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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Speaker

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(Iqaluit Centre)

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(Iqaluit East)

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Intergovernmental Affairs; Minister
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Minister responsible for Immigration;
Minister responsible for the Status of
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Minister of Languages; Minister
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(Rankin Inlet North)

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Minister responsible for
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Table of Contents

Opening Prayer.....	1874
Ministers' Statements	1874
Members' Statements	1876
Returns to Oral Questions	1885
Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery.....	1885
Oral Questions.....	1886
Written Questions.....	1902
Tabling of Documents	1903
First Reading of Bills	1904
Second Reading of Bills	1906
Revert to Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery	1907
Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters	1907
Report of the Committee of the Whole	1936
Orders of the Day	1937

A.

Daily References

Wednesday, February 29, 20121874

B.

Ministers' Statements

127 – 3(3): Government Liaison Officers Conference (Aariak)1874

128 – 3(3): Tourism Strategy for Nunavut (Taptuna)1875

129 – 3(3): Increase in Licensed Preschool Programs (Aariak).....1875

C.

Members' Statements

180 – 3(3): Baker Lake Athletes and Coaches Attending Arctic Winter Games (Aupaluktuq).1876

181 – 3(3): Arviat Junior Canadian Rangers (Shewchuk).....1877

182 – 3(3): Happy Birthday Mr. Noolook (Curley)1878

183 – 3(3): Athletes and Coaches of Rankin Inlet at Arctic Winter Games (Kusugak).....1878

184 – 3(3): Coordination of Initiatives for Adult Learners (Elliott).....1880

185 – 3(3): Strengthening Inuktitut Language Use in Kugaaruk (Ningark).....1881

186 – 3(3): Tribute in Memory of Leonard Putulik (Ningeongan)1882

187 – 3(3): Appreciation to Iqaluit Mayor, Firefighters, and Community Volunteers (Eli)1883

188 – 3(3): Pangagujjiniq 2012 - Nunavut Quest (Tapardjuk).....1884

D.

Returns to Oral Questions

Return to Oral Question 240 – 3(3): Nunavut Marine Council (Arreak)1885

E.

Oral Questions

280 – 3(3): Contracting Process for Air Ambulance and Scheduled Medical Travel Services
(Curley).....1886

281 – 3(3): Igloolik School Closures Due to Extreme Cold (Tapardjuk).....1888

282 – 3(3): Climate Change (Ningark).....1891

283 – 3(3): Filling of GLO Positions (Rumbolt).....1891

284 – 3(3): Programs for Adult Learners (Elliott).....1893

285 – 3(3): Status of Collective Bargaining (Ell).....1895

286 – 3(3): Contract for Optometrist Services in Pangnirtung (Oshutapik).....1896

287 – 3(3): Definition of Tamapta and Self-reliance (Ningark).....1898

288 – 3(3): Role of GLO in Applying for Firearms Licence (Elliott)1900

F.

Written Questions

014 – 3(3): Suicide Prevention Activities (Elliott).....1902

G.

Tabling of Documents

157 – 3(3): Letters from Pond Inlet Youth on the Issue of Suicide (Enook).....1903

158 – 3(3): 2010-2011 Annual Report of the Nunavut Public Library Services (Arreak)1903

159 – 3(3): Exchange of Emails Concerning RFP Process for Medical Travel (Curley).....1904

H.

Bills

Bill 25 – Supplementary Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, No. 6, 2010-2011 –
First Reading.....1904

Bill 26 – Supplementary Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, No. 3, 2011-2012 – First Reading	1904
Bill 27 – Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 1, 2012-2013 – First Reading.....	1904
Bill 28 – Write-off of Assets Act, 2011-2012 – First Reading.....	1905
Bill 29 – Write-off of Assets Act, No. 1, 2010-2011 – First Reading.....	1905
Bill 30 – Building Code Act – First Reading	1905
Bill 31 – An Act to Amend the Consumer Protection Act – First Reading.....	1905
Bill 32 – An Act to Amend the Legal Services Act – First Reading.....	1905
Bill 33 – An Act to Amend the Labour Standards Act – First Reading	1906
Bill 25 – Supplementary Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, No. 6, 2010-2011 – Second Reading	1906
Bill 26 – Supplementary Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, No. 3, 2011-2012 – Second Reading	1906
Bill 27 – Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 1, 2012-2013 – Second Reading ...	1907
Bill 24 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2012-2013 – Health and Social Services – Consideration in Committee.....	1908

Iqaluit, Nunavut**Wednesday, February 29, 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 13:31*

Item 1: Opening Prayer

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

>>*Prayer*

Speaker: Good afternoon, members. Welcome back. We will move on in our orders of the day. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Minister responsible for Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, Madam Premier.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements**Minister's Statement 127 – 3(3):
Government Liaison Officers
Conference**

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, people of Iqaluit. Mr. Speaker, a few weeks ago, I had the opportunity to meet and address our first

group of government liaison officers during their first conference and training session in Iqaluit. We spoke of the need for greater knowledge of our government programs in the communities and a stronger government presence that could assist our citizens in accessing those programs.

Mr. Speaker, I am impressed with our first group of GLOs. They bring a wide range of experience to these important positions in their communities. They are knowledgeable and willing to learn new things. I know they are providing that extra support and connection to our government that all Nunavummiut deserve.

This conference allowed our GLOs to meet with GN staff to learn more about our government. They also spent time with Service Canada learning how to assist with many of the federal programs that all Canadians are entitled to.

Mr. Speaker, our new government liaison officers were able to share their experiences and meet each other face to face for the first time. This gathering provided an opportunity to discuss individual responses to many different and sometimes difficult questions and to learn patience to help and support people who deal with an increasingly complex way of life.

We anticipate another five government liaison officer positions will be filled in the short term and there will be additional conferences and training sessions as this vital network grows stronger to serve our communities.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank our first eight GLOs who have taken on this

exciting and important role in our communities. We are well on the way to improving the flow of information about government services to better serve our residents. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Madam Premier. Ministers' Statements. Minister responsible for Economic Development and Transportation, Minister Taptuna.

**Minister's Statement 128 – 3(3):
Tourism Strategy for Nunavut**

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, colleagues, Kuglukturmiut, and Nunavummiut. Mr. Speaker, as my colleagues are aware, we have been working with the tourism industry, Inuit organizations, hamlets, and other stakeholders to draft a strategy for Nunavut.

At this time last year, through consultation with communities on tourism, we heard enthusiasm for tourism potential, development, and promotion in Nunavut. We also heard that Nunavummiut need training, support, and better communication to take advantage of opportunities in the tourism sector. Communities want to be prepared for cruise ship visits and our artists want more places to promote and distribute their work.

Through *Tamapta*, we are committed to supporting community-based sustainable economies, where we all have an opportunity to take care of our needs in ways that are consistent with our cultural values and current realities.

With tourism, the reach goes further. Mr. Speaker, tourism also strengthens our arts and cultural industries: tourists, art collectors, and gallery owners travel across Nunavut and visit our renowned artists. They visit seamstresses, printmakers, carvers, and video artists in Baker Lake, Cape Dorset, and Gjoa Haven, just to name a few.

Mr. Speaker, tourism and cultural industries make important contributions not only to our economy but also to our quality of life and the preservation of our language and culture.

Mr. Speaker, these are some of the themes which will be part of Nunavut's new tourism strategy, which I look forward to tabling in the coming months. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Minister responsible for the Department of Education, Madam Minister Aariak.

**Minister's Statement 129 – 3(3):
Increase in Licensed Preschool
Programs**

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to announce today that the Department of Education District Education Authority Early Childhood programming funding has led to an increase in licensed preschool programs within Nunavut.

Under section 17 of the *Education Act*, district education authorities must provide early childhood education programming that enhances the fluency of the Inuit language and knowledge of

the Inuit culture. The Commission scolaire francophone du Nunavut has the mandate to allow them to provide early childhood education programming that enhances French language and culture.

Mr. Speaker, to help DEAs meet this requirement, the Department of Education has funding available. I am pleased to announce that this year with this funding, we've had two new preschools become licensed and operational and we have two more preschools that are in development.

The Arviat Head Start Program has licensed an additional space for 17 more preschoolers and the Ecole des Trois Soleil – Francisation Program in Iqaluit has been licensed for nine preschoolers. Qarmartalik School Early Childhood Readiness Program in Resolute Bay is hoping to be licensed and operating early next month for eight preschoolers and the Joamie Language Nest in Iqaluit is in the process of applying for their licence.

Mr. Speaker, many other district education authorities are meeting the requirements of section 17 of the *Education Act* by supporting existing early childhood programs to enhance their Inuit language and cultural programming by hiring elders and developing resources.

Mr. Speaker, we are pleased to provide this funding for early childhood programs that help our youngest citizens develop a strong foundation based on Inuit language, culture, and values. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Madam Minister Aariak. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Baker Lake, Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 180 – 3(3): Baker Lake Athletes and Coaches Attending Arctic Winter Games

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today and it gives me great pleasure to acknowledge our Baker Lake Blizzards athletes who have worked hard to attain excellence in academics as well as athletics. These students and youth had to meet academic integration levels to continue attaining standards as set by the Jonah Amitnaaq School.

With the support of the school staff, teachers, coaches, the Baker Lake DEA, parents, and the dozens of volunteers who participate and continue to contribute to our youth, these incredible young men and women will proudly represent hometown and Nunavut at the upcoming Arctic Winter Games.

In arctic sports:

Rebecca Penney
Candice Kabloona
Shirley Nakoolak
Brandon Qiyuk

In basketball:

Eric Perkison
Troy Owingayak
Arnold Arngna'naaq
Katrina Mautaritnaaq
Surya Angatajuak
My niece Rachael Aupaluktuq

Robin Iqqaat
Charmaine Kasaluak

Statements. Member for Arviat, Mr. Shewchuk.

In badminton:

**Member's Statement 181 – 3(3):
Arviat Junior Canadian Rangers**

Chesley Haqpi

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to recognize an incredible program that is taking place in my community of Arviat.

In hockey:

Mr. Speaker, with the partnership of the Canadian Military, the Arviat adult rangers, and the community of Arviat, there are 169, that is right, 169 junior Canadian Rangers enrolled in the Junior Canadian Ranger program in Arviat.

Jarrett Seeteenak
Myles Pupik
Judy Mariq
Trina Qaqqaq
Virginia Ullyot
Alanah Ikinilik
Coach Steve Paterson

For soccer:

>> *Applause*

Eli Nateela
Robert Iqqaat

They are led by youth, leaders, Sergeant Andrew Kuksuk, and Master Corporal Meagan Netser. Sergeant David Ukutak Jr. is a patrol leader of the Arviat Canadian Rangers and the Arviat Junior Canadian Rangers. Under this leadership, there are approximately 27 adult rangers who volunteer their time to work with the youth on their twice a week activities, which includes sports as well as training sessions and training on the land.

In volleyball:

Wamy Kreelak

In wrestling:

Patrick Angoyuaq as coach.

The program is supported by the Canadian Army. They held a winter survival exercise a couple of weekends ago, which included traditional land skill activities, such as igloo building, stove and lantern maintenance, qamutik usage, and first aid. They are also running a program on living with others without bullying. They are now in the midst of planning a spring and summer land trip, supported with the equipment from the Armed Forces.

It gives me great pleasure to acknowledge these young people. I'm sure that they have worked hard to attain their standards of excellence. I'm glad that they have an opportunity to be able to be rewarded to represent our hometown as well as Nunavut. So congratulations to all the young people. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. I'm sure all members join you in wishing them the best of luck in the Arctic Winter Games. Members'

Several youth members just attended a weeklong enhanced training session in Calgary. This is an exciting program for the community and we appreciate the efforts of so many adult rangers working with our youth. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Shewchuk. Members' Statements. Member for Rankin Inlet North, Mr. Curley.

**Member's Statement 182 – 3(3):
Happy Birthday Mr. Noolook**

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The reason why I rise today is to speak to an issue that we are all aware of. This day is the reason why I stand to make my statement regarding a person of whom I am very proud of. Further, I want to inform you that daily, this person exemplifies good living and he welcomes everyone.

Many of us here as well as in Nunavut all know that the majority of people celebrate their birthdays annually and on these days, our relatives celebrate with us on these special days. However, some individuals who were born on February 29 apparently don't have this opportunity. Due to this reason, the individual who happens to be one of my constituents, an elder who lives right on the dividing line, Philip Noolook, is celebrating his birthday today.

Residents of Rankin Inlet appreciate Mr. Philip Noolook, our esteemed elder. He is a very nice person and offers advice freely. His advice is quite clear and comprehensive, whether it is advice to one of his children or grandchildren. Further, he is adored by his

grandchildren since he lives a healthy lifestyle and offers advice on life to his children and grandchildren. Whenever one of them starts to stray from a healthy lifestyle, he will take them aside and return them back to the proper lifestyle. This man leads an exemplary life and he is a good role model.

Mr. Noolook, if you happen to be listening to the proceedings, I would like to wish you a happy birthday. Thank you.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Curley. He's lucky he ages four times slower than the rest of us.

>>Laughter

Members' Statements. Member for Rankin Inlet South and Whale Cove, Mr. Kusugak.

**Member's Statement 183 – 3(3):
Athletes and Coaches of Rankin
Inlet at Arctic Winter Games**

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Noolook, I believe, is now 15 years old.

>>Laughter

Mr. Speaker, I also share in celebrating his birthday today, as per my colleague's statement.

I want to acknowledge the many athletes who will be representing Nunavut at the Arctic Winter Games. We are very proud of their accomplishments. I will name the athletes who will be going to the games, including their coaches and

chaperones, especially because without coaches and chaperones, many athletes would not be able to participate in these games. So first of all, I thank these individuals who work many hours and are very dedicated in teaching skills to our youth.

