problems so that we can improve the area in question, especially when we are conducting this review of the program.

We feel for the students attending post-secondary institutions when they are forced to wait since they have made the commitment to attend those courses to improve their lives. We also have to provide good services on our part to lessen their stress while they are concentrating on their coursework. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Let me ask this question then based on the response from the minister and the deputy minister about the planned review. The response was it is being studied. Do you have terms of reference for the mandate and, if so, can you read it? Who is conducting the review? Which department is being reviewed or is it an internal or independent review of the departmental programs and services? What kind of mandate has been given to this review process? Can you read the terms of reference for this review? (interpretation ends) Thank you.

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

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is not being contracted out; the employees are conducting this review. This is to ensure a lower cost and to implement measures to improve the program. To reiterate, this is an internal review. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you. That kind of muddies the waters. Can you confirm whether this is indeed a review or if the funds are appropriate? The deputy minister stated that there is a study and she used the term in Inuktitut. To me, it means a review. Is it being reviewed? Will you be making improvements to the program based on the results of the review? When can this committee or House be informed about whether or not this review is successful? (interpretation ends) Thank you.

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

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The FANS program is being reviewed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Yes, that's how I understood it. I imagine there are numerous reviews and they look at whether the amounts are appropriate as there are various studies ongoing. I wanted to ask when this review will be completed and how this House will be informed of any changes or whether improvements have been made. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

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

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This program review that is going on will be a priority task and we are expecting to have a consultation plan ready for review this spring. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Part of my earlier question was not answered and this was regarding whether or not the review has terms of reference or if it is contracted out and the answer was that this is an internal review. So will the findings come out in a report or will the minister inform this House via announcement? I'm referring to the review and recommendations stemming from this review. Will you be reporting on the results of this review in our June session? (interpretation ends) Thank you.

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

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We will not be contracting this out. As per my earlier statement, we haven't contracted it out in order to control expenditures and that is why the Department of Education is conducting this review internally. As per past practices in conducting internal reviews of the *Education Act*, it was to determine what was required to implement the legislation. Similarly, this review is conducted using internal departmental staff looking into this program. The group will report back on their recommendations to the committee. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Aariak. Do you have additional questions? Mr. Curley.

**Mr. Curley**: Thank you. (interpretation) When the recommendations are completed, will you be tabling them in the House, even prior to their approval

by the minister? Can you clearly state for the record, "I will table this information," at this time? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When the review has been completed, along with the list of recommendations, and upon their approval by the Executive Council, I will be able to table them in this House. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Aariak. You are done? We're on G-10. I have no more names on my list. Adult Education and Post-secondary Services. Education. Branch Summary. Page G-10. Mr. Enook.

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Whilst we are on page G-10, I would like to ask a question. How many students are receiving FANS funding for courses outside of Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for asking the question. There are 476 students. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for her response. Another matter within the funding figures listed in the amounts for 2012-13 is that it seems to have been

decreased. I wonder why that is the case. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With respect to the first question, I just want to clarify that 83 percent of the students receiving financial assistance are Nunavut beneficiaries. In regard to his second question, I would like to ask my deputy minister to respond. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Ms. Okpik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The decrease of \$600,000 was to our contribution for updating the computer software. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank you, Ms. Okpik. I would like to ask another question related to your departmental 2012-15 business plan. In the business plan, the funding for capacity building and training programs seems to be reduced. Why is that the case? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for asking that question, but can he clarify which page he is asking his

question on? Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And I apologize.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Aariak. Please indicate which page you are referring to. Mr. Enook.

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is listed on page 118 of the department business plan, continuing on to page 121 in the document. It is only available in the English version as I do not see the Inuktitut version. Perhaps it would be more appropriate to ask the question in English.

(interpretation ends) According to your departmental business plan, both apprenticeship administration and the trades education program will receive less funding than in previous years. (interpretation) Why is that? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The reason why this was done is there have been changes to the program. I'll have the deputy minister elaborate on the exact changes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Ms. Okpik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We regularly move items around in our budget. The Nunavut Adult Learning Strategy wasn't funded, but we have continually tried to implement it. In the document, it states that a review is required on the department's operations, particularly the administration for the trades program. As a result, we created a new division

specifically for adult learning. The funding is simply transferred from a different fund to this new allocation specific to the trades program. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In your departmental business plan for 2012-13, one of your priorities is to "Continue the development of an apprenticeship strategy." What aspects of the apprenticeship system have been the most challenging to administer to date? I hope my question is clear. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Enook. Can you identify what page you are on so that everyone doesn't need to look for it? Maybe you can clearly identify the page number. Minister Aariak.

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If the member can clarify where his question is, we can reply. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll tell you where it is. In your business plan, it's on page 119 in English. Let me ask the question in English. (interpretation ends) One of your department's priorities for 2012-13 is to "Continue the development of an apprenticeship strategy." The question is: what aspects of the apprenticeship system have been the most challenging

to administer to date? (interpretation)  
Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This program is new. What aspect of the apprenticeship program has been the most challenging to administer? I believe that was the question. We don't have the documentation with us, but my deputy minister will explain what has been done to date. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Ms. Okpik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are three that I know of. The first one is with the Alberta curriculum. The entrance exam for the apprenticeship program is the one that is among the most challenging. For instance, if there are 10 apprenticeship students and they have to write the exam, there may be one or two or even three students who can start their apprenticeship immediately. We have always known that it is only those who complete their math and science requirements are much more likely to pass the entrance exam. We work closely with Arctic College to ensure these required courses are available in the communities to improve the chances of students passing the entrance exam.