These are the athletes who will be representing Nunavut from Rankin Inlet and there are 48 of them.

The athletes who will partake in arctic sports are:

Brenda Tagalik
Natalie Putulik
Angelina Tiktak

The basketball athlete is Keith Sigurdson.

The curling team is comprised of these individuals:

Kevin Bussey
Jamie Airut
Connor Faulkner
Brandino Airut
David Kakuktinniq

The dog mushers who are going to the AWG are:

Shawn Maley
Tristen Dias
Tyrese Dias
Tony Dias
Shawna Dias
Jeremy Maley
Sidney Nichol
Israel Aliyak

These are the people who will partake in the dog races.

The athletes who will be going for gymnastics are:

Lisa Kresky
Desiree Autut
Annette Paniyuk
Jayda Rose Pilakapsi
Shanti Dias

The hockey players, since our community has ardent players, are:

Joshua Tartak
Samuel Pameolik
Joseph Sabourin
Samuel Adams
Lennox Airut
Darrian Pilakapsi
Ian Paniyuk
Billy Strickland
Reuben Aliyak
Layla Autut

The soccer players are:

Lisa Tatty
Keisha Aliyak
Lukisha Tatty
Alayna Ningeongan
Paul Stroeder
Isaiah Ignardjuk
Braden Nakoolak
Darren Saumik
Jakob Voisey

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

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, my colleagues. I shall reciprocate by withholding my “nay” when my colleagues ask for unanimous consent.

The athletes who will participate in volleyball representing Rankin Inlet are currently in Iqaluit practising and preparing for the games.

The volleyball players are:

Simeonie Noolook happens to be a grandson of Philip Noolook, who was just mentioned as celebrating his birthday, and who is billeting with our family. On behalf of Simeonie, I send happy birthday greetings to his grandfather.

Ronald Anawak Jr.
Cory Samok
Seamas Ayaruak

For wrestling:

Douglas Rob Kakuktinniq

The mission staff are Lisa Oolooyuk and Doug McLarty.

Although I am quite proud of these athletes, I also represent Whale Cove. Mr. Speaker, several athletes are also coming in from Whale Cove.

For arctic sports:

Marianne Hapanak
Benjamin Hapanak
Benji Hapanak Jr.
Simon Enuapik Jr.
Joleen Adjuk
Loranda Ekwalak

In Whale Cove, a hockey player is also going and her name is Barb Ulurksit.

Mr. Speaker, these athletes are from my constituency. I know that they will be representing Nunavut to the best of their ability. Irrespective of whether they win or not, I hope that they represent Nunavut faithfully and that Nunavummiut will be proud of their representation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 184 – 3(3):
Coordination of Initiatives for
Adult Learners**

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to raise my concerns regarding the coordination of initiatives for adult learners.

Mr. Speaker, I recognize that our government is making a positive effort to support more adults in achieving their educational and career objectives.

Mr. Speaker, I have spoken to many individuals in my constituency who want to go back to school, who want to improve their basic levels of education, and who want to improve their chances for the future.

Mr. Speaker, government documentation, such as business plans and strategies, refers to “adult learners,” but it is not clear to me that we have a working definition of what an “adult learner” is. Our new *Education Act* provides for individuals up to the age of

21 within our school system. However, it is well known that the learning styles and expectations of adolescents, teenagers, and adults differ greatly.

There are a number of new program options for adults through Nunavut Arctic College, through distance education and community learning centres. The new adult mature graduation option is one such new program to be delivered.

Mr. Speaker, with the Department of Education's new Adult Education Division, which used to be the division of adult learning, I am concerned that gaps in the coordination and delivery of adult programs, in conjunction with Nunavut Arctic College, will leave some adult learners to fall between the cracks. Mr. Speaker, I am concerned that there is no mechanism to coordinate the delivery of programs and to ensure that adult learners are able to take advantage of all the opportunities that should be available to them.

Mr. Speaker, I am concerned that adult learners who wish to acquire the basic skills to move forward will be held up because of a bureaucratic lack of coordination, in a manner similar to what has happened to many of our apprentices. I encourage the government to ensure that all parties are working together to coordinate the delivery of adult education programs and to ensure that all the necessary supports are in place, from funding to infrastructure to personnel who can provide assistance.

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

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Akulliq, Mr. Ningark.

**Member's Statement 185 – 3(3):
Strengthening Inuktitut Language
Use in Kugaaruk**

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With respect to those people who are celebrating a birthday today throughout Nunavut, I share in their celebration. Perhaps it is a good analogy for us MLAs as we too get elected once every four years, so please enjoy your special day today.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak to this issue and I rise to speak about this matter. Although February 6 to 10 has already come and gone, specifically the designation of Language Week for that period, I want it remembered throughout Nunavut. However, we know and I want my fellow Inuit to know in Nunavut that language has to be practised daily and there is no limit to practising one's language. Furthermore, I want to express my thanks and acknowledge the Minister of Languages, the Hon. James Arreak, as well as the Government of Nunavut for designating that week as Language Week.

Additionally, I want to acknowledge two teachers in Kugaaruk and I have their names written, which I will table later to the pages. These teachers are Ludgarde Angutingunirk and Margaret Inaksajak, and I will ensure to pass the proper spelling. They teach the younger classes our language.

During Language Week, they held a radio show for the residents of Kugaaruk, where their students spoke in Inuktitut showcasing their language skills. They represented the school in Kugaaruk. As well, elders went on the local radio daily from February 6 to 10 using the dialects used in Kugaaruk, both the Kuugaarjungmiut and Arviligjuarmiut dialects.

Let us remember the practice we had during that week. Although Language Week has already come and gone, we have to practise our language daily. So I want to express my gratitude as I am able to rise and speak in our language in the legislature and to remind people that it is intrinsic to our culture, so we have to practise it. I am proud of all Nunavummiut as we also heard daily shows on the regional radio show programs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 186 – 3(3):
Tribute in Memory of Leonard
Putulik**

Mr. Ningeongan (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to pay tribute to the memory of Leonard Putulik. Mr. Speaker, Leonard Putulik was one of my constituents and a respected elder in the community of Chesterfield Inlet.

Mr. Putulik was born in 1934 near Chesterfield Inlet. At the age of 15, he began working for the Roman Catholic Mission. He retired from his position

with the church in the year 2000, following a career that spanned half a century.

In 1951, he married Leonie Pittausaaq. During their long and happy marriage, Leonard and Leonie had over a dozen children. Over the years, they became proud grandparents and great-grandparents.

Mr. Putulik was an early entrepreneur in Chesterfield Inlet and a founding member of the Keewatin Chamber of Commerce.

His commitment to the community of Chesterfield Inlet was reflected in his distinguished record of public service. He served numerous terms of office with the Municipality of Chesterfield Inlet, the local hunters and trappers association, and the local housing association.

Following a long and courageous struggle with illness, Mr. Putulik passed away in January of this year in his home of Chesterfield Inlet. I wish all of his descendants well.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in paying tribute to the memory of Leonard Putulik and to share the sense of loss felt by the people of Chesterfield Inlet. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Iqaluit West, Ms. Ell.

**Member's Statement 187 – 3(3):
Appreciation to Iqaluit Mayor,
Firefighters, and Community
Volunteers**

Ms. Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At this time, I would first like to note that my relatives are in my thoughts, especially my sister-in-law and their family, as they are conducting a funeral for one of their family members. You are in my thoughts and prayers.

I rise today to speak about this event that all members are now aware of. On Sunday, a fire erupted in Iqaluit that resulted in 22 units being destroyed and many families lost their homes and all their belongings. Further, it has been confirmed that there were two deaths as a result. Your families are in our thoughts and prayers as you go through this difficult time and we will keep you in mind and we hope you will be assisted spiritually.

At this time, I want to express gratitude and to note the skill and abilities of the residents of Iqaluit. First and foremost of the people I want to thank is this individual who has kept the community updated, especially on developments occurring in Iqaluit. She has worked really hard in assisting Iqalummiut and that is our mayor, Madeleine Redfern. I want to thank her firstly as she has worked tirelessly to deal with events.

I would especially like to thank Fire Chief Chris Wilson and every one of the firefighters who fought the fire on Sunday evening. They started fighting the fire Sunday evening and didn't stop until Monday afternoon trying to extinguish the fire. I want to thank them for their dedication as they conducted

their duties during a particularly cold day, which was challenging, but they showed us how capable they are.

Further, I want to thank all the staff of the City of Iqaluit as they spent long hours assisting the firefighters.

Additionally, whenever an event occurs, the community spirit of the residents of Iqaluit flares up as they try to provide assistance and this community spirit was on display immediately afterwards up to this current day. The capabilities and dedication of our residents showed as people gathered donated materials by volunteering their time and offer their donations.

The elders as well, even though some of them don't have excess stuff, provided donations to those who lost their entire belongings and homes.

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

Speaker: Thank you, Ms. Ell. The member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude her statement. Are there any nays? There are none. Please proceed, Ms. Ell.

Ms. Ell (interpretation): I had almost completed my statement.

Another person I wish to mention who lives in my constituency is Amy Elgersma, who works for the city's recreation department and also volunteers with the Red Cross. I wish to express my gratitude to this woman.

Although many people deserve to be thanked for their untiring assistance, I

have only mentioned these three people out of the many Iqalummiut who have provided assistance and a show of community spirit as they work towards assisting those in need. I am very proud and grateful of all of them.

Since volunteers rarely get thanked, on behalf of my constituents and the residents of Iqaluit, I want to thank all the volunteers. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Ms. Ell. Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Amittuq, Mr. Tapardjuk.

**Member's Statement 188 – 3(3):
Pangaggujjiniq 2012 - Nunavut
Quest**

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With respect to the statement about the late Leonard Putulik of Chesterfield Inlet, those of us who went to the residential school in Chesterfield Inlet were also assisted by this individual. I want to send our condolences to those he left behind and those who are grieving are in our thoughts and prayers. This individual assisted many people, even if they were not residents of Chesterfield Inlet.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about an event that was created at the same time as the Nunavut government in 1999. I'm not going to be speaking about our Nunavut government nor am I inclined to speak about our government. However, I wish to talk about husky dogs and in particular, dog teams and in this case, an event that was created in 1999.

Mr. Speaker, the Pangaggujjiniq committee created the Nunavut Quest in 1999 and is in its 12th year of operations, with this year's race that will be held on April 23 departing from Igloolik. It is quite obvious that the High Arctic communities, particularly the communities of Pond Inlet, Arctic Bay, Clyde River, Igloolik, Hall Beach, and Repulse Bay, will be sending local representatives to partake in this traditional race. What I do know for a fact, Mr. Speaker, is that Igloolik will have five dog team racers who will be in the Nunavut Quest.

On April 20, the participants will be gathering in Igloolik for this race. Therefore, I would like to invite the MLAs who represent these communities that I just mentioned to partake in this race. We welcome them to attend this celebration as many Inuit utilize this quest to celebrate their culture. We wish the dog team racers a fast and safe trip.

Obviously, in a race, there can be only one winner, and many residents of the participating communities will be cheering on their local racers. Therefore, I would like to inform my colleagues that if you want to take the chance to make a friendly bet, I'm open to any member who would like to shake my hand prior to the event occurring on that date. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Tapardjuk. I'm sure all members wish them a safe and swift journey. Item 3. Members' Statements. Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Minister of Environment, Minister Arreak.

Item 4: Returns to Oral Questions**Return to Oral Question 240 – 3(3):
Nunavut Marine Council**

Hon. James Arreak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a return to an oral question asked by Mr. Tapardjuk, Oral Question No. 240 – 3(3). Mr. Speaker, I would like to provide a response to an oral question posed to me on February 23, 2012 by the member from Amittuq. The member asked about the recently established Nunavut Marine Council and whether or not the Government of Nunavut is going to be involved in this organization.

Mr. Speaker, pursuant to the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA), the Nunavut Marine Council consists of the land and resource management organizations established by the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement, specifically the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board, the Nunavut Impact Review Board, the Nunavut Water Board, and the Nunavut Planning Commission.

The Nunavut Land Claims Agreement does not provide that there is a formal role for government in the Nunavut Marine Council. However, also pursuant to the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement, in making decisions that affect marine areas, government is required to consider the advice of all of the above organizations either severally or jointly as the Nunavut Marine Council.

I trust this answers the member's question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Arreak. Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery.

Member for Rankin Inlet North, Mr. Curley.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As members, we don't often get to recognize visitors from our communities, especially from our community of Rankin Inlet due to its distance from Iqaluit.

However, at this time, I urge my colleagues to welcome and recognize this individual from Rankin Inlet, Cathy Towtongie. Mr. Speaker, perhaps you ought to do a formal recognition since we all know that she is the current president of NTI. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Curley. Welcome to the Gallery. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Madam Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, would like to welcome the representatives of an organization that is at the heart of Nunavut as it also created our territory. I would like to recognize the President of Nunavut Tunngavik, Cathy Towtongie, and the recently hired employee, Anne Crawford, who is from my constituency. She is now the principal secretary for the president. Another person from my constituency is Terry Audla. He is the executive assistant for Nunavut Tunngavik. Welcome. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, Madam Premier. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Ningark.

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to represent the Inuit of Kitikmeot in my recognition of Cathy Towtongie, President of NTI. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Ms. Ell.

Ms. Ell (interpretation): Several members have already recognized this individual, but since we can also recognize a person, I wish to recognize my maternal cousin, who is the President of NTI, Cathy Towtongie. Welcome to the Gallery.

Although she doesn't reside in my constituency, her office was situated in my riding, but it seems I have now lost her to NTI. I wish to recognize Anne Crawford. She used to have an office when she was practicing law in my riding, but now she has been hired by NTI.