There is this issue too, especially in smaller communities, where we can't find enough certified journeypersons. In accordance with regulations in carpentry, for example, a journeyperson can only have two apprentices. If there is

only one certified journeyperson in a community, it means there can only be two apprentices. This has been a major obstacle to overcome.

Thirdly, when carpentry apprentices are going for a journeyperson certificate, they have to complete a certain number of hours within a particular year before they can write their final exams. This depends on the needs of the jobs. For example, if there was no construction within the community or if someone didn't complete their tasks, their required hours always fall short. Perhaps if they could work full time, they would have a better chance of completing their carpentry courses at the end of four years. Unfortunately, sometimes they're unable to get the necessary hours and earn their certificates until after six or seven years.

That is what we work hard on to resolve. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Okpik. We're on page G-10. Adult Education and Post-secondary Services. \$10,443,000. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Page G-12. Income Support. Department of Education. \$2,974,000. Mr. Elliott.

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In regard to income support and the Income Support Program, some of the changes that are happening this year, the Premier had mentioned that it would help prevent abuse of the program. I was wondering: is there much abuse of the Income Support Program and could she

provide some examples? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Before you get a response, I think the minister would like to get her other staff to the witness table. Minister Aariak.

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Thank you. If I could replace my officials with people who work with income support, if that's okay, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Aariak. Which one do you want? Sergeant-at-Arms, if you could wait a few minutes, we will get the deputy minister out and get the income support person there. Sergeant-at-Arms.

Thank you, Ms. Okpik. If we need to ask you more questions, the minister will ask you to come back. Thank you for your assistance. Minister Aariak, for the record, please introduce your official. Minister Aariak.

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to welcome the official on my left who is the Director of Income Support, Sandy Teiman. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Welcome, Ms. Teiman. I'm sorry, but I forgot your question because I was supposed to get the minister to okay the official to come to the witness table. If you can remember the question, Minister Aariak, we will let you respond to the question.

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for reminding me. Perhaps if my official

can hear what the question was. It would be appreciated if you can repeat the question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Aariak. Mr. Elliott.

**Mr. Elliott**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As the day has gone along, my mind is coming back to me, so I do remember the question that I asked.

In the opening comments, the minister made reference to changes with the Income Support Program, what it will provide, and help prevent abuse of the program. My question was: is there much abuse of the Income Support Program across the territory and could she give some specific examples? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for the question. I will ask Sandy Teiman to respond to the question since she deals with these issues on a daily basis at her office. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Ms. Teiman**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, there is a fair bit of abuse in the social assistance program across the territory. I'll give three specific examples. One is individuals are not declaring income when they make income; the second one is we have clients who frequently declare that they're separated when one spouse gets a job, so they declare they're separated

and come in separately; and then people travelling between communities that will go into both offices and apply for social assistance. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Teiman. Mr. Elliott.

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This question is in regard to some of the concerns that we hear. Actually, recently I see posted on Facebook, where clients go in and get their social assistance, purchase packs of cigarettes, and the next thing you know, they're advertising on sell and swap \$15 a pack. In terms of this abuse, is this considered abuse or inappropriate spending of recipients' money? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is not the purpose of these funds, so it is inappropriate. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, I know some income support recipients actually use some of the funding that they receive for purchasing alcohol orders. As the minister had stated in the opening comments, income support is the last resort for people to go who are struggling to make ends meet and purchase food. Are they allowed to purchase items like alcohol and cigarettes using their income support funding? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The social assistance funds provided to the client for income support assistance is not directed towards the purchase of alcohol or cigarettes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So is this another form of abuse that the minister was referring to in her opening comments? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With respect to these issues, there is nothing written in the legislation or in the regulations regarding the discretionary purchases of clients and what items are allowed or not allowed. There are no regulations. (interpretation ends) There's nothing in the Act or regulations that allow the department to dictate what clients purchase with the social assistance program. Our income support workers couldn't actually enforce not purchasing certain items. It's not in the Act or the regulations, but the income support money that is given out to the clients is for food and clothing. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So to clarify, if an income support recipient is spending their income support dollars on alcohol and cigarettes,



that is up to the individual and Income Support cannot deny them income support because they are using their money in that regard. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When these funds have been disbursed to the recipients on income support, we don't follow the paper trail to find out what purchases they made at which store. Most recipients are aware of the purpose of these funds. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Elliott**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In regard to what recourse the income support worker has if individuals maybe do not pay for their rent or the power bill and it adds up over a number of years and they're getting cut-off letters from QEC saying that the power will be cut off, do they just pay that bill or is it paid directly? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for his very important question. I would like to ask Ms. Teiman to respond to that question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Ms. Teiman**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The majority of payments that we make for social assistance when someone comes in for an assessment... The majority of payments that are made after the assessment is completed go to the third party vendor. So we pay rent on behalf of clients, we pay electricity on behalf of clients, and we do not pay arrears. So if someone does not make payment for the balance of their cheque, because not everybody receives a full electrical or rent payment if they have income, then that is their responsibility and the program does not pay arrears. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Teiman. Mr. Elliott.