Another person, a fellow Iqaluit resident and currently the executive assistant, I wish to recognize is Terry Audla. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Ms. Ell. Welcome again. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Moving on in our orders of the day. Before we proceed to Item 6,

oral question period, I wish to make a brief statement.

After reviewing both *Hansard* and the audio recordings of yesterday's proceedings, I note that the Member for Rankin Inlet North did indicate in his preamble that his questions were directed to the Minister of Community and Government Services. Unfortunately, your Chair heard a different portfolio being referred to and I do regret the confusion that that caused.

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

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 280 – 3(3): Contracting Process for Air Ambulance and Scheduled Medical Travel Services

Mr. Curley: Thank you. (interpretation) Yesterday we received a short break from the Speaker's ruling.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to continue with my question so that it will be quite clear to the minister and to the Department of the Community and Government Services. I had tried to raise this question yesterday.

In the case of the air ambulance service contract for the Kitikmeot, the government has entered into a contract with a company that does not actually hold a valid air operator certificate issued by federal authorities. All of the actual flight operations are performed by another entity. This situation also exists with respect to the government's contracts for medical travel on scheduled airlines.

Why does the minister not support a requirement in the government's RFP process that mandates the primary contractor to hold a valid air operator certificate? Thank you.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will respond to the member's question clearly. I didn't say I didn't support it as I do support that all aircraft flying within Canadian airspace require proper licences. I wouldn't want to see aircraft operating without the proper licence in our airspace, so I fully support this requirement and I have never stated that I'm not in support of this requirement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you. That response was certainly clear and I thank the minister for that response. I hope that his senior departmental officials have noted this support.

Earlier this week, the Minister of Health and Social Services informed the House that he has told his departmental officials that he wants "a full review of the RFP process" in respect to air ambulance and scheduled medical travel services. I strongly support a change to the RFP process for medical travel and air ambulance service contracts to require that the companies with whom the government signs contracts hold a valid air operator certificate. Does the

Minister of CGS support this change, yes or no? Thank you.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On the issue of the contracts he's questioning, air ambulance service is a very specialized field.

When the government and the Department of Health and Social Services were determining the specifications required, the terms of reference and criteria for this contract was done by the Department of Health and Social Services. My colleague was the Minister of Health and Social Services at the time that the requirements and specifications were drawn up for this contract in particular. That would have been a good opportunity to decide the specifics and details of what kind of contract you would want.

Mr. Speaker, our government is always in support of contracts being let to Nunavummiut. This is no exception. Mr. Speaker, our government supports Inuit owned companies to join other companies in order to be able to take contracts that are put out by the Government of Nunavut.

In terms of this contract, it followed the rules, procedures, and criteria specified and there were four people from the Department of Health and Social Services who let this contract, of which my colleague was the minister of, that decided on this contract. Everything was followed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For the record, Mr. Speaker, I think the facts can speak for themselves, and I appreciate the minister and the department's position on the issue of compliance with respect to the certification requirement.

My supplementary question No. 2, Mr. Speaker, is: when does the government's current contract with Aqsaqniq Airways expire? Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister of Community and Government Services, Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe it is five years. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are some questions with respect to the compliance, whether or not the airline has defaulted on some of its obligations.

My last question, Mr. Speaker, is: on what grounds can the government terminate the current contract for air ambulance services in the Kitikmeot region? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister of Community and Government Services, Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If there is breach of the contract, I'm sure there are procedures in

there on how the contract could be terminated, but I don't have the exact details and all the parameters on that in front of me, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Question 281 – 3(3): Igloolik School Closures Due to Extreme Cold

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

Mr. Speaker, on the news today, we were informed that both schools in Igloolik were closed due to extreme cold temperatures outside, not in the buildings. This winter, there have been quite a number of days whereby schools were closed down due to cold temperatures.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister apprise this House of whether there is an existing policy pertaining to school closures and what the parameters are for determining school closures? Mr. Speaker, I would first like to understand what this policy is. Thank you.

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

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleague for his question. The local DEAs are involved whenever different circumstances arise, whether it is extremely cold temperatures or a blizzard. The principal, along with the DEA, discusses the matter and then

makes the determination to either close the school or not.

Furthermore, the other aspect they have to take into consideration is whether the buses can operate or if they have been shut down due to the temperature or when a community has taxis, if the taxis have been taken off the road. There are different factors in each community affecting closures, but they consider transportation as well.

In particular, the local DEAs, along with the principal, debate on whether or not to close their local schools. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Minister of Education for that response. I want further clarification on that policy. Whenever the temperature drops or if a strong blizzard occurs... . In the case of a strong blizzard, that is not the problem when transportation services are not available, such as water, sewer, or dump trucks cannot run. However, when the sole reason for closure is just extreme cold temperatures, I wonder if the communities have a clear and concise policy that they can refer to.

Whenever a school is closed down, you see most of the kids either running around or playing outside. Thusly, even though the closure of the school is because of weather-related concerns, the kids, who are supposed to be the ones protected, run outside to play whenever a school is closed due to extremely cold temperatures. This is teaching our

children to become fearful of cold temperatures.

With this in mind, Mr. Speaker, I don't believe that when the officials want to close the school, the DEA should quickly meet to make a determination to close the schools down. I don't think that is the case, Mr. Speaker. When the decision to close the schools due to extreme cold temperatures is made, is this careful consideration of the needs of the students or is it because they feel merciful towards the teachers? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

An Hon. Member: Hear, hear!

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

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The students are the ones we are trying to be merciful towards. With respect to that, we have a written policy that states that once the temperature dips past minus 50 degrees Celsius, this can be a factor used to close the schools. One person cannot dictate the closure of the schools and that is why the principal has to debate the closure with the DEA.

As per my previous comment, all decisions to close schools are reviewed. They also check to see if transportation services have been taken off the road, particularly in this day and age, where houses are quite far apart and sometimes more students need to be bused than those who walk to school. If they were to suffer frostbite on their long walk to school, the school would be at fault or someone would blame the school.

So these types of factors related to the safety of the students are the main reason for why policies are drafted for school closures. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Madam Minister Aariak. Your second supplementary, Mr. Tapardjuk.

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister as I now better understand the reason and that a temperature of minus 50 degrees is the lynchpin for school closures. That makes me wonder who pulled this number out of a hat. Indeed, I find this nonsensical. What kind of criteria was used to determine that the temperature of minus 50 degrees is when they will close the school? I don't understand the reasoning for this policy. How did they determine this number of minus 50 degrees?

As a child, I used to suffer frostbite all over simply because I was playing outside in the cold weather and I'm still functional. My parents were not at fault; it was my fault for not going inside. Due to this reason, Mr. Speaker, can the minister please inform me how the temperature of minus 50 degrees was chosen as the point when schools could be closed? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The reasons for the closure of schools is not a "Let's just close the schools" type of foundation as there are different reasons that come into play. It may include the wind speed. Let

me read some of the factors that are used: if the temperature is extreme or if the blizzard is causing poor visibility, if the roads are closed, or if the temperature with the wind chill factor goes below minus 50 degrees.

As to the member's question about how the minus 50 degrees was arrived at, this policy was enacted prior to my stepping into this portfolio and I don't have the reasoning behind the decision to add it into the policy. I imagine there would have been very good arguments as to why this temperature was chosen to be included in the policy. Once I have done some research and have found the reasons for this number, I will get back to the member and inform him of how it was arrived at. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Madam Minister Aariak. Your final supplementary, Mr. Tapardjuk.

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Many parents speak about their concerns, especially when the temperature dips down that low, as they fear for their children. I imagine this applies to the teachers as well. Some parents are not at all concerned about the temperature as they will call and ask, "Why is the school closed today when it is such a clear, cold day?" Even though, in their eyes, it doesn't seem to pose a problem.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister, while she is researching this issue, clearly indicate whether or not this can be revisited when a school has to be closed, especially in cases where the reasoning is simply due to cold temperatures? I know for a fact that when buses and other modes of transportation are closed and when

students live on the far side of town, those are good reasons.

However, it was just in the recent past that Igloolik received its bus prior to it growing larger as a community. The people didn't complain about the distance to the schools. As a matter of fact, according to the traditional ways, this was a means of toughening up a child for when they would become hunters and this was a way of preparing them for the future.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister provide more direction as to whether the current policy, as it stands, will be reviewed by Department of Education officials to ensure that school closures are not trivial in the eyes of the community? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the member for raising that issue. The district education authorities are the sole determiners of this decision for their local schools. We can try to revisit that with the DEAs as to what their wishes are in this matter and whether to proceed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 282 – 3(3): Climate Change

Mr. Ningark: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my questions to the Minister of Environment, the Hon. James Arreak.

As I noted in my Member's Statement yesterday, the impact of climate change and global warming is a concern to many of my constituents and it should be to all of us, Mr. Speaker.

One of the ongoing priorities of the Department of Environment is to "Develop a Nunavut Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan." Mr. Speaker, can the hon. minister update us today on when he expects this action plan will be completed and tabled in the Legislative Assembly? 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. The member's question is regarding an issue that I have yet to be briefed on, but (interpretation ends) I'll take the question as notice. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Arreak. The question has been taken as notice. We will move on in Oral Questions. Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Rumbolt.

Question 283 – 3(3): Filling of GLO Positions

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister responsible for Intergovernmental Affairs, Madam Premier.

In the Minister's Statement earlier today, she mentioned that eight GLO positions were filled and five more positions would be filled in the short term. Can the minister update us today which five communities she is referring to and

when the positions will be filled? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for the question. Our priority in trying to fill the GLO positions has been the non-decentralized communities. Let me start from the beginning of the initiative to provide some history.

The regional supervisor position in Pond Inlet was filled with an employee handling the duties. We have now hired approximately nine GLO employees in these communities: Arctic Bay, Hall Beach, Chesterfield Inlet, Coral Harbour, Kugaaruk, Repulse Bay, Taloyoak, and Sanikiluaq.

In Sanikiluaq, the successful candidate has been identified, but to date, we're conducting criminal records checks and we haven't received the results yet from the RCMP. We have the same situation existing in Qikiqtarjuaq, although they have identified the candidate to hire for the position. We're just waiting for the results from the criminal records check at this time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Premier for her response. The Premier mentioned that the criminal records checks were one of the stumbling blocks. Criminal records checks have been required for many government positions for many years

and it never seemed to be a stumbling block in the past. Why is it that criminal records checks are taking longer to obtain today than they were in the past? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, Madam Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't have the corporate history on why this process has slowed, but it has had an impact on our government and the criminal records checks have also affected our operations. Not just for GLO positions, but they are required for teachers since they work with children, including other positions within our government that require criminal records checks from the RCMP.

Sometimes it becomes fairly lengthy when several criminal records checks are delayed and the position remains open. I have also enquired as to why this is so. I was informed that in the south, there is a backlog because so many records checks have to be done. We have been continually working on that and I have discussed this issue with my officials on the best possible ways to deal with it because these important positions remaining vacant definitely has an impact on us. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Premier. Your second supplementary, Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When these five GLO positions come online, that will give us a total of 13 GLOs in place in our communities. When does the government expect to

have all GLO positions filled? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, Madam Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the member for his question. I would like to elaborate further on the communities that I didn't mention.

Arviat has received the information and they are now screening the applicants. In Baker Lake, the hamlet council hasn't identified whether they want to have a GLO or MLO. In Cape Dorset, they just closed the employment opportunity and Clyde River hasn't identified whether or not they want to have a GLO. Also, in Gjoa Haven, they have applicants and they are now screening. For Grise Fiord and Igloolik, the position has closed this month and now they are looking at the applicants. In Kimmirut, the screening is completed. For Kugluktuk, the hamlet council has not identified if they want to have a GLO or not. Pangnirtung and Resolute Bay are now screening applicants. For Whale Cove, they have selected an individual to fill the position and they are now in the staffing process.

That is the update I have in front of me. I will try and keep the members informed as we fill those positions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 284 – 3(3): Programs for Adult Learners

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Education.

Mr. Speaker, as indicated in my Member's Statement, I would like to encourage the Government of Nunavut to ensure that Nunavut's adult learners do not fall through the cracks when it comes to access to programs and services.

Can the minister clearly describe how her department identifies adult learners and determines their eligibility for programs and services? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. High school students in grade 12 are not categorized as adults. If the member would like to compare it to those who are no longer in school, I will have to confirm that, although I believe it is 18. When people have left school and attained a grade 12 diploma, they are then eligible for courses that are offered in the adult learning categories. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the minister and her colleagues will be aware, programs and services for adult learners are designed and delivered by different entities, including the

Department of Education and Nunavut Arctic College. Can the minister update this House on what mechanisms are in place to ensure that program design and program delivery for adults progress in a coordinated and timely manner? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the member for his question. We have been working continually with Nunavut Arctic College, the CLCs, and the committee that works with these issues. I'll speak in English.

(interpretation ends) In collaboration with aboriginal skills and employment training and aboriginal human resource development agreement groups and Human Resources and Skills Development Canada, the department is involved in the Nunavut Integrated Labour Force Planning Committee, which includes representatives from the asset holders and HRDC, as well as other partners. This committee was established to develop greater partnership amongst organizations funded to provide adult training in Nunavut. This new collaboration will strive to ensure that Nunavummiut who may face barriers to employment or career development will have opportunities to receive support when participating in approved training.

As well, the department continues to offer to the asset holders in the form of operational training and client case management in the area of career

development. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Department of Education is involved in the development of a new adult mature graduation diploma. Will this program be delivered through online distance education, through community learning centres, or both? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This matter related to the (interpretation ends) mature high school graduation diploma (interpretation) is actually the (interpretation ends) Nunavut Adult High School Diploma.

The department is currently working towards staffing a position dedicated to the mature high school graduation, and I'm providing this for background information for the member, which has been renamed to the Nunavut Adult High School Diploma. The position that is dedicated to this project was approved last summer and as part of the creation of the Career Development Services Division following recommendations outlined in the Nunavut Adult Learning Strategy.