**Mr. Elliott**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My next questions are based around the reduction of poverty, which, I think, would play a big role in terms of what income support does since the clients who regularly visit are trying to get out of that cycle. Since we're dealing with education, what types of incentives are available for individuals who want to go to school and continue their education? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Depending on their needs, the information is usually provided to the students based on their chosen courses and institutions. We provide information on Nunavut Arctic College's list of programs and courses, and we also provide information to graduates on the locally available courses.

With respect to the additional student funding assistance programs available from the federal government, especially for pre-employment and, in English, the labour market program, we have received about \$944,000 to date from the federal government. This is additional funding for pre-employment within the labour market program. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Aariak. Mr. Elliott.

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As part of The Makimaniq Plan, I know the rent scale is being reviewed within the Department of Education specifically under Income Support. Is the department or division looking at more incentives for individuals who are on income support who might want to go back to school as a way of getting them back in since education is such a key factor in having people move on? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): As per my earlier statement, adult learning centres also provide information on programs available through Nunavut Arctic College. This information includes what programs are available in their communities and this information is generally available at the centres. I would like to ask Ms. Teiman to provide more detail on what this entails. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Aariak. We're under Income Support. G-12. Ms. Teiman.

**Ms. Teiman:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The department is very fortunate to have access to the funding that is provided to the Government of Nunavut for the labour market programs.

So the new labour market agreement that was signed in 2009 provides benefits directly for those on social assistance to take the various programs that are offered through Nunavut Arctic College or a third party program deliverer. Sometimes we pay for the course to be put on and then other times, we pay for allowances for the student to actually take the course.

So we direct our clients through the labour market funds first so that we have additional funds through the Income Support Program. If those funds run out, then we supplement through the Income Support Program so that the programs under Income Support mirror those of the labour market agreement programs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Teiman. Mr. Elliott.

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With this department providing the Income Support Program and working on different policies and whatnot, I know that Ms. Teiman has actually attended some of the Poverty Reduction Working Group meetings.

With the announcement of a new piece of legislation coming through, what specific suggestions from a Department of Education perspective need to be incorporated in this new piece of legislation to help alleviate poverty within our territory? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As this is an important issue, I also thank the member for his question. The contents of the proposed legislation are still being researched, with consultation ongoing with several levels of organizations to work out the details. At this time, this process is not completed yet. Once the results of this consultation are written and available, we will ensure that we announce it to the members. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Elliott**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thanks for that response. Maybe I'll rephrase it a little bit. Again, with the experience and the amount of time that individuals within that division of income support and the amount of expertise in there, I was wondering if the minister could actually provide us with a few ideas and suggestions that need to be put into legislation to make it effective. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This matter is still under consideration as we are still trying to determine what is best served by inclusion in the legislation. At this time, the contents are being debated between the parties. The Department of Education is also included in the Makimaniq Committee, deliberating upon the future contents.

Many areas are identified for inclusion, especially as it relates to education, which could provide more benefits. As an example, ongoing education can have a profound effect on many aspects of our lives. It has a bearing on our ability to get employment. This can include courses on bookkeeping, as well as entrepreneurship courses to establish a business. There are many categories that can impact one's life in our communities correlated to education and learning.

This is an important matter, and the members of the Makimaniq Committee are involved and represent the Department of Education. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Elliott**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know that individuals who are on income support rely heavily upon breakfast and lunch programs being offered at the school for their children. The budget addressed about continuing to push the breakfast programs, but I know we're at the end of this department and I haven't been able to see where it's coming through. Are there any dollars within the Department of Education that actually go to supporting the breakfast programs? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This program is administered by the Department of Health and Social Services to offer a healthy meal within the schools prior to classes. Additionally, the district education authorities in the communities

also conduct local fundraising activities to support these programs. This is part of the Healthy Children Initiative, if I were to say it in English. As an example, this program also has funding available for healthy children initiatives through a formal proposal. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Curley**: Thank you. (interpretation) Mr. Chairman, I want to ask a question related to income support. I also thank the minister and her assistant, Sandra, whom I know is extremely dedicated and committed to her work.

However, what I want clarified is the comment about amending the Income Support Program. I imagine there have been discussions about options related to the proposed changes. In my opinion, I don't think some of the recommendations should need approval prior to their implementation, especially those that require changes.

As per my colleague's statement, I think we know of too many instances of abuse of these funds for alcohol purchases. I was also informed by an acquaintance that in some cases, drug dealers will travel to the communities when the dates for income support cheques come around.

It is quite obvious that many people gamble or play poker and many people can gather at these units. You can tell when cheques have been disbursed due to the number of people. Some of these people end up going hungry at home and

some younger people or students end up not having any food at home.

Due to this reason, I would like to ask the minister or her officials if they can elaborate on the proposed changes and what direction the department is leaning towards. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The proposed amendments currently under review are only directed towards the FANS program, which I referred to earlier. The Income Support Program is not being looked at with respect to the youth who are not taking courses as students and has not been researched. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you. I thought I had understood that there was an upcoming review of social assistance under income support payments. However, I have a question with respect to the Makimaniq Committee referred to and included in this initiative.

What I really have a concern about is why we aren't amending the income support legislation so as to bar certain purchases, such as alcohol. Have these types of initiatives been discussed? Are there legal barriers that may cause problems and what could constitute barriers when trying to make legislative amendments to bar these types of purchases? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With respect to the member's question, it is clear that the abuse of income support assistance funds for purchasing alcohol and other matters does happen.

We would have to work with the lawyers to see how we could deal with the legal barriers. The Department of Justice would have to be included in the deliberations to amend the legislation as this is related to the basic human rights of individuals and we cannot infringe on those rights. In order to do that, we would have to collaborate on the best avenue to resolve these issues related to income support payments as well as the lawyers. This is not an easy matter, but we can try to resolve these issues via debate as needed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Aariak. When you finish responding, please let us know so that we don't have to wait incessantly while the clock is running. Mr. Curley.

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you. Yes, I understand that. Nonetheless, I believe it is possible to ban alcohol, especially on the form the recipients have to sign, by including a section that these funds cannot be used for alcohol and that penalties would apply if they are used for that purpose.

Some of the issues I have contemplated over the years include why these assistance payments have to be disbursed all in cash for social assistance, albeit I can understand how rental payments can be paid.

(interpretation ends) I think that's good. (interpretation) It is acceptable to have these types of third party payments. When the rental payments are taken out from the amount, I suppose the rest are for fuel, electrical, and other household expenses.

The social assistance recipient can cash the cheque and once the cash is in their hands, they have total discretion over this amount. Thank you.

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

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is also a good question and I thank my colleague for raising the matter. The first subject he referred to with respect to the form is an idea we can consider. This is something that can be looked at. Most recipients don't immediately cash all of their social assistance payments, but they put it towards one of the retail outlets of their choice, whether it is at NorthMart or another place.

With regard to the idea of trying to improve the system, that is something we can look at. And if any members have any further ideas or suggestions to put forward for consideration, we are entirely open to them. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want clarification on the comment about certain people who don't cash their entire assistance cheque. How is that set up? When the payment is made towards the Northern or Co-op

with their cheque when they go to buy their foodstuffs, how is this exactly done? What is the limit or amount they can then cash or is that dependent on the amount of their assistance cheque? Is there some type of arrangement with the stores that is then reported back to the agency? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. I'll have Ms Teiman respond. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Ms. Teiman:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In Nunavut, a majority of the cheques that are written for social assistance recipients for their food allowances and clothing are made payable to the supplier of the client's choice. In the olden days, we used to be able to write on the cheques, "food only," so that that's all individuals could spend their money on. Now with the link cards and debit cards, clients now can put their cheques right in the link card, and then there's no control over the spending of what they can use it for. So with modern-day technology, it's kind of taken that control out of our hands. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Teiman. Mr. Curley.

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you. I thank her for that detailed answer. It helps me to understand that the current legislation is outdated and requires revision and amendment.

Another thing that is quite obvious is that some people are dependent on social assistance and many residents use the Income Support Program to supplement their nutritional needs, primarily for food purchases. The other matter I occasionally mull over is why the government doesn't use coupons for food purchases under this program, which would be reimbursed to the stores.

Perhaps it wouldn't be quite 100 percent of the total amount, but at least if we could earmark a certain amount of the cheque towards the food coupons given to the recipient that qualifies. That way, you cannot sell your coupons or trade them. The reason why I mention this is because if they had food coupons and, for example, if I wanted to donate to the needy, I would prefer that I buy coupons instead of cash. So where could we purchase these types of coupons? Down in the southern climes, it would be possible because you can buy food stamps or donate to the food bank.

So if we are to combat poverty without offering more problems, then we should look at donating to an organization or charity. It would be much easier to provide food coupons. This would make it easier for a body, company, or individuals to donate to these causes. If coupons were available that could only be used for purchasing food, then more people would be willing to donate. This would allow the hungry to benefit from the donations of the public. Has this idea ever been contemplated to see if it could work here? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The member makes a good statement and it's an idea that we can take into consideration. This is another area that we can look at with respect to having paper purchasing options, such as coupons, that are specifically geared towards food or items listed on paper. This is something we can research. Additionally, this illustrates the principle of self-sufficiency and of having control of one's life, as well as leading a healthy lifestyle and having a good community. This would be part of giving back control to the individuals to become more self-reliant and to stand alone.

If I were to say it in English, it's (interpretation ends) self-reliance. (interpretation) This means to lead one's life without assistance from others so that you can grow your capacity and ability to live your own life and to try to strengthen your ability to make proper choices. However, this is a very good suggestion and we have taken note of the idea for future reference. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Mr. Chairman, it's very observable that this system requires revisions. If residents want to abuse the system, it's currently too easy to do so. Due to this reason, we really have to redesign the system.

As I have stated in the past, a good analogy is: since I go shopping at Canadian Tire quite a bit and men tend to like looking at their products, depending on the amount of goods one purchases, the store includes Canadian

Tire coupons as part of your change. If you were to gather all the coupons, you can actually purchase nice items just with the coupons. I usually remark that we should perhaps implement that with our local co-ops in the Kivalliq region. The analogy is that when you are a member, there is no concept of a return, but at Canadian Tire, you can use your coupons to purchase goods.

In fleshing out the idea of coupons, the suggestion of coupons should be included for food and clothing purchases. This would cut down on the abuses that occur currently within the system, and the children who are hungry or need clothing would benefit with these coupons.

With that, I will just thank the minister for listening to the ideas I have, and this is now just a comment and not a question. Thank you and that is all.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. There was no question there. Mr. Enook.