Again, Nunavut Arctic College is working closely with the Department of Education and other stakeholders to develop options for review in the spring of this year. In terms of the actual

method of adult learning, I will have to get back to the member whether online learning opportunities will indeed be part of the learning program. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the minister make a strong commitment to working with her counterpart, the Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College, to ensure that all adult learners who are trying to improve their education and career prospects have the necessary support in place and will not be hampered by a lack of coordination between her department and Nunavut Arctic College? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Absolutely, as this is an extremely important matter. A committee has already been struck to look at these issues and is collaborating on dealing with matters related to the adult learning positions and plans for filling. Yes, the officials from Nunavut Arctic College and the Department of Education are indeed collaborating as this is a matter of high importance. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Madam Minister. Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit West, Ms. Ell.

Question 285 – 3(3): Status of Collective Bargaining

Ms. Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) My question is to the Minister of Human Resources.

As you all know, last week, members of the Nunavut Employees Union held a demonstration outside of this building to express their concerns regarding the current round of collective bargaining with the government. According to information from the union, mediation between the union and the government has now reached an impasse. Can the minister advise the House if we will be in a strike or lock-out situation in the near future? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Ms. Ell. Minister responsible for Human Resources, Minister Schell.

Hon. Fred Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Ms. Ell for that question. We are still in mediation, even though the mediation has stopped, and until we get the mediator's report, there's still mediation going on and I can't comment on any other details on it at this moment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Schell. Your second... first supplementary, Ms. Ell.

Ms. Ell (interpretation): I think our Speaker has forgotten to count. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The union has released publicly their position, both in digital and printed formats, that it has proposed a three-year contract... I'll read it in English. (interpretation ends) The union has publicly stated that it has proposed a three-year settlement of 3.25 percent per year. The union has also publicly stated that the government is

offering 1 percent, 1 percent, 2 percent, and 2.75 percent over four years. Can the minister confirm if these numbers are accurate? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Ms. Ell. Minister responsible for Human Resources, Minister Schell.

Hon. Fred Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. These are figures from the union, not from the government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Schell. This time it is your second supplementary, Ms. Ell.

>>*Laughter*

Ms. Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I believe that we all support a collective agreement that is both fair to our hard-working frontline employees and affordable to taxpayers and the government. Can the minister give us an estimate of what the total cost to the government would be under the two different proposals that I just described? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Ms. Ell. Minister responsible for Human Resources, Minister Schell.

Hon. Fred Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. No, I cannot comment on that at the present time. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Schell. Your final supplementary, Ms. Ell.

Ms. Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister. (interpretation ends) The union has also

publicly stated that the government's offer proposes to freeze Nunavut Northern Allowance rates at their 2010 levels. Can the minister explain the government's position on this issue? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Ms. Ell. Minister of Human Resources, Minister Schell.

Hon. Fred Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. No, I can't comment on it because it's still in negotiations. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Schell. Oral Questions. Member for Pangnirtung, Mr. Oshutapik.

Question 286 – 3(3): Contract for Optometrist Services in Pangnirtung

Mr. Oshutapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, my fellow residents of Pangnirtung. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Health and Social Services. My question today is related to my previous question from last week.

I wanted to ask whether or not the services that optometrists provide are governed by contracts. That is my question and the minister can reply if he has that information. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Oshutapik for the question. Yes, Mr. Speaker, I believe it's

a specialist service and they are contracted out.

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

Mr. Oshutapik (interpretation): I thank the minister for his response. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The reasoning behind this question relates to Inuit in the communities. Most of us know people who need to wear glasses to correct their vision and I am one of them. I also need bifocal lenses and I sometimes even need to wear reading glasses.

In my community, the optometrists only seem to come in once a year, although the majority of the population requires corrective lenses. By the time they arrive, the appointments are already fully booked. Some of the residents find out belatedly and a backlog of people then queues up. Some residents miss out and it can lead to a longer wait in between eye checkups. Several people have surpassed the two-year checkup requirement and their glasses are no longer correcting their vision, but because our prescription has not been updated, we just get the old prescription.

It would be even more beneficial if this service is indeed governed by a contract to encourage their contractors to remain in the community until they complete their appointments or, alternatively, to ensure that there is advance notice of their pending arrival into the community. Can the minister look into this matter and task his officials to check on this? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Oshutapik for the question. Mr. Speaker, it seems like a common sense question. I'll ask my officials to follow up on it and talk to the contractors. I think the contractor does the testing and then there are contractors who provide the glasses, but we will look into it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Oshutapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When you have limited access, you can really see the need as this provides benefits to the way we lead our lives because people need their vision to lead their lives productively. Additionally, it is especially more important in the springtime, when we need to wear our glasses while we're out on the land as we enjoy the scenery, at least some of us are out there.

I thank the minister for his response. I would like to ask the minister if he has a timeline as to when we can see an enhancement in the services provided and I am asking on behalf of my constituents. When can we expect to see changes in this service or in the number of visits to the community? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Oshutapik again for his question. I appreciate his concern for his constituents. Yes, of course, eyesight is very important to all of us, not only when you're on the land but also when children are in school and when we're in our workplaces and driving. I can't give a timeline, but my officials are probably watching us as we debate and they will look into it. I can give him some information at a future date that he can share with his constituents. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 287 – 3(3): Definition of Tamapta and Self-reliance

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to our Hon. Premier (interpretation ends) of this government. (interpretation) How do you define *Tamapta* and self-reliance as a government and as our Premier? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That's a very good question. *Tamapta*, to me, means collaborating towards our eventual self-reliance.

We started calling the mission statement *Tamapta* when we had a retreat in Cape Dorset to identify our objectives and missions. We named our goals as

Tamapta and tried to have a good definition because it means that we cannot work alone as a government. All of us have to work together. *Tamapta* means working together, including the Inuit organizations and the federal government. It is important to work together and that's why we re-titled it *Tamapta*. We are all trying to work together. It really means that collaboration is the most important aspect when we're trying to achieve or strive for our objectives that we need.

Also, on the self-reliance issue, to practice self-reliance, whether it is through communities, within Nunavut, and I can cite this example. If we talk about economic development, it can mean different things to different people. The different types of economic development, whether it is non-renewable, such as mining, or renewable as in the land's resources that can be utilized commercially, all of these activities develop capacity, both as individuals and as a government, so that our government can conduct its operations without so much federal assistance. We have to strengthen our capabilities so that we become more self-reliant as a territory here in Nunavut. That is why, in this field, the meaning is different to various sectors.

We talk about our capabilities, and I tend to speak about our forefathers, who survived in this harsh land without the aid of any government and they were completely self-sufficient and self-reliant. This capability is still inherent in Inuit and is held close to our hearts and in our lives. However, we have no choice but to live in our current modern lifestyles, but we can still utilize that capability. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the Premier for her explanation for completing my comprehension of this matter. Self-reliance is important, whether we are practising it in our lives, community, and government here in Nunavut, and further our communities, whether they are smaller or larger.

Communities have been recognized as separate local governments. This recognition of their authority in light of *Tamapta* and the issue of self-reliance, including self-governance, should be utilized to allow the smaller communities to empower their community health committees via their hamlets. In this case, an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.

If communities are healthier, then they become more self-reliant. Furthermore, if we look at it when people are healthier, they are able to look for employment and they are able to go hunting more often to obtain their sustenance from the land. I believe that this government could provide more authority to the communities in light of our *Tamapta* Mandate and the meaning of self-reliance.

The local community health committees would be better utilized and could provide a much better service with more authority. Does the Premier agree with this concept? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleague for raising that issue and in speaking of the matter of self-reliance. This is indeed part of the work towards self-reliance, especially within our communities. These committees, when struck, can determine their priorities and they can brainstorm as to further capabilities that they can look at to meet their challenges, especially in trying to look at dealing with their local issues.

To use this example, the policy exists within EIA that is specific towards enhancing self-reliance and perhaps to state the term in English for everyone's benefit and our interpreters, it is community empowerment. Since a policy already exists for this issue, they can also use this to research ways to enhance their authority. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank our (interpretation ends) Hon. Premier. (interpretation) Since she spoke of community empowerment, which was what I was going to speak to next, I understand it better.

If we utilized this community empowerment policy, then we can provide more authority to the community health committees to deal with health issues since it can be very difficult to ask health-related questions in this legislature and to get specific answers, especially since we want to assist our constituents who have to go on

medical travel or who have experienced difficulties with health services.

At this time, Mr. Speaker, it is very difficult to properly deal with health issues as the regional health boards are no longer part of our health system. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, Madam Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The local committees have the ability to deliberate on their priorities, what services they can provide, and what they wish to accomplish in their community. They can also request assistance from the Department of Health and Social Services to look at what they can do in order to be able to provide more services or to be a liaison body. What I can state is that the committee members have to carefully deliberate on how to meet their challenges and try to negotiate changes with Department of Health and Social Services officials. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Final supplementary, Mr. Speaker, (interpretation) the minister stated that it would have to be negotiated between the local government and the Department of Health and Social Services. At this time, can the Premier state that her office and the Department of Health and Social Services, especially in the case of Repulse Bay and Kugaaruk and perhaps

the other communities, can commence negotiations? Let the government initiate this and start this process to empower the communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The communities have the right to ask questions about areas that they would like to empower. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 288 – 3(3): Role of GLO in Applying for Firearms Licence

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs and are regarding the Minister's Statement that she read earlier today. My questions are specifically around the responsibility of the GLO.

In her Minister's Statement, she said, "This conference allowed our GLOs to meet with GN staff to learn more about our government. They also spent time with Service Canada learning how to assist with many of the federal programs that all Canadians are entitled to."

Recently, I think we are all happy with the decision of the federal government in regard to the long gun registry, but recently I've had a number of individuals come to me and constituents

asking about renewing their firearms acquisition certificate. In going to speak to the MLO and GLO, they were not sure whose responsibility it was. If their FAC runs out, they are not even eligible to purchase bullets because they are required to have the FAC to purchase them.

Is it the responsibility of the GLO to help in assisting to fill out the application form for a firearms acquisition certificate? 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 thank the member for his question. Yes, there are all kinds of services that the GLO and MLO can provide to our residents. One of the requirements is that the GLOs have to be bilingual, in Inuktitut and English, in order to better assist the residents of their communities, such as translating a document that may only be in English. They have to be able to provide assistance. Let's say that a hunter cannot be assisted by the HTO. The GLOs can assist with any forms that they need to fill out or translating printed materials for clients. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. One of the huge stumbling blocks is the requirement to have a photograph. I think this translates over both into the FAC, or the firearms acquisition

certificate, and getting a passport. I'm just wondering: is this a responsibility of the government liaison officer? Will they have the cameras to be able to take the photographs? 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'm not really sure whether they're going to be able to take photographs. It doesn't state that in their job description and I'm not sure whether they will be taking pictures for such things as licences, FACs, and whatnot. However, we want to hear from the communities as to what kinds of equipment they require to fulfill the duties that some of the GLOs have to do and we are open to any recommendations to improve the identification process requiring photographs.

GLOs give out information from the community to the government and give services to the public. We would like to hear all the services they would like to help with as much as they want to do. We want them to give better services to the people of the communities. We would like to be able to have them give us information about what's happening in the communities as well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the past, it was the MLOs, or the municipal liaison officers, who had the

cameras. I remember announcements being made and cameras being sent to municipal liaison officers to allow them to take photographs for passports, driver's licences, and the firearms acquisition certificate.

There was a lot of discussion and debate over the last two years in not duplicating programs and having the MLO's responsibility and the GLO's responsibility determined as to who is responsible for what. Is it the MLO's responsibility to take the photographs? 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. With respect to MLOs and GLOs, I currently don't have a copy of their job descriptions, but I can get back to the member with further information as to who exactly provides photography services in the communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Madam Premier. Do you have another supplementary question, Mr. Elliott? No? Okay. The clock has indicated the expiration of the time allotted for oral questions. We will move on in our orders of the day. Item 7. Written Questions. Mr. Elliott.

Item 7: Written Questions

Written Question 014 – 3(3): Suicide Prevention Activities

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The issue of suicide continues to plague our communities and territory. It is

important that we continue to find ways to address this issue, from voicing our views to accessing training in prevention activities. We must all work towards embracing life.

My written question relates to suicide prevention activities conducted by the Department of Education. The questions are very detailed, so I ask that they be entered into the record as read.

Preamble:

On October 21, 2010, the Coalition of Nunavut DEAs passed Resolution A10-21-07: Suicide Alertness and Intervention Training. The resolution stated:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Nunavut Coalition of DEAs urges the Department of Education as a matter of the highest priority to make suicide alertness and intervention training available to all staff in Nunavut schools who wish to take it, as soon as possible and on an ongoing basis.

1. As of February 29, 2012, what actions have been taken by the Department of Education to follow up on the Coalition of Nunavut DEAs' Resolution A10-21-07?
2. As of February 29, 2012, how many Nunavut teachers and support staff have been trained in suicide alertness and intervention training?
3. As of February 29, 2012, broken down by grade, school, and community, how many suicide alertness and intervention training programs have been delivered in Nunavut?

4. As of February 29, 2012, how many Nunavut teachers and support staff have been trained as trainers in suicide alertness and intervention training?
5. As of February 29, 2012, how many Nunavut students have been trained in suicide alertness and intervention training?
6. As of February 29, 2012, what steps has the Department of Education taken to establish a business case and budget for the development of a plan of delivery to act on the Coalition of Nunavut DEAs' Resolution A10-21-07?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. The member is requesting that his written question be entered into the record as read. Do members agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Speaker: It shall be so that the written question is entered into the record as read.

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. Mr. Enook.