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Let me request clarification and direction from you first before I ask my questions. The line of questioning I raised last Friday with respect to student financial assistance and whether they would be eligible for income support assistance is a question I would like to raise if it is in line with the item we are reviewing now. Mr. Chairman, I would like to know if you will allow me to raise these questions in this area. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Enook. We're on page G-12. Income Support. If you have any

questions on this page, please proceed.  
Mr. Enook.

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to raise this question. Are students attending classes who have been approved for FANS funding eligible to apply for income support while they are awaiting their FANS funding? Can they apply for income support? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The students can apply for assistance. Once they apply, however, the income support worker would canvass their situation and assess where and how they can be provided with assistance. I'm not trying to say that they will get assistance immediately. However, like all residents of Nunavut, they can apply for social assistance where the worker would research their situation to determine their eligibility. If they qualify, then they would receive income support assistance. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Do I understand that any student who will be taking courses at Nunavut Arctic College, during the interim between the approval of their FANS funding and the disbursement of these funds, can apply for social assistance while waiting for their funding? Further, if that student is eligible and qualifies, then they can be provided assistance. Is this exactly as I

understand this? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll have Ms. Teiman explain further. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman**: Ms. Teiman.

**Ms. Teiman**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If a student is receiving FANS or if they have been approved for FANS and their payment has not been forthcoming, they can present it to the income support office and have an assessment completed. If FANS goes back and pays them retroactively through the first of the month, then we would put an overpayment on the file and collect that funding back. But, yes, they can be assessed and in most cases, would be assisted. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank you for that response. I wanted to be sure I totally understood it so that the students attending Arctic College will also be clear about the matter.

If the student has applied for income support, can the income support worker in the community have the right to approve or deny it? Is it just like what was stated last Friday that Ms. Teiman has the final say of approving applications? That's the understanding I got when I was questioning. I would like



to get a response on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll give that question to Ms. Teiman. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman**: Ms. Teiman.

**Ms. Teiman**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If a student who is accessing FANS comes into the income support office, they can be assessed right in the community and, depending on the outcome of that assessment, the income support worker would issue a cheque or not. It depends on all the income that is factored into the assessment.

If there is a situation where the income of the student is more than what our social assistance regulations allow, then there always is that right to appeal. The right to appeal would go to the regional supervisor and then on to the regional director. There are very few cases that students have to contact me directly for those types of approvals. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The question I wish to ask is one I would like to be the last. Mr. Chairman, my previous question was one that I thought was quite simple to answer. I thought that it would be a simple thing to answer, but perhaps we make it more confusing by trying to elucidate. I certainly hope this will be

my last question so that I will be clear on the response I receive.

When a student goes to the income support worker to apply for social assistance or to submit their request for assistance, can the local income worker approve or deny this request without having to get other approvals? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

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

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

**Mr. Ningark** (interpretation): Was that for me?

>> *Laughter*

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am also grateful that I am back in familiar surroundings attending to the session as I missed the last session. The issue on page G-12, Income Support, where it is written in English, (interpretation ends) productive choices, (interpretation) it is written respecting an individual's right to choose, of their ability to make choices. Some of the choices include local community healing, education, training, on-the-job training, earning wages during nine-to-five while taking training courses. This is completely understandable and good to hear.

Mr. Chairman, however, with respect to our larger communities, it is possible to receive these services as they are accessible programs in their

communities. Larger centres tend to have more facilities, such as healing centres, larger high schools and adult education centres, and there are more job opportunities. However, to cite the example of Repulse Bay and Kugaaruk, due to their small size, they don't have the same opportunities or resources available within the communities.

Some youth and adults want to apply for income support, but they feel trepidation to go and apply as they know they will be asked, "Have you looked for employment or training opportunities within the community?" They also get asked about contacting people within the community to increase their capacity or to plan for their future. However, there is nothing available for them. Only the larger centres have these types of services available. Indeed, this surfaced as a result. With respect to the land-based activities, we can offer that in the smaller communities.

My colleague, Mr. Curley, spoke to the idea of the entire system being revised and renewed. As part of the review we are undertaking, this is what we see. I, too, believe the system needs to be revised and to try to adapt it so that it fits better with the smaller communities that lack resources. Here I am talking about communities that don't have healing centres, larger schools, or job opportunities since most jobs are already filled in the smaller communities and unavailable for people looking for employment. It can be a long while before any job opens up. If I were to say it in English, the turnover rate is very low.

Mr. Chairman, with respect to the smaller communities, perhaps the land-

based programs can be better utilized or initiated. This teacher, who would be the outfitter and guide, would have to be a competent hunter, knowledgeable about the environment and building snow houses, able to fish and hunt caribou, and could earn a decent wage while teaching youth. I believe we need to create these programs. I imagine the minister is aware of these programs.

Smaller communities lack job opportunities and advanced post-secondary courses, and that is the situation. Mr. Chairman, I believe it is time we started thinking of servicing our smaller communities that lack the requisite programs under income support. This should not just be studied, but a comprehensive review should be conducted. Can the minister think about this matter? That is my question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank our colleague for raising that question. Indeed, there are many factors we have to take into consideration in the communities regarding services. Some communities are larger while others are smaller, and many have differing opportunities and service providers.