Item 14: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 157 – 3(3): Letters from Pond Inlet Youth on the Issue of Suicide

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say “good afternoon” to the people of Pond Inlet and my fellow Nunavummiut. Mr. Speaker, I wish to table a series of letters from the grade 11 class of the Nasivvik High School in Pond Inlet.

Mr. Speaker, these youth feel passionately about the issue of suicide, how it affects them, and how they feel it could be addressed. As an MLA, I speak on behalf of my constituents, but sometimes it is even more important to let the voices of my constituents be heard directly in their own words.

These letters describe what these young people know and feel about suicide. It is an issue that affects us all. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Enook. Item 14. Tabling of Documents. Minister of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth, Minister Arreak.

Tabled Document 158 – 3(3): 2010-2011 Annual Report of the Nunavut Public Library Services

Hon. James Arreak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table the Nunavut Public Library Services Annual Report for 2010-11. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Arreak. Item 14. Tabling of Documents. Mr. Curley.

**Tabled Document 159 – 3(3):
Exchange of Emails Concerning
RFP Process for Medical Travel**

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table today a copy of an exchange of emails between senior officials of the Department of Health and Social Services and the Department of Community and Government Services concerning the contracting process for medical travel. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Curley. Item 14. Tabling of Documents. Item 15. Notices of Motions. Item 16. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 17. Motions. Item 18. First Reading of Bills. Minister of Finance, Minister Peterson.

Item 18: First Reading of Bills

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet South and Whale Cove, that Bill 25, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 6, 2010-2011*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Peterson. The motion is in order. All those in favour. Any opposed? The motion is carried and Bill 25 has had first reading.

Item 18. First Reading of Bills. Minister of Finance, Minister Peterson.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet South and Whale Cove, that Bill 26, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 3, 2011-2012*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Peterson. The motion is in order. All those in favour. Any opposed? The motion is carried and Bill 26 has had first reading.

Item 18. First Reading of Bills. Minister of Finance, Minister Peterson.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet South and Whale Cove, that Bill 27, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 1, 2012-2013*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Peterson. The motion is in order. All those in favour. Any opposed? The motion is carried.

Item 18. First Reading of Bills. Minister of Finance, Minister Peterson.

Bill 28 – Write-off of Assets Act, 2011-2012 – First Reading

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet South and Whale Cove, that Bill 28, *Write-off of Assets Act, 2011-2012*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Peterson. The motion is in order. All those in favour. Any opposed? The motion is carried.

Item 18. First Reading of Bills. Minister Peterson, Minister of Finance.

Bill 29 – Write-off of Assets Act, No. 1, 2010-2011 – First Reading

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet South and Whale Cove, that Bill 29, *Write-off of Assets Act, No. 1, 2010-2011*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Peterson. The motion is in order. All those in favour. Any opposed? The motion is carried.

Item 18. First Reading of Bills. Minister of Community and Government Services, Minister Kusugak.

Bill 30 – Building Code Act – First Reading

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet South and...

>>Laughter

...seconded by the Hon. Member for Cambridge Bay, that Bill 30, *Building Code Act*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Kusugak. The motion is in order. All those in favour. Any opposed? The motion is carried and Bill 30 has had first reading.

Item 18. First Reading of Bills. Minister of Community and Government Services, Minister Kusugak.

Bill 31 – An Act to Amend the Consumer Protection Act – First Reading

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Cambridge Bay, 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. The motion is in order. All those in favour. Any opposed? The motion is carried.

Item 18. First Reading of Bills. Minister of Justice, Minister Shewchuk.

Bill 32 – An Act to Amend the Legal Services Act – First Reading

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet South and Whale Cove, that Bill 32, *An Act to Amend the Legal Services Act*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Shewchuk. The motion is in order. All

those in favour. Any opposed? The motion is carried and Bill 32 has been read for the first time.

Item 18. First Reading of Bills. Minister of Justice, Minister Shewchuk.

Bill 33 – An Act to Amend the Labour Standards Act – First Reading

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet South and Whale Cove, 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. The motion is in order. All those in favour. Any opposed? The motion is carried and Bill 33 has been read for the first time.

Item 18. First Reading of Bills. Item 19. Second Reading of Bills. Minister of Finance, Minister Peterson.

Item 19: Second Reading of Bills

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet South and Whale Cove, that Bill 25, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 6, 2010-2011*, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill makes supplementary appropriations to defray the operations and maintenance expenses

of the Government of Nunavut for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2011. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Peterson. The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill. Question has been called. All those in favour. Any opposed? The motion is carried and Bill 25 is referred to the Committee of the Whole.

Item 19. Second Reading of Bills. Minister of Finance, Minister Peterson.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet South and Whale Cove, that Bill 26, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 3, 2011-2012*, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill makes supplementary appropriations to defray the operations and maintenance expenses of the Government of Nunavut for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2012. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Peterson. The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill. Question has been called. All those in favour. Any opposed? The motion is carried and Bill 26 is referred to the Committee of the Whole.

Item 19. Second Reading of Bills. Minister of Finance, Minister Peterson.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet South and Whale Cove, that Bill 27, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 1, 2012-2013*, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill makes supplementary appropriations to defray the capital expenditures of the Government of Nunavut for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2013. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Peterson. The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill. Question has been called. All those in favour. Any opposed? There are none. The motion is carried and Bill 27 is referred to the Committee of the Whole.

Item 19. Second Reading of Bills. Mr. Peterson.

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

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

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's always a great pleasure, as I've said many times in the past, to

welcome people from the Kitikmeot to Iqaluit. It's not very often that they get over because of great travel and expenses to get here.

I would like to welcome to the Gallery today a friend of mine and a constituent for a long time, Ms. Cathy Aitoak. It's also a special day today being February 29, a leap year, so this day only comes around every four years. Cathy is sitting right over here. Welcome to the Gallery, Cathy.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Welcome to the Gallery, Cathy. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Moving on in our orders of the day. Item 20. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bills 21, 24, 25, 26, 27, and 34 with Mr. Ningeongan in the Chair.

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

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>> *House recessed at 15:29 and
Committee resumed at 15:56*

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

Chairman (Mr. Ningeongan) (interpretation): Thank you. I would now like to call the committee meeting to order. In Committee of the Whole, we have the following items to deal with: Bills 21, 24, and 34. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We wish to continue with the review of Bill 24 and the Department of Health and Social Services. If time permits, we will proceed with the review of the Department of Community and Government Services, followed by the Department of Economic Development and Transportation. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. Are we in agreement?

Some Members: Agreed.

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

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Mr. Chairman, yes, I do. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the Minister of Health and his witnesses in.

Thank you. Minister Peterson, please introduce your witnesses.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Mr. Chairman, to my right is Peter Ma, Deputy Minister of the Department of Health, and to my left is Debora Voth, Executive Director of Corporate Services for the Department of Health. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson. I welcome you and your officials. My colleagues, as you

may recall, we were done with page H-6. We are on page H-7. (interpretation ends) Branch Summary. Health and Social Services. Treatment. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$176,298,000. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good afternoon. I have a question on this page on two separate matters. In particular, Mr. Chairman, I want to start with medical patient travel, including medical escort requirements. Can I immediately start off, Mr. Chairman?

Mr. Chairman, as a preamble to my question and to provide some guidance to my question, the Department of Health and Social Services' policy for medical travel states the basis. They are in English, so I will try to translate them into Inuktitut. It states that the first principle of the department is "The Department is committed to the Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit concepts of Pijitsirniq - to serve, and Inuuqatigiitsiarniq - respect for others." The seventh principle states that "Inuit societal values will be recognized and respected." This is written in their departmental policies and that these principles will form their foundation.

Mr. Chairman, I want to ask a question so that Nunavummiut, especially the average person on the street, will be able to have the same understanding with respect to this issue. Whenever an initiative comes out, each region seems to have a different methodology, even though the legislation speaks to the way it should be implemented.

Mr. Chairman, firstly, I would like to get further clarification regarding the

implementation of this policy. When a person has to attend to medical treatment outside of their community, who decides? If I were to go to the health centre and require travel outside, who makes the determination that I may require an escort? Mr. Chairman, that is my first question. Thank you.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Enook for the question. Mr. Chairman, the nurse-in-charge would recommend whether a person needs an escort or not. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm trying to ask questions in relation to page H-7 as well as page 139 in business plan, and this is just for your information. These sections speak to patients who can qualify for an escort when undertaking medical travel. I will relate the experiences of people and perhaps I can get a response as to why that situation has occurred in the past or why the policy hasn't been implemented fully.

Let me first speak to this issue, which doesn't seem to be included in this policy. The sections I referred to are the principles of Pijitsirniq and Inuuqatigiitsiarniq, which speak to Inuit societal values and to recognize and respect these beliefs, (interpretation ends) "recognized and respected." (interpretation) That is how it is written in English.

Some situations we have looked at infer that there are different policies at play whenever a person goes to the health centre. Mr. Chairman, in order to be completely clear, I have to give some background information. A patient who goes to the health centre with no apparent physical illness compared to a person with visible physical ailments generally will not be provided an escort.

It seems only the visibly sick patients are receiving escorts. For example, if they are infirm, they require assistance. This situation that has been relayed to me on more than one occasion and it involves people who don't have visible symptoms of sickness. The circumstances usually involve people suffering from cancer, sometimes terminal, but they are generally not provided any escorts when they go on medical travel.

We have even been apprised of situations whereby the doctor looking after the patient has expressed shock that the patient is not even provided an escort while attending to medical treatment. Since the person doesn't have any visible symptoms of sickness, the system will treat them like a healthy person since the sickness is not apparent. This can be mentally distressing and it's probably one of the biggest originators of mental anguish experienced by our people, especially if we personally were to experience cancer as a treatment.

Cancer patients tend to travel a lot more, attending to treatment and doctor's appointments. This is all while the person has no idea of their medical situation or whether their sickness is progressing as they are not bilingual. From what I have been told, this causes people great mental distress and anguish

when they are in that situation. Can the department take this into consideration?

To cite this example, this has already occurred recently and I regret that this individual had to experience it firsthand. This person related his experience to me personally, so this is not just theoretical as it has actually happened to an individual. It caused mental angst and anguish to this person as they had no idea what the doctor would say. All of a sudden, they hear the distressing news. This person wasn't allowed an escort at all.

Can we provide this legislation with some compassion? It seems that this legislation is heartless. I wonder whether or not this government can include some leeway for compassionate reasons within this policy. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you again, Mr. Enook, for the question. I appreciate his concern for his constituents and I am somewhat familiar with the situation that he has described. Mr. Chairman, the policy is developed to provide the department with guidelines to cover a program. It doesn't recognize special situations, I guess would be the best I could describe it, but the policy is under review and that is an area where, I think, we are looking to address. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister. I want everyone to note that I'm fully

aware of the fact that our government continually surpasses their budget for the Department of Health and Social Services. I'm not in the dark on this issue, but I'm totally cognizant of that fact. I'm also of the firm belief that you cannot place a monetary value on a person's health nor can you replace a person with that type of valuation. I believe that an individual has the right to receive medical treatment without worrying about the expenses or the monetary value as a person is more valuable and we should place a high priority of valuing our people's lives.

This policy seems appropriate on the surface. I believe these factors have to be noted whenever this situation is run across. I would like clarification on this issue. Based on the written sections here, how does a person requiring medical travel get an escort? It states here that any patient requiring medical travel over the age of 60 and a unilingual person who is unable to converse in English requires an escort for any medical travel. That is how I understand this clause. However, this requirement can be sidestepped if the medical patients themselves state that they're able to travel alone for medical travel. With that being the case, what response can I expect if I ask about it?

I just recently found out about two constituents who were travelling south for medical reasons with the exact same sickness, requiring the same diagnosis and treatment. Both individuals were over the age of 60, as I know them personally, and neither of them is able to converse in English. One patient was allocated an escort for their travel while the other patient didn't qualify for an escort. Just so everyone can be on the

same page in terms of understanding, I would like to get a clear response on this matter, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Enook for the question. Not knowing the specific circumstances, it would be very difficult for me to clarify, but I do know the policy specifically states that if you are unilingual and you are over the age of 60, you are entitled to an escort, unless you decline the escort. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm well aware that these issues will be reviewed and I have expectations that an enhanced policy will surface some time in the future that meets our needs. However, I still have some questions to the policy currently in use.

Another matter that I really want to question is this scenario that occurs from time to time. When a patient has been sent south for medical treatment, sometimes there are no spots available. In particular, to continue for the Baffin region, we go to Ottawa; in the Kivalliq, most patients go to Winnipeg, and so on. Some situations crop up where a patient's doctor, in addressing their patient, will recommend that the patient would be better served if another family member were to come down to assist the patient. This can occur if the patient is too sickly or the escort requires further assistance to provide care for their

patient. The doctor then writes his recommendation or passes along his professional view that the patient would be best served with another escort.

I believe that a section is written in here that the deputy minister can deny a request for another escort, even if a doctor requests the second escort. When a doctor requests a second escort to provide assistance to the first escort attending to the patient or as a replacement escort, can the deputy minister deny this request? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Enook for asking for clarification. Since the deputy minister is here, I'll ask the deputy minister if he can clarify what authority he has. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Ma: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In considering second escort situations, I look at each situation on its own merits because every circumstance is different. Some of the things I consider are the actual medical circumstances. The member indicated that there are doctor's notes or recommendations from the doctors, so that's all taken into consideration. We look at whether or not that service is provided through the facility that we're using. So in this case, he mentioned Ottawa. So if the Ottawa General Hospital has that service, they can perhaps provide it. Sometimes those services are available through the

boarding home, through Larga. So I try to take all those into consideration.

To answer his question very briefly, yes, I do have the ability to deny the escort. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ma. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That response totally confuses my understanding of the matter.