As an example, in talking about the smaller communities, another idea that could provide opportunities for youth is to try to attend courses in the adult learning centre. It's quite clear that some Inuit undertake this route when trying to better their circumstances or in trying to advance their careers. They can also speak to people they trust, including

elders, who can provide advice, especially about Inuit social practices. We have stated in the past that the best option is to include the local experts when dealing with life skills and traditional knowledge. These people can also attend to courses when requested to speak about these issues.

There are various options we can look at with respect to smaller communities that suffer from the lack of services, programs, and facilities. There are different options we can consider when reviewing this issue. People can try to go through their adult learning centres for furthering their education. Additionally, if they can incorporate local resources, including elders knowledgeable about life skills and advice provision, these also help people as well. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Ningark** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank Madam Minister for that. If people living in the smaller communities want to be self-sufficient without employment while providing for their family or if they want to improve, they have to take courses or healing while looking for a job. The person would have to leave their community.

An example would be to go from Kugaaruk to Cambridge Bay to take advantage of the services available pertaining to self-improvement or furthering one's education. Another example would be someone from Kugaaruk going to Rankin Inlet or alternatively, from Kugaaruk to Iqaluit or Yellowknife. That is the only option

available to them, which is why people feel apprehensive about applying for income support assistance.

Youth don't want to be questioned, as they will hear the usual rant, "Are you looking for means to improve your life situation? Are you looking for something that can benefit your community? Are you looking to improve your life?" Most people are open to doing that. However, the biggest barrier is that there are no opportunities or services, such as healing programs, available in their communities.

The high schools as well as the adult learning centres are there, but most classes are already filled with other students. The opportunities to get pre-employment training or career training courses are only available in the larger centres. So when the question is asked, "Are you looking for employment?" The usual reply is, "No, all of the available jobs at the Co-op are filled."

As per my colleague's suggestion about Canadian Tire coupons, that would help. However, every year in our community, our co-op in Kugaaruk disburses approximately \$2,000 in co-op dividends per individual. All employment opportunities at our co-op are already filled. Health centres, schools, and other government facilities have no openings for jobs. All employment opportunities are non-existent. In English, we have no opportunities.

I would urge the minister and her officials to look at the communities' situations and to adapt the prerequisite requirements so that more land-based programs using Inuit traditional knowledge can be available for our

people. I hope the department introduces these types of programs that incorporate Inuit traditional knowledge. Inuit traditional knowledge is absolutely tailored to our needs and close to our hearts as Inuit. Inuit start to realize how capable we are, especially in winter during the shortened days with extremely cold temperatures.

To collude with previous statements by my colleagues and to add to the statements with respect to the social assistance funding we provide for income support assistance, we are all aware that abuse occurs where some recipients purchasing alcohol and drugs with their assistance cheques. Additionally, I believe that we are aware that certain communities with set disbursement dates attract the wrong crowd, with the income support day figuring prominently. I believe that the local bodies are also holding bingos on that date to take advantage of the set dates.

This is in line with what Mr. Curley was referring to earlier. We have to brainstorm on this issue. The minister should be canvassing for ideas to resolve the problems we experience in Nunavut with the Income Support Program. This program doesn't just benefit the parents, but it is particularly intended to provide nutrition to their children. So I urge and hope the minister will consider these ideas carefully and to research all related matters. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningark. I didn't hear a question, but I'll give you the opportunity to respond, Minister Aariak.

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Member Ningark for providing us great suggestions that could help. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Aariak. Mr. Ningark, are you done with your questions? Mr. Ningark.

**Mr. Ningark** (interpretation): As a territorial government, I believe that we have to acknowledge the hamlets' role in representing their residents. We have to cooperate with the municipal governments to resolve problems that they face. With collaboration, we can solve many of the issues that cause problems within the communities. I just wanted to relay that to the minister as a comment.

Only by working with the local hamlets can this government deal with these issues, especially when talking about the challenges smaller communities face. If we don't work with the municipalities, then their situation will never change. The hamlets are our partners in managing our territory, so we have to ensure that we treat them as valuable partners.

This is just a comment, not a question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Mr. Aupaluktuq.

**Mr. Aupaluktuq**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Very briefly, because of past and repeated abuse of income support, as well as the sensitive nature as to how, when, and where income support is used, I wanted to ask for the record, Mr. Chairman: can or where can a recipient

submit an appeal of whom or where a cheque is issued to as income support? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll have Ms. Teiman reply to that question. Thank you.

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

**Ms. Teiman:** Where an income support cheque is delivered should not require an appeal, it should just be a matter of the client or the recipient having a chat with the income support worker. If the cheque, for instance, is going to the Northern Store and they wanted it to go to the Co-op, it should be that easy, unless there's some other cheque that you're referring to. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Aupaluktuq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are a lot of people on income support for various reasons and many don't want to be on income support. You have pretty much answered my questions in a sense of where a person can appeal, but there have been people who have shared a sense of feeling like they're under a one-cure-for-all approach.

So some constituents have asked how and where they can request an appeal, even though they maybe had approached their income support worker with some certain issues and were just told that it

was a practice that's very common. So hopefully I think that can clarify some of the issues that I tried to raise in terms of asking where or can a person provide an appeal. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Social assistance appeals go to either the local appeals committee or to administrative review groups. The second step is, when necessary, they can go to the appeals board. I hope that's the kind of [answer] that he was seeking. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Aariak. I have no more names on my list. We're on page G-12. Income Support. Education. \$2,974,000. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Go back to G-3. Detail of Expenditures. Education. 2012-13 main estimates. \$232,895,000. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Does the committee agree that the Department of Education is concluded?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Madam Minister, I thank you and your officials. If you have any closing remarks, you have the opportunity.