I thought I knew about these boarding homes, that they were nothing more than boarding homes for patients, a place for accommodation and meals, as well as a transportation hub for patients to attend to medical appointments. Even though I was part of the management team for the Ottawa boarding home for over ten years, I was never made aware that the administrator of the boarding homes had that authority. This is the first time I have ever heard about this fact. I never imagined that they were part of the decision-making team for these types of decisions.

Mr. Chairman, I still have many questions to ask, but I'm aware of the time as I keep glancing at my time allotment. I would like some direction, Mr. Chairman, as to what your decision is regarding my time. Should I wait until the other members have completed their questions and you can then return to me? I would like to have another chance to ask questions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Enook. I think you asked a question to the minister, so I will ask for a reply

to your question. I have other names on my list and after they're done, I'll be able to get back to you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Enook for the question. To clarify, I think, initially in his question, he was asking about doctors requesting a second escort for a family member. Perhaps, in the translation, it sounded like it's the deputy's answer, that the boarding home could ask for a second escort. No, only a medical professional can request escorts. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson. I have Mr. Ningark on the list.

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister and his officials. I also thank my colleague, Mr. Enook, who has related the exact same concerns that I have been privy to from my constituents in Repulse Bay and Kugaaruk. These are the exact type of concerns he is speaking to that I have tried to voice previously. Obviously, Pond Inlet and Kugaaruk are not the only communities experiencing these issues. Since we have 25 communities in Nunavut, I imagine the majority of the communities have gone through this as well.

I would like to return back to the *Tamapta* Mandate. The government needs to ensure the mandate is solidified and followed. Currently, only some patients are provided escorts under this policy. As an example, a patient goes to the health centre and then they have to search for an escort. The family is informed for the first time that the

patient has to travel for medical purposes and requires an escort.

Too often, when the medical travel date approaches, the escort will be told that they can no longer escort the patient and that the escort recommendation has been rescinded. The patient then has no choice but to travel alone to their appointment. I have heard from people who have experienced this firsthand.

They had to pay their own travel costs to escort their family member as they have compassion for their family member or friend. Under the government hierarchy, the nurse-in-charge has the authority to approve escort requests and, if they approve, then the patient can have an escort.

I know I'm not the only MLA who has heard of cases where a patient goes to the health centre for a number of appointments and they are told that they are fine and in full health. After many misdiagnoses, the patient is finally diagnosed with the correct medical assessment. By this time, the patient is usually told that they now have terminal sickness and that there is nothing the system can do to treat their illness. After many visitations to the health centre, complaining of their symptoms, the patients are generally misdiagnosed.

The nurse-in-charge makes mistakes, especially related to escort requests, whereby patients requiring escorts are not provided with one. Ever since I became a member I have been referring to this concern and it usually ends up with the same entreaty.

The local health committees that are under the municipal council should be provided more empowerment via the

hamlet council, who can then transfer that to the committee. Any patient experiencing problems during their medical travel, such as not being able to attend to appointments, or who required an escort but was not provided with one, would at least have a local organization where they can relay their concerns, complaints, or grievances about the health system.

There are bodies called community health committees of council. Let us return to using these local organizations. When we try to request assistance from the government or health department as regular members, we have to go through the House, but we run into legislative issues as the administration tends to just state that the policy is such-and-such. Later on, we hear that the policy has been revised.

Currently, if a person has any grievances with the health system in the community, whether it is with respect to southern institutions in Edmonton, Ottawa, or Winnipeg, the government maintains that there is an ombudsman available up to the deputy minister. Alternatively, perhaps they have to vent their complaints to the regional offices of the department. It seems that this complaint process is not being utilized and I don't see many people taking advantage of it. I urge the government to conduct a thorough review of this policy and it requires a complete overhaul.

The *Tamapta* Mandate, including our government, has to work towards self-reliance within our territory. Within that precept, our people try to be self-reliant as they do go to the health centre to resolve their health issues. I want to ask the Minister of Health and Social

Services if he can commit to conducting a review of this policy by using the *Tamapta* Mandate as a foundation, as well as empowering the local health committees by devolving the responsibility to the local hamlets.

Tamapta means a strong foundation, involving all people. So if we are to be true to this word, we have to include everyone under the *Tamapta* Mandate. It means equality for all residents and involving everyone. Even though we have the *Tamapta* Mandate, our people are not being treated equally as some of the patients aren't allowed to have an escort and some of them can have an escort.

I believe the minister said to the member from Pond Inlet that he was going to review the policy. So will there be a review on the medical travel and escort policy? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningark. If you can go straight to your question, I would appreciate it. There are a lot of names on my list. However, that is a good question. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Ningark for his questions. Mr. Chairman, the existing Client Travel Policy is almost five years old and it expires at the end of March 2012. It is required to be reviewed.

We have heard many concerns and complaints over the years about the Client Travel Policy and in my short time in the Department of Health, it's one of the top two or three concerns that we keep hearing about constantly. Yes, the review is underway. There's a

consulting firm that is working with our officials to see what works, what doesn't work, and looking at best practices from other jurisdictions. We certainly want to make it better to serve Nunavummiut.

With respect to health communities, I'm not sure what you mean by empowering, but what we would like to do is to work with the health committees in all the communities. There are 25 of them. We're developing a document called "Guiding Principles," I believe, and that we would work with the health committees to strengthen their role in the communities so that they don't feel that they're being left out of the decisions or the public health initiatives in the communities.

As a minister, I'm very interested to hear what happens at the community level because that's where all the people live. If they have concerns, the committee can work with the hamlet council, interagency groups, and the health centre. They call it a community health centre for a reason. Bring those concerns to our attention as officials here in Iqaluit and we can look into them. But certainly, the health committees should have a stronger role at the community level. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Perhaps I can ask two questions to the minister. I would like to ask the minister if the health committees of council in the community should meet with the nurse-in-charge on occasion whenever they need to discuss issues. That is my first question since the minister is the head of the hierarchy for

the department, as well as his deputy minister, who is sitting in front of us.

The second question I want to ask to the deputy minister is: to date, after the election of the Members of the Third Legislative Assembly, how many concerns or complaints has the deputy minister's office received or any other office of the Department of Health and Social Services? Have you heard of any concerns or complaints from Nunavut communities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Ningark for his question. Certainly the health committees, again, as I said, have an important role in the communities. They are the voice of the people in the community. If the health committees are hearing concerns about how the community health centre is operating, if they want to make some suggestions for improvements or understand how the community health centre operates, for example, the hourly operations, after-hour calls, and that sort of stuff, I wouldn't see it as unreasonable for the nurse-in-charge to be required to meet regularly with the health committee. If I was the nurse-in-charge, I would welcome the opportunity to talk to the committee members about how I'm providing the service in my health centre.

With respect to the numbers of complaints, I would have to ask my deputy to answer that. He has been in the health portfolio approximately 11 months now, a little bit longer than me, so he's

probably heard a few more complaints than I have. I'll ask him to respond. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Ma: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So we have two of what we call territorial client coordinator service positions. One is located in Iqaluit for the Baffin region. The other one is located in the Kitikmeot in Cambridge Bay and that's because some people in the Kitikmeot speak Inuinnaqtun.

For January 1 to December 31, 2011, there were 24 calls to the Kitikmeot office and 34 calls to the Baffin office, which also covers the Kivalliq. However, I must admit that the number is probably a bit low because there are some complaints that don't go through this process and they come directly to my office or to other offices, but that's the stats that we have on file at this time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ma. Mr. Ningark.

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This will most likely be my last question. I wish to thank the minister and his deputy. In my opinion, not many people are aware of the complaints phone number or office. In many communities, the numbers are not available locally, so they have to call Iqaluit if they have complaints or concerns. The people who want to complain or register their concerns don't do so because of the fact that they don't know of the availability of this service and that may be why the office doesn't get very many phone calls or complaints.

(interpretation ends) For the record, (interpretation) to complete my comments, the statements I'm making under H-7 are not meant to paradoxically be construed as complaints against nurses working in the local health centres nor the regional offices nor offices in Winnipeg.

I'm not saying that the health system is beyond repair; we're looking for enhancement of the system and compassion towards the patients who have experienced problems.

Improvements need to be made in the system. The government has continually stated that the residents of Nunavut have to try to become self-reliant. These statements are meant to try to improve our self-reliance and to improve what we have today.

I thank the minister and his deputy, and you too, Mr. Chairman, for letting me speak on behalf of my constituents under H-7.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningark. I didn't hear a question. I have Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I, too, have questions concerning medical escorts. I guess I should start by asking if the minister or his officials can explain exactly what the role of the medical escort is. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Rumbolt for the question. I'm going to ask Ms. Voth to answer that question. She has worked

closely with this policy. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Voth: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To be eligible for an escort, the client would have to be able to help with language barriers in the south, so assist the client in travelling if they're unilingual and if there are no interpretive services available where they're receiving their medical care.

Also, if the client is medically incapacitated, the escort would assist with the travelling. So let's say if the client is wheelchair-bound or disabled or incapacitated in any way, they would help them during the plane journey, during the journey to the medical centre.

Also, if the client has a need for a legal consent by a parent or guardian, then we would expect that the escort who is accompanying the young child would be able to provide that legal consent.

Also, if the escort is going to be participating in the client treatment program, then the escort would be able to take instruction from the physicians who are providing the care for the client. So they would have to be able to take that instruction so that they can provide that treatment when they return home. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Voth. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Ms. Voth for that description. One of the issues that we have in Sanikiluaq is that we share the

boarding home in Winnipeg with the people of the Kivalliq. There's quite a difference in the dialects between the two regions. It seems that a lot of times, translation services are difficult in Winnipeg because there are mostly people from the Kivalliq who work at the Inuit centre and they can't provide the translation services accurately.

So I'm just wondering: is there anything that your department is doing to help with the translation services that are required in the boarding home in Winnipeg? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Rumbolt for raising that concern with us. My understanding is that the department is looking for a clerk interpreter for that boarding home. The issue would be trying to find an individual who would be willing to relocate and reside in Winnipeg to perform that job. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When an escort goes out of the community with a patient and the patient is admitted to the hospital and required to stay there for a period of time, the escort is also required to stay at the hospital. There are times when they have to sleep on chairs or sofas or whatever they can find a place to put their head. Is there any support provided at all for escorts who have to stay at the hospitals? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll ask Ms. Voth to answer that question. Thank you.

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

Ms. Voth: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To rephrase that backward, my understanding is that you're asking about possible care gaps in the south and that is an issue that we have recognized and we're under discussions with our referral partners in the south. So that would be an escort providing care above and beyond what we would expect an escort to be providing. So as part of the medical travel review, we are taking a look as well and having discussions with our referral partners. So that would be, for example, OHSNI in Ottawa and the referral partners in Winnipeg and talking about identifying what the care gaps are and what the possible solutions are. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Voth. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm not sure if she answered my question correctly or not. My question is primarily about the escorts themselves. Maybe I should ask: are the escorts required to stay at the hospital with the patient while they're admitted at the hospital? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Rumbolt. Without

knowing the circumstances, it is difficult to answer the question. If the individual is in the hospital, we don't think we would normally expect the escort to stay in the hospital around the clock while the patient is in the care of the hospital. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. A slightly different question. A couple of months ago, I wrote a letter to the minister with concerns about a lady who was breastfeeding an infant. She was required to go out on medical treatment and she was denied the opportunity to take her baby along with her because she was breastfeeding.

In the policy, it states that if a person is breastfeeding, they are able to take their infant child with them if they can find someone to provide care for their child while they are at their appointments. Is this the case? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the concern that Mr. Rumbolt has shown for this lady and I apologize for that happening. I'm going to ask my deputy to respond to that question. Thank you.

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

Mr. Ma: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do recall the circumstance that you're speaking about. I have to actually go back and look at why it was denied, but I was actually the one who denied it.

There were some other circumstances, if my memory serves me correctly. Perhaps we could have a conversation around that later. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll change gears a little bit again. In our communities, our health centres have one or two vehicles at their disposal. Can you clearly describe the purpose of the vehicles in the communities for the health centres? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Deputy Ma will answer that question. Thank you.

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

Mr. Ma: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Most of the vehicles we have in the communities are for what we call home care services. In other words, we have a nurse of some type or one does not necessarily to have the nurse, but we have somebody go to a home to provide services to an individual.

I think what the member is referring is a conversation we had with my former minister and I when we were in Sanikiluaq in May. I believe the community was looking for some sort of transportation to the airport, if I recall. My minister and I were also at a meeting today with the Baffin mayors and that

topic also rose there. It is an area that we're looking at.

What I will reiterate is that currently, this is not covered through Non-Insured Health Benefits, but we are having, hopefully, maybe a fruitful discussion at some point in time that we can report back on. At this point, there is not much movement. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, part of the issue is getting patients back and forth from the airport when they are travelling to Winnipeg for medical, but another part of the problem is that in smaller communities, there is not a lot of modes of transportation, especially after hours, even during the day for elderly patients who want to get to and from the health centre. I know it's a stress on health centre staff and they're not required to pick people up after hours.

I'm just wondering if there's anything that you could see in the future that your government will be doing to provide maybe an ambulance service in the communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Rumbolt for raising the concern. There is only one ambulance service in Nunavut and I believe it's here in the city of Iqaluit. In the other couple of communities, it's simply called ground transportation. There are issues with liability and risk management when you provide

ambulance service because the personnel have to be highly qualified and trained to provide that service.

As the deputy said, we did hear this concern at the mayors' meeting this morning and we have heard it in the past, so we are looking into it. In negotiations with NIHB, we hopefully can have some good news at some point. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to welcome the minister and his officials. The questions I had were already asked by my colleague sitting beside me, so we will expect changes within the policy for transportation to the airport. Indeed, some patients have no capability to reach the airport, particularly those without access to vehicles.