**Hon. Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First and foremost, I wish to thank my dedicated officials who were witnesses during this review. I thank them as I am aware of the tremendous hard work they undertake to fulfill their duties, not just the officials who were present but also the many employees who form the education department.

In particular, I thank my colleagues, the elected representatives who have posed tough questions and provided excellent suggestions for our consideration. You have represented the wishes of your constituents to find out about certain items by asking questions related to these areas. Another aspect I thoroughly enjoyed was that the members were able to convey ideas to resolve the problems they asked questions about. Some members provided really good suggestions for our consideration to resolve the problems we face today. I thank each and every one of you. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Aariak. I thank your officials, Ms. Teiman and Ms. Fanjoy. Thank you. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses and minister out. I would like them out of the way. I'm just kidding.

>> *Laughter*

Thank you all. Members, as you are aware, we are in Committee of the Whole. At this time, we will be taking a five-minute break as we need to change the Chair at this end. Please be back within five minutes.

>> *Committee recessed at 17:24 and resumed at 17:36*

## **Bill 24 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2012-2013 – Health and Social Services – Consideration in Committee**

**Chairman** (Mr. Ningeongan) (interpretation): Good afternoon. At this time, I would like to ask the Minister of Health and Social Services if he has any opening comments. Minister Peterson.

**Hon. Keith Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman and members. I am pleased to present the Department of Health and Social Services' business plan and main estimates for 2012-13.

The Department of Health and Social Services is seeking an increase of \$6,987,000 from the revised 2011-12 main estimates amount of \$309.69 million. This represents an increase of 2.3 percent. The department is also expecting to bring forward a supplementary appropriation request for a further \$14.5 million in the winter sitting.

For 2012-13, the department's appropriation needs will be \$316,677,000, which is \$18,919,000 more than the 2011-12 main estimates amount of \$297,758,000. The majority of this increase is to bring the department's operating budgets in a number of areas in line with anticipated demands and to recognize recent cost increases. In addition, there are areas that require additional investments to ensure that Nunavummiut continue to receive quality health care.

Significant areas of proposed increases include:

- Travel and transportation in the social services area, \$4.34 million;
- Residential care, \$4.1 million;
- Nunavut physician services, \$2.99 million;
- Interoperable electronic health records, \$1.67 million;
- Mental health workers, \$1.65 million;
- Materials and supplies, \$1,305,000; and
- Laboratory services, \$1.2 million.

In 2012-13, the department will continue to move forward on existing initiatives, as well as introducing additional initiatives, that continue to improve the health and well-being of Nunavummiut, which include:

- Strengthening the provision of mental health services in the territory;
- Establishing a culturally relevant pilot program for addictions treatment;
- Continuing the implementation of the Public Health Strategy;
- Ensuring that Nunavummiut make wise lifestyle choices through health promotion in areas such as tobacco reduction, sexual health, and nutrition;
- Reviewing and updating legislation as necessary, such as the *Child and Family Services Act*, *Public Health Act*, *Vital Statistics Act*, and *Mental Health Act*;
- Reviewing and updating policies as necessary, such as the Client Travel Policy and the Nunavut Nursing Recruitment and Retention Strategy; and
- Continuing to implement the interoperable electronic health records system so that relevant data

and information can be collected to assist in better planning and the appropriate recoveries of third party billings.

Mr. Chairman, the department has set out an ambitious business plan in the upcoming year, one that will depend upon adequate fiscal and human resources.

I am sure that members have questions and I would be pleased to take questions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This concludes my opening comments.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson. I would like to ask the Co-chair of the Standing Committee on Social Wellness if he has opening comments. Mr. Elliott.

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I do. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Elliott. You may proceed.

**Mr. Elliott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Members of the Standing Committee on Social Wellness have reviewed the 2012-13 main estimates and business plan for the Department of Health and Social Services and I am pleased to provide you with opening comments.

The standing committee notes that the 2012-13 operations and maintenance budget for Health and Social Services is \$316,677,000. While this proposed amount represents an increase over the 2011-12 main estimates that were approved in this House a year ago, it is a fact that the total yearly cost of providing health and social services consistently exceeds the approved

budget for any given fiscal year. Supplementary appropriations for the Department of Health and Social Services have been brought forward every fiscal year since 1999-2000.

Mr. Chairman, the standing committee notes that the department's proposed increases in budget cover all service areas. Committee members recognize that rising costs for services provided out of the territory are beyond the department's control and appreciated the minister's assurances that such costs are kept to a standard rate across the country, ensuring that no jurisdiction is charged more than another for the same services.

The standing committee supports the department's proposed investments in initiatives such as the electronic health records system and increased laboratory services. Members have noted that the transportation of lab samples from some of Nunavut's smaller communities occasionally takes so long that the accuracy of test results is called into question. The committee recommends that the department continues to review and improve service delivery processes such as this.