Mr. Chairman, what I want to ask about is with respect to patients requiring home care, specifically elderly patients. This falls within home care and community care. Treatment is identified in this line item for fiscal year 2012-13. It appears unchanged from the previous year.

Mr. Chairman, let me question the witnesses thusly. With respect to those who have to provide care for patients with mobility issues or those ravaged by old age that require home care and general housecleaning duties, are the housecleaners or home care assistants who provide this care required to speak English? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Tapardjuk for the question. It's my understanding they can speak English or Inuktitut or Inuinnaqtun or any combination to provide home care service. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I had wanted to raise this question, which I had asked quite some time ago when I first became a legislator, when people were removed for their inability to speak English and they hired English-speaking workers instead. The patients requiring home care, being elderly Inuit in most cases, usually prefer their own language. In the past, they were provided care and communication primarily in Inuktitut. However, due to this requirement to have English-speaking employees, this aspect of home care provision has fallen on the wayside.

Additionally, the Nunavut government has now enacted legislation for the territorial official languages, recognizing Inuktitut, French, and English. This applies also to the operations of the government. Is the previous requirement still in place within the Department of Health and Social Services? I refer to the past requirement for any person providing home care to be able to converse in English. Is this true? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Tapardjuk for the question. A little bit of debate down here at this table, but I think they would have to perhaps be bilingual. I would certainly support that an elder who is getting home care should be able to communicate with the person who is providing home care services for them. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask who makes these decisions related to these employees. Is it the human resources department that hires the home care people or is it the administrators at the health centre? Who makes the decision for the hiring of the home care workers? Who makes the final decision? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Tapardjuk for the question. There is a supervisor in each community who is responsible for home care and that individual would hire the home care workers. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The reason is that this was a cause of concern in the past, particularly for patients requiring home care, with some past registrants of complaints on the matter having passed on due to old age. Many patients

requiring home care are quite elderly and they prefer to have home care workers closer to their generation who are able to speak to them in their own language. The only way for these patients to receive proper care is to have their complaints or concerns addressed by workers who understand the language.

When a worker is a younger person with a limited lexicon, I don't think they can understand the elderly who speak traditional Inuktitut. This sometimes causes misunderstandings and problems in providing proper care. The home care worker provides care according to their preferences and not the patient's preference, and the patient is seemingly forgotten. I believe that to be the case all too often. This is merely a comment.

Let me raise this question now. Did I understand the minister when he stated that it would be best if the home care provider was bilingual in Inuktitut and English? The minister also seemed to state that the home care workers could be unilingual Inuit with no fluency in English. Did I understand this to be the case? Let me ask that question if I may, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Tapardjuk for asking for clarification. It would likely have to be both languages because they would have to be able to communicate with the elder who wants to speak to them in their own dialect, but then they would have to communicate with the supervisor, who may not speak that dialect. In most cases, we do try to allow the persons seeking home care to pick

the individual who will provide home care for them.

I hope that answers your question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, this is indeed good news to hear. I believe that the government shouldn't be so fixated on the requirement to improve this situation. Indeed, in that past, it caused a lot of problems when the workers who were unilingual were removed and replaced with English-speaking workers. The patient was forgotten entirely, all in deference to the preferences of the supervisor who required communication in English only. This was not a good situation. I understand this matter will be examined.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask this question at this time. The business plan speaks to a review on the types of services that are required and how many employees are required, as well as the hours of work that will be subjected to this review. This review looks at the employees that need assistance or if it's too low, then it will be reviewed further.

In looking at the figures listed in the appropriation bill for 2011-12, the amount was \$7,247,000. For 2012-13, 2013-14, and 2014-15, the figure is now \$7,283,000, which would be the amounts used annually for home care and community care. These indicate that the budgets are not increasing, so I gather that other communities haven't requested home care funding. Can I get that clarified first? The figures look

unchanged over these years that I mentioned for our future funding. So I would like to ask what the reasons are for the funding remaining the same. The figures are listed on page 139 of the business plan. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Tapardjuk for the question. The amount I'm looking at has actually increased a little bit. If home care services are required and we run into monetary difficulties, if we need more home care workers, we would hire them because that's important.

Just to give you an idea, between April 1 and December 31, 2011, there were 1,269 Nunavummiut who received home care services, so it is a very important function of our department. If someone requires home care services, we would provide that. If we didn't have a home care worker available, we would hire someone casual.

I believe we're working with Nunavut Arctic College. There is a five-year education training program that we are working with Arctic College to train people to be home care workers in their communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister. That's good. There is an increase of \$2 million for community health centres in 2012-13. Are you going to be increasing the number of nurses or health

professionals? Is that why you're asking for a \$2 million increase? I would like to know what that additional \$2 million is going to be used for. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I apologize for the delay. There is a lot of paper to sift through down here.

Yes, the amounts would be for travel and transportation, purchase services, materials, and supplies for the community health centres. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson. Are you done, Mr. Tapardjuk? Thank you. Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In reference to your business plan, a priority for 2012-13 is to "Undertake a review of the *Mental Health Act*." Also a noted priority for 2013-14 is "Based on the review, determine whether legislative amendments would be necessary for the *Mental Health Act*." My question for the hon. minister and the departmental officials is: what specific aspects of the current legislation will be focused on during the review? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Aupaluktuq for the question. I think I mentioned yesterday to one of the other members

that we're in the very early stages of looking into that. The review would take into consideration cultural relevance, compliance with existing laws, and consistency with similar legislation in other provinces and territories. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Similarly to my colleague, Mr. Tapardjuk, in regard to the business plan on page 139 under home care and community care, one of the areas identified is disability. The priority here is indicating, and I quote, "The objective is to preserve and maximize an individual's ability to remain independent in the community through case management, nursing, and personal care. This area supports and strengthens family and community involvement in the delivery of care."

Mr. Chairman, I want to ask in regard to disabilities. Your priorities indicate that in 2011-12, the money requested at the time was \$7.24 million and in 2012-13, they're requesting \$7,283,000. It's up by 36,000 kilometres, not kilometres. My apologies.

>> *Laughter*

It has been a long day. \$36,000. It has been a long day.

Are there any indicators or formal requests by groups or committees to increase the services by possibly increasing the dollars that we contribute? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Aupaluktuq for the question. Yes, I agree, it has been a long day. We're not aware of any requests from any groups to increase the level of funding. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As the hon. minister and his officials are aware, on behalf of constituents, I am to bring formal documentation in order to address the issue, but for the record, the question that I would like to ask is in regard to Nunavut health care as beneficiaries and access to non-insured health benefits. Some constituents have had referrals for specialized care. Sometimes when their specialized care had been referred, it has gone through the proper process of being approved. Sometimes there is miscommunication or people not sharing information well enough.

I wanted to ask the department: who makes the decisions for referred specialized care, for example, maybe an audiologist or braces? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Aupaluktuq for asking that question. I'll ask Ms. Voth to answer that question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Voth: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The braces would fall under dental services, which is an NIHB service, and that referral process does reside in Ottawa. So the referral would go down to Ottawa and go before a board and would be approved, and then the results of the approval would come back to us. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you. If that process has been followed and adhered to by the clients, how can they appeal further to get administration and to deal with matters that are urgently needed, such as access to specialized care? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Aupaluktuq for the question. I'll ask Ms. Voth to answer that question. Thank you.

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

Ms. Voth: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We do have a Non-Insured Health Benefits office in Rankin Inlet and they do take a look at special circumstances and if there has been some sort of misunderstanding or something hasn't been communicated very well to the board that decides on whether they are approved or not, then they can actually look after that. So that would be the Rankin Inlet office, the Non-Insured

Health Benefits office. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Voth. On my list, there are four more names. Ms. Ell.

Ms. Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the minister for appearing before the committee along with his officials, both of whom are residents in my riding. I want to welcome the officials. Since we have a public government in Nunavut, it has to represent all residents living in the territory.

During my campaigning, I often heard concerns from residents, at least here in Iqaluit. Since we have an ambulance service available that handles this service, it is a little easier at least for the Inuit as they can get funding through NIHB for the provision of this service if we were to call in an emergency. This can be clarified later on.

Additionally, government employees have the option of their employment insurance, if they have one. However, some people with low income, such as elders who only receive an elder's pension, as well as people on social assistance or those who are not employed by the government, as well as those people who are unemployed, are subject to this. I was informed about two main incidents, with one couple where the partner suffered a heart attack, but no one called the ambulance service as their assumption was that this service would be too expensive.

I would like some clarification about exactly how this system is set up as it applies to our residents. Let me ask that

question for clarification first. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Ms. Ell for the very good question. I'll ask Ms. Voth to answer that question. Thank you.

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

Ms. Voth: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't think there is any jurisdiction in Canada that does insure the emergency ambulance service from the home to the place that health care services are provided. The Non-Insured Health Benefits does provide it to land claims beneficiaries. Most working people do have it under third party insurance, but there are some people who do fall through the cracks, who don't have insurance, and are not a land claims beneficiary.

There would be an income test. There is a possibility for an income test, so that would be considered to be a social services client. If they are eligible for extended health benefits or is a social services client, then that would be covered as well. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Voth. Ms. Ell.

Ms. Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank you for the clarification and I will revisit this matter with you at another time at your offices. The other matter is in respect to patients who have to travel south for medical travel. From my perspective, they seem

to follow this procedure in the south. So I would first like clarification on whether or not the boarding homes are specifically just for Inuit. Can you shed light on this? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Ms. Ell for that question as well. Ms. Voth will answer that. Thank you.

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

Ms. Voth: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, the boarding homes are geared for the land claims beneficiaries or Inuit. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Voth. Ms. Ell.

Ms. Ell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can you give me an indication if that is because the patient is being paid by the NIHB or is it because the people who own it have a rule that only Inuit will stay there? Can you explain how the actual process is in place right now? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Ms. Ell for that question. Debora Voth will answer that question. Thank you.

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

Ms. Voth: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is the accommodations, ground transportation, and other benefits that are provided when you are in a southern boarding home. They are not an insured service, so they do fall under the Non-Insured Health Benefits package for a land claims beneficiary. The boarding homes are set up for land claims beneficiaries because they are the special groups that are insured for accommodations and ground transportation in the south. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Voth. Ms. Ell.

Ms. Ell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that. The question then is if, hypothetically, the Nunavut government were to pay a portion. If a certain portion of funds is small because the population that would want to stay there that speak Inuktitut have been long-term residents in Nunavut are a minority that may want to stay there, that are not beneficiaries... . Would they, down the road, possibly be able to stay there, other than NIHB, if they were paid by other means to be there? As you are saying, right now, NIHB is paying for the Inuit who stay there. The people who own the building are perhaps just interested in getting their funds one way or another for the accommodation. Am I correct in saying that, Mr. Chairman?

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Ms. Ell for the question. It's a good question and we can take that under consideration as part

of our client travel review. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Ell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The purpose for raising that matter is when Inuit patients are boarding at the home, many patients question why certain people are allowed to board at the home, especially if they're not Inuit. They wonder why the policy is not being adhered to and they note that it is not being applied consistently. If it was completely clear and written out as to who can stay at the boarding home in Ottawa or if all residents of Nunavut can board there, it should be listed. However, if the procedure being followed is what is required, then it should be written down as that would answer many questions raised by patients.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to move to another subject related to boarding homes. The questions I raised earlier this week during question period were with respect to the planned Kitikmeot treatment facility for alcohol and drug treatment. Based on the responses I heard, I believe that this pilot project was only scheduled for a one-month trial period. I wonder if this matter can be explained further since I question whether they will be able to make recommendations as to the usefulness of this facility based on only one month of operation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Ms. Ell for the

question. Yes, it's a 28-day program and it will be in Cambridge Bay. Because it's a pilot, we want to design the program. There are people employed. Different organizations will be involved and different people involved in helping set it up, and then deliver it. We want to have some time to collect information during the training program and then after the program to see how it worked when people return to their communities and then to their homes. We will then monitor the success of the program. Thank you.

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

Ms. Ell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that, minister. Then the question is: do you believe 28 days is enough to do an addictions treatment? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's a good question. I'm familiar from the past that the wellness centre in Cambridge Bay had a 28-day program. The issue became after the program ended. A lot of the individuals didn't receive support back in their communities or in their homes.

With this program, we're hoping to provide the involvement of elders from the community and other individuals who could take people out on the land. We would also involve alcohol and drug treatment people in different communities, wherever the individuals come from, and provide them with some training as well so that when people return to their communities or their

homes, they can be supported after the 28 days. If they need someone to turn to, they know who to call.

The 28 days doesn't sound like a long time. It's a long time, but the key part of it will be aftercare when the program ends. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Ell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation) I'll move to another topic. The 2010-11 suicide prevention strategy was developed in collaboration with NTI, the RCMP, and the Embrace Life Council. What is the current status of this strategy? Which components of the strategy will be implemented in 2012-13? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Ms. Ell for that question. As we all know, suicide is a high priority issue for the Government of Nunavut and its partners to work on. The strategy was tabled in 2010 and then the action plan was tabled in the last sitting. Now we're working on the action plan.

A partnership implementation committee was struck to work with all the recommendations in the action plan. My understanding is it has been going quite well. If you can bear with me, I can list some of them. The partnership implementation committee was struck and that's all the partners involved in the strategy action plan. There's interdepartmental collaboration and collaboration with community level staff. That has been strengthened.

We have two territorial suicide intervention specialists working on the action plan. A gap analysis was completed. They are using the aboriginal health integration funds. All of our government departments have protocols in place to respond to Nunavummiut at risk at the community level.

We're accessing a proposal for funds through the Territorial Health Access Fund that is being reviewed to increase the funding for youth centres in the territory. That's only a proposal. We have to wait for a decision once it's submitted.

The database to track provisional or registered ASIST training is functional. I think I mentioned earlier in another question this week that there have been over 500 Nunavummiut trained. We continue to offer those ASIST training workshops in all communities where communities request. I mentioned that as well this morning at the Baffin mayors' meeting. ASIST is for first responders to help identify people who are potentially at risk of taking their own lives and get them to help and get them to counsellors or mental health specialists.

We are working on the mental health framework. As mentioned earlier also, we do have some mental health graduates from the Mental Health Diploma program that we will be placing in communities throughout Nunavut on April 1.

Quite a lot has been done. If you read or heard earlier this week as well, I mentioned that we're working on acquiring the old boarding home in Iqaluit here for a new mental health facility. We're taking steps and, I think,

quite positive steps to work on the issue of suicide and mental health in the territory. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Ell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Are you able to provide an update on the current mental health facility that you are talking about in Iqaluit, the current situation as to when renovations will start and what the expected timeline is for that to be open? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Ms. Ell for the question. Earlier today, I gave first and second reading to the supp bill that contains the request for funds to acquire that building. If it's approved in the House, we're hopeful that we could have the plans to proceed early in the fiscal year so that we could renovate the facility and have renovations [completed] by the end of this calendar year. We don't have the exact date, but within the next 9 to 12 months. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In regard to individuals who travel to receive medical procedures or for individuals in the communities, is there a patient release form for procedures? It's my understanding that in other jurisdictions, before a procedure occurs, a patient would sign a release form giving permission to this. Do we do that

for our patients as well? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Elliott for the question. Mr. Chairman, we don't have that information immediately available; we will have to follow up and provide that information. Thank you.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In terms of the electronic health records, my understanding was that in Iqaluit, they're using it and then it's going to be rolling out into the communities.

Specifically for the handling of electronic records for patients, are we going to be asked to fill out a release form as well so that we have an understanding of what information is being collected and where it's being held? When you work at the school, you sign a release form where you're using computers and whatnot.

By showing up and receiving medical care, are we giving consent to have the information collected and stored electronically? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Elliott for that question. Mr. Chairman, if I understand Mr. Elliott correctly, the answer would be we wouldn't share that information

outside of our own health system. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In terms of who actually has access to the information, I think, again in terms of treatment, you show up at the health centre... . What I'm trying to do is get a better understanding of how and where the electronic health records are going.

I know there are advertisements that they have on TV and federally. For example, with your income tax and your tax information, you can log in and find out what your RRSP contributions are going to be, whether you owe money or don't owe money, if you have a family, you can actually add... . Is this where we're going in terms of linking up with the federal government or are these two totally different systems? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Elliott for the question. Mr. Chairman, it will be two different systems. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again just to help me understand, let's say I show up in Arctic Bay and in terms of the electronic health records, we're not actually doing away with the paper records as well. There will be duplicate sets within the community of your file

and then there will be information input from the community as well. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Elliott for the questions. He's getting into technical territory that I'll allow Ms. Voth to reply to. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Voth: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To answer the question, if we're talking about backup procedures, we will not have a paper system in the community centres when it is fully implemented. What we will have is every community centre will have its own server.

For example, during the day while they're actually doing their clinical work, they will be working from an Iqaluit server and at the end of the day, that data would be downloaded to the community server. If there was a situation such as we had I think it was on October 6, they wouldn't be able to access their satellite. They do have a network on site, so they would have information up to the end of the day of the previous day.

We don't intend to have a paper system as well. Everything will be digital, including X-rays and doctors notes, etcetera, nurses notes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Will that include prescriptions as well in terms of transferring that information back and forth? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Ms. Voth tells me yes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again in terms of the privacy and making sure that our records... I think, from the questions I have asked before under the other division where the policies are, that makes sense in terms of the bigger picture.

How are you guaranteeing privacy and confidentiality in the communities, like the nurses would have to log on with a password so you would know it was them that go into the health records to be able to access and input information? Health centres are very busy. There is lots of staff there. So I was hoping to get a little bit more information about who has the passwords and who will be accessing the information. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Elliott for the question. I'm a little bit familiar with this. I have gone to the health centre in Cambridge Bay a couple of times in the last year. There is a receptionist who

logs on and then accesses my information, and then when I see the doctor or nurse, they also log on. So everybody that would be cleared to access the system would have passwords. They have, I believe, a certain level of security clearance to access different types of records. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again with my initial question at the beginning about the patient release for procedures, that is a separate issue from this, so I just wanted to point that out. I thank God I've never had to deal with having a pacemaker or having decisions based around my health. I have been really healthy, so I've never had to be in the health system that way where you had to sign to consent to different things.

One of the things that were brought to my attention by one of my constituents was the fact that patients in Nunavut don't have to sign consent forms. With that said and you saying that you didn't have the information readily available, I just wanted to clarify that before and make sure that you realize that it was separate from the electronic records.

My next question is: as the minister will be aware, the high rate of suicide in Nunavut is a serious concern. If similar rates occurred across Canada, it would probably be declared a national emergency.

On page 141 of its business plan, one of the department's priorities for 2012-13 will be to implement those components of the Nunavut Suicide Prevention

Strategy Action Plan that are led by the department. On page 10 of the actual action plan, the Department of Health and Social Services was to "Develop and implement protocols and mechanisms to record information on suicide attempts in Nunavut." Can the minister describe what progress has been made on this action and what specific steps will be taken to meet this objective? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If Mr. Elliott will give us some time, we will try to find that information. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the minister clarify whether or not information is collected on what kinds of services were accessed by individuals before or after their suicide attempt? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Elliott for the question. As I responded earlier to Ms. Elliott or Ms. Ell... I'm sorry.

>>*Laughter*

You guys are sitting too close to each other. I apologize for that.

We are working very hard and diligently on the action plan, all the partners, and this is one area as well. The deputy

minister informs me that the RCMP is beginning to collect that data. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On page 5 or section 2.0 of the action plan, one of the things it says is to “Provide additional core funding to ensure stable operation” and that’s for support to the Embrace Life Council itself. When I flip through and if you go to H-9 of the Summary of Grants and Contributions, the Embrace Life Council still receives the same amount of the \$248,000. Is that because more funding is coming from one of the other partners? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I’ll ask Deputy Ma to respond to this; he’s very familiar with the issue. Thank you.

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

Mr. Ma: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So just by way of background, prior to this current fiscal year, we had an individual who was seconded from our department to the Embrace Life Council. In this current fiscal year, we provided funding to the Embrace Life Council because that secondment ended. So part of that funding was for the salary and compensation of an executive director of the Embrace Life Council and part of it was for office administration.

We just actually recently signed a contribution agreement for the balance of this fiscal year to help Embrace Life to promote their activities and to let communities and organizations know that they’re back in the game, so to speak. They actually have another executive director, so they have a new executive director who just started recently.

What we would do in 2012-13 is we would allocate a portion of the Nunavut Aboriginal Youth Suicide Prevention Strategy monies to Embrace Life. So they’re basically going to be our agent on a pilot basis.

What I will say is that with the recent changes at the Embrace Life Council, we have a much better working relationship than we had in the past. I am personally very hopeful that our relationship will improve and that we’re actually going to address the issue of suicide in the territory. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ma. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So with that being said, the \$248,000 that’s allocated, you’re assuring us that that is the core funding that will provide the stability for the Embrace Life Council. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, Mr. Chairman, that will be the core funding and we will try to find some additional funding to carry out some other activities in the new fiscal year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, from the actual implementation plan, objective 1.3 was the memorandum of understanding and related protocols to mandate collaboration between the Department of Education and Health and Social Services that “will support a proactive case conferencing approach at the community level for children demonstrating indicators of behaviour that put them at risk.” Is this memorandum of understanding complete? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are diligently working on it. It’s not complete yet. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As of January of this year, 1.4, the objective within the implementation plan, was to see the establishment of a referral process between Health and Social Services workers and Education. I was wondering if you could explain how that system is set up and how the referral process operates. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Elliott again for the question. He’s throwing them at us

fast and furious here, and we can’t keep up with our papers down here.

A committee has been struck and they’re working on it, and we’re hoping to fund it through funding from THAF, the Territorial Health Access Fund. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On page 5 of the implementation plan, which is 2.4 of the objectives, the anticipated results of that objective was a clear understanding of what resources were going to be needed to improve the ability to respond and effectively to suicidal behaviour by children. I’m wondering if those resources or the resource list has been complete. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That will be part of the same work that we’re doing, as I answered in the previous question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, on page 5, objective 2.6 is “Provide culturally and age appropriate grief counselling.” I know I did a Member’s Statement on this in terms of the need for grief counselling in the territory. The completion date for that is April of 2012. I’m wondering if the minister could give us an update on how

that objective is going. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Elliott again. I share his concern for this action plan. I can assure him that I have asked a number of questions and I will keep my officials working on this. It is important for our territory and there are quite a lot of what they call actions and tasks. There are quite a lot. I was reading it a few weeks ago. We're one of the partners, so everybody has a role to play. We're one of the four partners. I can assure the member that we are working on it. I can't give him an update on that particular question, but our officials are hard at work on this action plan. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Objective 2.9 is to increase support to the Nunavut Kamatsiaqtut Help Line. I'm just wondering if the minister could update me on that. I was looking through the grants and contributions, but I wasn't able to actually see what was provided in terms of increased support, whether that was manpower, PYs, or whether that was funding. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are waiting for those folks to have conversations with us. We need to see a business plan and discuss it with them. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson. At this time, we will go to another member. There are two names on the list. Ms. Ugyuk.

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to ask about nursing stations in the communities. Blood samples have to be taken from patients at the health centres for testing at southern laboratories.

In the Kitikmeot, when patients give blood samples for testing, the samples reach the laboratories in many cases, but the samples are usually too poor for testing and many patients have to provide another blood sample for testing. I wondered what the reason was. When I questioned why this was the case, the answer I received was that there was only one airplane that could transport medical products. How can we improve this situation in the Kitikmeot region?

Many people have to provide blood samples for testing. With the extreme long distance between our communities and the southern laboratories in Edmonton, this blood sample stemming from the smaller communities has to go through smaller airlines until it reaches Yellowknife, where it catches the southbound jet for Edmonton if it is lucky, and then it gets sent down. We hear that this causes problems if the sample doesn't catch the southbound jet.

I wonder what the department is doing to improve the logistical challenges related to this procedure. Is the department looking for testing laboratories closer to home? It's not just the blood samples that have to be tested, but it includes other samples requiring testing. Some laboratories are located in Yellowknife,

if I'm correct, with some in Edmonton. I would like this clarified for my own understanding. Thank you.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Ms. Ugyuk for the question. It is problematic for us to the degree that we have no control over the weather or the planes going mechanical. Once the blood samples are shipped, they would be in the care of the shipping company or the airline. If the plane doesn't fly because of a storm or doesn't get to its destination to make a freight connection, we really have no control over that, but we are concerned about it.

I always tell people, if I'm flying, I'll be in Yellowknife, planes and weather permitting. We really have no control over those situations, but we are concerned about it because it requires the patient to provide another blood sample. That is inconvenient for them. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that clear response. This other matter that I have been informed about is with respect to the utilization of just one airline. I was told that the Department of Health has a contract with only one airline for transportation of these medical samples. The suspicion is that this may be the barrier causing the problems for these samples. Is this indeed the situation in this case? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We're not aware of that situation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The medical patient travel contract is held by Canadian North, which is an Inuit owned airline. My understanding is that the department has a contract with the airline. I would like to have that explained so that I can understand the situation.

From the information I have received, the government has several contracts with Inuit owned companies or bodies. In our case, in the Kitikmeot, the assumption is that we are part of the Canadian North ownership group. Since it's an Inuit owned business, the assumption is held by the government that we are part owners. Due to this assumption, most medical travel goes through this airline since it is contracted out to them. I would like to know if this is indeed the case in our region. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Ms. Ugyuk for her question. Yes, there is a contract with Canadian North. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The airline is benefiting because they make good money on the medical travel contract as an Inuit owned company if approved by the Inuit bodies. I believe that the service they provide is already under contract. As an example, the blood samples collected have to be transported to the southern locations without spoilage. Are all of these details being reviewed when the contracts are being let? I would like to get clarification on this matter, please. Thank you.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Ms. Ugyuk for the question. Earlier when I said Canadian North, it's owned by Nunasi, but that's for patients. We're uncertain about the question regarding the shipping of blood samples. We would have to dig into that and find that information for you. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The other matter I want to ask about is the community of Gjoa Haven doesn't have a working X-ray machine in their health centre. Will this machine be replaced or will we have to wait for an entirely new computer to make the unit work? If X-ray machines are not insured, they cannot be replaced. The community has been waiting for quite a while for this X-ray machine. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Ms. Ugyuk for commenting about Gjoa Haven. Mr. Chairman, in one of the supp bills, there is a request for funding for digital X-ray machines for the various health centres in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm writing so many questions that I'm running out of ink. I would like to make a motion to report progress for today. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Enook. There's a motion on the floor to report progress and the motion is not debatable. All those in favour of the motion, please raise your hand. Thank you. Opposed. Thank you. We understand that the motion is carried. I will now rise to report progress.

Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses out. Thank you.

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

Item 21: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Mr. Ningeongan: Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Bill 24 and the main estimates, and would like to report progress. Also, Mr. Speaker, I move that the Report of the Committee of the Whole be 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. Peterson. 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. A reminder of the meeting of the Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts at nine o'clock in the morning in the Nanuq Boardroom.

Orders of the Day for March 1:

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

- Bill 28
- Bill 29
- Bill 30
- Bill 31
- Bill 32
- Bill 33

20. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters

- Bill 21
- Bill 24
- Bill 25
- Bill 26
- Bill 27
- Bill 34

21. Report of the Committee of the Whole

22. Third Reading of Bills

23. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned until Thursday, the first day of March, at 1:30 p.m.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 17:52*