Mr. Chairman, the committee is of the view that the basic formulas used to determine base federal funding contributions for Nunavut and specifically for health and social funding transfers will benefit from revision and renegotiation. The standing committee supports the minister in his efforts to ensure that the most-up-to-date data and statistics for the territory's population and needs are taken into consideration. The electronic health records system will be useful in this regard as well as in

identifying health trends, including patterns of outbreaks and the spread of communicable diseases, which lead to costly interventions.

Mr. Chairman, Nunavut's unique position with respect to population, geography, as well as the linguistic and cultural aspects of health service delivery has been recognized to some extent by additional federal funding such as the Territorial Medical Travel Fund. The standing committee supports the minister's efforts to ensure adequate and sustained federal funding for the delivery of health and social services across Nunavut and would appreciate regular updates on progress in this area.

The standing committee recognizes that staffing issues have consistently been problematic for the Department of Health and Social Services. The committee continues to support initiatives within the Nunavut Arctic College Nursing Program, including certification opportunities for community nurses and the new Licensed Practical Nurse Program, as well as other health career programs. The department's efforts to reduce its reliance on agency staff for filling nursing and social worker positions have been noted. Committee members are aware that the lack of housing in some communities is impacting the successful employment of full-time social workers and encourage the minister and his officials to work closely with their counterparts at the Nunavut Housing Corporation to address this issue.

Mr. Chairman, the standing committee is aware that a number of initiatives are currently being considered by the Executive Council, including the



possible reorganization of health and social services delivery in Nunavut. The standing committee will be closely monitoring developments in this area and recommends that the government move forward cautiously as certain decisions will most certainly have far-reaching consequences.

Mr. Chairman, the standing committee notes that one of the department's key initiatives for 2012-13 is the introduction of new child and family services legislation. Members continue to urge the government to ensure that the needs and concerns relating to elders are also given the necessary attention. It is critical that Inuit societal values are integrated into legislation and service delivery in order to be effective.

Mr. Chairman, following the dissolution of the divisional health boards, community health committees, called committees of council, were established under municipal authorities and funded by the GN. The standing committee encourages the minister in his efforts to revitalize the role of such committees through increased funding and support to coordinate local health and wellness initiatives. Committee members note that in the past, community interagency committees often included representatives, such as the RCMP, hamlet SAO, community health representative, and others working together to address local issues and concerns. The standing committee encourages the minister to fill the five regional community health and wellness coordinator positions as soon as possible.

The standing committee was pleased to note that a number of new mental health

positions will be established in 2012-13. Members also look forward to reviewing actions and initiatives that will address the issue of suicide in our communities. Issues relating to addiction and substance abuse are also of great concern. Committee members strongly support the concept of culturally relevant, community-based programs and encourage the minister to work with his officials to provide more support for adapting proven programs from community to community and from region to region. Members have noted that plans for a Nunavut-based treatment facility have not yet been brought forward.

Mr. Chairman, medical travel is one of the most expensive expenditure areas for the Department of Health and Social Services. The standing committee recognizes that there is often no other recourse than to fly clients to regional centres or even to other jurisdictions to receive care and services. Concerns continue to be raised regarding the policies and appeals process relating to medical travel and the provision of escorts. The standing committee notes that the department has recently undertaken a review of the Client Travel Policy and members encourage the minister to bring forward any findings or recommendations from this review at the earliest opportunity.

Mr. Chairman, access to nutritious food is a critical component of maintaining a healthy lifestyle. While members recognize that the Department of Health and Social Services is not in the business of providing food to residents, it is important that efforts continue to address food insecurity. Committee members were disappointed to note that

contribution funding for breakfast programs will not continue in 2012-13 and recommend that the impact of no longer providing funding for this initiative be assessed as soon as possible.

Mr. Chairman, committee members note that constituents continue to bring forward concerns with respect to the diagnosis and prevalence of cancer across the territory, and would encourage the minister and his officials to focus efforts on initiatives which specifically address the detection and treatment of this disease.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening remarks. I anticipate that individual members will also have questions and comments as we proceed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Enook** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I would like to move a motion to report progress. (interpretation) Thank you.

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

**Speaker:** Thank you, Sergeant-at-Arms. Moving on in our orders of the day. Item 21. Report of Committee of the Whole. Mr. Ningeongan.

### **Item 21: Report of the Committee of the Whole**

**Mr. Ningeongan:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The committee has been considering Bill 24 the main estimates, and the committee would like to report progress. Also, Mr. Speaker, I move that the Report of the Committee of the Whole be concurred with. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Item 22. Third Reading of Bills. Item 23. *Orders of the Day*. Mr. Clerk.

### **Item 23: Orders of the Day**

**Clerk** (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just a reminder to all members that there's a meeting of the Full Caucus tomorrow at ten o'clock in the morning in the Nanuq Boardroom.

*Orders of the Day* for February 28:

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. Replies to Budget Address
11. Petitions

12. Responses to Petitions
13. Reports of Standing and Special  
Committees on Bills and Other  
Matters
14. Tabling of Documents
15. Notices of Motions
16. Notices of Motions for First  
Reading of Bills
17. Motions
18. First Reading of Bills
19. Second Reading of Bills
20. Consideration in Committee of  
the Whole of Bills and Other  
Matters
  - Bill 21
  - Bill 24
  - Bill 34
21. Report of the Committee of the  
Whole
22. Third Reading of Bills
23. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

**Speaker:** You're welcome. Thank you, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned until Tuesday, February 28, at 1:30 p.m.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 17:54*

